

**Walter “Pop” Smith Little League ANNUAL MEETING;
September 23rd, 2025
Location: Trinity Temple C.O.G.I.C. 285 Dixwell Ave New Haven, CT
Time: 6:30pm**

Meeting Minutes

Transcribed by Michelle Labrador (Appointed by President)

- WELCOME TO THE FISCAL 2025-26 ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS

- 1ST Point of Order - Officer Edward Rugemer appointed by President Wayne Morrison to act as secretary in the absence of Evan Rosa (SECRETARY)
- WHO ARE WPSLL MEMBERS?/ROLE (DEFINITION IN CONSTITUTION)
Read by Edward Rugemer (acting secretary)

- CONDUCT THE ROLL (ACTING SECRETARY)

Current Board Members & Regular Members

- Sheniquia McCrea - present
 - Dave James - present
 - Ed Rugemer - present
 - Edwin Labrador - present
 - Shawn Douglas - present
 - Steve Itkin - present
- Michele Labrador -present
- Wayne Morrison - present
- Dave Moyer - present
- Lynair Walker - present
- Diane Fraiser - present
- Marion Fraiser - present

Evan Rosa - Absent

Carl Bond - Absent

Michael Schaffer - Absent

Meeting Roll-Call was a 30% Quorum

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Thank you to the board of directors, coaches, and volunteers for their time and service given throughout the season. We were able to conduct the season with 4 Majors Division teams, 6

Minors Player Pitch Division teams, 8 Coach Pitch Division teams, and 8 Teeball division teams. We as a league are working on how we are represented and presented to the world, and need to be mindful of the new Regulation II Little League has adopted. This new Regulation allows for any new player under the age 8 to play in any little league they want, no longer bounding them to the league boundaries of their home or school address. Our volunteers and coaches are extremely important to us and the survival of the league, and assist with us staying attractive to prospective future players. Increasing our volunteer support is a high priority when trying to maintain and expand the league's player numbers. We had a great regular season with all of our divisions. The weather caused many rescheduling, but we made it through. We were represented well in our District's post season tournament play. Our Coach Pitch, 9s, and Minors Player Pitch teams played and represented WPS extremely well. We decided to introduce the Founder's Cup Tournament for our Majors Division. Instead of our traditional 12-14 players all-star team, we were able to give a post season experience to 24 of our division players. 6 players from each of the four teams, with all division coaches participating. The entire Founders's Cup was greatly supported by parents and families each day. At the closing game we celebrated the players with a trophy presentation.

We are not entering the final phase of the field's renovations by the city of New Haven. If you noticed at our end of the season celebration, that the concrete has been poured for the new concession stand. We are still awaiting the reconstruction of the courtyard area next. We are so happy that this process is finally happening. The Board has been working hard over the last few years, putting pressure on the city to fix and renovate the WPS fields and surrounding area.

Next Season /Next Board

- volunteer opportunities: team managers, coaches, concessions, joining a committee
 - Execute effective coaching clinics to support and prepare new coaches
- There are 5 standing committees that will be announced that will need more assistance from our league volunteers. Look out for future emails for when they will being
- The league will be updated out constitution this coming year, and will be looking for volunteers and their impute and suggestions to complete.

FINANCIALS (3 Year Statement) –

BUDGET & OPERATIONAL SUCCESSES AND FAILURES; IMPROVEMENTS-

By The treasurer Steve Itkins

Concessions suffered a slight decrease in revenue due to ongoing season weather conditions, causing many game cancellations and rescheduling. Thank you to the concessions team led by Board Members Marion, Diane, and Dave M. for the consistency and flexibility to accommodate the last minute schedule changes throughout the regular and post season. With their help and the support of our parents and fans, we were able to not be too far off of our original concessions' budget. We had a tremendous increase in donations partially due to one of our family's single donation of \$9,500 this season. Thank you to Officers Michelle and Sheniqua for their assistance and efforts with fundraising this season. We over spent on equipment like catching gear, but all non-used equipment will be readily available for the Spring 2026 season.

We had additional expenses like the trophies given during the post season's Founder's Cup tournament presentations. The league budgeted and did not attend the annual Urban Initiative

Tournament in NY, which would have included all traveling, lodging, and event expenses for the designated attending team. The treasurer praised our \$12,631.21 ending account balance going into the new fiscal year, and looks forward to doing great work next year. There were a few uniform ordering hick-ups and special size ordering that had to be resolved, but is optimistic on being able to utilize those extra unused uniforms next season.

- Coach Alex questioned the Umpire expenses, as to why were they increasing if we now no longer utilize them for our Coach Pitch Division Games? Edwin spoke about how local leagues are now responsible for reimbursing umpires to participate at any regular or post season home games, including fall ball which has increased the expenses. An additional explanation was given by Waldo Williams in reference to its continual increase due to us as a league matching what is required of us from the Minimum Wage Act. Michelle also mentioned that the decision to eliminate umpires in Coach Pitch was to not only mimic the District, but to also offset the voted-on increase in reimbursement quantity given over the last few seasons.
- Marion gave an extra shout-out to the success of the founder's Cup Event, the idea of it, the assistance from Waldo, and the great support of the league and its families.

- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION- Facilitated by Edward Rugemer**
Ballot and Election disclosures and instructions given
Eligible Regular Members in-person voting only
Minimum of 8 selected
NO write-ins accepted

Once Board is selected, board will meet to select League Officers

- Why don't regular members vote for officers? It was reiterated by Michelle that regular members select the board, and within a week the board will gather the elect among themselves the Board's 2025-2026 Officers. Waldo also added that we are similar to our nation's election system under the Polimentary Rule where the elected officials select their own officers.

- **CONDUCT VOTE- 13 CANDIDATES**

Dave James, Lynair Walker, Sheniqua McCrea, Dave Moye, Marion Fraiser, Steve Itkin, Diane Fraiser, Michelle Labrador, Steve Staysniak, Edward Rugemer, Shawn Douglas, Wayne Morrison, Edwin Labrador

- **VOTING RESULTS- emailed to the Voting members**
(counted by Edward, Michelle, and Sheniqua)

- **Meeting Roll-Call Closing Quorum was 33%**

- **NEXT BOARD MEETING & Officer Elections**
Wednesday, October 1st at 6:30 p.m.