



Annandale-North Springfield Little League Monthly Board of Directors Meeting February 7, 2024 – Meeting Minutes

American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield, VA 22150

Members in Attendance: Shawn Alestock, Gary Arrans, Louis Blount, Eric Brown, John Cho, Bill Dristy, Rich Egan, Tony Fiorino, Kevin Kropf, Tom Lombardi, Beth Rodriguez, Shane Wolfanger, Dennis Wright; **Members Not in Attendance:** Rick Elliott (notes shared in advance), James Jung, Dale Nellor, Cady Sinks; **Others in Attendance:** Adam Santee

Call to order: Gary Arrans, President, called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Board meeting minutes for January 3, 2023, approved as presented (typo corrected).

- **MOTION:** Dennis moved to approve the minutes as presented. Rich seconded. Motion approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report:

- Account summaries (3 checking accounts, one CD, one credit card) shared with BOD in advance on February 4 over email.
- Discussion of 2024 budget
 - **MOTION:** Dennis moved to approve the 2024 budget as presented. John seconded. Motion approved by acclamation.
- Discussion over payments to contractors and related tax implications
 - Board agreed to engage with its accountant and potentially consult a tax attorney for guidance on how to determine which individuals paid by ANSLL are independent contractors for tax purposes and the measures ANSLL must take for such independent contractors. The Board will re-evaluate its current posture once the guidance is obtained.

Committee and Other Reports

- Executive Committee—no report
- Audit Committee—no report
- Coaches Committee
 - Potential excess managers for kid pitch teams, pending final registration numbers. Manager numbers for Farm look good with a potential need for additional managers at the T-ball and Coach Pitch levels.
- Facilities/Grounds
 - Topics communicated by Rick via Tom:
 - (1) Waiting on vendor for the price to install the direct-wire scoreboard on the Pine Ridge (PR) AAA field.
 - (2) Based on outreach to ANSLL by an Eagle Scout candidate, Rick recommends having him do either the scoreboard at Micklewright or finish the bullpens on the PR AA field. Gary is seeking information on whether the candidate will do work on his own or lead a team, which

would inform the scope of the potential projects, and solicited other ideas for projects.

- Field clean-up days are March 16 and 23.
- Rules—The following proposals will be voted upon at the March BOD meeting:
 - **“51 Pitch skip-a-game” Rule.** The Rules Committee met on February 2 and proposed to lift the Rule for the Majors division and observe what, if any, impact results. Discussion ensued on whether the rule should be lifted for AAA as well, with Tom citing challenges presented by the rule because of frequent rainouts. **Motion:** Tom moved to amend the recommendation to strike the rule from AAA as well. John seconded. **Motion approved** by acclamation.
 - **All-Star Selection.** The Special Committee to Inform All-Star Selection Process met on February 1 and after discussing various suggestions proposed incorporating a player vote that, along with the Manager vote would factor into the 10 players voted onto each All-Star team. The Board concurred with the proposal, which included an explanation the player vote would be weighted as 25% of the total vote.
- Player Development
 - Metropolitan Baseball (Metro) secured for Saturday March 2 from 11am to 5 pm.
 - Shake-Off-the-Rust will be Pine Ridge on Saturday 3/9 from 2-4:30 pm and Sunday 3/10 from 12:30-3:00 pm.
 - Brief discussion on pros and cons of holding practices that bring together prior years’ all-stars to facilitate all-star team development earlier (as other leagues in the area do).
- Player Agents
 - Upper Level—205 registered for Majors/Minors, looking at 6 teams in each with 12 players per team in Majors and 11 per team in Minors. Although lower than last year, this aligns with historical numbers.
 - Lower Level—no report
- Safety
 - Gary conveyed the emphasis placed on child protection and identifying abuse at the recent District 10 meeting, and clarified that abuse includes actions taken, for example, by a manager or coach based on how they perform in the field (e.g., moving them to right field after they make multiple errors at another position). James will give a presentation covering this at the coaches meeting.
 - Safety training will be covered at the manager’s meeting.
- Uniforms
 - Regular season uniform orders submitted to Nationals and will be picked up on February 24.
 - Working with Burke Sporting Goods to obtain shirts for sale and All-Star uniforms and will obtain at least three quotes in total before deciding.
 - Discussion of the appearance, quality, and potential cost efficiencies related to All-Star uniforms concluded with agreement that Beth will share mock-ups of options for the BOD to review. On the issue of numbers, the BOD consensus is to allow the players to select their numbers when timeframes permit.

- BOD representation required at the January 17 Nationals Team Up meeting.
- Equipment
 - Dick's gift cards used to purchase practice balls.
 - U-Haul—measures taken to prevent sand/dirt from filtering into the unit below.
 - Surplus equipment donated; proposal made to make the balance of surplus equipment available at opening day on a first-come/first-serve basis. Tony raised potential liability issue given the age of the equipment.
- Sponsorship and Public Affairs—no report
 - Working through issues for receiving sponsor payments.
 - All teams will be formed by March 17 to match up with sponsorships.
- Volunteer / Special Events
 - Looking for someone to sing the national anthem at opening day.
 - Consensus to pursue a raffle instead of a silent auction. Gary discussed options for obtaining items to raffle.
 - Dennis offered to reach out to high school baseball managers for ANSLI alumni participation on opening day. Rich will provide needed umpire information.
- Website
 - Bill will meet with the Demosphere customer representative to facilitate receiving payments for registration (e.g., the Metro off-season workouts) and sponsor payments.
- Special Committee to Inform All-Star Selection Process—see Rules, above.

Board/Open Discussion

- Spring 2024 Season Update
 - Player evaluations at Canterbury Woods on 2/4 went very well.
 - Player evaluations on 2/11 will start early (12:30-12:40) to accommodate additional players.
 - Kevin wants to get the Little League pins ordered early.

Next Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, March 6, 8 PM at American Legion Post 176

Adjournment: 10:15 PM

- **MOTION:** Louis moved to adjourn. Dennis seconded. Motion approved by acclamation.