

New Hampshire Baseball Umpires Association

- 1) Minutes of the March 12, 2017 Annual Business Meeting were approved.
- 2) The Sec/Treas passed around a thank you note from Mrs. Tony Urban that had a picture of Tony included on it. The Treasurer also distributed an Interim Treasurers Report that was incorrect. The corrected report will be mailed to the Board Members. The corrected report has a balance of \$9,764.29.
- 3) Rules Interpreter Terry Dostie that he did not have to respond to any Tournament (Pre-lim or ¼ final) games. He had no other subject to report on.
- 4) Assigning Chairman, Bill Makarawicz, reported that even though this was the hardest year to assign games, “we got through it”. There were 750 Varsity games with 2 no shows. Bill listed how many varsity, J.V., Freshman, Jr High and Middle School games were assigned and those that were not covered. Brian Troupe questioned why our members are being assigned Middle School games when we are responsible for just High School games. Gary Noyes remarked that assigning all levels lets the NHBUA have access to more umpires to choose from when our roster is shrinking. Middle School games are attractive because there is a time limit on those games. Jim Fletcher was asked to question the Baseball Committee about putting a time limit on J.V. games which would entice our umpires to do them. Some schools pay a varsity game fee to do middle school games. Sharing our Arbiter account with other Arbiter account was questioned. A response was that the more accounts shared the more umpire access we would have to bring those umpires into the NHBUA. Ted Houlihan proposed that we print business recruitment cards with a “*Have you thought about umpiring?*” approach and distribute 5 cards to each member to hand out to prospective umpires. A motion was passed that would have Ted look into that possibility. Terry said that catchers, at the college level, would be good prospects to become umpires as would college coaches. Don Micucci asked Bill to provide him with a list of umpires and their ratings. Bill will be sending out a dues request announcement via the Arbiter.
- 5) Supervisor, Jim Fletcher reported that ½ way through the tournament and everything is going smoothly – but that can change with one pitch. There were a lot of blocked dates at tournament time which made it a little difficult to complete the assigning. This season there were 13 player and 1 coach ejections along with 3 coach restrictions. The North Country 3-man clinic with Lee Champagne and the J.V. Tournament down south using the 3-man system seemed to work well. Jim is looking at using the 3-man system, with an observer, on Saturdays during the regular season to give our members more practice. Jim also mentioned that he thinks that background checks will be a subject at the Baseball Committee’s Meeting. Jim discussed the various scenarios and prices for such checks.
- 6) BUD Chairman, Gary Noyes, reported that he has 10 new umpires that have successfully passed both written (average score 89%) and field (J.V. Tournament in Londonderry) tests. He suggested that we target local colleges as possible places to recruit umpires. Lee said that out of the 4 new umpires he gained last year, he lost all of them plus another and suggested that we advertise again next year up north.
- 7) Performance Review Coordinator, Don Micucci, reported that a total of twelve evaluations were done this year by; Bob Skinner, Jim Hale, Jim Fletcher and himself. There was also 1 observation done. He questioned that he didn’t know some of the umpires who were listed to be evaluated on the Arbiter were not on the membership roster. Some of those names were transfers that in the future the Secretary will Cc: Don on their status along with BUD Chairman in order to evaluate (observe) their level of performance. Others were new members this year and are now listed as such. Because Don prefers to evaluate only varsity games, some

umpires were not able to be evaluated. A discussion ensued comparing a Div I J.V game with a Div IV varsity game – with the J.V. game played better than varsity. Don said he will take that into consideration next year.

- 8) Webmaster, Paul Viens was not available but President, Tom Fischer, complemented Paul by relating a request from Umpire Jay Holden regarding tournament fees being provided on our website, www.nhbua.org.
- 9) Executive Session was invoked by Jim Fletcher.
- 10) Old Business: None.
- 11) New Business: Secretary, Duane Welch, made a motion that the Supervisor's stipend be raised from \$0.00 to \$600.00. Jim Fletcher has done an outstanding job as Supervisor and should be compensated for his expenditures of his own money and, more important, his devotion to the job and the NHBUA. Motion carried by a unanimous decision. The Assigning Chairman was asked to present a tutorial to the membership at all 4 Rules Interpretations in 2018 on how to use the Arbiter with an emphasis on how to block out dates.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be Sunday, October 15, 2017.

In attendance: Tom Fischer, Ted Houlihan, Dave Harrington, Jim Walsh, Alan Merrifield, Terry Dostie, Gary Noyes, Don Micucci, Jeff Turgeon, Bill Makarawicz, Lee Champagne, Tom Desautel, Brian Troupe, Don Strohmeyer & Duane Welch.

Absent: Bob Skinner & Paul Viens

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Welch
Sec/Treas