



GLBUA Newsletter – Dec 2019

Hello everyone! I hope you are having a great fall so far. Next season seems pretty far off, but it's time to start planning. This update is to all members of the Greater Lawrence Baseball Umpires Association. Please read the entire newsletter, as there is important information enclosed. Thanks.

- 1) **Annual dues** – will once again be **\$50 if paid by 1/31/20**. If paid during the month of February, the dues increase to \$60, and if you pay after 2/29/20, the dues go to \$70. You can mail your check to the GLBUA at PO Box 701 Methuen, MA 01844, OR another option is to pay online by credit card or your Paypal account, which you can access on the GLBUA website by clicking on the PayPal link on the Member page at glbua.org. See item #4 for the password. If you do not pay your dues by the end of March, your name will be removed from the GLBUA roster.
- 2) **Business meeting/banquet** - will be held again this year at the Relief's In, also known as the Lawrence Firefighter's Club, 1 Market St in Lawrence on Thursday Feb 27th, beginning at 6 PM. Members of all ages are welcome. In addition, representatives from All Sports East will be on-site beginning at 5:30 PM, offering a discounted rate for GLBUA members, so if you are looking to buy new equipment or uniforms, get there early! Many of the local assigners will be there as well, so this is a great time to introduce yourself. Remember that if you are paying your dues that night, it will cost you \$60 when you check in at the door. We expect over 150 people again this year; see the Photo Gallery section on the GLBUA website for photos from past years. This is not an election year for the GLBUA.

Note: the GLBUA will once again be offering a door prize of free membership for next year (2021), so make sure you're there to be eligible. We will once again be doing a raffle for our charity partner, the Lawrence Rec Dept youth summer program, so bring along a few bucks to help support that organization.

- a. REMINDER: per the GLBUA constitution, each member is required to attend the business meeting to be a member in good standing. If

you are **unable** to attend, you **MUST** contact the GLBUA secretary by email at mike_salach@yahoo.com, and state the reason you cannot attend. Since this is a mandatory meeting, please try to block this night off on your calendar today. Hope to see you there!

- 3) **The Arbiter** – the GLBUA is once again paying the fee for all association members that want access to the GLBUA Arbiter site. This site will be for assignments from Fred Simm, John Shaheen, John Colman, Tony Barbaro, and Jack Gilhooly only. If you do not intend to take any assignments from these 5 assignors in 2020, please let us know so that we can take your name off the distribution list.
 - a. We expect to have a LOT of games again next year! Please begin updating your Arbiter calendar with dates you are unavailable. This is a good time to block off the dates of weddings and graduations your wife or significant other has scheduled for you this spring and summer. If your work schedule has changed, block off dates and times you cannot umpire. This is also a good time to verify your personal information, especially if you have a new phone number or home address. Don't forget to update your travel limits and the city you leave from each day. We also encourage you to use the member roster to add phone numbers of fellow umpires to your cell phones.
 - b. If you have questions or want to know more about how the Arbiter works, contact one of the assignors, or come to the Arbiter training session the night of the new umpire's final exam on March 2nd.
- 4) **Greater Lawrence Baseball Umpires Association website** – the address for our website was changed last year and is now **www.glbua.org**. Thank you again to fellow umpire and webmaster David Toto for maintaining our website! You can also pay your dues from the Member section. The generic username and password is *umpire/umpire123*. Please write that down somewhere.
- 5) **Pre-season exam** – all GLBUA members will be required to take the 50-question pre-season exam that will be posted on the GLBUA website sometime in February. Look for a separate email announcing that. Due date for completion will be Thursday March 26th, when the exam will be discussed at our rules meeting (see #7 below).
- 6) **New Umpire Class** – do you know anyone that wants to be an umpire? The new umpire class begins Monday Jan 27th at 7 PM, and continues every Monday in February at Greater Lawrence Tech in Andover. The

exam is March 2nd. Scott Young is the instructor and the contact for the class is Fred Simm. He can be reached at fredsimm@comcast.net, and 978-807-7103. The cost is \$135, and includes a rule book and all clinics.

7) **Meetings and Clinics** – we have a very busy slate of meetings and clinics coming up in March and April. The GLBUA constitution states that each member must attend at least one clinic annually, but we encourage you to come to as many as you can. The schedule to date is below, and can also be found on the Meetings & Clinics page on our website.

- a) **Thursday Feb 27th** – GLBUA business meeting and banquet, Relief's In, Lawrence, 6 - 9 PM (**mandatory for all members**). All Sports East will be on-site selling uniforms and equipment.
- b) **Monday March 9th** – 2-man mechanics class, Greater Lawrence Tech, 6-9 PM (**mandatory for new members, open to all**)
- c) **Tuesday March 10th** – Federation rules clinic, Greater Lawrence Tech, 7-9 PM (**highly recommended for all who umpire high school baseball**)
- d) **Thursday March 26th** – rules clinic, review of GLBUA exam, Greater Lawrence Tech auditorium, 7 PM (**recommended for all members**). This is the most-attended meeting of the year!
- e) **Monday April 6th** – Little League and small diamond rules clinic, Reggie Cafe, 7 PM, hosted by Tom Torrisi (**recommended for 1st and 2nd year umpires and veterans that are new to LL**)

NOTE: In addition to the mandatory business meeting, all members (except those who have declared themselves inactive) are required to attend at least one meeting between c, d, and e listed above. We encourage you to attend as many as you can. You can never learn enough!

8) **Want to sell some of your old equipment or shirts?** The new candidates are taking their final exam on Monday March 2nd at 7 PM at Greater Lawrence Tech, and they are usually interested in picking up some equipment at a discounted price. Bring your equipment in that night if interested. Send an email to the GLBUA secretary as well so that your equipment can be listed online for all members.

See you at the business meeting. Send your dues as soon as possible. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me or any e-board member.

Regards,

Tom Torrisi and the GLBUA Executive Board