

**SABR BASEBALL REMINISCENCE CHARTERED COMMUNITY
CONFERENCE NOTES – INITIAL GROUP MEETING
November 7, 2020**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cleveland – Joe Shaw
Columbus, OH – Steve Leppert
Las Vegas – Rob Sheinkopf, Michael Green, Davy Phrathep
Los Angeles – Jon Leonoudakis, Kimi Ego, Jeff Hubbard, Barry Mednick,
Anne Oh (by pre-recorded video), Stephen Dolainski
Louisville – Tad Myre, Kelly Park, Chris Betsch
Miami – Lou Hernández
New York/New Jersey/Conn. – George Sommerfeld
San Francisco – Marlene Vogelsang
Texas – Mike McNulty, Ira Siegel, Monte Cely, Linda Cely, Mike Dillon
Washington, DC – Marideth Sandler

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Baseball Reminiscence Chartered Community chairman Jon Leonoudakis welcomed everyone to our second group conference. After introductions, we dived into the agenda. It's encouraging to note that attendance was equally as strong as in our initial group conference.

PROGRESS REPORTS

ONLINE PRESENCE - Monte reported on the status. As approved by SABR, we are developing this in three parts:

1. A SABR Baseball Reminiscence web site. This site supports awareness of our programs, current news and events, and contains resources for new program start-ups. It can also provide a web page site for any SABR chapters' reminiscence programs that don't already have an online "home".
2. A Baseball Reminiscence YouTube channel, for storage of videos pertaining to our efforts.
3. A GoogleOne document collaboration system. For collaboration/creation of new multimedia resources.

The web site and YouTube channel will be publicly available without sign-up. The GoogleOne resource will be limited to subscribers only.

Our new web site is at: <https://sabrbaseballmemories.org/>

The reminiscence YouTube channel is linked into the site under the "RemYouTube" tab.

LOS ANGELES – Jon reported that the next BaseBALZ Zoom session will be Friday, November 20 at 11am PST. He invited any interested group members to attend as observers. Contact Jon at jbleonoudakis@me.com if you'd like to attend.

Jon reported that they are just about to restart their program with the Veterans Administration in L.A., awaiting only on technical availability.

Also, Jon has spoken with Amy Abrams, director of education at Alzheimer's San Diego. They are interested! Jon is following up with them next week.

LAS VEGAS – Rob Sheinkopf reported that he has contacted all local members of the Maddux Brothers chapter and that four members (so far) have expressed interest. Two of them, Michael Green and Davy Phrathep, are attending with Rob. They are making local contacts with potential sponsor/host organizations, and are striving for a December Zoom pilot offering.

CLEVELAND – Joe Shaw reported continued progress. He has spoken with a local Alzheimer's Association contact, as well as with Anne Oh of Alzheimer's Los Angeles. He has several volunteers in hand and looking towards a first offering after the Holidays.

LOUISVILLE – Tad Myre is making contact with the new Executive Director of the local Alzheimer's Association, as well as contacts with national health care organizations (several are headquartered in Louisville).

SAN FRANCISCO – Marlene Vogelsang reports they have just made contact with Alzheimer's Association chapter in the Bay Area. We also discussed potential links with Memory Café, a global organization that provides host sites for Alzheimer's and dementia programs. Memory Café's directory is at: <https://www.memorycafedirectory.com/>

TESTIMONIAL

Ms. Anne Oh, principal contact at Alzheimer's Los Angeles, addressed the group (via a pre-recorded message) and shared her experiences with baseball reminiscence and the positive outcomes experienced by participants and caregivers. It is an inspiring message. You can view the video [here](#).

CAREGIVER PERSPECTIVE

Mr. Stephen Dolainski, one of the caregivers at the BasebALZ L.A., talked about his and his friend's experiences with the program. He spoke about how his friend Al looked forward to the programs and how he enjoyed the discussion, singing, and light physical activity (hitting a whiffle ball). Stephen then fielded questions from the group. His perspective was insightful and moving.

CAREGIVER CONSIDERATIONS

Monte and Linda Cely discussed their experiences engaging with caregivers at the Texas Talking Baseball program. Considering the caregiver in the planning and delivery of baseball reminiscence programs is a key to success. Linda has written a paper on Caregiver Considerations and it can be found at: <https://sabrbaseballmemories.org/training/>

WORKING WITH SENIORS AND SINGLE-VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

George Sommerfeld discussed his experiences in leading senior and dementia programs in Westchester County, NY. George has been planning and delivering programs on his own for several years. He commented on the great feedback he gets from participants, and that the discussion often trends away from baseball and onto other topics of interest. George stressed that “it’s important to get them talking” and to follow their interests, even beyond baseball.

George stated that it’s not difficult to do programs solo, as long as you’re prepared for each session. Once you’ve prepared, he said it’s easy to deliver. During the pandemic, he’s used phone conference calls as a means to continue his programs. George closed by stressing “One person can make a difference!”

TRIVIA QUIZ

No SABR get-together is complete without a baseball trivia quiz. Jon posed these three questions relating baseball and dementia (answers at the end of these notes):

1. True or False? Dementia is the sixth-leading cause of deaths in the U.S.
2. Name the Detroit Tigers star and member of the 1968 World Series winner that is currently dealing with Alzheimer’s. He hit exactly 200 regular season homers.
3. Name the former Tiger and Phillies player who had a 12-year career from 1974-1985. He played catcher, outfield, and 1B. He is now dealing with Alzheimer’s.

Answers at the end of these notes.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Jon opened the floor for general discussion and questions. Jon also shared that the SABR team is collaborating with Michael White, leader of the Scotland sports reminiscence programs, on creation of an international awareness/promotional video about sports reminiscence. The video is being developed now. More to come on this new resource.

Marideth Sandler asked about potential sponsors and inquired whether any other SABR members in the Washington, D.C. were involved in the Baseball Reminiscence effort. Jon stated he didn’t think we had any other group members (yet) from D.C., but contacts can certainly be made.

Regarding potential partner/host organizations, Memory Café (see link above) has several locations in the D.C. area. Local chapters of the Alzheimer’s Association and local Veterans Administration facilities are also key potential partners. We have also had success with local senior centers, memory care facilities, adult day care centers, and similar groups. Recently, Jim Kenton in Texas has had success with local religious groups that host senior programs and he recommends those as a receptive audience.

Jeff Hubbard asked about baseball reminiscence research and whether we should consider conducting our own study to reinforce the value of these programs. There was general discussion about this and a consensus that this would be a good longer-term effort for us to consider doing, in partnership with an academic/professional resource. In the meantime, a good controlled study on sports reminiscence programming was conducted by Clemson University faculty, with Clemson football as the topic. An overview and results are posted on our web site at: <https://sabrbaseballmemories.org/research/>

Jon mentioned a recent book that he found enlightening:

“Creative Care: A Revolutionary Approach to Dementia and Elder Care” by Anne Basting. A link to the book’s info page on Amazon is [here](#).

NEXT STEPS

Jon asked if there was interest in continuing with monthly group meetings. There is support to do so. There was also discussion about potential linkage to the 2021 SABR Day programming; possibly as a guest resource for various chapter or SABR-wide events.

NEXT MEETING

Our next group Zoom conference will be **Saturday, December 12**.

Times will be: 4pm Eastern; 3pm Central; 2pm Mountain; 1pm Pacific (time zones)

An agenda and Zoom call-in information will be forthcoming over the next few weeks.

If you have an issue, or need help or advice in the meantime, don’t hesitate to contact:

Jon at jbleonoudakis@me.com

George at allbcoop@yahoo.com

Monte at cely@swbell.net

Trivia quiz answers: 1. True; 2. Bill Freehan; 3. John Wockenfuss