

**SABR BASEBALL REMINISCENCE CHARTERED COMMUNITY  
CONFERENCE NOTES  
December 12, 2020**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chicago – Bill Grimes  
Cleveland – Joe Shaw  
Florida – Perry Barber  
Las Vegas – Rob Sheinkopf, Jeff Kallman  
Los Angeles – Jon Leonoudakis, Kimi Ego, Jeff Hubbard, Barry Mednick  
Minnesota – Dave Lande  
New York/New Jersey/Conn. – George Sommerfeld, David Lippman  
San Francisco – Greg Johnson  
Texas – Monte Cely, Linda Cely, Ira Siegel, Mike Dillon, Dan Walsh  
Washington, DC – Marideth Sandler  
Washington State – Gary West

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Baseball Reminiscence Chartered Community chairman Jon Leonoudakis welcomed everyone to our third group conference. Special welcomes to first-time attendees Dave Lande, Perry Barber, Jeff Kallman, and David Lippman.

**PROGRESS REPORTS**

SAN DIEGO – Jon reported that the Los Angeles team will conduct a pilot program in conjunction with Alzheimer’s Association – San Diego. This is scheduled for January and then will be evaluated for ongoing implementation.

LAS VEGAS – Rob Sheinkopf reported that he has enlisted four volunteers from the local SABR chapter and is in the process of contacting potential local sponsor/host organizations. With the help of fellow volunteer Michael Green, a meeting is being organized with the Ruvo Center for Brain Health, a high profile medical center that is part of the prestigious Cleveland Clinic. Rob views this as a very important opportunity!

CLEVELAND – Joe Shaw is continuing discussions with his local Alzheimer’s Association contact. Joe reports that his contact had a good discussion with Anne Oh, the local ALZ-LA sponsor in Los Angeles. Joe did bring up a complexity factor, being that the Cleveland ALZ does not have any “early stage” Alzheimer’s programs – just mid-stage. In general discussion, other experienced volunteers indicated that should not be a problem, but would emphasize the need for caregiver participation. Joe will follow-up offline for more insight.

SAN FRANCISCO – Greg Johnson reported contacts being made with a local Memory Café group (through a local church), as well as the Bay Area Alzheimer’s Association. A follow-up discussion with Bay Area ALZ is planned for January.

CHICAGO – Bill Grimes is making contacts with Northwestern University Hospital. There was also discussion about contacting a local Memory Café. There is more information about Memory Café on our web site at: [Partners – SABR Baseball Memories](#)  
A quick check of the Memory Café directory shows numerous programs in the greater Chicago area.

## **BASEBALL REMINISCENCE STUDY PROPOSAL**

Jeff Hubbard introduced this topic as a follow-on to his suggestion from last month’s meeting that we consider a research study of the value of baseball reminiscence programs. Jeff has been working with Monte and Linda Cely to develop a proposal outline. Jeff stated that the overall goal is to get more people involved with this valuable community service effort. SABR, with its focus on baseball research, is the logical organization to undertake this.

Monte stated that the focus of this effort would be to develop quantitative data about the effects of baseball reminiscence programs. The study would concentrate on Quality-of-Life measures and how those are affected by participation in our programs. We envision an easy-to-use, non-intrusive survey questionnaire for participants, caregivers, and volunteers.

Near-term next steps would be to:

- Solicit further feedback from the group and build consensus. Questions and comments can be directed to Jeff at [drjeffreyhubbard@gmail.com](mailto:drjeffreyhubbard@gmail.com) and Monte & Linda at [cely@swbell.net](mailto:cely@swbell.net)
- Identify interested parties within SABR that could help support this effort. Valuable skills would be backgrounds in: sociology, psychology, gerontology; survey design; survey administration/interviewing; and statistics. Contact Jeff or Monte if interested.
- Propose this study to the SABR Board of Directors and officers for their endorsement.

## **WEBSITE AND YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

Monte reported that our new group website and YouTube channel are up-and-running. Both use the tag “sabrbaseballmemories” for addressing and searching. All pages are now populated.

Our website is at: [SABR Baseball Memories – Home plate for baseball reminiscence programs](#)  
URL is [sabrbaseballmemories.org](http://sabrbaseballmemories.org)

Our YouTube channel is at: [sabrbaseballmemories - YouTube](#)

You can also reach the YouTube channel from the website by clicking on the “Media and Promos” tab on the [sabrbaseballmemories.org](http://sabrbaseballmemories.org) home page.

Both of these online resources are set up to provide web pages and storage for our new initiatives. So if you would want a web page, for let's say a new reminiscence program being run by your SABR chapter, the new web site can easily accommodate that. Likewise, we can store videos on a custom playlist within the YouTube channel.

Monte requested that group members:

- Look over the website and YouTube channel. Send Monte feedback, suggestions, new content, etc.
- Consider volunteering or recommending someone that might be interested in becoming an associate webmaster for this effort. Experience in web site design, and especially the Wordpress development environment, would be needed.
- Likewise, we need someone to help with expansion of our online presence to social media platforms. Facebook would be a first target. Contact Monte if interested.

## **INTERNATIONAL SPORTS PROMO VIDEO**

Jon reported that he is continuing to work with Michael White in Scotland on a video promoting sports reminiscence across multiple countries & sports, including baseball, golf, soccer, rugby, cricket, and shinty. A prototype video has been developed. The effort is being slowed down by the inability to do "live" video interviews, but Jon is testing some work-arounds. Stay tuned for this exciting video promo in 2021.

## **OBSERVER/PARTICIPANT SLOTS FOR UPCOMING SESSIONS**

Jon can provide two slots for interested observers to attend the L.A. programs. He reports that both slots are now filled for December.

Monte reported that Texas program leader Jim Kenton can provide slots for participants in the Texas programs. The online programs in both Austin and Georgetown will start up again in mid-January, and both are offered every two weeks. Jim advises that he'd like new participants to actively contribute via their own stories, anecdotes, and comments; and that program content goes beyond baseball to include other reminiscence areas such as old TV series, popular music, and other topics. Jim can provide agendas in advance so that participants can be prepared to support the reminiscence. If interested, contact Jim directly at: [jmkentn@gvtc.com](mailto:jmkentn@gvtc.com)

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Jon stressed with the group that everything we're doing in support of Baseball Reminiscence is volunteer community service work, and endorsed by SABR as a non-profit initiative. We are not to accept pay for these programs. Jeff Kallman reinforced this position, stating this was a labor of love that, for many of us, began with a family member that was stricken with dementia.

## 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. This two-time All Star played from 1965-80 and had a reputation as a good defensive middle infielder. He played most of his career with the Mets, finishing with stints with the Phillies and Rangers. He has one World Series ring and was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2016.
2. This Seattle Mariners outfielder started the 4MOM Foundation when his mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2014 at age 54.
3. This major league pitcher played in the 1970s for Baltimore, Atlanta, Cleveland, and Minnesota. Just this month, he was reported missing from his Houston home but later found safe near the Astrodome.

## WE ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP

Jon stressed that we are always willing to help support new baseball reminiscence efforts. Don't hesitate to contact us at the emails below.

## NEXT MEETING

Our next group Zoom conference will be **Saturday, January 23, 2021.**

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](mailto:jbleonoudakis@me.com)

George at [allbcoop@yahoo.com](mailto:allbcoop@yahoo.com)

Monte at [cely@swbell.net](mailto:cely@swbell.net)

## HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!!

Trivia quiz answers: 1-Buddy Harrelson; 2- Braden Bishop; 3-Roric Harrison