

**SABR BASEBALL MEMORIES CHARTERED COMMUNITY
CONFERENCE NOTES
November 13, 2021**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chicago – Bill Grimes

Cleveland – Joe Shaw, Ike Brooks

Las Vegas – Mike Green, Rob Sheinkopf

Los Angeles – Jon Leonoudakis, Jeff Hubbard, Barry Mednick, Kimi Ego

Louisville – Kelly Park

New York/Conn. – George Sommerfeld

New York/Florida – Perry Barber

North New Jersey – John Bartolick

South New Jersey – Jim Michalowicz

Pacific Northwest – Gary West, Mike Slocum

Phoenix – Anne Enos, Murray Siegel

South Carolina – Edwin Epps

Texas – Dan Walsh, Ira Siegel, Monte Cely

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS - chartered community chair Jon Leonoudakis welcomed everyone to the conference. Twenty two (22) SABR members were in attendance, with several joining us for the first time.

PROGRESS REPORTS

LOS ANGELES – Jon reported that monthly sessions with *Alzheimer's LA* are continuing via Zoom. Jeff Hubbard and Jon have been conducting these sessions, and Joe Shaw will serve as guest host for the November meeting. Jon also reported that monthly in-person sessions are continuing at the *Veterans Administration Home for Heroes* in LA. In response to feedback from the vets for more baseball gear to handle, Jon brought in some equipment that led to a good discussion about baseball gloves. Both programs plan to take a month off in December for the Holiday season.

LAS VEGAS – Rob Sheinkopf reported that he continues to work with *Oakmont of Las Vegas Assisted Living and Memory Care* to schedule programs there. They are interested in continuing the program at their memory care unit, and have also expressed interest in doing a program in their assisted living community. Rob indicates they would like to do in-person programs soon. Rob and fellow volunteer Mike Green will be contacting other potential partners in the Las Vegas area beginning in January.

REGARDING TRANSITION BACK TO IN PERSON MEETINGS – Jon recommended that we all take precautions in this regard: Our volunteers should be vaccinated, observe all recommended protocols (both national and local) regarding contact/social distancing, and be cognizant that we're representing SABR in this regard.

CLEVELAND – Joe Shaw reported that they will shortly have their seventh monthly meeting with the group from *Alzheimer's Association of Cleveland* – they have a good routine established, and Joe also reports they plan to conduct our research survey interviews there in early December. Joe also reports they've held their first session at the *Carolyn Farrell Foundation*, and hope to do another yet this year. Both sessions are via Zoom, although at the Farrell Foundation some participants are there onsite while others are joining via Zoom.

TEXAS - Ira Siegel reports that the Austin and Georgetown ALZ programs are planning their winter schedules and expect to resume shortly. The Austin "Talking Baseball" program is in its sixth year of operation, and the Georgetown program is now completing its second year.

WESTCHESTER, N.Y. – George is continuing his "Baseball Hour" senior citizens sessions via telephone conference call and that is going well. Usually 4-6 people join these calls, which are an hour on Friday mornings. When asked about the effectiveness of the phone conference calls, George cautioned that they probably work best after some in-person rapport has been built with the participants.

George is in contact with a potential volunteer that has interest in our programs and connections with the *Veterans Administration Hospital in Northern Westchester*.

PHOENIX – Anne Enos reports that the local group now has five volunteers (including SABR EVP Scott Carter). They have connected with *Banner Health Alzheimer's Institute*, have had several conversations with them, and plan to do a pilot session there. Murray Siegel confirms this is planned for January; with the potential for a monthly program following. Anne and Murray are confident this is a "go". Fellow volunteer Johanna Wagner has attended Banner's "Passport for Music" program, which will give the SABR team some insight as to what works in Banner's environment. Anne also shared that she has spoken to Joe Garagiola, Jr. and that he expressed interest in bringing the program to the Arizona Diamondbacks' Foundation.

Murray added that there is a lot of enthusiasm for this program at Banner, and that he's excited about the possibilities. Anne also mentioned that Banner's online platform allowed them to reach out to other locations beyond the Phoenix area, which will be a plus as well.

NORTH NEW JERSEY – John Bartolick reports that he is starting to lay some groundwork for an offering. John asked whether we had any program recordings, and **Joe Shaw will get with John to share a recording from the Cleveland program.** John also asked whether any of our groups had started with a “seniors” program as a transition to starting a dementia-focused program. Ike shared that Alzheimer’s Association has several good training/background videos that are very helpful; and also to treat the experience as facilitating any other group function.

CHICAGO – Bill Grimes continues to contact senior living centers in the metro area; Belmont Village Senior Living has previously expressed interest. Bill also speculated that commercial caregiving providers may have interest.

Bill asked about getting participants to talk – this generated some good discussion about techniques, as well as “do’s and don’t s” in this regard. There was some further discussion about this topic after the meeting, along with ways to get access to Zoom capabilities. Monte also mentioned that David Malamut, the secretary of the Chicago SABR chapter, has joined our group and that he might be a source for Bill to recruit more volunteers and interest in Chicago.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST – Gary West (Pacific Northwest Chapter) reported that he continues to reach out to potential partners in the central Puget Sound area. Mike Slocum in northern Washington has joined the group, and he is interested in reaching out to the Veterans Administration there. Mike asked for insights in dealing with the VA. Jon and Dan Walsh offered their insights. **Monte and Dan will send Mike a recommendation letter that our contact at the VA Hospital in Kerrville, Texas has written.**

SOUTH CAROLINA – Ed Epps shared that the South Carolina SABR chapter is widely dispersed geographically, presenting some challenges for SABR members to coordinate. Ed stated he is searching for an institutional base to work from, perhaps partnering with a municipal recreation center or an *American Legion* Post. Ed is also reaching out locally to potential volunteers; still feeling his way forward at present. Monte commented that the American Legion could be a great partner; **Monte will also send Ed some more suggestions as to potential local partners.** Anne also suggested the *Area Agency on Aging*, which receives federal funding for senior services and conducts numerous outreach programs; as well as local senior day care centers.

SOUTH NEW JERSEY – Jim Michalowicz reported they are planning to field a program there in early Spring 2022.

EVALUATION STUDY UPDATE – Monte reported that this effort is moving forward and is on schedule. At last count we have 31 participant/proxy/care partner questionnaires completed and 21 volunteer questionnaires in hand. Will keep the interview period open until early December, start crunching numbers, and drawing conclusions. Results so far are very positive.

We are targeting March 1 for a final report to be submitted to SABR for the Fall 2022 BRJ, and for a presentation at next summer's Annual Convention. Our colleague Lou Hernandez has been in touch with Cecilia Tan, SABR publications director, and she is very enthusiastic about this research.

Barry gave a report on the data received so far – a good balance of care partners' and participants' inputs have been received; Quality-of-Life scores average around 3 of 4 (“Good” on our scale) with Participants averaging lower than Care Givers. Responses to the Program Evaluation questions are stronger, averaging 3.5 of 4. Program “likes” are stories and memories of the past; a mild concern was singing (mostly online), even though that was still generally a plus. Preference for online vs. in-person meetings are evenly split. Respondents average two years participation. Barry is planning to do correlations of results during December.

Jon clarified that the goal of this effort is to better represent the benefits of our programs, both qualitatively and especially quantitatively. Monte also added that Joe and he had done a briefing on the Study status for Scott Bush (SABR CEO) earlier in the week and that had gone extremely well.

OUTREACH/INREACH – Ira reported he has made “cold call” contacts with SABR members Steve Nadel in SABR's Roush-Lopez Gulf Coast chapter (FL) and Steve Krevisky in the Connecticut chapter; also with Bart Broyles in the Arkansas chapter. Ira and Monte have also reached out to another Arkansas chapter member, Jim Kreuz, formerly from Houston.

George also offered to help with anything that the Connecticut chapter members might want to do. Monte pointed out that the baseball reminiscence program in Cos Cob, CT started by Dr. Michael Ego is still running, and that they would most likely welcome SABR volunteers to help support it.

2022 BUDGET PROPOSAL - Jon reported that our budget proposal has been submitted for next year. The general thinking now is that the proposed expenditures will be funded by grant applications that we might secure. Johanna Wagner will work with us going forward to identify and apply for applicable grants.

WEBSITE AND YOUTUBE CHANNEL UPDATE - Monte reported after 12 months of traffic, we now have had 4300 views by 1300 visitors. On YouTube - there have been 614 views of the Sizzle Reel and 398 views of “Extra Innings”. We have renewed our development/hosting license and domain name for another year (thanks to SABR for financially supporting our site).

Just a reminder, our website is at: www.sabrbaseballmemories.org

Our YouTube channel is at: www.sabrbaseballmemories.org/mediapromos

There are links to the “Sizzle Reel” and “Extra Innings” on both the web site home page as well as on our YouTube channel.

TRIVIA QUIZ - the questions featured “The Braves in the World Series”:

1. After finishing 33 games out of first place the previous year, the 1914 Boston Braves rallied to take the pennant by 10 games, and swept the powerful Philadelphia Athletics in the World Series. Ever since, this 1914 Braves team has been known to fans and historians as _____ .
2. The 1948 Braves leaned heavily on their two ace pitchers down the stretch to clinch the NL pennant. These two starters were the subjects of a famous poem published in the Boston Post on Sept. 14, 1948. What did the poem say?
3. The 1957 Braves, now in Milwaukee, defeated the Yankees in the World Series. These Braves featured a lineup loaded with four future HOFers – three in the everyday lineup and one on the pitching staff. Name them (one at a time).
4. Not to be outdone, the 1995 Atlanta Braves team had five future HOFers; three of them on the pitching staff. Name the five (one at a time).

(answers at the end of these notes – no peeking)

NEXT MEETING -- Our next group Zoom conference will be Saturday, January 15 at 1pm Pacific/4pm Eastern time. An agenda and Zoom invitation will be forthcoming.

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

Jon at jbleonoudakis@me.com

George at allbcoop@yahoo.com

Joe at rjshaw2@cox.net

Monte at cely@swbell.net

Trivia quiz answers:

1 – The Miracle Braves;

2 “Spahn and Sain and pray for rain.” The whole poem reads:

*“First we'll use Spahn, then we'll use Sain, Then an off day, followed by rain.
Back will come Spahn, followed by Sain, and followed, we hope, by two days of rain,”*

3 – Hank Aaron, Eddie Matthews, Red Schoendienst, Warren Spahn;

4 – Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, John Smoltz, Chipper Jones, Bobby Cox