

**SABR BASEBALL MEMORIES CHARTERED COMMUNITY
CONFERENCE NOTES
January 15, 2022**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chicago – Bill Grimes
Cleveland – Joe Shaw, David Bodemer
Las Vegas – Mike Green, Rob Sheinkopf
Los Angeles – Jon Leonoudakis, Barry Mednick, Kimi Ego, Mike Tierney, Keith Thursby,
Jason Levin, Emma Amaya, Mary & Mark Griswold, Steven Austin
New York/Florida – Perry Barber
North New Jersey – Donna Muscarella
Pacific Northwest – Mike Slocum
Phoenix – Jennifer Blatt, Anne Enos, Murray Siegel
Texas – Jerry Miller, Ira Siegel, Monte Cely
Washington DC & SABR chapter liaison – Peter Cottrell

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS - chartered community chair Jon Leonoudakis welcomed everyone to the conference. Twenty five (25) SABR members and guests were in attendance, with a good number joining us for the first time.

PROGRESS REPORTS

LOS ANGELES – Jon reported that outdoor activities at the *VA Home for Heroes* is being suspended until warmer weather due to the current Covid19 spike. The next *Alzheimer's LA* session is January 21, with Joe Shaw pinch-hitting as facilitator supported by Mike Tierney. Jon also reported that several more SABR members in the L.A. area have stepped forward to get involved.

LAS VEGAS – Rob Sheinkopf reported he has four upcoming appointments scheduled with potential partner/sponsor organizations in the Las Vegas metro. Rob also reported that continued staff turnover at *Oakmont Senior Living* is delaying the next session there. Also, Mike Green and Rob are working to re-energize the SABR chapter in Las Vegas.

CLEVELAND – Joe Shaw reported that monthly sessions partnering with *Alzheimer's Association – Cleveland Chapter* are continuing. In fact, the local SABR volunteers are working to expand their role in promoting Baseball Memories via the Alzheimer's Association there. Joe also reports that their local program with the *Farrell Foundation* is on hold due to logistics issues brought on by a severe spike in Covid19 in the Cleveland metro.

TEXAS – Ira Siegel reported that the Austin Talking Baseball program will resume January 18 and be held bi-weekly going forward. Monte Cely reported, per colleague Bob Wakefield, that the Georgetown program got underway on January 12 and will be held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday. Once the current Covid19 spike clears, plans are for the Georgetown program to be held in person and hosted by *Delaney Senior Living*. The program at the *Kerrville VA Hospital* remains on hold until in person visits are again allowed.

PHOENIX – Jennifer Blatt reported great progress partnering with *Banner Health Alzheimer's Institute*. The Phoenix SABR team has held an internal “warm up” session, and will have a practice session with Banner personnel next week. Plans are for a “live” session on March 9. Jennifer reported that SABR Exec. VP Scott Carter has been instrumental in developing the agenda, and that they are also considering the Hornsby Chapter's “This Year in Baseball” approach as a content option.

NORTH NEW JERSEY – Donna Muscarella reports continued interest at the Elysian Fields Chapter once in-person sessions can be resumed. Donna also suggested considering “Baseball Card Art” as an additional hands-on component for reminiscence programs. Jon is aware of other SABR members involved in this effort, and that Baseball Card Art has also been used for charitable fundraising in support of Alzheimer's. Jon and Donna will talk further offline.

CHICAGO – Bill Grimes continues to contact senior living centers in the metro area; *Belmont Village Senior Living* has previously expressed interest and Bill is following up. Bill is also exploring possible partnership with *Northwestern University Hospital*.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST – Kimi Ego reports she has been in contact with Demetrius Grant, a community program manager with the *Seattle Mariners*. Mr. Grant is interested in baseball reminiscence and will attend the upcoming Alzheimer's Los Angeles BasebALZ session to observe.

Mike Slocum reports he has continuing interest in developing a program with the local Veteran's Administration facility, as well as other vets-oriented groups such as *American Legion* and *VFW*. Mike will get in touch with Monte and Dan Walsh in Texas to further discuss opportunities. Monte also mentioned that our SABR colleagues in South Carolina are making contacts with veterans' groups. The American Legion would seem to be a natural, with their long-standing sponsorship of local baseball teams.

Gary West was unable to attend, but reported offline that he is continuing to make contacts with civic and municipal groups in the greater Seattle area.

STUDY UPDATE – Monte reported data collection was completed in December. Feedback was gathered from 31 participants and care partners, and also from 25 volunteers. Both quantitative and qualitative results are positive overall and very encouraging. We are now in the process of drawing conclusions from the data and what recommendations we'll want to propose.

We will be submitting our written report for consideration for the Baseball Research Journal by March 1, as well as looking at other publications that may be interested in this research. Murray Siegel suggested we consider one of the publications of the *American Statistical Society*. The final report will be shared widely as soon as possible.

Joe also stated that we want to get on the SABR National Convention agenda for a report of this research effort, as well as overall awareness of the entire Baseball Memories initiative. Joe also relayed a recent discussion with Dr. Leslie Heaphy, Vice President of SABR's Board of Directors. She continues to be a strong advocate for baseball reminiscence programs as a unique outreach and community service that SABR is leading.

OUTREACH

JAPAN – Kimi Ego reports she will be following up with the Tokyo SABR chapter to determine their interest. They are currently dealing with Covid concerns. Fellow group member Shane Barclay is president of the *JapanBall* baseball tour company and has an office in Yokohama. Japan should be fertile ground for baseball reminiscence. Perry Barber also offered that she has contacts in the Japan baseball community.

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA – Jon has been in contact with the *St. John's County Council on Aging* and they have expressed interest in partnering on a baseball reminiscence program at their senior centers. Jon has a call with the care-giving program manager there next week.

2022 BUDGET PROPOSAL/FUNDING POSSIBILITIES – Jon reported that Baseball Memories will be working with Johanna Wagner at SABR HQ to identify grants we may be able to apply for. Additional funding will help support national (and international) expansion of our programs. In addition, relationships with appropriate “non profit funding aggregators” and similar groups will be explored. David Bodemer has suggested *Pocketed*, a grant-matching web site.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Suggestions for program content and previously-used presentations available for consideration are on the web site at: www.sabrbaseballmemories.org/content/ and also on the Hornsby Chapter's site at: www.sabrhornsby.org/basebalz-resources/

TRIVIA QUIZ - the questions featured “ Baseball Hall-of-Fame ‘Firsts’ ”:

1. The first class of inductees was announced on Feb. 2, 1936. Name the five players that were the first to enter the Hall of Fame.
2. In 1937, the first two managers were named to the Hall of Fame. Who were they?
3. The first two umpires were elected to the Hall in 1953. Name them.
4. The first Native American was elected to the Hall in 1953, and the first African American in 1962. Who were they?
5. The first Latino, a Puerto Rican, was named to the Hall in 1973. Who was he?
6. Who was the first Canadian elected? Who was the first Mexican?

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

NEXT MEETING -- Our next group Zoom conference will be **Saturday March 12, 2022 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

Remember that our web site is at: www.sabrbaseballmemories.org

Trivia quiz answers:

- 1 – Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Walter Johnson, Christy Mathewson, Honus Wagner
- 2 – Connie Mack and John McGraw
- 3 – Bill Klem and Tommy Connolly
- 4 – Chief Bender and Jackie Robinson
- 5 – Roberto Clemente
- 6 – Fergie Jenkins; there are no Mexican nationals in the Hall of Fame