



Little League Baseball Ontario Inc.
Annual General Meeting
Ottawa, Ontario
October 17, 2009

Hosted by Ontario District 2, at the Travelodge Hotel & Conference Centre, Ottawa

Voting Delegates Present:

D1 Bob Macdonald, DA
D2 Jim Dean, DA
D3 Norm Randle, DA
D5 Kathy Recchia, DA

D6 Bill Magnus, DA
D7 Bob Taunton, DA
D8 Rick Wilson, DA

Executive & Consultants:

Jim Tremblay, Past President; Jo-Anne Magri, Secretary/Treasurer; Bruce Campbell, Director; Steve Meyer, Umpire Consultant

Guests: Louise Campbell, Mark Bradley, Ken Allen, Allan Legros, Wendy Thomson, Doug Hartman, John Sweeney, Glen Bradley, Debbie Lavigne, Mark Strongman

1. Welcome and Call to Order: meeting called to order at 9am, Jim Dean presided and offered his welcome to the attendees and guests.
2. Confirmation of Voting Delegates: voting delegates were confirmed with each district entitled to one (1) vote. District 4 from Timmins was not represented.
3. Appointment of Sergeant-at-Arms: Jim Tremblay was appointed as Sergeant-at-Arms.
4. Approval of the Agenda: motioned by Bill M., 2nd by Norm R., carried.
5. Approval of Previous Year's Minutes of October 25th, 2008: motioned by Kathy R., 2nd by Bill M., carried.
6. Business arising from the Previous Year's Minutes: none
7. President's Report: Printed report attached, Jim D. briefly noted:
 - Much thanks to District 5 Windsor for hosting, on short notice, the Big League Baseball Canadian tournament, despite the economic turndown and the City of Windsor's civic strike.
 - Emphasized the use of technology in communications to continue rapport between districts, regions and customers (players, parents, volunteers) for up-to-date information, e.g. league websites & real-time social networking/micro-blogging services (Twitter).
 - Suggested the use of internet-based maps to outline league boundaries, field locations and events for website viewing
 - Suggested Ontario Host districts/leagues be prepared to bid 2 years in advance for Provincial and Canadian Tournament

8. District, Consultant and Ontario Director Reports: printed reports attached. Briefly--

District 1 Golden Horseshoe: Registration remained similar to last year; 6 leagues operate Baseball programs from T-Ball to Majors, with *Stoney Creek* operating a Junior program & *Oakville* operating both a Junior & Senior program. For the Major Baseball District tournament, all organizations hosted a night of round-robin games, with *Erindale* hosting the semi-final & final games, although *Dundas* hosted *Ancaster's* night as this diamond is under construction for the 2010 Major Baseball Canadian tournament. This gave players an opportunity to play at all parks within the district. District 1 sent teams to all Ontario Provincial tournaments, with *Oakville* LL hosting the Minor Baseball Provincials. At Marc St. Pierre's invitation (District Administrator, Rouyn-Noranda), District 1 sent two umpires to the Major Baseball Canadians in Val D'Or.

District 2 West Ottawa: Registration remained the same as last year with 5 leagues involved, two of which, *Pinecrest* & *West Carleton-Arnprior*, had new presidents. The viability of *West Carleton-Arnprior* is of concern. The regular season includes interlocking with District 8 for Junior Baseball, and during the summer season, D2 loosely interlocks with Districts 6, 7 & 8 for second session, both of which operate very smoothly. Big League runs through May through August with teams from Districts 2, 6 and 7, run by District 6. In District tournament play, there is concern as some leagues did not enter teams. *Pinecrest*, with its new president, successfully hosted the Big League provincials in place of D5 Windsor.

No report from District 3 Thunder Bay or District 4 Timmins

District 5 Windsor: After much debate and with little preparation time, District 5 agreed to host the Big League Baseball Canadian tournament. A City of Windsor civic strike by inside & outside workers lasted 101 days, resulting in great concern of playable diamonds as only a couple were cut by good Samaritans. All 6 leagues worked cooperatively together in order to save the houseleague and all-star playing season without serious backlash from striking workers. District teams were entered in all divisions of baseball provincials. Major and Junior baseball teams successfully continued onto their respective Canadians. Softball teams represented the district in Provincial, Canadian and World Series play.

District 6 Ottawa East: Registration was down slightly from last year amongst 6 leagues. Three leagues offer softball programs, although not in large enough numbers to consider Provincial Softball tournaments. All leagues participated in programs from T-Ball to Senior Baseball. *Carleton Russell* & *Prescott Russell* leagues run a 4-month houseleague program, May through August for Minor, Major, Junior & Senior levels. The 4 remaining leagues interlock their spring programs at various levels. The 2009 summer ball interlock program continued with the cooperation of leagues in districts 2, 5, & 8. District 6 sent representatives to all Provincial Baseball tournaments. Travel costs to provincial tournaments in Thunder Bay continue to be difficult to arrange.

District 7 Seaway: Kemptville LL chartered again this year, bringing the number of leagues up to 7 in the district, although registration suffered a significant decrease, especially at the Junior & Senior levels of baseball, as well as a smaller drop in softball; to be addressed for next season. District 7 sent teams to Minor, Major, Junior and Senior Baseball Provincial tournaments. Their *Cornwall* Senior Baseball team succeeded at Provincials, Canadians, and represented Canada well at their World Series in Bangor, Maine.

District 8 Ottawa Valley: District 8's houseleague season was successful. Registration looks promising as numbers increased in the younger divisions. *Lanark* returns to baseball this past season with 60 T-Ball players, a Minor baseball team, and Rookies, with hopes of a Major baseball team next year.

Umpire Consultant: Clinics were held in Districts 1, 7 & 8. Surveys noted positive comments, and possible changes for future clinics; a 2nd instructor would be beneficial for well attended clinics. LLC was presented with a potential of standardized umpire uniforms for Canadian championship tournaments, noting the host's budgetary concerns. Steve M. recommended changes to LLO's Tournament Guidelines with regard to illegal/inferior playing equipment (see Item 12(b): Review of Hosting Regulations)

Safety Officer: no report

Softball Consultant: Kathy R. verbally noted the Big League Softball Provincial tournament held between Erindale and District 5.

Ontario Director: Bruce C. reported from LLC's AGM held in Val D'Or with the following: a proposed Canadian Umpire uniform, to be discussed at LLC BoD meeting in November; LLC continues to communicate with Baseball Canada to discuss membership for rally cap, coach certification and umpire training programs; LLC proposing no charter fees for T-Ball players, 5-8 years, starting in 2010, in order for leagues to strengthen their programs and encourage further registration; Al Herback is developing a new coaches' training program, 'Teaching for Tomorrow', funded by the LLC Foundation with the goal of supplying leagues with manuals for their coaches; league paperwork must be rec'd by LLC prior to District play--house league team rosters & affidavits must have full player names, along with copies of birth certificates; LLC Major Baseball tournament sites to be announced 5 years prior; other Canadian tournaments 2-3 years prior to the tournament. Marthe Dubroy retires Dec. 31/09; Wendy Thomson named as Assistant Regional Director. Minimum standards for national tournaments are being analyzed by the Tournament Committee. The website, www.littleleague.ca welcomes information & pictures. Discussion underway into the 80-foot base path of Junior Baseball--report to LLC BoD November meeting, being held near Toronto Int'l Airport. The Major BB 2010 Ontario hosts (Ancaster) gave a presentation of their tournament plans and made the final payment of their hosting fees.

9. Financial Report: Jo-Anne M. presented Income Statement and Balance Sheet. Rick W. motioned to accept the reports, 2nd by Bob T., carried.
10. Budget for 2010: Jo-Anne M. presented the Budget for next year, unchanged from last year. It was suggested to reduce the projected expense of Tournament & Trader Pins to \$1500 in order to present a balanced budget. Motioned by Norm R., 2nd by Kathy R., to accept the changed budget, carried. Re-adjusted Budget attached.

11. Tournament Reports: Briefly--

- *Provincials*
 - Minor Baseball, hosted by *Oakville LL*, Oakville: 6 teams plus the host participated with D1's High Park claiming the championship. A well-run tournament. Bob M. noted the need for tightened protocol of accurate affidavits and asked for earlier receipt of affidavits to the tournament site. Kathy R. noted use of proper legal names and travelling ID. It is the responsibility of the DA to ensure the completeness of affidavits.
 - Major Baseball, hosted by *Pembroke LL*, Pembroke: 8 teams participated with D5's LaSalle Turtle Club moving onto their Canadians. Well organized, excellent field and no problems.
 - Junior Baseball, hosted by *South Ottawa LL*, Ottawa: 7 teams participated. D5's Windsor South Canadians claimed the victory and continued onto the Canadians. Excellent job of organizing, hosting and preparing the *Ron Milks* diamond, despite the rains.
 - Senior Baseball, hosted by *Orleans LL*, Ottawa: 6 teams participated with the Cornwall Black Sox earning their way to Canadians and subsequently to their World Series. Well organized and tremendous hosting job despite inclement weather.
 - Big League Baseball, hosted by *Pinecrest LL*, Ottawa: 3 teams participated, District 6 moved onto Windsor for the Canadians. The tournament was a success, costing approx. \$5000, of which about ½ was recovered.
 - Big League Softball, hosted by *Erindale LL*, Erindale: no report, teams from D5 Windsor and Erindale played their provincials, with D5 being successful. D5 players were billeted by Erindale.

- *Canadians*
 - Big League Baseball, hosted by District 5, Windsor: 5 teams plus the host participated, with Atlantic Cape Breton moving onto the World Series. Despite numerous reasons to not take on the tournament, both personally and financially, District 5 stepped up. The challenges were many: the global economic turndown hit the local area especially hard, there was unknown interest from eligible players; the District board had doubts about the availability of volunteer personnel and the looming financial commitment. Less than a week after taking on the enormous responsibility, with conditions approved, a City of Windsor civic strike ensued, putting all of the playing season in doubt. Initially, the tournament was to be played on city-run diamonds, but due to the strike, St. Clair College was happy to accommodate the tournament with one fenced-in diamond. Plans were made to shuttle to a second diamond in LaSalle. Last minute arrangements were made for a temporary fence to be erected on a second St. Clair diamond; this allowed the tournament to be played all at one site, eliminating transportation expenses. Housing for all players and coaches was also accommodated at the College at a cost equal to billeting; breakfast included. Each of the six leagues agreed to finance, arrange and serve one day of lunches and dinners for all the teams, plus water for the week. This initiative greatly outweighed the high expense of coach/player per diems for the duration of the tournament. The coaches' feedback on this arrangement was favourable, with only minor adjustments--e.g. two possible lunch shifts, and perhaps per diems for off day/rain days. The banquet, originally scheduled to be a BBQ at the city park, was affected by the strike also, and a local sponsor, Moose Lodge admirably accommodated the banquet; again, on short notice. Bussing was used for this and for a Detroit Tiger's game outing. The games went well, with 1 day of weather delay and one game held up for rules clarification. Team problems were

rectified by respective coaches and parents. Webcasting was unavailable, and 'Twitter' was the media of choice for score updates, which were published on the LLO website, thanks to Jim Dean. The District's leagues and volunteers stepped up tremendously to host a successful tournament.

12. Review of Ontario Tournament and Hosting Regulations:

a) *Review of Tournament Regulations:*

- Steve M. noted the need to check for illegal/damaged equipment, esp. bats and helmets and recommended proper procedure for confiscation, id, log and return of said equipment, citing liability issues and ensuring integrity of the game. Motioned by Steve M., 2nd by Bob M., "Any illegal or broken equipment shall be confiscated for the duration of the tournament. The equipment to be returned to the team once that team's play in the tournament is completed." Carried. It was suggested to notify subsequent tournaments' officials of the confiscation of the illegal equipment.
- Kathy R. noted a possible loophole/problem concerning hosting a provincial tournament, whereby, a district must have participated in the previous year's division tournament in order to be able to host for the current year, as happened with this year's Big League Canadians (which was hosted by District 5, instead of their obligation to host the provincial Big League tournament. District 2 graciously stepped up and took on the provincial tournament instead.) If a district hosts a Canadian tournament in the previous year, in place of their obligation to host the provincial tournament, the district should be relieved of their participation obligation, allowing that district to possibly host the current year's provincial tournament. Kathy motioned, 2nd by Jim T., carried.

b) *Review of Hosting Regulations* (see also item 13a *Junior Baseball*): The Ontario Provincial Junior Baseball tournament, uses the option of an 80' base path as offered in the 'green book'¹ rules. The Canadian Tournament uses a 90' base path. Since several districts are restricted by city-owned/maintained diamonds, and with the stipulation of the use of breakaway bases, it was noted that while an 80' base path is preferred, the reverse option of utilizing the more common dimension of 90' should be available. Rick W. motioned, 2nd by Kathy R, 'The field dimensions must follow the official rule book guidelines, including the Junior baseball option of an 80' base path. The selection of base path must be announced upon confirmation of the Junior Provincial tournament site.' (i.e. LLO's AGM previous to the tournament.) Carried.

c) *Addition to Hosting Regulations: Design of Provincial Tournament Pin by Major Baseball Host:* As the Major Baseball Provincial Host, the Host District is entitled to submit a single generic design of approximately 1 ½" in size, to LLO's President by the end of February of the host year, for the Ontario Provincial Trader Pins, with distinctions of the 'Trillium' for provincial participants and the 'Maple Leaf' for the provincial representative champions to carry onto the Canadian tournaments. The pin will be used for all provincial tournaments and is to be designed without bias to any one tournament or host. Jim D., 2nd by Rick W. motioned that the Major Baseball Provincial host have the '*option*' of designing the annual pin, carried. The host district to respond to LLO's President as to their commitment in undertaking the endeavour before the above deadline. If the undertaking is declined, the LLO board will commit to designing the pin.

¹ 'green book' refers to the "Official Regulations and Playing Rules for all Divisions of Little League Baseball"

13. Confirmation of Ontario Baseball Tournament Sites for 2010, 2011:

a) Confirmation of Sites for 2010:

- *Minor Baseball:* District 4 Timmins scheduled to host, Jim D. to confirm with Shawn R.
- *Major Baseball:* District 3 Thunder Bay scheduled to host, confirmed by Norm R. As the Major Baseball Provincial host, District 3 is entitled to submit the single generic design of the 2010 Ontario LL Trader Pin by February 28, 2010. Norm R. to respond to Jim D. as to D3's commitment in undertaking the design before the above date. If the undertaking is declined, the LLO board will commit to designing the pin. (see item 12c)
- *Junior Baseball:* (see also item 12b) District 8, Ottawa Valley, scheduled to host. Due to diamond design breakaway base restrictions, D8 would have to use a base path of 90' for this tournament and would have to seek a waiver in order to host. Ontario provincial rules dictate using the option of an 80' base path as noted in the 'green book' rules. If a waiver is not granted, D8 would seek to trade the tournament. The Canadian Junior Baseball tournament uses a 90' base path. It was noted that D8 is not unique to this situation. Discussion ensued noting players are older since '06 change of age determination dates, does not encourage consistent, competitive play amongst players of all skill levels, provincial tournament prospective teams would need to be advised early in the season of the variance. District 2, Ottawa West may have the possibility of being able to host the Junior tournament, D2 to have an answer by Nov. 6, 2009. Jim D. to follow-up with District 8's Rick W. and District 2.
- *Senior Baseball:* District 7, Seaway, scheduled but unable to host; possibility of District 1, Oakville, hosting the Senior Baseball tournament, Bob M. to confirm with LLO President, Jim D. by Nov. 6, 2009.
- *Big League Baseball:* District 6, Ottawa East, scheduled to host, confirmed by Bill M.

b) Confirmation of Sites for 2011: At this time, sites are tentatively confirmed: District 6 hosting Minors, District 7 hosting Majors, District 1 hosting Juniors, District 5 hosting Seniors, and District 2 hosting Big League.

c) Tournament Dates, and Scheduled Time between Provincials (Divisionals) and Canadians: Per recent noted situations, there is a lack of significant down-time between the Ontario Provincial tournament and the Canadian tournament. It was noted that other divisional championship teams were able to 'rest up' after their tournament before proceeding onto Canadians, thereby giving those teams a perceived competitive 'advantage'. Because of geographic district locations, Ontario does not have the time, the funds, nor the volunteers, to provide accommodations in order to rest at the provincial tournament location after its completion, nor is it feasible to allow its championship team to return home to 'recharge' before entering the Canadian tournament (due to previously planned travel arrangements). It was suggested to add in 1 or 2 'rain days' at the end of the provincial tournament schedule to allow for a rest before travelling to the Canadian tournament, at the sole expense of the winning team. Directive for LLC BoD November meeting, see item 17c(v).

14. Deadlines for Confirmation of Provincial Tournaments' Team Entry and Submission of Provincial Tournament Schedules: In keeping with this year's dates, deadlines for 2010 are:

Friday May 21st, 2010: Team Entry must be confirmed to LLO's President for the *Minor, Major, Junior & Senior Baseball* Provincial Tournaments.

Monday June 7th , 2010: Team Entry must be confirmed to LLO's President for the *Big League Baseball* Provincial Tournament.

Friday May 28th, 2010: Tournament Schedules must be submitted to LLO's President for *Minor, Major, Junior & Senior Baseball* Provincial Tournaments.

Monday June 14th, 2010: Tournament Schedule must be submitted to LLO's President for the *Big League Baseball* Provincial Tournament.

15. Tournament Draws:

Minor Baseball		Major Baseball		Junior Baseball		Senior Baseball		Big League Baseball	
Team A	District 5	Team A	District 4	Team A	District 1	Team A	Host	Team A	District 3
Team B	District 7	Team B	District 5	Team B	District 2	Team B	District 2	Team B	District 8
Team C	District 4	Team C	District 7	Team C	District 8	Team C	District 4	Team C	District 2
Team D	District 1	Team D	District 1	Team D	District 5	Team D	District 8	Team D	District 4
Team E	District 6	Team E	District 6	Team E	District 3	Team E	District 7	Team E	District 7
Team F	District 8	Team F	District 2	Team F	District 4	Team F	District 1	Team F	District 1
Team G	Host	Team G	Host	Team G	Host	Team G	District 3	Team G	District 6
Team H	District 2	Team H	District 8	Team H	District 6	Team H	District 6	Team H	District 5
Team I	District 3	Team I	District 3	Team I	District 7	Team I	District 5	XXXXX	XXXXXXXX

16. Upcoming Canadian Tournaments in Ontario:

2010--Major Baseball Canadians in District 1, Ancaster

2010--possibility of either or both Junior & Senior Baseball Canadians being available

2011--possibility of Big League Baseball Canadians being available

2012--Junior Baseball Canadians (suggested bidding in 2010)

2013--Senior Baseball Canadians (suggested bidding in 2012)

2014--Big League Baseball Canadians (suggested bidding in 2012)

2015--Major Baseball Canadians (suggested bidding in 2010)

17. Miscellaneous and New Business:

a) Update on status of website and other uses for technology: Jim D. continues with the LLO website, noted his article published in October's issue of "The 7th Inning Stretch", <http://www.littleleague.ca>, and Ken Allen's schedule management system program is available to the leagues, contact llontd2uc@sympatico.ca.

b) 2010 Congress in Lexington, Kentucky March 12-15, 2010: Jim T. noted the benefits to DA's attending this Congress, e.g. seminars, discussion, products. Bruce C., Kathy R., Wendy T., plan to attend. There was no interest in producing an Ontario trader pin for the Congress.

- c) Discussion of reports from Little League Canada AGM, August 2009.
- i. Coaches Training Options: Al Herback, National Coach for Little League Canada, offers his baseball coaching program geared towards youth life-skills development, "Teaching for Tomorrow", al.herback@gmail.com, phone 403-273-4656 Mountain Standard Time, and the B2B Baseball and Softball Academy by Marc Shoenfelt, a coaches' back to basics' approach, www.b2bbaseball.com. Both are available to districts/leagues for a fee.
 - ii. Umpire Certification: The main goal is consistency. LLC has no certification program for our umpires. There is future optimism that Baseball Canada and LLC will potentially integrate together on a cooperative in the training of umpires. While the goals are the same, there is a difference in philosophies, and that is a barrier to overcome.
 - iii. Canadian Championship Umpire Selection review: There is discussion at the LLC level of umpire selection by LLC for tournaments, esp. Canadians, from each of the 5 Canadian divisions. LLO strongly disagrees with this proposal, points to the LL 'green book' that clearly gives the responsibility to the tournament director, relying on their integrity to use discretion in choosing umpires for tournaments. This statement will be conveyed to LLC's BoD at its Nov. 7th, 2009, held in Toronto.
 - iv. Reorganization of Prairie Division: There is a proposal at the LLC level to recognize Saskatchewan as a separate division. Since Saskatchewan has 1 district with a limited number of leagues, there would be no provincial tournament, and the winning district team would have a clear entry into the Canadian tournaments. The division would be able to send two directors to the LLC Board, and Canadian tournaments would undergo significant further expenses due to longer tournaments. LLO disagrees with this proposal and will convey this opinion to LLC'S BoD November meeting.
 - v. Little League Baseball Ontario directives to LLC Directors Meeting, Nov. 7, 2009, Toronto: Motioned by Jim D., 2nd by Kathy R., carried, previously noted, LLO sends the following directives:
 - That LLC provide for a consistent time frame between all divisional tournaments and the Canadian tournaments.
 - That the 'Tournament Director shall have full responsibility for providing volunteer LL umpires for tournament play', per the 'green book'.
 - That Saskatchewan remain under the 'Prairie' division, and not form a separate division within the region of Canada.

18. Election of Officers and Consultants: Guest Mark Strongman chaired the elections, Wendy Thompson & Louise Campbell, scrutineers.

- President: Jim Dean, nominated by Kathy R., 2nd by Bob T., acclaimed
- Vice President: Bill Magnus, nominated by Jim T., 2nd by Jim D., acclaimed
- Secretary/Treasurer: Jo-Anne Magri, nominated by Kathy R., 2nd by Jim D., acclaimed
- Umpire Consultant: Steve Meyer declined re-election. Jim D. motioned to leave the Umpire Consultant position open, pending a full definition of the responsibilities, 2nd by Bob T., carried.
- Ontario Director to Little League Canada, 2-year term, 2010-2011: Bruce Campbell, nominated by Jim D., 2nd by Jim T.; Kathy Recchia, nominated by Rick W., 2nd by Bob M., Kathy Recchia elected.
- Softball Consultant: Kathy Recchia, nominated by Jim D., 2nd by Bill M., acclaimed.
- Safety Officer: Bob Archer, nominated by Kathy R., 2nd by Bob T., acclaimed.
- Web Master: Jim Dean, nominated by Jim T., 2nd by Bob T., acclaimed.

N.B. District 4 Administrator Shawn Roy continues his 2-year term, 2009-2010, as an Ontario Director to Little League Canada.

19. Adjournment: meeting adjourned 2:30pm, motioned by Bill M., 2nd by Bob T., carried. ⁱ

24-Nov-09 jm
Revised 07-Jan-10
Revised 08-Sept-10

ⁱ Approval, October 16, 2010 / jm