

DIAMOND LEGACY NEWSLETTER



Reconnect
Make New Friends
Enrich Children's Lives



News from the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

MAY 2017

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Message From Alumni Chairman

The year was 1951. A postage stamp cost three cents and 19 cents bought a gallon of gas. Color television was introduced and direct dial-to-dial telephone service began.

Meanwhile in Hamilton, New Jersey, a group of community leaders started "Little Bigger League", a baseball program for boys ages 13-15. Few participants in the inaugural 10-team league could have envisioned the success that would follow.

In 1954, Babe Ruth's widow, Claire Ruth, gave her permission for the organization to change its name to Babe Ruth League. "Babe was a man who loved children and baseball," she said. "He could receive no greater tribute than to have a youth program named after him."

Sixty-seven years after its modest beginning, Babe Ruth League, Inc. is now the premier amateur baseball and softball program in the world. The program has grown in size, stature and reputation, and consists of over 1 million players and close to 1.5 million volunteers. In its widely-acclaimed history, it has earned the respect of its peers and it is a model organization of which Babe Ruth and an alumni base that numbers in the tens of millions, can be pleased and proud.

As Chairman of the Alumni Association, I encourage that alumni base numbering in the tens of millions to join and/or support the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association.

It would give me so much pride to see our baseball and softball



youth of yesterday helping our current participants develop into successful adults.

The Alumni Association's passion is to support the mission of Babe Ruth League and make sure it is there for future participants, just like it was there for each of us.

Once you *come back to the game*, you will wish you were a kid again!

Sincerely,

Mark Watkins
Chairman

Graduate Corner — Scott Boras

SCOTT BORAS, a graduate of the Elk Grove, California Babe Ruth League, is the top sports agent in the world. A lawyer by trade, Boras is the only sports agent in the world with more than \$2 billion in active player contracts. Both respected and feared by general managers and those who must negotiate against him, Boras has established himself as the most successful advocate in the history of sports.

He is the founder, owner and President of the Boras Corporation, a sports agency based in Newport Beach, California, that represents roughly 175 professional baseball clients. Boras has brokered many record-setting contracts and was named the “Most Powerful Sports Agent in the World” by Forbes Magazine. Boras’ subsidiary companies include Boras Marketing (memorabilia, marketing, and endorsements), and the Boras Sports Training Institute (strength/conditioning and sports psychology). Many of Boras’ 75-person staff are former major leaguers.

Boras was raised on a farm in the San Joaquin Valley of Northern California. He milked cows and rode on tractors all day long. His dad thought of baseball as a privilege. Only after the many chores were done was Boras allowed to play baseball.

Boras attended the University of the Pacific and made the baseball team as a walk on. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of the Pacific in 1977.

Following his college career, Boras played four years in the minor league system with the St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Cubs. He never made it to the major leagues. As injuries took their toll, Boras decided to return to college earning his law degree from the University of Pacific’s McGeorge School

of Law in 1982.

Boras does not represent any other sports. He gets asked by football and basketball players to negotiate for them. He just



sticks with baseball because he really wants to focus on the game, be in a ballpark every day, and be an expert at helping players achieve their greatest performance levels, which also allows great contract execution that makes it better for owners and fans of the game.

The Boras Family Foundation was established as a way to give back to the community and youth sports. The Boras Baseball Classic tournament was born when Boras wanted to reach back into the rural community that gave him and his family their beginning. The Boras Classic takes the top 32 baseball programs in the state and pairs them off in a four-day single elimination tournament. Young players are presented with an opportunity to showcase their talents to college and professional recruiters while giving the athlete an opportunity that could potentially impact their educational future and athletic dreams. Boras knows from his own experience that baseball offers a much-needed chance for some to get into college. Despite the big dollars being thrown around in professional baseball and other sports, Boras knows only a small number of players actually make it. This is why he feels education beyond high school, going collegiate, is very important because it gives the boys something to fall back on.

Support the BRL ALUMNI Today!

Because of his love of the BRL program, Babe Ruth Board Member George Lally joined the Alumni as a Golden Alumni Club Member



Donate to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association!

The BRL Alumni Association is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 Organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

1 Choose Your Gift

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____

2 Choose Your Area of Support

Please direct my gift to:

- Where the need is greatest
- Babe Ruth League Scholarship Fund
- Honorary/Memorial Gift

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Send notification of my gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Other _____

Return to:
Theresa Cleary
BRL Alumni Association
1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road
Hamilton, NJ 08619
Any questions call 609-278-2308

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3 Payment Method

My Check is enclosed (*payable to Babe Ruth League Alumni Association*)

To make a gift using your credit card, please visit <http://www.baberuthleague.org/alumni.aspx> and click on "Make a Gift".

President's Message (*From 1962*)



The year was 1962, and Bridgeton, New Jersey was hosting the 13-15 World Series. Then BRL President, Walter B. Cocks, included the following message in the World Series Program Book:

Take a deep breath—relax for a few moments—but don't drop your bat. The game is still on, the bases are loaded, and we have an "all-star" line-up. We have scored a few runs, had the usual number of strike-outs and foul balls.

When a person relaxes, he reminisces, when he reminisces, he gains confidence, especially when his thoughts are focused on the Babe Ruth League program. Let us take a look at our history. We must pay tribute to the founders of our program and their ability to form a team that has met challenges that would have swamped a weaker team.

After this team was formed, a sponsor was attracted to the program to provide guidance and financial support. We in Babe Ruth League will give never ending praise to the Coca-Cola Company for the wonderful part they played in our growth. The Coca-Cola Company fulfilled their promise. They left our team in 1958.

To some people, this loss of sponsor mean the downfall of the league. To the Board of Directors of Babe Ruth League, it meant the beginning of a new inning. We had lost our star pitcher, now everyone on the team must come to bat with more determination and drive than was necessary when "Coke" was in there throwing strikes for our team.

Fans love a winner. They also give their cheers to a "comer." They boo a team that doesn't put out its best players in the game or that loses the will to fight and win.

The Babe Ruth League has been the best "comer" in the field of youth baseball. This is especially true these past years when the opposing team was having a big inning.

The opposition seemed almost unbeatable. Rumors, debts, misplays and weaknesses plagued us at every turn. The line-up had to be shifted, new players inserted, the rules had to be studied and, in general, the team had to be rebuilt.

Now without the slightest trace of over-confidence, but with the self-assurance that comes with having faced many tough battles, we are proud to say—we can win. The financial status of the League is excellent. We are self-supporting. We have added many new players and strengthened our regulars.

Don't look around for someone to praise for this wonderful team and success. You are on the team, you deserve your share of credit for our success. Shake hands with yourself if you will check your fielding and batting percentages, then with a smile of self-confidence pick up your bat and come out swinging.

The Babe Ruth League is a democratic organization and as such will win because you and thousands more like you are on our team. Remember the bases are loaded, and we need that big rally.

Life Quotes

- A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.
- There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.
- The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life.
- You cannot have a positive life and a negative mind.
- Make it a habit to tell people thank you. To express your appreciation, sincerely and without the expectation of anything in return. Truly appreciate those around you, and you'll soon find many others around you. Truly appreciate life, and you'll find that you have more of it.
- Life is full of beauty. Notice it. Notice the small child and the smiling faces. Smell the rain, and feel the wind. Live your life to the fullest potential, and fight for your dreams.
- We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Heard it through the grapevine...

Steven Tellefsen just celebrated his 12th Anniversary as Babe Ruth President/CEO

Opening Day Festivities were held for thousands of Babe Ruth leagues during the month of April.

Pitch Count is coming this year to the Babe Ruth League Tournament Trail.

Rebecca Slough of Glen Allen, Virginia, was the first female manager to win a Cal Ripken World Series.



Class Notes

What's new in your life? Stay in touch and keep us posted on all of your news—send us an email and give us an update on what's happening in your life. Feel free to include photos. EMAIL: theresa@baberuthleague.org Or Send Mail to: Theresa Cleary, Babe Ruth League Alumni Association, 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619

Petal, Mississippi Babe Ruth League Grateful to Babe Ruth Alumni Association and for Other Support



Petal Baseball Association

March 7, 2017

Mr. Wagoner,

Petal Baseball Association would like to thank you and the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Alumni Association for the very generous donation you sent after the Tornado here in Petal. It means a lot to be a part of an organization that cares about their leagues. We have shared your letter here with members of our league as well as the Mayor and Aldermen in the City.

Petal is strong and is recovering from the storm. We put repairs on hold at the beginning we didn't think it was right for us to start repairs right away when there were many families missing their homes and their belongings. That hold was very short since we received many calls and emails from those families and told us to get baseball going that they wanted life to return to normal. Well normal in Petal is baseball so that is what we have done. We are about 80% rebuilt and our facility is better than ever.

This all couldn't of happened without the support of our City, surrounding programs and organizations like you. We thank you for your support, we are proud to be a part of Babe Ruth Baseball.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek Hall".

Derek Hall

Petal Baseball Association

Spare Change Challenge

This past year, we've challenged you to contribute just \$5 to the Alumni Association. Many of you responded and many of you donated well beyond the \$5 for which we are very grateful.

The next couple of months, we're taking it back to the basics with an old-school challenge that everyone can easily join, a spare change challenge.



Have you ever thought about how much loose change you have lying around the house, everywhere from coat pockets to junk drawers to the bottom of your purse? Maybe \$5 worth? \$10? \$100 or more?

The idea is simple. Search around the house for a jar or bowl to fill with your spare change for the next couple of months. Get the spouse and kids involved as well. When family or friends come by, ask them to throw their loose change in the jar/bowl. Take the challenge to your local league – have a little fun by pairing up males vs. females or kids vs. adults.

Then on June 1, cash it in and then have a “Feel Good Moment” by donating the funds to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association. It's worth it. After all, you're only using spare change – money that people often do not miss.

Are you in? If so, let us know, and tell us how you plan to round up and save! We look forward to sharing your stories and photos on the Alumni website and in the DIAMOND LEGACY Newsletter.

To share or if you have any questions, please contact Theresa Cleary at 609-278-2308 or via email at theresa@baberuthleague.org.

*Remember, **Contributions are never used to pay salaries.** The Babe Ruth Alumni Association is strictly a **volunteer-driven**, non-profit 501(c) (3) Organization. All charitable donations go to where the **need is greatest** - for example, to support players, teams and leagues that otherwise would be unable to participate because of lack of funding or due to catastrophic loss; to support special initiatives, programs and projects that advance the general wellbeing of youth; and to **donor-designated causes**, such as scholarships and endowments, to honor or remember an individual, to support a specific individual, team or league, etc.*

Happenings in Babe Ruth League

Stay up to date with what is taking place in Babe Ruth League

The Alumni Association is your gateway to Babe Ruth League, Inc. for a lifetime of connections. Our focus is to create and nourish lifetime fellowship and active participation of Alumni with Babe Ruth League through advocacy, support, service and communication.



Congratulations to Jessie Tollefsen (New Egypt, NJ Babe Ruth League) on being recognized as the 2016 Babe Ruth Softball Volunteer of the year. Pictured left, BRL President/CEO Steven Tellefsen presents Jessie with her official award.



Players from the 2005 PNW Regional 12U Champions (Port Angeles, Washington) visit the National Constitution Center and Liberty Bell in Philadelphia with their host family. The World Series was hosted by Cherry Hill, New Jersey, located just 10 minutes east.

Front, L to R: Rob Chalfant, N. Arkansas Softball Commissioner, Joe Cormier (presenting Alumni check), Assistant Regional Commissioner, Babe Ruth 13-15 Division, Steven Tellefsen, President/CEO, Babe Ruth League, Inc., Will Smith, Oklahoma State Commissioner

Back, L to R: Rob Featherston, Assistant Regional Commissioner, Cal Ripken Division, Joe Featherston, Regional Commissioner, Mike Markin, Louisiana State Commissioner, Randy Smith, N. Arkansas State Commissioner, Terry McCollough, E. Texas State Commissioner, Eugene Reynolds, Alabama State Commissioner, Tom Strickland, S. Texas State Commissioner, Robert Faherty, Vice President/National Commissioner, Babe Ruth League, Inc.



Presentation of Alumni Check

We want your old pictures!

We are looking for your old pictures. They can include anything—teammates, team photos, plays, special events, etc. We would like to feature pictures from the past in issues of *Diamond Legacy*. Simply scan them and email them to theresa@baberruthleague.org. **HAVE ARTICLES OR STORIES**—Submit them to theresa@baberruthleague.org or mail to Theresa Cleary, 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619.



Blast From The Past



1985 – Newtons Revisited – Professional football player Ed Scott (center) was a 17-year-old member of the New Orleans Babe Ruth team that participated in the 1978 Babe Ruth Baseball 16-18 World Series in Lawrenceville, Tennessee. He stayed with the Newton family and became such good friends with his Host Family that he returned several times. Despite great success with the Grambling University and L.A. Express (USFL) football teams, the Newtons reported that Scott was as quiet and humble as the young man they first met in 1978. Scott’s post-football ambition was to become an attorney. He is pictured with the Newton’s children, Eric and Tracy.

How Millennial Parents are Changing Youth Sports



Parents have always held tremendous power and influence on the youth sports experience. Sports parents are the ones signing-up the kids, paying the fees, buying the equipment, volunteering as coaches, and filling the stands to cheer on their children. As parents change, youth sports change. This is a simple rule that has been around for decades. And then there are Millennials. Cue the music... they are growing up and having kids!

Millennials are the generation born roughly between 1980 - 2000. They grew up in a world with technology, comfort, social media, intrusive advertising, and an exploding sports media industry. They shop differently, think differently and view the youth sports experience differently. Millennial parents are changing youth sports significantly. Highlighted below are four ways that millennial parents are impactfully changing the youth sports experience.

They Demand Mobile

To communicate well with millennial parents, a youth sports coach or administrator must turn to mobile as their primary channel. Millennial parents do not view their phone as a calling device; they view it as their remote to the world. Whether it is searching for driving directions, game cancelations, or score updates, millennial parents will turn to mobile first. They expect their child's youth sports organization to have a mobile friendly site, and offer several mobile-friendly communication streams.

They Don't Use Cash or Check

Millennial parents overwhelmingly do not carry cash. A bank visit for a millennial is done on their phone. Snap a picture of a check, and it's done. A recent study found one in four millennials carry less than \$5 in cash with them. Digital wallets and online transfers are becoming mainstream, and millennials trust these digital tools much more than older generations. What does this mean for the modern youth sports organizer? Yes, it would be a great idea to have a Square credit card reader at the concession stand, but the main impact in youth sports will surround player registration and collecting parent fees. They want money transactions to occur digitally and efficiently.

They Follow Sports Differently

Millennials watch sports and consume sports media differently than older generations. Having a second device open during a sports event has become second nature and they more readily turn to alternative video sources like YouTube for highlights and sports video. So, the next time your millennial parents are glued to their phone or a Gamechanger app on their tablet during a game, remember this shift is here to stay. Call it distraction or connection, millennial sports parents want to follow youth sports this way, and they will turn to technologies that meet their needs.

They Share Their Life on Social Media

Social media is a mainstay in the life of a millennial sports parent, and one of their primary ways of engaging with friends and following news. Millennial parents bring this mindset to their youth sports life, and want to actively post, share, and comment on their child's sports organization. The modern youth sports organizer is active in engaging on social media channels, whether that be a team Facebook page, Twitter account, or sharing photos on Instagram.

Millennial parents are changing youth sports and they represent the future for millions of athletes, coaches and followers. They bring a different set of expectations to their child's participation, and are hoping the four changes mentioned above will overwhelmingly bring positive change to youth sports in America. What do you think?

CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNI

BABE RUTH LEAGUE GRADUATES MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE WORLD



TERRI BONOFF

Terri Bonoff, a former President for the Hopkins, Minnesota Babe Ruth League, is an American politician from the U.S. state of Minnesota. She is a former member of the Minnesota Senate, representing District 44. Bonoff did not seek re-election to the Minnesota State Senate in 2016. Instead, Bonoff was a 2016 candidate who sought election to the U.S. House to represent the 3rd Congressional District of Minnesota. She was defeated by incumbent Republican Erik Paulsen in the general election.

Bonoff grew up in Edina, Minnesota and later attended Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, earning a degree in psychology and sociology. She began her business career at Jackson Graves, a family-owned women's specialty store. Bonoff then spent five years in the toy and video game business with Tonka Toys and 13 years as Director of Merchandising for the Computer Products Division of the publicly held New Hope-based Navarre Corporation. After 18 years in business, Bonoff stepped down from Navarre in 1999 to spend time with her husband and four children.

Before being elected to the Senate, Bonoff served on the Minnetonka Planning Commission and as a volunteer for the Hopkins Legislative Action Commission. She eventually become Presidents of the Hopkins Legislative Action Coalition at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and President of Babe Ruth Baseball in Hopkins/Minnetonka.

Jobs and the economy were Bonoff's top priority. She also believes that educating and training the next generation of leaders is essential, in addition to reducing student debt and eliminating the skills gap. The initiative she developed as Chair of Higher Education and Workforce Development, the PIPELINE Project, accomplishes both of these tasks simultaneously; connecting students, education institutions and employers to develop curriculum and paid apprenticeships in high-growth industries.

Bonoff also prioritized issues around climate change and the environment, the threat of terror both here and abroad, and the escalating costs of healthcare.

Meet the Alumni Board

The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association is governed by an Alumni Board consisting of three officers and three At-Large members. Board Members The Board acts as the leadership body of the Alumni Association. They work throughout the year with program development and events. Current Board Members are listed below.

JAMES WAGONER of Fort Smith, Arkansas Serves as Chief Executive Officer

Wagoner's life revolves around Babe Ruth League. If there was ever a good will ambassador for the program, it's James Wagoner. Give him an opening, and he'll talk about the program morning, noon and night. Wagoner began volunteering his time to the Babe Ruth program in 1962, serving as a coach while still in high school. After serving in the US Marine Corps during the Viet Nam war, he resumed coaching for the Babe Ruth program, going on to serve as a League Officer, District, State and Regional Commissioner. In 2006, he was elected Chairman of the Babe Ruth League International Board of Directors, a position he still holds today, in addition to serving as the Alumni Association's CEO. He owns and operates Shelter Insurance in Fort Smith.



MARK WATKINS of Louisville, Illinois, serves as Chairman

Watkins began his involvement with Babe Ruth League in 1994. He started in the program as a team manager and went



on to serve as a League Board Member and President. In 1997, he was elected Southern Indiana State Commissioner, a position he held until being elected to the Babe Ruth League Board of Directors. In 2015, he stepped down from the Board to take on the position of Chairman of the Alumni Association. One of Watkins' proudest moments was being named the Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year in 2004. He is currently employed as General Manager for Wolfe's Auto Auctions in Evansville.

JOE CORMIER of Erath, Louisiana, serves as Vice Chairman

Cormier has worn many hats for the Babe Ruth League program, serving as a coach, manager and League President. After leaving the local league level, he took on the positions of District Commissioner, Assistant Tournament Director, and Tournament Director. In addition to serving as Alumni Vice Chairman, Joe still volunteers for Babe Ruth league as Southwest Assistant Regional Commissioner and Chairman of the Southwest Region Hall of Fame Committee. Joe donates a monthly stipend and is one of the Alumni's top fundraisers, obtaining donations for the Alumni from friends, associates and his employer. Also, in honor of Joe's love for the Babe Ruth League program, his son, Dr. Kevin Cormier, provides a quarterly donation to the Alumni Association.



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Meet the Alumni Board

MIKE JANICKI of Raynham, Massachusetts serves as an At-Large Member



Janicki began his lifelong journey as a player. He grew up in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, playing on organized teams and in pickup games just because he and his friends loved the game. He continued to play ball through high school, and during his years in the Coast Guard he made a brief change to fast pitch softball to play on several championship teams. Janicki first became involved with Babe Ruth League in 1982 serving as a coach for 14 consecutive years. After holding various other positions at the local league level, he moved up to the Eastern Massachusetts Babe Ruth state organization serving as a District and Assistant State Commissioner. In addition, Janicki was named the 2009 Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year. He currently serves as Cal Ripken State Commissioner and New England Assistant Regional Commissioner.

BILL PULLAN of Bethel, Connecticut serves as an At-Large Member



For over 50 years, Bill Pullan has been one of the New England Region's most tireless supporters of Babe Ruth League. Over the years, he has served as a coach, League President, Tournament Director, and District Commissioner before officially retiring from the Babe Ruth program in 2009. Because of his dedication to the Babe Ruth program, Pullan was inducted into the Babe Ruth League International Hall of Fame in

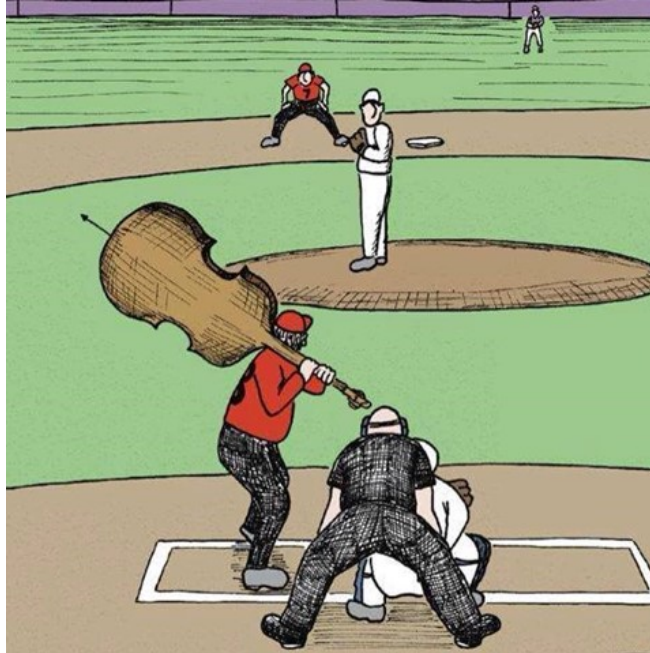
2010. In addition, he served as Director for the New England Jimmy Fund/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute located in Boston, Massachusetts, battling childhood cancers. Over the span of 35 years, some \$1.2 million - a charity grand slam - was cheerfully donated to the New England Jimmy Fund/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute by the New England Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken Baseball organizations. Much of these efforts were enthusiastically and ably directed by Pullan. He is also a member of the Golden Alumni Club due to his continuous donations.

THERESA CLEARY of Bordentown, New Jersey serves as an At-Large Member



Theresa Cleary has worked at Babe Ruth Headquarters for 39 years, starting in 1978 as an Assistant to the late Ronald Tellefsen, working with him as he moved up the ranks from Commissioner to Vice President-Commissioner to President/CEO. Cleary is currently the Executive Assistant for Babe Ruth League, working closely with the Executive Staff, providing management support and assisting with various projects assignments and events. In addition, Cleary prepares several of Babe Ruth League's e-Newsletters, such as *Batter-Up*, *Commissioner's Corner*, *UmpireGram* and the *League President Bulletin*. She volunteers her time to the Alumni Association. Cleary maintains the Alumni website and is one of the editors for the Alumni's e-Newsletter, *Diamond Legacy*.

A Little Bit of Humor



Being the bottom of the ninth, one run down, with two outs and a runner on second, Barry knew his team's only hope was a double bass hit.

A rookie pitcher was struggling at the mound, so the catcher walked out to have a talk with him. "I've figured out your problem," he told the pitcher. "You always lose control at the same point in every game." "When is that?" "Right after the national anthem."



Babe Ruth Baseball is a great thing because it keeps the parents off the street.

The Power of Us

The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association is profoundly grateful for the support provided by our donors. The Alumni has only been in existence for a few years, but because of you:

- We helped Babe Ruth League move into a new Headquarters.
- We helped many Babe Ruth Leagues who suffered catastrophic loss or because of lack of funding could not materialize. Leagues such as Petal, Mississippi; Brazoswood, Texas; and Coastal, Maine; just to name a few.
- We have established Endowed Scholarship Programs and provided more scholarships to Babe Ruth graduates, who, otherwise, would be unable to attend college.
- Many deserving individuals were honored or memorialized.
- We have created meaningful legacies for future generations.
- We have carried out many donor-designated causes.

It takes an entire community of people to provide the Babe Ruth League experience - the full range of activities, events and everyday occurrences that help transform the lives of Babe Ruth League participants. Those people, however, are not limited to Babe Ruth baseball and softball fields. It's the combination of participants, volunteers, partners and friends of Babe Ruth League who ensure the Babe Ruth League experience. This cast of characters, along with Babe Ruth League participants, who all benefit from their generosity, inspire philanthropy. For most people, it is literally a way to give back to make it possible for others. For others, giving back is an investment to ensure Babe Ruth League's continued success. Whatever their reasons, our donors are touched by the Babe Ruth League experience, and they give back so that others can have their own experience.

FACES OF PHILANTHROPY

It's generally easier to remember a name when you can put a face with it. The same holds true for a concept. In this case, the concept is philanthropy and the faces are those of Joseph Cormier, Sandra Eldridge, George Lally, Irby Luquette and Bill Pullman. These individuals, *ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS*, are repeat donors, and they help the Alumni Association provide college scholarships, help players, teams and leagues in need, and provide a host of endless possibilities for today's youth.

JOE CORMIER (Erath, Louisiana) - Joe has worn many hats for the Babe Ruth League program, serving as a coach, manager, League President, District Commissioner, Assistant Tournament Director, and Tournament Director. Since 2008, Joe has also served on the Task Force for numerous Babe Ruth World Series. Currently, he is the Southwest Assistant Regional Commissioner, Chairman of the Babe Ruth Southwest Region Hall of Fame Committee and a Board Member for the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association. Joe donates a monthly stipend to the Alumni Association. In addition, he is one of the Alumni Association's top fundraisers, obtaining donations for the Alumni from friends, associates and his employer. Also, in honor of Joe's love for the Babe Ruth League program, his son, Dr. Kevin Cormier, provides a quarterly donation to the Alumni Association.



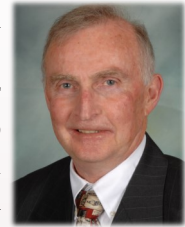
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The Power of Us

SANDRA ELDRIDGE (Ocala, Florida) - Sandra serves as Florida Assistant State Commissioner, Area Commissioner, District 1, 2, 3 and 4 Commissioner and as Southeast Regional Secretary. Sandra has also served on the World Series Committee and as a Task Force Member for the many Babe Ruth League World Series Ocala has hosted over the years. Sandra makes a monthly donation to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association.



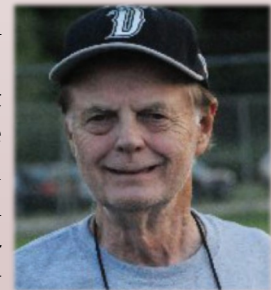
GEORGE LALLY (Norwood, Massachusetts) - George first became involved with the Babe Ruth League program in 1963 serving as a League President. He went on to serve as a State Commissioner and Regional Commissioner among many other capacities. Serving his first term in 1975, George has been continuously re-elected to the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Board of Directors. George has also been involved in working as a World Series Task Force Member. George is a member of the Golden Alumni Club due to his many donations to the Alumni Association.



IRBY LUQUETTE (Abbeville, Louisiana) - Irby passed away this past December. He shared his love of the game of baseball with Babe Ruth League participants for over 62 years. Irby positively shaped the lives of many youngsters, serving as a coach, manager, umpire, League President, District Director, State Commissioner, Regional Commissioner, Tournament Director and World Series consultant. In addition to being involved with Babe Ruth at the local league, state and regional levels, Irby served numerous terms as a Tournament Director for many District, State and Regional Tournaments. Irby was recognized both locally and nationally for his contributions to youth baseball with a ballfield named after him in Abbeville to being inducted into the International Babe Ruth League Hall of Fame. The Irby Luquette Endowment Scholarship was established by Irby's son Gary in honor of his father's love for the Babe Ruth League program.



BILL PULLAN (Bethel, Connecticut) - For over 50 years, Bill Pullan has been one of the New England Region's most tireless supporters of Babe Ruth League. Over the years, he has served as a coach, League President, Tournament Director, and District Commissioner before officially retiring from the Babe Ruth program in 2009. Because of his dedication to the Babe Ruth program, Bill was inducted into the Babe Ruth League International Hall of Fame in 2010. In addition, Pullan served as Director for the New England Jimmy Fund/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Over the span of 35 years, some \$1.2 million - a charity grand slam - was cheerfully donated to the New England Jimmy Fund/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute by the New England Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken Baseball organizations. Much of these efforts were enthusiastically and ably directed by Bill Pullan. Bill serves as a Board Member for the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association. In addition, he is a member of the Golden Alumni Club due to his continuous donations, and has named the Alumni Association as a beneficiary in his Will.



Continued on next page

The Power of Us

Sandra Eldridge said, "I read the Alumni's Diamond Legacy Newsletter, which includes stories about the great work the Alumni is doing, the success of our Alumni, and about all of our bright, deserving Babe Ruth League participants. With my monthly contribution, I feel like I've done more than just make a gift. I feel like I am playing a key role in helping our kids develop into successful adults."

Gary Luquette remarked, "At the end of the day, you end up giving to benefit that area you want to help. My dad loved his involvement with Babe Ruth League and helping the young athletes that crossed his path. He often said that the youth they serve in Babe Ruth League come from a variety of backgrounds and circumstances. He believed that higher education was important to help young people meet the challenges of a changing work force. It is an honor to carry on his legacy by providing scholarships to Babe Ruth League graduates. It means something not only to the recipient, but also to our family. It is such a wonderful experience.

Philanthropy is not a one-person job. It takes many people to build a lasting culture of creating lasting change through the power of philanthropy. We offer our heartfelt thanks to our many donors, whether you have provided continuous gifts or a one-time donation. You have assisted the Alumni Association provide a constant source of encouragement and inspiration for our participants. .

How Do You Want To Be Remembered?

As humans, we are hard-wired to care about what we leave behind and how we will be remembered. We want our lives, and our experiences, to benefit future generations. Our legacy can be the sum of everything we hand on to others from moments shared to the things we do to better the world around us. Our legacy could be creating an endowment or foundation that bears our family name and works to improve the world for generations to come. Our legacy could be planned giving.



There is no greater sense of accomplishment than leaving a legacy that will provide many memorable moments and bring hope, strength and happiness to youth. Babe Ruth League is a community-based program that puts the enjoyment, education and well-being of the participant before anything else. You can ensure that the Babe Ruth League program is available for future generations by "*leaving your legacy*" with the Alumni Association.

There are several ways to leave a lasting legacy and even earn a tax deduction. Planned giving allows you to make charitable gifts to the Alumni Association now or after your lifetime—designate the Alumni Association as a beneficiary in your will/living trust, on your life insurance policy or for another financial account. An endowed gift is one that is held in perpetuity (unless the donor designates a time period). The gift is invested and used for purposes specified by the donor, such as a named scholarship. Or give a gift of artwork and other personal property—you may receive gift credit and an immediate charitable income tax deduction, typically for the appraised value of your gift. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Cleary at 609-278-2308.

Shop the Alumni Store

The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association invites you check out the Alumni Online Store by visiting Alumni website and clicking on "Alumni Store".



Is your game day garb looking a little shabby? Add some stylish options to your collection with cool merchandise from the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association store.

The Alumni Store is your one-stop-shop for alumni apparel and accessories.

The Alumni Store stocks the best collection of apparel for men, women, kids and fans in the most popular brands, such as Nike, Majestic, Lids, Impact, Russell, Badger Sportswear and more.

Buy your brand from the Alumni Store to support Babe Ruth League and show fellow fans you care!



Resolve To Get Involved!

The Alumni Association exists to personally and professionally support Babe Ruth League successes; to inspire pride in, and promote involvement with the organization.

RESOLVE TO GET INVOLVED by joining the Alumni Association today. Membership is free and the benefits are plenty!

Events

World Series Returns to Newark, Ohio



Contract Signing—Front Row (l-r) Alan Cecutti, Mike Massaro, Pat Jeffries, Noble Snow. Back Row (l-r) Newark Mayor Jeff Hall, Gary Walters, Paul Thompson, Bill Cost and Jim Cooper.

Babe Ruth League, Inc. International Headquarters has announced that the 2019 Babe Ruth 14-Year-Old World Series will be hosted by Newark, Ohio and played at Don Edwards Park. Babe Ruth League, Inc. has had a relationship with Newark/Licking County for close to 60 years. Newark/Licking County has hosted more World Series than any other community in the country, with the last being held in 2010.

Mayor Jeff Hall said, “This will be the first time the community has hosted a World Series since 2010. We expect there will be around 1,000 hotel rooms booked during the eight-day event, and that the community will derive an economic benefit that will exceed \$1,000,000 from money spent in our community during that time.”

“Hosting a Babe Ruth World Series requires a lot of preparation and countless volunteer hours. It is something you want to do, not just for the baseball, but also for the entire community,” said BRL Vice President/Commissioner Robert Faherty. “The Newark World Series Host Committee’s dedication to the sport, to their community, and to young athletes nationwide was definitely showcased during each World Series hosted by Licking County. They opened up their hearts and homes to boys across America and are just a tremendous group that put together many awesome World Series. We are honored to be returning to Licking County with the 2019 Babe Ruth 14-Year-Old World Series.”

2017 Red Sox Babe Ruth Coaches Clinic

The 2017 Boston Red Sox Coaches Clinic for Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Baseball and Babe Ruth Softball will be held on May 27, 2017. Fenway Park and the Boston Red Sox have hosted a clinic for coaches who are a part of Babe Ruth League every year since 1969. During the event, the coaches have many activities scheduled and multiple



opportunities to broaden their teaching skills. Throughout the day, these dedicated coaches meet with members of the Boston Red Sox Major League staff to receive help and advice on how to be a successful coach. By Fenway Park and the Sox hosting this great event, they are reaching out to the community and allowing their knowledge to be spread to everyone who wants the honor of receiving help from such a prestigious club. It is a great opportunity for coaches to learn from the best, but also for the Sox management to learn from them as well. This day has been successful for years and both the Red Sox and Babe Ruth League hopes it continues for many more in the future.

Stay Connected Through Social Media

Did you know? We created an Alumni Facebook page just for you.

<https://www.facebook.com/baberuthalumni/>.

Our page is a great way to keep in touch with other alumni, as well as post photos, updates and more! Please join the community and the conversation on our Facebook page.

In addition, connect with the Alumni on Twitter. Every tweet is a **base hit** for the Alumni.

<http://www.twitter.com/baberuthalumni>



Happy Mother's Day to All Babe Ruth Moms

FRIENDS we will miss...

JESSE ESPHORST, 16, of Torrance, California,



passed away March 7, 2017. He was killed when the minivan his father was driving was struck by two other cars that were involved in a chase

following an earlier collision. Just hours before, Jesse had hit a two-run home run in his high school's 13-3 victory.

A member of the Torrance, California, 15-Year-Old All-Star team that won the 2016 Babe Ruth 13-15 World Series in a 6-1 win over Atlantic Shore, New Jersey, Jesse was named the World Series' Most Outstanding Player after leading his team with 9 hits, 8 runs, and batting .474 for the tournament.

During the World Series, Jesse's younger brother Cody, who has been battling thyroid cancer and other life-threatening illnesses for years, threw out the first ball to him before a game. Cody, 15, who was only given 10 years to live, was part of the team family. Jesse loved his brother and always played in Cody's honor.

"In the short time that we have come to know the Esphorsts, they have deeply touched all of us at Babe Ruth League Headquarters.", said Steven Tellefsen, Babe Ruth League President/CEO. "Just a few months ago, Jesse and Cody shared time with us at the ABCA Convention in Anaheim, California. Babe Ruth League was extremely fortunate to have had Jesse a member of our team. He was a talented ballplayer, but more importantly, a caring and respectable young man. He will truly be missed by all of us."

DANNY BUFORD, SR., 62, of Gautier,

Mississippi, passed away on March 12, 2017.

Danny joined the United States Navy at the age of 19. After serving for six years on several different ships, he enrolled at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and later at the University of Southern Mississippi, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education, and a Master's Degree in Program Management from Villanova.



This is when he discovered his passion of encouraging and mentoring kids. In 1982, he began working at Ingalls in Pascagoula, Mississippi and later transferred to Norfolk, Virginia. In 2014, he retired from Ingalls and began working for the United States Navy in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

For over 40 years, he followed his heart and passion: coaching baseball for the Gautier Babe Ruth League. He had the honor of holding several respected positions within the Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken baseball organization such as League President for Gautier, District and State Commissioner, as well as Regional Senior Umpire.

His other joys in life were spending time with his family, being a semi pro cook, gardening, woodworking, roughing-it while camping in his motorhome and being the New Orleans Saints' biggest fan (WHO DAT!).



Sincere Thanks to Those Who Donated During the Past Quarter

In Memory Of...

Irby Luquette

By James Wagoner
By Ken Meyers
By Steven Tellefsen

Jesse Esphorst

By James Wagoner
By Steven Tellefsen
By Theresa Cleary

Ronald Tellefsen

By Robert and Nancy Faherty

Brent Fitzpatrick

By Robin C. Woods

Danny Buford

By Joseph Cormier
By James Wagoner
By Steven Tellefsen

In Honor Of...

Joseph Cormier

By Kevin Cormier

Miscellaneous Contributions

By Sandra Eldridge
By Joseph Cormier
By Nationwide Insurance
By William Slifkin



Welcome New Alumni Members

Larry Clinkscales – Springdale, Arkansas

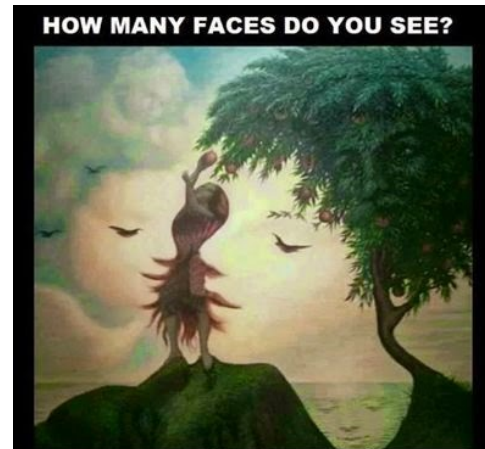
William Mellen – Nashua, New Hampshire

Dorinda Lucidi – Boston, Massachusetts

Brain Teasers/Trivia—Do You Know the Answer

Answers appear at the bottom of the page.

1. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
2. Which is correct to say? "The yolk of the egg is white" or "The yolk of the egg are white?"
3. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators, nor the participants, know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
4. Thomas was caught stealing 27 times in one year, yet he was never arrested. How come?
5. I can travel from there to here by disappearing and here to there by reappearing. What am I?
6. A cabbage, a faucet and a tomato had a race. How did it go?
7. What is two days after the day after the day before yesterday?
8. In what month do people sleep the least?



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The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) Organization. Whenever you give a donation to the Alumni Association, you will be able to make a tax deduction when you file your taxes. Donating to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association can help you make a difference for a worthy cause and help you achieve tax benefits at the same time. If you wish to make a financial contribution, please make the check payable to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association and mail to 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619.



Follow the Babe Ruth Alumni Association on Facebook

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Answers to Brain Teasers

1. Footsteps.
2. Neither. Egg yolks are yellow.
3. Boxing.
4. Thomas was a baseball player and was stealing bases.
5. The letter "T"
6. The cabbage was ahead, the faucet was turning, and the tomato tried to ketchup.
7. Tomorrow. The day before yesterday is two days ago. The day after the day before yesterday (2 days ago) is yesterday. And two days after yesterday is tomorrow.
8. February, because there are fewer days.