District 2 Little League Meeting

April 10, 2025 *|* Take Five Restaurant, Feeding Hills. Meeting called to order by Steve DePalma at 6:40 pm

Attendance

**Towns In Attendance: Longmeadow SB, Northampton, Southampton, Westfield, Amherst, Wilbraham SB, Gateway, Easthampton, East Longmeadow, Ludlow**

**Steve DePalma, Ernie Fitzell, Marc Winer, Michelle Winer**

* **Data Center check-in:** All towns have completed ASAP and chartering process. Please check on your status for Constitution. Still a few outstanding or missing.
* **Registrations:** Went around the room and discussed turnout. Most towns are down in numbers. Background checks (both state and LL) need to be completed for all volunteers). This also includes all umpires age 18 and older. Abuse Awareness training needs to be completed by all every year, and Diamond Leadership needs to be completed once by each coach.
* **Schedules:** Marc and Carolyn have completed all the softball schedules. Any changes to the schedule for the rest of the season needs to be done between the coaches, administration and umpires, then reported to Marc to be changed on the District website. Ernie has the Senior schedule ready to be posted. The Intermediate schedule still has some minor changes before it will be ready for the public.
* **Softball update:** Games have already begun. Reminder about reporting all game scores (both coaches) to Marc to keep track on the District website. Coaches information can be found on the District workbook on the Travel Softball tab. Game schedules are available to be downloaded directly to Game Changer. Reach out to Marc for details.
* **Baseball update:** Changes to baseball schedules need to be submitted to Ernie for updates on the District website. Scores also to be reported to Ernie or Marc.
* **Boundaries:** Belchertown still looking to encapsulate South Hadley, Palmer and Ware into their boundaries. They are working with Bristol and Williamsport to complete this transaction. No new information at this time.
* **Waivers:** Steve D has already submitted quite a few to LLI. If you have any that need approval, get them to us as soon as you have the required waiver form(s) and letter/email from the parent/guardian. Once approved, your President will receive an approval letter through email. Please keep for your records. Deadline for all waivers is June 1.
* **District All Star teams:** Hoping for one team from each town, especially for Majors BB and SB. If you don’t have enough interest or commitment from your own town team, you can join with another town to form a team to give as many players the opportunity to play as possible. Please think ahead and promote early to gain momentum and interest in April or early May. Please make every effort to have teams filled and registered before June 1 so we can get schedules and such together early. Teams cannot be announced until the player have played the required 8 of 12 scheduled games, or before May 15. **The District Coaches meeting has been scheduled for June 7 at 6 PM, location TBD. Please save the date NOW!!** In Sports Connect, you can register your players now to set up tryouts and gain interest. Set up a summer season and charge what you will or keep it free (it’s up to your town).
* **Tournament booklet:** Just a reminder about procuring sponsors for your town and gathering information needed as previously sent out to everyone. Please review and submit this info as soon as possible. There was a packet handed out to everyone in attendance, and will be attached to these minutes. Every town will get their own page/section, and will be responsible for filling it with information and getting sponsors for their pages. Carolyn offered to take drone pictures of fields for anyone that was interested.
* **District All Star Team event:** We are looking for a larger venue for this year to host our event. If you have, or know of a venue that would be suitable, please reach out to Steve D.
* **State Tournament host for softball:** Agawam will be hosting 10U and 12U state final games again this year. Dates will be July 12-13. Would be great if more people from around the District would come support and help during the tournament.
* **Umpire updates:** Steve needs contact info for all UIC’s for all towns so he can reach out to everyone about suggestions for umpires for District play. He will be scheduling umpires for all levels for baseball and softball this year. He will need 70-80 umpires total.

We had one outdoor clinic in Westfield at Sadie Knox field on March 29. There were 45 people that came and it went great. Everyone did amazingly well and came away with new knowledge and a sense of belonging. One more outdoor clinic is planned in Belchertown for April 19 from 10-4.

* **New Business:**
* Chris Thompson from the Westfield Starfires talked about their program and the offerings for Little Leagues. Opening night is May 31. They want to get more LL families involved with their organization. Call them if you have any interest in tickets, fund raising, town nights, etc. They have a clinic in July at Bullens Field. They handed out a flyer which will be attached to the minutes. Chris can be reached at 413-335-0443 or ct@westfieldstarfires.com
* East Region DA Meeting recap. Notes will be attached to minutes along with proper protest procedures.
* Volunteer recognition for District 2: more thoughts to come on this subject. If you have any thoughts on names or qualifications, please email Steve D with suggestions.
* Safety Reports: Anyone that has an accident that requires medical attention must fill out an accident report and submit it to AIG within 48 hours for insurance purposes. Please make sure the District team knows of any and all accidents that occur so we can help expedite the report.

**If you are willing to host the next meeting, or any other meeting in the future, please reach out to Steve D, Ernie, Marc or Michelle with a location. We are more than happy to move the meeting to a different location each month. Please think about hosting one meeting a year at least in your town. We need a space that will house at least 20 people in a relatively quiet place for up to 2 hours.**

**Please make every effort to send at least one representative from your league to each of these meetings. It is VITALLY IMPORTANT that everyone receives this information and is involved in the discussions. We need every town’s input and vote at these meetings so we can continue to move forward together as a District.**

**Next Meetings: May 22, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Location is TBD.**

 **June 7, 2025 at 6:00 PM (District Coaches meeting).**

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Submitted by Michelle Winer