

District 2 Little League Meeting

**January 29, 2026 | West Springfield Town Hall.
Meeting called to order by Marc Winer at 6:30 pm.**

Attendance

Towns In Attendance: Chicopee, Westfield, Wilbraham SB, East Longmeadow, Ludlow, Gateway, Belchertown, Northampton, Amherst, Agawam, Longmeadow SB, West Springfield, Southampton, Steve DePalma, Marc Winer, Michelle Winer, Steve Elliot, Ernie Fitzell

- ❖ **All District Team Banquet:** Date is set for Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 6:00 at the Agawam Italian Sporting Club. A max of 4 people per family due to size constraints at the club. Marc is keeping a spreadsheet for attendance to keep under 125 people. Please let us know ASAP. We need pictures of players and teams to put together a slideshow for the event. Food and water will be provided. Bar will be open for purchasing other drinks.
- ❖ **Chartering and Dues:** A few towns have not chartered their league for 2026. Please make sure you go in and complete this ASAP. Dues for 2026 are \$250. Steve, Marc and Ernie will update the workbook. If you have not submitted yours as of today, please send it to Steve D as soon as you can.
- ❖ **Jimmy Fund:** Looking for a town or two to take over running the tournament. Wilbraham would like to open discussion about doing a multi-town summer tournament that could end in a Jimmy Fund weekend. Looking for at least 4-6 teams to commit at 10U and 12U.
- ❖ **Boundaries:** Belchertown expansion has been approved and updated on the data center. East Longmeadow/Longmeadow expansion has been removed for consideration. Springfield softball boundaries are submitted to the charter committee for approval. Updates will be sent out once approved. Baseball boundaries for Springfield needs to meet with the committee soon to discuss how to split.
- ❖ **Umpire update:** Steve E mentioned the upcoming umpire clinics for 2026. Dates are: Refresher clinic on March 21, Beginner clinic on March 28, Coaches Rules clinic on March 29 and Mechanics clinic on April 4 with a rain date of April 18. Flyer to be sent out shortly with specific details. Coaches clinic is for all coaches at all levels to come and discuss LL rules and myths that we talk about with the umpires. This would be a very good way for coaches to learn more about LL specific rules. Any questions, please contact Steve Elliot. Everyone needs to register for the clinics so we know how many to plan for. Clinics are free for all participants.
- ❖ **Softball update:** Belchertown and West Springfield will be joining as new softball charters for 2026. Ludlow is now under the leadership of the Boys and

Girls Club. Towns need to have teams and levels ready to submit to Marc by March 15. We will have a zoom meeting next week to discuss the upcoming season. 8U base paths we asked about. Will discuss at the meeting next week.

- ❖ **Baseball update:** Ernie needs to know numbers for teams for Intermediate and Senior levels so he can get schedules together. If towns do not have enough to form a team, please let us know and we can work on creating a pool team so that everyone has the chance to play. Same process can be done for All Star teams, so please offer it to all levels for all players, and we can combine towns if needed.
- ❖ **Patches:** Steve D gave everyone a pass on patches for the REGULAR SEASON ONLY!! Come All Star time, everyone has to have a patch on their uniform, without exception. They must be the physical patch purchased from LL, and sewn on in the appropriate location (left sleeve or left chest). Sublimated or printed patches are NOT ALLOWED!!
- ❖ **All Star game reporting:** There was a lengthy discussion about how to submit scores and MVP voting for 2026. More discussion is still needed, and will be revisited at the next meeting in March. Everyone agrees that there needs to be a better way to report, and that coaches need to be responsible for reporting each game in a timely fashion. Possibly the use of a Google Form to report was mentioned.
- ❖ **Constitutions:** Please update your constitutions for 2026. You will need to change names, dates and locations for any updates from last year. Please be sure to check them in the data center and resubmit for approval ASAP.
- ❖ **2026 Congress:** Rule changes - If anyone has any thought for rule changes for the upcoming season, please submit them to Steve Elliot ASAP so he can bring it to Congress Feb. 5-8. Some suggestions discussed were to get rid of the continuous batting order for 12U and up, 12U stealing for baseball, slash bunting at 12U and down for baseball, players warming up pitchers with just a helmet on, school age cutoff for softball, and fielders masks for pitchers/fielders for all of softball.
- ❖ **Data Center:** Go in and check in your filing cabinets, and make sure things are up to date and information has been updated. SAFE plans are now live on the Data Center. Please go in and have the Safety Officer complete this section. Background checks need to be done for LL through JDP and also for the State of MA through iCori. Trainings to be completed are the Diamond Leadership training for any new volunteers and the Abuse Awareness training for everyone each year. Both of these trainings can be found on the LL website. Review your officers and make sure they are up to date and correct.
- ❖ **Registrations:** Steve inquired about when registrations will be closed for the 2026 season. Belchertown is closed with good results. Other towns are still open and pushing for more registrations throughout the month of February. Looking for final numbers by the next meeting with a deadline of March 15 for teams that will travel in the District.
- ❖ **District 2 Volunteer Award:** Two volunteers have been chosen and will be recognized at the All Star Celebration. We would like to continue this tradition

each year recognizing at least one volunteer that goes above and beyond for District 2. Please think about anyone that you feel may be deserving of this honor for next year, past or present.

- ❖ **District expansion:** Steve mentioned again that the East Region want us to expand our district North and East. There has been discussion about expanding D2 East into D3 for lack of participation. East Region wants to cover the entire state with LL charters so that all players have the opportunity to participate in LL.
- ❖ **Tournaments:** Westfield was entered into a tournament out East this coming Spring/Summer. More updates to come as we get closer to the Spring season.

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 Meeting: March 5, 2026 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Submitted by Michelle Winer