

District 2 Little League Meeting

**October 9, 2025 | Knights of Columbus, Holyoke.
Meeting called to order by Steve DePalma at 6:35 pm.**

Attendance

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

- ❖ **Tournament Recap:** Went well all around. Discussion on umpires by Steve E. saying that good amount this year, but more room to grow. Wilbraham mentioned that umpires were coaching/teaching the players instead of going to the coaches. It is noted and will be brought up at the next trainings. Softball went well, with good involvement. Baseball was short on teams, looking to expand more for next year. Combined teams are strongly recommended by Ernie to include any/all players that want to be involved in tournament play.
- ❖ **All District Team:** Still collecting data for baseball to compile team. Softball is all set. We will be having a ceremony again this year. Details to follow soon. Coaches are asked to submit their top two players, 12U only, so we can choose an MVP.
- ❖ **Jimmy Fund recap:** Jimmy Fund was successful. \$4000 was raised by Agawam LL, donating all funds straight to Jimmy Fund. There were no Senior baseball teams this year, nor softball. Agawam is looking to hand over the reigns to another town this year, but has offered to help with hosting and logistics for anyone that is willing to take the lead.
- ❖ **Boundaries:** Belchertown expansion - request has gone to Williamsport for submission. Waiting to hear back about conclusion. Longmeadow/East Longmeadow - combined boundaries for baseball are still in discussion. Please remember to check your boundaries in the data center to make sure they are accurate. They have a tendency to change from year to year. If any changes are necessary, please submit new map with changes or updates.
- ❖ **Fall Ball:** Baseball is going well, no negative feedback. No cancelled games will be made up. Westfield mentioned that there is still concerns about towns following the same rules for baseball. Ernie to follow up with coaches. Softball is going well, no concerns.
- ❖ **District 2 changes for 2026:** Steve Elliot will be upgraded to ADA to help with responsibilities. If anyone else is interested in becoming part of the Executive Committee, please let us know. Marc mentioned that Carolyn Ferros is interested in getting more involved.

- ❖ **Umpire update:** Steve talked about District umpires. He had 38 this year, and will be looking to increase to 50 for next year. Clinics will be February or March next Spring, so keep an eye out for dates and locations. Steve is looking for one more instructor for the training team. Rule changes for 2026 are likely to be many. They are not out as of now, but he will let everyone know once they are published.
- ❖ **Softball update:** Ludlow is changing their leadership to the Boys and Girls Club. West Springfield is likely to take on their own charter for softball for 2026. Belchertown is taking on softball into their charter for 2026. Need to make sure that the baseball and softball maps are different. Jon and Marc to check up on this.
- ❖ **Baseball update:** Work with other towns for combined play.
- ❖ **State Tournament for softball:** Agawam hosted again this year for 10U and 12U. Overall, the tournament went well, and Agawam received compliments on how it was run and the goodie bags that were handed out. The games and the teams were fantastic this year, with no concerns. The only complaint was the condition of the outfield on both fields. Agawam did receive \$3000 from the Red Sox Foundation for hosting. Agawam will be looking to pass this on to another town for 2026.
- ❖ **State meeting:** The fall meeting will be coming in a couple of weeks. Information will be sent out or discussed at the next meeting.
- ❖ **Upper level baseball:** If you have a freshman or JV team at the High School, they are eligible to enter into the tournament, as long as they are registered through your charter. There is no play requirement for Senior Baseball for tournament play. This may be a good way to rebuild the Senior division.
- ❖ **Data Center:** Please go in and check on your constitution and ASAP plans for 2026. LL International just went through a bunch of the constitutions, and rejected a number of them. Go back in and resubmit with changes. Chartering and Insurance is now open for 2026 as well. Update board member info once you complete your annual meeting and voting of new members. **Congrats to all!!** 2025 was the first year that all charters completed their ASAP plans on time and received refunds for being compliant. Let's keep up the good work and get it done earlier for 2026.
- ❖ **Annual meetings:** Please be sure to send Marc/Ernie any updates to your Board President/VP so we can update the contact list. Please contact Marc/Ernie for any help with new folks to get them up to speed quickly.
- ❖ **District 2 Volunteer Award:** Please let Steve know of anyone that should be recognized as going above and beyond for your league or for the District. Names will be collected and we will vote on representative(s) for District 2.
- ❖ **Springfield mapping:** A subcommittee will be formed to discuss how to divide Springfield into smaller sections to be dispersed among the neighboring towns. This has been a topic of discussion for many years to reduce the amount of waivers needed for Springfield residents to play in LL. Anyone that is interested in participating on this committee, please let Marc know.

- ❖ **Belchertown grant:** Belchertown LL will be receiving a \$25,000 grant from the State Legislature. They will be holding a ceremony on November 1 at 4:00 at Mini Fenway for anyone that is interested in attending.

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: November 13 , 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Submitted by Michelle Winer