

BCUA Annual Meeting and Election February 17, 2019

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am (Swansea VFW).

Announcements from President Grace Williams:

- Ray Lynch and Roger Chretien have retired. BCUA passed an unanimous motion to Thank them for their service to BCUA and softball.
- Grace announced that the Board had set Dues @ \$45.00 (BCUA only). The membership approved this amount in a voice vote.

Jeff Amaral, Massachusetts JO Commissioner spoke to the meeting.

- He noted the 2019 USA-Softball rule changes this year were minor.
- He highlighted two awards programs from USA-Softball, including the medals program. Several of our members have been recognized by the medals program, and Jeff mentioned each of them.

1424 = the code on line for Massachusetts umpires to use when taking the USA-Softball exam. Members should enter this code when they take the exam on line.

Grace reviewed the roster of BCUA members attending the USA-Softball national school in Smithfield, RI, in two weeks.

She reminded members to update their information on **The Arbiter**.

Insurance Overview:

Ron Andrade started his remarks by reading a hilarious letter to an unnamed umpire from a previously disgruntled fan, eliciting laughter and sarcasm from those in attendance.

He continued, noting the benefits of USA-Softball registration, including the opportunity to choose an insurance supplement available for just \$25 additional. Ron also noted that USA-Softball insurance does cover umpires when working a scheduled game that becomes an unofficial scrimmage due to a shortage of players or other factors.

Dues and Sunshine Fund

Rene reported on the Board's decision to set the dues at \$45. He noted that many of our umpires, because of illness or injury, would have benefited from a

note or token gift of appreciation from BCUA. These dues payments will help to build up our treasury (currently at just \$209) to make this possible.

Elections

Kevin Wannamaker (Nominating Committee) noted that two Board seats are open, a 1-year seat and a 3-year seat. After nominations were made from the floor, the election for Board seats was held.

Results: The Nominees and their vote totals by secret ballot were:

Jim Ashley	14	(elected to 3-year term)
Dave Lewis	7	(elected to a 1-year term)
Andy Phillips	3	
Bob Marcoux	1	
Bruce Terra	1	

New Assigner

Ken Miller introduced Ralph Stephanelli from the New Bedford Association as our new Assigner.

Ralph told us that for him, this would be a fresh start. No preconceptions, except for noting that both organizations (GNBSUA & BCUA) have excellent umpires. He hopes that the new arrangement will strengthen both boards.

Ralph will use the Arbiter for assigning, and will also use the “payroll option” on the Arbiter (which is distinct and different from “Arbiter Pay”). He passed out a sample printout to show what these payments would look like on Arbiter. He told us to be sure to update our information on The Arbiter to help with assigning accuracy.

He noted that the Arbiter accounts expire on March 30th, and he will renew the account for the combined GNBSUA-BCUA umpire pool, which now has approximately 80 officials.

He also stated that our members must block dates properly so that last year’s fiasco of 200 declined games is not repeated.

With respect to HS scheduling, Ralph noted that he can see HS assignments on the Arbiter, and will take that into account when he assigns rec league games. He also noted that he will not assign himself to these games, so he will be able to travel from game to game as an observer.

Uniforms! All umpires must wear the new USA-Softball gear at all games.

He noted that we are all independent contractors, and therefore we must abide by the Bylaws, giving BCUA first option to assign before any other organization, such as PONY or NSA.

Ralph responded to three questions from Ron Andrade about assigning practices:

- 1) Games will be assigned several weeks ahead of time, for rec games, about 2 weeks ahead of time
- 2) Some tournaments may continue to pay in cash at the field.
- 3) Some Rec leagues will pay at end of season, but Ralph stated that he may invoice others on a monthly basis.

Tom Halstead asked about blocking dates when something unexpected such as a family obligation comes up. Ralph stated that he does get such situations, and will be understanding, especially in case of family obligations. But he also asks us to block out dates in advance whenever possible! He also noted that we can block out certain assigners on the Arbiter when necessary.

10-U games: Ralph stated that he will not assign JO Umpires. He stated that local leagues will have to handle JO assigning. We will support those JO umpires – but Ralph will not assign them.

Jim Ashley asked about assigning responsibilities – and Ralph explained that the Assigner alone has responsibility for game assignments. So, inquiries about assigning should go to the Assigner, not the Board.... Unless the Board decides to review any specific situation.

A motion was made and seconded to name Ralph a member in good standing of BCUA. The membership unanimously agreed.

Uniforms:

Ron Andrade emphasized the importance of clean, pressed, updated uniforms. Powder blue USA-Softball shirts, USA-Softball hats, bags, etc... Jeff Amaral pointed out that he continues to see improper uniforms at tournaments, and this will not be tolerated this year!

Umpiring Clinics:

Grace noted that attendance at two meetings or clinics is required of each member every year. Today's meeting will count as one of these. The national school, which will take place in two weeks, counts as well

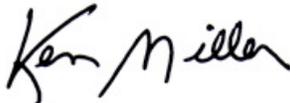
The following rules and mechanics clinics have been scheduled at the Swansea YMCA, both on Saturday at 9:00 am:

March 16
April 7

Adjournment:

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and "M".

BCUA Secretary