



GLBUA Newsletter – Feb 2011

Hello everyone! I hope you are having a great winter. Believe it or not, baseball starts in less than 2 months. This email update is to all members of the Greater Lawrence Baseball Umpires Association. Please read the entire newsletter, as there is important information enclosed. Thanks.

- 1) **Annual dues** – if you have not paid yet, please remember that you have until **March 3rd** to pay your dues for this season. At this time, the dues are \$70, which includes the late fee. Mail your check to GLBUA Treasurer Kenny Gabriel at 20 Tammy St, Salem, NH 03079 as soon as possible. You may also pay the night of the business meeting/banquet (3/3). We are still offering the opportunity to pay online by credit card or your Paypal account, which you can access on the GLBUA website by clicking on the PayPal logo on the “Heads Up” page at <http://www.greaterlawrenceumpires.com/>. If you have paid already, thank you very much. If you do not pay your dues by March 3rd, your name will be removed from the GLBUA roster.

- 2) **Business meeting/banquet** - will be held again this year at the Claddagh Pub in Lawrence on Thursday March 3rd, beginning at 6 PM. There is a large function hall upstairs at the Claddagh, which is located at 399 Canal St, one block from Essex St in downtown Lawrence. There is plenty of free parking for everyone, and members of all ages are welcome. Election of officers will be held this year, and nominees for the elected positions are listed at the end of this newsletter. In addition, representatives from Honig's will be onsite beginning at 5:30 PM, offering a discounted rate on many items, so if you are looking to buy new equipment or uniforms, get there early! Remember that if you are paying your dues that night, it will cost you \$70 when you check in at the door. We had over 150 people attend last year, and we hope to surpass that number this year. See the Photo Gallery section on the GLBUA website for photos from last year.
 - a. REMINDER: per the Greater Lawrence Baseball Umpires Association constitution, each member must attend the business meeting to be a member in good standing. If you are unable to attend, you MUST contact the GLBUA secretary by email at secretary@greaterlawrenceumpires.com and state the reason you cannot attend. Hope to see you there!

- 3) **The Arbiter** – the GLBUA is once again paying the fee for all association members that want access to the GLBUA Arbiter site. Non-members that take assignments from this site should send a check for \$10 to GLBUA treasurer Kenny Gabriel at 20 Tammy St Salem, NH 03079. This site will once again be for assignments from Fred Simm, John Shaheen, John Colman, and Jack Gilhooly

only. If you do not intend to take any assignments from these 4 assignors this year, please let us know so that we can take your name off the distribution list. I'm sure you don't need any more unnecessary emails.

- a. It's only February, but please begin updating your Arbiter calendar with dates you are unavailable. This is a good time to block off the dates of those weddings and graduations your wife or significant other has scheduled for you this spring and summer. If your work schedule has changed, block off the dates and times you cannot umpire. This is also a good time to verify your personal information, especially if you have a new phone number or home address.
- b. There will be more discussion and information regarding the Arbiter before the season starts. Jack G will be doing a presentation on the Arbiter at a GLBUA meeting at the Greater Lawrence Tech, so if you have questions or want to know more about how the Arbiter works, be sure to attend this meeting (March 22nd). For reference, we also have a document on the GLBUA website called Arbiter Helpful Hints, which you can find on the "Heads Up" page.

- 4) **Greater Lawrence Baseball Umpires Association website** – the address for our website is <http://www.greaterlawrenceumpires.com/>. Many of the items mentioned above are featured there, and will be updated as the season goes along. We ask that you get familiar with the site and add it to your "Favorites". The "Heads Up" section is updated on a regular basis and some great recognition for umpires in 2010 is currently shown there. The "50 Tips" document is also a great way to get you back into thinking baseball. Click on Meetings and Clinics for dates of upcoming events. There is a Links tab that you may want to check out. We also have a Members section that lists area assigners and also shows the GLBUA roster. You can also pay your dues from the Member section. The generic username and password is *umpire/umpire123*. Please write that down somewhere.
- 5) **Baseball Umpiring 2-man Mechanics Class** – Fred Simm and Tommy Clarke are running a mechanics class on March 7th and 9th. This is designed for the new candidates, but it is open to all members. See details below:

Location: Greater Lawrence Technical School, 57 River Rd Andover, MA

Date/Time: Monday March 7th, Wed March 9th - 7 PM to 9 PM

Material: MBUA 2-man Mechanics Handbook will be provided.

Cost: \$35 per person. The cost covers the classroom, handbook, and DVD presentation.

Class Size – unlimited.

Who should attend? – All levels of umpires, from 1st year umpires to veteran umpires who want to stay up-to-date on the latest mechanics.

Early registration is recommended. Attendance on both nights is required. Names of the individuals completing the class will be sent to all area assignors. To register: contact Fred Simm by phone or email. Phone 978-807-7103. Email: fredsimm@comcast.net

6) **Meetings and Clinics** – we have a very busy slate of meetings and clinics coming up in the next few months. The GLBUA constitution states that each member must attend at least one clinic annually, but we encourage you to come to as many as you can. We have added one more meeting/clinic for those that were previously not able to attend our usual Thursday night meetings at Greater Lawrence Tech, and that will be Tuesday March 22nd. The schedule to date is below. We still have to confirm a few dates, and they will be announced once they are set.

- a) Thursday, March 3rd – GLBUA business meeting and banquet, Claddagh Pub, Lawrence, 6 PM (**mandatory**). Note: Election of officers, Honigs on-site.
- b) Mon/Wed, March 7th/9th – two man mechanics class, Greater Lawrence Tech auditorium, 7 PM (**mandatory for new members, open to all**)
- c) Tue, March 22nd – rules clinic, Arbiter review, Gr Lawrence Tech auditorium, 7 PM
- d) Thursday, March 31st – rules clinic, review of MBUA exam, Greater Lawrence Tech auditorium, 7 PM
- e) Thursday, April 21st – rules/field clinic, Greater Lawrence Tech, 7 PM; agenda TBA
- f) Saturday, April 30th – on-field clinic, Andover High School FR field, time TBA (**mandatory for new members and 2nd year members who did not attend in 2010**). Rain date – May 7th. Experienced members needed as volunteers.

NOTE: all members are required to attend at least one meeting between c, d, and e listed above.

Others (TBA), with approx. dates:

- Saturday in March – indoor cage training, DB's Baseball, North Andover, date/time TBA (**recommended for all new members and 2nd year umpires**). Cost TBA, approx. \$20.
- 2nd week of April – on-field clinic, Mt Vernon Park (big diamond), Lawrence, 6:30 - 8:30 PM (**recommended for 1st and 2nd year umpires, open to all**)
- Date TBA, April – Little League rules clinic, Greater Lawrence Tech auditorium, 7 PM (**recommended for 1st and 2nd year umpires and veterans that are new to LL**).

7) **Want to sell some of your old equipment or shirts?** The new candidates are taking their final exam on Monday Feb 28th at 7 PM at Greater Lawrence Tech, and many of them may be interested in picking up some equipment at a discounted price. Bring your equipment in that night if interested. Send an email to the GLBUA secretary as well so that your equipment can be listed online for all members.

8) **Nominees for election** on March 3rd:**

- a. **President – Dan Clark (incumbent), Jack Gilhooly (Vote for 1)**
- b. **VP – Scott Young**
- c. **Secretary – Dave Toto (incumbent)**
- d. **Treasurer – Kenny Gabriel (incumbent)**
- e. **At Large (Vote for (up to) 5)**
 - i. **Chris Augeri**

- ii. Phil Cultrera (incumbent)**
- iii. Ted Houlihan**
- iv. Mike Lynch (incumbent)**
- v. Ralph Marasa**
- vi. Kevin Poe**
- vii. Ralph Wade**

**** This list is also posted on the GLBUA website on the “Heads Up” page.**

See you at the business meeting.

Regards,

The GLBUA Executive Board