



GLBUA Newsletter – Nov 2017

Hello everyone! I hope you are having a great fall so far. Next season seems so far off, but it's time to start planning. 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** – the executive board recently voted to maintain the current dues of \$50 if paid by 12/31/17. If paid in the month of January, the dues increase to \$60, and anyone paying after 1/31/18, the dues go to \$70. The deadline for paying in full is March 8th, 2018, the night of the annual business meeting. You can mail your check to GLBUA Treasurer Ken Gabriel at 20 Tammy St, Salem, NH 03079, OR another option is 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 “What’s New” page at <http://www.greaterlawrenceumpires.com/>. If you do not pay your dues by March 8th, your name will be removed from the GLBUA roster.
- 2) **Business meeting/banquet** - will be held again this year at the Relief's In, also known as the Lawrence Firefighter's Club, 1 Market St in Lawrence on Thursday March 8th, beginning at 6 PM. Relief's In is easy to find, off Exit 43 on Rte. 495 (Mass Ave). Go to <http://www.reliefsin.com> for directions and more information. Members of all ages are welcome. In addition, representatives from All Sports East will be onsite beginning at 5:30 PM, offering a discounted rate for GLBUA members, so if you are looking to buy new equipment or uniforms, get there early! Many of the local assigners will be there as well, so this is a great time to introduce yourself. Remember that if you are paying your dues that night, it will cost you \$70 when you check in at the door. We expect over 150 people again this year; see the Photo Gallery section on the GLBUA website for photos from the last 6 years. This is NOT an election year for the GLBUA.

Note: the GLBUA will once again be offering a door prize of free membership for next year (2018), so make sure you're there to be eligible. We will once again be doing a raffle for our charity partner, the Lawrence Rec Dept youth summer program, so bring along a few bucks to help support that organization.

- a. REMINDER: per the GLBUA constitution, each member is required to 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. This site will be for assignments from Fred Simm, John Shaheen, John Colman, Dan Tirone, Tony Barbaro, and Jack Gilhooly

only. If you do not intend to take any assignments from these 6 assignors in 2018, please let us know so that we can take your name off the distribution list.

- a. Once again, we expect to have a LOT of games again next year! 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 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. Don't forget to update your travel limits and the city you leave from each day. We also encourage you to use the member roster to add phone numbers of fellow umpires to your cell phones.
 - b. If you have questions or want to know more about how the Arbiter works, contact one of the assignors, or go to the GLBUA website for a document called Arbiter Helpful Hints, which you can find on the "What's New" page.
- 4) **Greater Lawrence Baseball Umpires Association website** – the address for our website is <http://www.greaterlawrenceumpires.com/>. Check out the new look put in this past season by our webmaster David Toto! Same great stuff, just a more modern look. You can also pay your dues from the Member section. The generic username and password is *umpire/umpire123*. Please write that down somewhere.
 - 5) **Pre-season exam** – all GLBUA members will be required to take the 50-question pre-season exam that will be posted on the GLBUA website sometime in February. Look for a separate email soon announcing that. Due date for completion will be Thursday March 22nd, when the exam will be discussed at our rules meeting (see #7 below).
 - 6) **New Umpire Class** – do you know anyone that wants to be an umpire? The new umpire class begins Monday Jan 22nd at 7 PM, and continues every Monday in February at Greater Lawrence Tech in Andover. Fred Simm is the instructor and contact for the class, and he can be reached at fredsimm@comcast.net, and 978-807-7103.
 - 7) **Meetings and Clinics** – we have a very busy slate of meetings and clinics coming up in March and April. 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. The schedule to date is below, and can also be found on the Meetings & Clinics page on our website.
 - a) **Thursday, March 8th** – GLBUA business meeting and banquet, Relief's In, Lawrence, 6 - 9 PM (**mandatory for all members**). Note: All Sports East will be on-site selling uniforms and equipment.
 - b) **Tues, March 13th or Thurs March 15th** (still TBD) – 2-man mechanics class, indoor field clinic, Greater Lawrence Tech gym, 7 PM (**mandatory for new members, open to all**)
 - c) **Two-man mechanics class**, Greater Lawrence Tech (dates and location TBD) (**mandatory for new members, open to all**)

- d) **Thurs, March 22nd** – rules clinic, review of GLBUA exam, Greater Lawrence Tech auditorium, 7 PM (**recommended for all members**). This is most attended meeting of the year!
- e) **Saturday, April 7th** – indoor cage clinic, Play Ball, Salem NH, 9-11 AM (**mandatory for new members, open to all**). No cost to umpires, paid for by the GLBUA. Note: this clinic may be moved to a weeknight.
- f) **Mon, April 9th** – Little League and small diamond rules clinic, Greater Lawrence Tech, 7 PM, hosted by Tom Torrisi (**recommended for 1st and 2nd year umpires and veterans that are new to LL**)
- g) **Thursday, April 12th** – 2nd rules clinic, Greater Lawrence Tech auditorium, 7 PM (**recommended for all members**)

NOTE: In addition to the mandatory business meeting, all members (except those have declared themselves inactive) are required to attend at least one meeting between b, d, and g listed above. We encourage you to attend as many as you can. You can never learn enough!

- 8) **Want to sell some of your old equipment or shirts?** The new candidates are taking their final exam on Monday Feb 26th at 7 PM at Greater Lawrence Tech, and they are usually 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.

See you at the business meeting. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me or any e-board member.

Regards,

Phil Cultrera and the GLBUA Executive Board