ASA/USA Softball’s new leadership

Southern California ASA Commissioner Phil Gutierrez stepped into office as the President of ASA/USA Softball following the conclusion of the 82nd Annual Council Meeting in Oklahoma City. In addition to the change in presidency, former Director of Membership Services Craig Cress assumed the Executive Director role, replacing Ron Radigonda who retired after 15 years.

“I am privileged, honored and humbled to become the president of the National Governing Body of Softball, ASA/USA Softball,” said Gutierrez. “We will continue to work hard to develop and promote our game domestically and internationally.” Gutierrez took the reins from Mississippi ASA Commissioner E.T. Colvin, who began his two-year term as ASA President in 2011. The President Elect position was also selected, and Ohio Commissioner Warren Jones was elected to follow Gutierrez as President. Jones will take office at the 2015 ASA Council Meeting in Louisville, Ky.

“I am very excited to be elected president elect,” said Jones. “It has been a goal of mine for a long time and I look forward to continuing to serve ASA/USA. Hopefully I can help others to open doors and get other ethnic groups involved with our program. We need to get to the grass roots and work with our local people to promote ASA Softball.”

A note from ASA/USA Softball President Phil Gutierrez

The Governing Body of Softball in the U.S., ASA/USA Softball, recently completed it’s 82nd Annual Council Meeting in Oklahoma City. Leaders of our sport, 250 plus, came together to review our very rewarding past year and prepare for another year of providing all who want to play our game the opportunity to do so in a safe environment, on a level playing field, and with the best umpires in the softball.

A bountiful thank you goes out to Past President E.T. Colvin, Mississippi ASA Commissioner, for his dedication, the enormous amount of time he devoted and the exceptional leadership he provided ASA/USA Softball during the past two years. His leadership contributed greatly to the strong standing of our organization today. Congratulations are also in order for Warren Jones, Ohio ASA Commissioner, who was elected President Elect and will assume the duties of President in two years. Additionally, Ron Radigonda, Executive Director for the past 15 years, retired at the end of our Council Meeting. Ron leaves behind a legacy of leadership, stability, accomplishment and friendship. After a nationwide search the Board of Directors selected Craig Cress, Director of Membership Services, to succeed Ron. We bid Ron a fond farewell into retirement and congratulate Craig on his new duties.

We thank all players, coaches, teams and umpires that participated in ASA/USA Softball during this year. We are confident that your experience was special and we look forward to having you, your family and your friends on our fields again next year. Hats off to all who qualified for and participated in our State, Regional and National Championships, especially those fortunate to claim the title of Champions.

Three of our National Teams participated in international play this year and they represented the USA proudly and professionally. Our Men’s National Team competed very well at the ISF World Championship in New Zealand, our Junior Women’s National Team finished second to Japan at the ISF JWWC held in Brampton, Canada, while our Women’s National Team competed in the Pan American Games / World Championship Qualifier in Puerto Rico. The Women’s National Team completed the tournament undefeated and thus qualified for the 2014 ISF World Championship that will be played in Haarlem, Netherlands and the 2015 Pan American Games that will be played in Toronto, Canada.

Lastly, I am grateful to the ASA/USA Softball Council for the privilege and honor they bestowed on me to serve this great organization as President for the next two years. I am excited, yet humbled.

Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year to each of you and your families.
A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Codi Warren

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! I would like to thank you for taking the time to read the December 2013 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) and USA Softball.

What a great year 2013 was for ASA/USA Softball! We launched a new and improved USASoftball.com, which is hosted on the TeamUSA.org platform and we couldn’t be happier! We also hosted our biennial Umpire-in-Chief clinic, launched a web-based mobile application for the official rules of softball and that was just in the first half of the year!

As we head into the new year, ASA/USA Softball will be going through some major changes. Our most notable change is in our leadership as Craig Cress assumed his role as Executive Director following Ron Radigonda’s retirement. Phil Gutierrez also stepped into the role of President of ASA/USA Softball for the next two years. The ASA Hall of Fame Stadium is also going through a facelift and will reopen for games during the NCAA Women’s College World Series. You can check out photos of the renovations here!

ASA/USA Softball is the No. 1 softball association in the country because of the quality people involved with ASA/USA Softball from the local to national level. Thank you to every one of you for all you to to keep the ASA/USA on top.

Looking forward to a great 2014. Happy Holidays!

Sixth annual “Fun Walk” draws 64

Fun Walk VI was held on Thursday, November 14 in the OKC Underground and 64 people participated. The underground was a bit more difficult than 5 years ago leaving from the Sheraton, but it was still great fun. Most walkers traveled a little over one half mile total. The Missouri ASA and three of it’s key cities, (St. Joseph, Springfield and Rolla) sponsored the event’s t-shirts. State Commissioner Joey Rich also provided an 80th Anniversary flipping coin.

Thanks to all those who participated! See you in RENO!!

Happy Holidays from ASA/USA Softball!

The Inside Pitch
Official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball
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New Executive Director Craig Cress has been involved with ASA/USA Softball for over 35 years serving in several roles as a player, umpire, district commissioner, Umpire-In-Chief, league administrator, as a council member, and National Office staff member. A native of Terre Haute, Ind., Cress started his involvement with ASA/USA as a player and spent many years behind the plate umpiring at all levels including National Championships and International Softball Federation Women’s and Men’s Fast Pitch World Championships. He served on the ASA National Umpire Staff for four years and in 2005, he was nationally honored for his years of expertise as an umpire by being inducted into the National Softball Hall of Fame in the umpire category.

“I am thrilled to become the new executive director of this incredible association,” said Cress. “We have so many great opportunities for our membership and it will take everyone involved with ASA working together to define and deliver these opportunities for the advancement of ASA/USA Softball.”

Maryland-DC ASA receives honors

Mowatt and Hutcherson present plaque

By the Queen Anne County paper

CENTREVILLE - At the Sept. 24 Queen Anne’s County Board of Commissioners meeting, the Maryland - DC Area Commissioner for ASA/USA Softball Jack Mowatt and JO commissioner Jack Hutcherson presented a plaque to the County’s Department of Parks and Recreation for their help with the 2013 softball season.

“We’re thankful for the rec department for working with us and bringing girls’ softball into the county,” Mowatt said. “It doesn’t cost you any money, I think that’s the biggest thing. We’d like to thank you all very much for your support.”

Board of Commissioners President Steve Arentz thanked the pair and noted their contribution to the county.

“I personally have a lot of experience with these guys. My daughter plays for a lot of ASA tournaments,” Arentz added. “I can tell you when things start rolling for these guys, things start rolling really well for the county as far as lights and a lot of other goodies that they can provide.”

“It’s a first class organization. I think it’s great that they’ve actually had patience with Queen Anne’s County because I know a couple of times we’ve tried to push it out a little bit,” Arentz added. “We appreciate all you guys have done to stay in there, and we got you some really good people to work with and I think that means a lot”

Director of Queen Anne’s County Department of Aging Cathy Willis and Parks Maintenance Manager Mike Watson accepted the plaque.

Hutcherson inducted into Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Maryland-DC ASA JO Commissioner Jack Hutcherson, who was recently inducted into the Greater Washington Fast Pitch Softball Hall of Fame.
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ASA/USA names five new commissioners

In November and December, the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) named new commissioners for the New Mexico, Oklahoma, Dallas, North Dakota and Alabama ASA/USA Associations.

**New Mexico**
Johnny Campbell (Farmington, N.M.) was appointed the commissioner for New Mexico ASA. He will begin his role January 1.

“I can’t wait to begin my new role with the New Mexico ASA,” said Campbell. “ASA/USA Softball has so many benefits to offer teams and leagues and I’m ready to take my passion and love for ASA/USA Softball and apply that to the state of New Mexico.”

Campbell has been involved with ASA/USA Softball since 1978 when he became a registered ASA/USA umpire. During his 35 years as an umpire, Campbell has reached Gold Medal status in the National Indicator program, is an Elite of the National Indicator program, is a member of the National Indicator Fraternity and is an Elite umpire. He has also umpired in 11 ASA/USA National Championships and has served as Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) at five National Championships.

**Oklahoma**
Mike Thomas (Ardmore, Okla.) was appointed the commissioner for the Oklahoma ASA on December 5. He will assume his role on January 1.

“It is with great pride and humility that I accept the appointment of the Oklahoma ASA Commissioner,” said Thomas. “Having been involved with ASA since the age of 14 as an umpire, Umpire-In-Chief and District Commissioner, my knowledge and experience can be valuable assets to not only our state organization but to the ASA/USA as a whole. I look forward to continuing with the great tradition of ASA/USA Softball in Oklahoma.”

Thomas started umpiring before being appointed the Oklahoma ASA District 9 Umpire-in-Chief (UIC), a position he held for nine years. He then served as the Oklahoma ASA District 8 UIC for four years before being selected as the Deputy UIC for the state. Currently, he serves as the Assistant UIC and District 8 Adult Commissioner for the Oklahoma ASA.

**Dallas**
Dave Devine (Irving, Texas.) was appointed the commissioner for the Dallas ASA. He began his appointment immediately.

“T is with great pride and humility that I accept the appointment of the Dallas ASA Commissioner,” said Devine. “I am excited and privileged to serve as the Commissioner of North Dakota ASA, “ said Gulmon. “My experience as a player, manager and at the local and national level has given me insight at all levels of softball, which I believe brings value to the NDASA.”

Gulmon was both a player and manager for a men’s slow pitch team in North Dakota before serving as a member of Executive Board for the North Dakota ASA (NDASA) and on the men’s slow pitch classification committee. Gulmon has been VP and Player Representative before becoming the President of the NDASA in 1996. At the national level, Gulmon has served as an At-Large Player Representative since 1993 and served as a Northern Regional Director and a Northern Territory VP. He also serves on a variety of Committees for ASA/USA Softball.

**North Dakota**
Dick Gulmon (Valley City, N.D.) was appointed the commissioner for the North Dakota ASA.

“T is an honor to have been selected to lead the North Dakota ASA,” said Gulmon. “I look forward to not only working with our recreational leagues, travel organizations and adult teams but our staff as well, in order to further the growth of ASA.”

Hunt has been a part of the Alabama ASA staff for the past six years, serving a variety of roles before eventually becoming the Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioner. Hunt founded the Bama Babes Softball Association, a youth fast pitch organization, in 2003 before serving as the South Alabama State ASA Representative. Hunt also served as a Tournament Director for the Alabama ASA before his appointment as JO Commissioner.

**Alabama**
Tommy Hunt (Montgomery, Ala.) was appointed the commissioner for the Alabama ASA. Hunt will begin his new duties on January 1.

“It is an honor to have been selected to lead the Alabama ASA,” said Hunt. "I look forward to not only working with our recreational leagues, travel organizations and adult teams but our staff as well, in order to further the growth of ASA.”

Sacramento ASA donates money raised from “Play for Pink” Tournament

The Sacramento ASA recently presented a check for $10,147.35 to the Placer Breast Cancer Endowment on behalf of the Play for Pink Tournament!

Thank you to all teams and individuals who helped us reach this impressive amount!
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Northern Virginia resident, RB Thomas, Jr. has been elected to the International Softball Federation Hall of Fame. The ISF Hall of Fame Commission meeting at the 26th World Congress in Cartagena, Colombia selected Thomas for the prestigious honor in the Administrator Category for his years of organizing and promoting programs and competitions for the Senior Division of the sport. He has served as ISF Director of Senior Softball since 2002 where he has worked with the international softball community to develop the sport within their senior population (men and women over the age of 50).

Thomas has conducted twelve ISF Senior World Cup Championships and two ISF/ISSA World Tournament of Champions to date. He has also conducted 19 ISSA World Championship events at Manassas, Va. Before phasing into the sport’s administration on a full-time basis he managed one of the most successful softball teams in Virginia’s history for 32 years. He is only the 16th person from the United States to be elected to the international body. The ISF is the World Governing Body of the sport of softball and includes 127 member countries.

Thomas was born in Roanoke, Va. and graduated from Jefferson Senior High School in 1959. After high school he earned a Civil Engineering degree from Virginia Tech and located in Nokesville, VA. He has operated a consultant engineering and surveying firm in Manassas since 1969. For the past 16 years he has served on the Prince William County Parks and Recreation Commission. He, his wife Ann and their seven children (and their families) continue to support the senior softball programs locally, nationally and internationally.

North Carolina inducts six into Hall of Fame

Congratulations to the 2013 inductees of the North Carolina ASA Hall of Fame! See the October issue of the Inside Pitch to read more about the Inductees!
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Collected Wisdom: Craig Cress, ASA/USA Softball

By Berry Trammel, NewsOK

Craig Cress took over as executive director of the Oklahoma City-based Amateur Softball Association.

Cress rose through the umpire ranks, he umpired national and international competitions, became umpire-in-chief for Indiana ASA and the Midwest region and arrived in OKC in 2002 as director of membership services for ASA. Cress was inducted into the ASA Hall of Fame in 2005.

Terre Haute, Indiana, is where I’m from. When I was there, it was a great community. The economic (downturn) has hit that hard. When (Larry) Bird was at Indiana State, happened to be my senior year in high school. Just being part of the community and Indiana State going to the final game of the NCAA, it was a very exciting time for us.

When I grew up, I played basketball and I played baseball. Ironically, when I graduated high school, I was only 5-8, 140 pounds. After high school, I got 4-5 inches and a lot of pounds on top of that.

The football culture here is just like the basketball culture there. It’s changed a lot since they went to the class system. That was a big change. I was a high school basketball official. I remember working championships where the 1A schools were beating the 3A schools. It really took some of those rivalries and kind of kicked them to the side. I think that hurt Indiana basketball. It’s great to have more champions, but the one class really brought a lot of excitement to the game.

I started playing fastpitch softball at the age of 16. Not doing well on my high school basketball team, I still wanted to be involved in sports. Two of my friends were pitchers. I started playing at the local park as a 16-year-old, started hanging around the park a little more, and got involved in the umpiring world. Found out I was a lot better umpire than I was a player, which didn’t surprise me, considering I was a lot better baseball official than I was a basketball player.

I enjoyed it. Didn’t mind the controversy that came with it as a sports official. And I began to excel. Then went into the administration side. In 2002, I applied for the position here in Oklahoma City.

It was a tough move, with a son who was going to be a junior in high school and a son going into the eighth grade. We came here for the job interview, I brought ’em with me. Got halfway here, kind of told ’em what we were doing. When I was offered the position, it had to be a family decision. Thank God it was. It’s been a great move. Our oldest son played for a state football championship against Jenks (for Edmond Santa Fe). My kids enjoyed it. My oldest, Rich, actually works here. He’s one of our event coordinators.

Some of my friends out in the field, especially the manufacturers, they’re like, ‘Oh my god, an umpire running the softball world.’ We’ve gone back to the dark ages. It’s unique from a standpoint, as umpires, we’re so black and white. And I was the same when I came here. I’ve learned a lot over time. One thing that’s helped me, you’re used to following rules, you’re used to following structure. When we’ve made a decision, we haven’t wavered. Make sure we’re consistent in our rulings as we move forward. But I’ve had to develop a lot of gray in my personality. It’s part of the challenge.

As an umpire, you get to be a part of the game. I enjoyed playing the game. If I was an umpire first, then went to be a player, I wondered if I might see pitches better. As a good umpire, you’re taught to anticipate what’s going to happen on the field. I don’t look at it any different being in administration. You look on what’s going on in the game from an upper level and you try to anticipate the changes that need to be made and the directions we need to go.

The worst part is, right now, society really kicks any type of sports officials. They really think when they pay the ticket price, it gives them the right to treat people with disrespect. That lack of respect from the parents is then being instilled into the participant or their child for generations to come. It used to be looked at as a vocation people enjoyed being part of. Giving back to the game. But you see so many stories now on how they’re treated, that people really are shying away from being a sports official.

A big mission for us is continually getting our sport to be recognized by the communities, by the families, and wanting to be a sport that people want to continue to play. There’s so many options these days that kids have. I’ve seen society change, where kids growing up today do less activities because of the video games and such. One of the biggest things is getting it back to the mindset of the kids. Just because you’re not the best baseball player or the basketball player, there’s a place for you to be and a sport for you to participate in.

The male (softball interest) is still pretty strong. As baseball players, they seem to gravitate to the slow pitch side. In this day and age, we want to have successes. Hitting a slowpitch softball, people are a lot more successful doing that than they are hitting a fastpitch softball.

The females, they gravitate to other things. Whether it be their careers or their families, they get away from the recreation side of their life. Keeping our sport to the forefront of people as an option for recreation is a big thing for us. We have more and more of the females participating in high school and college, but a lot of those folks are getting burned out when they graduate from college or get out of high school.

Our men’s fastpitch program at the international level, we struggle with. By us going with baseball for our future in the Olympics, it really kind of lends to that. Fastpitch softball on the male side is not something that’s being looked at heavily, unfortunately.

The Olympics, it’s kind of like a roller coaster. This week, we’re on a high. We’re hearing some very positive things out of the new IOC director. He wants to make some changes. We’re getting a lot of press from bigger newspapers … talking about adding sports, talking about adding athletes. It’s not a dead issue. 2020 is becoming a shot. After what happened in September, we felt we were done until 2024. But Tokyo’s really pushing hard on the IOC for baseball/softball.
Connecticut ASA inducts members into Hall of Fame

With 235 people in attendance, the Connecticut Amateur Softball Association inducted its newest Hall of Fame members at its annual awards dinner September 29 at the Costa Azzurra Restaurant in Milford. District Commissioner Carl Pignone served as host.

The Slow Pitch Wing honorees were:

**Cindi Birdsey**: Made her mark during the 70’s and 80’s at the Regional and National level with several Hartford-Manchester teams. She lives in Wallingford and has been the Maloney High School varsity softball coach for 19 years.

**John Crotty**: Was a member of the great Preston Machine teams from Ansonia in the 70’s. Originally from Naugatuck, he now resides in South Carolina.

**Mike Iovene**: Resume includes two ASA Industrial Major National Championships with the Avco Lycoming teams of the 80’s and a long career with state powerhouse Bender Plumbing. He lives in Cheshire.

**Mark (Kip) Tremblay**: Pitched for the powerhouse Sikorsky Aircraft teams that won 17 ASA Major National Industrial championships. Mark resides in Bethany.

**Steve Piroh**: Has sponsored, coached and played for the perennial successful Steve’s Sports softball team for over 25 years. Steve is a long time Stratford resident.

The Fast Pitch Wing honoree was Dean Lang. Dean pitched the Cypress Arms Restaurant to three straight Connecticut ASA State Championships from 1978 thru 1980 and finished off his career with another State Championship in 1990 with American Legion Post 8. Lang lives in East Hartford.

Also honored was umpire Steve Kolitz. Kolitz has been an ASA umpire for over 20 years. He has officiated at the state, regional and national levels and also has done high school tournament and college games. He is President of the Northwest Connecticut Umpires Association. Steve currently resides in New Milford.

Richard Beaulieu was given a Connecticut ASA Service Award for being an ASA supporter on the local league level for over 30 years. He is a resident of South Windsor.

Richard (Dick) Raymond was the recipient of the Joseph T. Barber Distinguished Service Award. Dick is retiring after serving as the ASA District Commissioner for 50 years in the Danbury area. His contributions to the game of softball are too numerous to summarize in one paragraph. Dick lives in Danbury.

National Softball Hall of Fame Induction

The ASA/USA Softball Hall of Fame Induction took place on Sunday, November 10 during the Annual Council Meeting in Oklahoma City. A night to remember, the Class of 2013 consisted of: Laura Berg (Santa Fe Springs, Calif.) – Fast Pitch Player, Lisa Fernandez (Long Beach, Calif.) – Fast Pitch Player, Randy Melvin (Dowagiac, Mich.) – Umpire, Shirley Simmons Snell (Shreveport, La.) – Slow Pitch Player and Margie Wright (Clovis, Calif.) - Meritorious Service.

You can watch the induction ceremony by visiting USASoftball.com.

The Class of 2014 was also announced at the Council Meeting. Those to be inducted are:
- Darryl Day - Fast Pitch Player (Hilton Head, S.C.)
- Craig Elliott - Slow Pitch Player (Wadley, Ala.)
- Ted Germain - Umpire (Mayville, Mich.)
- Stacey Nuveman - Fast Pitch Player (La Verne, Calif.)
- Tommy Orndorff - Manager (Vienna, Va.)
- Ron Radigonda - Meritorious Service (Oklahoma City, Okla.)
- Bruce Tanski - Sponsor (Clifton Park, N.Y.)

The 34th induction ceremony will take place on at the 83rd Annual ASA/USA Softball Council Meeting, which will be held November 8-14, 2014 in Reno, Nev. Rules and guidelines to nominate potential Hall of Fame candidates for 2015 are available at USASoftball.com. There is a deadline submission of September 1, 2014.
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USA Softball National Team news and notes

2014 Junior Men's roster

ASA/USA Softball recently announced the final roster for the 2014 USA Softball Junior Men's National Team. The 17-member team will travel to Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada in July to compete in the X International Softball Federation (ISF) Junior Men's World Championships (Under-19).

"We've assembled a great group of young men to represent the United States in the World Championships," said Head Coach Tim Lyon. "We're coming off of one of our best finishes at a World Championships in 2012 and we expect to build off of that momentum and perform very well in Whitehorse."

Seventeen players, plus two alternates, will come together in Midland, Mich. June 13-18 for training and exhibition games before hitting the road for a warm-up tour June 30-July 6 that will see games played in California, Oregon and Washington. Following the tour, the team will head to Whitehorse for the 10-day ISF World Championship.

The 17 athletes, plus two alternates, who have been selected to the 2014 USA Softball Junior Men's National Team are:

• Faron Apany (Anadarko, Okla.)
• Ryan Barnes (Lehi, Utah)
• Tyler Bouley (Champlin, Minn.)
• Daniel Centeno Jr. (Salem, Utah)
• Zane Chason (Grand Ridge, Fla.)
• Bryce DuCharme (Hudson, Mich.)
• Peyton Hall (Chien, Wis.)
• Collin Hopkins (Decatur, Ill.)
• Aaron Madrid (Stockton, Calif.)
• Blaine Milhelm (Eaton Rapids, Mich.)
• Taylor Neilson (Lehi, Utah)
• Ryan Nessler (North Mankato, Minn.)
• James (Jimbo) Pernetti (Ceres, Calif.)
• Tristan Sensenig (Denver, Pa.)
• Tyler Stoffel (North Mankato, Minn.)
• Cody Valeros (Stockton, Calif.)
• Phillip Zimmerman (New Holland, Pa.)

Alternates:
• Carson Criner (Stockton, Calif.)
• Justin Perez (North East, Pa.)

The X ISF Junior Men's World Championship is scheduled for July 11-20. Argentina is the defending World Champion having defeated Japan 5-0 in the finals of the 2012 event. The USA Junior Men's National Team finished the 2012 event in fifth place with a 5-3 record. Team USA is coached by Tim Lyon, Scott Standerfer and Gary Mullican.

Michele Smith named award winner

Organizers of the Warren Spahn Award Gala announced that ESPN Lead Color Analyst and former Women's National Team member, Michele Smith, is the 2013 Bill Teegins Excellence in Sportscasting Award winner.

The award, given annually to an outstanding sportscaster with Oklahoma ties, will be presented at the 2014 Warren Spahn Award Gala on January 28 in Oklahoma City. The Gala is hosted by Oklahoma City's Bricktown Rotary Club and the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame.

Smith is the first female recipient of the award that was established to honor Bill Teegins, former play-by-play announcer for the Oklahoma State football and men's basketball teams. Teegins died tragically in a 2001 plane crash along with nine other OSU basketball players and support personnel.

"Winning the Bill Teegins Award for Excellence in Broadcasting is a true honor. Most athletes are known for their accomplishments on the field, but winning this award truly means a lot to me and honors all the hard work that my broadcast teammates and I put into the best show possible in and out of the booth," Smith said upon learning of her selection. "Bill Teegins spent his life loving sports and sharing his passion with others who share his love of the sport."

"Michele Smith not only competed and won at the highest levels possible during her playing days, she has successfully broken through barriers to reach the pinnacle of broadcasting for national networks, and she has stayed true to her professionalism and palpable connection with her audience," said Randy Carstens, chair of the Teegins Award selection committee. "The committee and the Teegins family are very excited to be able to honor Michele with this year's award."

Previous Teegins Award winners include John Anderson, John Brooks, Bob Carpenter, Joe Simpson, Bob Bryar Sr., Dave Kuntzlar, Marv Johnson, Bobby Murcer, Curt Gowdy, Ross Porter, Bill Marcir, and John Rooney.

In addition to the Teegins Award, the Warren Spahn Award will also be presented at the gala to this year's best left-handed pitcher in Major League Baseball. The 2013 Spahn Award winner is Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Ticket information for the January 28 Gala can be found at www.okcspahnawards.com.
On December 14, six Arizona ASA Umpires participated in the 2013 God and Country Softball Event at the Peoria Sports Complex Spring Training Facility for the San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners. This event featured the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST) playing a Double Header against the Fellowship Christian Athletes (FCA) All-Star Team. Members of the FCA All-Stars included National Softball Hall of Fame Players and Olympic Gold Medalists Dot Richardson (UCLA) and Leah O’Brien (University of Arizona) and Olympic Gold Medalist Shelly Stokes (Fresno State).

The Umpires were ALL Veterans of the Armed Forces with the exception of one who is an Employee with a Department of Defense Contractor, General Dynamics, and works closely with the Navy and Coast Guard. He also has a brother who is proudly serving in the United States Marine Corps. Between these men they have over 100 years of dedicated Military Service to their Country and over 140 years of umpiring experience. These umpires proudly wore caps of the branch of service in which they served or represented and wore the ASA red shirt that signifies “ASA Softball Honors Veterans for their Service.”

The Umpires were: Mike Alexander (U. S. Air Force), Rich Eddings (representing on behalf of his brother the U. S. Marine Corps), Wayne Fulton (U. S. Army), Tim Jackson (U. S. Air Force), Wally Latall (U. S. Navy) and Shem Smalls (U. S. Marine Corps).

The FCA mission is to present to coaches and athletes, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church.

The mission of the WWAST is to raise awareness, through exhibition and celebrity softball games, of the sacrifices and resilience of our military, and highlight their ability to rise above any challenge. Their goal is to show other amputees and the general population that these athletes through extensive rehabilitation and training are able to express their desires and perform the sport they loved.

The WWAST is comprised of young, competitive, athletic veterans and active duty soldiers who have lost limbs post-9/11 while serving their country in the military/war. The team includes individuals with a variety of amputations of the arm, above knee, below knee, bilateral below knee, and foot. Some are still in the service while others are attending college thanks to the post-9/11 GI Bill while others have moved on to new careers.

The vision of WWAST states that athletes are examples of amputees who continue to push the limits of modern prosthetic technology with more and more applications. Of course, their dream would be the return of our soldiers from harms way without the resulting loss of life and limb. Until such a time, their vision is to support and honor our soldiers and veterans sacrifices, and to show other amputees and everyone who sees or hears about the team that life without a limb is limitless.

The national WWAST represents some of our nation’s bravest and most determined heroes, soldiers and veterans. These young extremely athletic men have sustained severe injuries resulting in amputation while serving in the military/war, and through extensive rehabilitation, they have become competitive athletes again.

Their armor now includes prosthetic legs and arms, along with extreme perseverance and attitude. Together they comprise the National Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team.

Prior to the game the Players of the WWAST exchanged gifts with the Umpires. The Umpires were presented a bracelet scripted with “WWSAT - Life Without A Limb is Limitless.” The players were presented two challenge Coins: an Arizona ASA State Championship Umpire Coin and the Special Olympics – ASA - Moose Coin.

For more information on the Wounded Warrior Softball Team, player pictures and information and their schedule of Events, visit their Web Site at www.woundedwarrioramputeesoftballteam.org.

Pictured above with the WWAST are the AZ ASA Umpires, wearing their ASA Jacket and Branch of Military Service Cap and Shem Smalls’ Grand Daughter, Payton.
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PROUD PARTNER
ASA/USA Softball is proud to announce that the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium has been selected to host the 2015 NCAA Division II and the 2017 and 2018 NCAA Division III Softball National Championships. This marks the first time that Oklahoma City will host the NCAA Division II and Division III Softball National Championships. The University of Central Oklahoma will be co-host to all three softball championships with Oklahoma City All Sports and the ASA/USA Softball National Office staff.

The official training site of the USA Softball Women’s National Team and home of the NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS), the ASA Hall of Fame (HOF) Complex is no stranger to hosting some of the best competition in the world. Often referred to as the “Mecca” of Softball, the ASA HOF Complex has played host to a variety of international events like the World Cup of Softball and the Men’s Slow Pitch Border Battle. The ASA HOF Complex also hosts a number of ASA/USA Junior Olympic (JO) and adult events, including the ASA/USA 18-Under Fast Pitch GOLD National Championship, the Hall of Fame Qualifiers, the Combat Capital City Classic and the ASA Slow Pitch Championship Series.

“We appreciate the confidence that the NCAA has in ASA/USA Softball and our partners the Oklahoma City All Sports, the city of Oklahoma City and the University of Central Oklahoma,” said Craig Cress, ASA/USA Softball Executive Director. “We want to thank the NCAA for allowing us to host the NCAA Division II and Division III Softball Championships. Their decision validates the belief that Oklahoma City and the ASA Hall of Fame Complex is where champions are crowned in the sport of softball.”

The bidding process for 82 of the 89 NCAA Championship sites began in July and final submissions were due in mid-September. The sites were selected by the respective sport committees, made up of coaches and administrators from NCAA member schools and conferences, and ultimately approved by the appropriate divisional championships cabinets or committees. Each sport committee, per division, then selected the host sites it believed would provide the ultimate experience for the competing student-athletes. The selection of the ASA HOF Stadium for the 2015, 2017 and 2018 NCAA Division II and Division III Championship Sites comes on the heels of a major renovation project at the ASA HOF Complex. Opened in 1987, the ASA HOF Stadium initially consisted of the main Stadium Field before a second field was added a short while after. In 2003, the city of Oklahoma City passed a bond issue to expand and update the Stadium and Complex. A new Hall of Fame Plaza and Sports Festival Esplanade, 519 new parking spaces and 3,000 additional seats were added to increase the total seating of the Stadium to 5,000. Two more fields with 300 permanent seats and additional restrooms were also constructed. To see photos from the current renovation process, please visit usAsoftball.com. For a full list of events at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex, please visit ASASoftball.com.
MEMBERS HONORED AT WILSON SPORTING GOODS LUNCHEON

ASA/USA Softball recognized members and tournament hosts during the Wilson Sporting Goods sponsored luncheon at the 82nd Annual Governing Council Meeting. Below is a list of James Farrell recipients for excellence in conducting ASA/USA National Championships in 2013.

EIGHT HIGHEST RATED TOURNAMENTS
Burlington, N.C.

FOUR HIGHEST RATED TOURNAMENTS
Ridgeland, Miss.

THREE HIGHEST RATED TOURNAMENTS
Salem, Ore.

TWO HIGHEST RATED TOURNAMENTS

Bloomington, Ind.

ONE HIGHEST RATED TOURNAMENT

Andover, Minn.

ONE HIGHEST RATED TOURNAMENT

Bismarck, N.D.

ONE HIGHEST RATED TOURNAMENT

Clearwater, Fla.

JAMES FARRELL CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

JAMES FARRELL CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE
Columbus, Ohio

OAKLAND ASA (John Gouveia)
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA ASA (Andy Dooley)
PORTLAND ASA (Ron Boley)
RHODE ISLAND ASA (Beverly Wiley)
SAN ANTONIO ASA (Herman Garza)
SOUTH CAROLINA ASA (Gerald McDonald)
SOUTHERN NEW YORK ASA (Glen Payne Sr.)
ST. LOUIS ASA (Mel Pinkley)
UTAH ASA (Steve Rollins)
WEST VIRGINIA ASA (Andy Dooley)

DOUBLE PLAY - INCREASES IN TWO OF THE THREE CATEGORIES: ADULT TEAMS, YOUTH TEAMS AND UMPIRES

HAWAII ASA (Don Meinel)
HOUSTON ASA (Stoney Burke)
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA ASA (Andy Dooley)
WEST VIRGINIA ASA (Andy Dooley)

MOST TOTAL REGISTRATIONS
9,277
Pennsylvania ASA (Andy Loechner Jr.)

MOST YOUTH TEAM REGISTRATIONS
6,423
Southern California ASA (Phil Gutierrez)

MOST ADULT TEAM REGISTRATIONS
4,044
Pennsylvania ASA (Andy Loechner Jr.)

MOST UMPIRE REGISTRATIONS
1,947
Pennsylvania ASA (Andy Loechner Jr.)

The final awards of the afternoon were the service awards. In the service award category, 40 members were given the awards for their five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40 and 50 years of service to the organization.

FIVE YEARS
- Clovis Unified School District, Allied Member
- Jim Fanning, Massachusetts ASA
- Wayne Funderburke, Florida ASA
- Alfred Macias, Texas ASA
- Joe Robinson, Arizona ASA
- Bill Robison, Pennsylvania ASA
- Salem (OR) Parks & Rec., Allied Member
- Special Olympics Oregon, Allied Member
- Special Olympics Int’l, Allied Member
- Tualatin Hills Park & Rec., Allied Member
- U.S. Navy, Allied Member
- David Weeks, Oklahoma ASA

10 YEARS
- Kristi Allen, Southern California ASA
- Darrin Duistemars, Michigan ASA

- Mike Dunavant, Memphis ASA
- Patrick Faretta, Greater San Joaquin ASA
- Ron Merritt, Wyoming ASA
- Mel Pinkley, St. Louis ASA
- Henry Pollard, Central Virginia ASA
- Bill Silves, Seattle ASA
- Tony Walsh, Memphis ASA
- Drew Wells, Texas ASA
- Joe Pavone, Chicago ASA
- Don Fishe, Arizona ASA

15 YEARS
- Carlton Bentley, Florida ASA
- Jim McDonald, Philadelphia ASA
- JoAnn McGuire, Oklahoma ASA
- Richard McLaughlin, Nor Cal ASA
- Doug Parker, Texas ASA

20 YEARS
- Alabama Parks and Rec., Allied Member
- Fuzzy Buckenberger Jr., Spokane ASA
- Dick Gulmon, North Dakota ASA
- Cindy Inman, Indiana ASA
- Michigan Parks & Rec., Allied Member
- NFCA, Allied Member
- Carol Pipgras, South Dakota ASA

25 YEARS
- Norm Davis, Maine ASA
- James Ellis, Tennessee ASA
- Robert Farrell, New York ASA

30 YEARS
- Clyde Brewer, Dayton ASA
- Andy Dooley, Piedmont Virginia ASA
- Dave Epperson, Kansas ASA
- Bob Rowling, Montana ASA

35 YEARS
- Louis De Saro, Dayton ASA

40 YEARS
- Thomas E. Beck, Central Virginia ASA
- John Phillips, Dallas ASA
- Bert Weeks, North Carolina ASA

45 YEARS
- Ferris Reid, Chicago ASA
- Howard Honaker, Ohio ASA


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**Ashley Thomas**

Second Base, Northwest 45 1984
Sales Representative, Liberty Mutual Insurance 2006

At ResponsibleSports.com, you’ll find:

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• Tips and tools for volunteer youth sport coaches
• Insight from softball players & coaches on their youth sports experience
• Videos, podcasts, downloadable handouts
• Much more!

*Figure reflects average national savings for customers who switched to Liberty Mutual. Based on data collected between 1/1/12 and 6/30/12. Individual premiums and savings will vary.

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Liberty Mutual Insurance Responsible Sports is pleased to present recent podcasts and videos with softball stars and legends Lauren Gibson, Leah O’Brien-Amico, and Mike White.

Find out what All-American Gibson’s parents talked to her about after games. Also, she shares her philosophy on respecting opponents.

Watch Lauren Gibson >>>

Three-time Olympic gold medalist O’Brien-Amico opens up about how her passion for softball drove her to success. She also reflects on lessons learned from Coach Candrea.

Listen to Leah O’Brien-Amico >>>

Former ASA Player of the Year and current University of Oregon head coach White provides insight about what young softball players should work on during the offseason. He also gives expert coaching advice.

Listen to Mike White >>>

Go to Responsible Sports for more from softball greats, past and present, like Mike Candrea, Valerie Arioto, and Laura Berg.

ASAJ/USA Softball announced at the conclusion of the 82nd Annual Council Meeting its sites for the 2015 Championship season.

“We’ve got a great group of cities selected to host our 2015 ASA/USA Softball National Championships”, said Chris Sebren, Director of Championships. “We look forward to having the best of the best play in both our youth and adult divisions for the right to call themselves a true National Champion.”

Below is a list of the “Big Seven” National Championships:

- Girls’ 16-Under Class A Fast Pitch – Chattanooga, Tenn.
- Girls’ 18-Under Class A Fast Pitch – Spartanburg, S.C.
- Girls’ 16-Under GOLD – Broken Arrow, Okla.
- Girls’ 18-Under GOLD – Oklahoma City, Okla.

Click here for a list of all other 2015 ASA/USA Softball National Championships!
You're not just buying lights. You're buying an affordable system that reduces energy and maintenance costs year after year. That means while decreasing wasted energy, you'll save money and help protect the environment for her future.

To learn more visit: www.musco.com/generations
ASA/USA Softball announced the NEW ASA/USA Men’s Super Slow Pitch Championship Series. A series of participating tournaments that culminate with a single National Championship event in the fall, the Men’s Super Slow Pitch Championship Series will crown the National Champion with $25,000, the 2nd place team with $15,000 and the 3rd place team with $10,000.

“We are thrilled to be welcoming back the Super Championship division to our National Championship platform,” said ASA/USA Softball Executive Director Craig Cress. “We have received feedback from many players and sponsors from the past and present and feel it is time to bring back a championship without restrictions. The Super division was a integral part of the history of ASA and we are proud to introduce it to a new generation. We are very fortunate that we have a sponsor who believes in our program and is willing to be so generous in supporting this Series.”

Click here to read more about the format, entry qualifications, and recognized series events of the 2014 Super Series >>
Being a family member of Team USA has it’s benefits.

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United has flown Team USA for over 30 years, and we strive to be the airline of choice for Olympic family members as well. That’s why we offer discounted fares for USOC/NGB associated events. Go to united.com/USOC to book your flight, or to learn more.
Mechanicsville’s Bubba Powers would have loved to see the party they threw for him, his friend Benny Spiller and a few others last week. Powers was a lifelong softball player. He, along with childhood friend (and Mechanicsville resident) Benny Spiller were among seven individuals and one team inducted into the Central Virginia Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame in a ceremony at The Place in Innsbrook on Saturday, Nov. 16.

The venue for the induction ceremony was packed.

“It was 300-plus people and every ticket was gone,” Spiller said. “Between [Bubba] and I we had 90 folks.”

Powers and Spiller began playing softball while students at J.R. Tucker High School in the 1970s. They continued playing – sometimes on the same team, sometimes on opposing teams – for decades until Powers’ death of a heart attack in 2004. Spiller’s serious playing days ended in 2001 as the demands of a new family claimed more and more of his attention.

“I just broke down and cried,” said Powers’ widow, Debbie, of when she learned of the decision to induct her husband. “It was something that I’ve been hoping and praying for for a long time, not only for Bubba, but because of our kids.”

The kids – Brandon and Cody Powers – are carrying on their father’s legacy on the diamond. Brandon coaches and Cody plays for Lee-Davis high school.

Spiller’s children have also followed in their father’s athletic footsteps. His two older daughters, Christine and Courtney, have played for J.R. Tucker. His youngest daughter plays Little League softball and his son plays travel baseball.

Powers and Spiller weren’t your run-of-the-mill weekend warriors with a smoking cigarette and slowly warming can of beer stashed in the dugout between plate appearances – the pair were part of a dedicated cadre of serious players who spent weekend after weekend on the road at tournaments during the season.

They played for some of the best teams in the nation, such as the 1992 Hanover Carpet team that won the Amateur Softball Association Class A national championship. One of their teammates on that 1992 team, Mike Fritter, was also inducted into the Hall of Fame in last week’s ceremony, where they join a host of other teammates – including Powers’ father and the manager of the 1992 team, Danny Powers – who have previously been inducted.

It takes more than athletic achievement to make it into the Hall of Fame, and Powers and Spiller had ample contributions to take into account.

In addition to their considerable playing achievements, both did their share of umpiring – 21 years for Powers and 15 for Spiller – and both branched into officiating at high school and college basketball games. Spiller still works as a basketball official today.

“The time, the effort, the dedication, always being the team player – no individuality,” Spiller said of what it takes to earn Hall of Fame honors. “The stats mean a little bit, but not as much as being a team player.”

Central Virginia ASA Hall of Fame

By The Mechanicsville Local

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2014 ASA/USA Softball Playing Rule, Code and Procedural Manual Changes with Comments, are now available online. Click here to access!
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