Happy Holidays from ASA/USA Softball!

Whether you deck the halls, light the Menorah, gather around the Christmas tree or sing Silent Night, we wish you all the best this Holiday season. From the ASA/USA National Office Staff, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! May 2015 bring another year of fun, happiness and softball!

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Former Director of Umpires passes away
Greetings everyone. Thank you again for taking the time to read my letter as well as this publication, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball.

As 2014 quickly comes to a close, I wish to thank each of you, individually as well as associations, for the outstanding year we’ve had both domestically and internationally. Domestically we had tens of thousands of teams participate in our program, thousands of which went on to compete in our national championships, the only true national championships for which each team must qualify. Each team who competes at an ASA/USA National, regardless of where they are from or who their coach is, has an equal opportunity to be a national champion and each tournament is umpired by the best trained umpires in the country. Internationally our teams, the only USA Softball Teams that can play in true sanctioned world championships, competed extremely well. Both the Women and the Men have qualified for and will compete in the 2015 Pan American Games that will be held in Toronto, Canada, while our Junior Women will compete in the 2015 World Championship that will be played at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City in August. Also, in case you have not yet heard, this month the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has approved all the recommended reforms to the future Olympic Program, particularly the adoption of a more flexible Olympic sports program. The new more flexible approach to Olympic Sports provides added optimism that softball and baseball will now have a real opportunity to be placed back on the Olympic Program for the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Last month our ASA/USA Council convened in Sparks, Nevada for its 83rd Annual Meeting. In a completely open and very democratic manner our Council Members, about 240 strong, approved rule changes and new rules. They also adopted changes/new administrative guidelines and procedures to keep our association moving forward in a way that is beneficial for any person that wants to participate in our organization. We have a wonderful year shaping up for 2015, starting with our USA National Teams’ Selection Camps in Irvine, California at the beginning of January and ends the year once again with our Annual Council Meeting that will be held in Louisville, Ky. Please visit our website at USASoftball.com for complete schedules and sites of all our many events throughout the year.

Lastly, I am very proud to be a part of ASA/USA Softball, a non-profit organization opened for membership to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran status, national origin or ancestry. This month the Pacific Coast Region, composed of the States of California, Hawaii and Nevada, elected a female umpire to be the Region Umpire-in-Chief, Ms. Christina Drumm. Chris is the first female Region UIC in the history of our national organization. Additionally, I am the first Hispanic to be elected President of our organization and President-Elect Warren Jones, who will follow me in the position of President in November 2015 is an African-American. I am honored and privileged beyond words by, and grateful for, the opportunity to serve as president for such a diverse, unbiased and fair organization. I pledge to serve the remainder of my two-year term honorably, without reservation and to the best of my ability.

I wish each of you a safe and happy holiday season, a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
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The Milford Umpires Association, formed in the 50’s, celebrate the City of Milford’s 375th birthday parade. On the truck are Umpires Larry Aqualino, Bill Muldowney and Joe Trapani. Driving the truck is Connecticut ASA Umpire-in-Chief Tony Roberto.

Do you have a photo you’d like to submit for the Inside Pitch? Submit your photos to cwarren@softball.org by the 20th of each month and you could be featured!

Joey Rich, Missouri ASA State Commissioner, recently caught up with Chuck Davenport (wife Charlotte) at his home in Branson, MO. Davenport retired to Branson from Topeka, KS in the mid 90’s. He served as the Mid America Regional UIC for 3 years and Kansas State Commissioner for 10, and was inducted into the National ASA Softball Hall of Honor in 1998. Mr. Davenport is now 82 years old and in good health, although he does not drive any more. Both Chuck and his wife recounted many old stories with Rich, and asked about updates on several ASA people.

Claud “Chuck” Davenport gives a big shout out to all his ASA friends across the country!!
Hello everyone and welcome to the December 2014 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball!

It’s crazy to imagine that the year is already coming to an end. I don’t think I’m the only one who believes that this year just flew right on by!

This December issue marks my last as the editor for Inside Pitch after three years overseeing the monthly publication. It’s been a great three years sharing the news and notes from around the country with all our members and I am confident that our new member of the Marketing/Communications team will take all future issues even further. Be on the lookout for emails regarding story or photo submissions for future issues!

As the 2014 season comes to an end, let’s take a look back on the great moments in ASA/USA Softball this year. We held our first-ever ASA/USA 16U GOLD National Championship in Broken Arrow, Okla. and we also increased our national presence by partnering with Softball 360 TV. With that partnership came 13, 30 minute TV shows as well as the ASA Stadium Power Tour, which featured the ASA Long Haul Bombers.

Our umpiring program continues to grow and as a result our National Championships continue to demonstrate the talents of our “crews in blue”. We’re proud of the world-class training we offer to our umpires and our teams and fans know that when they’re playing ASA/USA Softball they have some of the best umpires.

With our National Teams, four competed in international events and represented the United States with pride and class and we couldn’t be more proud. 2015 will be another great year for the Red, White and Blue as our Women and Men will compete at the Pan American Games in Toronto and the Junior Women will compete in the ISF Junior Women’s World Championships in Oklahoma City. Our Men will also play in the ISF Men’s World Championship in Saskatoon.

As I sign off for my last time I want to thank each and every one of you for all you do for ASA/USA Softball. It’s been a blast being the editor for the Inside Pitch!
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2015 Hall of Fame Inductees
Say hello to the National Softball Hall of Fame Class of 2015

Charles Moss, Sr. - Meritorious Service
A cornerstone of umpiring in Virginia, Charles Moss, Sr. began his career in 1977 when he attended his first ASA rules and mechanics class. His love for the game took root that year, fostering a lifelong commitment to ASA/USA Softball. Two years after attending his first class he was appointed to the Central Virginia ASA staff as an Eastern District Commissioner and Umpire-in-Chief (UIC), positions which led to his attendance at several Regional and National Umpire Clinics. Not only was Moss active at an administrative level, he also continued his career as an ASA/USA Umpire. His dedication and commitment to the game helped launch his successful umpiring career and several honors have been bestowed upon Moss. In addition to umpiring at 10 ASA/USA National Championships and one International Softball Federation (ISF) event, he is a member of the ASA/USA Umpire Medals program at all levels and he’s a member of the National Indicator Fraternity. Moss is also a member of the Central Virginia ASA Hall of Fame and the National Senior Hall of Fame. Moss also has a strong commitment to Senior softball and has played a major role in the success of the program.

Sue Enquist - Meritorious Service
A true icon in the softball world, Sue Enquist has been a driving force for the sport of softball at all levels for nearly four decades. Her resume along speaks for itself. Enquist has three ASA/USA All-American titles, five ASA/USA National Championships, five Gold Medals as a member of the USA Softball Women’s National Team and three as a coach of the program. Perhaps her most notable accolades came during her time at the Head Coach of the UCLA Softball program. With a 27 year career at the helm of the Bruins, Enquist compiled an 887-175-1 record and 11 NCAA National Championships while producing 15 U.S. Softball Olympians and 65 NCAA All-Americans. Beyond her role as a coach and player, Enquist is highly regarded as a clinician and advocate for softball. A true legend of the game, Enquist continues to instill her passion and excellence to players and coaches around the country.

Steve Padilla - Fast Pitch Player
In an era of iconic men’s fast pitch teams, Steve Padilla was a driving force from the circle. Starting out in the Men’s Class A division, Padilla led his team Tee House to the 1982 Men’s Class A Fast Pitch National title while earning ASA All-American honors. Once word of his pitching abilities spread, Padilla made the jump to the Men’s Major division and never looked back. Joining the California Kings in 1983, he would earn his first ASA/USA Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship the following year, helping his squad win 10-straight games en route to the title where he was also named the MVP. Padilla’s 5-0 performance at the National Championship while giving up just one unearned run helped him garner another ASA/USA All-American accolade. Through 10 additional seasons, Padilla earned three additional All-American honors with Guanella Brothers and the Nor Cal Merchants and earned a Men’s 40-Over National Championship in 1994 with the Merchants. Padilla also made a name for himself on the international scene as a member of the USA Softball Men’s National Team that claimed the silver medal at the 1987 Pan American Games. He also competed in five U.S. Olympic Festivals. Once his playing days came to an end, Padilla continued to play a role in men’s fast pitch as a coach in the National Team Program. Padilla served as an assistant coach for the 1999 Men’s National Team at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada and the ISF World Championship in Sydney, Australia. He also was an assistant coach for the Puerto Rican Women’s National Team at the 1996 Olympic Games in Athens, Ga.

Mike White - Fast Pitch Player
One of the most respected pitchers in the game, Mike White put his teams on the map at both the national and international scene. A native of New Zealand, White spent some time as a member of their Men’s National Team before coming to the U.S. to begin his playing career in the Men’s Major division. White’s impressive resume includes nine ASA/USA All-American titles and three Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championships. White also has a storied career with the USA Softball Men’s National Team Program beginning in

Continued on next page
1995 when he earned a silver medal at the Pan American Games in Mar Del Plata, Mexico. In his 11 years as a member of the Team USA, White helped guide the U.S. to three silver medals in the Pan American Games and one bronze medal at the ISF World Championship. He continues to help the National Team Program as a member of the coaching staff for the Women’s National Team and is also a member of the ISF Hall of Fame.

**John Davide - Slow Pitch Player**

In a time where teams played fewer than 100 games a year, John Davide was a staple of the County Sports softball organization for many years. Known as an intense competitor, Davide was well known throughout the Men’s Major Slow Pitch world as an outstanding shortstop and a feared hitter. Many teammates, coaches and opponents often referred to him as the best home run hitting shortstop in the game. He left little to doubt, often hitting anywhere from 70 to 100 homeruns every year he played. Davide was a member of several ASA All-Tournament and All-American squads while capturing numerous Tournament MVP titles throughout his career. His playing accolades didn’t stop at the Major Slow Pitch level as he continued his playing career through the Master’s and Senior Softball divisions.

**Bonnie Anderson - Umpire**

Ask anyone in the Northwest and they’d tell you that Bonnie Anderson was considered the premier umpire from Oregon and Pacific Northwest. Umpiring from 1974-1998, Bonnie’s achievements go far behind the playing field. Bonnie umpired in 29 ASA/USA Regional Tournaments throughout her career and received her first National assignment in 1981 at the Women’s Class A Slow Pitch National Championship. She would go on to umpire in five additional National Championships before breaking into the international scene at the 1995 ISF Junior Women’s World Championship in Normal, Ill. Anderson also served as an umpire at the 1982 National Sports Festival and the U.S. Olympic Festival in 1984. Other accolades include being ISF Certified and a charter member of the National Indicator Fraternity. While her umpiring resume is impressive, her off-field work is just an outstanding. Bonnie became the first woman Umpire-in-Chief for ASA/USA Softball in 1981 and established a top-notch training and education system for Oregon umpires. Sadly, Bonnie passed away in January, 2012, but to this day, her military-style of teaching continues to groom umpires in the Northwest.

**Mark Ingrao - Umpire**

Mark began his umpiring career in 1974 at the age of 16 in Falls Church, Va. Five years later, he joined the Fairfax Softball Umpires Association and kicked of a career with ASA/USA Softball that spanned 25 years. His umpiring credits included two Central Atlantic Regional Slow Pitch Tournaments and six National Championships, including the first Men’s Master’s 35-Over in 1985. He then worked his first of four Super Slow Pitch National Championships in 1990. His final National Championship assignment came in 2002 when he umpired at the Slow Pitch Championship Series. Along with his National Tournament assignments, Ingrao is a member of the National Indicator Fraternity, an ISF Certified Umpire and an Elite Umpire in the slow pitch category. Ingrao also has several accomplishments as an administrator for the Central Atlantic Region, including serving as the Metro Washington DC Deputy Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) from 1989-2004. He also served on the National Umpire Staff from 2006-2012.

**Andy Dooley - Commissioner**

Andy Dooley has a storied career with ASA/USA Softball beginning in 1984 when he served as an At-Large Player Rep for Piedmont VA ASA/USA. Ten years later, his commitment and dedication to the organization helped earn him the title of Commissioner and helped lead the association to one of the prominent in the Region. Along with his local accolades, Andy has made an impact at the National level, serving on the ASA/USA Board of Directors as the Eastern Territory Vice President and as the President of ASA/USA Softball from 2009-2011. Since 1992, the Piedmont VA ASA has held several ASA/USA events, including National Championships and USA Softball National Teams. Andy is also extremely active with the Special Olympics Program in both Virginia and on the National level and helped establish the ASA Special Programs Committee.
On October 18, 2014 Piedmont Virginia ASA held its first Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremonies, hosted by the Bedford County Moose Lodge 1897. The festivities started with a social hour with the five individuals and one organization renewing old friendships and sharing stories of their playing, umpiring and tournament times together. When the dinner started, over one hundred and thirty guests and friends were in attendance.

Henry Pollard, the Central Virginia ASA/USA Commissioner was the guest speaker for the event. Also attending was Jim Craig, a Deputy Directors of Umpires, who added his congratulations to the inductees and all those attending and supporting ASA/USA Softball. Other Central Atlantic Commissioners attending the dinner included, Jack Mowatt and Jack Hutcherson of Maryland-DC/Delaware, and Joe Walker of Tidewater Virginia.

The Charter Member Class of Inductees included:

**Lee Shiflett** (Louisa, Virginia) - Lee umpired for over 45 years and was the Piedmont Virginia ASA UIC from 1987 until his retirement in 2007. Lee also either umpired in or was an umpire coordinator/assistant UIC for 15 ASA National tournaments.

**Betty Via** (Charlottesville, Virginia) - Betty has been the ASA district commissioner for Charlottesville since 1985 and is the current president of the umpires association, a position that she has held for 15 years. In 2014 Betty was honored with receiving her Gold medal status for umpiring. For the past 15 years she has hosted the UVA Law School tournament that brings in over 120 law school teams to play in the ASA and raise money for charity.

**Kelly Minton** (Bedford, Virginia) - Kelly accepted his award for playing for over 45 years. During his fast pitch days, Kelly played in over 1,500 games, recording over 12,000 strikeouts. He also threw five perfect games, 200 shutout games and 15 no-hitters. Kelly’s teams participated in two ASA Nationals, six regionals and over 30 ASA State Championships.

**Jim Ballengee** (Lynchburg, Virginia) - A member of the ASA National Umpire Staff, Jim has umpired for over 35 years. He has been on the National Umpire Staff since 2012 and was the Piedmont Virginia ASA UIC from 2007 until his national staff appointment. While umpiring, Jim worked in nine ASA National Championships. Highlights of his career include working the Special Olympic Softball World Games in Greece and the Nationals several times.

**Andy Dooley** (Bedford, Virginia) - Andy started his career in ASA as a fast pitch player both as an infielder and a pitcher. His teams played in one ASA national and numerous regional tournaments. In 1979 Virginia State ASA commissioner appointed Andy to the Player Rep position and in 1993 was appointed the next Piedmont Virginia ASA commissioner, a position that he holds today. Over the years Andy has been awarded numerous ASA national championships to host and was President of ASA/USA from 2010 thru 2011. He has been the driving force behind the Moose International supporting and raising over $650,000 for the Special Olympics over the years.

**The Class Action SCRAPPERS** (Roanoke, Virginia) - A fast pitch organization that was founded in 1995 by a group of individuals, led by Mr. Ron Reynolds. They had a goal to help young players learn and respect the game of softball. Through the years this organization has played and supported ASA/USA and has participated in five ASA National Championships. Currently, they have five age groups playing under the SCRAPPERS banner. At present the SCRAPPERS have sent over one hundred players to college.
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VIEW ALL OTHER FUNDRAISING OPTIONS (OH YEAH... THERE’S MORE!)
Submitted by Chuck Stewart

Stop the presses! Curtail the retirement talk! Malcolm Boyles, it seems, isn’t quite done just yet.

Boyles, an ASA umpire since 1976 and the National Deputy Director of Umpires for the Western Territory, had announced in late summer that this was it. He was going to hang up his mask and chest protector, turn the indicator into a Christmas tree ornament.

So Tom Henderson, president of the Seattle Metro Softball Umpires Association, of which Boyles is the longest current serving member at 39 years, made plans to give him an appropriate sendoff during SMSUA's annual awards banquet in Auburn, Washington, in late October.

There’d be the obligatory “roasting” and accolades. And Boyles would be able to get in the last word.

Not so fast, he said, when it was his turn. He won’t be taking a regular schedule anymore, “but I’ll still be out there in the Reynolds!”

“The Reynolds,” as it’s come to be known in the Northwest, is the Jack Reynolds Memorial Tournament. A fastpitch event for girls in age divisions from 10U through 18U is not only a tribute to the late former Seattle softball umpire and wrestling official who succumbed to cancer in 2008, but a fundraiser for a scholarship bearing Reynolds’ name.

“It's an all-volunteer army,” said Boyles. “Nobody gets paid. The umpires and evaluators all donate their time. Every penny (from team registrations) goes into the scholarship fund.”

Games are worked with three-umpire mechanics; skills are learned or honed that bring their own rewards – selection to state high school tournaments and ASA championship tournaments, including ASA Nationals.

“It’s all positive,” said Boyles. “The purpose is to raise money for kids and help umpires improve. Jack stood for nothing but the best for kids; he loved to work with kids.”

Boyles noted that umpires and evaluators come from hundreds of miles – from Idaho and Eastern Washington and Oregon – paying their own way to be involved.

Area wrestling officials stage a similar fundraiser with all the proceeds from both events going into the Reynolds scholarship fund.

Five scholarships a year – a full year’s tuition to a community college in Washington – have been awarded for the last seven years. That’s 35 young people from softball and wrestling who have benefited.

“We just wanted a way to honor Jack,” said Boyles. “It’s just been fabulous, and as long as I can stand, I’ll be out there,” he said, “even if it means walking a line.”

A cancer survivor, he said that “retirement” isn’t because of anything physical – “I feel great. It’s mental. I find myself losing the count, can’t remember how many outs.” He didn’t say it. He didn’t have to. His umpiring career has been built on the credo that the game deserves the best we have every time we step on the field.

“In thousands and thousands of games, he never shorted the teams in his effort, his attitude, his rules knowledge or his umpiring skills,” said Henderson as he announced that SMSUA was inaugurating a special award in Boyles’ name.

“The Malcolm Boyles Award” will be presented annually “for longevity, dedication and excellence of services to softball through umpiring in the Seattle/Tacoma area.” Boyles was the first recipient.

The significance of Boyles’ career wasn’t lost on Randy Hamasch, the retiring Spokane ASA Umpire in Chief and poet laureate of Region 15, who penned a poem (see next page) out of his “deep and abiding respect for Malcolm.”

The same can be said for his career highlighted by membership in the National Indicator Fraternity in 1993, ASA Elite in 2004, the Region 15 Award of Excellence in 2005 and induction into the ASA Northwest Region 15 Hall of Fame in 2013.
Why does one answer the call,
To officiate a game
That’s played with a bat and a ball?

It can’t be for fortune or fame,
So it must be
For the love of the game.

I’ve called my games through
Wind, dust and rain,
hot, cold and a body that’s in pain.

Hearing the rants, raves and jeers,
It wouldn’t be worth it
If not for the friends and an ice cold beer.

The fans and coaches challenge nearly every call.
You finally realize
You can’t please ‘em all.

You struggle through and finish the game,
Trudge to the parking lot
Where they have forgotten your name.

It doesn’t matter the wind, rain, coaches or fans,
They’re all about the same.
The reason we do it, is for the love of the game.

So I’ve called thousands of games,
And have always wondered why
“It’s so damn hard to say goodbye?”

Now my time has come I fear,
It wouldn’t have been worth it
If not for the friends and an ice cold beer.

A poem by Randy Harnasch
Being a family member of Team USA has its benefits.

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ASA/USA Softball is heading to Irvine, Calif. next month as the USA Softball Junior Women’s, Women’s and Men’s National Team will hold their respective National Team Selection Camps. Held at Bill Barber Park, the site of the General Tire World Cup of Softball X, an open tryout for the Junior Women’s National Team kicks off the week-long event.

Junior Women’s National Team
Led by Tairia Flowers, 27 athletes will vie for a spot on the 17-athlete roster for the 2015 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team.

Women’s National Team
Led by Ken Eriksen, 33 athletes are attending the Selection Camp. Hoping to make the 2015 USA Softball Women’s National Team, 17-atheletes will participate at the World Cup of Softball, while 15 will participate in the Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada.

Men’s National Team
With Denny Bruckert at the helm of the program, 27 athletes have accepted an invitation to try out for the 2015 USA Softball Men’s National Team. Seventeen athletes will make the roster for the International Softball Federation (ISF) Men’s World Championship in Saskatoon, while 15 athletes will participate in the Pan American Games.
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Members honored in Reno
See the list of award recipients during the Wilson Awards Luncheon

Three categories of awards were given during the annual Wilson Sporting Goods Luncheon, held at the 83rd Annual Meeting in Reno, Nev. ASA/USA Members were honored for their years of service and registration increases, while cities were awarded for the excellence in conducting an ASA/USA National Championship in 2014.

James Farrel Awards and Certificates
**SEVEN OF THE HIGHEST RATED TOURNAMENTS**
Burlington, North Carolina
**SIX OF THE HIGHEST RATED TOURNAMENTS**
Happy Valley, Oregon
**THREE OF THE HIGHEST RATED TOURNAMENTS**
Salem, Oregon
**TWO OF THE HIGHEST RATED TOURNAMENTS**
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma • Dallas, Texas • Gillette, Wyoming • Kendallville, Indiana • Medford, Oregon
Ridgeland, Mississippi • Roseville, California • St. Louis, Missouri York, Pennsylvania

**ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATED TOURNAMENTS**
Bismarck, North Dakota • Bloomington, Indiana • Bowling Green, Kentucky • Canton, Ohio • Clovis, California
Columbus, Georgia • Findlay, Ohio • Fond du Lac, Wisconsin • Ft. Worth, Texas • Hanford, California • Johnson City, Tennessee • Liberty, Missouri • Lodi, California • Mandan, North Dakota • Moline, Illinois • Montgomery, Alabama
Novi, Michigan Pasco, Washington • Rochester, Minnesota
Salem, Virginia • San Diego, California • South Bend, Indiana • St. Joseph, Missouri • Stratford, Connecticut
Tucson, Arizona

**JAMES FARRELL CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE**
Ashland, Ohio • Blue Springs, Missouri • Clinton, Mississippi • Marion, Ohio • Sioux Falls, South Dakota • Watertown, Wisconsin

**Benchmark Awards**

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**Years of Service**

**FIVE YEARS**
- Chris Drumm, So. Cal. ASA
- Palm Beach County Sports Commission, Allied Member
- Kim Swafford, TN ASA

**10 YEARS**
- Rod Hill, Alaska ASA

**15 YEARS**
- National Association of Police Athletic Leagues, Allied Member
- Kristy Rich, Missouri ASA

**20 YEARS**
- Mike De Leo, Detroit ASA
- Mary Mahoney, KC ASA

**25 YEARS**
- Brenda Grubbs, Fort Worth ASA
- Jerry Hanson, Mich ASA

**30 YEARS**
- Brenda Petty, KY ASA
- Tom Raimer, Wis. ASA

**35 YEARS**
- Mick Renneisen, Ind. ASA
- E. Scott Southworth, Central Virginia ASA

**40 YEARS**
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The Maryland Fastpitch Softball Association recently held its 46th Annual Hall of Fame Awards Banquet on October 25 in Baltimore, Md. Eight individuals were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

- **Jake Jacobs** - Has been umpiring for over 25 years from the HS level, National Junior College level, NCAA Division I, II and III to summer and fall youth fast pitch.
- **Margie Knight** - An outstanding player at Cantonsville HS and Salisbury University. She played for the Baltimore Comets and the Eastern Shore Merchants.
- **Bill Prunkle** - Was one the top umpires of the game in the ‘80’s and ‘90’s. He was a part of a select group of umpires calling nationally prominent men’s games.
- **Robert Earl Radford** - Well known for providing coaching clinics throughout the state. The coach at Northern HS, has won seven consecutive State Championships and a record of 188-40-1.
- **George Stevens** - In the Air Force for over 20 years, has played against the best players in the world. Made several All-Star teams and played in the 1987 and 1988 ASA Men’s Major FP National Championships.
- **Linda Taylor** - Former Head Coach at Archbishop Spalding HS, she won seven Catholic League Tournament titles, eight League Championships and five Maryland State private school championships.
- **Amy Jakubowski-Wukitch** - A dominant pitcher and power hitting outfielder at CHesapeake HS. Won three State Championships and continued her success at Furman University.

The D.C. Sunday Softball League (DCSSL) also hosted it’s eighth annual Hall of Fame banquet on November 15, where 10 individuals were inducted.

- **Eloise Byrd** - Was the first female umpire in the DCSSL and first African American umpire in the Metropolitan Umpire Association.
- **J.A. “Doc” DeBenedictis** - Won multiple DCSSL Championships with the Guy Mason City League. Was an All-Conference pitcher for the DCSSL in 2002 and is a member of the Greater Washington FP Hall of Fame.
- **Gerald “Tub” Gaskins** - Held a .300 betting average over his career and was a three time Champion with the Twangers. Earned MVP awards and multiple All-Star appearances.
- **Ozie “Mi-Ci” Ginyard** - As a catcher, never surrendered a stolen base during his 15 year playing career. Had multiple All-Star appearances and won a DCSSL Championship.
- **Wilbert Goff** - As a player and coach, was a four time Postal Softball League (PSL) Champion, a nine time PSL All-Star and nine time DCSSL All-Star. Earned the ASA Commissioners award in 1978.
- **Andre Harris, Sr.** - An infielder, won multiple DCSSL Championships. In the Guy Mason League he also earned multiple championships and All-Star game appearances.
- **Danny Malloy** - Joined the DCSSL after college, where he earned All-League honors in 2009 and has earned All-Star and All-Star MVP honors.
- **Keita “Trae” Malloy** - Held a .300 career batting average and was named a top defensive outfielder.
- **Robert Lee Stewart** - A six time champion in the DCSSL, Stewart had close to a .275 career batting average and outstanding on-base percentage during his 25 year playing career.
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For The Environment
Submitted by Nesa Grider

With the holidays approaching, last-minute shopping can make it easy to forget the true meaning of the season. For people feeling the economic crunch, making donations to charities or those less fortunate isn’t always easy.

Dallas ASA, Flower Mound Lady Jag’s and RAGE softball club know that investing in your community is the greatest way to give back. Volunteer groups and non-profit organizations do so much to help the communities that all of us are a part of, but they can’t do it alone. Led by Coach Tim Trussell, RAGE Softball is a competitive fast pitch softball organization dedicated to teaching softball, teamwork, and sportsmanship to young ladies of above average athletic ability. The organization’s goal is to provide a fun and family-friendly learning environment that prepares our young ladies for high school softball, college softball, and life.

“One of the main goals when my wife and I founded RAGE Softball Club was not only to give young ladies a solid foundation in softball, but we also wanted to emphasize the importance of community service and giving back,” said Trussell. “We firmly believe that the lessons learned through service to the community can empower these young ladies to make a difference not only in the lives of others but their own. The skills, relationships, and memories that are gained should not be limited to the playing field. We hope to help empower every young lady that is a member of RAGE Softball Club to have the drive, character, and caring heart to change the World.”

During the last 30 days, Rage Softball has been working in overdrive in their giving in an effort to impact those less fortunate. The team held a fundraiser with the winner enjoying a five minute shopping spree at Walmart. The funds collected during the fundraiser were not for the benefit of the team as one might assume. The funds collected, over $600, were donated to the Flower Mound Lady Jaguar Softball team in support of struggling families that they as a team are supporting. An emotional, Nesa Grider, President of the

Lady Jaguar Softball team and Dallas ASA JO Commissioner, accepted the donation, delivering $200 in gift cards to a family in great need. With the delivery of the gift cards, the family reported that for the last three years there has been no Christmas at their home, but this year it was going to great!

“Without a doubt this is the best Christmas, I have ever had,” said Grider. “To deliver joy to families that are struggling is the greatest gift I could ever hope for.”

The Rage Softball team still wasn’t done though. The team elected to donate December’s team fees to purchase over $1,600 in toys for area children in need! Rage players, coaches and parents set out for a shopping frenzy at Toys “R” Us!

“While I was shopping, I kept imagining the joy on the kids’ faces when they opened their presents on Christmas morning,” shared Rage team member Christina Kosta. “It made my heart feel so happy knowing I helped make a child’s Christmas special. It made me realize how much I truly have. You never know how one toy could change a child’s life.”

Dallas ASA, Flower Mound Lady Softball and Rage Softball encourage others to take the same excitement they have for snagging a great deal and apply it to supporting a great cause and potentially changing a life!

CHANGE A GIRL, CHANGE A FAMILY, AND CHANGE A COMMUNITY!
Below is a list of 2016 championships awarded during the 81st ASA/USA Annual Meeting in Reno. If a championship is not listed, a site is yet to be determined. Dates will be listed on USASoftball.com once determined by host cities.

**ASA/USA JO National Championships**

| Girls' 10-Under Class A Fast Pitch | Stockton, CA |
| Girls' 12-Under Class A Fast Pitch | Salem, VA |
| Girls' 14-Under Class A Fast Pitch | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Girls' 16-Under Class A Fast Pitch | Bryan/College Station, TX |
| Girls' 18-Under Class A Fast Pitch | Bloomington, IN |
| Girls' 16-Under GOLD | OKC, OK |
| Girls' 18-Under GOLD | OKC, OK |

**NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Girls' 10-Under Class A | Pekin, IL |
| Girls' 12-Under Class A | Rochester, MN |
| Girls' 14-Under Class A | Mt. Pleasant, MI |
| Girls' 16-Under Class A | Nevada Ames, IA |
| Girls' 18-Under Class A | Rochester, MN |
| Girls' 10-Under Class B | Rochester, MN |
| Girls' 12-Under Class B | Pekin, IL |
| Girls' 14-Under Class B | Overland Park, KS |
| Girls' 16-Under Class B | Watertown, WI |
| Girls' 18-Under Class B | Bowling Green, KY |

**SOUTHERN TERRITORY**

| Girls' 10-Under Class A | Tupelo, MS |
| Girls' 12-Under Class A | Tallahassee, FL |
| Girls' 14-Under Class A | Dallas, TX |
| Girls' 16-Under Class A | Columbus, GA |
| Girls' 18-Under Class A | Johnson City, TN |
| Girls' 10-Under Class B | Tupelo, MS |
| Girls' 12-Under Class B | Lawton, OK |
| Girls' 14-Under Class B | Columbus, GA |
| Girls' 16-Under Class B | TBD |
| Girls' 18-Under Class B | Longview, TX |

**EASTERN TERRITORY**

| Girls' 10-Under Class A | Sterling/Leesburg, VA |
| Girls' 12-Under Class A | Sterling, Leesburg, VA |
| Girls' 14-Under Class A | Prince George, VA |
| Girls' 16-Under Class A | Wilmington, DE |
| Girls' 18-Under Class A | York, PA |
| Girls' 10-Under Class B | Marion, OH |
| Girls' 12-Under Class B | Marion, OH |
| Girls' 14-Under Class B | York, PA |
| Girls' 16-Under Class B | Findlay, OH |
| Girls' 18-Under Class B | Findlay, OH |

**WESTERN TERRITORY**

| Girls' 10-Under Class A | Kent, WA |
| Girls' 12-Under Class A | Kent, WA |
| Girls' 14-Under Class A | TBD |
| Girls' 16-Under Class A | Clovis, CA |
| Girls' 18-Under Class A | Clovis, CA |
| Girls' 10-Under Class B | Medford, OR |
| Girls' 12-Under Class B | Kingman, AZ |
| Girls' 14-Under Class B | Chino Hills, CA |
| Girls' 16-Under Class B | Hayward, CA |
| Girls' 18-Under Class B | Hayward, CA |

**Additional ASA/USA JO Championships**

| Girls' 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U SP | Evansville, IN |
| Boys' 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U SP | TBD |

**2016 ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

| Men's Major Fast Pitch | Kimberly, WI |
| Men's Class A Fast Pitch | TBD |
| Men's Class B Fast Pitch | TBD |
| Men's Class C East Fast Pitch | Elkhart, IN |
| Men's 50-Over Fast Pitch | Prescott, AZ |
| Men's (9) Modified Pitch | TBD |
| Men's Senior East 50,55,60,65,70,75 – Burlington, NC | |
| Men's Senior West 50,55,60,65,70,75 – TBD |
| Men's Major 16" Slow Pitch | TBD |
| Men's Class A 16" Slow Pitch | TBD |
| Women's Class C and Class D SP | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Coed Class C and Class D SP | Bowling Green, KY |
| Coed Open Slow Pitch | Bowling Green, KY |
| Men's Masters 35-Over, 40-Over, 45-Over SP | Ridgeland, MS |
| Men's Church Slow Pitch | Rolla, MO |
| Men's Industrial Slow Pitch | Ridgeland, MS |

**NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Men's Class D Northern Slow Pitch | St. Joseph, MO |
| Men's Class E/Rec Northern SP | Sioux Falls, SD |

**SOUTHERN TERRITORY**

| Men's Class D Southern Slow Pitch | Naples, FL |
| Men's Class E/Rec Southern SP | Ridgeland, MS |

**WESTERN TERRITORY**

| Men's Class D Western Slow Pitch | TBD |
| Men's Class E/Rec Western Slow Pitch | Salem, OR |

**EASTERN TERRITORY**

| Men's Class D Eastern Slow Pitch | Salem, VA |
| Men's Class E/Rec Eastern Slow Pitch | Salem, VA |
The Women’s Sports Foundation announced that the USA Softball Women’s National Team (WNT) is one of twenty-three grant recipients—and more than 80 athletes—of its 2014 Travel & Training Fund fueled by partner Gatorade®. The USA Softball WNT will receive $7,500 to support its travel and training for the 2015 season.

The USA Softball WNT is slated to compete in two international competitions in the 2015 season, including the World Cup of Softball X in Southern California and the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Under the leadership of Head Coach Ken Eriksen (Tampa, Fla./Head Coach at USF), the WNT most recently competed at the International Softball Federation (ISF) Women’s World Championship in Haarlem, Netherlands in August, 2014 where Team USA claimed the silver medal. Also joining Eriksen on the coaching staff for a second-consecutive season are Laura Berg (Corvallis, Ore./head coach at Oregon State), Howard Dobson (Orange, Texas/assistant coach at LSU) and Lisa Dodd (San Diego, Calif./head coach at UNLV).

“As an athlete, having the opportunity to represent your country is a surrealistic feeling,” said Women’s National Team athlete Taylor Hoagland. “It is such an honor to be a part of something that is much bigger than yourself while donning the Red, White and Blue. Thank you to the Women’s Sports Foundation for providing us this grant, which will allow our team to train and compete at the most elite level in our sport. With this gift, our team will not only be able to achieve our goal of winning games but achieve our goal of winning hearts.”

The Travel & Training Fund helps aspiring athletes and teams with significant potential to achieve even higher performance levels and rankings by providing direct financial assistance. Grants are used to offset the costs involved with coaching, specialized training, equipment, athletic attire and travel, thereby giving them the opportunity to attain their next great achievement in sport and preparing them for leadership roles now and in the future.

“Playing ice hockey in high school, college and on the USA Women’s Ice Hockey Team was a huge expense for me and my family, as is the pursuit of big dreams for so many athletes and their families,” said Angela Ruggiero, WSF President and a four-time Olympian. “There is so much untapped greatness in women’s sports today: the Women’s Sports Foundation and Gatorade are proud to fuel the dreams of more than 80 female athletes with this year’s grant.”

The Women’s Sports Foundation was the first organization to offer grants to female athletes with elite potential. Since 1984, WSF has awarded nearly 1,400 grants to individual athletes and teams, many of whom went on capture national, world and Olympic titles. Past recipients include figure skater Michelle Kwan, ski jumper Alissa Johnson, swimmer Mallory Weggemann and the US National Water Polo Team.

This year, the Women’s Sports Foundation awarded $100,000 in grants ranging from $3,000 to $10,000 to 23 applicants across 20 sports. For more information about how to apply for 2015 Travel & Training funding, please visit: http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/home/programs/travel-and-training-fund/how-to-apply.
Visit www.activesports.com/ASAsoftball to learn more on how you can get ACTIVE Network’s LeagueOne league management software on your softball team.
Two new ASA/USA Commissioners have joined the ASA/USA Softball family as Tom Rausch (Fond du Lac, Wis.) and Michael Warner (Toms River, N.J.) will begin their duties on January 1. Rausch will take over as the Wisconsin ASA/USA Commissioner while Warner will head the New Jersey ASA/USA association.

With a playing career that spanned 34 years, Rausch has been involved with the sport in a variety of levels since 1970. In 1983 he began his managing career, achieving over 922 career wins and picking up 10 Wisconsin ASA/USA Modified Pitch State Tournament titles and three ASA/USA Modified Pitch National Championships. In 1999, he was elected into the Fond du Lac Softball Hall of Fame and was inducted into the Wisconsin ASA/USA Hall of Fame in 2005 for his achievements in managing men’s modified pitch.

“I am both honored and humbled to be selected as Wisconsin’s ASA/USA Commissioner,” said Rausch. “I am excited to take on this position as softball has been a great passion in my life. I revel in the challenges ahead of me and look forward to working with the team that is surrounding me. I hope to continue the program with the integrity and success of my friend and predecessor, Tom Raimer.”

On the administrative side, Rausch served 28 years on the Fond du Lac Softball Board of Directors, including four years as the organizations President. With the Wisconsin ASA/USA, Rausch served as State President from 1999-2002 and in 2004, was appointed Assistant State Commissioner in 2005 and has served as Treasurer since 2011. At the National Level, Rausch has been the Regional Player Representative for the Great Lakes Region since 2012 and served on the Modified Playing Rules Committee in 2009, 2011 and 2012 before being appointed as the Committee Chair in 2013.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Rausch has a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics with a Minor in Business Administration. He currently owns his own business, Rausch Insurance Agency, LLC., and is a member of the Fond du Lac Association of Commerce, the Knights of Columbus and the Noon Optimists. He also currently serves as National Committeeman for the Fond du Lac Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (FAIFA) and is a member of the Professional Insurance Agents of Wisconsin.

Warner has a long history with the sport of softball which spans over 25 years as either a player, coach, commissioner or director. Within the last five years, Warner has sent over 100 teams to National Championships and Regional’s as a coach/director. In addition to his coaching duties, Warner also taught youth hitting clinics and catching courses. He also has served as the Independent Sports Association (ISA) New Jersey Commissioner before serving as an area director for the New Jersey ASA/USA earlier this year. As an area director, he organized the New Jersey ASA/USA State Tournament.

“I am most honored and thankful that ASA/USA Softball has selected me as the New Jersey ASA/USA Commissioner,” said Warner. “With over 20 years of experience as a player and director, I am very excited to call ASA/USA my new home. I have seen the New Jersey ASA/USA at the highest level and with the team that we are assembling and the hard work and dedication, New Jersey ASA/USA will be stronger than it ever was.”

Warner graduated from The College of New Jersey with a degree in Sports Science. He currently owns a Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) company in Toms River, N.J. He also is a player representative for Wilson/DeMarini.
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Long time sports official, Thomas J Mason, Sr., age 83, of Birchwood Park, Newark, DE passed away December 15, 2014.

Tom was born April 1, 1931 in Wyoming, PA. Tom graduated from Wyoming High School in Wyoming, PA, where he played football and was a member of the school track team. He spent eight and a half years in the military (one and a half in the US Army, four years in the Air Force during the Korean War and three years in the Delaware Air National Guard). Tom left the military with the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was a member of the American Legion, Stahl Post #40, New Castle, DE.

Tom retired from the DuPont Company with 30 years of service. His last position with DuPont was manager of the Petchem Sales Service Section. Upon retirement, he worked 12 years part-time as a Sports Director for the New Castle County Sports & Athletics Section of the Parks and Recreation Department. He spent 10 years as Assistant softball coach with his son, Tom Jr. at Wilmington University and three years as their Athletic Director.

Tom officiated softball with the Delaware Softball Umpires Association (DSUA) for 33 years, rising to the position of National Umpire-In-Chief and International Rules Interpreter – a position he held for nine years. Tom was a polished clinician and took his act on the road to teach umpiring around the world. He was inducted into 4 Halls of Fame as a softball umpire; The National Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Hall of Fame – Oklahoma City, The Delaware Sports Hall of Fame – Wilmington, DE, Delaware Softball Hall of Fame and the Alabama Softball Hall of Fame. Tom officiated high school football for 34 years with the Northern Delaware Football Officials Association (NDFOA) – refereeing the State Championship game and three Blue-Gold All-Star games. Tom was appointed Delaware’s first State High School Football Rules Interpreter. Tom also officiated high school basketball for 18 years with IAABO.

Referee Magazine (a national magazine for Sports Officials) in 1996 recognized Tom as one of the top 20 officials in the country who influenced their sports over the past 20 years. In 2005 they recognized Tom as one of the top 25 “Great Officials” for his contribution to softball umpiring. In 2007, Tom was again recognized as one of the top 57 officials “Who Made Officiating.”

Tom, a member of St. Marks United Methodist Church in Stanton, DE, is preceded in death by his parents, George and Violet Mason and his sisters, Phyllis and Joan. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife, Doris M Mason; son, Thomas J. Mason, Jr. and wife, Diana of Bear, DE; son, Richard A Mason and wife, Patricia of Newark, DE; brothers, Ray and wife Shirley of Wilmington; Maurice J. and wife, Margaret of Wilmington; and James H. Mason of Wilmington; grandchildren, Lindsay, Sean, Mathew and Adam Mason; many nieces and nephews and sister-in-law, Isabel Bowen of New Port Richie, FL.

The family would like to thank the Millcroft Senior Living Healthcare Staff for the kind and loving care they provided for Tom in his final days and the staff of Christiana Care Hospital, Floor 6A, Elder Care Unit.
Throughout its history, the Amateur Softball Association has had people who’ve made a difference. Tom Mason Sr. was one of those persons who made a difference, a big difference indeed. Mason passed away Monday, Dec. 15. He was 83-years-old.

Mason officiated basketball and football, but he made a major impact on softball through his association with the Amateur Softball Association and left behind a legacy of outstanding work.

In May 1967, then ASA UIC George Dickstein announced the newly created national deputy umpire-in-chief position, naming four men to the position. One of them was Mason. Four years later, Dickstein visited Mason at the Men's Major Industrial Slow Pitch Championship in York, Pa.

Dickstein was not known as someone who would fraternize with his subordinates, but Dickstein asked Mason to go to a midnight breakfast after the last game and met Tom at the ball park Sunday morning. Dickstein said he wasn’t feeling good and told Mason he decided to go home a day early. The next time Mason saw Dickstein was at his funeral a few days later.

Dickstein passed away Sept. 5 at age 63.

With the passing of Dickstein, the 1972 annual meeting in Hawaii would address replacing Dickstein, who had served the ASA as UIC and rules interpreter for the Joint Rules Committee on Softball. The Northwest Region nominated Mason for the position with 12 people on the ballot to replace Dickstein. After three ballots, the final ballot was between Mason and Bernie Iassogna, assistant rules interpreter for the International Joint Rules Committee on Softball. Because of the two positions Dickstein held Mason was named national UIC and Iassogna rules interpreter. In 1973, Mason replaced Iassogna as rules interpreter but kept Bernie on his staff of national deputies with Frank Susor, Ron Derr and Paul Brown.

Mason and Dickstein were as different as night and day. Dickstein loved to be in charge and the umpires who worked for him knew that from the outset. Some would say Dickstein could be overbearing and had an ego, but his accomplishments are not to be diminished considering the umpire program had its growing pains in those early years. Dickstein was inducted into the ASA Hall of Fame in 1976. He was named UIC in 1949 and international rules interpreter in 1955.

Mason was down-to-earth, easy to talk to and an accomplished clinician who traveled the world giving clinics and helping develop the ASA umpiring brand. And he did this while still working a full-time job at DuPont. Mason served as the ASA UIC and rules interpreter for nine years before the ASA decided to make the UIC position a full-time position at the ASA National Office in Oklahoma City. The late Merle O. Butler was named to succeed Mason.

Mason helped develop the ASA umpiring brand during his nine years and he became the face of the ASA umpiring program. He conducted 280 clinics in 35 states and supervised clinics in seven foreign countries. Years later his work was recognized nationally by REFEREE magazine, the only national magazine for sports officials. In 1996 REFEREE named Tom as one of the top 20 officials in the country who influenced their sport over the past 20 years. In 2005 they recognized Tom as one of the top 25 “Great Officials” for his contribution to softball umpiring. In 2007, Tom was again honored as one of the top 57 officials “Who Made Officiating.”

Mason was a man of class and integrity and certainly made a difference to the ASA umpiring program. He was one of a kind and will be dearly missed by many, many people. Certainly by his beloved family, but by the many umpires he influenced and helped during his outstanding career.
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Chuck Jungblom, a 27-year umpire who has worked nine ASA National tournaments over three phases, received the Spokane Softball Umpires Association’s top honor, the Campbell-Stewart Award, at its 2014 season-ending banquet.

Jungblom has been to ASA Nationals in slowpitch (five), fastpitch (two) and modified pitch (two) and more than an armload of Metro and Regional tournaments in slowpitch and modified. The award, inaugurated in 1975 and honoring two former Spokane ASA umpires-in-chief, the late F. Bruce Campbell and Chuck Stewart, recognizes an umpire for longevity, dedication, excellence and service to softball umpiring in Spokane.

Jake Perry, historically one of SSUA’s busiest umpires who overcame the effects of a stroke last winter to return to the field, received the Presidential Pride award from outgoing president Dallas Williams.

Other awards went to Dennis Keys (adult) and Bryan Raschka (youth), umpires of the year; Tammy Doffek (adult) and Jasmine Devereaux (youth), most improved; and Kenny Williams (adult) and Daryl Williams (youth), rookies of the year.

Special awards were presented to Ken VanSickle, athletic director at University High School and coordinator of softball for the Greater Spokane League, who was given the Home Run Award that recognizes a non-member for contributions to SSUA, and Del and Donna Sundberg, who founded the 4th of July Shootout girls fastpitch tournament that celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2014. SSUA umpires have run the Shootout since 1996.
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