Central Cal ASA/USA raises $16,500 for Breast Cancer Awareness

Central Cal ASA/USA recently held a luncheon donating over $16,500 to local organizations supporting breast cancer awareness. Central Cal ASA/USA has raised over $70,000 through hosting their annual Breast Cancer Awareness Tournament every October. Turn to page 18 to learn more about the tournament and the donation luncheon.

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ABOVE: 14U Rage shows off their pink uniforms while sitting on the pink ribbon at last October’s Breast Cancer Awareness Tournament.
Spring has arrived, bringing with it thousands of softball games throughout our country every day. This is the time of the year when the most softball is played, at all levels. Let’s double our effort in order for our teams and leagues to have everything they need to have another fun and successful season, in preparation for our summer season of Championship Play, at the local, national and international levels. This is the best time for our Commissioners and Umpires-In-Chiefs to offer our fantastic services to our teams and leagues, such as training in the different aspects of our game. Let them know that specialized training for players, coaches and umpires is always available and can be scheduled any time during the year. Show them the many great reasons it is beneficial to play ASA/USA Softball.

This summer will not only bring many local and National Championship Play to our associations, it also brings many prodigious opportunities to put the talents of our great athletes on display worldwide, ahead of a very important IOC vote that could very possibly take us to the 2020 Olympic Program. World Cup of Softball X, a WBSC-Softball Division (SD) sanctioned event, featuring both our Women’s National Team (WNT) and Junior Women’s National Team (JWNT), will again be hosted by Southern California ASA/USA at Bill Barber Park in Irvine, Calif. This event will be held from June 29 – July 5. Also during July, our Men’s National Team (MNT) will participate in the WBSC-SD World Championship, followed by participation by both the MNT and the WNT in the 2015 Pan American Games. These events will be played in Toronto. In August, our JWNT will compete in the WBSC-SD World Championship, which will be hosted by ASA/USA Softball at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City. Our Men’s Slow Pitch National Team (MSPNT) will again participate in the annual Border Battle Series. Additionally, these teams will be making tour stops at cities near you, so please visit our website at www.asausasoftball.com for a complete schedule of our national teams.

On April 18 – 19, 2015, our Board of Directors will conduct its annual Spring Board Meeting. Although governance of our organization interests very few of us, action taken by our Board of Directors is very important to all of us. I ask each of you to attend Board Meetings whenever possible, but more importantly I ask and strongly encourage you read the minutes of the meetings when published. If you should have questions regarding information contained in the minutes, please contact one of your Territory Vice Presidents for an explanation. Recently the National Office staff had been asked frequently regarding actions taken by the Board with respect to two specific associations, Buffalo and Spokane. The Board, under its authority contained in Article 102 of the ASA Procedural Manual, reallocated the territory of those two associations to other associations as permitted and required by Article 106 of the ASA Procedural Manual. As part of its duties, the Board continually tends to all matters concerning the direction of our organization, constantly reviewing and taking action whenever necessary and appropriate with respect to redistricting issues.

This past Tuesday, as I drove from Oklahoma City to Dallas, where I boarded a plane for home after meetings at the National Office, I saw softball field after softball field being used for games or practice. There were several beautiful softball facilities along the I-35 and each time I passed one I wondered if ASA/USA Softball was involved there. I certainly hope so, but if not, people are losing a wonderful opportunity to play ASA/USA Softball. Our trend of depleting registrations continues, albeit at a little slower pace, so let’s work a bit harder to retain what we have, get back some of what we’ve lost and recruit new leagues/teams to play our sport with the number one softball organization in the world, the National Governing Body of Softball, ASA/USA Softball. Have a great month of April!
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Check out this awesome ASA/USA Softball Lamp made by Oregon UIC Don Alexander for the Prospect Lady Cougar softball team fundraiser. ASA certainly lights up the room!

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

The forth WBSC/ISSA World Tournament of Champions (WTOC) was held recently on fields throughout the Tampa Bay Region. The ASA/USA sanctioned senior tournament had 90 senior teams from North and South America and was played on 22 softball fields at five complexes. The event is organized and managed by ASA/USA National Council Members, RB Thomas Jr. and Greg Thomas. The Gold Medals were awarded to the champions in 19 divisions of play ranging from ages 50 to 80 and up. The fifth WBSC/ISSA WTOC will return to the Tampa Bay area on January 29-30, 2016.

Submitted by RB Thomas Jr.
ASA/USA Softball Around the Country

The top softball teams in the world will once again return to Bill Barber Park in Irvine, Calif. for the World Cup of Softball X. Hosted by Southern California ASA/USA Softball, the World Cup, a World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) sanctioned event, will be played June 29-July 5.

Fans attending the World Cup of Softball X have several options for tickets. Super Fan tickets will be available by emailing WorldCupXIrvine@aol.com with your inquiries or by clicking here.

The Super Fan ticket ($250) includes premium, stadium seating for all seven days of the World Cup with Super Fans receiving a USA Softball “Fan Pack”, which includes a VIP parking pass, a World Cup X t-shirt, program, souvenir ticket, and more! The ticket also includes a private meet and greet with the 2015 USA Softball Women’s National Teams during the World Cup.

Daily individual seats are available in two ways. Individual stadium seating is now on sale now for $20-$25. This reserves your seat for the day. General admission daily tickets are also available for $10-$15. Note all general admission tickets are bleacher seating.

The World Cup schedule as well as the dates and times for Super Fan events, including the meet and greet, are not yet finalized. For updates, including the game schedule, check ASAUSASoftball.com. Fans can also visit www.socalasa.org for more information or email WorldCupXIrvine@aol.com with any questions.

Minnesota ASA/USA has expanded into a new office. Under the current leadership, registration has grown each of the four years. The new office space will have two stories, with the conference room on the first floor. There is also a warehouse space on the main floor for apparel, items, and other softball tournament operations materials. Please feel free to stop by when you are in the neighborhood.

Submitted by Tom Bye, Minnesota ASA/USA JO Commissioner
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THREE EASY WAYS TO INSURE SOFTBALL:

1. Contact your ASA Commissioner. Visit www.ASASoftball.com for contact info

2. Contact RPS Bollinger Sports—ASA Department, Ph: 800-446-5311 • ASA@RPSins.com


In January visit us at www.RPSBollinger.com
Hello and welcome to the March 2015 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of ASA/USA Softball!

This month kicked off the 2015 schedule of events to be hosted at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex. Construction is ongoing, new faces are abound throughout the complex with part time staff, and softball is finally beginning. Snow and ice have disappeared as sunshine and spring temperatures have arrived in Oklahoma City.

For me personally, it’s exciting to begin my first season at ASA/USA Softball, as it also reminds me of my high school days. Senior year of high school, I worked as a part time staff member announcing games and keeping score in the 2009 calendar year. I remember feeling a similar buzz back then as I would come out to the Complex after the school day ended. As it is still true today, I always loved just taking and getting to know softball fans. That summer was my first taste of softball and how great of a sport it is.

The weather has been poor since I began work at ASA/USA Softball in January, so I hadn’t been able to walk around the fields. I’d been around the OGE Energy Field at the 2014 NCAA Women’s College World Series as an intern for the Oklahoma City All Sports Association, but this month marks the first time I had walked around fields 2, 3, and 4 since I was a high school kid. As I ventured around the complex, it made me think of so many good memories. I remember bragged at school that ASA/USA Softball loved my deep voice for announcing! I definitely feel a sense of pride in working out here and always have. It’s thrilling for me personally to start up and be a part of making the many summer events surrounding ASA/USA Softball successful.

As an employee at the National Office for ASA/USA Softball, it is my pleasure to help the local associations in any way I can. Please remember that I would love to hear feedback from you. Whether you have a comment about The Inside Pitch or anything else regarding ASA/USA Softball, I am open to talking to you.

Hope you enjoy the newsletter & the start to the 2015 season!

PICTURED LEFT: Nick Dorety showing off his lack of banjo skills. PICTURED LEFT: Nick Dorety during his intern days with OKC All Sports with fellow employees last summer at the 2014 NCAA Women’s College World Series.
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Construction Update
This spring, construction has continued at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex and OGE Energy Field in Oklahoma City, Okla. Concrete has just been laid for the tunnels underneath the stadium leading to the dugouts, the new hospitality building is nearing completion, and the new concession stands will be ready for fans in May. This is part two of the second phase, with construction scheduled to continue in 2017. Last year, new dugouts and turf were added to OGE Energy Field.

ASA/USA Softball joins Adventure Road
ASA/USA Softball is now an official Adventure Road Partner. This means that the ASA Hall of Fame Complex & National Softball Hall of Fame is a part of the ‘best of the best’ destinations you can find between the OKC and Texas border. These 130 miles of Oklahoma highway are built for explorers and travelers, individuals and families, whether looking for amazing day trips or spectacular week-long getaways. Visitors to Oklahoma can map out their plan to get as much out of Adventure Road as possible. Adventure Road is owned by the Chickasaw Nation. For more information visit www.adventureroad.com.

Softball 360
ASA/USA Softball will be featured on Softball 360, a syndicated 30-minute feature television show that focuses on all aspects of the game. Produced by Long Haul Productions, the show enters its 11th season and will reach out to over 97.4 million households through a series of 25 networks. The show will feature several ASA/USA Softball sanctioned events, including everything from Adult to Junior Olympic tournaments in both fast pitch and slow pitch.

Below is a list of events that Softball 360 will be covering, with additional events and Bombers tour dates coming soon.
May 28-31: NCAA Women’s College World Series - OKC
June 14-16: USA Women’s & Junior Women’s Tour Stops – Houston, TX
June 26-28: McQuades Charity Softball Tournament – Bismarck, ND
June 30-July 3: World Cup of Softball X – Irvine, CA
August 6-8: ASA/USA Boys Slow Pitch National Championship - Kendallville, IN
August 13-15: WBSC Jr Women’s World Championships – Oklahoma City
August 18-20: Men’s USA Slow Pitch National Teams – Midland, Michigan
October 1-2: ASA/USA Men’s SUPER National Championship – Oklahoma City

Come visit the National Office & Hall of Fame
The University of Tennessee-Martin Softball recently stopped by the ASA Hall of Fame Complex. Encourage teams in your local association or from your favorite college to stop into Oklahoma City to visit the ASA Hall of Fame Complex & National Softball Hall of Fame. Admission is the best price, free!
Rick Hansen has been appointed as Commissioner for the Washington ASA/USA Softball Softball Association. Hansen will assume his responsibilities immediately following the retirement of former commissioner Carol English-Hawley who served for eight years.

“I am extremely excited and honored to be selected as the next Commissioner for Washington State ASA/USA Softball,” Hansen said. “I accepted the position because I believe I can make a difference. My many years as the State and Regional JO (Junior Olympic) Commissioner have developed my skills to work with the Associations in the Region and Territory. Playing adult softball and working at the grass roots level in a local district has given me the experience and working relationships to take over as the Commissioner. I look forward to continuing to work with the WA State ASA Board of Directors.”

Hansen has shown his commitment to the game of softball in the Great Northwest throughout the years in a capacity of roles. Hansen’s love for the sport began as a player in 1978 in co-ed leagues through the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department. In 1989, Hansen began his career in softball administration, serving as the Vancouver Girl Softball Association League Director. From 1996 to 2000, Hansen moved into the position of President and Deputy Junior Olympic (JO) of the Vancouver Girl Softball Association. Hansen then served as District Six ASA/USA Softball JO Commissioner for three years before becoming the Washington State JO Commissioner, where he served for the last 12 years.

Hansen attended Portland State University and Central Washington University during his undergraduate years, before completing his masters at Lewis & Clark University. Hansen taught middle school in a variety of roles over the last 43 years, including classroom teacher, advisory coordinator to the Battle Ground School District, and Vice Principal.

For more information on the Washington ASA/USA Softball, please visit washingtonstateasa.com. Hansen can be reached at rhansen2@ix.netcom.com.

Alisa Durocher has been appointed as Commissioner for the New Hampshire ASA/USA Softball. Durocher will assume her responsibilities immediately following the passing of former New Hampshire ASA/USA Softball Commissioner Bob Hopley.

“It is with extreme pleasure and honor, that I have been appointed as Commissioner Bob Hopley’s successor,” said Durocher. “New Hampshire ASA/USA Softball will operate at a high standard of excellence, with continued concentration on teamwork, fair play, promotion and education all for a common good. Along with Commissioner Hopley’s mentoring, our dedicated staff, New Hampshire will restructure and reach new milestones. I am optimistic the changes everyone will experience will positively generate a stronger sense of camaraderie among umpires, teams, coaches, players, parents and our fans. Our New Hampshire ASA/USA Softball staff’s energy will be inspiring, our dedication comforting and our knowledge reassuring. New Hampshire’s 2015 season will be dedicated to our past Commissioner Bob Hopley and State UIC Glenn Colburn. Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your State Commissioner.”

Durocher has shown her dedication to athletics in a variety of positions. She started coaching youth soccer and softball in 2001. In 2005, Durocher led the Greater Keene Women’s Softball Association Fast Pitch division as president, web manager and coach. Durocher has also helped out with field prep, score keeping, running the concession stands and maintenance manager for various tournaments over the years. She has attended and been a part of multiple ASA National meetings, regional meetings, territory meetings and New Hampshire Board Council meetings. Since 2007, she has served as New Hampshire’s ASA Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioner, learning from former commissioner Hopley.

For more information on the New Hampshire ASA/USA Softball, please visit New Hampshire ASA/USA Softball’s website. Durocher can be reached at nhasarep@aol.com.
Softball crossword puzzle
Test your knowledge on softball terminology

Across
1. A statistic credited to a pitcher when he/she completes a game and allows the opposing team no one reaching first base
2. The area in foul territory adjacent to the outfield where pitchers wait and warm-up during the game, except the pitcher currently being used in the game

Down
1. A hit that allows a batter to reach first base safely
2. A home run with a baserunner on each base, scoring four runs
3. A pitch thrown with a rotation that makes the ball curve
4. The summary of a game which lists the line-up for each team, including substitutions, such offensive statistics as at-bats, runs, hits, and runs batted in
5. The semi-enclosed area beside the playing field where players sit when they are not actively involved in the game

ANSWERS ON THE BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER OF PAGE 30
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.
Diane Carden (Newark, Del.) and Aaron Burns (Chandler, Ariz.) have been selected to the umpiring staff for the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Carden, an umpire with Delaware ASA/USA, has been selected to the staff for the Women’s Pan American Games July 19-26 while Burns, an umpire with Arizona ASA/USA, will umpire at the Men’s Pan American Games July 12-18.

“Congratulations to the two umpires selected,” said ASA/USA Softball Director of Umpires Kevin Ryan. “It is a credit to the ASA/USA Softball Umpire program and all the Umpire-in-Chief’s across the nation that we have caliber umpires like Diane and Aaron selected to represent our country at the Pan American Games. They have worked incredibly hard to get to this place in their career and I’m sure they will represent ASA/USA Softball well.”

An ASA/USA umpire since 1978, Carden has a long resume as an umpire at both the international and national level. In total, Carden has umpired at 10 ASA/USA National Championships, including three ASA/USA 18U GOLD Nationals and a Women’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship. Carden was also a part of the umpiring staff at the World Cup of Softball VII in Oklahoma City. A member of the National Indicator Fraternity since 2000, Carden also earned her Elite Umpire honors in 2004 and is a member of the ASA/USA Umpire Medals Program at the Gold Level. She was also inducted into the Delaware ASA/USA Hall of Fame.

“Wow, what an incredible opportunity,” said Carden. “This is a dream come true! It is a tremendous honor to be selected to represent ASA/USA Softball in such a prestigious event. I am excited about going, meeting and working with umpires who will become a part of my umpire family. I am indeed proud and grateful for this opportunity.”

An umpire since the age of 12, Burns also has an extensive history as an ASA/USA umpire. In all, Burns has worked at eight ASA/USA National Championships, including two Men’s Major Fast Pitch Nationals and two ASA/USA 18U GOLD National Championships. A member of the National Indicator Fraternity since 2002, Burns has also been an Elite Umpire since 2011 and is a member of the ASA/USA Umpire Medals Program at the Gold Level.

“I am still in a state of disbelief that I have been given this amazing opportunity,” said Burns. “It’s an honor that others see my abilities and are confident in my abilities to represent myself, the Arizona ASA/USA, ASA/USA Softball and my country. I am looking forward to visiting Toronto and seeing a part of the country that I have never been to.”

The rosters for both the USA Softball Men’s and Women’s National Teams were announced in January following their respective selection camps. You can find a complete roster for both the Men’s and Women’s National Teams at ASAUSASoftball.com.
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Bob Hopley passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2015 after a lengthy battle with kidney cancer. Hopley was 72.

Hopley devoted his life to Portsmouth, New Hampshire amateur athletics. Each winter, Hopley volunteered to work the scorebook for the Portsmouth varsity boys basketball team, his alma mater. He was one of the best men’s softball players in New England. He also was appointed NHASA player representative in the mid-1980s. Hopley played slow-pitch softball for 40 years before retiring in 2000. He retired from working as an engineering technician for the US Government at the Porstmouth Naval Shipyard in 2003 after working there for over 42 years. For the last eight years, Hopley served as commissioner for New Hampshire ASA/USA Softball. He was also a registered ASA/USA umpire. There are currently plans for Hopley to be inducted into the New Hampshire ASA Softball Hall of Fame.

Hopley’s chair was left vacant with a referee shirt and a scorebook with two sharpened pencils in his place at the first Portsmouth high school basketball game since his passing.

Hopley is survived by his wife (Allison), son (Michael), daughter (Kristin), step-daughter (Kristen) and his grandchildren.

Craig Elliott passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2015 after a lengthy battle with cancer. The Wadley, Ala. native was 62.

For years, Craig Elliott was considered as the top slow pitch player by a lot of people, a title which he earned by dominating men’s slow pitch softball at the highest level. A menace at the plate, Elliott became one of the most feared hitters in the men’s slow pitch world and could change the game with one swing of the bat.

Beginning in 1977, Elliott collected 11-consecutive ASA All-American titles and earned tournament MVP accolades three times. He also earned the home run leader title in 1983, ’85 and ‘86. His best performance, however, came during the 1983 season when he hit 390 home runs for a HR-to-at bat ratio of 1.93. With the legendary Steele’s team, Elliott collected three ASA Men’s Super Slow Pitch National Championship titles and finished runner-up once. Elliott was also one of very few players to be selected MVP of the ASA Smoky Mountain Classic. His close friend a teammate once claimed: “You could put a quarter in him, and he would hit home runs all day long.”

Elliott is survived by his brother wife (Vaughn), daughter (Jeni), two stepsons (Michael and Randy), and four grandchildren.

Donald C. Schmook passed away in March at the age of 81.

Schmook devoted his life to improving softball. He was the current President and Assignor of the Greater Cleveland Umpires Association. He was a longtime ASA Umpire and served as the Cleveland UIC.

Schmook is survived by his wife (Lucy) of 54 years, sons (Phil and Jospeh), and daughters (Lisa and Gina).
Fans across the United States will get a chance to see Team USA this summer as both the 2015 USA Softball Junior Women's National Team (JWNT) and Women's National Team (WNT) will play in exhibition games in several cities in preparation for their respective international seasons. The JWNT’s schedule features three tour stops, including a joint tour stop in Houston, Texas with the WNT who will make five tour stops throughout the summer.

As they prepare for the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Softball Junior Women’s World Championship (JWWC), slated for August 9-15 at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City, the 2015 USA Softball JWNT will start their summer right where they’ll finish it: in Oklahoma City. Along with the WNT, the JWNT will train at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex from June 7-13 before heading to Houston, Texas to compete in a series of exhibition games against each other. From there, the JWNT will head to Ashland, Ohio before heading west to compete in the World Cup of Softball X in Irvine, Calif.

After competing in their first international competition of the season, the JWNT will head north to Hillsboro, Ore. as their final tour stop before returning to Oklahoma City for the WBSC JWWC.

Click here to see the complete schedule for the 2015 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team

Also hitting the road this summer is the 2015 USA Softball WNT, who will also make a series of tour stops in preparation for the World Cup of Softball X and the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. In addition to the training camp and tour stops with the JWNT, the WNT will also head to the east coast to Waldorf, Md. and stop in Kansas City, Mo. before the World Cup of Softball X. After a few days off, the team will regroup in Ewing, N.J. and Findlay, Ohio before heading north to Toronto for the 2015 Pan American Games.

The 2015 WNT will also head to Japan August 2-10 for the resurgence of the Japan Cup, the first time the event has been held since 2010.

Click here to see the complete schedule for the 2015 USA Softball Women’s National Team
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Submitted by Sandra Reed, Central California

The Central Cal ASA (CCASA) fourth Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Tournament (BCAT) was held on October 11th – 12th 2014, at the Buchanan Softball Complex in Clovis, Calif. Through the hard work and dedication of the BCAT Executive Committee headed by CCASA Commissioner Tom Dowd and Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioner Sandra Reed, $16,500 was recently awarded to a number of local organizations in support of Breast Cancer Awareness throughout the area. The donations were given out on February 21.

Over the last four years, CCASA has raised nearly $70,000 to support a cause that studies show will impact 1-in-8 women in the United States. Tournament Host and CCASA Area 1 and 2 Adult Commissioner Dennis Chaltraw, said that the best part of the tournament was having a “captive audience to deliver the message that awareness and screening mammograms save lives.” Attendance in this year’s tournament included 65 teams (700 players) and 3,000 spectators.

The key-note speaker during this year’s tournament was the highly respected Sheriff of Fresno County, Sheriff Margaret Mims, a breast cancer survivor. Her message of the difficulties of her disease was countered by the incredible support she found in a number of local organizations, some of whom have been benefactors of the BCAT over the last few years. She shared several stories about how she felt despair, courage, belief and most importantly, victory, during her battle with breast cancer while performing her duties as Fresno County Sheriff.

During Sheriff Mims 15 minute presentation between games, players participated in the BCAT by wearing pink uniforms.

Sheriff Mims, a former softball player, was a bit overwhelmed at the conclusion of the presentation when all of the on-field players lined up to give her a ‘high-five’ as she walked off the field. Other breast cancer survivors were on the field as well and shared in the deserved ‘high-fives’ and appreciative hugs.

All of the teams who attended the tournament put together “pink” gift baskets for the BCAT raffle, which was held over the two day tournament. The response was both impressive and overwhelming! Special thank you to CCASA UIC and BCAT Tournament Director, Craig Helibut, who led the two day raffle and silent auction by taking full advantage of having sound system privileges, encouraging attendees to participate in all BCAT events!

BCAT Awards were issued at a luncheon on February 21 and included the American Cancer Society, California Oncology Angel Fund, The Power of Pink, Guardians of the Ribbon, Cleaning for a Reason, Sisterhood of Survivors, Sheriff’s Foundation for Public Safety, Samantha Carroll, Valley Children’s Oncology Wig Fund and Mighty Moms.

Donna Dye from The Power of Pink was presented with the CCASA’s Grass Roots Champion Award for 2014. Her tireless support of cancer patients with special needs was recognized by the BCAT Executive Committee and CCASA. Dye was presented with a plaque recognizing her contributions throughout the community.

During the Annual Meeting, many members of the CCASA family, including Fresno County JO Commissioner, Vince Frascona, Pat Rose, Kelley Chaltraw, Bev McCann, Doy Coonce and Nicole Reed were recognized for their dedication and hard work on making the BCAT successful.

CCASA Umpires also contributed significantly to the fundraising success by donating many of their game fees to the BCAT cause.

A short video with the local television report and photos can be seen here.
The 39th Annual Indiana ASA/Wayne L. Myers Hall of Fame ceremony was held in Bloomington, Ind. on Saturday, March 14. This event concluded a weekend of meetings and training seminars that were part of Indiana ASA Spring Meeting activities. Commissioner Mick Renneisen served as the host of the ceremony, which featured 11 new inductees of 10 individuals and one team.

Along with the Hall of Fame, there was one induction into Indiana ASA's Hall of Service, which was created in 2012 to recognize the accomplishments of individuals who have contributed greatly to the softball community, but may not meet all the requirements for the Hall of Fame. This year’s lone inductee is Janice Coulter, who has dedicated over 37 years to developing and maintaining softball leagues in her community.

The following individuals were honored and inducted into the Indiana ASA/Wayne L. Myers Hall of Fame:

**Tom Ancele, Player** – Tom played for 17 years and won 15 Gold Glove awards. He was part of teams that won an Olympic Festival Gold Medal in 1989 and also won a Men's Major National Slow Pitch Championship in 1990.

**Jim Byers, Player** – Jim played for 28 years, and played in three separate National Tournaments. He is also responsible for the operation of the Belleville Softball Complex in South Bend that hosts many ASA events in Indiana as well as serving as the ASA Men's Major Fast Pitch Nationals for many years.

**Donna Dandino, Player** – Donna played for 29 years and was part of teams that won 16 City Championships in 20 years. She was a great leadoff hitter and short stop in her playing days, and later went on to coach High School girls’ softball.

**Crystal Dombkowski, Junior Olympic Player** – Crystal is the first Junior Olympic player to be inducted into the Indiana ASA Hall of Fame. She played in Nationals every year of her JO career, was named Indiana’s Miss Softball in 1996 and earned a scholarship to Purdue University as a pitcher.

**Vern Hensley, Player** – Vern is known for his immense power at the plate. He was part of teams that won two Men's Major Slow Pitch National Championships and is considered one of the top power hitters of all time in the state of Indiana.

**David “Rudy” Randolph, Player** – Dave was considered one of the state's top power hitters during his playing career. He was a great hitter overall, and was part of teams that won two ASA Major National Slow Pitch National Championships.

**Traci Stoelting, Umpire** – Traci began her umpiring career in 1983 and has represented Indiana ASA at the highest levels. She became WBSC certified in 2001 and umpired in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and the 2009 NCAA Women’s College World Series.

**John Underwood, Player** – John played ASA Fast Pitch from 1955 to 1983, and was a dominant pitcher of his time. He averaged nearly 12 strikeouts per game and won 199 games over his playing career.

**Robert Waters, Meritorious Service** – Bob has served ASA in many roles since 1974, including umpiring for 25 years. He was an active member of the Indiana ASA Executive Board and has represented Indiana at numerous tournaments and National Conventions.

**Dick Zurbriggen, Meritorious Service** – Dick has contributed to ASA in multiple facets since the 1970s, including as an umpire and commissioner. He continues to be an ambassador of the game, recruiting umpires and hosting tournaments in Crown Point, Ind.

**Punchy’s Radiators, Men's Fast Pitch Team** – Punchy’s was the lone team inducted into the Indiana ASA Hall of Fame this year. A fast pitch team, they completed 10 undefeated seasons in a span of 21 years behind excellent pitching. The team features nine Indiana Hall of Famers, and Harold ‘Punchy’ Cone was the dedicated sponsor of Punchy's Radiators for 34 years.

PICTURED BELOW LEFT: 2015 Indiana ASA/Wayne L. Myers Hall of Fame individual inductees.
PICTURED BELOW RIGHT: Members of the ‘Punchy’s Radiators,’ the only team inducted into the Indiana Hall of Fame this year.
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For The Environment
Submitted by Ron Boley, Portland ASA/USA Commissioner

On March 16, Portland Metro Softball Association hosted a hitting and pitching clinic, featuring USA Softball’s Chris Larsen, Dale Brungardt, Jeff Flood & Jeremy Guillory.

Fifty-three players, young and old, came out to participate and learn from the best. Larsen, Brungardt, Flood and Guillory not only put on the hitting & pitching display, they gave each participant individual instructions and signed some autographs. Their willingness to stay late showed great dedication to helping everyone of all skill levels with their game.

This clinic was also a fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior Project in conjunction with our “City of Roses Invite” benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project being held July 11-12. Board Members of the Association volunteered their time to help with the set-up, check in players that had pre-registered and those that were walk-ins. Drawing tickets were sold for items that were donated by All American Athletics, DeMarini Sports & Bashor’s Team Athletics. By the end of the evening a little over $1000 had been raised that will go to the WWP along with the amount from the July Invitational.

If you would like more information on the Tournament or would like to donate you may go to our website or call 503-823-3112.

PICTURED ABOVE: USA Softball players and clinic instructors, from left to right: Dale Brungardt, Jeff Flood, Jeremy Guillory, and Chris Larsen

PICTURED ABOVE: Participating clinic members receive instruction from USA Softball Players
Thirty-one athletes will suit up for the Red, White and Blue this summer for the USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team and USA Softball Slow Pitch Future’s National Team. Fourteen National Team veterans and two rookies will wear the Red, White and Blue this summer as member of the 2015 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team roster while eight Future’s Team veterans and seven rookies comprise the 2015 USA Softball Slow Pitch Future’s National Team. Both teams will take part in a series of exhibition games in Midland, Mich. against two Canadian squads this summer while the Slow Pitch National Team will face off against Canada in Border Battle VII.

Click here to see the 2015 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch National Team Roster.

Highlighting this year’s roster are seven-time Men’s Slow Pitch National Team members Brett Helmer (Cicero, N.Y.) and Brian Wegman (Hamilton, Ohio), who were both on the inaugural squad in 2009 and have continued to represent the United States each year since. Also highlighting the roster is Dale Brungardt (Vancouver, Wash.) and Chris Greinert (Abell, Md.) who were both members from last year’s Future’s National Team.

Representing the U.S. this summer for the first time are Kevin Kennington (Lake City, Fla.) and Lee Payne (Alpharetta, Ga.).

The team will be coached by Steve Shortland (Converse, Texas) and Randy Raper (Hackleburg, Ala.) who are both making their seventh-consecutive appearance as the coaching staff of Team USA.

Created in conjunction with the inaugural Border Battle slow pitch competition against Canada in 2009, the Men’s Slow Pitch National Team program is now in its seventh run. In an 18-9 win over Canada last year in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, Team USA captured their fifth Border Battle title. The Americans won the inaugural Border Battle 30-23 but Canada evened the series in 2010 with a 30-29 win. The USA men rebounded in 2011 with a dominating 25-3 performance, a 32-21 victory in 2012 and a 25-10 win in 2013.

Click here to see the 2015 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch Future’s National Team Roster.

Eight veterans and seven rookies make up the roster for the 2015 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch Future’s National Team. Highlighting the roster is Brian Zirkle (Bourbonnais, Ill.), who has been a member of each Future’s National Team roster since its inception in 2012.

Seven rookies will also take the field for the first time in their career this summer in the Red, White and Blue, including infielder Kyle Pearson (Stonewall, La.).

In addition to participating in Border Battle VII, the 2015 Slow Pitch National Team will take on the 2015 USA Softball Men’s Slow Pitch Future’s Team as well as a second Canadian team in a series of exhibition games in August in Midland, Mich.
The World Cup of Softball is back in Irvine, CA!

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The ASA Stadium Power Tour is set and ready to roll for the 2015 season as members of the ASA Long Haul Bombers gear up to showcase their titles of the best home run hitters in the world. The ASA Long Haul Bombers will stage one-of-a-kind home run derbies at eight Major League Baseball (MLB) ballparks before battling it out for the Manufacturers Cup and individual title in the finals.

The ASA Long Haul Bombers Stadium Power Tour highlights a collection of the world’s greatest softball home run hitters. Four teams, representing Combat, DeMarini, Easton, Miken, of softball superstars stage one-of-a-kind home run derbies at MLB Stadiums across North America. Each slugger gets 15 swings and a home run is worth one point, except the last pitch, known as the money ball, worth two points and can be the tie-breaker. Six of the eight participants will qualify for the finals of the Stadium Power Tour, scheduled to take place on September 12 at Marlins Park, home of the Miami Marlins, in Miami, Fla.

Last year, the ASA Stadium Power Tour concluded with Team DeMarini sweeping the honors as Chris Larsen was named the world’s greatest home run hitter for the second time in his career, crushing 12 out of the park. Team DeMarini also took home the coveted Manufacturers Cup, totaling 23 for the evening. You can find the final results from the 2014 Stadium Power Tour Finals at ASAUSASoftball.com.

2015 ASA Stadium Power Tour Schedule
Plan to visit the Long Haul Bombers this summer at your local MLB stadium

2015 ASA Long Haul Bombers Stadium Tour
(as of March 26, 2015)
May 1 - Arlington, Texas (Global Life Park)
May 29 - Houston, Texas (Minute Maid Park)
June 9 - Pittsburgh, Penn. (PNC Park)
July 20 - Cincinnati, Ohio (Great American Ballpark)
July 24 - San Diego, Calif. (Petco Park)
July 26 - Tampa, Fla. (Tropicana Field)
July 30 - Minneapolis, Minn. (Target Field)
August 12 - St. Louis, Mo. (Busch Stadium)
September 12 - Miami, Fla. (Marlins Park) - Bombers Tour Finals

Additional locations projected to be added are Detroit, Mich. (Comerica Park), Cleveland, Ohio (Progressive Field), Seattle, Wash. (Safeco Field) and New York, N.Y. (Citi Field).

Follow along all season long at www.softball360.com for point standings, features and stories during the Power Tour.
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This month, ASA/USA Softball kicked off the first couple of the 30 events for the 2015 season at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex.

The action kicked off March 6-8 with the ASA Preview, a 14U, 16U and 18U youth fast pitch tournament. Closing out the 2015 season in October is the ASA Slow Pitch Championship Series, which crowns the National Champions in the Men’s Class A, Class D and Women’s Open slow pitch division.

For the 25th year, the ASA Hall of Fame Complex will host the NCAA WCWS, May 28-June 3, which features the top eight teams in Division I softball playing for a National Championship. Tickets are now available online for the NCAA WCWS and can be purchased by visiting [NCAA.com/wcws](http://NCAA.com/wcws) or by calling 800-591-9198. Prior to the NCAA WCWS, the ASA Hall of Fame Complex will also host the NCAA DII National Championship, May 19-25, where the top eight teams in Division II will play for their respective National Championship.

The ASA Hall of Fame Complex will also continue its international softball resume as the hosts of the 2015 WBSC Junior Women’s World Championship, August 9-15. At the Championship, fans will get the opportunity to see the future stars of international softball at the 19-under event when Oklahoma City will welcome 16 countries to OGE Energy Field to compete for the Gold Medal.

Fans coming to the tournaments in April will see the ongoing construction at OGE Energy Field, as this phase of construction is schedule to be completed in May before the NCAA Division II Championship. ASA/USA Softball is excited to be able to share those new amenities with the teams and fans in the future. Concrete is currently being laid for the tunnels underneath the stadium leading to the dugouts, the new hospitality building is nearing completion, and new concession stands will be ready for fans in May.

2015 Hall of Fame Stadium Event Schedule:

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It was a day a half-century in the making when hundreds of girls and their parents celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Cordova Girls Fastpitch Softball in Rancho Cordova.

Founded the same year as Gatorade and Medicare, girls softball in Rancho Cordova has proved to be equally enduring. Each year, as many as 300 girls in Rancho Cordova pick up a bat and a glove and take the opportunity to grow into self-confident women by supporting each other on the fields of Cordova Girls Softball. Over a half century, that has added up to 10,000 families who have shared the same experience.

Longtime league president Rod Borba said the league is about girls sports -- and building a great hometown. “I am proud of our continued role in the community,” he said. “Our goal this year is to highlight our history, build to our future, and remind parents to savor these moments with their children.”

Honored a week earlier by the Cordova Community Council as the “Distinguished Community Service Organization,” the 50th anniversary was an opportunity to recognize amazing changes which have marked sports for girls over the past half-century.

Cordova Girls Fastpitch Softball was founded in 1965 as the first girls sport league in Rancho Cordova, taking hold years before the adoption of Title IX which made equal access to sports for girls the law of the land in 1972. Today, girls ages 4-18 head out to Mills Middle School fields for what has become an annual rite of spring.

Frank Puhr, the man who served as the league’s first president, was on hand to celebrate the organization he helped found a half-century ago. “I still think of each of these girls as one of my kids,” he said. “I loved every minute of it.” Puhr was all smiles when handed a neon yellow softball to toss the first pitch and accepted a proclamation from the City of Rancho Cordova presented by Council Member Linda Budge. Other ceremonial pitches came from Mayor Bob McGarvey, 10-year players Amber Chapman, Caitlyn Teau, Cassie Rucker and Myleeah Chapman and top candy-fundraising campaign seller, Kayla Sattelberg.

The passage of time was also marked by the introduction of a new Cordova Girls Softball icon, a modern-looking female athlete, designed by Rancho Cordova artist Rick Sloan. She replaces the out-dated symbol designed by Marty Garrity in 1970 which has served as the face of girls softball here for 45 years.

With 25 teams parading on a picture-perfect morning, the league used retro names from years past in recognition of the organization’s history. But, as is always the case on opening day, the tiniest players dressed up in ballet tutus and angel wings to reflect their team names and demonstrate their team spirit, as cameras clicked away at the spectacle.

The Cordova High School Drumline pounded out cadences to get the party started and a United States Marine Corps Color Guard from Maintenance Service Company CLB 23 Sacramento helped set the scene.

With the formalities concluded, it was all about girls and softball, with the crack of bats and giggles combining with the delicious aroma of Rod’s Famous Tri-Tip wafting from the snack bar. Borba, who has been president of the league for 18 years, predicted the snack bar would serve up its 10,000th tri-tip sandwich this year.

Girls frolicked from field to a giant slide, parents cheered, and an alumni game topped off a special day.

Funded completely by player fees, local businesses and the countless hours of volunteer labor by dedicated adults, Cordova Girls Softball has also given exemplary teams and players opportunities to travel and measure themselves against other teams from around the country, while representing their hometown of Rancho Cordova. The league is both a talent pipeline and training ground for Cordova High School athletics.

Before anyone could yell “play ball,” a photographer was hoisted far above the field for what amounts to a family portrait at age 50. They smiled, they waved, and then it was on to the game.

This year the league will codify its history in a full color yearbook. Families and former players are urged to send photos to the league, or share on the league’s Facebook page. For more information, visit www.cordovafastpitch.com.

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The induction banquet for the Maryland Slow Pitch Softball Hall of Fame was held on Saturday, March 14. The following individuals were honored and inducted:

**James Ronald “RC” Collins, SR Player** – Collins began playing for ‘Friedman Jewelers’ in 1976. From 1979 through 1999, he played for Montgomery County Police teams, winning four consecutive National Championships. His Senior Softball career began in 1999, when he began playing for ‘Fergies’ and has continued playing on the Major Plus level to this day. His teams have won numerous tournaments, including 53 National Championships and two US Olympic National Tournaments.

**Eugene M. “Geno” Dailey, Player** – Dailey began his softball career in 1969 with the ‘Dorsey Bombers’ in the Anne Arundel County League. He played with the ‘Bombers’ for 11 years before playing for ‘Mama Rosa’s’ and the ‘Auto Buyers’ for seven years. His teams were highly successful in the Class A level, perennially in the mix for state and regional Championships. Dailey managed a highly successful team for two years before he succumbed to his desire to play again. His teams have won State and National Championships, as well as the Senior Olympics and Senior World Championships.

**Raymond A. Fischer, Administrator** – Fischer began learning the administration part of softball in 1972 when he registered his sons to play little league. He was in charge of maintaining 10 fields, serving as league president for two years and chief umpire for six. Fischer also found time to play in a slow pitch league, becoming the volunteer administrator of the league. The amount of teams in the league and the actual fields in the complex continue to grow under Fischer. He became the president of Harford County Senior Softball League at its formation in 1998. He has dedicated more than 40 years as a volunteer to softball.

**James W. “Griff” Griffith, Manager** – Griffith began his softball career in 1968 as a player in the Anne Arundel County leagues. He fielded very competitive teams in the Class C, 35+, 45+ and 50+ divisions, winning 11 State Championships and two National Championships. His players have stated that he was very organized and detail oriented. They also joke that they never knew what uniform combination he was going to select.

**Diane Quade, Player** – Quade has been playing softball since 1970. She was a team captain for 25 years and a player-coach for over five years. She was named to the all-star team 16 consecutive years and all-county 10 times. She also served as a rules expert on several by-laws groups and was an umpire for over 20 years.

**John F. “Doc” Rodgers, Player** – In the 1970s and 80s, Rogers played for some of the most successful and competitive teams in the A league. His teams captured six State Championships and 29 World Championships. He was named Tournament MVP on three times.

**Robert P. “Bob” Savoie, Umpire** – Savoie has been umpiring since 1969. He umpired during his time in the US Air Force until retiring in 1974. In 1974, he moved to the DC area where he served as UIC for differing areas until 2006. He also served on a number of ASA National Committees. He has umpired over 6,000 games.

**Warwick C. Sherrard, Sponsor** – Sherrard participated as a player, manager, and sponsor ever since his high school days. His passion for softball was shown over his 34 years of sponsoring a team titled “AA&W Mobile Home Sales.” His team won more than 300 trophies in league and tournament play.

**Michael D. “Ratchet” Wingard, SR Player** – Wingard started his softball career in 2002, playing in both the Major and Major Plus divisions. His teams have won 30 National Championships. He has been named to 16 All-World/All-American teams, in addition to four National Tournament MVP awards.
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