A note from Amateur Softball Association President Andy Dooley

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for a very successful Annual Meeting in Shreveport, La. I am very proud of the work we all do to assist the ASA each and every year. I also want to thank our hosts in Shreveport for one of the best meetings as well as the National Office Staff for their continued diligence to running a smooth and successful meeting.

I would like to welcome our four new commissioners JoAnn McGuire (Oklahoma); Michael Rabin (Seattle-Tacoma); Rodney Cobb (Texas); and Steve Rollins (Utah) to the ASA Commissioner family. We are thrilled to have you on board and want to encourage you to reach to others as you transition. I would like to send sincere gratitude to former commissioners Virgil Ackerson (Oklahoma); Joe Wilson (Seattle-Tacoma); Glenn Morrison (Texas) and Star Orullian (Utah) for their time, service and dedication.

Please start gearing up for the 2011 season and make sure you are ready to go! Registrations, ACE, tournament planning and so forth; reach out to others or the National Office with your questions and let’s make 2011 another outstanding year for ASA Softball!

Have a blessed holiday season. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Jamie Blanchard

Happy holidays! And welcome to the December 2010 edition of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America.

As we look forward to the exciting opportunities that the New Year presents us, let’s not forget our incredible accomplishments in 2010, both on and off the field of play. From the charitable donations made by ASA associations, leagues and teams across the country to the seventh consecutive Gold Medal at the International Softball Federation (ISF) Women’s World Championship for the USA Softball Women’s National Team, we all had reason to celebrate over the past 12 months. Our athletes and leaders have won national awards. Our impact has been felt by national organizations like Special Olympics. As ASA members, we all have reason to celebrate.

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

Looking forward to a great 2011.

Changes to ASASoftball.com

Following the Council Meeting in Shreveport, La., two changes were made to ASASoftball.com, the official website of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America. On the homepage, a tournaments tab has been added next to the “News” and “ACE” tabs to help visitors locate tournaments easier. The tab compliments the tournaments section of the website.

The “Contact Us” page of the site was also enhanced to provide more detailed contact information for the 76 local associations.

Click here to visit ASASoftball.com.

Apply by Jan. 5 for WNT Coaching Pool

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America/USA Softball is now accepting applications from fast pitch coaches for the next two years (2011–2012) for the Women’s National Team program, which includes the Junior Women’s and Women’s National Teams. To be considered a candidate for the pool, a letter of application and resume must be submitted by Jan. 5. Please click here for more information.

The Inside Pitch

Official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association
2801 Northeast 50th Street • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
Phone (405) 424-5266 • Fax (405) 425-3855
Web site www.asasoftball.com

Editor Jamie Blanchard • E-mail jblanchard@softball.org
Assistant Editors Julie Bartel and Holly Krivokapich
For your official source for softball merchandise, visit:

softballoutlet.com

or call

800-654-8337
USA Softball Olympians walk the red carpet

Jorgenson struggles to adapt to a life without softball, the sport that has defined her. A small portion of a fictional game between the USA and Australia is also captured with Jorgenson looking on from the stands.

The ASA/USA Softball logos are seen throughout the film including in Jorgenson’s apartment and a fictional training facility. Authentic ASA/USA Softball apparel and memorabilia, including jerseys, posters and T-shirts that are available for sale through SoftballOutlet.com, were captured throughout “How Do You Know” and also used throughout Witherspoon's training for the movie's softball scenes.

Olympic Champions and Silver Medalists Crystl Bustos, Amanda Freed, Lovie Jung and 2008 Olympic Silver Medalist Andrea Duran, who attended the premiere, all made cameo appearances in the movie in addition to assisting with Witherspoon's four month crash course on softball. Also invited to the “How Do You Know” premiere for their role in Witherspoon's training were three-time Olympic Champion and Olympic Silver Medalist Laura Berg as well as Olympic Champions and Silver Medalists Jennie Finch, Taria Flowers, Jessica Mendoza and Natasha Watley.

UCLA Undergraduate Assistant Coach Anjelica Selden, who appeared in the film as a member of the National Team, and UCLA Assistant Coach Gina Vecchione, who helped former USA Softball and UCLA Softball Coach Sue Enquist train Witherspoon during her preparation for the role, also walked the red carpet. Enquist, who was first approached about the film in 2002, served as the softball technical advisor for the movie.

Jack Nicholson, a three-time Academy Award winner, Paul Rudd and Owen Wilson also star with Witherspoon in “How Do You Know”. Additional information on the film is available at www.HowDoYouKnow-Movie.com.

For pictures from the premiere of the movie, visit the official ASA/USA Softball Facebook page at www.facebook.com/asausasoftball/.

‘Tournament of Giving’ helps athletes pay it forward

The 12th Annual New Mexico Ice Breaker girls fast pitch tournament was held December 4-5 in Las Cruces, N.M. The tournament, which has teams participating from three states, allows fast pitch players the opportunity to provide for the less fortunate by playing softball.

What makes this tournament special is its' nickname the “Tournament of Giving”. To enter the park each day, each player, coach and fan must bring one can of food to help feed “our little corner of New Mexico,” said Alice Cox, who is the New Mexico ASA Commissioner.

Over 1,400 canned goods were delivered to Community Action, where families in need go to pick up food. But that is not where the goodwill of the Ice Breakers tournament stops. The profits made from the tournament help provide blankets, clothes and toys for the underprivileged. This year, $1,500 went toward the purchase of those items.

But the “Tournament of Giving” does not stop there.

“The winner and runner up team then gets to pick an animal, in the name of their team, to be donated to a impoverish family where the animal can continue paying forward,” Cox said. “When the animals produce offspring the families must pass it forward by giving one of the ‘new’ animals to another impoverish family so their life can be better and they can become self-sufficient. I can guarantee you this is one of the most exciting things for the players.”

“There is a list of six to ten animals to choose from, with an explanation of how it will help a family,” she said. “These young ladies take this very serious and weight all the options. It was taking them so long to discuss and decide that we had to post it on the bracket board so each team could start picking their gift prior to the Championship Game. Would it be baby chickens that could grow, produce eggs for protein, add food to their diet, fertilize their crops and allow them to make money by selling some of the eggs at the market? Or a goat for milk and other advantages?”

The teams had many options. Sierra Vista Diamonds, which finished first in the 10-Under chose a goat and the runners-up Cruces Gems picked a flock of chickens. The 12U Champs Texas Rattlers chose a pig while the second place Las Cruces Crossfire chose a trio of rabbits to be donated in this team name.

“This tournament shows that ASA girl softball players understand the need to help others who are less fortunate,” Cox said. “This is truly a tournament of giving from all that participate and come to watch great ASA Softball games.”
ASA names four new commissioners

OKLAHOMA ASA
The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced November 19 that JoAnn McGuire of Enid, Okla., has been named the commissioner for Oklahoma ASA. McGuire, who has served as the Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioner since 1990, replaces Virgil Ackerson, who has retired.

“I am very honored to represent Oklahoma ASA as the new state commissioner. I’ve had great training for this position from Virgil Ackerson and Benny Bunch,” McGuire said. “I am looking forward to working with all of Oklahoma ASA. Oklahoma ASA has good people who are staying to help our association to continue to grow. Everyone is looking forward to our road show across the state.”

SEATTLE-TACOMA ASA
ASA announced November 16 that Michael Rabin of Woodinville, Wash., has been named the Seattle-Tacoma ASA Commissioner, effective Dec. 31, 2010. Rabin will replace Joe Wilson who is retiring from ASA after 16 years of service.

“I’m very excited to be taking over as Commissioner for Seattle-Tacoma. My goal is to build upon Joe Wilson’s outstanding work and to keep Seattle-Tacoma among the leading ASA associations in the country,” said Rabin.

Rabin has been a member of Seattle Metro Softball Umpires Association since 1996. He is a member of the National Indicator Fraternity and has worked four ASA National Championships. Rabin has also umpired at the collegiate level.

TEXAS ASA
ASA announced November 17 that Rodney Cobb of San Marcos, Texas, has been appointed the commissioner of Texas ASA. He assumed his duties last week during the 79th Annual Governing Council Meeting in Shreveport, La.

“There are some big shoes to fill in the Texas Commissioner role. Past Texas Commissioners have been WW Bill Keathan, Jack Aaron, Ronnie Isham and Glenn Morrison, and they have done some great things for Texas and the national organization,” Cobb said. “I am going to try to stay the course with Texas. I would hope that I can add some of my own touches to the organization, but Texas has a great tradition. It is really not broken so there is not a lot to fix.”

UTAH ASA
ASA announced November 19 that Steve Rollins of Layton, Utah has been named the commissioner for Utah ASA. Rollins, a 33-year ASA veteran umpire, served as a district commissioner for Utah ASA for 11 years and has served as the state Umpire-In-Chief for a total of seven years.

“There is no doubt I am excited to take on this position,” said Rollins. “I am very interested in the challenge to service the teams of Utah and get them to the best level of play. I can’t wait to help the teams and umpires excel to their greatest potential. I hope I can continue to make Utah ASA more successful and I am going to build on what it is and make it better for the future.”

Oklahoma City to host UIC Clinic in February

The 2011 Biennial Umpire-In-Chief Clinic will be held in Oklahoma City from February 3-6, 2011, announced November 22 by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America. The clinic will include breakout sessions, guest speakers and a banquet to honor those who receive the Award of Excellence.

To download the application form for the UIC Clinic, please click here.

The Biltmore Hotel will again be the host hotel for the clinic. Sessions will begin on Thursday evening, February 3. The meeting for New UIC’s will begin at 5 p.m., followed by the session on being a UIC, or Assistant UIC at a National Championship. Attendance at this session is required if you wish to be considered for a UIC or Assistant UIC assignment. The evening will be topped off by a Hospitality party hosted by the Eastern Territory.

Friday morning will begin at 7:45 a.m. with opening remarks and introductions. Comments from the ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda, Director of Membership Services Craig Cress, ASA President Andy Dooley, Supervisor of Umpires Kevin Ryan and the Umpire Committee Chairman will be followed by a report on Insurance from Bollinger. The morning will be capped off by guest speaker, Mike Perriera, former Vice President of Officiating for the NFL.

Friday afternoon’s breakout sessions will be held from 1–5 p.m. Regional meetings and dinners will be scheduled for the late afternoon and evening. Saturday’s breakout sessions will begin at 8 a.m. and last until noon. Saturday afternoon will feature sessions on equipment and interference/obstruction.

The banquet will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday and will be highlighted by the presentation of the Award of Excellence to Regional and National recipients. The cost will be the same as the 2009 Clinic, $175 per person. The registration fee includes, among many other items, the new Mechanics DVD, Volume II.
Every day, millions of lives are shaped with a softball and a little open space.

There’s an insurance company that understands the value of those lessons.

Far from the stadium lights and the roar of the crowd come the moments when youth sports matters. These opportunities help form bonds that enrich the game and enhance the lives and life skills of young players. That’s why Liberty Mutual and our partners are proud to bring you the Responsible Sports™ program – offering educational resources, training tips and teaching tools for youth sports parents and coaches, plus coaching awards and valuable community grants.

Memorable youth sports moments are waiting for you. Visit ResponsibleSports.com/Softball today.
Nomations being accepted through Dec. for the 2011 Double-Goal Coach Award

Do you know a Double-Goal Coach®, whose first goal is winning, and whose second, more-important goal is teaching life lessons through sports? If so, nominate them today!

Nominate a coach for the Positive Coaching Alliance Double-Goal Coach Awards, presented by Liberty Mutual before the deadline of December 31.

The Double-Goal Coach model is intended to replace the “win-at-all-cost” model prevalent in youth sports today. A Double-Goal Coach:

1. Redefines “Winner,”
2. Honors the Game and
3. Fills Players’ Emotional Tanks.

Double-Goal Coaches want to win (goal No. 1) but have a second, more important goal – to help players develop positive character traits that will help them be successful in life (goal No. 2). Nominate a coach today >>

Take your ASA League management online—FREE!

• FREE Website
• Easy player registration
• Automated fee collection
• …And more!

Clubspaces is your Best Solution!

Clubspaces is the Official Online League Management System of ASA. Our tools are designed to help you easily manage your league and improve communication between players, parents and coaches. And it gets better — this program is FREE to all ASA Leagues.

► FREE League and Team Websites
► Professionally Designed ASA Website Templates
► Online Registration & Secure Payment Processing
► Auto Game Scheduler
► Central Calendar
► Group Email
► 24/7 Customer Support & No Hosting Fees

“ASA is thrilled to offer Clubspaces to all of our members. We truly believe that leagues that use Clubspaces will find it dramatically easier to manage their league, saving time and resources. Clubspaces is ideal for all ASA leagues.”

—Ron Radigonda, Executive Director of ASA

Get Started Today!

www.ClubSpaces.com/ASA
Unequaled performance . . .
for your budget, for the environment.

Light-Structure Green™ reduces your sports-lighting operating cost by 50% or more with less energy consumption, cuts spill light by 50%, and eliminates 100% of your maintenance costs for the next 25 years. Constant Light™ provides target light levels for 25 years. We guarantee it!

From foundation to pole top, Light-Structure Green makes your sports-lighting projects fast, trouble-free, and now more affordable than ever. Call, email, or check our website today for details.

Official Lighting Supplier of the
Amateur Softball Association

From foundation to pole top, Light-Structure Green makes your sports-lighting projects fast, trouble-free, and now more affordable than ever. Call, email, or check our website today for details.

Unequaled performance . . .
for your budget, for the environment.

ALL THE LIGHT AT
HALF THE OPERATING COST
NOT ALL THE CHEERING WILL BE
FOR THE PLAYERS

Light-Structure Green™

Light-Structure Green™ reduces your sports-lighting operating cost by 50% or more with less energy consumption, cuts spill light by 50%, and eliminates 100% of your maintenance costs for the next 25 years. Constant Light™ provides target light levels for 25 years. We guarantee it!

From foundation to pole top, Light-Structure Green makes your sports-lighting projects fast, trouble-free, and now more affordable than ever. Call, email, or check our website today for details.

Unequaled performance . . .
for your budget, for the environment.

ALL THE LIGHT AT
HALF THE OPERATING COST
NOT ALL THE CHEERING WILL BE
FOR THE PLAYERS

Light-Structure Green™

Light-Structure Green™ reduces your sports-lighting operating cost by 50% or more with less energy consumption, cuts spill light by 50%, and eliminates 100% of your maintenance costs for the next 25 years. Constant Light™ provides target light levels for 25 years. We guarantee it!

From foundation to pole top, Light-Structure Green makes your sports-lighting projects fast, trouble-free, and now more affordable than ever. Call, email, or check our website today for details.

Unequaled performance . . .
for your budget, for the environment.
ASA/Musco Royalty Program promotes growth

In October of 2010, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and Musco Lighting extended their decade-long partnership for another three years. The new partnership agreement includes the extension of the ASA/Musco royalty program which is designed to provide additional funds to promote regional and nationwide ASA growth. ASA leagues from around the country have successfully taken advantage of this opportunity in the past and are encouraged to do so under the new agreement.

Here’s how to take advantage of the royalty program:

1. A qualified project must be a Musco Light Structure Green lighting system purchased by an affiliated ASA organization on which an ASA commissioner provides Musco with the first lead. The qualified project must also meet minimum ASA Lighting Standards.

2. The qualified project must be communicated to Musco Lighting by an ASA commissioner by completing and submitting an online “ASA/Musco Lighting Royalty Lead Form”. Musco Lighting will respond directly to the ASA Commissioner submitting the Lead Form within 10 working days, notifying the commissioner whether or not their lead is the first received. If the lead is not the first, Musco will provide the commissioner with information about the prior lead received.

3. Musco Lighting will send a royalty payment to the ASA national office each November on all qualified projects that have been paid in full during the designated time period. The ASA National Office is responsible for splitting the royalty with the district office of the ASA Commissioner providing the initial lead.

The Ella Mae Power Park Softball complex in Novi, Michigan is one of several to utilize the royalty program.

The ASA Commissioners utilizing the royalty program are taking advantage of a unique opportunity of extending playing time with a top quality and energy efficient lighting system, while receiving half of the royalty payment to provide resources to expand their programs.

How to start the process:
The ASA Commissioner must complete and submit an online “ASA/Musco Lighting Lead Form” for each new lighting project which will be available online on January 1, 2011, at www.musco.com/asacommissioner. A written response will be delivered by Musco Lighting within 10 working days after the online Lead Form has been submitted.

If you have any questions about the program contact Musco’s Partnership Program Manager Dave Ostlund at dave.ostlund@musco.com.
The Official Supplier of ASA & USA Softball

Stabilizer
The Original Natural Binder

Increase Your Field’s Performance

Arizona State University
2008 National Champions
Farrington Stadium, Tempe, AZ

Advancing the Evolution of Soil
26 Years  Over 100,000 Projects  36 Countries  www.StabilizerSolutions.com  800.336.2468
©2010 Stabilizer Solutions, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
San Diego area to host GOLD
July 24-30, 2011

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced today that the 2011 ASA Girls’ 18-Under GOLD National Championship will now be played in the Greater San Diego area. Also, the competition dates will be changed to July 24-30, 2011. With Southern California ASA as the tournament host, the 64-team and most prominent ASA Junior Olympic tournament will take place at the Sportsplex-USA facilities in Santee and Poway.

Following the ASA Council Meeting in Shreveport, La., the 18-U GOLD will continue on a rotational basis with the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City, Okla., hosting every other year in the east/west rotation. In 2012, the tournament will take place in Oklahoma City and an east coast site will be selected for 2013.

“Due to some unforeseen circumstances, we have moved the 2011 GOLD tournament to San Diego with new dates of July 24-30,” said ASA Executive Director Ron Radigonda. “Southern California ASA assistance has been instrumental in this move and we are looking forward to hosting this tournament in San Diego. The opening of the new state of the art Sportsplex – USA softball facility in Santee played a large role in locating this tournament in the Greater San Diego Area. This tournament continues to bring the best in softball and with our rotation we feel this is the best solution to meet the needs of the teams and everyone else involved in the success of the GOLD.”

For more information on the host facility in San Diego, please visit www.sportsplexusa.com.

“Southern California ASA is honored and excited to be selected as the host association for the 2011 18-Under GOLD National Championship,” said So Cal Commissioner Phil Gutierrez. “We have a great host venue in San Diego with excellent playing facilities, outstanding hotel accommodations, and wonderful weather. We very much look forward to hosting this prestigious ASA event.”

“Sportsplex USA is excited to be hosting this prestigious ASA event at our two facilities in San Diego,” said Bill Berghoff, Sportsplex USA President. “We look forward to working with ASA and showcasing America’s Finest City.”

Below is the code reference to the site rotation referenced above:

Article: 602 H 09 The Junior Olympic Girls 18 and Under Gold Fast Pitch will be rotated to Oklahoma City every other year and in the off years will be placed in other parts of the country by the Executive Director.

Comments: Rotates Gold into Oklahoma City every other year.

Below is the code reference to the new date formula for the 18-Under GOLD National Championship:

Article 509 C 04 f Girls’ ASA Gold 18-Under Fast Pitch. This National Championship Final shall be scheduled and completed on the weekend that includes the last Saturday in July and not be held more than seven (7) days. This event won’t have an opening ceremonies event and the managers meeting can’t be scheduled prior to 6:00 PM on the prior Sunday.

Comments: Moves the Gold National Championship up one weekend.


RB Thomas (right) of the Central Virginia ASA rode in the 2010 Greater Manassas Christmas Parade as the Grand Marshall. Thomas has been a resident of Prince William County, Va., for 44 years. Throughout the years, he has donated time and professional services to a variety of committees and projects.

Since 1995, Thomas has been an active member of the Central Virginia ASA staff while also serving on the ASA National Council, first as an Allied Member and now as an At Large Player Representative. Since 2007 he has also served as the ASA Northern Virginia District Commissioner where he now annually registers over 1800 adult teams and manages an outstanding ASA tournament program for the teams.
Background

The Missouri Amateur Softball Association (ASA) is a massive non-profit that oversees over 2,000 individual teams, 300+ umpires and thousands of players across The Show Me State. Missouri ASA offers teams for both young and old, male and female and for first timers and experienced players, as well. Summers are busy with games, statistics and logistics and the fall off-season is shrinking every year as parents, players and officials look to get next year’s information earlier and earlier.

Challenge

When you have thousands of eager softball players and hundreds of dedicated volunteers looking to you for information, clear, concise communication is going to be your top priority. Previous to discovering Clubspaces, Missouri ASA was using Microsoft Frontpage to build and maintain the official association website, which doubled as the primary communication tool.

Missouri state commissioner Joey Rich:

“*The biggest thing that we use Clubspaces for is the association website itself. Microsoft Frontpage was okay, but it wasn’t a tenth as easy as Clubspaces. I can update my website from anywhere in the world, all I need is a computer. Before, I had to be on my computer with my software and it was nowhere near as easy to manipulate as Clubspaces.*”

Solution

Missouri ASA made the move to Clubspaces two years ago and the transition was smooth.

“We did the initial testing with Clubspaces and we got a lot of extra attention from your staff in terms of how we were going to set the whole site up. I gave them an idea of what I’d like the site to look like and they came up with several possibilities for me to choose from. I was able to pick the general format and the colors, so that helped get it started.”

It wasn’t long before Missouri ASA began using Clubspaces for more than just website building. In the two years since their site went live, it has begun using Clubspaces dynamic online player registration, payment processing, state tournament scheduling, team creation and more. It is looking at adding umpire registration and management in 2011. Missouri ASA also links to the Clubspaces-driven national ASA website that offers additional resources for softball enthusiasts from coast to coast.

Clubspaces also helped to alleviate some of the communication and logistical issues Missouri ASA was having, as well. It utilizes a combination of social media, timed email blasts and frequent website updates to keep players, coaches and volunteers in the loop.

“You have to keep that information pipeline stocked up, you’ve got to have new information on your site or people will stop coming to it.”

*Clubspaces is the Official Online League Management System of ASA*
Missouri ASA also uses its Clubspaces website to grant limited access to high-level volunteers so they can efficiently distribute forms, instructions and waivers.

“All district officers in our nine districts have access to a special page of forms that is used just by them and volunteers. There is a link on the main website that says “districts only” and “commissioners only” and they can go on there to save time. That page is the first place they look if they have a question and it is password protected so only they can get on there.”

Result

The goal of Clubspaces is to save coaches, volunteers and even league commissioners time and effort.

“I would say Clubspaces saves me a good six hours a month, and that’s probably conservative. Over the course of a year, I would say that Clubspaces saves me anywhere between 75 to 100 work hours. Saving this kind of time per year is a big deal. “

Missouri ASA is a vibrant, healthy organization that has more demands put on it every year and Clubspaces is helping to meet that challenge.

Clubspaces is the Official Online League Management System of ASA
Jake Perry, a 20-year umpire whose resume includes eight Amateur Softball Association National Tournaments, received the Spokane Softball Umpires Association’s most prestigious award, the Campbell-Stewart Award, at the association’s 2010 banquet.

The award, inaugurated in 1975 and renamed in 2009, is named for two longtime former Spokane ASA umpires-in-chief, the late Bruce Campbell and Chuck Stewart. It recognizes an individual annually for longevity, dedication, excellence and service to softball umpiring in Spokane.

Perry, who started umpiring at age 16, has become what could easily be called an assignor’s best friend. He does far more than his share of games, many times taking on extra assignments so the participants have an umpire, and has been the association’s busiest umpire in more than one year.

He has done multiple ASA championship tournaments, including metros, regionals, national qualifiers and a national invitational, and has worked national tournaments in girls fast pitch, adult slow pitch and men’s and women’s modified.

Other SSUA awards went to Jerome Duffney and Kent Walker, retiring veteran umpires, who received the Presidential Pride award from president Ken Mathia; Marty Boles, Umpire of the Year for adult programs; Bill Elston, Umpire of the Year-Youth; David Birdsell and Paul Grubbs, Most Improved-Adult/Youth combined; Bob Francis, Rookie of the Year-Adult; and Beau Crisp, Rookie of the Year-Youth.

SSUA also honored three non-members with its new Home Run Award for significant contributions to softball and the association, David Bentz, Paul Elston and Chuck Filippini.

**Five elected to serve Spokane umpires**

Gary Kuck, the vice president of adult programs, and secretary Mike Yellin were returned to their positions for another two years during the Spokane Softball Umpires Association’s 2010 elections. Jeff Camp, one of three members-at-large, also was re-elected while Andy Weiss and Beau Crisp were elected to one-year positions.

President Ken Mathia, vice president-youth Bill Elston and director of ratings Marty Boles are holdover board members.

---

**Minnesota ASA enshrines 16**

The 26th Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held on October 22nd at the Monterey Ballroom in Owatonna, Minn., with Wayne Eddy emceeing the event. Sixteen new Hall of Famers were inducted in front of more than 300, including several past inductees. The Class of 2010 is:

- Joe Alexander Coach/Organizer/Promoter, Rochester
- Richard “Dick” Bjur Player/Manager, Lake Lillian/Hutchinson
- Jim “Corky” Ebeling Manager/Organizer/Promoter, Owatonna
- Tim Egan First Base, South St. Paul/St. Paul
- Mervin Eischens Manager/Sponsor/Promoter, St. Leo
- Bryn Suzanne Geerdes Outfielder, Rochester/Minneapolis
- Phil Hilgeman First Base/Manager, Minneapolis
- Bill Hills Shortstop, Minneapolis
- Richard “Dick” Holdorf Umpire, Winona
- Harlan Jacobson Promoter/Pitcher, Hayfield
- Stan Noren Pitcher/Coach, St. James
- John Seamans Organizer/Promoter, Minnetonka/Shorewood/Excelsior
- Bob Sczubelewski Player/Organizer/Promoter, Little Falls
- Rolf Synoground Pitcher, Rochester/Austin
- Ken Vierling Umpire/Promoter, Owatonna/Farmington
- Mark “Norton” Zweber Third Base, Lakeville

New classes of hall of famers are inducted into the Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame on a bi-annual basis. **If you are interested in nominating someone for the Class of 2012, please click here for the Nomination Form.**

---

**Scorebooks shipped, both manuals to follow**

As of December 21, the 2011 ASA Scorebooks have started to ship via UPS Ground. A note will be sent out to all commissioners by Julie Bartel, ASA Director of Marketing and Communications, when the participant and umpire manuals begin shipping.
ASA members, tournament hosts honored in Shreveport at Wilson Sporting Goods luncheon

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States, recognized members and tournament hosts during the Wilson Sporting Goods sponsored luncheon at the 79th Annual Governing Council Meeting on Nov. 8 in Shreveport, La. Awards were given in three categories: years of service to ASA, registration increases and excellence in conducting ASA National Championships in 2010.

A complete list of award winners is available by clicking here.

In the service award category, 64 members were given the awards for their five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 55 years of service to the organization. Another 22 were given benchmark awards for increases in the registering of adult and youth teams and umpires. The local associations receiving awards had to have an increase of at least 10 percent and/or more than 100 teams or umpires registered to get an award.

The Triple Play award, for increasing adult teams, Junior Olympic teams and umpires, was awarded to Commissioner Rod Hill of Alaska ASA, the only association to reach the mark in all three categories in 2010. The most total registrations award went to Glenn Morrison on behalf of Texas ASA. The most JO registrations award went to Phil Gutierrez on behalf of the Southern California ASA. The most umpires registered went to Andy Loechner Jr. on behalf of the Pennsylvania ASA. All three associations received the same awards in 2009.

The final awards given out were the James Farrell Award of Excellence for excellence in conducting ASA National Championships. To attain the James Farrell Award of Excellence, named in honor of former St. Louis ASA commissioner and national office staff member James Farrell, cities must do an outstanding job of hosting ASA National Championship Tournaments. The host city must attain a percentile of 95 percent in each of the evaluation categories of ASA Representative, Umpire-In-Chief and National Office. An additional 10 cities were given a James Farrell Certificate of Excellence for obtaining a 90 percent rating.

ASA announces hosts for 2012 National Championships

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced Nov. 9 its sites for the 2012 Championship season at the ASA National Council Meeting in Shreveport, La. Over 100 tournament sites were announced along with the site of the 2012 ASA National Council Meeting site.

Dallas ASA was awarded the 81st Annual Council Meeting to be held in November 3-9, 2012. Last year, South Carolina ASA was selected to host the 2011 meeting in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The meeting will return to Oklahoma City, Okla., in 2013 with the ASA National Office and Oklahoma ASA.

The USA/ASA Girls’ GOLD 18-Under will return to Oklahoma City in 2012 for the first time since 2009. The other ASA/USA sites include 18-Under at Johnson City, Tenn., 16-Under at Montgomery, Ala., 14-Under at Sioux Falls, S.D., 12-Under at Moline, Ill., and the 10-Under at Bloomington, Ind.

In territory tournament news, Dayton, Ohio will play host to the Women’s Eastern Class C and D while Bloomington, Ind., will host the Women’s Northern Class C and D. Tupelo, Miss., will host the Women’s Southern Class C and D with Phoenix, Ariz., playing host to the Women’s Western Class C and D.

In adult fast pitch news, the 2012 Men’s Open Fastpitch and Men’s Class B Fast Pitch will be hosted in North Mankato, Minn. The Men’s Major Fast Pitch location will be announced on Mon., Nov. 15th along with several other tournaments.

For a complete listing of tournaments, please click here.
The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America inducted 10 members to the National Softball Hall of Fame as on Nov. 10 at the 30th Annual Hall of Fame Induction celebration in Shreveport, La. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the 2011 class was announced with 10 members nominated for induction next year.

The 2010 class includes five players, one commissioner, two umpires and two for meritorious service. The five players are Carl Solarek, Fast Pitch Player; Suzy Brazney, Fast Pitch Player; Jody Hennigar, Fast Pitch Player; Norbert Warken (old-timer), Fast Pitch Player; and Mike Shenk, Slow Pitch Player.

E.T. Colvin of Mississippi was inducted in the commissioner category while Richard Ribby and Cheryl Simmons were enshrined as umpires. Ronnie Isham, the USA Softball Director of National Teams, and Guy Demaio were inducted for meritorious service.

The Class of 2010 increases the membership in the National Softball Hall of Fame to 363 since it was established in 1957. Formal inductions were started in 1981 and since 2001 the induction has been held as the closing banquet at the ASA National Council meeting.

At the conclusion of the induction the 2011 Hall of Fame Induction Class was announced. The 10 members going into the 2011 Hall of Fame include Lori Harrigan (Player), Julie Johnson (Umpire), Brian Martie (Player), Rod Peterson (Manager), Lewis Secory (Sponsor), Gary Tharaldson (Sponsor), Tim Wahl (Player), Max Wilkes (Meritorious Service), Al White (Player) and Jim Wolford (Umpire).

MEET THE CLASS OF 2010

Brazney leads the class of 2010 with a record 20 All-America selections during her 25-year career. She could play just about any position on the field but more often than not was found behind the plate as a catcher. She was a member of three ASA National Championship teams, three USA Softball Pan American teams and played in seven U.S. Olympic Festivals. She is currently an assistant coach with the 2010-11 Junior Women’s National Team.

Colvin, who is the 40th ASA commissioner selected, has had quite a year. In a span of 21 days he was elected as the International Softball Federation (ISF) North American vice president, ASA president-elect and to the Hall of Fame. He has done an outstanding job as Mississippi commissioner and has served on numerous ASA committees in addition to serving as ASA president from 2004-05.

DeMaio, who some consider the backbone of the ASA of Pennsylvania, has been a member of the ASA National Council since 1982 and was the first at-large player representative elected as the Central Atlantic regional Director. A graduate of Geneva College, he has chaired or been vice chair of various ASA committees and is a member of the ASA of PA Hall of Fame (1984).

A southpaw, Hennigar is a native of Nova Scotia and now resides in Hudson, Fla. He was a standout double threat throughout his career, earning eight ASA All-American selections between 1985 and 2005. He compiled a 19-9 pitching record in seven ASA Nationals and batted .351, smashing 14 homers, which is the second best in ASA history. He twice led the ASA Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championship in batting and won the Dudley Award as the outstanding pitcher in the 2002 National Championship.

Isham, USA Softball Director of National Teams, has just about touched all the bases in his lengthy softball career, ranging from player to manager to commissioner. As a manager, he compiled a record of 1,016 wins and 310 losses for a winning percentage of 76-percent in winning seven regional fast pitch titles as his teams appeared in seven ASA National Championships. He also has served as a district commissioner, Texas ASA Vice President and Texas at-large player representative. In 1992, he was named to the USA Softball Women’s National Team Selection Committee and has served as the team administrator through the 1996 (Atlanta), 2000 (Sydney), 2004 (Athens) and 2008 (Beijing) Olympic Games.

Ribby, who is nicknamed the “Ice Man” because of his cool demeanor in pressure-packed games, worked some of the top events in softball during a 35-year career, including five Men’s Major Fast Pitch National Championships. Ribby got his ISF certification in fast pitch in 1983 and is also a member of the National Indicator Fraternity. He is the 39th ASA umpire elected to the Hall of Fame.

The first slow pitch player from Pennsylvania elected to the Hall of Fame, Shenk made the most of his 11-year career, earning All-America honors nine times and being a member of six ASA National Championship teams. He played in two ASA Major Nationals and seven Super Nationals. He batted .700 or higher five times and clouted 1,098 homers before retiring after the 2002 season.

Simmons is the second female umpire and 40th overall elected to the Hall of Fame during a career that spans more than 30 years. She served as the Santa Clara, Calif. Umpire-In-Chief for 16 years, is a member of the National Indicator Fraternity (1986) and ISF certified in fast pitch.

A native of Freeland, Penn., the 63-year-old Solarek gave fast pitch a try after playing professional baseball in the Detroit Tigers organization for five years. Starting his softball career in 1972, Solarek earned first-team All-American honors four times and was a member of three ASA National Championship teams, one runner-up and one third-place finisher. He joins former teammates Jim Brackin, Jeff Seip and Ty Stofflet in the Hall of Fame. He is the seventh male catcher elected to the Hall of Fame.

Warken, who is deceased, got his nickname “Cyclone” from a Chicago sports writer after he blew through the 1939 ASA Fast Pitch National Championship in Chicago. In six games, Warken hurled six shutouts, hurling 51 innings, allowing 12 hits and striking out 99 batters. Warken compiled a record of 12-4 in ASA National Championship play with 11 shutouts and four no-hitters.
Important information regarding ASA Insurance Plans for 2011

Following are the changes to the ASA Insurance Program for 2011:

1) Umpire Accident deductible increased from $100 to $250.

2) Umpire Accident coverage while traveling directly to and from an assignment has a sub limit of $25,000.

3) Umpire, Team, Individual Registration, Tourn/Clinic Accident policies have a 90/10 coinsurance.

4) Team, Individual Registration, Field Owners, Tourn/Clinic Liability policies have a property damage deductible of $1,000.

5) Sports Officials Accident deductible increased from $100 to $250.

6) Sports Officials game fee reimbursement limit decreased from $5,200 to $2,500.

7) Effective date change: Team, Sports Official, Field owners and Accident/Travel policies renewed prior to April 1st, will have an effective date of 1/1/2011. If renewed on or after April 1st, the effective date is the day after postmark on the envelope. As in the past, the effective date on new policies is the day after postmark on the envelope.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Schubkegel at Bollinger, 1-800-350-8005, ext 8236.
Central California ASA welcomes Class of 2010

Central California Amateur Softball Association held their Sixth Annual Hall of Fame Banquet, Saturday, Oct. 23 in Fresno, Calif. It was to honor those who have contributed so much of their time and knowledge to further the goals of the Amateur Softball Association and the great sport of softball. Each inductee was acknowledged for their accomplishments which are impressive and inspirational. Each inductee has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, selflessness and integrity for the game of softball.

The Central California Hall of Fame Committee was established under the leadership of Dick Grove in order to acknowledge men and women who have been instrumental in shaping the lives of participants, both young and old, and furthering the sport of softball.

2010 CCASA Hall of Fame Inductees are:

- Meritorious Inductee Jim Combs
- Commissioner Inductee Arlen Bellah
- Commissioner Inductee Eunice Riso
- Coach Inductee John Southern
- Female Pitcher Inductee Jamie Southern
- Female Player Inductee Courtney Dale
- Male Player Inductee Armando Urbina
- Male Pitcher Inductee Joe Jimenez
- Umpire Inductee Mary Sharp
- Sponsor Inductee Ike Pursell

Women’s National Team 2011 schedule announced

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball announced Nov. 18 the training and competition schedule for the 2011 season for the USA Softball Women’s National Team. The tentative schedule includes four international events in four countries and three exhibition stops around the United States. The Junior Women’s National Team will also participate in the exhibition stops.

Highlighting the WNT schedule is the Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, where the U.S. will seek its eighth Pan American Championship. There will also be four opportunities for fans to watch Team USA in the United States as there are three exhibition stops along with the return of the World Cup of Softball at Oklahoma City’s Hall of Fame Stadium. Plant City, Fla., Salem, Va., and Bowie, Md., will all host the team in exhibition games next year.

The tentative schedule is as follows with all dates subject to change.

- June 13-17 National Team Selection Camp
  Chula Vista, California
- June 24-25 Exhibition Games
  Plant City, Florida
- June 29 Exhibition Games
  Salem, Virginia
- July 1 Exhibition Games
  Bowie, Maryland
- July 9-17 Canada Cup
  Surrey, B.C., Canada
- July 21-25 World Cup of Softball VI
  Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- July 28-31 Japan Cup
  Sendai City, Japan
- October 17-23 Pan American Games
  Guadalajara, Mexico

The roster of the 2011 Women’s National Team will be announced in June following the Selection Camp. For the most up to date information, please check www.usasoftball.com.