A note from Amateur Softball Association President E.T. Colvin

I hope everyone enjoyed the Holiday Season!

What another great year for ASA/USA Softball!

Although we should be proud of the success our programs had, we should always be striving to increase our registrations. By now, you should all be well into your registrations for 2013, so please make sure you have sent in all of your registration information to the National Office as quickly as possible.

For 2013, I would like to challenge each of you to increase your registrations for youth, adult and umpires. We need to get the word out in all of the territories about registering for the new season, so we can continue to grow as an organization.

Something we should all keep in mind is the new feature that TournamentASA is offering to our associations. You can now list your tournaments on the site, free of cost. This will be a big asset to recruiting teams and umpires!

Thank you all again for a wonderful 2012! I look forward to another productive season in 2013!

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ASA/USA Softball announced its sites for the 2014 Championship season at the ASA/USA Softball National Council Meeting in Dallas, Texas. In 2013, ASA/USA will celebrate its 80th year of existence with the annual council meeting taking place in Oklahoma City, Okla. The 2014 council meeting was awarded to the Nugget Hotel in Reno, Nev. and in 2015, ASA/USA will take its business to the Galt House in Louisville, Ky.

In other association news, Tony Laws of North Carolina ASA was voted to continue to be the Southern Region Vice President for a seat on the ASA/USA Board of Directors. In addition, Joe Patterson of Nebraska ASA will join the Board of Directors as the new Northern Territory Vice President. In the Eastern Territory, Bev Wiley of Rhode Island ASA was re-elected as well as Bill Parks of Idaho ASA.

Below is a list of championships awarded throughout the week at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. If a championship is not listed, a site is yet to be determined. Dates will be listed on asasoftball.com once determined by host cities.

2014 ASA/USA CHAMPIONSHIP SITES ANNOUNCED AND OTHER ASSOCIATION NEWS
A note from The Inside Pitch editor
Codi Warren

Happy Holidays and thank you for reading the December 2012 issue of The Inside Pitch, the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) and USA Softball.

As we look towards all of the opportunities that the 2013 season has to offer, let’s not forget about the accomplishments in 2012. ASA/USA Softball made two charitable donations this year, one to the Beat Autism Foundation and the other to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® of Central and Western Oklahoma. We also had two of our National Teams compete internationally this year.

Our Women’s National Team claimed a silver at the ISF Women’s World Championship in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada while our Junior Men’s National Team placed fifth at the ISF Junior Men’s World Championship.

We had numerous associations receive awards this year at the Wilson Sporting Goods Awards Luncheon in Dallas. Whether you received a James Farrell Award or a Benchmark Award, you should be extremely proud of the strides that were made this year!

Thank you to everyone for all you do to keep ASA/USA Softball on top! Here’s to a great 2013!

Happy Holidays!

ASA/USA Softball’s 5th annual “Fun Walk” was held Nov. 13, in Dallas, Texas with 71 people participating. This year, two separate groups took off from the hotel lobby and took off for the walking trail. Though it was a rather cool morning, everyone had a great time! Next year’s walk will move to Oklahoma City in the Underground, where the first annual walk was held. Joey Rich, who organizes the annual “Fun Walk” has some special things planned as well.

The first wave of participants get ready to head out to the track! BELOW LEFT Tom Topping, Ed Murphy and Doug Lindaman make their way around the track. BELOW RIGHT Perk Carter with Special Olympics Oregon and a fellow participant make their rounds.
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### 2014 ASA Junior Olympic National Championships

ASA/USA Girls' 10-Under Class A Fast Pitch – Johnson City, TN  
ASA/USA Girls' 12-Under Class A Fast Pitch – Bloomington, IN  
ASA/USA Girls' 14-Under Class A Fast Pitch – San Diego, CA  
ASA/USA Girls' 16-Under Class A Fast Pitch – Salem, VA  
ASA/USA Girls' 18-Under Class A Fast Pitch – Montgomery, AL  
ASA/USA Girls' 18-Under GOLD – Oklahoma City, OK

#### Northern Territory
- Girls' 18-Under GOLD – Rolla, MO  
- Girls' 10-Under Class A – Overland Park, KS  
- Girls' 12-Under Class A – Novi, MI  
- Girls' 14-Under Class A – Rochester, MN  
- Girls' 16-Under Class A – Moline, IL  
- Girls' 18-Under Class A – Watertown, WI  
- Girls' 10-Under Class B – Overland Park, KS  
- Girls' 12-Under Class B – Novi, MI  
- Girls' 14-Under Class B – Bowling Green, KY  
- Girls' 16-Under Class B – Bismarck, ND  
- Girls' 18-Under Class B – St. Louis, MO

#### Southern Territory
- Girls' 18-Under GOLD – TBD  
- Girls' 10-Under Class A – Auburn, AL  
- Girls' 12-Under Class A – Fort Worth, TX  
- Girls' 14-Under Class A – Columbus, GA  
- Girls' 16-Under Class A – Clinton, MS  
- Girls' 18 Under Class A – Broken Arrow, OK  
- Girls' 10-Under Class B – Gadsden, AL  
- Girls' 12-Under Class B – Tallahassee, FL  
- Girls' 14-Under Class B – Forth Worth, TX  
- Girls' 16-Under Class B – Lawton, OK  
- Girls' 18-Under Class B – Columbus, GA

#### Eastern Territory
- Girls' 18-Under GOLD – TBD  
- Girls' 10-Under Class A – Marion, OH  
- Girls' 12-Under Class A – Marion, OH  
- Girls' 14-Under Class A – Stratford, CT  
- Girls' 16-Under Class A – Findlay, OH  
- Girls' 18-Under Class A – Sterling, VA  
- Girls' 10-Under Class B – Charles County, MD  
- Girls' 12-Under Class B – Charles County, MD  
- Girls' 14-Under Class B – Charles County, MD  
- Girls' 16-Under Class B – York, PA  
- Girls' 18-Under Class B – York, PA

#### Western Territory
- Girls' 18-Under GOLD – Hayward, CA  
- Girls' 10-Under Class A – Salem, OR  
- Girls' 12-Under Class A – Salem, OR  
- Girls' 14-Under Class A – Clovis, CA  
- Girls' 16-Under Class A – Pasco, WA  
- Girls' 18-Under Class A – Tucson, AZ  
- Girls' 10-Under Class B – Roseville, CA  
- Girls' 12-Under Class B – Roseville, CA  
- Girls' 14-Under Class B – Medford, OR

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Sioux Falls, S.D. presents at the ASA Annual Meeting. Sioux Falls was one of the cities bidding to host a 2014 ASA/USA Softball National Championship.

### 2014 Adult Championships

- Men's Major Fast Pitch – South Bend, IN  
- Men's Class C East Fast Pitch – Canton, OH  
- Women's 23-Under West Fast Pitch – Salem, OR  
- Men's Senior East 50,55,60,65,70,75 – Burlington, NC  
- Women's C&D Slow Pitch – Dallas, TX  
- Coed Slow Pitch – St. Joseph, MO  
- Men's Masters 40-Over Slow Pitch – Ridgeland, MS  
- Men's Church Slow Pitch – Ridgeland, MS  
- Men's Industrial Slow Pitch – TBD

#### Northern Territory
- Men's Class C Northern Slow Pitch – Springfield, MO  
- Men's Class D Northern Slow Pitch – Liberty, MO  
- Men's Class E/Rec Northern Slow Pitch – Mandan, ND

#### Southern Territory
- Men's Class C Southern Slow Pitch – Ridgeland, MS  
- Men's Class D Southern Slow Pitch – Dallas, TX  
- Men's Class E/Rec Southern Slow Pitch – TBD

#### Western Territory
- Men's Class C Western Slow Pitch – Roseville, CA  
- Men's Class D Western Slow Pitch – Salem, OR  
- Men's Class E/Rec Western Slow Pitch – Hanford, CA

#### Eastern Territory
- Men's Class C Eastern Slow Pitch – Columbus, OH  
- Men's Class D Eastern Slow Pitch – Columbus, OH  
- Men's Class E/Rec Eastern Slow Pitch – Columbus, OH

Also be sure to continue and check out ASA/USA Softball's [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) for more information and photos from the Council Meeting.
Southern California ASA develops networking system

The Southern California ASA Players Association has developed a Networking system, which will allow college coaches who are searching for talented softball players to access more detailed information on specific players who are registered in the network.

Think of the Players Association as a liaison between colleges and players. This liaison allows players to know what colleges are looking for and in turn keeps colleges aware of where players are in their development. When information is requested by coaches as to their requirements, the information is forwarded via e-mail to every girl in the graduating class which matches the coach’s needs.

To make the program even more attractive, the So. Cal ASA is now able to offer scholarship assistance to graduating seniors in Southern California who have played in either travel team or recreational softball programs, but who may not have been offered full-ride scholarships.

Every year the Players Association sets up a booth at the NFCA Convention (National Fastpitch College Association) to network with the coaches. This year it was held in Orlando, Florida. Lorrie Ivie, the Director of the Player’s Association, and Kristi Allen, the So Cal ASA Commissioner, attended the convention.
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The USA Softball Junior Men’s National Team fell to Canada 4-2 in a playoff elimination game on Saturday, November 10 at the International Softball Federation (ISF) IX Junior Men’s World Championship in Parana, Argentina. With the loss, Team USA took fifth place in the 13-team tournament, ending a remarkable run by the rookie team.

“We just never could really get things going offensively that day,” said USA Head Coach Tim Lyon. “Six of our first 10 at-bats ended with a strike out. We were finally able to put some runs on the board late in the game but spotting them four runs in the first four innings really hurt us.”

Tyler Johnson (Union, Mo.) began the game with a single for Team USA in the top of the first inning and eventually found his way to third by way of a stolen base and passed ball but a pop up and two strike outs ended the USA at-bat, stranding Johnson on third.

The USA hitting slump continued into the second and third innings as they went 10 consecutive batters before Mauro Olivarria (San Diego, Calif.) was able to connect with a base hit in the fourth inning.

On the other side of the ball, Canada jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first inning after USA starting pitcher Jerlin Rutt (Ephrata, Pa.) hit the first batter of the inning which was followed with an RBI triple in the next at-bat. Three batters later, an error at short stop for Team USA scored the second Canadian run. Two innings later, Canada added to their lead with a third run despite two Rutt strikeouts in the inning.

Two three up, three down at-bats for USA and Canada in the third inning preserved the 3-0 score to the fourth. USA failed to take advantage of their second base runner of the game in the top of the fourth and then allowed a fourth Canadian run in the bottom half of the inning to extend their lead to 4-0.

USA finally got things going from the plate in the fifth when Spencer Yackel (Lake Crystal, Minn.) walked and Austin Tuttle (Payson, Utah) followed with a single. With the runners at first and second, consecutive wild pitches to Dylan Elmer (Machesney Park, Ill.) first advanced them to second and third and then scored Yackel and put Tuttle on third. Elmer drew the walk to bring up the top of the order for Team USA. With a 2-2 count, Tyler Johnson grounded up the middle to the short stop who tagged Elmer at second but the hit was enough to score Tuttle from third to make the score Canada 4, USA 2.

USA held Canada scoreless in the fifth and sixth innings preserving the 4-2 score into the seventh. With one last opportunity to get back into the game in the top of the seventh, the USA batters came up short sealing the victory for the Canadians.

USA finished the tournament with a 5-3 record, the first winning record for a USA Junior Men’s National Team at the ISF World Championships since a 7-3 finish in 1985. Team USA outscored its opponents 55-33 in the event and went 58-of-193 from the plate for a combined batting average of .301. Jerlin Rutt led the way for the Americans from the circle. The right hander finished the tournament with a 4-2 record and a 2.52 ERA.

“I’m really proud of the way this team competed at this World Championship,” said Lyon. “These guys went on a run that really opened some eyes to the program. I think the success that we had this year is going to be huge for the Junior Men’s National Team in the future.”

The next ISF Junior Men’s World Championship is scheduled for June of 2014 in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. Please visit www.USASoftball.com for box scores and photos from all of USA’s games at the 2012 ISF World Championship.
The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America is proud to introduce this instructional DVD aimed at coaches of all levels.

Learn the finer points of team play as taught by two-time U.S. Olympic Team Head Coach Mike Candrea.

For more information, visit SoftballOutlet.com or call (800) 654-8337.

— Mike Candrea,
two-time U.S. Olympic Team Head Coach
ASA/USA Softball inducts its finest into National Softball Hall of Fame; Class of 2013 announced

Six individuals received softball's highest honor on Wednesday, November 14 as ASA/USA Softball inducted six members to the National Softball Hall of Fame at the 32nd Annual celebration in Dallas, Texas.

A night to remember, the 2012 class consisted of Chris Armijo (Umpire), Denny Bruckert (Manager), Leon Grunalt (Manager), Jerry King (Slow Pitch Player), Larry Mays (Manager) and Ivan “Ike” Wheeler (Meritorious Service).

Read more about the 2012 ASA Hall of Fame Class:

Chris Armijo (Grand Rapids, Mich.) – Umpire

Chris Armijo has been an ASA umpire for almost 40 years, during which he has had a great impact upon both ASA and Michigan ASA. Armijo’s credentials speak for themselves: he is a certified ISF umpire, an ASA Elite umpire, a member of the National Indicator Fraternity since 1994, a Gold Level member of the Medals Program, and a member of the Michigan ASA Hall of Fame since 1998. He was awarded the Michigan ASA Umpire Award of Excellence twice and has served as District 7 Commissioner and Umpire-in-Chief in addition to umpiring seven National Championships. His most noteworthy accomplishment, however, is his role in the creation of the Grand Rapids Area Slow Pitch Softball Association. Amidst budget cuts, Armijo spearheaded the movement for the volunteer organization which keeps softball teams participating in ASA.

Denny Bruckert (Gillespie, Ill.) – Manager

Growing up in a small town in Illinois, Bruckert fostered a love for fast pitch softball, a love that would endure well after his playing days were over. Rather than hang up his cleats, Bruckert turned to managing men’s fast pitch teams. After managing several successful teams, Bruckert was asked to manage the Decatur Pride of Decatur, Illinois in 1993. Bruckert led the Pride to three ASA National Championships and two runner-up titles prior to their disbanding in 2001. Bruckert did not give up on his passion, however, and continued his successful managerial career, winning three additional ASA National titles in 2002, 2005 and 2006 with three different organizations. Bruckert also left his mark on the international scene, serving as the assistant coach to the U.S. National team in 1996 and head coach to the 1999 U.S. Pan American silver medal team. Bruckert is also a member of the Illinois ASA Hall of Fame, and the ISC Hall of Fame.

Leon Grunalt (Warren, Mich.) – Manager

Leon Grunalt began his softball career in 1955 on a local fast pitch team. He quickly developed a love for the game, and in 1958, he began his managerial career with local Detroit teams. After several successful seasons within local travel leagues, Grunalt found success in 1984 when his Budweiser sponsored team won the ASA Men’s 35 and over National Invitational. After ASA sanctioned this category in 1985, Grunalt’s team went on to win the National title for two consecutive years. Then, in 1988, Grunalt joined forces with Karl and Fred Nothdurft and with new sponsorship the Nothdurft slow pitch team was created. Under his leadership, the team won 37 consecutive games, compiled a record of 63-5 in national championship play and earned seven National titles. Grunalt managed nine ASA Slow Pitch National Championship teams before retiring in 1994. Grunalt has been a member of the Metro Detroit ASA Hall of Fame since 1994.

Jerry King (Maysville, Ky.) – Slow Pitch Player

Growing up in Maysville, Kentucky Jerry King made a name for himself as a basketball player. After graduating from high school in 1962, King joined the Marine Corps, where he served for four years. After that he earned a basketball scholarship to Morehead State University where he played for four years. King made his softball debut in 1976, playing for Debois Chemical, where he earned his first ASA All-American title. Throughout the span of his career, King has earned numerous honors and awards, most notably five ASA All-American titles (1976, 1979-82), and he has also been a member of several ASA National Championship teams. In 1980, King gave his highest performance with Campbell’s Carpets, appearing in 133 games with a .721 batting average and boasting 191 home runs. In later years, King continued his success playing with the Joseph Chevrolet World Championship team (1994-1996), a team that was rated as one of the top five “50 and over” teams in the country. After his retirement, the honors and accolades continued to come in. King was among the first class inducted into the Columbus, Ohio Legends of the Game (2009). That same year King was honored for his athletic and civic achievements at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall. King has also received honors from the House of Representatives as an Outstanding Citizen of the Commonwealth of Kentucky while also being named a Kentucky Colonel by Steve Beshear, the Governor of Kentucky. His success with Debois Chemical earned King the title of MVP of the ASA 1970s All Decade Team for Columbus, Ohio.

Larry Mays (Canyon Lake, Calif.) – Manager

Prior to coaching the Gordon’s Panthers in 1982, Larry Mays played and managed competitive softball in Southern California. During his 24 years as head coach, the Gordon’s Panthers won 10 ASA Junior Olympic National Championship titles, five runner-up titles and four Hall of Fame championships, establishing their place as one of the most successful teams in ASA history. Mays also made appearances on the international scene when he served as head coach to the U.S. Pan American Trial gold medal team (1987) in Lima, Peru, the ASA Junior Olympic World silver medal team (1991) in Adelaide, Australia, and assistant coach with the Olympic Festival South gold medal team (1993) in San Antonio Texas. Throughout the 1990’s, Mays served as National team advisors to PR China, Holland and Spain and established the Olympic training program for players and coaches in Micronesia. In addition to his coaching career, Mays presented more than 200 collegiate, national and international clinics where he taught both players and coaches. Mays has received numerous awards for his contributions, including the United States Olympic Committee Developmental Coach of the Year (1996, 1999). It is no wonder why people refer to Mays as one of softball’s fin-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
est teachers and coaches as well as one of their most sought after clinicians. 

Ivan “Ike” Wheeler (Bossier City, La.) – Meritorious Service

Ivan “Ike” Wheeler’s commitment and love for the game of softball is evident throughout his 59 years of involvement with ASA. While serving in the Air Force from 1954-1974, Ike was a member of the Strategic Air Command team, which won eight Air Force World Wide tournaments, and was selected to the All Air Force team twice. After retiring, he joined the Shreveport Parks & Recreation Department and continued his work on promoting ASA and softball. Ike has been a registered ASA umpire for over 56 years and has served as District Commissioner in the Shreveport area, ASA Player Representative, and Louisiana Umpire-in-Chief. In addition to these positions, Wheeler has been a member of the ASA National Indicator Fraternity since 1988 and a member of Louisiana ASA Hall of Fame since 2010. Some of his accomplishments he has achieved since joining ASA are: recipient of the Region 6 Award of Excellence (2009) and umpired four National Championships (1982, 1987, 1988, 1997) in addition to serving as either Tournament Director, Umpire Coordinator, or Housing Authority for 17 National Tournaments. Since 1978, Wheeler has successfully registered every team in the Shreveport Parks and Recreations Department for ASA, and has attended every Umpire-in-Chief clinic and ASA National Convention since 1982.

On Monday, November 12, the ASA Hall of Fame committee met and reviewed the nominations for the 2013 class. The following individuals will be inducted into the ASA National Hall of Fame in November of 2013.

- Margie Wright (Clovis, Calif.) - Meritorious Service
- Randy Melvin (Dowagiac, Mich.) – Umpire
- Laura Berg (Santa Fe Springs, Calif.) – Fast Pitch Player
- Lisa Fernandez (Long Beach, Calif.) – Fast Pitch Player
- Shirley Simmons Snell (Shreveport, La.) – Slow Pitch Player

The 33rd induction ceremony will take place in Oklahoma City, Okla. at the 82nd Annual ASA Council Meeting, where ASA will be celebrating its 80th anniversary. Rules and guidelines to nominate potential Hall of Fame candidates for 2014 are available at ASASoftball.com under the Hall of Fame section. There is a deadline submission of September 1, 2013.

Click here to read more about the Class of 2013>>

Chuck Hawke appointed ASA/USA Softball Commissioner for Kansas ASA

ASA/USA Softball recently announced that Chuck Hawke (Leawood, Kan.) has been appointed the commissioner for Kansas ASA. The change, effective immediately, takes place following the retirement of former Kansas ASA Commissioner Joe Sproul.

Hawke, who has served as the Kansas City Metro Commissioner since 1993, looks forward to beginning a new chapter in his long ASA/USA Softball career. Hawke began his career with ASA/USA after being appointed as an At-Large Player Rep 28 years ago at the National Council Meeting in 1985. His dad, Elliott Hawke, served as Kansas City Metro Commissioner from 1973 until his untimely death in 1993. The elder Hawke is a member of both the Kansas ASA and National Softball Hall of Fame.

“As a long standing ASA/USA Commissioner, I look forward to working with those involved to achieve the goal of providing a highly regarded program for the participants in Kansas ASA,” Hawke stated. “My staff and I look forward to increasing tournament participation in our Junior Olympic program, in addition to focusing on adult participation in National Championships. We are committed to carrying on the rich tradition of ASA Softball in the state of Kansas.”

Hawke, who has lived in the Kansas City area his entire life, resides with his wife, Lisa, in Leawood, Kansas.

For more information about Kansas ASA Softball, please visit: www.kansasasa.org.

Applications sought for Commissioner with Delaware ASA

ASA/USA Softball is seeking applicants for the position of Commissioner for the Delaware ASA association.

The ASA/USA Softball Commissioner should be an individual who is interested in serving as the principal liaison between the local association and the ASA National Office. Those interested in the complete duties of an ASA/USA Softball Commissioner may review them on the ASA website at www.asasoftball.com under the About ASA section and ASA Code Article 305.

Those interested in serving as the ASA/USA Commissioner for the Delaware ASA association should forward a resume to:

Amateur Softball Association

c/o Craig Cress, Director of Membership Services

2801 NE 50th Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73111

E-mail: ccress@softball.org

Fax: 405-424-3855

Résumé’s must be received at the National Office by January 4, 2013. Any questions regarding this position should be directed to Craig Cress, Director of Membership Services for the Amateur Softball Association.
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The Liberty Mutual Insurance Responsible Sports Community Grants program is a competition-based fundraising program that is designed to reward youth sports clubs and organizations with one of fifteen $2,500 grants. To learn more visit ResponsibleSports.com/Grant.

Responsible Sports is excited to announce that ASA Softball has a winner in the Fall 2012 grant period. Congratulations to the TexasVipers99 from Clute, TX!

Texas Vipers99
Clute, TX

The Texas Vipers99 team plays for the love of the game. The Responsible Sports Fall Community Grant will help defray the costs associated with attending the Colorado Sparkler Showcase tournament. They used Facebook posts as a way to rally support for their efforts and they posted early and often encouraging everyone to post on their walls also. They also rallied the support of their community and received items to raffle off to anyone who took the quiz. Bettye Smith, team administrator said, “As parents, we strive to provide meaningful life lessons through sports as well as other methods. This grant process has given our players another tool for their toolkit.”

You too can earn a Responsible Sports Community Grant. The next opportunity starts on March 1, 2013. Sign up now for a reminder email today!

Artifact of the Month!

Since softball has such a rich and vast history, we want to share with you some of the amazing artifacts we have deep within our collections. Stay tuned every month for a glimpse into our archives!

One of the outstanding catchers in amateur softball, 1982 Hall of Famer Nancy Ito was named an ASA All-American 13-times. In 1960, she joined the Orange, Calif. Lionettes. Two years later, she would win her first National Championship with the Lionettes after they defeated the Gold Sox of Whittier, Calif. Nancy played on four National Championship squads and also competed in the 1970 ISF Women’s World Championship in Japan. This commemorative plaque was awarded to Nancy following the 1962 National Championship. This past year, the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum received a number of items from Nancy Ito’s estate. These items will be on display in the Museum in the upcoming year.

An outstanding defensive catcher with a strong throwing arm, Ito made only 10 errors in 1,401 chances in 222 games in the Pacific Coast Women’s League from 1967-1974 for a fielding percentage of .993. In five seasons she made only one error per season and in 1972 she was flawless, handling 134 chances. Former teammate and Hall of Famer Carol Spanks called Ito “the best catcher I’ve ever seen. Not only was she strong and secure around the plate, but she had a great arm and was fundamentally sound in every aspect of defensive play.”
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South Dakota inducts five into HOF

Pictured (L to R): Marvin Tisdall, Eugene Smith, Laurie Boynton Baily, James “Jim” Sullivan and Hewey Clemens.

Ramkota of Rapid City in conjunction with Minerva’s Catering provided an excellent venue and cuisine for the annual SD ASA HOF Induction ceremony and banquet. Five worthy individuals were recognized for their participation in and contributions to the Association. The highlight of the evening was honoring Laurie Boynton Baily (Yankton, Women’s FP), Hewey Clemmons (Rapid City, Men’s SP), Umpires Eugene Smith (Warner) and Marvin Tisdall (Rapid City) plus Rapid City’s Jim Sullivan from the Sponsor/Officer/Promoter category.

Other high points of the evening included the presentation of the Leo Nee “Umpire of the Year” award to Ignacio “Iggy” Magbuhat (Box Elder) and the Distinguished Service Award to the Rapid city Slow Pitch Committee (sometimes called the gang of five). Six National Indicator Awards were presented to qualified umpires from 2011 & 2012 who gained top ratings in at least three National Tournaments.

The dedication of the Hall of Fame Building is roughly scheduled for October 12-13, 2013, with more details still to come. The building will be located at the Sherman Park Complex and the banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn City Center.

ASA celebrates 80 years in 2013

The National Office is proud to announce that 2013 will mark the 80th Anniversary of the Amateur Softball Association! With it’s establishment following the 1933 World’s Fair in Chicago, Ill., the ASA has come to be the premier softball organization in the country! In honor of the 80th Anniversary, ASA/USA Softball will begin a year-long celebration in the form of events and promotions.

The Inside Pitch is now looking for random, fun facts about local associations and/or members. Do you have an interesting talent or did a particular event happen within your association during the last 80 years? If so, send your facts to Codi Warren and we could feature it in the “Inside Pitch”!

Maryland Fastpitch Softball Association inducts seven into HOF

The 50th Anniversary of the Maryland Fastpitch Softball Association was celebrated on October 27th in Baltimore. Attendees were treated to a trip down memory lane, as a barbershop quartet performed throughout the day and eventually led the group in the singing of “Take Me Out To The Ballgame.”

Seven new inductees to the Maryland Fastpitch Softball Hall of Fame were introduced. They are: Joann Brickwedde – umpire Carroll Hess – player and coach Michael Hineline – player Richard Krivosh – player Tom Morrison – coach Max Niemann – player John Remmell – umpire
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2. Call Bollinger Sports, ASA Department—Ph: 800-526-1379 or ASAinfo@Bollinger.com

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Sacramento ASA hosts unique event

“Play for Pink” helps raise Breast Cancer Awareness

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Sacramento ASA hosted a special event to raise funds for a local charity. “In an association that serves 10,000+ young ladies, we feel contributing to a cause as important as Breast Cancer is extremely special and appropriate” said Cassi Rogers, the Sacramento ASA Coordinator and the Director for this event. But on this day, the kids were not the ones lacing up their cleats.

The Play for Pink Tournament was designed for the parents and coaches of the youth travel teams in the area. The tournament concept: the parents and coaches will play ball while the kids coach, keep score and cheer from the stands! And each of the umpires donated their time to officiate these very special games. On October 28th, for one day, the parents got to re-live their glory days! Or try to anyway.

That Sunday afternoon, the parents and coaches of 8 youth travel teams got to the fields excited and ready to play some ball. They were even out there taking warm-ups before the game! 3 games later, they were limping up to the TD desk asking for Advil and Bengay!

Thanks to the generosity of the participants who were involved, Sacramento ASA was able to present a check to the Placer Breast Cancer Endowment in the amount of $4,347.68 from the funds raised at this special event.

Texas Vipers 99 earn a Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports Fall $2,500 Grant

The Liberty Mutual Insurance Responsible Sports program recently announced the Texas Vipers 99 as one of the recipients of their Fall 2012 Community Grants. The team plans to use the grant to offset costs of attending tournaments in the 2013 season. They used Facebook posts as a way to rally support for their efforts and they posted early and often encouraging everyone to post on their walls also. They rallied the support of their community and received items to raffle off to anyone who took the quiz. Bettye Smith, team administrator said, “As parents, we strive to provide meaningful life lessons through sports as well as other methods. This grant process has given our players another tool for their toolkit.”

It is very exciting for us to have an ASA team take home one of the 2012 Fall Responsible Sports community grants. Thank you for all that you did in helping to promote the competition this fall!
EVERYTHING SOFTBALL

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WHEN YOU JOIN THE LEAGUE BY SPORTS AUTHORITY
After hours of meetings, presentations, discussions and training sessions, the Annual Council Meeting concluded another successful year for ASA/USA Softball. Held Nov. 10-17 in Dallas, Texas, the 82nd Council Meeting was attended by over 650 Council Members, exhibitors, equipment manufacturers and National Office Staff.

Prior to the start of the Council Meeting was the “Swing for a Cause” golf series, which was held on Friday at The Golf Club of Dallas. Nine teams competed, with Johnny McCraw, Brian Wegman, Brett Helmer and Don Cooper defending their title by claiming first-place.

Kicking off the week-long event Saturday evening was the annual trade show, which featured 80 booths from cities bidding on future ASA National Championships, equipment manufacturers and softball suppliers. Over 1,000 Council Members, association delegates and visitors passed through.

On Monday afternoon over 100 individuals/associations were honored at the Wilson Sports Goods Awards Luncheon. In the service award category, 40 Council 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 26 were given benchmark awards for increases in the registering of adult and youth teams and umpires. The Triple Play award, for increasing adult teams, Junior Olympic teams and umpires, was awarded to Commissioner Don Meinel of Hawaii ASA and Houston ASA Commissioner Stoney Burke. These two associations received the same awards in 2011. The most total registrations award went to Rodney Cobb 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 have received their respective awards for the past four years. For a complete list of honors, click here.

Tuesday morning started bright and early as over 60 Council Members participated in the fifth-annual “Fun Walk”. Later in the day, the general council session decided which cities will host the 2014 ASA National Championships. For the host cities, please click here.

Capping off the Council Meeting was the annual Hall of Fame Induction where six individuals were honored with inductions into the National Softball Hall of Fame. The 2012 class included umpire Chris Armijo (Grand Rapids, Mich.), Managers Denny Bruckert (Gillespie, Ill.), Leon Gruenalt (Warren, Mich.) and Larry Mays (Canyon Lake, Calif.), Slow Pitch Player Jerry King (Maysville, Ky.) and for Meritorious Service Ivan “Ike” Wheeler (Bossier City, La.). To get more info on the 2012 Hall of Fame class and to find out who will be inducted in 2013, click here.

In Other News
For 2013 Playing Rule Changes that were voted on during the Council Meeting, click here >>

For 2013 Code Changes that were voted on during the Council Meeting, please click here >>

Future Meetings
2013 - Oklahoma City, Okla.
2014 - Reno, Nev.
2015 - Louisville, Ky.

View more photos on the ASA/USA Softball Facebook page at www.facebook.com/asausasoftball/.
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NY ASA awards scholarship to Kelleen Costello

The NY ASA is proud to announce that Kelleen Costello (Windsor, N.Y.) was the recipient of the Fred Schneider Memorial Scholarship. Below is the essay she submitted for the scholarship:

“At the age of 12 I began playing travel ball for the 12 U Black Widows. I remember having to wait to play for a travel team until my older sister finished playing her final 18 U season. My dad was an American Legion baseball coach traveling with my two brothers, so my mom and I would travel with my sister. I was so excited to finally start my softball career, and be part of that world that I’d watched my sister participate in and for the love for so many years. I was not longer the “little sister in the stands” but the player who now was benefiting from the hundreds of games I watched.

“Each year I played I had wonderful coaches who taught me so much, not just about the game, but about the work ethic and interpersonal skills necessary to be successful in all areas of life. Bill Waldron of the Black Widows, Ed Watson of the Ponies, Bill Hampton of the Diamond Dusters and Dale Cook of the Conklin Raiders Gold were all very different types of coaches. Yet, each one’s style helped me to learn in different ways and taught me adaptability and flexibility. Having these varied coaching styles will be a valuable background as I go through life and will be exposed to all types of people and teaching/mentoring styles.

“Along the way I not only developed excellent softball skills, but learned the value of hard work, sacrifice, dedication and commitment. Many, many times I would have a three hour high school practice and then go to a night practice for my travel team. Giving up social activities that my non-athletic friends were involved in was a choice I made to better myself as a softball player. It also taught me the necessary value of time management. As a high honor student throughout my school career, while following a rigorous course schedule, I learned to successfully balance my school work with the extensive time commitment to softball, ultimately graduating 5th in my class with a senior year GPA of 103.69.

“In addition, ASA softball has helped me develop strong leadership skills. As I’ve grown in my confidence and knowledge of the game, I’ve been given the opportunity to be captain of both my ASA travel team and my high school softball team. Learning to lead by modeling hard work and doing all the “little things” that make a team successful, has earned me the respect of my teammates and coaches. The most rewarding aspect of my leadership though, has been the work I’ve done with younger softball players. Both at school and youth softball camps I’ve immensely enjoyed teaching the fundamentals and love of the game to players just starting out. To give back to the sport that’s given me so much and that I love is an indescribable feeling!

“ASA softball has played a huge role in my life. I am just beginning my freshman year at the Division I University of Albany on a partial athletic softball scholarship. Without playing in ASA Competitive tournaments I would never have an athletic softball scholarship and realize my dream of playing Division I softball in college, ending up where I am today! ASA has helped me to obtain the exposure I needed to arrive at this point. I have also been able to benefit my high school team because the competition I faced in travel ball has readied me for any opponent. I have helped and led my high school team to two NYS Class B Championships in 2008 and 2001, and one state semi-final opportunity in 2012. I earned 5 varsity letters in softball and was 1st team all-state 3 times since my sophomore year. My experience due to ASA travel softball has prepared me to face some of the best teams in the country and compete at a high level.

“I have recently graduated from Windsor Central High School, and as I mentioned will be attending the University of Albany beginning in the fall of 2012. While there I will work hard to balance my softball career with my academic journey. I will play softball for the next 4 years, while working to obtain a degree in Actuarial Science and possibly double minor in Economics and Psychology.

“Softball has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. I am so glad it has led me down this path ….. I don’t know where I’d be without it. I will be forever grateful to Fred Schneider for having the vision of encompassing softball program for the girls of the Binghamton Area. I believe this area has become known as the “hot-bed” of softball for New York State because of the groundwork he laid. I owe a lot of gratitude to the ASA for giving me the opportunity to reach and make my dreams come true.

For more information on the Fred Schneider Memorial Scholarship, please click here>>
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  • 15% bonus on all Base Points
  • Complimentary access to hotel owned and operated health clubs during stays

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Achieve with 16 stays, 36 nights, or 60,000 Base Points
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* Must be requested and is subject to availability
** Please see program Terms and Conditions at HHonors.com for more details
† Not applicable to extraordinary demand dates as determined by the hotel
Spokane ASA Umpires Association awards its members; elects new President and board

Ken Mathia, outgoing president of the Spokane Softball Umpires Association, was presented with the organization’s coveted Campbell-Stewart Award at its annual awards banquet on Nov. 3.

Mathia’s tenure during his 15 years in Spokane epitomizes the qualities associated with the award, which is named for two former, long-serving Spokane ASA umpires-in-chief, the late F. Bruce Campbell and Chuck Stewart: longevity, dedication, excellence and service to softball umpiring in the Spokane area.

Besides being a two-term president, Mathia was a vice president on the SSUA board, the assignor who launched on-line assigning with the Arbiter and oversaw the revision of the association bylaws this past year.

Mathia, a 21-year ASA-registered umpire who got his start in St. Louis, has umpired in six ASA national tournaments and this past summer was the umpire coordinator for the Men’s Western C National Slowpitch Tournament in Spokane.

In emotionally accepting the award, the 6-foot-11 Mathia, who played basketball at Washington State University from 1984-87, said that in his early days of umpiring in St. Louis he was asked to do girls 10-and-under ball. The difficulty getting low enough to call pitches convinced him adult slowpitch would extend his career.

He is the first slowpitch-only umpire to receive the award, which was inaugurated in 1975.

Gale Hart, a veteran umpire and former board member who works tirelessly behind the scenes, including training, was named the Umpire of the Year-Adult (for the adult programs). He worked in 11 tournaments in 2012, including the ASA girls JO 10U B Western National and 14U A Regional, both in Spokane.

Bob Francis, a relative newcomer to the association who was a Rookie of the Year in 2010, received the Umpire of the Year-Youth award. Among his 10 tournaments in 2010 were the Washington State 1A high school tournament and the ASA girls JO 14U A Regional.

Paul Grubbs, who umpired in the ASA girls JO 12U A Western National in Salem, Ore., and the 16U A Regional/ National Qualifier in Spokane, was named Most Improved-Adult. Brian Hall, a fourth-year umpire who worked the ASA 14U A Regional in Spokane, was Most Improved-Youth.

Bob Kuck was Rookie of the Year-Adult and Rachel Honodel was Rookie of the Year-Youth. Both worked in three tournaments in their first year.

Mathia presented Presidential Pride awards to Rich and Sandy Hobson, caretakers of the association’s uniforms and equipment sales program, and Chuck Stewart, who shepherds the SSUA website. Both Rich and Chuck, Ken pointed out, are former association presidents and UICs who continue to work behind the scenes.

In other news
Dallas Williams, the Spokane Softball Umpires Association president from 2008-2009, was returned to the position at the organization’s elections in September. His term began on Dec. 1.

Other members of the new board, which will be operating under new bylaws with different position titles and responsibilities, are: Steve Quaid, vice president; Gary Kuck, adult director; Jeff Camp, youth director; John Isles, secretary; and Bob Kuck, member at-large, a position filled by a first- or second-year umpire. Quaid, Gary Kuck and Camp serve on the outgoing board, and Isles, who has an advisory position on the current board, is a former association secretary.

SSUA or softball in the community.
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References

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