

Department of Illinois American Legion Baseball Committee Meeting September 30, 2017

Meeting was held at Department Headquarters in Bloomington at 1005AM. Members present were 2nd Division Chairman Ray Powroznik, 3rd Division Chairman Jim Shaw and 5th Division Chairman Don Wallis. James Huisel 10th District Chairman was also present. Excused was 1st Division Chairman Paul Knudston, 4th Division Chairman Harry Rakers and Junior Legion Chairman Butch Ogle.

Ray Powroznik led us in a prayer and we recited the National anthem to start the meeting.

We reviewed the regular and post season for both the Junior and Senior Legion program. The Junior Legion State Champion was Danville. The Senior Legion State Champion was Edwardsville. Danville was the runner-up. Both teams went to the Great Lakes Regional held this year in Napoleon, Ohio. Edwardsville was eliminated in Game 12 by the Indiana State Champion and Danville lost in the Championship Game to Midland Michigan.

We had 157 teams register last season. Those who entered a roster for approval was 147.

We had a visit by the Commander Bob Henderson and Vice Commander Mike Carder. The emphasis this year will be to increase boys attending Boys State and raising more money for the Gifts to the Yanks program. Membership drives will include sending text messages for renewal of Legion members.

Chairman Don Wallis attended the Americanism Conference held in Indianapolis, Indiana held September 24-26. There was discussion and sharing of the information presented at the Conference. We had several rule changes submitted by several states. The Chairman present voted on each of these proposed rule changes. Those that had a simple majority were referred to the Baseball Committee that met after the Conference adjourned. The Rules that the Baseball Committee pass are forwarded to the NEC for acceptance/rejection at their meeting in October. The Resolution passed at the Dept. Convention to raise the enrollment total from 5000 to 6000 was referred to the Baseball Committee. There will be an emphasis on increasing the number of Junior Legion teams Nationwide. We were asked to stress the positives of American Legion Baseball and refrain from critical remarks on the other programs. Neil Walker was selected as the 2018 Graduate of the Year. He played Legion Baseball and currently plays for the Milwaukee Brewers.

The Alton High School baseball field was approved as the site for the 2018 Senior State Tournament unanimously. The Wheaton College baseball field was approved unanimously as the site for the 2018 Junior Legion State Tournament.

There was discussion on the possibility of us sending a team of one of the Junior Legion Regionals. We also discussed the small school program that some states have which has helped them increase the number of teams in their respective states.

James Huisel said he would contact Sportsengin about any changes we might need to before November 1. James also asked if National could have a recruiting poster printed

something generic about Legion baseball where a local team could put their own contact information at various locations in the community

There was discussion concerning revising the 2018 State Rule Book to reflect the teams and rules for each respective program more distinct.

Everyone was reminded to communicate with those District Chairman in their respective Division and to set post season tournament dates as soon as possible and to avoid last minute changes. Meeting adjourned at 1208 PM.

Minutes taken by Ray Powroznik. There were some changes, deletions and additions made by myself.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Wallis- Department of Illinois Baseball Chairman