



# SOLANCO LITTLE LEAGUE 2012

## “Covering the Bases”

### 2012 Officers

Ken Crank – President, Neil Wiker - Vice President, Bill Stull - Secretary  
Charlie Hart - Treasurer

### 2012 Directors

Bruce Akerley, Jim Miller, Art Rohrer, Barry Heck, Paul Stanton, Curt Shambaugh  
Chrissy Smith, Dave Smith, Mark Keller, Paul Neff, Doug Glick

### **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

2011 saw significant changes made within our organization. We changed how we draft our regular season teams, manage playing time, and select our all-star teams. Based on conversations with many of you, it appears that those changes had a positive impact.

As we look ahead to 2012, we don’t anticipate making as many changes as last year, but our board will continue working to make the experience your child has with us a good one.

Each year I have asked that our parents get involved with some aspect of the league, and this year is no different. As I’ve noted in the past, once you get involved you will stay involved. It is very rewarding.

Look for committee sign-up sheets when you come to register your child.

We are very grateful for the help that we receive. On behalf of our board I say “Thank you!” to all our volunteers.

### **LET THERE BE LIGHT?**

You may or may not be aware that in addition to our regular season schedule, Solanco Little League annually host tournaments at the District and Section levels. We enjoy hosting these tournaments, and constantly receive praise about the facility. It is a wonderful place.

Without a doubt, the one comment we receive the most is “This is such a nice place, why don’t you have lights?” You may have the same question. There are a couple of answers, not the least of which is the fact that when the complex was constructed SLL agreed that it would not install them for at least five years.

In 2005, the league considered lighting three fields but it proved to be cost prohibitive and the idea faded. As we head toward the 2012 season our board has decided to revisit the issue.

At this writing, we have engaged Musco Lighting and have received a quotation for installing lights on Field #2. We have also applied for a variance with Colerain Township that would allow us to exceed the current height limit for structures installed in the area.

So what happens next? Will we have lights? After an eventful township meeting conducted on December 14<sup>th</sup> we are awaiting the decision of the zoning board. That decision will be rendered on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Approval from the township represents only one part of the equation. Part two rests in the hands of the SLL Board of Directors.

Anyone that I have spoken with regarding our league knows that the board takes our fiscal responsibilities seriously. At this writing, we have less than 5 years remaining on our mortgage. If we commit to installing lights, we will add at least that many years onto our current debt.

Are the lights worth the expense? We believe that they are, but would appreciate any input you may wish to offer. Please feel free to e-mail me at [ken@pacaweb.org](mailto:ken@pacaweb.org) with your feelings on the matter.

### **COMPLEX RULES**

There is a large sign on the front of the storage garage as you enter our Complex. The sign lists the rules that are to be followed while you are on the property. In most cases they are, and we appreciate that. There are times however when a rule is broken.

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The last article references an eventful township meeting. One complaint that was presented during the meeting was smoking. The complex rules state clearly that there is to be no smoking on the premises. We have not strictly enforced this rule, and that is our fault, but it is an example of one that we will adhere to in 2012 and going forward.

The next time you enter the complex, please take the time to familiarize yourself with our rules.

## **NEW BOARD MEMBER**

The Solanco Little League Board of Directors (Officers and General Directors) includes a total of 15 volunteers who are nominated and approved through an election process that begins at the annual meeting that is conducted in September of each year. Each member serves a two-year term.

We have one new member elected for 2012, Mark Keller. His bio is below.

*I have been involved with Solanco Little League since 2006. My sons are currently at the Major and Minor levels.*

*I've been an assistant coach for both my son's teams as they have changed levels. Last spring I was the Minor level manager of the Padres. I also managed a minor level team this fall season.*

*As a coach, I always tried to teach the fundamentals of baseball and increase a player's knowledge of the game. SLL has provided a fun learning experience for my children.*

*In the 5 years at SLL I've seen my sons improve their skills and gain a passion for baseball. I would like to see all children who play at SLL to have similar experiences and opportunities.*

*I am always amazed how many parents are willing to give their time to be a coach, team mom or just to help out. Joining the SLL Board provides me the opportunity to give my time in another capacity.*

## **HOW CAN I HELP?**

Below is a list of our committees, the leader of that committee, and a description of that committee's area of responsibility. Look for committee sign-up sheets at our registrations. We hope that you will get involved.

### **Complex Committee – Dave Smith**

- Responsibilities will include the overall maintenance of the buildings and grounds at the complex.

### **Equipment Committee – Paul Stanton**

- Responsibilities will include inventory control of all playing equipment and uniforms.

### **Concession Stand Committee – Deb Crank**

- Our concession stand is a vital part of our organization. This new committee will manage the inventory and scheduling aspects of the concession stand.

### **Tournament Committee – Ken Crank**

- Responsibilities will include interaction with the District and the scheduling of tournaments at the Solanco LL Complex. This committee will also schedule the volunteers for staffing tournament games.

### **Special Events Committee – Ken Crank**

- This committee will be broken into several sub-committees for better coordination those events outside the normal operation of the league and complex. Those sub-committees and the group leader are below.
  - Fund Raiser – Heather Constein
  - Picture Day – Darlene Shambaugh
  - Golf Tournament – Neil Wiker

## **SOLANCO LITTLE LEAGUE AWARDS**

As you are aware, each year Solanco Little League and District 23 recognizes those individuals that have contributed significantly to our success. Those individuals receive their honors at an event conducted at Clipper Magazine Stadium.

Our award winners for the 2010 season are as follows:

- **Good Sport Award – Hunter Smith**
- **Umpire of the Year – Kevin Butler**
- **Team Parent – Patty Stitz & Chuck Dow**
- **Outstanding Adult Volunteer – Ed Dugan**

There is no greater satisfaction for me than seeing our volunteers and athletes (the Good Sport Award goes to a player) rewarded for their efforts. We realize that no one gets involved to be recognized, but these awards do allow our league to say thank you for a job well done!

## **2011 TOURNAMENT SUCCESS**

Each year Solanco LL is proud to enter its all-star teams into District 23 tournaments. Our league has created a legacy of tournament success and this year was no exception. While we were not fortunate enough to have a champion crowned at any level, our teams performed well.

- 12 Year Old – Fourth Place
- 11 Year Old – Second Place
- 10 Year Old – Second Place
- 9 Year Old – Third Place

We are looking forward to the 2012 tournament season, and hope to hang another banner or two at our Complex.

## **HART WALL HONOREE**

Each year the Solanco LL Board of Directors selects an individual for his or her outstanding contribution to the success of our organization. That individual is honored with a place on the Hart Wall. It gives me great pleasure to announce that Barry Smoker is this year's winner.

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Barry began his service to Solanco LL by working on the fields during the initial construction period beginning in 1998. He literally helped bring the Complex "out of the ground". Along with assisting in the development of the grounds, Barry was also part of the group that installed the kitchen in our concession stand.

As the Complex grew, he continued to volunteer his time to the league and served as a softball coach from 1999-2004. In addition to coaching, Barry was on our Board of Directors, filling the roles of Softball Commissioner and level VP's during the same time period.

We are very appreciative of the contributions he has made to our league. While many of you may not be familiar with his name, he has clearly had an impact on our league and his efforts cannot go unnoticed.

Congratulations Barry!

## **COMPLEX UPDATE**

At the conclusion of the Fall Ball season the league gets busy with a variety of tasks to prepare the Complex for the Winter. These improvements and maintenance activities assure that your children will continue to have a quality facility to come to. What has been done and what remains for 2012?

**Field Improvements:** A pitching mound has been installed on Field 5.

**Batting Cages:** A new cage (located between Field 4 and Field 5) was constructed during the course of least season , and has been a welcome addition. General maintenance will be performed on the other two cages on site.

## **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Last year SLL began collecting e-mail addresses. In today's world it makes communication much easier and efficient. A couple of weeks ago we sent out a test e-mail to help validate the addresses that we had.

If we do not have an e-mail address for you, or if there is a chance that it is listed incorrectly, please take the time to fill in the proper information on this year's registration form.

## **BAT INFORMATION**

Last year LL Baseball instituted new rules regarding what baseball bats were eligible for play. Frankly trying to understand the new rules is somewhat daunting and there is not enough room in this newsletter for us to present an explanation.

Information on the current status of the bats that may be used at all levels is available at the following links:

General Info –

<http://www.littleleague.org/media/newsarchive/2011/Sep-Dec/LLAnnouncesBatRuleChangesfor2012Season.htm>

2 ¼" Diameter Bats –

<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/approvedcombatssmall.htm>

2 5/8" Diameter Bats -

<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/approvedcombatssmall.htm>

## **WINTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Last year SLL began opening the facility to our players for the purpose of getting in some off-season workouts. Some players took advantage of the program, but many did not. We are hoping for increased participation this year.

Beginning on Sunday January 8, 2012 and running consecutive Sundays until March 11, 2012, the facility will be open for use from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM (four one-hour sessions). Each session will be limited to 10 players and will include the use of the batting cage and the greenhouse.

We have enhanced the conditions present in the batting cage (the large storage building adjacent to our main building) by adding two new propane heaters and additional flood lights.

To secure the use of the facility, you will be required to reserve your spot by contacting Curt Shambaugh at [ceshambaugh@frontiernet.net](mailto:ceshambaugh@frontiernet.net).

We are looking forward to seeing you and watching your skills continue to grow.

## **EQUIPMENT "RECYCLING"**

Do you have "gently used" equipment (gloves, shoes, etc.) that your child has outgrown or that someone else may benefit from? If you do, we encourage you to bring it with you when you register your child. That equipment will be recycled and put into the hands of another child in our organization.

Kudo's to Darlene Shambuagh who brought the idea to us, and who has volunteered to coordinate this effort. If you have any questions about the program or how to donate (or receive) equipment please contact her at [cdnzshambaugh@epix.net](mailto:cdnzshambaugh@epix.net).

## **MORE RECYCLING**

Thanks to the efforts of Jessica Keller, Solanco Little League will be greener this year. Jessica has offered to coordinate a recycling program at our complex. Rather than throwing your used plastic bottles in our trash cans, SLL will now have clearly marked containers for those containers.

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We thank Jessica for taking the lead in this initiative. If you have any questions, or wish to help her with the implementation of this program, please contact her at 717-413-0472 or jesskell89@gmail.com.

Feb 18 9:00 AM -11:00 AM Girls 8 -10  
Feb 18 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM Boys 8 -12  
Feb 23 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Boys 13-16  
Feb 25 TBD – Snow Date

## SOFTBALL PITCHING CLINIC

Solanco Varsity Softball coach, Brett Miller, and his staff will be holding pitching clinics on February 25, 2012 and March 3, 2012 from 8:30-9:30 AM in the old gym at the high school (weather permitting). This is for beginners and/ or advanced pitchers. Parents are encouraged to attend this session as well. Coach Miller will be providing hands on experience. This is a great time for the parents to learn the fundamentals, which will allow them to help teach in the backyard. Don't miss out on this free lesson!

## PLAYER POOL

Last year we limited our roster size at the minor and major baseball levels to 11 members per team. This yielded positive results, but there were a couple of incidents that involved a player being injured and his team having a difficult time putting a full roster on the field for a game.

In order to address that possibility, we will be developing a "pool" of players whose names will be kept on record by our player agent. This pool will be populated by players that are interested in participating in extra games during the season.

How will this work? Those interested will enter their names into the pool. If a team anticipates being short a player for a game, they will contact our player agent and a player will be selected to participate in that game. Little League Baseball provides for the establishment of such a pool and has rules that govern how those players are utilized (specifically with relation to playing time). SLL will be abiding by those rules. We are looking forward to implementing this new system. Please share this concept with your child to garner their interest.

## SOLANCO LITTLE LEAGUE ON WGAL.COM

Because our registration and evaluation events take place during January and February, Solanco Little League has again made provisions to be on WGAL's cancellation list. **Because of how our organization is categorized we will not be listed on television but, any event cancellation will be posted on wgal.com.** We hope this will help eliminate some, if not all of the questions surrounding a "go" or "no go" for our parents.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Registration: Solanco Little League Complex

Jan 7	9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Jan 12	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Jan 14	12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Jan 28	9:00 AM-12:00 PM

### Skill Evaluations: Solanco High School (Old Gym)

## Other Notable Dates (Tentative)

**Spring Work Detail:** March 17

**Practices Begin :** March 24 Jr/Sr BB & SB, Major BB & SB, Minor BB & SB  
April 7 Rookie BB & SB  
College BB  
April 14 T-ball

**Games Begin:** April 28 Jr/Sr BB & SB, Major BB & SB, Minor BB & SB  
May 5 Rookie BB & SB, College BB, T-Bal

**Pictures:** May 5 & 12 Times to be announced.

**Playoffs in house:** Minor BB June 4-18  
Major BB June 4-18  
Minor SB June 3-11

## REGISTRATION FORM

For your convenience, a registration form has been included in this newsletter. The required information may be completed prior to your arrival at the Complex. We will collect your registration fee at that time. Should you need an additional form(s), please make a copy. Our Fundraiser form will be available for completion at the time of registration. Remember if someone other than the parent/guardian is signing the child up, please make sure the registration form is signed prior accordingly. Again, the league offers 4 sign -up dates any registration after January 31<sup>st</sup> will be considered late and will be assessed a \$10.00 late fee.

***REMINDER: Those people who have an outstanding uniform will be unable to register, unless the uniform is returned. Returns will be accepted at registration.***

The Solanco LL Board of Directors thanks you for registering your child to play baseball or softball with our organization. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at ken@pacaweb.org or 717-468-0259.

Looking forward to seeing you around the Complex!