

2020 SABR Annual Report Appendix 1: Chapter Reports

Rickwood Field Chapter (Birmingham, AL)

The Rickwood Field SABR Chapter (AL) takes its name from America's oldest ballpark. Many of our Chapter members are also members of the Board of the Friends of Rickwood Field. The Chapter's namesake turned 109 on August 18, 2019.

COVID-19 has "rained out" the end of the year and appears likely to negatively impact any baseball-related activities into 2021. Nevertheless, our members are still finding ways to talk baseball with each other, whether on social media, email, or phone calls. In addition, several members have been busy with research and writing projects. One of our member's articles will appear in the spring 2020 edition of *The Baseball Research Journal*.

On May 29, 2019, the Birmingham Barons returned to Rickwood Field for the 23rd annual Rickwood Classic. As always, Chapter members came out in force to support the event and catch some throwback baseball. The Barons wore 1910-era throwback uniforms, but lost to the Montgomery Biscuits, 9-4. Former big leaguer and manager Lou Piniella was the special guest for the Classic and joined U.S. Senator Doug Jones in throwing out the ceremonial first pitch before an afternoon crowd of 7,000.

On October 7, 2019, **Art Clarkson** died. Art was a good friend of the Chapter. He owned the Birmingham Barons from 1981-91 and helped save Rickwood from the wrecking ball. He won three Southern League titles with the Barons, including the club's final titles at Rickwood (1983 and 1987). In his later years, spoke at Chapter meetings and was a regular attendee at the Southern Association Conference. On October 22, Chapter members gathered with many others at a Celebration of Art's Life at the Hoover Metropolitan Stadium.

On December 6, 2019, in conjunction with the Friends of Rickwood, members of the Chapter helped start a quarterly newsletter, ***Rickwood Tales***. The inaugural newsletter had a tribute to Art Clarkson and announced Birmingham as the site of the 2020 Jerry Malloy Conference, which has since been moved to 2021. Newsletters can be found here: <https://rickwood.com/newsletter/>

From December 8, 2019 to February 8, 2020, the Chapter shook off the Hot Stove blues by voting for the **Best Barons, A's, and Black Barons at each position from the Rickwood-era in Birmingham Baseball (1910-1987)**. Nominations and voting were based on each player's tenure for a Birmingham franchise (either for single season or several years). Members were asked to evaluate their contributions to Birmingham teams (and not consider big league stats). The membership considered 5-6 candidates at each position and voted on the Chapter's Facebook Page. An "outfielder" category was added for players where specific outfield positions could not be identified. The results were announced in the March edition of *Rickwood Tales*. Partial results are reproduced below:

Catcher: Yam Yaryan [Barons, 1926-30, 357, 60 HRs, 99 2Bs]. Runner up: Pepper Bassett [Black Barons: 1944-50]

First Base: Gus Triandos [Barons: 1953, .368, 19 HRs]. Runner up: Walt Dropo [Barons: 1948]

Second Base: Piper Davis [Black Barons, 1942-49, .348, 7-time EW-ASG]. Runner up: Stuffey Stewart [Barons: 1920-25, 28-29]

Third Base: Fred Hatfield [Barons: 1949-50, .280, 52 HRs, 43 2Bs, 22 3Bs]. Runner up: Mickey Rutner [Barons, 1948].

Shortstop: Artie Wilson [Black Barons, 1944-48, .369, 5 HRs, 40 2Bs, 18 3B]. Runner up: Pie Traynor [Barons, 1921]

Left Fielder: Stan Palys [Barons, 1960-61, .352, 41 HRs, 20 3B, 76 2B]. Runner up: Reggie Jackson [A's, 1967]

Center Fielder: Jimmy Piersall [Barons, 1951-52, .345, 16 HRs, 13 3B, 34 2B]. Runner up: Willie Mays [Black Barons, 1948-50]

Right Fielder: Elliot Bigelow [Barons, 1927-28, .376, 27 HRs, 28 3B, 59 2B]. Runner up: Claudell Washington [A's, 1974]

Outfielder: Butch Weis [Barons, 1929-31 & 1934, .337, 51 HRs, 52 3B, 107 2B]. Runner up: George Wilson [Barons, 1948-49]

Right-Handed Pitcher: Satchel Paige [Black Barons, 1927-30, 426 IP, 35-15 (.700), 2.98 ERA]. Runner up: Burleigh Grimes [Barons, 1914-16]

Left-Handed Pitcher: Eddie Wells [Barons, 1927-48, 405 IP, 38-8 (.826), 2.60 ERA]. Runner up: Joe Grzenda [1958, '60-61, '64 Barons, '67 A's]

The Chapter celebrated SABR's 11th annual **SABR Day** on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q. **Jeb Stewart** gave a PowerPoint presentation on Greenlee Field, which was the home of the Pittsburgh Crawfords from 1932-38. His chapter on Greenlee Field will be included in the upcoming SABR BioProject book, *Pride of Smoketown: The 1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords*. Ballparks and barbeque are a popular combination among Chapter members.

On March 7, the Chapter, in conjunction with the Friends of Rickwood, held the 17th annual **Southern Association Baseball Conference** at Rickwood Field. The Southern Association was a professional baseball league that existed from 1901-61 and was preceded by the Southern League (1885-99). Rickwood (1910-61), Engel Stadium in Chattanooga, Tennessee (1930-61) and Luther Williams Stadium in Macon, Georgia (1961), are the three remaining ballparks, which regularly hosted league games. The conference is an annual event dedicated to preserving the history of the teams, players, managers, owners, seasons, and ballparks of the league. This year's conference included nearly 40 attendees who crowded into Rickwood's conference room.

After morning coffee and snacks, **Clarence Watkins**, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, and the Executive Director of the Friends of Rickwood, opened the conference with introductory remarks. While wearing a Memphis Chicks jersey, he introduced each speaker throughout the day and kept attendees on their toes with trivia questions.

Clarence then presented on Charles Glock, who played in the minor leagues from 1937-52 posting a .285 lifetime batting average and collecting 1,622 hits. Glock spent a decade as a middle infielder in the Southern Association, primarily as a member of the Atlanta Crackers. However, he also played for other league members, including the Knoxville Smokies, Birmingham Barons, and New Orleans Pelicans. Several years ago, Glock's memorabilia came up for sale. Among the more interesting items was Glock's annual season budget, in which he allocated funds for his equipment, transportation, tips, taxes, and insurance. The budget was a reminder that while baseball remains a pastime for most of us, it was also a job for players in the Southern Association.

Gregory Bennington, who traveled from Louisville, Kentucky for the conference, then presented on his uncle, Bobby Durnbaugh, who played professional baseball from 1951-61, hitting a respectable .272 as a middle infielder. Durnbaugh appeared in two games for the Cincinnati Reds in 1957 but spent most of his career in the minors, including five seasons in the Southern Association. He played four years for the Nashville Vols (1955-56 and 1958-59). He then spent the summer of 1961 with the

Mobile Bears and Shreveport Sports during the final act of the Southern Association. However, it was in Nashville where he had his best memories. He was named Most Valuable Vol in 1956 and his manager, Ernie White, called him “the hustlingest player’ he ever saw.”

According to Greg, “while [Nashville’s] Sulphur Dell wasn’t his favorite stadium by any means, he still lights up when he talks about its quirks. He continues to be very close with a couple of Nashville teammates, Larry Taylor and Buddy Gilbert. In many ways, Nashville is what defines him.” Greg’s PowerPoint included some incredible photos of his uncle playing at Sulphur Dell.

Following a break, **John Guinozzo** closed out the morning session with a presentation on Nicknames for Teams and Players of the Southern Association while wearing a 1944 Memphis Chicks uniform.

According to John, “the Memphis franchise listed more nicknames than any other Southern Association member. As the custom (in Memphis) in the early days, the team was called whatever color uniforms they wore. Hence, Memphis was called the Reds, Blues, Browns and Grays.”

Memphis briefly went by the Egyptians, and the Turtles, before adopting the name Chicks in 1912. The nickname was short for Chickasaws and named after the Chickasaw Guard, which was a paramilitary drill team in the 1890s, as well as for the native Americans living in the area. John’s research also uncovered probably the most bizarre team nickname in Memphis baseball history: The “Fever Germs,” which reporters began calling the club after a Yellow Fever epidemic in Memphis.

Following the morning session, attendees were treated to a delicious barbeque lunch, which was catered by Jim ‘N Nick’s Bar-B-Q.

Terry Sloope, a SABR member with the Magnolia / Georgia Chapter, opened the afternoon session with an interesting presentation on William Virgil “Jumbo” Barrett.

During his 9-year professional career, mostly during the 1920s, Jumbo batted .311 as a power-hitting catcher. In 1927, he batted .360 and set a South Atlantic League record with 39 home runs while playing for the Knoxville Smokies before finishing the season with the Memphis Chicks in the Southern Association.

In 1928, Jumbo spent spring training with the New York Giants in Augusta, Georgia competing to replace veteran Zach Taylor as the backup catcher to Shanty Hogan. However, he failed to make the squad and remained with the Chicks following an exhibition game in Memphis.

According to Terry, “Jumbo hoped to use the 1928 season as a springboard to a spot on the Giants’ roster the following season. [However, a] badly broken leg [suffered] during a bitter, hard-fought four game series at Ponce De Leon Park against the Atlanta Crackers that August brought those dreams to an end.”

During his career, the native Georgian also played for the Atlanta Crackers and Mobile Bears in the Southern Association.

Jumbo’s career ended in 1931 following a season with the Durham Bulls of the Piedmont League. He died in Savannah, Georgia in 1977.

Bill Plott, a former reporter, columnist, and editor with the *Anniston Star*, and a longtime SABR member, who has written two books about the Negro Leagues, presented next on Ferguson “Fuzzy” Woodruff, the Southern Association’s League Historian. Fuzzy gained notoriety as a sportswriter in the early 1900s, and was a veteran of World War I.

In 1919, while working for *The Birmingham News*, Fuzzy began writing a 19-part series of Sunday columns entitled “Story of the Southern League.” The series began with league’s formation in 1885 and continued through 1915. However, the columns ended abruptly with the 1915 season. According

to Bill Plott, “Woodruff, who worked for 12 newspapers in 22 years, got itchy feet and moved to Atlanta, joining one of the papers there.”

Woodruff’s articles are filled with clichés, but also “include fascinating anecdotal information on cantankerous Charley Frank.” Frank was a southern baseball legend, who played from 1899-1902 and managed in the Southern Association from 1901-1921, including stints with Memphis, New Orleans, and Atlanta. Woodruff died in Atlanta at the age of 45. He was buried with full military honors.

Clarence Watkins was the final speaker of the day, and presented on “Dusty Rhodes, A Childhood Memory”. When he was growing up in Memphis, Clarence recalled asking his Grandfather who his favorite player was. He replied, “Willie Mays and Dusty Rhodes,” who were two heroes on the New York Giants’ 1954 World Series championship team. Everyone knows Willie Mays, but many people confuse Rhodes with a professional wrestler who used the same name.

Dusty Rhodes was born on May 13, 1927 in Mathews, Alabama, which is an unincorporated community in Montgomery County, Alabama. He played professional baseball for 16 seasons, including 7 with the New York and San Francisco Giants from 1952-59. In the minors, he played for the Nashville Vols in the Southern Association in 1952.

Rhodes was a natural pull hitter, which made Sulphur Dell’s short right field fence especially tempting. He batted .347 and socked 18 home runs in 90 games for Nashville.

Of course, the Polo Grounds had a similar configuration down the right field line. With the Giants, Rhodes became one of the most dangerous pinch hitters in the game. In the ‘54 World Series, Rhodes batted .667, hit 2 homers, and drove in 7 RBIs while winning MVP honors. He was presented with a new car for his efforts but wrecked the vehicle several weeks later. Rhodes was out of baseball after the 1962 campaign.

Clarence almost met Rhodes in 2008 or 2009 at his mother’s retirement home, but unfortunately Rhodes’ health took a downward turn and he cancelled the visit. Rhodes died shortly thereafter.

This year’s Southern Association Conference was a tremendous success and was *probably* the last public baseball event at Rickwood Field for 2020. The Rickwood Field SABR Chapter and the Friends of Rickwood are already planning for the 18th edition in March of 2021.

However, the 24th annual Rickwood Classic remains on the calendar for Monday, June 8, 2020. Andre Dawson was previously announced as this year’s special guest. Because both the Major and Minor League schedules have been postponed, it is a virtual certainty that COVID-19 will at least result in a cancellation for that date. However, the Barons do have a home game scheduled for August 18, 2020, which remains on the calendar. That date just happens to be the 110th anniversary of the opening of Rickwood Field. Chapter members remain hopeful that the Classic may just happen on that date, but only if the stars and the baseball gods align.

— **Clarence Watkins and Jeb Stewart**

Allan Roth Chapter (Los Angeles, CA)

At our meeting in Pasadena on September 28, 2019, Allen Schery spoke about the beginnings of the Dodgers and provided a glimpse of his extensive collection of Dodger memorabilia:

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-east/news/2019/05/24/local-dodgers-fan-has-collection-of-memorabilia-fit-for-a-museum>

John Smirch discussed his book about his grandfather: “The Last Stand of Outlaw Baseball.” See his website <http://baseballreal.com>

Jason Wilson and Jordan Wong presented research on the correlation between home runs and quality of pitch.

We received an update on the SABR Alzheimer’s project and watched highlights of the 1953 season. The Trivia contest focused on non-Hall of Fame players whose numbers were retired.

Eighteen members and guests of the Allan Roth chapter met in Pasadena on Saturday, March 7, 2020.

Presentations included:

Don Zminda: The 1917 White Sox-Tigers Series: Prelude to the Black Sox Scandal;

Noel Hynd: final game at Ebbets Field and a tribute to Johnny Antonelli;

Allen Schery: Washington Park in Brooklyn with photographs;

John Smirch: 1920's baseball photos of the Western League;

Jon Leonoudakis: the baseball Alzheimer’s project; and

Barry Mednick’s impossible trivia contest using 2019 stats.

— **Barry Mednick**

Dusty Baker-Sacramento Chapter (Sacramento, CA)

In early 2019, longtime member Zak Ford became co-chair of the chapter with Greg King. In early 2020, Ford became sole chair of the chapter.

There is frequent collaboration with the Lefty O’Doul – San Francisco Bay SABR Chapter.

Luncheon meetings are held quarterly, with the first meeting of each year in collaboration with the Lefty O’Doul – San Francisco Bay SABR Chapter.

In 2019, numerous baseball games were added to the chapter’s activities.

The chapter maintains a Facebook page. Additionally, Ford uses his personal Twitter account to promote the chapter.

In 2020, the chapter moved luncheons to the Club Pheasant in West Sacramento, which provides more space and accommodations.

Chapter luncheons have averaged approximately 35 members. However, attendance is growing. Chapter luncheons are \$20 per person. Each chapter luncheon includes a book and memorabilia raffles, which raises money to cover meals and gas for speakers (typically about \$100).

2019-20 Activities

August 9, 2019 – 15 members attended the Sacramento River Cats game.

August 17, 2019 – Approximately 35 members attended the chapter luncheon at Mimi's Café in Folsom. Speakers are listed below.

Mark Oceguida, assistant history professor at Sacramento State, spoke of his book, "Mexican-American Baseball in Sacramento."

Mark Purdy, retired sports columnist for the San Jose Mercury News, who covered the A's and Giants and other teams for over three decades, spoke of his journalism career.

Al Figone, retired Humboldt State University professor, spoke on Moe Berg.

August 30, 2019 – 10 members attended the Sacramento River Cats game.

November 16, 2019 – Approximately 45 members attended the chapter luncheon at the Club Pheasant. Members indicated they preferred the new location. Speakers are listed below.

Johnny Doskow, the voice of the Sacramento River Cats since 2001, spoke of his broadcasting career. He is on Baseball America's list of top minor league broadcasters.

Dennis Snelling, baseball historian and author, spoke on "Sacramento's Joe Gedeon: The Ninth Man Out," a ballplayer associated with the 1919 Black Sox.

Eric C. Gray, author of "Bases to Bleachers: A Collection of Baseball Stories from the Stands and Beyond" presented on the focus of his book, and read passages.

25th anniversary of the chapter's founding - Members reflected back and commemorated the milestone.

February 22, 2020 – Approximately 60 members attended the late "SABR Day" luncheon in collaboration with the Lefty O'Doul – San Francisco Bay SABR Chapter at the Club Pheasant. Speakers are listed below.

Amaury Pi-Gonzalez, Spanish broadcaster for the Oakland Athletics and board member for the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Hall of Fame, presented on the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Hall of Fame.

Marshall Garvey, author, presented on his new book "The Hidden History of Sacramento Baseball."

"The Adventures of Superfan," a new documentary by filmmaker Jon Leonoudakis, was highlighted. The film details the 35-year quest of Charles Fracchia getting his 1979 San Francisco Giants media guide signed by the players, coaches, manager, and general manager appearing in it. Both Leonoudakis and Fracchia presented on the journey.

Daniel Brown of The Athletic, who wrote about the Charles' quest, shared how he found out about the journey, and other baseball topics.

Leonoudakis also discussed his baseball documentary series "The Sweet Spot" and showed short clips of the project.

Ford and Marlene Vogelsang, chair of the Lefty O'Doul – San Francisco Bay SABR Chapter, surprised outgoing chair Greg King with an engraved plaque and thanked him for 25 years of dedication to the chapter.

May 23, 2020 (CANCELLED) – The chapter had planned to hold a luncheon at the Club Pheasant. The below speakers were planned.

Sherry Davis, San Francisco Giants public address announcer from 1993-1999, and the first full-time female public address announcer for a major league baseball team.

Chris Epting, author of over 30 books, including “Roadside Baseball: The Locations of America’s Baseball Landmarks.”

Walt Yost, chapter member and author of “A Glove and a Prayer: A Novel of Baseball, Labor and Race in the Gilded Age.”

June 23, 2020 (CANCELLED) – The chapter had group seats for the California League All Star Game in Stockton, which has been cancelled by the league.

June TBD, 2020 – The chapter plans to hold its first virtual meeting through Zoom, in collaboration with the Lefty O’Doul – San Francisco Bay SABR Chapter. A specific date and time, and details are to be determined.

— **Zak Ford**

Lefty O’Doul Bay Area Chapter (San Francisco, CA)

Who thought we would be missing baseball this season and wonder if there were going to be any games at all? It is strange to write this annual report in the void that we experience this season. I am grateful that technology is allowing us to keep connected while we stay safe. The Lefty O’Doul Chapter is enjoying the benefits of virtual baseball through Stay Home with SABR online programming. Although we have yet to host our own Zoom Chapter meeting, we are working on that. In the meantime, we enjoy being able to “attend” meetings across the country. Kudos to all the chapters who are zooming. Thanks to the folks in Chicago for their abundant programming.

We hosted a couple of events before the quarantine hit. We held a meeting at the new Lefty O’Douls at San Francisco’s Fisherman’s Wharf at the end of August, 2019. The meeting featured several member authors and their projects: Dennis Snelling on Lefty O’Doul; Cesar Love on the astrological influences on baseball; Eric Gray telling his stories about fans; David Block on the origins of baseball; and Steve Murphy sharing his Dad’s scrapbooks. We had a great turnout and fun time, although the new location is definitely not as convenient as it was at Union Square. Unfortunately, due to legal issues, the owner closed the restaurant even before the virus shutdown was in place.

SABR Day 2020 was, as is our tradition, a cohosted event with the Dusty Baker Chapter. This year was the first time it was held in Sacramento. New chapter leader Zak Ford is a pleasure to work with and continues the good work of the Dusty Baker Chapter. We enjoyed hearing from Dan Brown, writer with the Athletic; Amaury Pi-Gonzalez, Spanish language broadcaster; Marshall Garvey on his new book about Sacramento baseball; Jon Leonoudakis who shared clips from his Sweet Spot series, including one on Giants’ Super Fan, Charles Fracchia; Charles also joined us to talk about his project to get an autograph from everyone appearing in the Giants 1979 Media Guide.

Joan Jasper, programming Librarian at San Francisco Public Library and Cubs fan, invites the Chapter to cohost several events every year. We are pleased to continue that relationship which broadens our reach as well as our access to other baseball programming. One of my favorite SABR Days was held several years ago at SF Main Library, when the library hosted the Line Drives and Lipstick Exhibit, and I invited guests from our Women in Baseball Committee to join us for a great conversation on women in the game.

The Chapter also partners with the Pacific Coast League Historical Society to cohost the annual Dick Dobbins Pacific Coast League Reunion and visit with ballplayers from the Pacific Coast League. We are now joined by their families to carry on the tradition to remember and celebrate this special league. Thanks to Mark Macrae and Dick Beverage for their dedication to the league and these players. We will also wait until next year for this reunion.

We currently have around 275 members. We are excited to have a student group from Willow Glen High School, thanks to the efforts of student Atticus Ginsberg. Plans to invite the students to a San Jose Giants game this summer are, of course, on hold. One of our chapter members is interested in working on a Talking Baseball Project and has been in touch with the good folks in Texas who do such marvelous work with taking baseball to seniors. That, too, is on hold. In addition to programs and these efforts, my intentions for the coming year include recruiting new members and developing additional chapter leadership.

I want to thank the Lefty O'Doul Chapter members for their support. Thanks to Pete MacPhail for taking care of our treasury all these years. Thanks to Mark Macrae for his support and assistance with all our efforts.

Thanks to the SABR Board for all their good work. I very much appreciate the support from HQ, especially as we navigate a different playing field these days. Thanks for all you do.

I miss my baseball family!

— **Marlene Vogelsang**

San Diego Ted Williams Chapter (San Diego, CA)

Our chapter held three regional meetings during the year. In March 2020 we postponed future meetings indefinitely due to Covid-19 concerns. A summary of the three meetings is contained below:

Saturday, October 26, 2019, San Diego Central Library Baseball Research Center

Program:

“Professional Baseball in Japan” ...*Bob Bavasi*

“My Minor League Travels” ...*Rocky Craig*

“Making the Call...and Getting it Right” ...*Round Table Discussion with Dan Boyle as Moderator*

Sunday, December 8, 2019, San Diego Central Library Baseball Research Center

Program:

“Chapter accomplishments” ...*Dan Boyle*

“SABR Plans for 2020 and beyond” ...*Scott Bush*

Saturday, January 25, 2020, San Diego North University City Library 11th Annual SABR DAY

Program:

“A Chat with Broderick Perkins” ...*Broderick Perkins*

“Professional Baseball in California Before 1957” ...*Carlos Bauer, Bill Swank*

“1949: Bucky Harris, The Surprise Padres’ Pilot – A Stalled Career Meets A Struggling Franchise” ...
Bob Hicks

Steering Committee Meetings

Our chapter’s steering committee consists of nine members and a liaison member from the City of San Diego Library. During this 12-month period we had two meetings: August 6, 2019 and November 19, 2019. We have postponed future meetings indefinitely due to Covid-19 concerns.

Newsletters

After an absence of five years we re-initiated a Chapter Newsletter in December 2019. We had two more issues since in 2020: April and May. Our next issue is scheduled for June-July.

“Talkin’ Baseball” Lunches

Our chapter initiated informal lunches in 2018 where members have lunch and “talk baseball.” Two lunches were held on: September 7, 2019 and January 4, 2020. We have postponed future lunches indefinitely due to Covid-19 concerns.

Yahoo Chat Group

This chat group was initiated in July 2018. At present there are 14 members. It has not been very active. The address is:

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/SABR_San_Diego/conversations/messages

Projects

City of San Diego Library (Baseball Research Center) Partnership. The Library’s Baseball Research Center (BRC), now called the Sullivan Family Baseball Research Center, was created in 1999 in partnership with our chapter. We continue to coordinate with the Library on the processing and organization of material from the Bill Weiss Archive and offering input related to acquisition of newly issued baseball books and annuals.

Our regional meetings are typically held in the San Diego Padres’ Petco Park auditorium, and in City of San Diego libraries with the Central Library’s 8th-floor BRC being a common venue.

Bill Weiss and Ray Nemec Baseball Archives. The Bill Weiss Archive was acquired in January 2014. This past year ownership of Archive materials have been clarified through an agreement between the City of San Diego and SABR. One outcome of the agreement is the availability of over 100,000 player questionnaires now accessible on Ancestry.com. SABR headquarters now has custody of the Archive materials including the player questionnaires.

In April 2019 baseball research material from the Ray Nemec family was donated to our chapter. Included are player records, unpublished minor league averages, and minor league box score-game scrapbooks. These scrapbooks represent 344 league-seasons between 1934 and 1950. Chapter members are presently engaged in digitization of the books and it is expected to be completed by early 2021.

Chapter Project: All-Time Padres. In May 2020 we initiated a chapter project to select a team of All-Time Padres. We conducted a similar project in 2003 and with 16 seasons having passed since then we felt the timing was appropriate to re-examine the question: who are the all-time best Padres? We will use a ballot method and enlist the input of all chapter members. The project is being managed by two of our Steering Committee members, Greg Funk and Geoff Young. We expect results to be published by early July 2020.

Miscellaneous. Projects are underway in various stages to prepare articles on the following San Diego professional baseball teams: 1899-1900 San Diego teams (Southern California League), 1913 San Diego Bears, 1929 San Diego Aces, and 1946 San Diego Tigers.

— **Tom Larwin**

Rocky Mountain Chapter (Denver, CO)

The past year has been one of continued growth and success for the Rocky Mountain Chapter.

The 2019 calendar season began with the Chapter's annual SABR Day. The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research ("SABR") hosted its tenth annual SABR Day on Saturday, January 26, 2019, with ninety-two (92) SABR members and friends. The presentations started off with a welcome by Scott Bush, the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of national SABR. Bush provided his own welcoming remarks and his views of what he feels SABR means to him and what it could become in the future. Next was a presentation by Chip Atkison, current RMSABR member and former RMSABR Board Member. Atkison gave an outstanding presentation about the first ever College World Series that was held in Denver, and included local college participant of the University of Denver.

The final activity was a media panel moderated by Taylor McGregor, current Rockies broadcaster and reporter for AT&T Sportsnet. The media panel consisted of Thomas Harding, current writer for MLB.com (since 2002) and Colorado Rockies (since 2000); Jerry Schimel, current Rockies announcer and broadcaster for the Colorado Rockies on local KOA radio station; Kevin Henry, current writer for the website Roxpile; and Manny Randhawa, current writer for MLB.com.

The panel first took a myriad of questions from McGregor to which each panelist gave their thorough and detailed responses, and then took questions from the audience. Upon conclusion of the media panel, the traditional mass game of catch was held and although the bullpen warm-ups and games of catch were a little rusty, but the baseballs flew and mitts popped in short order!

In April, in the opening weeks of the 2019 regular season, the Chapter again hosted a "State of the Rockies" with Assistant GM Zack Rosenthal. About 25 SABR members and guests enjoyed lunch and a reprise of the "State of the Rockies" format, which, again, featured lively Q&A.

Then in August, the Chapter held the second annual "Softball and Picnic Extravaganza." The event featured a very lively and spirited softball game followed by a great picnic and social interaction among RMSABR members and guests.

In November, the Chapter held its premier event with its 22nd annual Banquet (at Coors Field), which a wonderful gathering of about 171 participants. The banquet had many guests and featured speakers, including the following individuals:

Keynote Speaker – Clint Hurdle, former manager of the 2007 NL champion Colorado Rockies

Featured Panel – Clint Hurdle and 2007 Colorado Rockies Clint Barmes and Jason Hirsch, moderated by Thomas Harding, MLB.com writer

Lifetime Achievement in Baseball Award – Roger Kinney, former baseball player and alumnus of the University of Colorado baseball team and former Director of the Colorado Baseball Commission

Special National SABR Guest – Ben Rose, Director of Development at SABR

Master of Ceremonies – former Major Leaguer Jason Hirsh.

A popular recurring event, a silent auction, accompanied the occasion.

Popular monthly luncheons maintained in average attendance at around 25-50 participants and reached 157 consecutive recurrences (over 13 years!) by the concluding month of the 2019 season. Members and guests can count on energetic conversation, trivia and general baseball camaraderie: all particularly appreciated during the off-season, “Hot Stove” months!

— **Alex Marks**

Smoky Joe Wood Connecticut Chapter (Hartford, CT)

We have had a very active chapter. The COVID-19 situation has slowed us down, but we are planning on having a virtual chapter meeting, hosted by Tom Monitto, probably in June 2020. What follows is a summary of what we have done since last year.

We attended the annual SABR convention in San Diego, where two of our members, Alan Cohen and Steve Krevisky, delivered presentations.

Our fall 2019 general meeting featured presentations by sportswriter Dom Amore, sportscaster Rich Coppola, author Paul Hensler on CT broadcaster Bob Steele, and David Kaiser on his Wins Above Average (WAA) statistical approach.

We held a holiday luncheon in December 2019, where we honored Larry Levine, one of the chapter co-founders, and Mark Kanter did a presentation. This event was organized by Stan Dziurgot.

Alan Cohen organized a chapter trip to a Mets game in September 2019.

We have periodic chapter breakfasts, where we talk baseball and enjoy our fellowship. We put out quality chapter newsletters, edited by Karl Cicitto, and assisted by Stan Osowiecki, who will become the editor. We have periodic Strat-O-Matic sessions, which we enjoy!

Alan Cohen is active in the BioProject, as he has written many bios, and also fact checks them as well.

Steve Krevisky will receive the Good Sport Award, sponsored by the CT Sports Writers Alliance. This will occur in October 2020.

— **Steve Krevisky**

North Florida – Buck O’Neil Chapter (Tallahassee, FL)

The North Florida/Buck O’Neil Chapter, based in Tallahassee, Florida, experienced another year of membership growth and regular activity. While the total number of members is modest, it remains constant, even growing in size over the past year.

Our monthly socials (typically on the first Wednesday of the month) continue to both lively and well-attended. Topics discussed include the annual Baseball Hall of Fame ballots, rules and voting results (never fails to be lively), college baseball and the new leadership of the Florida State University program, hot stove developments and machinations, Chapter members’ annual MLB predictions for the coming season, and the varied, diverse hardball interests of the membership. The monthly social also includes one or two brief presentations on a topic or item of interest to a particular Chapter member, who then shares said topic or item with the group. Presentations in the past year have included a series of presentations on a few of the different pitches highlighted in *K: A History of Baseball in Ten Pitches* by Tyler Kepner; a report on one Chapter member’s attendance at the SABR

Black Sox Scandal Centennial Symposium, held on Sept. 27 – 29, 2019, in Chicago; and a discussion of Paul Goldberger’s *Ballpark: Baseball in the American City*, which was heartily recommended by the presenter.

As in past years, a highlight of Chapter activities was the 2020 SABR Day meeting. After future plans for Chapter activities were discussed, a series of three presentations were given. The first, by longtime Chapter member Jeff English, focused on an all-time team of Florida State University baseball alums based on their respective MLB careers, rather than their collegiate careers. Next, Ken Silverstri Jr., son of the longtime major league veteran and highly respected major league coach, shared with attendees some of the highlights from his father’s extensive memorabilia collection. Rounding out the day was Nick Gandy from the Florida Sports Foundation, who gave a talk of the history of Spring Training in Florida.

Also, among the highlights for the Chapter this past year was our trip to Atlanta in July 2019 for a Braves-themed junket for members to take in three games in three different venues (Rome, Gwinnett and the parent club). This trip provided a number of memorable events and three competitive, engaging contests in three very well-appointed venues. A future return trip to the metro Atlanta area for another such junket would not be difficult sales pitch to the Buck O’Neil Chapter membership.

— **Matthew Keelean**

Dorothy Seymour Mills Chapter (Naples, FL)

Our chapter had 2 outstanding meetings during the spring 2020 season:

Our keynote speaker in January was Dave Jauss, who was a Boston Red Sox coach and then became director of player development for many years. He played a role in the club’s 2004 World Series triumph. He shared his MLB experiences with about 75 people in attendance.

Our keynote speaker in February was John Schuerholz, who was the GM of the Atlanta Braves 1990-2007 and then Braves President 2007-2016. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame by unanimous vote in 2017. This meeting was covered by the local newspaper & was well received by the the 85 participants.

During each meeting we hold a short trivia contest with prizes. I found we have a very knowledgeable group.

— **Mel Poplock**

Northeast Florida Chapter (Jacksonville, FL)

On April 16, 2020, from an initial group of eight SABR members from the Jacksonville area who expressed interest, a local SABR chapter was formed and planning for chapter activities commenced.

Approval was received from SABR on April 22 and the group held its first virtual meeting on May 5, 2020 via ZOOM. Subsequent virtual meetings on May 12 and May 26 were discussed to discuss organizational issues and just getting to know members interests and backgrounds.

We are looking into future public meeting sites and have found two that have meeting rooms that would serve our needs. We are also seeking approval on use of possible player names for our chapter

from many candidates that have been discussed. We are putting our hands on all the administrative tools we can to organize and develop the chapter.

We have used ZOOM, Twitter and LinkedIn groups for outreach to local schools and students to encourage interested future members. To that end, we also did a ZOOM interview with Nick Fichtner, founder of “*The Launch Angle*” website and a recent graduate from Endicott College in Massachusetts.

From that interview, we developed what we are calling the inaugural SABR Northeast FL Chapter Mock 2020 MLB Draft Invitational Challenge. We are inviting SABR members, students and anyone interested in the MLB Draft or Data Analytics.

Members are involved in both the SABR BioProject and the Games Project. One BioProject is on former Giants catcher Dave Rader and one is a Games Project involving Jacksonville native Paul Schreiber.

We added another Jacksonville member in Mary Feeney and our number has grown to 15 members. We have been assisted greatly by Tallahassee chapter members Matt Keelean and Charles Rosciam, who have joined our group and provided valuable advice.

We are all looking forward to the end of the lockdown when we can make appearances in the community. We are grateful for the technologies we have been introduced to as a result. They have allowed us to reach an audience, present content and maintain contact with fellow members in a way we would have been unable to under normal conditions. We adapted.

Necessity has been the mother of invention for us, and with apologies to a popular TV show, Mother Knows Best! It has been a great month and we look forward to a great year.

— **Charles Slavik**

South Florida Chapter (Miami, FL)

2019 Events

February 16: Our first event of the year was held at the Tamarac Public Library. Addressing the chapter members were Jose Ignacio Ramirez, author of *Cuba and the “Last” Baseball Season*, and Lou Hernandez, author of *Bobby Maduro and the Sugar Kings*. Also addressing the group were Jorge Maduro (Bobby’s son), and local radio personality Jose “Pepe” Campos.

March 31: The South Florida Chapter hosted former ’69 New York “Miracle” Mets outfielder Art Shamsky at Coral Gables bookstore Books & Books. Shamsky shared his experiences from his book *After the Miracle: The lasting brotherhood of the ’69 Mets*.

Special Recognition

To Barbra Zygnier who was instrumental in organizing both of the two aforementioned events. Also, Gerry Garte for serving as the chapter’s Trivia Master and for graciously donating prizes to the winners.

— **Sam Zygnier**

Magnolia Chapter (Atlanta, GA)

The Chapter SABR Day Meeting, organized by Program Chair Craig Brown, celebrated Ponce de Leon Park, home of the Minor League Atlanta Crackers and the Negro League Atlanta Black Crackers. The keynote speaker was Paul Crater of the Atlanta History Center who shared photographs of the Park from the Center's extensive collection. Other presentations included a discussion of an 'All-Poncey' team, stories about players whose gravesites are in Atlanta, and the role of 'Poncey' as the site of the first integrated baseball game in Atlanta when the Dodgers, featuring Jackie Robinson, played a three-game series in 1949.

The Magnolia Chapter, in conjunction with the Georgia Historical Society, is working on an application for approval to have a commemorative marker placed at the site of Ponce de Leon Park.

Members traveled to Augusta, Georgia, for a tour of the residence of Ty Cobb and his family when they lived in Augusta in the 1920s. Many of the original and period furnishings remain. The group also attended a game played by the Augusta GreenJackets in their recently opened stadium in North Augusta.

Chapter members continue to visit Birmingham's Rickwood Field, America's oldest ballpark, the site of the annual Rickwood Classic, a game played by the Birmingham Barons, several members attended the Sixteenth Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference, also held at Rickwood.

We also attended, as a group, minor league games played in Rome and Gwinnett. Chapter members attended the SABR 49 Annual Convention in San Diego and the Arizona Fall League Experience.

Tom Hufford, a member of the Magnolia Chapter and one of the sixteen original members of SABR, solicited authors and prodded them to complete biographies and other stories of the 1995 Atlanta Braves baseball season. The book, *Braves Win! Braves Win! Braves Win! The 1995 World Champion Atlanta Braves* was published by SABR in April 2020. The authors were not limited to the Magnolia Chapter: Biographies of the contributors reflect an eclectic mix of geography and personal backgrounds. Several authors in the recent book also contributed to *Thar's Joy in Braveland! The 1957 Milwaukee Braves*, about the earlier Braves championship team.

Many members have received attention for their research activities.

Craig Brown's website, www.threadsofourgame.com, continues to expand through his own research and the cooperation of numerous "diggers."

Sam Gazdziak's blog 'R.I.P. Baseball' and his website www.ripbaseball.com chronicle his visits to gravesites of baseball players across the United States and includes their obituaries. Sam's Tweets contain interesting accounts of the lives of recently deceased players.

Chapter members continue to hold informal meetings each month at various settings in and around Atlanta, including Matthews Cafeteria in Tucker, Taco Mac-Sandy Springs, and the Tallant Baseball Museum in Cumming. These gathering can have as many as twenty attendees. Non-members frequently attend, and the Chapter is pleased to report that many baseball enthusiasts continue to be added to our membership roster.

The Magnolia Chapter employs various social media to reach our community. The Chapter's Twitter account is used to announce local events and other news of interest to the Atlanta baseball community.

The Magnolia Chapter has a website, which is maintained by Terry Sloope and can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/magnoliasabr/home>.

The Chapter has adopted SABR social distancing guidelines, developed in response to Covid-19 concerns. We have had several virtual meetings, and, while we look forward to being able to meet safely in person, we have discovered that many members enjoy the convenience of a virtual chat. We have discovered that virtual platforms offer another channel for engagement and expect to develop virtual programs that will extend participation to members who cannot physically attend our meetings.

— **John Hill**

Emil Rothe Chicago Chapter (Chicago, IL)

In 2019-2020 the Chicago SABR Chapter participated in the following activities ...

In-Person Meetings

June 1, 2019: Glen Ellyn Meeting

On June 1, 2019 the Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. The meeting included presentations by Don Zminda who spoke about Harry Caray and signed copies of his book *The Legendary Harry Caray: Baseball's Greatest Salesman*; chapter member Jason Schwartz who spoke about research on the 1930's Goudy sets as a member of SABR's Baseball Card Committee; chapter member Abbey Botkin who discussed Javy Baez's "Spiritual Baseball Ancestor"; and a hot stove discussion on the MLB Draft led by chapter member Richard Smiley. Prior to the meeting, members gathered at The Main Street Pub for a hot stove discussion.

September 14, 2019: Lisle Meeting

On September 14, 2019 the Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Lisle Public Library. The meeting included presentations by Scott Lindholm who shared his thoughts about the best catchers in baseball history; Tom McIntyre who discussed his recommendation for a new method of awarding wins to pitchers; and Bill Leibforth who discussed his book *Baseball's Forgotten Black Heroes*.

November 2, 2019: Chicago Meeting

On November 2, 2019, the Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Chicago Public Library's Roden Branch. The meeting included *Chicago* Tribune beat writer LaMond Pope who discussed the state of the Chicago White Sox entering the off-season; chapter member Abbey Botkin who discussed the state of the Chicago Cubs entering the off-season; and chapter member Bruce Allardice who discussed "The Black Sox and the 1919 Series: Myths and Realities." Prior to the meeting, members gathered at Mo Dailey's Pub & Grille for a hot stove discussion.

February 15, 2020: SABR Day Meeting in Kenosha, WI (joint with Milwaukee Chapter)

On February 15, 2020, in commemoration of SABR Day, the Chicago SABR Chapter held a joint meeting with the Milwaukee (Ken Keltner) SABR Chapter at the Brat Stop in Kenosha, WI. The meeting included presentations by Michael Hauptert who reprised his SABR 49 Presentation "The Business of Being the Babe" which focuses on Babe Ruth's off-field accomplishments; Carl Skanberg who discussed his comic strips, cartoons, and artwork which focus on baseball and the White Sox; Shawn Anderson & Lou Olsen who discussed their "Hall of the Very Good" podcast; Krystal Lee who discussed her experiences as an outfielder for the Rockford Starfires; Bruce Allardice who reviewed how public predictions for the 2019 season went; and a panel discussion on the namesake of the Milwaukee Chapter, Ken Keltner, which included some of Keltner's relatives.

SABR National Meetings

September 27-29, 2019: SABR Black Sox Scandal Centennial Symposium

The SABR Black Sox Scandal Centennial Symposium was held on September 27-29, 2019, in Chicago. The SABR Black Sox Scandal Research Committee hosted this once-in-a-century event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1919 World Series. The event was attended by nearly 200 baseball fans including many Chicago Chapter members. Highlights included walking tours of Black Sox related sites in downtown Chicago led by Jacob Pomrenke, a research symposium on Saturday, September 28 at the Chicago History Museum, a trip to Guaranteed Rate Field to take in a White Sox vs. Tigers rainout, and a book signing including SABR's *Scandal on the South Side: The 1919 Chicago White Sox*.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chicago SABR chapter led SABR's "Stay Home with SABR" initiative by hosting the following virtual meetings:

Virtual Meetings

April 4, 2020: Melissa Lockard, staff writer/editor at *The Atlantic* covering Bay Area sports, discussed covering the Oakland Athletics.

April 5, 2020: Scott Lindholm discussed the all-time best players for both the White Sox and the Cubs at each position.

April 11, 2020: Bob Kendrick, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum president, discussed the Negro Leagues and Buck O'Neil.

April 15, 2020: Jacob Pomrenke, Director of Editorial Content for SABR provided a brief history lesson on the many, many sign-stealing scandals that baseball has seen throughout the years.

April 18, 2020: Jesse Goldberg-Strassler broadcaster for the Lansing Lugnuts, spoke about the Michigan Baseball Hall of Fame, PDA negotiations and contraction, and his Fauxpening Day game re-creation.

April 19, 2020: Chapter members chatted with Ryan M. Spaeder, co-author of *Incredible Baseball Stats: The Coolest, Strangest Stats and Facts in Baseball History*.

April 25, 2020: D.B. Firstman, author of the Value Over Replacement Grit blog, discussed their book *Hall of Name*.

April 26, 2020: Chapter members chatted with Alex Cohen, play-by-play broadcaster for the Iowa Cubs.

May 2, 2020: Andrew Aronstein, archivist for Photo File, Inc., provided an expert analysis of numerous historic baseball photos including those that were used to compose the historic T-205 baseball card set.

May 3, 2020: Chapter members chatted Jeff Johnson who covers the Cedar Rapids Kernels for the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*.

May 9, 2020: Ron Rapoport discussed his book on Ernie Banks *Let's Play Two: The Legend of Mr. Cub*.

May 17, 2020: Chapter members chatted with Jeremy Barfield, a former Oakland Athletics minor league prospect, the son of Jesse Barfield, and brother of Josh Barfield.

May 24, 2020: Chapter members chatted with Mike Antoniellis, Pawtucket Red Sox broadcaster, and former Portland SeaDogs and Kane County Cougars broadcaster.

Ballgames

June 29, 2019: Windy City ThunderBolts Game

On the evening of June 29, 2019, Chicago SABR Chapter members gathered at Ozinga Field in Crestwood, IL to watch the Windy City ThunderBolts take on the Lake Erie Crushers in Frontier League action.

August 3, 2019: Chicago Dogs Game

On the evening of August 3, 2019, Chicago SABR Chapter members gathered at Impact Field in Rosemont, IL to watch the Chicago Dogs take on the Saint Paul Saints in American Association action. Prior to the game, many of the members attended the National Sports Collectors Convention being held in the nearby Donald E Stephens Convention Center.

Luncheons

Chicago Chapter members also gathered for lunch and hot stove discussion on the following dates:

October 12, 2019 at the Whistle Sports Bar and Grill in Oak Lawn, IL

December 14, 2019 at Coom's Corner Sports Grill in Lockport, IL (a bar operated by ex-major leaguer and current Chicago Cubs announcer Ron Coomer)

January 11, 2020 at Emmett's Brewing Company in Downers Grove, IL

Communications

Chapter Newsletter - Our chapter's renowned newsletter shifted to a bimonthly schedule in 2020. Ten issues have appeared since the last report: June, July, August, September, October, November, and December 2019; January, March, and May 2020.

Social Media - During 2020 we expanded our presence on Facebook using it as a platform for some of the virtual meetings. Other meetings were run via the Zoom account the chapter acquired.

New website – Our chapter migrated its website from its former home to chicagosabr.com. The new site will allow members to contribute content directly while offering a greater range of features including support for video.

— **Richard A. Smiley**

Kekionga Chapter (Fort Wayne, IN)

After the passing of Bill Griggs, the previous chairman of the Fort Wayne Chapter we had a couple meetings cancelled. Our chapter finally met on January 11, 2020. With 12 locals in attendance a meeting happened. Mark Souder presented on his findings for the SABR book *Glorious Beaneaters*. Tim Tassler presented a recent finding of the close relationship of Negro League founder Rube Foster and local team, the FW Colored Pirates. Steve Krah came from Mishawaka and presented his article on the little-known Limestone League. It was an Indiana-based Spring Training during World War II. A discussion followed on some free agents potential landing spots.

We have not met during the virus due to few having access to video conferencing. Hopefully a meeting can be added later this summer. Currently Fort Wayne has 4 paying members of SABR who regularly attend meetings. I am working with the local Northeast Indiana Baseball organization to increase awareness of our SABR group.

— **Tim Tassler**

Oscar Charleston Chapter (Indianapolis, IN)

July 27, 2019 Meeting Recap

Here's a recap of the meeting of the Oscar Charleston SABR Chapter for Saturday, July 27.

First, Professor Todd McDorman (also Saturday's trivia champion!) discussed Pete Rose's Hall of Fame ballot eligibility, which is an issue separate from his ban from the MLB. His absence from both the writers' and veterans' committees' ballots, stemming from a 1991 Hall of Fame Board of Directors decision, has, somewhat ironically, made Rose's name an annual discussion topic during induction season. Professor McDorman listed seven reasons in favor of Rose's eligibility (see the attachment, the second page of which lists the meeting's trivia questions, which include a couple of my sad attempts to respond), while noting that the MLB could also still maintaining Rose's ban.

Second, Professor Ronnie Wilbur accepted the 2019 SABR Research Award on behalf of her late husband, Professor Peter Bjarkman, which he won for his book, *Fidel Castro and Baseball: The Untold Story*. SABR presented its 2019 Research Awards at SABR 49, which took place in San Diego in June.

Third, Andrew Reinbold presented on oddball calls involving homeruns or scenarios that might've *seemed* like homeruns. His highlights included a 1999 playoff blast by Robin Ventura in the bottom of the 15th inning that was scored only as a single, despite clearing the fence, and a 2013 obstruction by Brian McCann, which blocked Carlos Gomez from touching home plate during his homerun trot. This presentation tested our attendees' understanding of the rules for umpiring and scorekeeping.

Fourth, Steve Krah discussed the Limestone League, where Indiana, among several northern states, hosted spring training during World War II. For example, the Cincinnati Reds trained in Bloomington, working out indoors during the first two weeks given the unusual heavy rainfall. As another example, the Cleveland Indians trained at Purdue, shar Purdue Fieldhouse (now Lambert Fieldhouse) with Purdue track athletes and U.S. Navy sailors. Purdue even hosted a 60-yard dash among Limestone League teams, with players wearing full baseball uniforms.

Fifth, after the meeting, some of us drove to the nearby Floral Park Cemetery to visit Oscar Charleston's gravesite..

October 26, 2019 Meeting Recap

This past Saturday, October 26, the SABR Oscar Charleston Chapter hosted a meeting at the Indianapolis Public Library-Haughville Branch.

First, Professor David Goss, formerly of the Indiana University School of Optometry, presented on the use of eyeglasses in professional baseball (see attachment). In fact, starting with pitcher William White, players have worn eyeglasses dating back to 1877. Professor Goss described the past stigma that visually-impaired players confronted, but also noted that modern sensibility and sturdier eyeglass frames have helped change that. Finally, if you want to see how much vision—obviously—affects the game, compare George Sisler's stats before 1923, when a sinus infection damaged his vision, and after; the contrast is shocking.

Second, Jeff Stanger, author of several baseball books, discussed backstories behind some of baseball's famous artifacts. For Bobby Thomson's "Shot Heard 'Round the World," both the spectator who caught the ball, and the ball's subsequent chain of custody, have been subject to forensic and historical debate. And the priceless Honus Wagner T206—indeed the entire legendary T206 set itself—underwent criminal controversy at the hands of inept fabricators. Mr. Stanger covered these tales, and others, during his presentation.

Third, Jim Blessing, perhaps our Chapter's most frequent traveler, chronicled the history of Baseball Hall of Famer gravesites and his adventures in tracking those down. With graves located in states ranging from here to Hawaii, and New York to California, Jim has visited 215 of the 232 known gravesites. California leads with twenty-one gravesites, while Indiana hosts six. Offering interesting trivia, Jim pointed out that the first American League president, Ban Johnson, is buried in Indiana. That's one Hoosier gravesite that none of our meeting's attendees could name!

Thank you to all our presenters. Finally, a hearty congratulations to Jim Blessing on his World Series trivia victory!

January 25, 2020 Meeting Recap

First, Dan O'Brien reflected on the life of longtime SABR member Pete Cava, who died on December 18, 2019. As many of you know, Pete researched more than 300 Indiana-born

professional baseball players, covering playing careers and the players' lives after retiring from the game. Dan, who met Pete in 1986, reflected on their mutual interest in track and field and Pete's successes with Little League coaching—in a funny twist, several of Pete's former players thrived as high school state champions in cross country and swimming, for example.

Second, Professor Alan Nathan covered his work with the MLB Home Run Committee, updating us on the developments since 2018. In essence, his group, which includes academics in math and science, concluded that reduced drag on the ball and adjusted launch conditions contributed to the 2019 home run surge. Professor Nathan's team analyzed the MLB's complete Statcast data, test data from a Washington State University baseball lab, and ball manufacturing information from Rawlings, MLB's official game-ball manufacturer. Please visit [this link](#) for up-to-date developments on Professor Nathan's research.

Third, longtime friend of the Oscar Charleston Chapter, Howard Kellman, previewed the Indianapolis Indians' 2020 season and discussed other baseball news. Howard discussed former Indianapolis Indian, Larry Walker, and his recent vote into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Walker was the first Indian voted in since Randy Johnson. With the Indians' April 9, 2020 opening day fast approaching, Howard also connected his discussion with the Major League home run surge, noting that the minor leagues adopted the major league ball (whose stitching and materials might have reduced drag) in 2019, which might lead to greater power numbers in the minors. Indeed, more home runs could mean more fireworks, a tradition that dates back to Bill Veeck's White Sox, which used to be the Indians' parent organization.

Fourth, Tim Tassler covered the history of black baseball in northeast Indiana. Although several teams during the first half of the twentieth-century called Fort Wayne home, two featured most prominently: the Fort Wayne Colored Giants (1908–51) and the Fort Wayne Colored Pirates (1926–29). Although segregation still infected much of the United States, as early as the late 1800s visiting black players routinely stayed at Fort Wayne hotels, and in the 1920s, newspapers reported on “mixed crowds” attending black baseball games. Indeed, Fort Wayne was fertile baseball ground: it hosted Game 4 of the 1932 Negro League World Series between the Chicago Giants and the Homestead Grays.

Finally, thank you to Andrew Reinbold for constructing the meeting's trivia. The top performers were: (1st) John Rickert; (2nd) Todd McDorman; and (3rd) Noel Fliss. And another thank you to Ronnie Wilbur for her book donations as trivia prizes.

Thank you to everyone who made the meeting a success. Your participation helps our Chapter thrive! As always, please let me know if you're interested, or know someone who is interested, in presenting at a future meeting. I'll be in touch in the coming weeks about our next meeting.

May 9, 2020 Meeting Recap

Thank you to Professor Todd McDorman for presenting (full video of the presentation available [here](#)), and to Andrew Reinbold for running the trivia, at the Oscar Charleston SABR Chapter meeting on Saturday, May 9.

Professor McDorman built off of his 2019 Cooperstown presentation called “‘Nobody’s Perfect’: Armando Galarraga’s (Im)Perfect Game and Instant Replay.” Professor McDorman analyzed the controversial (and almost certainly botched) call on what would’ve been the final out of Galarraga’s perfect game, when Galarraga’s Detroit Tigers played the Cleveland Indians on June 2, 2010. We can view this episode through Kenneth Burke’s idea of perfection, which helps analyze social rhetoric.

According to Burke, humans constantly seek perfection and when we fail to achieve it we seek redemption in one of two ways: tragedy or comedy.

Viewing the Galarraga episode as tragic redemption, some commentators blamed umpire Jim Joyce for his call, blamed Commissioner Bud Selig for MLB’s inaction in remedying the call, or advocated for better instant replay, to avoid future mistakes. Here, tragedy means scapegoating and victimization. Viewing the episode, however, as comic redemption, other commentators observed Galarraga’s forgiveness, Joyce’s contrition, and baseball’s imperfect beauty. Here, baseball as comedy means humility and compassion, despite the conflict. Professor McDorman noted that in MLB’s desire to perfect the game, it might also fall into Burkean tragedy with the Zapruder-like parsing of each umpire call. Instead, Burkean comedy acknowledges—even embraces—the fact that no one’s perfect.

Finally, as for trivia, Professor McDorman claimed victory, scoring seventy of ninety possible points.

— **Trent Morton**

Pee Wee Reese Chapter (Louisville, KY)

The Pee Wee Reese SABR Chapter serves all of Kentucky with the largest percentage of its members residing in the Louisville area. Below is a summary of our activities since our last Chapter report one year ago.

On July 27, 2019, the Chapter held its traditional meeting at a Louisville Bats game in a suite furnished by our friends at the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory. The Chapter had a good crowd on a nice Saturday night on July 27 as the Bats whipped up on the Railriders of Scranton/Wilkesbarre, 8–1. In the fifth inning, the Bats right fielder smoked one over the left field wall. Through fireworks, the scoreboard informed us that it was his 27th home run of the season and we weren’t even in August yet. That batter, Aristides Aquino, hit one more before being elevated to the Reds, where he tallied 19 homers in just 208 at bats. Aristides, we barely knew ye. Jack Sullivan once again administered his devilish Trivia Quiz, which always separates the experts from the rest of us. As he always does, Greg Galiette, Senior Vice President of the Bats, paid us a friendly visit. The night ended with a victory and with some well-nourished SABR members and their guests heading home happy.

On Sunday, August 25, several of us were graced with a visit from Deb Jayne, SABR National Event and Membership Director, who was in Louisville for a conference. Harry served as chauffeur and Harry and Tad Myre escorted Deb on a little Sunday tour that included a fine lunch at Ditto’s, a visit to some famous gravesites at Cave Hill (including those of Muhammad Ali, Colonel Sanders and,

consistent with a baseball theme, Pete Browning), and then a Bats game, tickets courtesy of Ken Draut, who joined us at the game as the four of us watched another victory for the home team.

On the evening of October 22, 2019, the longtime leader of the Pee Wee Reese Chapter of the Society of American Baseball Research, Mr. Harry Rothgerber, passed the “Commissioner” torch on to Tad Myre (the two had served as “co-chairs” since the beginning of the year). The occasion was an informal gathering of SABR members (and their guests) at DiOrio’s Pizza and Pub in St. Matthews to watch the opening game of the World Series. The get-together was the brainchild of Ken Draut, who among other SABR duties has faithfully maintained the books of the Chapter for many years; the outing was a sterling success, without a doubt to be repeated. The evening marked the first time we saw Jack Sullivan in anything other than a BoSox hat (the good doctor was donning a Nationals’ hat). The room was abound with Astros regalia and, on the Nats side, a nice variety of Expos jerseys. A good time was had by all.

The Chapter held its annual SABR Day on Saturday, January 25, 2020, at the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory and a good time was had by all. As it always so generously does, LSMF provided the Chapter with its spacious second floor meeting room and with treats for attendees. Terecia Helm of LSMF welcomed attendees and announced the Museum was donating a personalized Louisville Slugger bat as well as four LSMF tour passes. New Chapter leader Tad Myre picked it up from there and called on Chapter Treasurer Ken Draut to give a quick financial report.

As always, Ken ran through the financials efficiently (to summarize, we’re not rich but are holding our own) and then he swerved into something unexpected, at least it was for the Chapter’s longtime leader, Harry Rothgerber. Ken presented Mr. Rothgerber with the Pee Wee Reese Chapter’s coveted “Home Plate Award,” making him only the fifth recipient of that honor. To a standing ovation, Harry rose and offered some predictably self-deprecating remarks. There is not enough room in this report to summarize all the things that Harry has done for the Chapter over the years; suffice to say that most of us would have a hard time imagining where the Chapter would be without him. He has promoted the Chapter, kept it organized, maintained relationships and otherwise glued it together through thick and thin since its founding in 1984. As we all can attest, Harry has never been the type to grab the spotlight, he just goes about his business with quiet dedication and efficiency. There is a tremendous respect within the Chapter and outside of it for Harry, earned both presently and over the decades. At the Chapter’s 2019 annual January meeting, in one of those presentations one wishes could have gone on longer, Harry treated us to a splendid history of the Pee Wee Reese Chapter, augmented by a great slide show. Harry regaled us with old stories, including the year SABR held its annual meeting in Louisville and the time Jim Fregosi spoke to SABR members in the breezeway of old Cardinal Stadium.

In addition to the Home Plate Award, Mr. Myre presented to Harry, a longtime Dodger fan, a Pee Wee Reese bat commemorating the Louisville’s election to the Hall of Fame in 1984. That year also coincided with the Hillerich & Bradsby Company’s 100-year anniversary, which also was engraved on the barrel “One Hundred Years”, along with “1884-1984.”

The first speaker was Greg Gajus, co-author of the book “Baseball Revolutionaries: How the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings Rocked the Country and Made Baseball Famous”. Doffing his Reds hat and wearing a shirt emblazoned with the book’s front cover picture, Greg regaled us with the story of this remarkable team, offered up with the affable delivery of a storyteller in love with the sport. For his early-morning drive down I-71 and his entertaining presentation, Greg received a gift certificate to the Slugger Museum Gift Shop, and it was at this time that Ms. Helm informed me that all attendees would be treated to a free Museum and Factory tour, which Greg added to his bounty. (Ms. Helm, a baseball fan in her own right, also made sure we never ran out of coffee).

Next up was Chapter member Chris Betsch. Chris had been researching an early Twentieth Century baseball player named John Dodge. While we all know the tragic story of Ray Chapman, few have heard of Dodge, who was also killed by a pitched ball, in this instance while playing in the minor leagues (after a couple of years in the bigs). Dodge's parents were living in Louisville at the time of his death, so they had him buried in Louisville's famous Cave Hill Cemetery.

<https://www.cavehillcemetery.com/>. Dodge is lying next to his parents but in an unmarked grave. Chris gave us a good picture of this ballplayer's short life, and followed it up by completing his John Dodge's SABR.

Next up: Jack Sullivan's famous Trivia Quiz. Unfortunately (for us, but maybe not for him), Jack was in Phoenix and could not attend, but he made up for it by sending us a "doozy." Jack's questions covered the gamut: statistics, awards, nicknames, quotes, pictures, birthplaces, it was one of those classic quizzes that can frustrate because some of the answers feel like they are right there within reach.

We then discussed a project that has come together as a result of Chris Betsch's visits to Cave Hill Cemetery in pursuit of the John Dodge story. In addition to Pete "the Gladiator" Browning and John Dodge, over twenty professional baseball players are buried there. Harry Rothgerber drew from his store of knowledge and told us about a project that former Chapter head (and fellow Home Plate Award honoree) Bob Bailey worked on many years back. Bob, who no longer lives in Louisville but has stayed in touch, provided us with a large list of players, sportswriters, managers, umpires, owners, etc. who are buried in Louisville and in other locations in Kentucky. Bob ended up compiling a book entitled "Baseball Burial Sites" which is available on Amazon. After that, Mr. Myre met with the Executive Director of the Cave Hill Cemetery Foundation, an engaging Michael Higgs, who expressed interest in developing a baseball-themed tour at the Cemetery. We are now exploring the feasibility of a Louisville tour that would include a visit to the Slugger Museum, a cemetery tour, a trip to Slugger Field, and then closing things out with a Bats game. A committee including Chapter members Mike Zanone, Jon Borie, Harry Rothgerber and Chris Betsch will tackle this project.

The meeting concluded with its traditional everybody-wins drawing for the right to select a book or other item from the "SABR table", which was stocked compliments of Mr. Rothgerber, with the help of "stevedores" Andy and Ken Draut.

On Saturday, May 23, 2020, the Chapter held its first Zoom meeting, featuring a discussion by Brad Balukjian of his new book, *The Wax Pack*. Brad's book is about his baseball-themed journey across America connecting the dots of retired Major Leaguers whose baseball cards were enclosed in a 1986 "wax pack." Brad finds a way to meet up with a variety of personalities (a couple of players avoid him but their stories are every bit as entertaining). The bright idea just popped into Balukjian's head and he jumped in his old Honda Accord and took off, not knowing what to expect, traveling north to south down California and then across the map all the way to New York City. It's a great book, with a mixture of baseball and also "where are they now" stories of remembrance, resilience and regret. Brad did a great job discussing the book and fielding questions from Chapter members. The Chapter is in the process of scheduling more Zoom meetings.

As with the rest of the nation, plans have been cancelled due to the pandemic. Another trip to Bowling Green to watch the Hot Rods play was put on ice, and thus far we have been unable to schedule our annual Louisville Bats outing. The Chapter was intending to gather for the first time to watch the All-Star Game, also put on hold. Activities of certain members:

Chapter member Chris Krebs has established the company StatisticHouse, which will focus on the next generation of AI based sports simulations, advanced sports analytics and digital sports assets. For example, its Pro Baseball Simulation allows for the monetization of players, teams and leagues, and is

secured by the latest in blockchain technology. Chris has launched their first podcast, which can be found here: <https://www.statistichouse.com/podcast>. Chris is a business world-traveler, and consequently we've missed him the last couple of opportunities, but we're hoping he'll be around in April to tell us about this new company.

Our Benton, Kentucky member, Kelly Park, is awaiting the imminent release of his new book titled "Just Like Me: When the Pros Played on the Sandlot." The book tells the story of professional baseball players' memories of playing youth baseball and has a powerhouse lineup. The baseball fan will enjoy a collection of stories from ex-Major Leaguers they can directly relate to, whether they were the best player on the team or simply the kid who could blow the biggest bubblegum bubble, each in the player's own words: <http://justlikemethebook.com/>.

Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, with Anne Jewell as its Director, continues to be an excellent and faithful corporate partner, both to national SABR and to our Chapter. As always, our fiscal status is good, although our treasury is in slight decline. We are always looking for ways to use the funds in our Chapter Treasury to benefit the membership.

Once again, we look forward to supporting the national mission of SABR during the upcoming fiscal year.

— **Tad Myre**

Boston Chapter (Boston, MA)

One year ago, we could not have imagined what we would be experiencing today: no baseball games, quarantine, COVID, and all. But we will return; we will endure as we look to a brighter future — especially for baseball.

Since our last report, the Boston Chapter has faced many other challenges. First of all, we needed a new meeting place that was both convenient, in Boston, and affordable. Newly-appointed chapter co-chair, Saul Wisnia, contacted a local venue just a few steps away from Fenway Park – Fenway Johnnie's – and we tried the location out to see if it met our requirements. One challenge was their hours of operation — they open at 4 PM — and we didn't know how that might be accepted by chapter members. Since "Johnnie's" had so much more going for it, we gave it a try.

We met on November 2, 2019, and thanks in part to a stellar list of presenters and speakers, things went well. We had been trying to entice Oil Can Boyd for several years to attend one of our meetings, and were finally successful. He didn't disappoint. Oil Can kept the audience riveted on his story of rising up through baseball, and to the pitcher's mound at Fenway. Also presenting were Jose Ramirez and Saul Wisnia. The Moonlight Graham Society told about their group, and Karen Stephens presented her excellent video "A Heck of a Game" about a local amateur team that played at Fenway Park, long ago.

We convened on SABR Day, and also met for Hot Stove meetings in January. Then the Coronavirus pandemic stepped up to the plate. If it is any consolation, the chapter had already begun enhancing our on-line presence. We have two students from Emerson College, Jordan Leandre and Sean Facey, currently working with us on Facebook (BostonSABR) and Instagram (sabrbboston). Response has been enthusiastic.

Our daily "Top of the Morning Trivia" has become a popular diversion for many members, as have various social media discussions and the marking of birthdays and anniversaries of important figures and moments in Boston baseball history.

The Chapter has also been posting “Boston Chapter Dispatches from the Mudville Bureau” on This Week in SABR. We’re endeavoring to post one story per week until baseball returns.

The Boston Chapter will continue to reach out to members and the general public with as many ways the media offers. We do look forward to meeting in person, at Fenway Johnnie’s, or anywhere near Fenway Park, as soon as possible.

— **Joanne Hulbert, Saul Wisnia, and David Laurila**

Detroit Chapter (Detroit, MI)

The past year has been a time of numerous setbacks and occasional triumphs. However, I am optimistic about the future of SABR Detroit, and I am honored to recount the events of the past year. With your guidance and our shared enthusiasm for baseball, SABR will grow and prosper.

Shared Leadership. The most active members of SABR Detroit work together informally, primarily by consensus, to manage our chapter’s activities. We have no articles of incorporation or bylaws or formal structure. In the past year, we have expanded our leadership team to six people. Since I joined SABR in 2009, the Detroit Chapter has always coordinated its events with the chapters in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Toledo, Ohio. Recently, we have begun to include the Cleveland, Ohio, and Michiana, Indiana, chapters when we send out invitations to our events.

Former President **Gary Gillette** is our chapter chair. He is well known for his high standards in the pursuit of historical subject matter. Gary’s passion for the history of the Negro Leagues has led him to a leadership role with the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium and expertise in the history of the Detroit Stars. He is consistent in his enthusiasm for intellectual presentations at chapter events. Gary has rescued SABR Detroit on numerous occasions, and he is the primary source for the history of our chapter. By sharing the leadership responsibilities, we give Gary the freedom to explore other interests.

Steve Weingarden was our Vice President with a particular interest in the Business of Baseball. He was an excellent moderator and planner of numerous chapter events. Steve was always extraordinarily well-prepared for our chapter gatherings. Although he is no longer active in SABR, we hope to bring him back into the fold.

Brandon Robetoy served as our chapter secretary and social media director, and is a valued leader. He was instrumental in the production of the first two issues of our newsletter. Brandon also managed our Facebook and Twitter accounts and the chapter website. Although changes in his work schedule have dictated changes in his chapter duties, his participation and advice are critical to our future.

Three new leaders have emerged to assist us with planning, communications, and electronic media. They are **Nathan Bierma**, **Rogelio Castillo**, and **Mitch Lutzke**. Nathan is our new webmaster, replacing Ken Cherven. He founded The Tigers History Project. See tigershistory.com. Nathan will also lead our first Zoom Conference later this year. Rogelio is a podcast host and marketing specialist. He is an advisor to the Motor City Bengals and hosts a weekly podcast. See TigersMinorLeagueReport.com. Mitch is a high-school history teacher, the author of The Page Fence Giants, and a prolific writer. His dedication to historical research is most admirable.

I am extremely grateful for the fellowship of these fine gentlemen. There is reason for optimism because SABR Detroit can prosper under their leadership. We have no chapter funds, but we can

bestow an infinite number of titles. Through shared leadership we insure that SABR is not overly dependent upon any one individual or vision.

As “the leper with the most fingers”, I serve as president of the chapter. My primary concern is to strengthen and grow SABR as a Detroit or a Great Lakes State chapter. I try to balance our interests in intellectual studies with our need to attract new and younger members. I believe that if we build strong personal relationships within SABR, our members will enthusiastically participate in all types of SABR programs. Under the leadership of Gary Gillette and Steve Weingarden, SABR Detroit has always provided its members with high-quality presentations. In planning chapter events, I try to promote balanced content so that we offer a verity of subjects and avoid repetition. I especially enjoy our open forum telephone conferences, where we invite people to discuss topics of their choosing and engage one another in conversation.

Growing the Chapter. The Board and officers of the Society for American Baseball Research can help every chapter if they can define the role of the chapters within the national organization. Does SABR favor a strong-chapter model where chapters are independent and autonomous franchises with articles of incorporation, IRS 501(C)(3) status, bylaws, and fundraising capabilities? Or does SABR favor a weak-chapter system in which the national organization dominates the chapters, like the relationship between Apple and its Apple stores? Either model can be successful. I wonder whether the concept of a chapter is outdated given that the internet dominates our activities and the Wuhan virus pandemic threatens our in-person gatherings. Although we are designated as the Detroit Chapter, I see our organization as a *Great Lakes State* chapter. Very few of our members actually live in Detroit. The attendees at our online events come from all over Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. A rapid response from the national office is not required. The chapters need a thoughtful, considered answer that is based upon consensus and that represents SABR’s plans and goals.

Year in Review

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, the Detroit Chapter hosted an informal luncheon followed by a screening of the mocumentary *Screwball* (2018) at the Adrian International Film Festival in Adrian, Michigan. The film is a documentary about the PED scandal involving Alex Rodriguez and Anthony Bosch. The director, Billy Corben, used child actors in dramatic recreations of actual events to emphasize the childish behavior of the parties. This event was attended by Gary Gillette and Peter Hoyos.

On Saturday, June 22, the Detroit Chapter invited regional SABR members, including M-SABR, to join us at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for a screening of *The Spy Behind Home Plate* (2019), a documentary recounting the life of Moe Berg, followed by a Q&A session with the film’s writer and director, Aviva Kempner. This event was attended by SABR members Reed Dunnick, Gary Gillette, and Peter Hoyos. Unfortunately, we were unable to attract participants from M-SABR, a group consisting of University of Michigan students.

The Detroit Chapter cosponsored the *Detroit Stars Centennial Conference*, which was held August 8 through 10, in Romulus, Michigan. We were proud to support this event with the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium, Wayne State University, Piast Institute, Detroit Historical Society, and the Detroit Tigers. I personally contributed the money to purchase the cosponsorship in the belief that would raise the profile of our chapter in Detroit and around the country. I used the bulk-email system to promote this event throughout the summer. The Centennial Conference was successful due to the Herculean efforts of Gary Gillette. Larry Lester and Leslie Heaphy were also significant participants. I believe that Metro Detroit is an excellent convention venue and hope that one day SABR will bring its annual summer convention to Metro Detroit. The annual convention would be great publicity for SABR Detroit and an opportunity to grow the chapter.

The *SABR Detroit Fall Meeting* was held at the main branch of the Detroit Public Library on October 19, 2019. The Fall meeting was to be the first SABR gathering that I planned on my own, while Gary Gillette worked on the Stars Conference. In July I made contact with Jim Gosger, a former MLB outfielder from Port Huron, Michigan, who had recently and erroneously been pronounced dead by the New York Mets. I hoped that we could hold an Irish wake for Gosger and enjoy his stories about his career with the Red Sox, Athletics, Mets, and Expos. Unfortunately, we have postponed his participation due to his poor health, but he is a welcome to join us in the future whenever he is able. Steve Weingarden suggested that we ask SABR member Jesse Goldberg-Strassler, Lansing Lugnuts broadcaster and 2019 Minor League Broadcaster of the Year, to fill in for Gosger. Jesse was an excellent guest speaker. In another effort to reach out to M-SABR, I secured the participation of University of Michigan Pitching Coach Chris Fetter and Assistant Coach Michael Brdar to discuss Wolverine baseball and the 2019 season, which included a trip to the College World Series. Chris and Michael focused their presentations on the application of biotechnology in player development and fitness training. They inspired our selection of *The MVP Machine* as our first book club reading assignment. In gratitude for their participation, I purchased one-year gift SABR memberships for Jim Gosger, Chris Fetter and Michael Brdar. It is my sincere wish that they continue in SABR, and I ask that the national office reach out to these gentlemen as valued members of the organization. There were a total of thirteen attendees at the Fall meeting. The light attendance caused me to reevaluate the viability of our chapter and our traditional methods of attracting SABR members.

SABR Day 2020 was held at the Detroit Public Library on February 1. For different reasons our guest speakers, Jim Gosger and Cleveland Indians historian Scott Longert, were unable to attend. I was prepared to cancel our SABR Day event when Jerry Amernic offered to give a presentation based upon his book, *Babe Ruth: A Superstar's Legacy* (2019). Jerry was coming to Detroit for Babe Ruth's Birthday Party, an annual event at Nemo's Bar and Grill. In Addition Gary Gillette offered to give a presentation about cheating in baseball, inspired by reporting about the Astros Cheating scandal. The event was successful despite the initial chaos. We had twenty-five attendees, and I received positive feedback from many of them in the days following the meeting.

After our Fall Meeting and SABR Day events, I began to reevaluate the Detroit Chapter. I read and reread the SABR directory to learn more about the people listed in the Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Toledo chapters. Although we consistently provided high-quality presentations and events, we were not motivating sufficient numbers of people to attend our meetings. I concluded that the Detroit chapter should start a book club, following the example of the Toledo chapter. Our book club would meet via telephone conference because of low turnout for previous in-person meetings. Gary Gillette recommended that we use FreeConference.com volunteered to lead the first book club sessions. We selected *The MVP Machine* (2019), by Ben Lindbergh and Travis Sawchik, for our first reading assignment. Given the complexity of the material, I scheduled three telephone conferences for Book Club 1: March 7, 19, and 25. Gary Gillette, a man with many contacts, was able to convince Ben Lindbergh to attend our first conference. I promoted Book Club 1 through the SABR bulk email system. Attendance was acceptable, between seven and twelve participants, and the feedback was very positive.

After the success of the first book club, we began planning Book Club 2 for May 3. Gary Gillette recommended an ebook from the SABR library, *Calling the Game: A History of Baseball Broadcasting from 1920 to the Present* (2015), by Stuart Shea. Gary asked Stuart to attend our conference, which focused on the broadcast histories of the Detroit Tigers and Chicago Cubs. We had a remarkable twenty-one attendees. Gary recommended that we add an additional session, Book Club 2.5, which will be held on Sunday, May 31.

In between book club assignments, I have scheduled open forum telephone conferences, which are designed to engage the members in conversation and build personal relationships. The idea is that people will be motivated to attend in-person conferences if they know that they know that they will see their friends there. These meetings have also been popular. I regularly invite thirty people to join our conferences.

On February 27, 2020, I drove to Phoenix to meet Scott Bush, visit SABR headquarters, and establish a relationship with the national office. Scott, Ben, Jacob, and Deb were very kind and generous with their time.

Later This Year. The coronavirus pandemic has created new challenges for SABR. Our chapter's plans to participate in the Mayo Smith Society's Annual Gathering, including the luncheon with Frank Tanana, have been postponed until 2021 due to the pandemic. Likewise, our baseball game outings have also been cancelled, and we will not hold an in-person Fall Meeting in 2020. The next in-person meeting will be on SABR Day in 2021.

SABR Detroit will continue to hold telephone meetings and add Zoom conferences this summer. These conferences will include book club and open forum meetings to stimulate conversation and build relationships so that SABR remains viable and strong in the Great Lakes region. In the future virtual meetings will be mixed in with in-person conferences and baseball outings.

Our chapter leaders are working to revamp our website and expand communications through electronic media. The new website, sabr-detroit.org, will contain up-to-date information for our members. We plan to post audio and video archives. Several of our leaders are willing to develop podcasts and provide other content for the site. SABR Detroit has produced two issues of its newsletter, *The Catcher's Mitt*. The initial issues were well received, but we lost momentum in 2019. We hope to renew our efforts in 2020 and post future issues of *The Catcher's Mitt* to our revamped website.

Therefore, it is with a renewed sense of optimism that I submit this chapter report to the Board and the officers of the Society for American Baseball Research.

— **Peter J. Hoyos**

Halsey Hall Chapter (Minneapolis, MN)

The year 2019 was a busy one for one of SABR's oldest and most active chapters, the Halsey Hall Chapter. In January, several chapter members battled subzero temperatures and volunteered at TwinsFest at Target Field.

The annual Spring Chapter Meeting took place on May 18 at the Faith Mennonite Church in Minneapolis. Research presentations were given by Steve Bratkovich, Dan Levitt, Sam Haag, Alan Holst and Anders Koskinen. Guest speaker was Kenny Jacklelen from baseball-reference.com.

Dinner, beverages and baseball were the highlights of the chapter's annual All-Star Game viewing party July 9 at Bunny's Northeast in Minneapolis.

The weekend of July 13 was a busy one for the Halsey Hall Chapter. On July 13, Jim Cox organized a group outing to see the Moe Berg documentary *The Spy Behind Home Plate* at the Edina Theatre. A post movie dinner gathering followed at Barrio, around the corner from the theatre. The next day, a quartet of chapter members headed south to Austin to watch a townball game at Marcusen Park. It

was the second attempt to head to the home of the Spam Museum. The first was May 31, but the game got postponed due to a heavy rain storm that pelted the area early that evening.

Two weeks later, another chapter road trip took place. A group of about 10 chapter members ventured to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to see the Kernels face the Clinton Lumberkings. Prior to the game, Marcia Moran, Kernels Hall of Fame/History Coordinator spoke to the group, followed by a tour of Perfect Game Field. The group also got to see Emma Charlesworth-Seiler, one of only two female umpires in minor league baseball serve as the home plate umpire for the Midwest League battle.

More than 30 chapter members were present for the chapter's annual Fall Meeting November 2, also at the Faith Mennonite Church in Minneapolis. The day started with research presentations from Rich Arpi, Corky Gaskell and Bob Tholkes. Former Waseca High School head baseball coach and namesake of the city's ballpark was the guest speaker. Larson reflected on 50 years of coaching baseball in Waseca as well as his stint as an assistant at Minnesota State Mankato.

The climax of the Halsey Hall Chapter's year was hosting the Minnesota Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium at the Minneapolis Public Library November 16. Eight presentations were given, including John Thorn, Stew Thornley, Mike Hauptert (who also presented at the Black Sox Scandal Symposium in September) and Bob Tholkes. The event was well attended.

In addition, the chapter's Book club met bi-monthly at the Barnes & Noble in Roseville and member also gathered for bi-monthly breakfasts at the Bunny's Northeast in Minneapolis.

It was definitely an active year for the Halsey Hall Chapter as the 35th anniversary of the chapter's officially becoming part of SABR looms, though shot down due to COVID 19. That's the scoop on 2019.

Chapter meetings

Spring 2019 chapter meeting – May 18, 2019

The spring 2019 chapter meeting was attended by 38 chapter members and guests and broadcast on Facebook Live.

The following five research presentations were heard:

Steve Bratkovich, *The Bats . . . They Keep Changing!*

Dan Levitt, *They Deserved Each Other: The Tempestuous New York Giants Ownership of Charles Stoneham, John McGraw, and Frank McQuade*

Sam Haag, *Baseball Performance Research: Studies of Pitching, Batting, and Baserunning*

Alan Holst, *Baseball Diplomacy*

Anders Koskinen, *Baseball for Becca and Other Beginners*

Kenny Jackelen, the primary developer for baseball-reference.com, was the featured speaker.

Anders Koskinen, Gene Gomes, Frank Kadwell and Hans Van Slooten were elected to two-year terms on the chapter board of directors.

Jim Cox, chapter membership chair, organized the drawing for door prizes awarded to one new member who joined SABR within the past 12 months and one member who has been a member for more than one year.

Howard Luloff wrapped up the meeting with his always challenging trivia quiz.

Fall 2019 chapter meeting - November 2, 2019

Over 30 chapter members attended the meeting which was broadcast on Facebook Live.

Tink Larsen, a Minnesota amateur baseball legend and coach for more than 50 years at many levels in Waseca was the featured speaker.

The following three research presentations were heard:

Rich Arpi, *1890s Millers and Saints*

Corky Gaskell, *Making a 19th Century Base Ball*

Bob Tholkes, *Time of Game in the Amateur Era, 1860-1865*

Ryan Barland of the Minnesota Historical Society talked about the Minnesota Baseball Oral History Project. These interviews will be on the Society's [Oral History page](#).

Jim Cox, chapter membership chair, conducted the drawing for door prizes.

Howard Luloff wrapped up the meeting with his trivia quiz.

The spring 2020 chapter meeting is scheduled for June 13.

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Two research presentations will be given.

Paul Spyhalski, *What in the Sam Hill Took So Long? Integration (or Lack Thereof) in the Southern Minny League, 1948-1957*

Dan Levitt, *John McGraw and the Creation of the Modern Sports Environment*

Elections will be held to fill three positions on the chapter board of directors.

Minnesota 19th Century Base Ball Interdisciplinary Symposium

The chapter hosted the Minnesota 19th Century Base Ball Interdisciplinary Symposium at the Minneapolis Central Library on November 16, 2019.

The symposium was a joint project of the SABR 19th Century Committee, the Halsey Hall Chapter of SABR, and Hennepin County Library.

Key chapter contributors to the success of the symposium include:

Bob Tholkes, the primary organizer.

Gene Gomes and Brian Madigan for developing the partnership with Hennepin County Library for the event.

Sarah Johnson and Brenda Himrich for leading the Research Committee which oversaw the symposium, and for co-moderating the event.

The second-highest total number of attendees, 69, attended this version of the symposium.

Presenters included:

John Thorn, Historian for Major League Baseball, *Rival to Savior: The Western League Saves the National League from Suicide*

Stew Thornley, SABR award-winning author and leading Minnesota baseball historian, *Minnesota's Baseball Roots: History and Highlights*

Frank White, historian and author on black baseball, *Black Baseball in Minnesota in the Nineteenth Century*

Dan Levitt, SABR award-winning author, *Economics of Minor League Baseball, 1876-1900*

Mike Hauptert, SABR Doug Pappas Award winner in 2014 for best convention presentation, *The Serious Business of Play: Developing Professional Baseball in the Upper Midwest in the 19th Century*

Kristin Anderson, award-winning teacher at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, and expert on Twin Cities sports architecture, *Home Field Disadvantage: Twin Cities Ballparks and Community Conflict*

Bob Tholkes, 19th century expert, *Hurrah for Cecil O. Monroe*

Larry Millett, popular Twin Cities author and local historian (pictured below), *The Booming 1880s: The Twin Cities Come of Age*

SABR National Convention

Twenty-four chapter members attended the national convention in San Diego in June 2019.

The convention program included presentations by the following chapter members:

Mike Hauptert, *The Business of Being the Babe*

Dan Levitt, *They Deserved Each Other: The Tempestuous New York Giants Ownership of Charles Stoneham, John McGraw, and Frank McQuade*

A. J. Richard, *You're out! Girls Quit Baseball Due to Culture*

SABR Board of Directors

In May 2020, chapter member Dan Levitt finished first out of five candidates to become a director on the Society for American Baseball Research board of directors.

Chapter Research and Writing

Research Committee: The chapter research committee of 11 chapter members is co-chaired Brenda Himrich and Sarah Johnson. Monthly meetings of the research committee are held on Monday evenings at the Brookdale Library. Future research committee meetings have been postponed due to the pandemic.

Minnesota Spread of Baseball Project, 1857-1923: Brenda Himrich and Sarah Johnson, research committee co-chairs, are leading a research project to identify the first recorded baseball game played in each of Minnesota's 87 counties. Chapter members have been recruited to research the dates of these first games. A full length banner mounted on a stand has been created to display dates of the first games in each county. At last count, the first recorded baseball game has been identified in 58 of Minnesota's 87 counties.

Book Project of Memorable Games at Metropolitan Stadium

As part of the SABR Baseball Games Project, long-time chapter member Stew Thornley is organizing a project to write additional stories about memorable games played at Metropolitan Stadium in Bloomington, Minnesota. Target completion date for the project is July 1, 2020.

Halsey Hall Chapter History Day Award – May 2020

The chapter sponsored a prize for Minnesota History Day, an annual project-based competition for high-school seniors. Sarah Johnson, Research Committee Co-Chair coordinated the chapter's participation and reported: "With a theme this year of "Breaking Barriers," the prize went to ... a

senior at Highland Park High School in St. Paul, for her exhibit on the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. ... will receive \$150, an invitation to present her exhibit at an upcoming chapter meeting and information on other student opportunities to get involved in SABR, "The Holy Cow" and the chapter Web site

Founding chapter member Stew Thornley posts "The Holy Cow", the chapter newsletter, on the chapter's Web page each month or more often if necessary.

Chapter activities and gatherings

TwinsFest – January 24-25, 2020

Chapter member Doug Skipper organized a Halsey Hall Chapter and SABR table and display at TwinsFest at Target Field in January 2020.

Throughout the two days of Twins Fest, chapter members Doug Skipper, Joe O'Connell, Rich Arpi, Dave Lande, Jim Cox, Howard Luloff, and Tom Flynn filled shifts at the table to greet and talk with interested fans who stopped by to find out more about the chapter or to view the banner and material.

Fred Souba Hot Stove Saturday Morning - Hot stove Saturday morning breakfasts are held on a bi-monthly basis at Bunny's Northeast in Minneapolis.

Town Ball: Howard Luloff, chapter events chair, organized a trip to Austin on May 31, 2019 to attend a town ball game between the Waseca Braves and the Austin Greyhounds at Marcusen Park. A pre-game dinner and the game were attended by several chapter members.

Several chapter members attended a town ball game at Waseca on June 5, 2019 between Waseca and Eagle Lake.

Book club – The chapter book club meets bi-monthly at Barnes & Noble. Books read and discussed over the past year include the following.

June 1, 2019 - *Winning Baseball: A Simple Game of 10* by Les Gerdin

August 10, 2019 - *Ten Innings at Wrigley: The Wildest Ballgame Ever, with Baseball on the Brink* by Kevin Cook

October 5, 2019 - *The MVP Machine: How Baseball's New Nonconformists Are Using Data to Build Better Players* by Ben Lindbergh and Travis Sawchik

December 7, 2019 - *Hardball: The Education of a Baseball Commissioner* by Bowie Kuhn

February 1, 2020 - *K: A History of Baseball in Ten Pitches* by Tyler Kepner.

Meetings in April and June 2020 were postponed due to the pandemic.

SABR at the Saints (St. Paul Saints) – July 1, 2019

Sarah Johnson, Research Committee co-chair and Jim Cox, membership chair, organized an outing to promote SABR at the St. Paul Saints game on July 1. Chapter member Damian Schaab was the featured artist of the game.

All-Star Game Viewing Party – July 9, 2019

Several chapter members gathered at Bunny's Northeast in Minneapolis on July 9 to watch the All Star game.

"The Spy Behind Home Plate" – July 13, 2019

Jim Cox, membership chair, organized a chapter group outing to see “The Spy behind Home Plate”, a documentary about Moe Berg, at the Edina Theater.

Cedar Rapids Kernels – July 27, 2019

Howard Luloff, events chair, organized a chapter weekend to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to attend a baseball game between the Cedar Rapids Kernels (a class A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins) and the Clinton Lumberjacks.

Umpiring at home plate during the Saturday evening game was chapter member Emma Charlesworth-Seiler, one of two female umpires in organized baseball at that time.

Chapter members had lunch with Emma on Saturday before the game.

After lunch, Kernels Hall of Fame/History Coordinator Marcia Moran made a presentation to chapter members about some of the notable major leaguers who played in Cedar Rapids.

Gopher Alumni vs. Minnesota Game - September 27, 2019

Several chapter members attended the Gopher Pro-Alumni vs. Minnesota game at Siebert Field at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on September 27, 2019.

A statue of Dick Siebert, long-time University of Minnesota baseball coach, was unveiled prior to the game.

Minnesota vs. Duke - February 29, 2020

Several chapter members attended A University of Minnesota vs. Duke baseball game played at U.S. Bank Stadium on February 29, 2020. The outing was organized by Howard Luloff, events chair.

Chapter Board of Directors

The chapter board of directors comprised of seven members conducts bi-monthly board meetings. Additional attendees at these meetings include the Research Committee co-chairs, event chair, Web master, assistant Web masters, chapter newsletter editor, and social media directors for Facebook and Twitter.

All meetings were held in person on Sunday evenings with the exception of the May 2020 meeting which was held virtually via Zoom. All future board meetings will be held virtually until decided otherwise.

For the 2019-2020 chapter year, the following chapter members served on the board. The one-year terms of the four board officers expire June 30, 2020.

Dave Lande, President

Hans Van Slooten, Vice President

Anders Koskinen, Secretary

Jerry Janzen, Treasurer

Jim Cox

Gene Gomes

Frank Kadwell

In addition to the board, the following chapter members hold these positions within the chapter.

Events Committee Chair—Howard Luloff

Research Committee Chairs—Brenda Himrich and Sarah Johnson

The Holy Cow! Editor—Stew Thornley

Webmaster—John Gregory

Assistant Webmasters—Frank Kadwell, Hans Van Slooten, and Stew Thornley

Social Media Directors—Tom Flynn, Twitter; Bob Komoroski, Facebook

— **Howard Luloff**

Monarchs Chapter (Kansas City, MO)

The Monarchs Chapter of the Society of American Baseball Research had two meetings during the calendar year since the last convention.

The first meeting was held on November 2, 2019. Phil Dixon, author of "The Dizzy and Daffy Dean Barnstorming Tour: Race, Media, and America's National Pastime" spoke about his book.

SABR Day 2020 in Kansas City featured two speakers, Wichita Wind Surge broadcaster Tim Grubbs and SABR member Todd Peterson on January 25 at the Gem Theater across the street from the Negro Leagues Museum.

The meeting opened with Negro Leagues Museum curator Dr. Raymond Doswell updating the membership on upcoming events.

Grubbs then told the group about the Wind Surge's move from New Orleans to their new home in Wichita. Grubbs grew up in Pittsburgh and interned for the Pirates. His first broadcasting job out of college was for the Hickory Crawdads. He has spent the last 17 years as the voice of the New Orleans AAA club. In addition to baseball Grubbs has called various sports for ESPN including college basketball and beach volleyball.

Grubbs also shared a lot of info on the new stadium in Wichita, which the Wind Share will share with the NBC tournament. The stadium will have 6,500 seats, about 1,000 less than the original design so there will be additional leg room and the seats will be wider than most stadiums. There will be a museum about Wichita baseball in centerfield. During the first week of the NBC tournament the Wind Surge will play home games at Wichita State.

Todd Peterson followed up with a great presentation on the new book he just edited, "The Negro Leagues Were Major Leagues: Historians Reappraise Black Baseball." Todd reviewed the chapter he wrote for the book, which included statistical breakdowns of games Negro League teams played against major league players, and a comparison of league totals between the major leagues and Negro Leagues of the same time period.

— **Mike Webber and Roger Erickson**

Bob Broeg St. Louis Chapter (St. Louis, MO)

The Bob Broeg SABR Chapter of St. Louis meets twice monthly. The chapter holds its regular meetings at the Sports Café in Bridgeton. The less formal ‘First Wednesday’ meetings have been held at Lester’s Sports Bar & Grill in Ladue. The regular meetings follow an agenda that includes any old or new business topics, a today in baseball history segment, research presentations, book reviews, time for some general baseball discussion, and concludes with a trivia quiz. The average attendance at these meetings is between 20-25 members and guests.

On Saturday, September 21, 2019, the chapter held its fifth annual Research Conference at Sverdrup Hall on the campus of Webster University. There were nine presentations: Brian Flaspohler – “Missouri Born Players”; Bob Tiemann – “Ty Cobb in St. Louis”; Alexis LaMarsh – “I’ll Save You the Words: The Role Women Play in Baseball Twitter”; Tyler White – “Mastering the Breath; A Potential Way to Improve Performance, Endurance, and Reduce Injury”; Scott Jensen/Tyler VonJensen – “From Dottie Hinson to Crash Davis; Defining ”Catcher as Hero” Through Film”; Steve Gietschier – “Let’s Play Fantasy Baseball, World War II Style: The War Bond League of 1943”; Clem Hamilton – “Evolving Geography of the Minor Leagues and Baseball’s Racial Integration, 1946-1965”; Jason Wright – “ The Effect of Promotional Giveaways on MLB Games; Is It Worth It?”; & Allison Levin – “ A Return to Greatness: The Tumultuous History of the Bullpen Cart”. The panel of judges chose Tyler White as the recipient of the fifth annual Jim Rygelski Research Award.

The chapter held its annual Hot Stove Luncheon at Favazza’s Restaurant on February 1, 2020 with 47 in attendance. Featured speakers this year were Dr. Raymond Doswell, Vice-President of Curatorial Services for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Emily Wiebe, Manager of Player Development & Performance for the St. Louis Cardinals, and Dan O’Neill, author of “Celebration – the Magic of the Cardinals in the 1980’s”. The day concluded with a trivia contest.

Officers presented and approved for this year at the luncheon are: Rick Zucker – President, Jeff Ecker – Vice-President, Jim Leefers – Secretary, and Mark Stangl – Treasurer.

— **Jim Leefers**

Maddux Brothers-Las Vegas Chapter (Las Vegas, NV)

In June of 2019 just before SABR 49 the Maddux Bros. Chapter met at a Las Vegas Aviators game, three members came to the game. I had hoped to have a meeting in the fall but because of a major medical event those plans didn't come about. I was able to plan and have a meeting on SABR Day, three members came. A great presentation was given by Michael GREEN.

— **Rick Swift**

Elysian Fields Chapter (Jersey City, NJ)

Events

SABR Day was successful with about 20 attendees on a rainy Saturday at the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center in Little Falls.

I'm pleased to announce that we have been building momentum with the Northern NJ chapter in the past year. In December, we began a monthly brunch on the second Sunday of each month at The Stage House in Mountainside. They have an all-you-can-eat buffet for approximately \$25.

We averaged about four attendees, but that number was sure to grow with more attention to recruitment and events with presentations. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 crisis meant that the brunch in March was our last one for the foreseeable future.

I am working on a Zoom event for July.

Membership

I have a membership list from SABR that is estimated to be at least eight years old. Recently, I sent an email to the list asking for anyone who wants to be included or excluded in future emails. Mostly, the response has been positive. But it is far from complete. A couple of people have moved out of the area, so they asked to be removed.

There are three goals moving forward:

- * Continue building a new contact list (projected finish date of June 15th)
- * Find out who is a SABR member and refer non-members to Deb Jayne
- * Asking the people on the list what kinds of events and topics they want to see

— **David Krell**

Luke Easter Chapter (Rochester, NY)

The Luke Easter SABR Chapter of Western New York hosted several events over the past year to promote baseball research and discussion. These included a baseball themed tour of Mt Hope Cemetery, vintage baseball exhibitions, library presentations, and continuation of our twice-yearly SABR-convention style groups of 3-4 talks that bookend the baseball season. Our annual Hot Stove Dinner continues to be a marquee event, held on SABR Day and selling out Frontier Field's Club 3000. This year our featured guest was ex-MLB catcher and current firefighter Rey Pelacios.

While we greatly look forward to getting back to face to face meetings; we are starting with more virtual offerings; our first of which will be a book club. Hoping to convert the couple of cancelled programs we had to online format in the near future.

— **Ryan Brecker**

Cliff Kachline Chapter (Cooperstown, NY)

SABR Day meeting, Bullpen Theater, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Jim Gates - Penny Marshall Sheet Music Collection (and Bud Fowler song!)

Collin Miller - Delaware County Baseball History

Tom Shieber - Zee-nut/Home Run Kisses cards and a milestone in baseball uniforms.

The annual Induction meeting of the Cliff Kachline Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) was held on Sunday, July 21, at 6 PM, at Tillapaugh's Funeral Home, 28 Pioneer St., Cooperstown.

This year we had 45-50 people hear:

- Jane Leavy, author of *The Big Fella: Babe Ruth and the World He Created* (as well as, *The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood* and *Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy*)
- Erik Sherman, co-author with Art Shamsky of *After the Miracle: The Lasting Brotherhood of the '69 Mets* (and many others).
- Jay Jaffe, author of *The Cooperstown Casebook* and senior writer at FanGraphs.
- Jeff Katz, former Mayor of Cooperstown and current President of Friends of Doubleday, the non-profit fundraising organization that helps the Village with Doubleday Field and the coming renovations.

Pics can be found at our Facebook page - SABR-Cliff Kachline Chapter-Cooperstown.

— **Jeff Katz**

Casey Stengel Chapter (New York, NY)

The Casey Stengel Chapter of New York City held its annual meeting on National SABR Day Saturday, January 25, 2020 at the Scandinavia House in Manhattan. The day's program (10 am -3:00 pm) celebrated Babe Ruth with a morning panel about "The Babe As You Never Knew Him – One Hundred Years As a New York Yankee" coordinated by chapter leader Ernestine Miller who also moderated the event for about 100 attendees.

The afternoon speaker was Tyrone Brooks, the Senior Director of the Front Office and Field Staff Diversity Pipeline Program for MLB, who is on the Board of Directors for SABR and spoke about his baseball work and the diverse needs of the sport.

Marty Appel, author of more than two dozen baseball books, was a long-time public relations director of the Yankees and the executive producer of Yankee televised games. He shared his lifetime experiences and knowledge of the team and included first-hand accounts of Ruthian tales and memories from former players.

Mike Gibbons, the former Executive Director (1983-2017) of The Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum, spoke of his role as Director Emeritus/Historian and was joined by Bill Jenkinson, whose unprecedented research on Ruth has led to him being acclaimed as an unparalleled consultant for any institution needing information and insight on the Babe.

Soon after the shutdown of New York City due to the coronavirus, webmaster Kevin Carter emailed chapter members to announce a series of virtual book discussions via Zoom for members to attend virtually. He also added twenty of the Bergino Baseball Clubhouse podcasts from past book

discussions with baseball authors that had been hosted by SABR NY member Jay Goldberg in previous years. Both Carter and Goldberg were honored with Casey Stengel Chapter awards at the 1/25/20 chapter meeting.

— Evelyn Begley

Charlotte Chapter (Charlotte, NC)

2019/2020 has been another inactive year. However, I have found 5 possible new members — we are going to meet on June 6 and develop an organizational announcement to invite former members who were very difficult to get to gather, organize or meet. In the least, I do believe that this beginning of a group gathering holds promise for future meetings. Some target meetings will be based around the Charlotte Knights, the Durham Bulls and Hopeless Joe Jackson's museum which will reopen after a modernization.

— Mark Dugo

Hank Gowdy Columbus Chapter (Columbus, OH)

During the past year the chapter continued to sponsor established activities and added new ones. The following is a list of this year's activities:

Quarterly SABR Baseball Book Club – Our book club meets at various Columbus Metropolitan Public Library branches to discuss each quarter's selection. Blake Sherry was the moderator. Generally attended by about 20+ members. Each discussion is then followed by a lunch at a nearby restaurant.

May 2019 – *The Baseball Codes: Beanballs, Sign Stealing, and Bench-Clearing Brawls: The Unwritten Rules of America's Pastime* by Jason Turbow – the author participated by phone.

September 2019 – *Dynastic, Bombastic, Fantastic: Reggie, Rollie, Catfish, and Charlie Finley's Swingin' A's*, by Jason Turbow

November 2019 – *Ball Four*, by Jim Bouton

February 2020 – *Powerball: The Anatomy of a Modern Baseball Game*, by Rob Neyer

May 2020 – *K: The History of Baseball in Ten Pitches*, by Tyler Kepner – conducted online via Zoom

Ballgames

April and May 2019– Several Ohio State Baseball games were attended by chapter members at each game.

May 2019 – A new joint event in conjunction with the members of both the Columbus and Cleveland SABR chapters met at the Akron Rubber Ducks Game. Prior to the game, members heard a welcome from owner of Akron Rubber Ducks, Mr. Ken Babby, stories from Jim Clark, play by play announcer for the Akron Rubber Ducks, and author of "Rally 'Round Cleveland - The Story of the 1974 Franchise-Saving Cleveland Indians;" stories from Chris Sabo, former MLB player and currently Head Coach of U of Akron Baseball; and insight from Scott Longert, author of "Bad Boys, Bad Times: The Cleveland Indians and Baseball in the Prewar Years, 1937-1941". To cap it off, the Rubber Ducks played a double-header against the Reading Fightin' Phils.

August 2019 - Columbus Clippers games at Huntington Park. Prior to some of the games our members met in the ballpark's Hall of Fame Bar to talk baseball with Ken Schnacke, Clippers President and GM. 22-25 members and guests attended.

October 2019 – Several Ohio State Fall Baseball games attended by members at each game.

October 2019 - Our annual event, members of the chapter met at the BW3 sports bar on Polaris Parkway to watch Game One of the 2019 World Series.

December 2019, January, February and March 2020– Informal Hot Stove Baseball talks, discussing the winter meetings, trades, the free agent market, Hall of Fame voting, and all else baseball. These were conducted at the public library and also included continuing discussing over lunch at a local eatery. One of the meetings was and is always scheduled on National SABR day. This has been a well-attended activity for our chapter the last three years.

March 2020– Online draft for Chapter Fantasy Baseball. Normally conducted through Yahoo Fantasy Sports site and administered by chapter member Aaron Koch. Is on hold for Covid-19.

April 2020 – Another annual event, members of the chapter met at the BW3 sports bar on Polaris Parkway to watch MLB Opening Day baseball was also postponed due to Covid-19.

April 2020--Winter Meeting - This year's annual SABR Day meeting was postponed due to Covid-19. We hope to hold the meeting in the fall.

— **Blake Sherry and Rick Huhn**

Forbes Field Chapter (Pittsburgh, PA)

May 25, 2019 meeting

Jim Haller - GROWING UP IN PITTSBURGH WITH BASEBALL

Jim shared his introduction to baseball through Little League and visits to Forbes Field

Craig Britcher - FORBES FIELD IN COLOR:IMAGES FROM THE HISTORY CENTER COLLECTION

Craig shared the Center's collection of color films of Forbes Field from the 1950s and 1960s

Jim Haller- PIRATE WORLD SERIES TRIVIA

Jim attempted to stump us with trivia from the Pirates five World Series

Josh Lapianna - MY BASEBALL EXPERIENCES IN THE AUSTRALIAN WINTER LEAGUE

Josh shared his memories of playing baseball in Australia before being called to the Majors

Len Martin - THREE RIVERS STADIUM 50th ANNIVERSARY

Len updated us on the Pirates plans for the 50th anniversary

John Serrapere - WE#21'S MISSION AND PROGRAMS

John described the youth program he has started with the help of Manny Sanguillen based upon Manny's friendship with Roberto Clemente

Manny Sanguillen - Manny shared stories of playing ball with his good friend Roberto Clemente

October 12, 2019, Heinz History Center

Joe Guzzardi - SABR PUERTO RICO

Joe shared his memories of attending a meeting with the Puerto Rican SABR group and his attendance at a birthday party for Juan Pizarro

David Finoli - RATING PITTSBURGH'S GREATEST BASEBALL PLAYERS

David explained how he goes about rating layers for his various books

George Skornickel - THE MIGHTY CASEY

George shared a fun episode of The Twilight Zone called The Mighty Casey which featured a pitcher who turns out to be a robot

Howard Wasserman - THE {IN}FAMOUS INFIELD FLY RULE

Howard discussed his new book in which he discusses how confusing the infield fly rule can be

Brian Engelhardt - MISS LIZZY TWIRLS FOR THE COAL MINERS

Brian made us aware of the fact that once there was a woman who pitched for a coal mine team in Reading, PA

January 11, 2020

SABR DAY at PNC PARK

Dan Joseph - HOW LOU GEHRIG FOUGHT ALS TO PLAY ONE FINAL CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

Dan gave us a preview of his new book about Lou Gehrig

Jim Haller – TRIVIA

Jim once again stumped us with a mind-boggling trivia quiz

Tim O'Neil - FRED CLARKE AND HIS THIRD BASEMEN

Tim discussed the various third basemen who played third base for Fred Clarke

Barney Terrell - RUBE WALKER AND HIS PLACE IN THE HIS PLACE IN THE HISTORICAL MEMORY OF BASEBALL

Barney highlighted the career of Rube Walker

Chris Phillips - PITTSBURGH, MLB AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF MODERN SCOUTING

Chris discussed his book and how metrics have changed the role of scouts

— **George Skornickel**

Christy Mathewson-Eddie Plank Chapter (Harrisburg, PA)

The Christy Mathewson-Eddie Plank Chapter named itself at the second chapter meeting, held via Zoom on May 2, 2020. Prior to this meeting, the chapter met for a brainstorming session on SABR Day. At both events, members got to know each other and to discuss their hopes and ideas for the fledgling chapter. Chapter members also participated in a survey, in which they identified ideas for future chapter activities. Our next Zoom meeting is planned for October 2020. Members will present research and elect officers.

— **R.J. Lesch**

Lajoie-Start Southern New England Chapter (Providence, RI)

The Lajoie-Start (Southern New England-RI) Chapter, one of several in New England, usually restricts its activities to two meetings: one on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and one on a Saturday in June at McCoy Stadium, home of the Pawtucket Red Sox. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic cost the chapter its gathering at McCoy Stadium.

The Thanksgiving Saturday meeting, on November 30, 2019, at St. Philip's Parish Center in Greenville, R.I., was well-attended — more than 55 SABR members and guests came. As usual, the chapter held a mock Hall of Fame vote and "elected" Derek Jeter. No one on the Modern Era/Veterans ballot made it through the straw vote — Marvin Miller (63.8 percent) and Dwight Evans (58.6 percent) came closest. Mike Darowski and Stephen Trimble conducted the balloting.

Father Gerry Beirne's trivia quiz was won by Norm Ginsberg. Other quizzes were given by Stephen Trimble and Dixie Tourangeau.

Research presentations were given by José Ignacio Ramirez, author of *Cuba and the Last Baseball Season*, a reference to Fidel Castro's abolition of professional baseball in Cuba and its aftermath; by Father Humbert Kilanowski, on "cWAR: Modifying Wins Above Replacement with the Cape Cod Baseball League"; by Father Gerry Beirne, on "The Greatest World Series Game Ever Played"; by Dixie Tourangeau, on "Leaves from a Researcher's Notebook"; and by Steve Krevisky, on Otto Hess.

Our special guest speaker was former major league pitcher Lenny DiNardo, now a TV analyst, who entertained with some trenchant observations on the Boston Red Sox and baseball in general.

The proceedings were punctuated by a ballpark lunch (hot dogs, etc.) prepared by a church group, and the meeting ended with the always-popular baseball book raffle and sale.

The chapter was set for a repeat in June at McCoy Stadium. Former major leaguer Richie Hebner was lined up as the guest speaker. Then the pandemic came crashing into our lives. We are hoping that we'll be able to meet as usual in November 2020.

— Len Levin

Larry Doby Chapter (Aiken, SC)

We had a few meetings in person before the Covid-19 shut-down. We discussed different things we want for this chapter such as a name and places we wanted to visit together such as the Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum in Greenville, S.C. and go to a minor league game in North Augusta, S.C. to see the Augusta Green Jackets. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to do either of those but we hope later in the summer we will be able to go.

Also, one of our members, Tina Whitlock (Vice Chair), who is with the St. Louis Cardinals organization, started a Facebook page for us at <https://www.facebook.com/sabrsclarrydoby>

Tina also has been a speaker at a couple of our meetings, talking about her role in the Cardinals organization. She also helped put together two of our meetings, before the shut-down, at an indoor sports training facility. We had a special guest, Charles Peterson, a professional baseball scout. During the meeting we learned about the technology that is used today by the major league teams to help develop minor league players.

We have had three Zoom meetings online and have had special guests such as a representative from the Minnesota Twins organization, an author of many books, Tom Wolf, the most recent is "The

Called Shot," a book about the 1932 baseball season which includes Babe Ruth's "Called Shot" in the World Series.

Tina also has helped bring in a couple of younger people that she has met during her baseball training that she does. At least one of them has joined SABR with a student membership.

We are currently trying to get a group of members to work on a BioProject article for SABR. I thought this would help several of us to get to know each other as well as contribute to SABR. Another plus by doing that is we are working with Bill Nowlin on one of his books he is writing for SABR and we will do our BioProject on someone that will be part of his book.

Another fun project we are working on together is something I created. It is a "Dream Team" league. Each member that participates will draft a player, one player per round, until we each have enough players on our team to be able to 'play' games. This helps young and older members do research on players to try and pick the best players to make a dream team. I hope that when we have all of our teams picked, we can find a computer-based game simulator to play the games and see how each of our teams perform.

— **Tim Deale**

East Tennessee Chapter (Knoxville, TN)

Since the 2019 national convention, we only met twice.

On September 21, 2019 we had a coffee and talk at a local Panera Bakery. For about 2 hours four members sat and talked baseball. Baseball memories, books, scandals, predictions. It was a good way to meet.

On January 25, 2020 we participated in SABR Day. Presenters included:

- * Dr. William Hardy, historian and vintage base ball player, talking about the beginnings of base ball in Knoxville, specifically the men that played the game.
- * Mark Aubrey talking about black baseball in Knoxville, focusing on the 1920 Knoxville Giants of the Negro Southern League.
- * Lucas Hobbs talking about the future of MiLB, specifically the Appy League.

SABR Day was well attended with 7 in attendance, including presenters. We had two non members attend.

On Saturday, May 2, 2020 we had planned to attend a college baseball game - UT vs UK in Knoxville (UT's Lindsey Nelson Stadium). Due to the pandemic that has been postponed until next spring (hopefully).

One of our solid members, Bryan Steverson, relocated to Florida. He was a faithful supporter of SABR and our local chapter. His presence is missed.

— **Mark Aubrey**

Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan DFW Chapter (Dallas-Fort Worth, TX)

The Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan DFW Chapter (TX) had several events during the last 12 months.

On September 23, 2019, we had a chapter meeting at the Globe Life Ballpark to commemorate the closing of that ballpark. With the help of Rangers' VP **John Blake**, our special guest was **Mark McLemore**, who played for the Rangers for five years of a 19-year major league career. During his playing days, McLemore was one of the most popular Rangers' ever to don the uniform. He is a current Rangers' broadcaster and spoke to an audience of about 65 people about his baseball upbringing and his time as "the Doctor of Defense" with the Rangers. Chapter president **Paul Rogers** then interviewed 98-year old **Eddie Robinson** about his days as the Rangers' general manager under Brad Corbett and then Eddie Chiles. Robinson, who shortly would become the oldest living former major league player, told many colorful stories about working under both rather eccentric owners.

The Chapter's planned March 2020 meeting was postponed because of Covid-19. However, on May 20 the chapter conducted a conference call with **Art Stewart**, a veteran of 67 years with major league baseball who is still scouting for the Kansas City Royals. During his long career, Art signed over 70 future major leaguers, including Bo Jackson. Art was interviewed by chapter member **John Mayeron**, who is a long-time friend of Stewart's, as Stewart recalled his long history in the game. The chapter had 34 people on the conference call.

During the pandemic and given the absence of baseball, the chapter president has been sending daily, or almost daily, humorous anecdotes, stories, or quips from the many colorful characters who have populated our game over these many years to try to provide the chapter members with a light baseball moment during their day.

In addition, the chapter, led by **Bo Carter**, awarded its annual **Howard Green SABR Metroplex Collegiate Player of the Year Award** to junior first baseman **Jake Guenther** of TCU. This marked the 27th presentation of the award, which is named in honor of the chapter's founder, the late **Howard Green**.

Guenther, from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, was the 2019 Big 12 Conference Newcomer of the Year. Although limited by a late season injury, he batted .345 with a .462 on-base percentage and an OPS of 1.038. He slugged 10 home runs and batted in 42 runs for the season. Guenther also set a school record by reaching base in his first 50 games in a TCU uniform, helping the Frogs gain an at-large berth in the NCAA Baseball Championship regionals. He was named first team All-Big 12 and was an honorable mention All-American. Guenther was chosen in the seventh round of the 2019 Major League Baseball Draft by the Tampa Bay Rays.

The chapter also awarded the eighth annual Carroll Beringer SABR Metroplex Collegiate Division Player of the Year Award, named for **Carroll Beringer**, long-time chapter member, former Texas League All-Star and Player of the Year (1959) and major league coach with the Dodgers and Phillies. Beringer, who passed away in 2011, was very active in supporting college baseball in the area. The award is for the top Metroplex collegiate player from four-year colleges playing Division II, Division III, or NAIA baseball. The eighth award winner was catcher **Casey Combs** of East Texas Baptist University.

Combs, a senior from Southlake, is the son of former MLB pitcher **Pat Combs** and the younger brother of **Conner Combs**, the 2016 Beringer Award winner. Casey Combs batted .417 with 13 home runs and 48 runs batted in for the Tigers. His many honors include being named to two first-team Division III All-American teams in addition to being named the American Southwest Conference Player of the Year for baseball and conference Athlete of the Year for all sports. He was also named

the ETBU Male Athlete of the Year. Combs was selected in the 27th round of the Major League Baseball Draft by the Miami Marlins.

— **C. Paul Rogers III**

Larry Dierker Chapter (Houston, TX)

Despite an unusual year our chapter was able to hold 12 meetings during the past year highlighted by a visit from umpire Joe West, a simulated arbitration session and 2 Zoom sessions.

On June 15, 2019, we asked Joe West if he could attend a special Saturday lunch session with us as he was in town and umpiring the 3:00 pm Astros game. We asked if he could be with us from 11:30 to 12:30 and Mr. West did even better. He arrived at 11:00 am and stayed until after 1:00 pm telling us interesting stories about himself and some of the famous games he had participated in. When reminded that it was after 1:00 he said, “Don’t worry, the game won’t start without me.” 55 of our members attended.

On August 19, 2019, we attended a Houston Astros game and had a pregame session at Minute Maid Park with special guest Astros Authentics Manager Mike Acosta who brought with him significant artifacts like Dizzy Dean’s spikes from when he played for the Houston Buffs. He also reviewed the history of the newly formed Houston Astros Hall of Fame, its location, memorabilia collected and recent inductees. We had 45 in attendance.

On September 16, 2019, Mike Vance, Andrew Gillingham, Larry Dierker and Bob Dorrill made presentations; Mike on Judge Roy Hofheinz, Andrew on his research on the “Batters Eye” at 29 different MLB parks, Larry on pitching strategy and the new rules and Bob on SABR 49. We were also pleased to congratulate Larry on his selection for the Houston Media Hall of Fame that coming Sunday, September 22. 32 members attended.

On October 21, 2019, no one won the Astros Win Contest with the number 107 but Tom White had 106 and several more had 105. Greg Moore spoke on a book giving the history of the Astrodome, Greg Lucas on 2019 playoffs and trends, Chris Chestnut discussed spring training in 1969 and provided a map of where our members live. The Spaghetti Western Restaurant is right in the middle of our residences. 28 attendees attended.

On October 26, 2019, we gathered at the George Ranch in Richmond, TX, for the annual vintage baseball game between our own Houston Babies and the Barker Red Sox at Texian Market Days. Prior to the we had a special tribute to our dear friend Bill McCurdy who had passed away recently. Mike McCroskey sang the National Anthem and Amazing Grace followed by a moment of silence. For those keeping score the Babies won.

On November 18, 2019, Tal Smith set the stage for our arbitration session in January by providing information on what an arbitrator expects in the form of data from both the player and his team. Numerous examples were provided. We then formed 4 different teams who decided to represent players George Springer (\$24M asked, 18.5M offered) and Roberto Osuna (12.5M asked and \$9.0M offered) and the Astros. We also watched the DVD “The Battered Bastards of Baseball.” 34 were in attendance.

On December 16, 2019, the meeting started with Marsha Franty speaking about baseball books she had just checked out from a local library and then Bob McCann presented a unique and challenging contest for us to guess the name of a player who had hit a specific number of HR's in his career. We

were given the HR totals and blank space to fill in player names. If 2 people had hit the same number of home runs we had 2 blanks to fill in. While 714 was easy trying to determine which 2 players had hit 382 HRs proved difficult. After the presentations all 4 teams had 30 minutes to pick their player for arbitration and begin to outline specific strategies. All teams met multiple times in December and January to acquire stats and formalize their offering. 34 were present.

On January 18, 2020, our chapter once again had a booth at the Astros FanFest and passed out baseball cards to the youngsters who passed our way. We also recruited new members for our chapter and displayed SABR publications. 10 members participated.

On January 21, 2020, it was on! In a two-hour session each of our 4 teams had 20 minutes to discuss their case for arbitration plus 10 minutes for rebuttal. First was George Springer who asked for \$24M but lost his case and was awarded \$18.5M. Next was Roberto Osuna who asked for \$12.5M and received \$9.0M. Tal Smith was the official arbitrator and negotiation was not allowed. You either won or lost. Tal explained in detail how he made his decision. Everyone agreed it was a terrific idea and we want to do it again this December. 40 people participated.

On February 17, 2020, we were honored to have former MLB player and current Arizona scout Scipio Spinks as our guest. Scipio started us off with a baseball nicknames quiz but soon was reminiscing about his association with Ernie Banks, George Altman and Bob Gibson. Scipio played with the Astros and Cardinals. After retiring as a player, he was hired to “double” for Lou Gosset in the film “Don’t Look Back” about the great Satchel Paige. Bill Brown discussed how journalists cover the game today and the influence of social media. Just back from spring training Bill also reported on the makeup of the 2020 team.

On May 4, 2020, the Zoom age arrived. We held our first-ever Zoom meeting attended by 32 members. While the process was a little tricky we were able to have candid conversations on the passing of Jimmy Wynn, the potential for a 2020 baseball season, and trivia was presented by Wesley Story.

On May 18, 2020, we were back on Zoom with the one and only Deacon Jones as guest speaker. Deacon along with his lifelong friend Mike Morris, who delved into their introduction into professional baseball and the effort it took to adjust to blatant racism. In fact, things were so bad in Savannah, Georgia in 1962 that the team, in the middle of the night, left town and resettled in Lynchburg, Va. You can imagine Deacon’s reaction to moving to a town that had “lynch” in its name. However, this area was so starved for baseball that they rallied behind the team and most every game for the remainder of the season was sold out. Bob McCann reviewed the story of Curt Flood and his bravery. We had 42 people signed on.

— **Bob Dorrill**

Rogers Hornsby Chapter (Austin, TX)

The Rogers Hornsby Chapter had another active year of monthly meetings and shifted online as the coronavirus pandemic disrupted all facets of our lives, including our regular meetings.

The chapter met online via Zoom in April and May, extending our consecutive monthly meeting streak to 162. Though we were sad that we couldn't meet over lunch as usual, we enjoyed meeting SABR members from across the country who joined our Zoom meetings.

In January, we had our 14th annual Bill Gilbert Winter Meeting, which included visits by former Major League ballplayer Deacon Jones, Round Rock Express general manager Tim Jackson, and a video conference with Jon Pessah, journalist, founding editor of ESPN the Magazine and author of recently published "Yogi: A Life." In addition, longtime Express broadcaster Mike Capps visited us. We also had presentations about new rules for the 2020 season, an examination of competitive balance through the years and an exploration of one member's Hall of Fame memorabilia.

Under Jim Kenton's leadership, the chapter's "BasebALZ/Talking Baseball reminiscence program had another active year using baseball as therapy for Central Texans with Alzheimer's and expanded to include to new sites in 2019. In addition to our programs in Austin (since 2015) and at the Kerrville VA (since 2016), we now have offerings in Georgetown and San Antonio. We had a record 51 participants at a February 2020 event held at the Dell Diamond in Round Rock.

Monte Cely also attended and filed dispatches about the Caribbean Series 2020 from San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Dominican Republic defeated Venezuela to take its first Serie del Caribe crown.

Before the pandemic, many of the monthly meetings include lunch at a restaurant in the Austin area, sometimes involving baseball trivia quizzes.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we hope to continue our meeting streak – in person or online, get back to watching minor league ball as a group and host the winter meeting next January.

— **Gilbert D. Martinez**

Col. Abner Doubleday/Judge Howard Green West Texas Chapter (San Angelo, TX)

We hosted our fifth annual Base Ball Heritage Symposium titled "**Leap into Baseball Season**"; on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at Fort Concho in San Angelo, TX.

We had 26 attendees who were there for both continental breakfast and pizza luncheon. The program included 7 different speakers on topics ranging from "Developing Little League Players" to "Starting a Collegiate Program from Scratch" to "The Chicago Black Sox Texas Connections" to a slide show presentation/trivia contest on "Old Ballparks". The program ended, as always, with a post lunch instructional program on Vintage Base Ball play of the 1860-1880s, and then a short game for all to participate.

Every attendee was given a gift of program media guides from old College Baseball Hall of Fame induction events (special thanks to Dr. Mike Gustafson and Mr. Chris Sneed, from the CB Hoff, for donating these to the symposium).

Additionally, we also provide info and encouragement for all to join both the SABR and Texas vintage Base Ball Associations.

Also, the three names listed below; who have been running this symposium every year; meet every other week to talk baseball (and drink coffee) and ways to market and promote our events and recruit

and trying to find others members, in a rather large West Texas area where nothing is close to anything, more engaged.

— **Warren Simpson, Bob Bluthardt, Cory Robinson**

Gardner-Waterman Vermont Chapter (Burlington, VT)

Our chapter (Gardner-Waterman SABR VT) had 2 research meetings in 2019 as well as a book club meeting, where we read Jane Leavy's "The Big Fella." In January, we also held a gathering in advance of the Vermont Lake Monsters (Single A Oakland affiliate) annual winter warmer talk, which featured Buster Olney and Boog Sciambi. The Lake Monsters made a donation to our chapter of \$500 and we gained several new members as a result of the publicity from the event.

— **Clayton Trutor**

Pacific Northwest Chapter (Seattle, WA / Portland, OR / Victoria, BC)

During the last 12 months the Pacific Northwest Chapter held several events that drew members from across its regional area, which includes the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska, as well as the Western Canada provinces.

In November 2019, the members held their annual Fall meeting the weekend after the World Series. Presentations included separate Q & A's with Mariners beat writer Ryan Divish and Mariner broadcaster Gary Hill. Member presentations filled out the meeting. Steve Steinberg presented on the 1908 Pittsburgh Pirates role in that classic pennant race. Chuck Putnam provided a 30 retrospective on the events surrounding the 1989 World Series. Mike Rice concluded with a quiz/presentation on statistical leaders across the decades.

Due to field resurfacing at T-Mobile Park, the Mariners cancelled Fan Fest for 2020. Instead of having a Winter meeting during FanFest, chapter members gathered for a tour of Driveline Baseball in Kent, Washington. Kent is a city 16 miles south of Seattle, and was where Red Badgro of the 1929 St. Louis Browns went to high school. Driveline Baseball is a data-driven player development, coaching, training, and research facility and works with players of all ages utilizing technology to help players achieve their utmost potential. Members toured the facility, observed training sessions, and had a Q & A with staff.

With the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, PNW cancelled its Spring events, but did switch to holding Zoom events as part of the SABR@Home initiative.

The first event was an hour long Zoom meeting attended by 16 chapter members and was with Professor Steve Calandrillo of the University of Washington School of Law, regarding his paper titled "Baseball's Moral Hazard: Law, Economics, and the Designated Hitter Rule", which describes the impact of the designated hitter rule. In his paper, Calandrillo analyzes the impacts of Major League Baseball's adoption of the DH rule in the American League (AL), and uses empirical evidence to show how the decision led to more batters being hit with pitches — "the manifestation of the economic theory of moral hazard."

The second event as part of the SABR@Home initiative was on June 6, with author Rick Allen, author of the latest release, "Inside Pitch: The Story of Major League Baseball's Shortest-Lived Team and its Quirky Characters — From the Dugout to the Front Office."

— **Mark Brunke**

Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter (Milwaukee, WI)

The Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter held three meetings in 2019 beginning with our SABR Day event and ending with a meeting in November with a meeting to elect a new president and introduce a new book by one of our members, Chris Zantow's fine book, "Building the Brewers Bud Selig and the Return of Major League Baseball to Milwaukee". At that meeting we elected a new president, Dennis D. Degenhardt, a SABR member since 1997 replacing Rick Schabowski who held the position for 17 years. Dennis asked Rick to become our President Emeritus and he agreed.

In 2020, we held our SABR Day Joint Chapter Meeting with the Chicago Chapter on February 15 followed by our last in-person meeting on February 29 with Sister Tony a member of the All American Girls Professional Baseball League. Then the country started shutting down forcing the cancellation of our annual spring meeting on May 9.

Thanks to SABR and their establishing Zoom Meeting capability for the chapters, we held two successful virtual meetings. Our first was with MLB.com Brewers beat writer Adam McCalvy with 27 attending on April 23. Our second, on May 21, was with Jeremy Beer discussing his excellent award-winning book "Oscar Charleston" with 31 attending. One of the silver linings of the pandemic is the Zoom meetings have made it possible for chapter members who live far from Milwaukee to attend chapter meetings as well as out-of-state Keltner Chapter members. For Beer's meeting we had about 10 requests from other chapters to join the meeting after it was announced in "This Week in SABR". We also have a broader assortment of speakers available to us not living near Wisconsin.

Our plan for the remainder of the year is to continue holding monthly Zoom meetings. When we will hold our next in-person meeting is TBD although we have our joint SABR Day meeting with Chicago scheduled for February 20, 2021. Even when we return to the more traditional chapter meeting, we hope to continue periodic Zoom meetings with the wider variety of speakers available.

— **Dennis D Degenhardt**

Quebec Chapter (Montreal, QC)

We are pleased to report that the Quebec Chapter is healthy and strong. After some ups and downs in the mid-2010s and despite a French-speaking base that is smaller than most states and provinces, we have been able to keep our membership to stable levels. We have even begun to attract new members due to an awareness campaign that was begun in late 2018 and that is still ongoing in 2019. Attendance to our meetings is good and participation to chapter activities is excellent.

Our 2019 season started with SABR Day. Our meeting was dedicated to the 1949 season of the Montreal Royals, to mark the 70th anniversary of a team that has been somewhat forgotten, even though it won the International League pennant. The most famous name on the team was Don Newcombe, who only spent a few weeks in Montreal before being called up to the Brooklyn Dodgers,

as he was clearly too strong for AAA baseball. Another star was Sam Jethroe, who would go on to win the National League Rookie of the Year Award with the Boston Braves the very next year.

At our Spring meeting, we left the floor to fellow member Marcel Dugas who spoke about his recently-published book entitled “Jackie Robinson: un été à Montréal” (“A Summer in Montreal”). The book, whose publication coincides with the 100th anniversary of Robinson’s birth, examines the 1946 season that he spent with the Montreal Royals, his first in Organized Baseball. Several chapter members helped Marcel with the completion of his project, whether by providing fact-checking, suggestions or proofreading.

The Summer meeting was held once again at Canac Stadium in Quebec City to see a Canam League baseball game. This year, our members saw the Quebec Capitales lose 10-1 to the Sussex County Miners. It is a tradition that we pretty much enjoy even though the local teams loses most of the time when we attend one of its games.

Finally, our Fall meeting was the showcase for a presentation on the evolution of Montreal baseball parks. From the first playing field in the 1860s to Delorimer Stadium in 1928, we saw that Montreal, and by extension, the Province of Quebec was fertile ground for baseball even though other sports like lacrosse and hockey overshadowed it at different points in time.

A major accomplishment for the chapter was the publication in February of a French language web booklet about the life and career of Eric Cyr, the 24th Quebec-born player to reach the Majors when he joined the San Diego Padres in 2002. Written by fellow member Alain Dumas, the booklet was a success, having been downloaded more than 500 times during the year. The publication was also saluted by the Quebec Amateur Baseball Federation.

We intend to continue our awareness campaign in 2020. Another web booklet is in the works. And we plan to hold our four seasonal meetings, virtual if need be.

— **Patrick Carpentier**

Hanlan’s Point Chapter (Toronto, ON)

The decision to expand Hanlan’s Point Chapter from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) to include Southwestern Ontario (SWO) has been a success.

The fall SWO meeting included a vintage baseball game in Beachville, Ontario, site of a recorded baseball game in 1838. The game had Chapter members participating with members of a local vintage team. The game had one unfortunate incident when a Chapter member, pitching at the time, sustained a broken arm protecting his head from a line drive through the pitching box.

The fall GTA meeting included an interactive presentation on baseball rules. Based on quiz score results, it seems that if someone could revive the old Baseball Digest “So You Think You Know Baseball” series, there would likely be more respect for umpires from the fans.

The 2020 SABR Day meeting included a presentation on the work of the Black Sox Research Committee “8 Myths Out” project. The program was also offered in March for the spring SWO meeting.

Based on a suggestion at the SWO meeting, the Chapter has launched a research project. The Chapter is in the process of compiling a listing, with write-ups, of baseball sites in Ontario. The plan is to

initially have the material placed in a travel map with long term plans to explore the possibility of publishing a book on the sites.

— **Allen Tait**

Korea Chapter (Seoul, KOR)

The Korea Chapter currently has fifteen members, but only two currently reside in Korea. I have recently moved back to the United States from Korea. I have been trying to get someone to take over the chapter chair, but haven't been able to do so yet. I will try to organize things from here for the time being. I know a couple of people interested in Korean baseball and have spoken to them about SABR, but they have not decided to join yet. Additionally, there are a few ex-members that I am still trying to persuade to rejoin.

We didn't have any official meetings in the past year as I was the only member living in Korea this past year. We will hope to have some meetings this year though, we might try a virtual meeting.

One issue with this chapter is that there are many baseball fans, but some of their English ability is limited and among non-Koreans, their Korean is limited. As I also mentioned, I am now living in the United States, so while I'm still willing to remain involved, and handle administrative related matters for the chapter, I'm still looking for someone who can replace me who is based in Korea.

I have remained in contact with Dan Evans from the Rocky Mountain Chapter and we are still talking about exploring possible collaborations between the two chapters. We will continue to discuss this. I have also spoken to the Tokyo chapter about doing something with them, but nothing concrete has been set.

Additionally, I have met a few people interested in Korean baseball cards here and am trying to get them to join SABR and have mentioned the relaunched Baseball Cards Committee to them.

My plan for the rest of this year will be to try to have a few informal, virtual events to promote SABR in Korea and try to recruit a few more Korea based members. I will also continue talks with the other SABR chapters.

— **Patrick Bourgo**