



Society for American Baseball Research

Annual Report
June 1, 2016

SABR.org

President's Report – Vince Gennaro

It's been another successful year for SABR, as we advanced our mission to foster the study of baseball, maintain an accurate account of its historical record and to produce and disseminate a wide range of research. We've made progress in numerous areas.

SABR is a research community dedicated to deepening the public's understanding and appreciation of the great game of baseball. We recognize, support, and foster a wide range of baseball interests, ranging from the Deadball Era, to Latinos in baseball, science and baseball, and our scouts research committee. Our ability to fulfill our mission is directly related to the diversity of our research committees, as well as the quality of our research. Likewise, the more our work is seen and heard within and outside the SABR community, the better we fulfill our mission.

Over the last year the SABR leadership—the Board, our CEO, and our staff—continued our three major themes to forward the Society's mission:

- ⤴ Support our members' research efforts by acquiring research assets and tools and providing an outlet for their work through publications
- ⤴ Improve our connection to the baseball community—those who have the most to gain from our members' research
- ⤴ Improve SABR's financial condition, so that we can ultimately invest in additional research tools and assets

We continue to make outstanding progress on all three fronts. First, we made progress in the area of digitization of The Sporting News (TSN) player cards. This important one-of-a-kind set of documents will be an important source of information for researchers for decades to come. Over 25,000 of the cards have been scanned and digitized over the last year. The hope is that the entire set of more than 150,000 cards will be digitized by the end of 2017. In the coming months and years, it will be important for us to continue to leverage technology to deliver our content to millions of interested parties around the globe.

Second, we continue to make excellent progress building our awareness and improving our connection to the broader baseball community. These relationships are critical to SABR's mission, namely the dissemination of baseball research and information. It ensures that the work of our dedicated SABR researchers has even greater meaning and impact by reaching the leaders and custodians of our national pastime. Last year we entered into an alliance with Minor League Baseball, which included enrolled memberships for all 160 affiliated minor league teams. This relationship has served to build the communication lines between SABR and the grassroots game of Minor League Baseball. We hope this will ultimately lead to greater local connections between our regional chapters and minor league clubs.

Finally, we made significant progress on the financial front, with a surplus from our annual operations in 2015, for the third straight year. The prognosis for 2016 is equally strong. We continue to shift our mix of revenues from being heavily reliant on membership dues to a more balanced blend of dues, licensing fees and event income. We believe that our financial momentum is sustainable, due to the more balanced revenue streams.

In the end, SABR is a community for those who share a passion for baseball. The goal of your SABR leadership is to support that passion by bringing you together as a community, providing you with the opportunities to collaborate and share in exciting research projects, and creating outlets for your work to be viewed, discussed and debated by others. As your SABR President, I look forward to another year of building on our successes and helping SABR members enlighten the baseball establishment and fans alike about the game we all cherish.

CEO's Report – Marc Appleman

It has been an exciting year of growth and change for SABR. We have a new logo that has been very well received by the membership, we redesigned SABR.org (which has had record traffic), we increased the number of chapters and committees, we now have more than 3,800 BioProject articles and we had our best year ever when it came to producing e-books.

SABR's events have been incredibly well received and successful from an attendance, financial, and programming standpoint, and the organization continues to increase its stature in the baseball community. The SABR Defensive Index continues to play a key role in the selection of the Rawlings Gold Glove awards, we continue to bolster our presence on MLB.com, and our weekly radio show Behind the Numbers: Baseball SABR Style on SiriusXM had a successful first year.

SABR Chapters: With the addition of the Rickwood Field Chapter in Alabama and the Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter, SABR now has 71 chapters. For a detailed look at the events that chapters put on and the speakers they hosted, please see the chapters section in the appendix.

SABR Committees: With the addition of the Games Project, Official Scoring, and Concessions committees, SABR now has 31 committees. The SABR committees continue to produce excellent research and provide a vibrant community. For a complete look at the accomplishments of SABR's committees, please see the committees section in the appendix.

SABR's Publications Program: SABR published fall and spring editions of the Baseball Research Journal and offered both a print version of The National Pastime and an expanded digital version that was available to all SABR members.

Since last year's convention, members have received free copies of the following SABR e-books:

- Braves Field: Memorable Moments at Boston's Lost Diamond
- Mustaches and Mayhem: Charlie O's Three-Time Champions (The 1972-74 Oakland A's)
- A Pennant for the Twin Cities: The 1965 Minnesota Twins
- The Team That Time Won't Forget: The 1951 New York Giants
- Nuclear Powered Baseball: Articles Inspired by The Simpsons Episode "Homer at the Bat"
- The 1986 New York Mets: There Was More Than Game Six
- The 1986 Boston Red Sox: There Was More Than Game Six
- Au jeu/Play Ball: The 50 Greatest Games in the History of the Montreal Expos
- Tigers by the Tale: Great Games at Michigan & Trumbull

SABR's collaboration with Rawlings: The third year of this collaboration was very successful. The SABR Defensive Index (SDI) played a key role in the selection of a number of the Gold Glove winners. The winners of the Rawlings Platinum Glove Awards presented by SABR were announced by SABR President Vince Gennaro at the Gold Glove dinner in New York. The award is decided by a combination of fan votes and the SDI. The SDI considers a fielder's range, his arm and sure-handedness, along with his outstanding plays.

SABR's partnership with MLBAM: SABR continues to work closely with MLB.com. We continue to provide member-produced content for MLB.com. SABR members played a key role in selecting the winners of the Esurance MLB Awards (formerly the GIBBYS). The votes from SABR members are equal to each of the other four categories: SABR members (20%), MLB.com (20%), Front office personnel (20%), Retired players (20%), Media (20%). For the sixth straight year, SABR will present SABR-branded panels at the MLBAM booth at the All-Star Game Fan Fest.

Partnership with Minor League Baseball: Through a partnership formed with Minor League Baseball early in 2015, at least one executive with every

affiliated minor league team is now a SABR member. SABR is working closely with Minor League Baseball to put together events at minor-league ballparks and to involve SABR members with minor-league teams.

SABR.org: SABR.org enjoyed another year of record traffic in 2015 and — after a relaunch of the website to incorporate our new logo and a more responsive design for mobile and tablet visitors — we are on pace to improve on all daily, weekly, and monthly totals so far in 2016.

SABR.org has played a key role in increasing the exposure of the organization's initiatives, including the SABR Analytics Conference and the SABR Digital Library publishing program. In addition, live online multimedia coverage from the SABR Analytics Conference, the SABR Convention, and other major events, along with increased daily visibility on multiple social media platforms, and our BioProject referral partnership with Baseball-Reference.com, have driven our web traffic to record-breaking numbers.

In 2015, we passed a milestone with 1 million unique visitors to SABR.org for the first time. We also set record highs with more than 1.4 million total visitors and 2.8 million page views in the calendar year. In April, following a successful SABR Analytics Conference and the start of a new season, we surpassed 110,000 unique visitors in a month for the first time (that total has since been topped twice.)

- 2015: 1,495,277 total visitors (1,019,835 unique), 2,804,844 page views
- 2014: 1,348,794 total visitors (937,972 unique), 2,588,992 page views
- 2013: 1,059,449 total visitors (696,792 unique), 2,245,239 page views
- 2012: 736,311 total visitors (475,204 unique), 1,729,762 page views
- 2011: 270,311 total visitors (154,566 unique), 822,223 page views

Through the first five months of 2016, we have already surpassed 100,000 unique visitors in a month twice — establishing a new record with 111,000+ unique visitors in April 2016 and 112K in May — and we are averaging more than 87,000 monthly unique visitors in 2016.

Our website redesign in January, which enhances the reading and browsing experience for mobile and tablet users, also reflects the changing nature of the visitors to SABR.org. About 40 percent of all visitors to SABR.org in 2015 were on mobile or tablet devices, up from 35% in 2014 and 26% in 2013. The new site is more responsive to mobile traffic, more visually appealing, and easier to search all the great research and content available at SABR.org.

SABR events:

- **SABR 45:** Six hundred and sixty (660) attendees took part in a memorable gathering at the Palmer House in Chicago. The convention featured an afternoon game at Wrigley Field between the Cubs and Dodgers, a Thursday night concert featuring The Baseball Project, and noted speakers and innovative panels. Featured speakers included Carlos May, Ron Kittle, and Mike Huff on the White Sox Players Panel moderated by Dan Migala; Ron Coomer, Jim Deshaies, and Len Kasper on the Broadcasters Panel moderated by Curt Smith; Ernie Westfield and Al Spearman on the Negro Leagues Panel moderated by Larry Lester; Caroline Phillips, Martha Jo Black, John Kovach, and Christie Spisak on the Women in Baseball Panel moderated by Leslie Heaphy. Other panels included “ESPN Presents: 1927: The Diary of Myles Thomas” with John Thorn, Steve Wulf, and Douglas Alden Warshaw; and “Curveballs: Pitching Prodigies, Real and Imagined” with Steve Trout, Joe Berton, and Barry Bloom. The SABR Awards Banquet featured an Ernie Banks/Minnie Minoso Tribute, presented by sportswriter Phil Rogers. The convention featured a strong lineup of 32 research presentations and more than 25 committee meetings. The Anthony Y. Yoseloff Foundation Inc. Research Scholarship awards were given to four students.
- **SABR Analytics Conference:** The fifth annual SABR Analytics Conference – held during Spring Training in Phoenix—attracted more than 400 attendees, including representatives from 26 Major League teams. It was once again a major success for SABR members, potential SABR members, industry insiders and the many college students who participated in the Diamond Dollars Case Competition. The Anthony Y. Yoseloff Foundation Inc. Research

Scholarship awards were given to four students. The conference featured 11 innovative research presentations and top speakers and moderators, including Brian Kenny, Aaron Boone, Dallas Braden, Mike Ferrin, Eric Byrnes, Vince Gennaro, Ken Rosenthal, Dick Williams, Billy Eppler, Alex Cora, John Dewan, Sarah Gelles, Yeshayah Goldfarb, Nick Ennis, John Fisher, Ryan Gustafson and Dan Migala. It was a major programming, financial and branding success for SABR.

- **Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference:** The 18th annual Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference, presented by the SABR Negro Leagues Committee, continues to grow in attendance and stature. Held in Pittsburgh August 6-8, 2015, “The Biggest and Best Black Baseball Conference in America” celebrated “Baseball’s Best: The Grays and the Crawfords.” The conference featured top research presentations and a talk from Satchel Paige’s oldest son, Robert “Bob” Paige.
- **SABR Arizona Fall League Experience:** The SABR Arizona Fall League Experience – with a new name, but same great experience — was held November 5-7, 2015, in Phoenix. The event featured four AFL games showcasing baseball’s top prospects, the Fall Stars Game, dinner at Don and Charlie’s in Scottsdale, and a ballpark dinner at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick.
- **Frederick-Ivor Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference:** Held in Cooperstown in April, this was once again a popular sold-out event that featured leading research presentations.
- **SABR Day:** Members from more than 35 chapters took part in SABR Day activities in 2016. SABR Day is held on the Saturday between the NFL Championship Game and the Super Bowl.
- For the fifth year in a row, we presented the SABR Seymour Medal prior to the Saturday night banquet at the NINE Spring Training Conference. The recipient of this year's Seymour Medal was Bill Pennington for Billy Martin: Baseball’s Flawed Genius.

Behind the Numbers: Baseball SABR Style on SiriusXM: This weekly baseball analytics show completed its first year on SiriusXM. The one-hour show airs on MLB Network Radio and is available to subscribers nationwide on XM Channel 89, Sirius Channel 209 and on the SiriusXM Internet Radio app. The show is hosted by SABR President Vince Gennaro and focuses on examining and interpreting the statistical analysis that plays a critical role in baseball today. The show features guests from MLB teams, the media, and members of SABR.

SABR’s Data Program: Thanks to Sean Lahman — who heads up SABR’s data program — and the many volunteers who work with Sean, it was another very productive year. On minor-league projects, volunteers completed 139 league-seasons in 2015, which was a considerable increase from 2014. There are three offshoots of the Minor Leagues Database project which function independently: the identification group which untangles the identities of minor-league players and tracks down biographical information to update our player register; the group that works on minor-league data that’s outside the scope of what’s been compiled in the league-seasons, including ballparks, managers, and farm system relationships; and the group that compiles and digitizes source materials for minor-league research, focusing on public-domain guides.

A group of volunteers helps Sean with the necrology project — which tabulates current obituaries for former players. This research is used to update our Player Register and to provide necrology data to outside organizations such as Baseball America and the Professional Baseball Scouts Foundation.

Updates have been made to the Player Register. These updates incorporate new player debuts and historical changes reported through the Biographical Committee. This group collaborates with Retrosheet, Baseball-Reference, and MLBAM to ensure consistency and accuracy. There has also been ongoing maintenance with the wiki project, SABRpedia/BR Bullpen.

When it comes to the digitization of the TSN cards, the first nine of 60 boxes, containing about 3,000 cards per box, have been scanned and digitized, and the rate of accuracy for data recovered from the cards is high. The remaining boxes have been delivered to LA84, and the entire set is projected to be completed in

2017.

SABR's Youth Initiative: The awareness of SABR among younger fans continues to grow through SABR.org, the SABR Analytics Conference, the SABR Student Group Affiliate Membership Program (which offers institutional memberships to college, high school and middle school groups), and new external relationships.

The success of SABR would not be possible without our members that make this a tremendous organization, the Board of Directors, our volunteers and consultants, and of course, our terrific staff in Phoenix. Special thanks to Jeff Schatzki (Director of Operations), Jacob Pomrenke (SABR Director of Editorial Content), Deb Jayne (Membership and Events Director), and our newest staff member Marisa Elliot (Manager of Chapter/Partner Relations).

President

Vince Gennaro, Purchase, NY

Vice-President

Bill Nowlin, Cambridge, MA

Secretary

Todd Lebowitz, Solon, OH

Treasurer

F. X. Flinn, Quechee, VT

Directors

Chris Dial, Durham, NC

Emily Hawks, Seattle, WA

Leslie Heaphy, North Canton, OH

Ty Waterman, Attleboro, MA

Historical List of Board Members

Robert Allen	Bob Hoie	David Pietrusza
Paul Andresen	Tom Hufford	Richard Puff
Dick Beverage	Bill Hugo	Jim Riley
Richard Burt	Bill Humber	Emil Rothe
Bill Carle	Fred Ivor-Campbell	Harry Rothgerber
Richard Cramer	Lloyd Johnson	Mark Rucker
Kit Crissey	Rodney Johnson	Bob Ruland
Marge Daniels	Tom Jozwik	Rick Salamon
L. Robert Davids	Cliff Kachline	Anthony Salazar
Chris Dial	Jack Kavanagh	Luke Salisbury
Thomas C. Evans	Len Levin	Art Schott
F. X. Flinn	Randy Linthurst	Tom Shieber
Paul Frisz	Phil Lowry	Bill Shlensky
Ron Gabriel	Vern Luse	Joe Simenic
Cappy Gagnon	Norman Macht	Eric Simonsen
Vince Gennaro	Skip McAfee	Tal Smith
Larry Gerlach	Bob McConnell	Bob Soderman
Steve Gietschier	John McCormack	Gene Sunnen
Gary Gillette	Andy McCue	Stew Thornley
Dan Ginsburg	Joe McGillen	Richard Topp
Ray Gonzalez	Ron Menchine	Neal Traven
Jerry Gregory	Gene Murdock	David Vincent
Stan Grosshandler	Lois Nicholson	David Voigt
Bill Gustafson	Bill Nowlin	Ty Waterman
Emily Hawks	John Pardon	Fred Worth
Leslie Heaphy	Claudia Perry	Tom Zocco
Paul Hirsch	Frank Phelps	

SABR Chapter Reports and Chapter Leaders, June 1, 2016

(All annual chapter reports received at the SABR office by June 1, 2016, have been included.)

- See Appendix 1

SABR Committee Reports and Committee Chairs, June 1, 2016

(All annual committee reports received at the SABR office by June 1, 2016, have been included.)

- See Appendix 2

Awards Committee

Rich Applegate
Phil Bergen
Gary Cieradowski
Warren Corbett
Bill Felber
Chuck Hilty
Bill Humber
Tara Krieger
Len Levin
Larry Levine
Dan Levitt
Gary Sarnoff

Ad Hoc Committees

Mort Bloomberg – Tellers
Annie Chaloupka – Tellers
F.X. Flinn – Audit
Emily Hawks – Audit
Michael Holden – Tellers
R.J. Lesch - Nominating
Gary McIntosh – Audit
Andrew Nadler – Audit
Rich Schabowski – Nominating
Neal Traven - Nominating
Ty Waterman - Audit

Chartered Communities

T. Scott Brandon
D. Bruce Brown
Josh Chetwynd
Chris Dial
Gregg Gaylord
Gary Gillette
Joe Gray
Michael Lynch
Michael McCullough
Michael Metzger

SABR's Annual Meeting

SABR considers the initial gathering of its founders on August 10, 1971, as its first Annual Meeting. All subsequent meetings/conventions have been numbered accordingly. In 2015, SABR 45 was held in Chicago, Illinois. The SABR Annual Meeting has gone through many changes. In the early days, members sat around and gave presentations to the others there on topics of interest to them. There were no time limits, and certainly no blind review of appropriate topics and level of research. Today, members are asked to submit abstracts that enter a blind review process and the Annual Meetings now include informative and entertaining presentations that reflect the wide range of SABR members' research interests. In addition to the oral research presentations, SABR members also are invited to make poster presentations.

The Annual Meeting also features panel presentations. One tradition is to get together several of the alumni of the local team. Other topics of panels might be umpires or players born in the area.

A highlight of the Annual Meeting is the Awards Luncheon where the winners of various SABR Awards are recognized. The luncheon is frequently the venue for the featured speaker of the meeting. In Chicago, Phil Rogers gave the keynote address at the luncheon.

Another change in the SABR Annual Meeting is that while local volunteers remain a mainstay and essential part of a successful convention, more parts of running the show have been professionalized by bringing functions back to the staff. This has allowed for better hotels and promotion, increasing attendance and helping to make things run more smoothly and portably.

The SABR Annual Meeting is the place for members to get together and share their love of the game. It is truly an experience that makes you want to come back year after year.

Year	City	Attendees	Keynote
1971	Cooperstown NY	16	
1972	Washington DC	23	Chuck Hinton
1973	Chicago IL	26	B. Elson, D. Malarcher
1974	Philadelphia PA	40	Fred Lieb
1975	Boston MA	64	Joe Dugan
1976	Chicago IL	45	Lew Fonseca
1977	Columbus OH	74	Johnny Bucha
1978	Paramus NJ	81	Tony Lupien
1979	Saint Louis MO	115	Mike Shannon
1980	Los Angeles CA	85	Roy Smalley Jr.
1981	Toronto ON	127	Panel Presentation
1982	Baltimore MD	227	Sparky Anderson
1983	Milwaukee WI	262	Hal Goodenough
1984	Providence RI	350	Lou Gorman
1985	Oakland CA	300	Roy Eisenhardt
1986	Chicago IL	479	Bill Gleason
1987	Washington DC	631	John Steadman
1988	Minneapolis MN	340	Andy MacPhail
1989	Albany NY	524	Bobby Brown
1990	Cleveland OH	481	Sam McDowell
1991	New York NY	405	Mel Allen
1992	Saint Louis MO	485	Bing Devine
1993	San Diego CA	350	Dick Williams
1994	Arlington TX	405	Robin Roberts
1995	Pittsburgh PA	451	Chuck Tanner
1996	Kansas City MO	431	Steve Fehr
1997	Louisville KY	440	Jim Bunning
1998	San Mateo CA	437	Bill Rigney
1999	Scottsdale AZ	400	Tom Henrich
2000	West Palm Beach FL	302	Elden Auker
2001	Milwaukee WI	574	Allan "Bud" Selig
2002	Boston MA	712	Panel Presentation
2003	Denver CO	494	Jim Evans
2004	Cincinnati OH	644	Marvin Miller
2005	Toronto ON	461	Paul Godfrey
2006	Seattle WA	539	Jim Bouton
2007	St. Louis MO	726	Joe Garagiola
2008	Cleveland, OH	632	Ron Shapiro
2009	Washington DC	664	Joshua Alkin
2010	Atlanta GA	435	John Schuerholz
2011	Long Beach CA	421	Scott Boras
2012	Minneapolis MN	448	John Thorn
2013	Philadelphia PA	709	Larry Bowa
2014	Houston TX	540	Larry Dierker
2015	Chicago IL	660	Phil Rogers

SABR Awards

SABR respects and values the contributions of individuals who have added to the historical record of the game. Every year, baseball writers and researchers add to our knowledge and understanding of baseball with quality scholarship in the form of books, articles, and a wide variety of other media. SABR presents four annual awards for specific research accomplishments among its six annual awards and two discretionary awards. The individuals and projects that follow are an example for current and future baseball researchers to follow as they expand our knowledge of baseball and achieve their own recognition for baseball scholarship.

BOB DAVIDS AWARD

The Bob Davids Award, first awarded in 1985, honors a SABR member of long standing (excepting paid member employees of SABR) who reflects the ingenuity, integrity, and self-sacrifice of the founder of SABR and who makes a significant contribution to the Society in such areas as administrative responsibility, original research, information exchange, or other voluntary and cooperative efforts in the best interests of baseball. It is considered to be SABR's highest honor.

- ▲ The 2015 Bob Davids Award recipient is Dan Levitt.

HENRY CHADWICK AWARD

The Henry Chadwick Award was established in November 2009 to honor baseball's great researchers—historians, statisticians, annalists, and archivists—for their invaluable contributions to making baseball the game that links America's present with its past.

Apart from honoring individuals for the length and breadth of their contribution to the study and enjoyment of baseball, the Chadwick Award will educate the baseball community about sometimes little known but vastly important contributions from the game's past and thus encourage the next generation of researchers.

The contributions of nominees must have had public impact. This may be demonstrated by publication of research in any of a variety of formats: books, magazine articles, websites, etc. The compilation of a significant database or archive that has facilitated the published research of others will also be considered in the realm of public impact.

- ▲ The 2016 recipients of the Henry Chadwick Award are: John Dewan, Larry Lester, Norman Macht, Tom Ruane.

DOUG PAPPAS RESEARCH AWARDS, PRESENTED BY USA TODAY-SPORTS WEEKLY (first awarded 1993; as John Cox Award 1990-92)

The Doug Pappas Award, presented by USA Today-Sports Weekly honors the best research presentation at the annual National Convention with a cash prize and a matching amount donated to SABR. One winner will be selected at each convention, and finalists will be named at the discretion of the award committee. It was renamed the Doug Pappas Award in 2004 after the tragic death of the 2000 winner, Doug Pappas.

The award winners at SABR 45 were:

- ▲ Oral presentation: "'Little League Home Runs' in MLB History," by Chuck Hildebrandt.
- ▲ Poster presentation: "Stealing Home: How American Society Preserves Major League Baseball Stadiums, Ballparks, and Fields," by Brandon Grilc.

SEYMOUR MEDAL (first awarded in 1996)

The Seymour Medal recognizes the author(s) of the best book of baseball history or biography first published during the preceding calendar year. The award was named in honor of baseball historians Harold Seymour and Dorothy Seymour Mills. To be considered for the medal, a work must be the product of original research or analysis. The winning book shall significantly advance our knowledge of baseball and shall be characterized by understanding, factual accuracy, profound insight and distinguished writing. "History," for the purposes of determining the eligibility of a book for Seymour Medal consideration, is understood as analytical nonfiction narrative. "Biography" is the history of a person or persons. No more than one Seymour Medal shall be given each year. If, in the judgment of the award committee, a worthy candidate cannot be found, the medal shall not be awarded.

- ^ The 2016 Seymour Medal is awarded to "*Billy Martin: Baseball's Flawed Genius*", by Bill Pennington (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt).

McFARLAND-SABR BASEBALL RESEARCH AWARD (awarded 1987-2000 as the Macmillan-SABR Baseball Research Award)

The McFarland-SABR Baseball Research Award honors the author(s) of the best articles or papers, published or unpublished, on baseball history or biography completed during the preceding calendar year. Eligible works will include magazine and journal articles, previously unpublished chapters or articles in anthologies or other books with multiple authors, unpublished research papers and written versions of oral presentations. Authors honored for unpublished work may not later receive a SABR research award for that work (or work that is substantially the same) in published form.

The 2016 McFarland-SABR Baseball Research Award winners are:

- ^ Richard Bak, "*Digging Up Bob Troy*"
- ^ Duke Goldman, "*The Double Victory Campaign and the Campaign to Integrate Baseball*", Who's On First. (SABR)
- ^ William Lamb, "*Jury Nullification and the Not Guilty Verdicts in the Black Sox Case*", BRJ – Fall 2015 (SABR)

SABR BASEBALL RESEARCH AWARDS (first awarded in 1995)

The SABR Baseball Research Award, formerly known as the *Sporting News*-SABR Baseball Research Award, honors those individuals whose outstanding research projects completed during the preceding calendar year have significantly expanded our knowledge or understanding of baseball. Eligible projects must be the product of original research or analysis and must significantly advance our knowledge of baseball. They must be characterized by factual accuracy and notable insight. Eligible projects will include, but not necessarily be limited to, research in statistics, statistical analysis and statistical compilation, and research in such diverse areas as advertising, architecture, bibliography, collectibles, economics, equipment, labor relations, sociology and technology. Research project may be of any length and, if published, may be published separately or as part of a larger work. Researchers honored for unpublished work may not later receive a SABR research award for that work (or work that is substantially the same) in published form.

The 2016 SABR Baseball Research Award winners are:

- ^ Peter Bjarkman, "*Cuba's Baseball Defectors: The Inside Story*" (Rowman & Littlefield)
- ^ Steve Steinberg and Lyle Spatz, "*The Colonel and the Hug, the Partnership that Transformed the New York Yankees*" (University of Nebraska Press)
- ^ Lonnie Wheeler, "*Intangiball*" (Simon & Schuster)

RON GABRIEL AWARD (first awarded in 2012)

The Ron Gabriel Award honors the author(s) of the best research, published or unpublished, on the subject of the Brooklyn Dodgers completed during the preceding calendar year. Eligible works include but are not limited to magazine and journal articles, previously unpublished chapters or articles in anthologies or other books with multiple authors, unpublished research papers, written versions of oral presentations, books, databases and websites. If the committee is unable to find a suitable award candidate, the prize money will be awarded to support the permanent exhibit on the Dodgers at the Brooklyn Historical Society. Ron Gabriel (1941-2009), a native of Brooklyn, New York, and longtime resident of Bethesda, Maryland, was a former Vice President of SABR and instrumental in establishing the Bob Davids Chapter, which serves the Washington-Baltimore region. He was founder and president of the Brooklyn Dodger Fan Club, and a charter elected member of the Brooklyn Dodger Hall of Fame. Gabriel, who earned his Ph.D. in Human Resource Management from American University, was a retired U.S. Government executive, having served with the Postal Service Management Institute, the Department of Defense and the General Services Administration.

^ The 2016 winner of the Ron Gabriel Award is “*Gil Hodges: A Hall of Fame Life*”, by Mort Zachter (University of Nebraska Press).

THE JACK KAVANAGH MEMORIAL YOUTH BASEBALL RESEARCH AWARD (first awarded 2000)

The Jack Kavanagh Memorial Youth Baseball Research Award was established in 1999 by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) in recognition of Kavanagh’s writing and research achievements and his contributions to SABR. The Award is supported with funding from Diamond Communications and was presented for the first time at the SABR National Convention in West Palm Beach, Florida in June 2000. The Kavanagh Award may be presented each year for either a research presentation given at the SABR National Convention (papers must accompany any oral presentation), or for a research paper that is submitted to the awards committee between the end of one SABR Convention and no later than June 1 of the following year by a researcher in grades 6-8 (middle school category), grades 9-12 (high school category), or undergraduates 22 and under (College Category). The awards committee will consist of members appointed each year by the education committee chair. The winner will receive a plaque honoring this achievement and the following, according to his/her category: College (\$200 prize, plus 1 year membership) High School (\$200 prize, plus 1 year membership) Middle School (\$100 prize, plus 2 year membership)

The 2015 Jack Kavanagh Memorial Youth Baseball Research Award winners are:

- ^ College Division: “Invisible Barriers: Why Baseball isn’t America’s National Pastime”, Emma Charlesworth-Seiler, Hamline University
- ^ High School Division: “Branch Rickey: A Vision of an Integrated Future”, Sam Hubert, Shawnee, Kansas
- ^ No award given in Middle School Division.

Other Award Winners

LARRY RITTER BOOK AWARD (DEADBALL ERA COMMITTEE)

Each year, SABR's Deadball Era Committee presents the Larry Ritter Book Award to recognize the best new book primarily set in the Deadball Era that was published during the previous calendar year. The Award is presented during the committee's meeting at the annual SABR convention. The 2012 selection committee was made up of Al Blumkin, Jack Carlson, Mark Dugo, David Fleitz, Craig Lammers, John McMurray, Mark Pattison, Gail Rowe (chair), Tom Simon and Trey Strecker.

- ▲ The 2016 winner of the Larry Ritter Award: Charles Leehrsen, *"Ty Cobb: A Terrible Beauty"* (Simon & Schuster)

NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE AWARDS

The Committee awarded \$1,000 scholarships to four graduating high school seniors as a result of its annual national essay contest. Kevin Crosby of Prince George's Community College in Largo, Maryland, Grant Heindselman of Westlake Academy in Keller, Texas, Josephine Ridell from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Jansen Rouillard of Rider High School in Wichita Falls, Texas were selected as the winners. The Committee also awarded a \$300 scholarship to Grace Rootes of Noblesville High School in Noblesville, Indiana. The contest was open to high school seniors planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. post-secondary institution and carrying a minimum 2.5 GPA at the end of their junior year. The selection committee was comprised of Charles Crutchfield, Stephanie Liscio, Mel May, and Shawn Morris.

ROLAND HEMOND AWARD (SCOUTS COMMITTEE)

The SABR Scouts Committee's Roland Hemond Award recognizes the baseball executive who has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to professional baseball scouts and scouting, and player development history.

- ▲ The 2012 winner is Bob Gebhard
- ▲ The 2013 winner is Terry Ryan.
- ▲ The 2014 winner is Tal Smith.
- ▲ The 2015 winner is Bill Bryk.
- ▲ The 2016 winner is Michael Hill.

Membership Report

As of June 1, 2016, our current membership stands at 6,069. Of current members, 1,137 are new members, having joined SABR in the last 12 months.

The SABR membership continues to be well educated and professionally diverse. Educators, lawyers, doctors, and accountants are well-represented in the SABR membership, as are writers and editors. SABR members also are well-connected to the Internet, with 97.8% of members sharing an email address with SABR. The average age, for members who have reported their birthdays and our student group members, is 58.31 years old. The average age of new members is 44.94 years old.

Current Members, by Decade/Year Joined				Current Members, by Country		Current Members, by U.S. State/Territory			
	1970s		179	United States	5,792	AK	5	MS	13
	1980s		903	Canada	189	AL	37	MT	11
	1990s		899	Japan	30	AR	29	NC	98
	2000s		995	United Kingdom	19	AZ	172	ND	4
	2010s		3093	Australia	9	CA	590	NE	26
				Italy	6	CO	134	NH	33
				Armed Forces	4	CT	119	NJ	215
				France	3	DC	35	NM	34
1971	17	1994	120	Germany	3	DE	27	NV	35
1972	9	1995	91	Mexico	3	FL	225	NY	541
1973	11	1996	88	South Korea	3	GA	104	OH	343
1974	13	1997	109	Cuba	2	GU	1	OK	26
1975	12	1998	109	Switzerland	2	HI	10	OR	59
1976	28	1999	72	Taiwan	2	IA	63	PA	340
1977	22	2000	101	Costa Rica	1	ID	7	PR	9
1978	28	2001	102	Denmark	1	IL	300	RI	39
1979	39	2002	122	Dominican Rep.	1	IN	88	SC	45
1980	51	2003	78	Iran	1	KS	51	SD	10
1981	46	2004	103	South Africa	1	KY	48	TN	62
1982	109	2005	94	Sweden	1	LA	36	TX	315
1983	125	2006	91	Venezuela	1	MA	236	UT	20
1984	99	2007	110			MD	203	VA	223
1985	171	2008	85			ME	29	VT	18
1986	104	2009	109			MI	157	WA	139
1987	95	2010	126			MN	142	WI	110
1988	62	2011	188			MO	114	WV	12
1989	41	2012	267					WY	5
1990	58	2013	428						
1991	78	2014	476						
1992	86	2015	1100						
1993	88	2016	508						

Treasurer's 2016 Mid-Year Report

Last year SABR's revenues topped one million dollars for the first time in our 45 year history.

We generated a \$170,000 surplus, marking the second time in SABR history that an entire year's donations were banked.

Our total surplus, which includes our unrestricted funds temporarily restricted funds such as donations targeted for specific uses such as gravestone markers or grants enabling young researchers to attend this convention, and our endowment, is now nearly \$500,000, a level not seen since the end of 2010, when we committed virtually all of our resources to re-engineering SABR in search of a new equilibrium that would work in the 21st century.

This is the second year in a row I've been able to declare that we have succeeded in that effort, and so we close this chapter of SABR's financial history. I am certain that the next chapter is going to be every bit as challenging as the last two I have lived through as your Treasurer. I trust this next one will be positive, more akin to keeping a playoff team returning season after season. Those are considerably more fun than rebuilding.

I want to offer special thanks to Jeff Schatzki, who does a tremendous job taking care of SABR's accounting. His clockwork reporting to the board each month has lessened my time commitment considerably.

I look forward to answering any questions you might have at the business meeting, in the hallways at the convention, or by phone, email or text.

F. X. Flinn

Society for American Baseball Research

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2015 and Previous 5 Years

ASSETS**Current Assets**

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 54,531	\$ 64,500	\$ 315,026	\$ 267,675	\$ 289,004	\$ 547,659	\$ 667,735
Investments (temp. & publ traded)	\$ 754,633	\$ 549,075	\$ 245,049	\$ 224,236	\$ 218,672	\$ 154,356	\$ 108,281
Accounts Receivable	\$ 985	\$ -	\$ 5,075	\$ 4,955	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Publications Inventory	\$ 9,210	\$ 15,171	\$ 14,217	\$ 12,366	\$ 4,056	\$ 4,056	\$ 3,433
Prepaid Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,540	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 11,159
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	\$ 819,359	\$ 628,746	\$ 580,907	\$ 514,232	\$ 516,732	\$ 711,071	\$ 790,608

Property and Equipment

Equipment	\$ 43,972	\$ 43,972	\$ 65,336	\$ 64,122	\$ 64,123	\$ 64,123	\$ 64,123
Other Assets eg Website	\$ 29,523	\$ 29,523	\$ 29,523	\$ 29,523	\$ 29,523	\$ 29,523	\$ 29,523
<i>Total Property and Equipment</i>	\$ 73,494	\$ 73,495	\$ 94,859	\$ 93,645	\$ 93,646	\$ 93,646	\$ 93,646
Depreciation & amortization	\$ (72,788)	\$ (72,545)	\$ (93,666)	\$ (91,179)	\$ (87,199)	\$ (81,699)	\$ (75,018)
<i>Net Property and Equipment</i>	\$ 707	\$ 950	\$ 1,193	\$ 2,466	\$ 6,447	\$ 11,947	\$ 18,628

Other Assets

Research Collections	\$ 28,189	\$ 28,189	\$ 28,911	\$ 31,172	\$ 28,189	\$ 26,939	\$ 26,939
Trademarks net of Amortization	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 528	\$ 761
Prepaid Taxes	\$ -	\$ 722		\$ -	\$ 722	\$ 722	\$ 1,824
<i>Total Other Assets</i>	\$ 28,189	\$ 28,911	\$ 28,911	\$ 31,172	\$ 28,911	\$ 28,189	\$ 29,524

Total Assets	\$ 848,255	\$ 658,607	\$ 611,011	\$ 547,870	\$ 552,090	\$ 751,207	\$ 838,760
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LIABILITIES**Current Liabilities**

Accounts Payable/Deferred Exp	\$ 20,479	\$ 23,605	\$ 16,500	\$ 14,000		\$ 20,446	\$ 70,427
Deferred Dues - current	\$ 212,664	\$ 211,116	\$ 215,109	\$ 207,739	\$ 191,053	\$ 174,599	\$ 189,833
Deferred Events (net)	\$ 51,505	\$ 28,925	\$ 11,060	\$ 28,157			
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>	\$ 284,648	\$ 263,646	\$ 242,669	\$ 249,896	\$ 191,053	\$ 195,045	\$ 260,260

Deferred Dues - future	\$ 74,865	\$ 76,377	\$ 75,041	\$ 63,035	\$ 62,798	\$ 64,351	\$ 62,694
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	\$ 359,513	\$ 340,023	\$ 317,710	\$ 312,931	\$ 253,851	\$ 259,396	\$ 322,954

RETAINED SURPLUS

Unrestricted	\$ 294,001	\$ 127,630	\$ 78,437	\$ 52,702	\$ 199,372	\$ 316,057	\$ 351,783
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 63,391	\$ 61,473	\$ 86,038	\$ 54,561	\$ 80,990	\$ 156,863	\$ 145,218
Permanently Restricted	\$ 131,349	\$ 129,481	\$ 128,826	\$ 127,676	\$ 17,877	\$ 18,891	\$ 18,805
<i>Total Surplus</i>	\$ 488,742	\$ 318,584	\$ 293,301	\$ 234,939	\$ 298,239	\$ 491,811	\$ 515,806

Total Liabilities & Surplus	\$ 848,255	\$ 658,607	\$ 611,011	\$ 547,870	\$ 552,090	\$ 751,207	\$ 838,760
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Society for American Baseball Research									
2016 Operating Budget and Forecast with 5 prior year Actuals - Summary									
	Budget 2016	as of June 30 2016 Forecast	2015 Actual	2014 Actual	2013 Actual	2012 Actual	2011 Actual	16 Forecast vs 15 Actual 1 Yr Chg	16 Forecast vs 11 Actual 5 Yr Chg
Revenues									
<i>Administrative</i>	\$ 409,674	\$ 412,865	\$ 517,871	\$ 419,438	\$ 422,132	\$ 412,660	\$ 423,251	-20.3%	-2.5%
<i>Outreach</i>	\$ 443,790	\$ 417,450	\$ 488,779	\$ 449,031	\$ 422,778	\$ 279,211	\$ 167,898	-14.6%	148.6%
Total Revenue	\$ 853,464	\$ 830,315	\$ 1,006,649	\$ 868,469	\$ 844,910	\$ 691,870	\$ 591,149	-17.5%	40.5%
Expenses									
<i>Administrative</i>	\$ 518,305	\$ 517,671	\$ 491,050	\$ 475,404	\$ 465,273	\$ 436,604	\$ 510,915	5.4%	1.3%
<i>Member Services</i>	\$ 56,633	\$ 55,908	\$ 57,103	\$ 62,318	\$ 53,365	\$ 74,859	\$ 60,962	-2.1%	-8.3%
<i>Outreach</i>	\$ 264,213	\$ 277,682	\$ 288,340	\$ 285,823	\$ 300,480	\$ 249,007	\$ 213,236	-3.7%	30.2%
Total Expenses	\$ 839,151	\$ 851,261	\$ 836,492	\$ 823,545	\$ 819,117	\$ 760,470	\$ 785,113	1.8%	8.4%
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 14,313	\$ (20,946)	\$ 170,157	\$ 44,925	\$ 25,793	\$ (58,924)	\$ (193,963)		
2015 Operating Budget and Forecast with 5 prior year Actuals - Details									
Revenues									
Membership Dues	\$ 327,274	\$ 321,500	\$ 332,580	\$ 326,976	\$ 331,660	\$ 335,484	\$ 348,277	-3.3%	-7.7%
Donation Income	\$ 81,800	\$ 89,811	\$ 184,787	\$ 91,986	\$ 89,900	\$ 76,759	\$ 72,953	-51.4%	23.1%
Advertising Sales	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 616		62.4%
Interest	\$ 600	\$ 554	\$ 504	\$ 476	\$ 373	\$ 417	\$ 1,406	10.0%	-60.6%
Administrative Revenues	\$ 409,674	\$ 412,865	\$ 517,871	\$ 419,438	\$ 422,132	\$ 412,660	\$ 423,251	-20.3%	-2.5%
Licensing/Sale of Data/Material	\$ 74,582	\$ 74,807	\$ 83,916	\$ 87,719	\$ 82,832	\$ 55,489	\$ 27,316	-10.9%	173.9%
Publication Sales	\$ 18,000	\$ 20,556	\$ 20,948	\$ 12,785	\$ 11,608	\$ 6,384	\$ 1,022	-1.9%	1910.9%
Misc	\$ -	\$ 533	\$ -	\$ 65	\$ -	\$ 3,301	\$ 1,006		-47.1%
Events Income	\$ 351,208	\$ 321,554	\$ 383,914	\$ 348,462	\$ 328,338	\$ 214,037	\$ 138,554	-16.2%	132.1%
Outreach Revenues	\$ 443,790	\$ 417,450	\$ 488,779	\$ 449,031	\$ 422,778	\$ 279,211	\$ 167,898	-14.6%	148.6%
Revenues Total	\$ 853,464	\$ 830,315	\$ 1,006,649	\$ 868,469	\$ 844,910	\$ 691,870	\$ 591,149	-17.5%	40.5%
Expenses			<i>our 1st!</i>						
Payroll	\$ 412,685	\$ 412,925	\$ 360,401	\$ 348,087	\$ 323,019	\$ 300,459	\$ 328,549	14.6%	25.7%
Occupancy	\$ 5,200	\$ 5,640	\$ 12,833	\$ 27,834	\$ 26,588	\$ 24,871	\$ 24,200	-56.0%	-76.7%
Travel & Entertainment	\$ 28,000	\$ 24,921	\$ 26,036	\$ 32,366	\$ 26,690	\$ 20,857	\$ 22,863	-4.3%	9.0%
Postage and Delivery	\$ 960	\$ 549	\$ 959	\$ 663	\$ 2,234	\$ 1,569	\$ 4,680	-42.8%	-88.3%
Telephone	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,116	\$ 3,475	\$ 5,035	\$ 5,519	\$ 4,639	\$ 5,207	-39.1%	-59.4%
Supplies	\$ 5,600	\$ 6,109	\$ 3,331	\$ 3,274	\$ 3,776	\$ 3,881	\$ 4,302	83.4%	42.0%
Equipment Rental	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 617	\$ 370	\$ 495			-18.9%	
Equipment Purchased	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ 1,710	\$ 802	\$ 1,636	\$ 1,480	\$ 3,060	93.0%	7.8%
Awards	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,891	\$ 3,192	\$ 3,125	\$ 699		-100.0%	
Miscellaneous	\$ 23,160	\$ 25,381	\$ 5,526	\$ 20	\$ 8,384	\$ 8,354	\$ 37,843	359.3%	-32.9%
Board Meetings	\$ 21,500	\$ 21,057	\$ 25,358	\$ 20,489	\$ 20,628	\$ 25,597	\$ 32,736	-17.0%	-35.7%
Bank Service Charges	\$ 5,400	\$ 6,379	\$ 22,286	\$ 20,168	\$ 22,562	\$ 13,774	\$ 10,515	-71.4%	-39.3%
Professional Fees	\$ 7,700	\$ 7,072	\$ 17,909	\$ 5,457	\$ 13,778	\$ 17,913	\$ 22,543	-60.5%	-68.6%
Insurance	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 7,418	\$ 7,293	\$ 6,634	\$ 10,858	\$ 10,267	-93.3%	-95.1%
Marketing	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,221	\$ 300	\$ 356	\$ 205	\$ 1,654	\$ 4,149	307.0%	-70.6%
Administrative Expenses	\$ 518,305	\$ 517,671	\$ 491,050	\$ 475,404	\$ 465,273	\$ 436,604	\$ 510,915	5.4%	1.3%
Research Committees	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,221	\$ 889	\$ 499	\$ 279	\$ 220	\$ 363	37.3%	236.8%
Research Tools/Subscriptions	\$ 8,933	\$ 7,852	\$ 5,488	\$ 8,871	\$ 9,173	\$ 9,014	\$ 8,944	43.1%	-12.2%
Regionals/Chapters	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,150	\$ 2,813	\$ 3,152	\$ 2,097	\$ 1,959	\$ 2,336	12.0%	34.9%
Internet	\$ 44,700	\$ 44,907	\$ 48,803	\$ 50,295	\$ 41,817	\$ 63,666	\$ 49,320	-8.0%	-8.9%
Member Services Expense	\$ 56,633	\$ 55,908	\$ 57,103	\$ 62,318	\$ 53,365	\$ 74,859	\$ 60,962	-2.1%	-8.3%
Publications	\$ 76,850	\$ 77,222	\$ 82,775	\$ 77,127	\$ 88,799	\$ 96,621	\$ 100,774	-6.7%	-23.4%
Restricted Funds	\$ 14,350	\$ 27,217	\$ 20,599	\$ 44,420	\$ 34,705	\$ 12,337	\$ 2,380	32.1%	1043.6%
Events	\$ 173,013	\$ 173,243	\$ 184,965	\$ 164,277	\$ 176,976	\$ 140,049	\$ 110,082	-6.3%	57.4%
Outreach Expense	\$ 264,213	\$ 277,682	\$ 288,340	\$ 285,823	\$ 300,480	\$ 249,007	\$ 213,236	-3.7%	30.2%
Expenses Total	\$ 839,151	\$ 851,261	\$ 836,492	\$ 823,545	\$ 819,117	\$ 760,470	\$ 785,113	1.8%	8.4%
Surplus/(deficit)	\$ 14,313	\$ (20,946)	\$ 170,157	\$ 44,925	\$ 25,793	\$ (58,924)	\$ (193,963)		
SABR Reserves		\$ 258,649	\$ 279,595	\$ 109,437	\$ 64,513	\$ 38,719	\$ 97,644	-7.5%	164.9%

Philanthropy

SABR began an annual campaign to solicit donations from members during the 1993-1994 renewal drive. That first campaign raised just over \$5,000. Every subsequent year has seen members and friends continue to support SABR through their time and donations. From June 1, 2015 through June 1, 2016, SABR donations are in excess of \$95,000 including more than \$58,000 in unrestricted giving. It is the ninth consecutive \$50,000+ year, and counts more than 500 individual donors to date.

In 2004, SABR adopted a more formal process to recognize its donors, revamping its gift levels and seeking more appropriate ways to recognize those who contribute money beyond annual dues. These initiatives have been very successful, increasing both overall annual giving and giving at all levels above \$100.

The Board of Directors and SABR staff are extremely grateful to the individuals, foundations, corporations and others listed here who have made leadership contributions in the period between June 1, 2015 and June 1, 2016. SABR also thanks all of its donors for their loyal support in 2015-2016. Their names appear on the following pages, arranged by the size of their donation to SABR. The investment each and every donor has made to SABR helps to ensure its future and fulfillment of its mission.

Bequests and Creation of a Legacy Circle

In February 2007 the SABR Board of Directors created a Legacy Circle to recognize those members and friends of SABR who have already included SABR in their estate planning and to encourage future bequests and planned gifts. Members of the Legacy Circle currently include:

Steven G. Breen*	Chuck Hilty	Bob McConnell*
Ron Gabriel*	John Infanger*	John Pardon*
John Hancock	Douglas Jacobs	Neal Traven
William Hickman	William B. James	John Zajc
George Hilton*	Jim Karn*	<i>*Deceased</i>

You are Important to Us

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this annual report, we realize that errors may have occurred. If your name has been omitted, misspelled, incorrectly listed, or you do not want your name published on our online version, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us of the discrepancy so that we may correct our records. Contact us at (602) 496-1460 or look up any staff member or director at SABR.org.

SABR 46 Sponsors

SABR is pleased to have the following sponsors, partners, and funders in Miami, Florida at SABR 46 (as of June 1, 2016).

▲ **Gold Level**

- Major League Baseball and the Office of the Commissioner

▲ **Bronze Level**

- Miami Marlins
- Baseball-Reference.com

Foundation Support

- ▲ Anthony A. Yoseloff Foundation

Matching Gift Companies

- ▲ Microsoft Giving Campaign
- ▲ W.W. Grainger

**Donors of
\$1,500 and above**

Shayne Bradley

Roy Langhans

Bill Nowlin

Daniel Woodhead

Tony Yoseloff

**Donors of
\$500 to \$1,499**

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**Donors of
\$250 to \$499**

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Tom Zocco

History

The Society for American Baseball Research has come a long way since 16 individuals met around two tables at the National Baseball Library in Cooperstown, New York, on August 10, 1971. SABR has grown to nearly 6,000 members and added research committees, regional groups, and a variety of other membership services. Once “SABR Who?” was a familiar question. Today, nearly all baseball publications make some reference to SABR or SABR members. Professional baseball executives and media are well aware of the collective expertise and talents of SABR members. Slowly, but surely, more and more general baseball fans are learning about SABR.

SABR was the brainchild of L. Robert “Bob” Davids of Washington DC. For many years, starting in 1951, he contributed freelance articles to *The Sporting News*. When *The Sporting News* discontinued statistical-history types of articles in the mid-1960s, Davids sought another outlet for his avocations and launched a four-page newsletter, “Baseball Briefs.” The initial response to the publication spawned the idea of forming an organization of researchers, and in March 1971, he sent letters to approximately 40 “statisticians” around the country asking for expression of interest in forming a research group. The 16 willing and able to meet in Cooperstown formulated the Society’s objectives, its name and acronym. The essential constitutional objectives of SABR are to foster the study of baseball, stimulate interest in baseball, establish an accurate historical account of baseball and disseminate baseball information.



Participants at SABR's first meeting on August 10, 1971 at the National Baseball Library in Cooperstown, New York. Back row (left to right): Neil Campbell, Bill Haber, Keith Sutton, Dan Dischley, Dan Ginsburg, Tom Hufford, and Ray Nemeč. Front row (left to right): Cliff Kachline, Ray Gonzalez, Bill Gustafson, Joe Simenic, Paul Frisz, Tom Shea, Bob McConnell, John Pardon, and Bob Davids. Campbell, almost hidden behind Kachline, was a visitor at the meeting. Pat McDonough is the only founding SABR member not pictured.

For more on SABR's Organizational History, visit SABR.org/about/history