



Society for American Baseball Research

Annual Report
June 1, 2021

SABR.org

President's Report – Mark Armour

While acknowledging that the past year has been one many of us wish to forget, and understanding that many of you have had to deal with far worse problems than the management of SABR, the Board has been working to keep the organization steered in the right direction. The Board has not met in person since February 2020 but has instead relied on virtual meetings – a concept with which many of you have become very familiar.

We have learned some valuable lessons about SABR. First of all, SABR is very important to most of you! When this pandemic started many of us were worried that the troubling economy and the lack of in-person gatherings would cause a big drop in membership, and a fall-off in donations. This did not happen — instead it turns out we need SABR more than ever. Local chapters have been “meeting” as often as ever, committees are flourishing, last summer’s national programming was a big hit, and the recent Analytics Conference was SABR’s largest “attended” event ever. SABR has more great programs on tap for this summer — the Summer of SABR — which will culminate in our 50th anniversary on August 10.

But we also know that virtual programming is not a long-term substitute for chapter meetings and national conventions. Many of us have important friendships with people who we see only at SABR events. We are, in large part, a social organization, and that part of SABR has been significantly hampered for 15 months. So do not fear: the social part of SABR will be back, and stronger than ever.

SABR CEO Scott Bush has hired two new staff members — Scott Carter and Chanel Zapata — and together with Jacob Pomrenke they have been responsible for running the organization. It is them who you should thank for how well we have gotten through this problematic time — the publications, the virtual conferences, the smoothly running website, the growing and healthy organization. We are in good hands.

One of my personal highlights this past year was my participation in SABR’s Negro Leagues Task Force, which met last fall to determine if SABR should formally recognize many of the Negro Leagues as major leagues. Input was received from leaders throughout the organization, and the group ultimately agreed that SABR should take this step. SABR has been researching the Negro Leagues throughout its 50 years and has always treated these great leagues as top quality and worthy of our attention. This additional step — also taken by Major League Baseball, Baseball-Reference.com, and others — will force us to be a bit more careful when we write or present about the years of segregated baseball.

One item of particular interest to the Board in recent years has been diversity. We have learned that simply declaring that “all are welcome” is not enough — we need to be conscious of the fact that joining and participating in an organization in which no one looks like you can be a challenging experience. We need to diversify chapter and committee leadership, awards committees, and speaker and author participation to help make all members and all future members feel they can be an important part of SABR.

In the coming weeks, the Board will finalize a Strategic Plan, which we started before the pandemic. Our strong financial position will provide us some great choices this year as we look for initiatives that could make SABR membership even better. As we celebrate SABR’s 50th anniversary, I am very bullish on our short- and long-term futures.

SABR 50 has been postponed again — the two hardest decisions the Board has made in my tenure. As I write this, our next Annual Convention is 14 months away, and the receding pandemic has allowed us to begin to think optimistically again. I hope and expect SABR will accomplish many great things before August 2022, including long-delayed reunions with our friends. But, occasionally, I can’t help but think about SABR 50, which promises to be spectacular.

It has been an honor to serve on SABR’s Board, and I thank you for all your help.

CEO's Report – Scott Bush

2020 was a period of great uncertainty for many and I am grateful for the numerous SABR members who contributed to the evolution and growth of the organization over the past year. It is with great pride that I share details of the last year with the Board of Directors and membership as SABR continues to take steps toward its vision of becoming the essential community for the world of baseball. SABR has a lot to be excited about in the last year and moving forward.

SABR Membership: SABR's membership has grown by 1,099 members since last year's Annual Report. This growth has been made possible by increased interest in SABR from students and young professionals, increased retention rates, and the work of chapter leaders. The growth is one of the largest year-over-year leaps in organizational history and represents an increase of 19%. Continued growth should be expected in coming years as it is supported by several internal and external initiatives. Additional membership data is available elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Development: Donation revenue growth has further diversified SABR's overall revenue profile, making the organization less dependent on the success of events and the development department's infrastructure allowed for a quick pivot when SABR 50 was postponed. There is opportunity for the organization to grow even further through corporate and foundation gifts, and SABR has added a consultant to help earn such gifts.

SABR Research Committees: SABR has added two new research committees in the last year: the Century Committee and the Iconography Project. With these newcomers, SABR now boasts 33 distinct research committees spanning the breadth of baseball research. For a complete look at the accomplishments of SABR's committees, please see the Research Committee Reports section in the appendix.

SABR Chapters: SABR has added three chapters in the last year: the Roush-Lopez Gulf Coast Chapter; Tampa, FL, the Ottawa Chapter; Ottawa, ON, and the Jimmy Sebring/Williamsport Chapter; Williamsport, PA. These additions bring SABR's tally to 81 chapters worldwide. For a detailed look at the events that chapters put on and the speakers they hosted, please see the Chapter Reports section in the appendix.

SABR Chartered Communities: SABR's Chartered Communities – groups with no geographical boundaries – have added two new groups to its ranks with the addition of the Pandemic Baseball Book Club and Baseball Reminiscence. You can hear more about these groups and other communities in the Chartered Communities section of the appendix.

SABR's Publications Program: With the continued guidance of Cecilia Tan, 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.

From last year's annual business meeting in June 2020 through May 2021, SABR members have received free copies of the following SABR e-books:

- ♣ *Harvey's Wallbangers: The 1982 Milwaukee Brewers*
- ♣ *Pride of Smoketown: The 1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords*
- ♣ *Baseball's Biggest Blowout Games*
- ♣ *Turnstyle: The SABR Journal of Baseball Arts, Volume 2*
- ♣ *From Rube to Robinson: SABR's Best Articles on Black Baseball*

- ♣ *A Palace in the Nation's Capital: Griffith Stadium, Home of the Washington Senators*
- ♣ *The Miracle Has Landed: The Amazon' Story of How the 1969 Mets Shocked the World*
- ♣ *Baseball's Greatest Comeback Games*
- ♣ *Jackie Robinson: Perspectives on 42*

In addition to the above titles, SABR published *SABR 50 at 50: The Society for American Baseball Research's Fifty Most Essential Contributions to the Game* through The University of Nebraska Press. This title was supported by an online series of the same name highlighting baseball's most notable moments, players, industry figures, and history from SABR's first 50 years.

SABRcast with Rob Neyer: *SABRcast with Rob Neyer* continues to create engagement opportunities for the organization while reflecting the values and mission of SABR. Neyer, a long-time SABR member, lends his expertise as the host of the show and brings in guests from throughout the world of baseball. The podcast delivers the SABR experience to a broader audience and is available on all streaming services.

SABR BioProject: The BioProject now boasts more than 5,600 published biographies. The Baseball Biography Project is an ongoing effort to research and write comprehensive biographical articles on people who played or managed in the Major Leagues, or otherwise made a significant contribution to the sport. Published biographies are a major driver of traffic to SABR.org and feature heavily in SABR books.

SABR Games Project: More than 2,700 accounts of games have been produced by the SABR Baseball Games Project, an initiative that was formed to research, write, and publish accounts of Major League regular season, postseason, and All-Star Games, along with other games of historical significance. Entries span the Negro Leagues, Minor Leagues, and international and exhibition contests in addition to Major League Baseball games.

Behind the Numbers: Baseball SABR Style: This weekly baseball analytics show completed its sixth 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 former SABR Board 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 partnership with Rawlings: This marked the eighth year the SABR Defensive Index (SDI) played a key role in the selection of the Rawlings Gold Glove Award winners. Because of the unique circumstances of the season, SDI was the sole determining factor in the selection of the 2020 Rawlings Gold Glove Awards. These winners and the winners of the 2020 Rawlings Platinum Glove Awards presented by SABR were announced by ESPN in November. The Rawlings Platinum Glove 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 relationship with MLB: SABR continues to work closely with Major League Baseball, particularly on initiatives related to diversity. SABR hosted dozens of young professionals enrolled in MLB's Diversity Pipeline Program at the SABR Analytics Conference and assisted in their professional growth. Major League Baseball remains a great supporter of SABR and its mission.

SABR.org: SABR.org enjoyed another record-setting year in 2020, reaching new heights with 4.4 million pageviews and 2.8 million total visitors. In June, we launched a new website design powered by WordPress, our first major content management system change in nine years. Our new site enhances the user experience and provides greater visual appeal, while an upgraded search engine better connects SABR's rich content archive from our first 50 years.

In 2020, the SABR website saw an average of more than 163,000 unique visitors per month, nearly a 10% increase over our monthly average in 2019 and almost a 40% jump from 2018. Despite a long delay before Opening Day games were finally played, we shattered our all-time monthly traffic record in April 2020 with 198,200 unique visitors and set new traffic highs for the months of January, February, March, April, May, September, November, and December.

Eleven of our top 25 single-day totals at SABR.org were recorded in 2020, led by an all-time single-day high of 15,996 unique visitors on September 9 — when the Atlanta Braves scored 29 runs in a record-setting blowout win that led to massive searches of the SABR Research Collection. We also recorded more than 12,500 unique visitors on March 31 during MLB's #OpeningDayatHome online initiative, as well as 11,300 unique visitors on September 2 following the death of Tom Seaver. Both rank among our top 10 days ever for single-day traffic.

BioProject-related pages made up just over 53% of our total pageviews (2.34 million), largely thanks to our referral partnership with Baseball-Reference.com, which includes links to all published SABR bios on its player pages. Games Project pages received more than 484,000 pageviews last year, which comprises about 10 percent of our overall traffic on SABR.org.

Our new Research Collection page was one of the heaviest single-page drivers of traffic in 2020, with more than 20,000 views (ranking No. 6 among all pages) despite not being published until the end of June.

Our own #StayHomeWithSABR initiative during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic led to dozens of chapters and committees hosting online, virtual events throughout the year. More than 110 Zoom video recordings were uploaded to SABR's YouTube channel in 2020, including complete sessions from the Analytics Conference in March, SABR Virtual in July, and the Women in Baseball Conference in September. Our YouTube videos received more than 27,000 views and viewers spent 4,378 hours watching our channel in 2020, which helped us nearly double our YouTube subscriber count from 590 to 1,036.

Before and after the relaunch of SABR.org this summer, SABR office interns began adding hundreds of old *Baseball Research Journal* and *The National Pastime* articles to the website in order to expand our searchable Research Collection. Almost every article from our flagship publications between 1971-1989 is now available online, along with all journal articles from 2009 to 2020. More articles from the 1980s, '90s, and 2000s archives will be added soon.

Social media: On social media, we surpassed 63,000 followers on Twitter and 10,000 followers on Facebook in 2020.

SABR's Data Program: Under the direction of Sean Lahman, who heads up SABR's data program, and the many volunteers who work with Sean, it was another strong year.

Highlights from the past year include:

- ♣ Work to integrate Negro Leagues players into the SABR data collections, including the BioProject
- ♣ Maintenance and updates to SABR's player register
- ♣ Continued work on Minor Leagues Database, with a focus on early leagues
- ♣ Work with Business of Baseball committee on MLB front office employee database project
- ♣ Working with members and committees on digitizing datasets and source materials, including the publication of the Patric Doyle minor league archives
- ♣ Improvements and updates to the Home Run Log, Triple Plays Database, no-hitters, and similar collections.

SABR Events

SABR Virtual: Nearly 2,000 SABR members and guests joined us for a series of virtual events throughout July 2020. The programming, which was part of the #StayHomeWithSABR initiative, included entertaining speakers, research presentations, the presentation of the Bob Davids Award, and the Annual Business Meeting.

Panelists included MLB official historian John Thorn, artists Graig Kreindler, Anika Orrock, and Dick Perez, Dr. Louis Moore from Grand Valley State University, filmmaker Jon Leonoudakis, and MLB's Tyrone Brooks, Corey Smith, and Cory Schwartz. In addition, attendees were treated to nearly 40 research presentations on all aspects of baseball, past and present, from the major leagues, minor leagues, and Negro Leagues.

SABR Analytics Conference: The tenth annual SABR Analytics Conference was held March 11-14, 2021 - fully virtually due to COVID-19. The conference brought together industry leaders to share insights into where the game is going and to discuss cutting edge research presentations. The virtual environment led to significantly more conference attendees, with nearly 1,000 registered guests, including more than 500 students. The conference kicked off with a welcome from MLB Network's Brian Kenny and speakers included player agents Lonnie Murray and Burton Rocks, ESPN's Eduardo Perez, MLB's Sid Sethupathi, Marc Squires, Graham Goldbeck, and Clay Nunnally, and MLB team employees Ehsan Bokhari, Dr. John DeWitt, Dr. Ben Hansen, Dr. Mike McNally, Maggie O'Hara, Josh Ruffin, and Jay Sartori.

In addition, 18 research presentations were given over the three day conference with topics including biomechanics, injury risk and draft models, artificial intelligence, and much more. A total of 20 teams from high schools and universities competed in the Diamond Dollars Case Competition with The University of Chicago Booth School of Business taking home the title.

SABR - IWBC Women in Baseball Conference: The second annual Women in Baseball Conference, sponsored by SABR and the International Women's Baseball Center was held on September 11-13, 2020.

This year's conference was a virtual event centered around the theme "Celebrating African American Women in Baseball." In addition to learning about topics such as the Dolly Vardens, Maud Nelson, Tillie Ford, the Hagerstown Mollys, and much more, there was a celebration of the Negro Leagues Centennial on Saturday night, with a special design unveiling for a memorial pylon in Rockford, IL. The celebration was followed by the announcement of Effa Manley as the 2020 Dorothy Seymour Mills Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

Our keynote speaker on Friday night was Lauren Meyer, Emmy Award-nominated director of *The Other Boys of Summer*. Saturday was highlighted by a Player Panel that included MLB's Elizabeth Benn, Rachel Folden of the Chicago Cubs, Team Canada's Marika Lyszczyk, Bianca Smith from Carroll University, and Madison Femia. Sunday's events included a panel discussion on working as a Black woman in baseball with agent Lonnie Murray, Maacah Scott of the Chicago White Sox, and Jacara Ware of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Attendees could also participate in the SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Raffle. Prizes included autographed baseballs, caps, and books from IWBC authors, SPoRT Makeup kits, Rockford Peaches apparel, and the grand prize — a personal phone call from AAGPBL legend and IWBC founder Maybelle Blair.

Frederick-Ivor Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference: The 11th annual Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference was held virtually on April 22-24, 2021.

The 2021 virtual conference was highlighted by a keynote address from Major League Baseball's Official Historian John Thorn, along with a panel discussion on National League president William Hulbert with Jack Bales, Richard Hershberger, Bill Lamb, and moderator Bill Ryczek; a special presentation by Jim Gates on the "Penny Marshall Sheet Music Collection" at the Baseball Hall of Fame; a Member Spotlight interview of Tom Gilbert by Bob Bailey; plus research presentations.

SABR Day: To commemorate SABR's 50th anniversary in 2021, SABR Day on Saturday, January 30 was hosted virtually around the globe for the first time, giving baseball fans a chance to come together — wherever they live — to share their love of the game. Headlining our virtual program on Zoom was a conversation with broadcasting legend Bob Costas of MLB Network. The 2018 recipient of the Ford C. Frick Award from the National Baseball Hall of Fame brought his renowned passion and knowledge of baseball in a special session for SABR Day attendees. Costas's interview was moderated by Marty Appel, author and longtime New York Yankees public relations director.

National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum President **Tim Mead** was also featured during this special event. Mead spent nearly four decades in the Los Angeles Angels organization, including 22 years as Vice President of Communications, before assuming oversight of the Hall of Fame's operations in 2019. Mead's interview was moderated by Bruce Markusen, Manager of Digital and Outreach Learning at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The success of SABR would not be possible without our members that make this a tremendous organization, the Board of Directors, our consultants, our excellent interns, and of course, our terrific staff in Phoenix. Special thanks to Scott Carter (Executive Vice President), Jacob Pomrenke (Director of Editorial Content), and Chanel Zapata (Community Engagement Manager).

SABR Board of Directors, June 1, 2021

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Ty Waterman

Fred Worth

Tom Zocco

SABR Chapter Reports and Chapter Leaders, June 1, 2021

(All annual chapter reports received at the SABR office by June 1, 2021, have been included.)

- See Appendix 1

SABR Committee Reports and Committee Chairs, June 1, 2021

(All annual committee reports received at the SABR office by June 1, 2021, have been included.)

- See Appendix 2

SABR Chartered Community Reports, June 1, 2021

(All annual chartered community reports received at the SABR office by June 1, 2021, have been included.)

- See Appendix 3

Awards Committees

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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, until 2020 and 2021 when the annual meetings were held virtually. The SABR Annual Meeting has gone through many changes. In the early days, members sat around and gave presentations to the other attendees 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 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. SABR 50 has been scheduled for August 10-14, 2022 in Baltimore, MD.

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	Ted Williams Panel
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
2016	Miami, FL	477	Ballpark Panel
2017	New York, NY	806	Ballpark Panel
2018	Pittsburgh, PA	620	Ballpark Panel
2019	San Diego, CA	418	Steve Garvey

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 2020 Bob Davids Award recipient is Peter Mancuso.

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 2021 recipients of the Henry Chadwick Award are: Gary Ashwill, Alan Nathan, Robert W. Peterson.

DOUG PAPPAS RESEARCH AWARDS (first awarded 1993; as John Cox Award 1990-92)

The Doug Pappas Award 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 49 were:

- ▲ Oral presentation: "Baseball's Most Confounding Rule." by Mark Pankin.
- ▲ Poster presentation: "An Analysis of the Relationship Between Pitcher Size and UCL Tears." by Zachary Rewolinski.

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 2021 Seymour Medal is awarded to *Stealing Home: Los Angeles, the Dodgers, and the Lives Caught in Between*, by Eric Nusbaum (PublicAffairs).

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 2021 McFarland-SABR Baseball Research Award winners are:

- ^ Steve Gietschier, *Before We Forget: The Birth, Life, and Death of The Sporting News Research Center*, *SABR Baseball Research Journal*, Spring 2020
- ^ Robert H. Schaefer, *The Fair-Foul Hitting Era: 1864-1876*, scheduled for publication in *Base Ball 13: New Research on the Early Game*, Fall 2021 (McFarland & Co.)

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 2021 SABR Baseball Research Award winners are:

- ^ Stephen M. Bratkovich, *The Baseball Bat: From Trees to the Major Leagues, 19th Century to Today* (McFarland & Co.)
- ^ R.A.R. Edwards, *Deaf Players in Major League Baseball: A History, 1883 to the Present* (McFarland & Co.)
- ^ Robert K. Fitts, *Issei Baseball: The Story of the First Japanese American Ballplayers* (University of Nebraska Press)

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 2021 winner of the Ron Gabriel Award is *Zack Wheat: The Life of the Brooklyn Dodgers Hall of Famer* by Joe Niese (McFarland & Co.)

SABR ANALYTICS CONFERENCE AWARDS (FIRST AWARDED IN 2013)

The **SABR Analytics Conference Research Awards** recognize baseball researchers who have completed the best work of original analysis or commentary during the preceding calendar year in the following categories: Contemporary Baseball Analysis, Contemporary Baseball Commentary, and Historical Analysis/Commentary.

The 2021 winners of the SABR Analytics Conference Awards are:

- ^ Contemporary Baseball Analysis: Tony Adams, for his research and analysis at SignStealingScandal.com
- ^ Contemporary Baseball Commentary: Bradford William Davis, *Baseball Let Unity Stand in the Way of Protest*, *New York Daily News*
- ^ Historical Analysis/Commentary: Shakeia Taylor, *Effa Manley's Hidden Life*, SB Nation

Membership Report

As of June 1, 2021, SABR's current membership stands at 6,880. This figure is an increase of more than 19% year over year and is the second consecutive year that membership has grown. Much of the growth may be attributed to students and young professionals, as these groups now account for more than 1,000 members. New membership continues to be a strength: of current members, 1,785 have joined SABR in the last 12 months, which is around 50% higher than typical recent history.

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. Fourteen current members joined in the initial year of 1971 and the organization has members that joined in every year since its inception. SABR has an international presence with members in 27 countries. The membership in the United States is centered in the Northeast and Midwest, but the membership is spread out throughout the country and includes sizable numbers of members located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Texas, and Washington state.

Current Members, by Membership Type		Current Members, by Country		Current Members, by U.S. State/Territory			
Standard:	2,928	United States	6,532	AE	2	MS	20
Senior:	2,632	Canada	216	AK	2	MT	6
Student:	796	United Kingdom	32	AL	53	NC	138
Young Professional:	339	Japan	28	AR	36	ND	4
Five Year:	112	Australia	12	AZ	180	NE	32
Family:	28	Taiwan	6	CA	689	NH	36
Lifetime:	29	Germany	6	CO	142	NJ	247
Organization:	16	Mexico	6	CT	115	NM	22
		Cuba	5	DC	43	NV	32
		Italy	5	DE	28	NY	565
		Sweden	4	FL	266	OH	361
		Venezuela	4	GA	141	OK	68
		Czech Republic	3	GU	0	OR	68
		Dominican Rep.	2	HI	14	PA	392
		Ireland	2	IA	59	PR	13
		Israel	2	ID	15	RI	48
		France	2	IL	338	SC	72
		South Korea	2	IN	93	SD	13
		Brazil	1	KS	52	TN	83
		Colombia	1	KY	76	TX	345
		Estonia	1	LA	33	UT	18
		India	1	MA	286	VA	260
		Latvia	1	MD	230	VT	27
		New Zealand	1	ME	33	WA	171
		Spain	1	MI	170	WI	135
		Switzerland	1	MN	153	WV	11
		U.A.E.	1	MO	134	WY	2

Treasurer's Report: 2020 Results and 2021 Forecast

The pandemic continues to impact the Society but fortunately our financial strength has not been impacted. We certainly must thank the federal government for \$150,000 of support received through the Payroll Protection Program, to our very generous and understanding membership, which amazingly increased their donations, and to the very significant efforts our staff has made in membership services under Scott Bush's leadership.

The challenges SABR faced were not unique, and even this year we have had to make necessary adjustments to ensure the organization's stability, which are reflected in the 2021 Forecast, where our inability to conduct an in-person annual convention is shown. The power of our financial management system is that we keep close watch on how our budgeted items perform, and proactively modify balance-of-year projections as more information is available.

The Board has made several important decisions regarding our financial strategy during the past year. One of the most important is that we have adopted the recommendation of our CEO to hold our financial assets in highly liquid form to facilitate the Society's ability to engage with major foundations on programming opportunities which would be funded with large grants. Typically in this realm, donors want to see that you have enough cash on hand to operate for a year with zero revenue. We are within \$100,000 of this target as of the end of 2020, and close enough for those conversations to go forward.

At a recent Board meeting, the decision was made to conduct a full, formal financial audit during 2023 that will examine the 2022 fiscal year. A formal audit is expected to cost about \$25,000, and we will have a compilation of the 2020 results followed by a review of the 2021 results as stepping stones to the audit. These two tasks will enable us to make adjustments needed to become fully GAAP compliant prior to the start of the 2022 fiscal year. We expect that the Society will be well positioned within the world of major philanthropy by 2023 and the investments in these financial efforts are fully justified.

Finally, a few notes about this year's reports. For the first time footnotes are included to both draw your attention to certain items and to answer the obvious questions the results provoke. For example, why have our professional fees shot up? Easy answer, we've outsourced our bookkeeping, so what used to be a payroll expense is now a professional fee. If you are saving reports and comparing them from year to year you know that we modify these reports occasionally, usually after a line has been unused for 5 years. This year, the Advertising Sales line, which used to show the income received for print ads in our printed monthly newsletter, has finally gone 6 years by. It has been replaced by a line to record grants or appropriations from unrestricted funds made by the Board. Also in looking over the balance sheet, it struck me that many of you would wonder why we were carrying such a large amount of cash at the end of the year; this was essentially a timing issue and our cash management practices kicked in shortly after the new year to sweep most of the excess into our high interest accounts; thus note C on the balance sheet. Hopefully, the rest of the footnotes address questions you may have; otherwise please raise them during this year's Annual Business Meeting in person, or feel free to contact me.

It has been a great honor to serve as the Society's Treasurer again this year.

F. X. Flinn
Treasurer, Society for American Baseball Research
m:802-369-0069 e:fxflinn@gmail.com

Society for American Baseball Research						
Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)						
December 31, 2020 and Previous 5 Years						
ASSETS						
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Current Assets						
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 286,034	\$ 90,826	\$ 67,616	\$ 121,241	\$ 52,274	\$ 54,531
Investments (all)	\$ 829,420	\$ 764,238	\$ 836,753	\$ 665,129	\$ 670,391	\$ 754,633
Accounts Receivable	\$ 9,000	\$ 7,357	\$ 9,916	\$ 40,345	\$ 135	\$ 985
Publications Inventory	\$ 24,416	\$ 23,171	\$ 12,987	\$ 16,876	\$ 16,704	\$ 9,210
Prepaid Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,400	\$ -	\$ 6,205	\$ -
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	\$ 1,148,870	\$ 885,592	\$ 928,672	\$ 843,592	\$ 745,709	\$ 819,359
Property and Equipment						
Equipment	\$ 43,972	\$ 43,972	\$ 43,972	\$ 43,972	\$ 43,972	\$ 43,972
Other Assets eg Website	\$ 29,523	\$ 29,523	\$ 29,523	\$ 29,523	\$ 29,523	\$ 29,523
<i>Total Property and Equipment</i>	\$ 73,494	\$ 73,494	\$ 73,494	\$ 73,494	\$ 73,494	\$ 73,494
Depreciation & amortization	\$ (73,495)	\$ (73,495)	\$ (73,495)	\$ (73,274)	\$ (73,031)	\$ (72,788)
<i>Net Property and Equipment</i>	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ 221	\$ 464	\$ 707
Other Assets						
Research Collections	\$ 359,221	\$ 332,565	\$ 28,189	\$ 28,189	\$ 28,189	\$ 28,189
Trademarks net of Amortization	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Prepaid Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Other Assets</i>	\$ 359,221	\$ 332,565	\$ 28,189	\$ 28,189	\$ 28,189	\$ 28,189
Total Assets	\$ 1,508,090	\$ 1,218,156	\$ 956,861	\$ 872,002	\$ 774,362	\$ 848,255
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Accounts Payable/Deferred Exp	\$ 15,139	\$ 25,077	\$ 6,738	\$ 19,999	\$ 18,999	\$ 20,479
Deferred Dues - current	\$ 198,077	\$ 190,316	\$ 181,206	\$ 193,580	\$ 195,313	\$ 212,664
Deferred Events (net)	\$ 33,112	\$ 9,439	\$ 24,309	\$ 90,810	\$ 5,155	\$ 51,505
Notes Payable	\$ 75,000					
Deferred Income	\$ 99,449					
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>	\$ 420,776	\$ 224,832	\$ 212,253	\$ 304,389	\$ 219,467	\$ 284,648
Deferred Dues - future	\$ 75,050	\$ 80,872	\$ 75,476	\$ 73,835	\$ 73,770	\$ 74,865
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	\$ 495,826	\$ 305,704	\$ 287,729	\$ 378,224	\$ 293,237	\$ 359,513
RETAINED SURPLUS						
Net Assets w/o Donor Restrictions	\$ 416,858	\$ 379,210	\$ 439,618	\$ 278,470	\$ 271,643	\$ 294,001
Net Assets - Donor Restr Temp - Cash & Equiv	\$ 105,920	\$ 99,437	\$ 97,070	\$ 82,919	\$ 77,219	\$ 63,391
Net Assets - Donor Restr Temp - non Cash	\$ 331,032	\$ 300,000				
Net Assets - Donor Restr Perm	\$ 158,455	\$ 133,805	\$ 132,444	\$ 132,389	\$ 132,264	\$ 131,349
<i>Total Surplus</i>	\$ 1,012,264	\$ 912,452	\$ 669,131	\$ 493,777	\$ 481,125	\$ 488,742
Total Liabilities & Surplus	\$ 1,508,090	\$ 1,218,156	\$ 956,861	\$ 872,002	\$ 774,362	\$ 848,255
Notes to the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)						
A. A PPP loan of \$75K was received during 2020 and used to pay wages. The loan is reflected on the balance sheet as a current liability. It was forgiven in 2021, increasing the retained surplus.						
B. A bequest which became available to SABR in 2020 and shown as a deferred income liability was recognized as a donation on Jan 1, 2021.						
C. By Feb 28, 2021 approximately \$150K shown as Cash and Equivalents had been moved to Investment accounts.						
D. The Rucker collection was professionally appraised during 2020, resulting in the booked value increasing by 31K						
E. A 25K board appropriation to the endowment made in 2008 had been booked as temporarily restricted. This was corrected, increasing the endowment by \$25,000						
F. The 13K Lee Allen Award Fund is treated as permanently restricted per the terms of the donation.						

Society for American Baseball Research											
2021 Operating Budget and Forecast with 5 prior year Actuals											
	2021 Budget	as of Apr 30 2021 Forecast	2021 Notes	2020 Actual	2020 Notes	2019 Actual	2018 Actual	2017 Actual	2016 Actual	21 Forecast vs 20 Actual 1 Yr Chg	21 Forecast vs 16 Actual 5 Yr Chg
Executive Summary											
Revenues											
Administrative	\$ 609,669	\$ 769,631		\$ 624,895		\$ 633,319	\$ 412,331	\$ 385,106	\$ 517,871	\$ 144,736	\$ 251,760
Outreach	\$ 314,780	\$ 199,785		\$ 246,785		\$ 457,241	\$ 475,566	\$ 537,074	\$ 488,779	\$ (47,000)	\$ (288,993)
Total Revenue	\$ 924,449	\$ 969,417		\$ 871,680		\$1,090,560	\$ 887,896	\$ 922,180	\$1,006,649	\$ 97,736	\$ (37,233)
Expenses											
Payroll	\$ 439,868	\$ 435,972		\$ 432,180		\$ 481,478	\$ 385,637	\$ 432,640	\$ 378,401	\$ 3,792	\$ 57,571
Administrative	\$ 138,400	\$ 132,521		\$ 104,994		\$ 117,282	\$ 112,012	\$ 107,429	\$ 129,916	\$ 27,527	\$ 2,606
Member	\$ 64,640	\$ 68,642		\$ 71,038		\$ 93,975	\$ 66,219	\$ 56,541	\$ 57,992	\$ (2,396)	\$ 10,650
Outreach	\$ 269,553	\$ 156,218		\$ 190,312		\$ 316,393	\$ 270,226	\$ 335,367	\$ 288,340	\$ (34,093)	\$ (132,121)
Total Expenses	\$ 912,461	\$ 793,354		\$ 798,524		\$1,009,129	\$ 834,093	\$ 931,977	\$ 854,648	\$ (5,170)	\$ (61,294)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 11,988	\$ 176,063		\$ 73,156		\$ 81,432	\$ 53,803	\$ (9,798)	\$ 152,001		
Budget Detail											
Admin Revenues											
Membership Dues	\$ 327,069	\$ 332,601		\$ 310,063		\$ 284,486	\$ 289,363	\$ 294,787	\$ 332,580	\$ 22,538	\$ 22
Donation Income incl raffle	\$ 282,000	\$ 288,223		\$ 286,763		\$ 336,918	\$ 103,766	\$ 89,862	\$ 184,787	\$ 1,460	\$ 103,436
Grants and URF Appropriations	\$ -	\$ 73,350	1	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -			
Interest/Gain(Loss) securities/Grants	\$ 600	\$ 75,457		\$ 28,070		\$ 11,915	\$ 19,202	\$ 456	\$ 504	\$ 47,387	\$ 74,953
Subtotal Admin Revenues	\$ 609,669	\$ 769,631		\$ 624,895		\$ 633,319	\$ 412,331	\$ 385,106	\$ 517,871	\$ 144,736	\$ 251,760
Outreach Revenues											
Licensing/Sale of Data/Material	\$ 44,980	\$ 48,162		\$ 6,750	1	\$ 46,346	\$ 68,499	\$ 67,717	\$ 83,916	\$ 41,412	\$ (35,754)
Publication Sales	\$ 29,000	\$ 32,232		\$ 36,215		\$ 33,083	\$ 24,874	\$ 22,231	\$ 20,948	\$ (3,983)	\$ 11,284
Misc	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Events Income	\$ 240,800	\$ 119,391	2	\$ 203,820	1	\$ 377,812	\$ 382,192	\$ 447,062	\$ 383,914	\$ (84,429)	\$ (264,523)
Subtotal Outreach Revenue	\$ 314,780	\$ 199,785		\$ 246,785		\$ 457,241	\$ 475,566	\$ 537,074	\$ 488,779	\$ (47,000)	\$ (288,993)
Revenues Total	\$ 924,449	\$ 969,417		\$ 871,680	6	\$1,090,560	\$ 887,896	\$ 922,180	\$1,006,649	\$ 97,736	\$ (37,233)

**Society for American Baseball Research
2021 Operating Budget and Forecast with 5 prior year Actuals**

	2021 Budget	as of Apr 30 2021 Forecast	2021 Notes	2020 Actual	2020 Notes	2019 Actual	2018 Actual	2017 Actual	2016 Actual	21 Forecast vs 20 Actual 1 Yr Chg	21 Forecast vs 16 Actual 5 Yr Chg
Expenses, Payroll											
Wages	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 343,906		\$ 379,954	\$ 297,945	\$ 342,263	\$ 283,482	\$ (343,906)	\$ (283,482)
Benefits	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 62,043		\$ 71,469	\$ 62,817	\$ 65,087	\$ 55,598	\$ (62,043)	\$ (55,598)
Payroll Taxes	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 26,231		\$ 29,537	\$ 24,323	\$ 24,630	\$ 20,761	\$ (26,231)	\$ (20,761)
Unemployment Insurance	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ 518	\$ 552	\$ 659	\$ 560	\$ -	\$ (560)
Subtotal, Payroll Expenses	\$ 439,868	\$ 435,972		\$ 432,180		\$ 481,478	\$ 385,637	\$ 432,640	\$ 360,401	\$ 3,792	\$ 75,571
Expenses, Administrative											
Occupancy	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,712		\$ 2,447		\$ 3,990	\$ 3,120	\$ 5,223	\$ 12,833	\$ 2,265	\$ (8,120)
Travel & Ent	\$ 16,500	\$ 16,566		\$ 1,902	1	\$ 28,411	\$ 12,569	\$ 26,448	\$ 26,036	\$ 14,664	\$ (9,470)
Postage and Delivery	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,459		\$ 1,565		\$ 957	\$ 464	\$ 762	\$ 959	\$ (106)	\$ 500
Telephone	\$ 4,080	\$ 2,793		\$ 2,820		\$ 1,556	\$ 1,766	\$ 2,455	\$ 3,475	\$ (27)	\$ (683)
Supplies	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,233		\$ 2,082		\$ 4,521	\$ 3,579	\$ 2,796	\$ 3,331	\$ 151	\$ (1,097)
Equipment Rental	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 617	\$ -	\$ (617)
Equipment Purchased	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,051		\$ 3,322	1	\$ 2,978	\$ 1,328	\$ 1,321	\$ 1,710	\$ (1,271)	\$ 342
Award Related Expenses	\$ -	\$ 571		\$ 1,389		\$ 465	\$ 2,283	\$ 2,703	\$ 2,891	\$ (819)	\$ (2,320)
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	\$ 10,051	\$ 70	\$ 4,793	\$ -	\$ (4,793)
Board Meetings	\$ 18,220	\$ 10,160	2	\$ 8,725	1	\$ 22,095	\$ 33,143	\$ 20,283	\$ 25,358	\$ 1,435	\$ (15,198)
Bank Service Charges	\$ 28,000	\$ 30,536	3	\$ 23,334		\$ 24,158	\$ 24,921	\$ 24,468	\$ 22,286	\$ 7,202	\$ 8,250
Professional Fees	\$ 34,300	\$ 40,606		\$ 38,686	2	\$ 15,430	\$ 6,882	\$ 8,885	\$ 17,909	\$ 1,920	\$ 22,697
Insurance	\$ 12,300	\$ 9,834		\$ 15,010	3	\$ 11,906	\$ 11,798	\$ 11,951	\$ 7,418	\$ (5,177)	\$ 2,415
Marketing (incl. printing)	\$ 12,500	\$ 11,000	4	\$ 3,711		\$ 816	\$ 107	\$ 62	\$ 300	\$ 7,289	\$ 10,700
Operating Expenses	\$ 138,400	\$ 132,521		\$ 104,994		\$ 117,282	\$ 112,012	\$ 107,429	\$ 129,916	\$ 27,527	\$ 2,606
Expenses, Member Services											
Research Tools/Subscriptions	\$ 7,250	\$ 7,976		\$ 7,323		\$ 10,770	\$ 8,200	\$ 5,909	\$ 5,488	\$ 653	\$ 2,488
Research Committees	\$ 1,000	\$ 709		\$ -		\$ 283	\$ 709	\$ 960	\$ 889	\$ 709	\$ (180)
Regionals/Chapters	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,060		\$ 1,766		\$ 2,645	\$ 3,277	\$ 3,248	\$ 2,813	\$ 2,294	\$ 1,247
IT Expenses	\$ 53,390	\$ 55,898		\$ 61,949	4	\$ 80,277	\$ 54,033	\$ 46,425	\$ 48,803	\$ (6,052)	\$ 7,095
Member Services Expense	\$ 64,640	\$ 68,642		\$ 71,038		\$ 93,975	\$ 66,219	\$ 56,541	\$ 57,992	\$ (2,396)	\$ 10,650
Expenses, Outreach											
Content Development and Distribution	\$ 102,900	\$ 119,383		\$ 93,402		\$ 91,262	\$ 84,292	\$ 88,025	\$ 82,775	\$ 25,981	\$ 36,608
Restricted Fund Expenses	\$ 19,150	\$ 17,052		\$ 9,739	1	\$ 20,606	\$ 13,487	\$ 28,192	\$ 20,599	\$ 7,312	\$ (3,548)
Events Expenses	\$ 129,003	\$ 5,239	2	\$ 75,965	1	\$ 197,889	\$ 172,446	\$ 219,151	\$ 184,965	\$ (70,726)	\$ (179,726)
Development Expenses	\$ 18,500	\$ 14,545		\$ 11,205	5	\$ 6,636	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,340	\$ 14,545
Subtotal Outreach Expenses	\$ 269,553	\$ 156,218		\$ 190,312		\$ 316,393	\$ 270,226	\$ 335,367	\$ 288,340	\$ (34,093)	\$ (132,121)
Expenses Total	\$ 912,461	\$ 793,354		\$ 798,524	6	\$ 1,009,129	\$ 834,093	\$ 931,977	\$ 836,648	\$ (5,170)	\$ (43,294)
Surplus/(deficit)	\$ 11,988	\$ 176,063		\$ 73,156		\$ 81,432	\$ 53,803	\$ (9,798)	\$ 170,001		

Notes to the 2021 Projections

- 2021 PPP loan & forgiveness anticipated during FY 21; advertising sales revenue line discontinued and Grants / URF Appropriations (appropriations made by the board from Unrestricted Surplus) begun 2021
- Normal operations impacted by pandemic
- Transaction volume increasing due to membership increases
- Significant new marketing efforts funded

Notes to the 2020 Results

- Normal operations impacted by pandemic
- Bookkeeping outsourced instead of being done by staff
- Initiated multiyear media/IP coverage
- IT Expenses include variable projects such as website redesign
- Development Expenses initiated as formal reporting line in 2020
- Expenses of \$1420 netted out in Form 990 revenues are shown as expenses accounting for difference in 990

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 January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, SABR donations exceeded \$280,000 – by far the most in organizational history. It is the 13th consecutive \$50,000+ year, and the second straight year of \$150,000+.

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. In 2019, SABR created its first development staff position to lead the organization’s philanthropic efforts. In doing so, the Friends of SABR platform and Friends of SABR Committee were launched, creating a culture of philanthropy within the organization, rooted in gratitude and inclusivity. Alongside the Friends of SABR Committee, the SABR staff has worked to identify, cultivate, and solicit expanded funding sources, and built an infrastructure and strategy for SABR’s continued development efforts.

With the global COVID-19 pandemic shuttering large gatherings in 2020, SABR faced a significant challenge as the postponement of SABR 50 caused the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars. In response, the organization introduced the 2020 SABR Sustainability Campaign to offset the considerable revenue shortfall. Members were asked to help the organization navigate this significant financial challenge by converting their SABR 50 convention dues to donations or giving a gift of at least \$330 (the equivalent cost of convention registration). SABR members answered the call overwhelmingly, as over 350 members participated in the Sustainability Campaign to collectively raise more than \$100,000, eliminating the hardship created by the postponement of the annual convention.

The annual End of Year Campaign encouraged members to join SABR’s “Golden Lineup,” in anticipation of 2021’s 50th Anniversary celebration. Like the Sustainability Campaign preceding it, the Golden Lineup initiative was immensely effective. Garnering over \$125,000 in contributions during the three-month effort, it was the most successful End of Year Campaign in SABR history.

Overall, SABR achieved record highs in several key performance indicators relating to development in 2020, including over \$280,000 in annual giving, 840 unique donors (up from 571 in 2019), 13.5% of membership donating (an increase of 2.5% year over year), and a median gift of \$100.

SABR Giving Circles

SABR’s mission is to foster the study, discussion, and understanding of all aspects of baseball. To fulfill this mission, we rely not only on member dues but also gifts from our generous supporters.

Through their membership in a SABR Giving Circle, these supporters expand our capacity to engage in the pillars of SABR’s work: research, preservation, scholarship, and the future of the game. They help us realize our vision of becoming the essential community for the world of baseball.

You can become a Friend of SABR donor by giving as little as \$10 per month or by making a one-time gift of \$100 or more. When you do so, you will be inducted into a community of passionate baseball fans dedicated to supporting SABR’s work.

Friends of SABR donors are recognized in *This Week in SABR*, SABR.org, and the SABR Annual Report. They will also receive access to exclusive donor experiences once in-person gatherings resume, like the Friends of SABR Annual Convention VIP donor event.

SABR On-Deck Circle

Support SABR's mission to foster the study, discussion, and understanding of all aspects of baseball. Get in the SABR On-Deck Circle by committing to a monthly donation and help SABR become the essential community for the world of baseball. Your support will build capacity around all things SABR, including publications, website content, event development, and community growth. A monthly gift is deducted from your bank account or charged to a credit card until you tell us to stop.

Research Circle

Baseball research and recognition of the research is the pillar upon which SABR was founded 50 years ago. Our 33 research committees represent a diverse spectrum of interests, including the BioProject Committee, Baseball and the Arts Research Committee, Statistical Analysis Research Committee, and many more. Research Circle donors contributed at least \$1,000 in 2020.

Preservation Circle

A core function of SABR is to preserve baseball history and baseball research materials for future generations. SABR's work in preserving baseball history is reflected in our grave marker projects, led by committees that locate 19th Century and Negro League player gravesites and adorn them with headstones, as well as the Minor League Player Database, Major League Baseball Home Run Log, and much more. Preservation Circle donors contributed at least \$2,500 in 2020.

Scholar Circle

Ernie Harwell, the late Detroit Tigers broadcaster, said: "SABR is the Phi Beta Kappa of baseball, providing scholarship which the sport has long needed...An excellent way for all of us to add to our enjoyment of the greatest game." SABR promotes the understanding of the game of baseball through the *Baseball Research Journal*, events like the SABR Analytics Conference, and the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference, and through groups such as the Negro Leagues Research Committee, Women in Baseball Research Committee, and the Educational Resources Committee. Scholar Circle donors contributed at least \$5,000 in 2020.

Future of the Game Circle

Future of the Game Circle members play a special role in ensuring the future of SABR by providing support for membership growth and student scholarships. Your participation in the Future of the Game Circle will help SABR develop networking opportunities for students aspiring to work in baseball. Future of the Game Circle donors contributed at least \$10,000 in 2020.

The Board of Directors, Friends of SABR Committee, and SABR staff are extremely grateful to the individuals, foundations, corporations, and others listed here who have made contributions in the period between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. SABR thanks all its donors for their loyal support in 2020, as we could not have weathered such a difficult year without them. Their names appear alphabetically on the following pages. The investment each donor has made to SABR helps to ensure its future and fulfillment of its mission.

Bequests and Creation of a Legacy Circle

The Legacy Circle members support the long-term sustainability of SABR and its' mission to foster the study, discussion, and understanding of all aspects of baseball. The exploration and preservation of baseball history is cultivated through support from the Legacy Circle. This group of donors is comprised of those who are seeking to leave a legacy by remembering SABR in their estate planning. Currently, the Legacy Circle includes:

Lowell Blaisdell*
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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/history