

HPLL Annual Meeting  
September 9, 2015

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by HPLL President, Scot Raffelson, at 7:13 pm.

Board members present: Scot Raffelson, John Busby, Cece Castro, Albert Castro, Marissa McCullough, and Sarah Ehn. Absent: Gary Bowling

II. State of the League

Scot presented the state of HPLL with regard to player numbers, membership, and progress toward goals. Board meetings are held on a monthly basis, and the time and location for the meetings are listed on the calendar on the website. Any members are welcome to attend any of the board meetings for information or to provide feedback.

This was a difficult season, due to weather issues. The total number of players was 306 for the previous season, which was a decrease of 11 players. The other leagues in our district also had about the same number of players as the previous season. We are working on writing grants to help grow the game to include a challenger league and increased overall participation in HPLL. The safety plan for HPLL was selected to represent the southwest region at the national competition, and Scot and Sarah were able to attend the LLWS for the award presentation. HPLL was the runner up for the national competition. There were finalists from every region for a total of 6 competitors. Little League International paid for the President and Safety Officer to attend the event.

III. Financial Report

John Busby, HPLL Treasurer, provided the financial report for the league.

Please refer to the attachment for specific details. The board for next year will need to decide if fees must once again be raised to offset the cost for field usage, etc. All of the members were encouraged to talk with any sponsors or business owners that may be willing to contribute to the league for next year.

IV. Falcon Regional Park

High Plains Little League has pledged \$60,000 to El Paso County for the new field development. The design plan was approved by HPLL on 8/27/15. No grants were received from GoCo this year for the project. The fields are on track to be finished for the Spring 2016 season. We will have to purchase breakaway fences to place at 225' as the permanent fences will be placed at 300'. Every division will be able to play there, except for Juniors. Dugouts will be ADA compliant to allow a challenger league, but no lights will be placed until Phase 2.

HPLL has requested the agreement between EPC and HPLL to be executed before any transfer of funds is completed: HPLL will have the first right of refusal where we control the schedule for the fields during our season. No field fees will be assessed, but HPLL will assist with the cost of maintenance or help provide the maintenance. We have asked for a 15 year contract with 5 year increments. We cannot pursue litigation against them if there are injuries on the fields, but little league carries their own insurance. Albert suggested to pay \$20,000 to EPC per field as they are completed to ensure there is an incentive to complete the construction. We will still have to use PLC and FMS even with the 2 new fields, due to the number of teams in the league. HPLL is hoping to host tournament play once the fields are completed.

## V. Player Agent Updates

Diana reported that there were issues with the draft, but all of the problems were resolved by the Parent Advocate. No issues reported this season with parents, however, two managers were ejected from a game this year. No suspensions or terminations this year of parents or players, which is a significant improvement from last season.

## VI. New Age Standards

Little League has instituted new age standards to change the cut off date to 8/31. They will be going to December 31st by 2018 to correspond with calendar dates. For any players born after 9/1/05, new age determination is in effect immediately. Everyone else stays with the 3/31 date through their little league career. Birth certificates will still be checked for All-star teams and eligibility. There are no waivers for all-stars in baseball, but softball can move players if needed to complete a team. 10U and 12U softball teams won District 5 tournament and went to State tournament.

## VIII. Board Positions

Nominations for Board Members for the 2016 season: They are not set positions, as they will be determined at a later time. There are 12 positions to fill on the board. We would also like to add a Fall baseball coordinator and a Challenger coordinator this year. All positions are detailed in the HPLL constitution.

Nominations included: Johnny Stevens, Christy Kennedy, Mike Langham, Marissa McCullough, Diana Strobel, Scot Raffelson, CeCe Castro, Albert Castro, Sarah Ehn, Gary Bowling. It was moved by Warren Cupps to accept the 10 nominees. It was seconded by Mary Neuville, and the motion carried without opposition. The next meeting will be held in September to determine board positions.

## IX. Lessons Learned

Each of the board members were given the opportunity to discuss lessons learned the previous year, which the new board may need to consider. Pictures will once again be taken all in one day for all of the teams, rather than allowing teams to schedule their own time. Additional volunteers are needed for try-outs so that coaches are available to evaluate players in their division, and determine if indoor location should be used from the beginning. ID badges will be issued to all coaches, managers, board members, and volunteers next year that must be worn for all HPLL events. We will ask of volunteers to help run the Snack Shack using a sign up genie or other system. We still need to consider other fund raising and community participation activities for next year such as a 5K, Hit-a-thon, or Golf tournament. The 10th Anniversary for HPLL is next season, and we are considering having a contest to design a new logo. Please refer to the attached email from a team manager for other suggestions for HPLL.

Questions: 1. Who decided to change the district tournament from the 4th of July weekend to the following weekend? It was a district decision to move the date. We try to stretch the season a little each year to keep players engaged closer to the all-star try-outs.

2. Is HPLL the only little league that does not have a travel team for All-stars? It does not seem fair for HPLL players to only play together a short time when they must compete against teams that have been together most of the season. We also want to be sure that every player has a chance to make an all-star team. HPLL is not against setting up teams to play tournaments, but

no little league funds or equipment may be used. Those players would not be guaranteed to make the all-star teams.

3. Major League baseball players alumni association for a coaching clinic? The association is based out of Colorado Springs and is doing a clinic for some of the fall ball. Possibly have a clinic for HPLL?

X. Adjournment

It was moved by Scot to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm seconded by John. The motion carried without opposition.

## 2015 Financial Summary

Category	Credits	Expenditures	Total
Sponsorship / Scholarship	\$9,500.00	\$0.00	\$9,500.00
FundRaiser - Spirit Ware	\$2,612.00	\$0.00	\$2,612.00
FundRaiser - Discount Cards	\$3,760.00	\$3,980.00	(\$220.00)
FundRaiser - Concessions	\$429.00	\$386.00	\$43.00
FundRaiser - Skysox Night	\$7,365.00	\$7,312.50	\$52.50
FundRaisers	\$14,166.00	\$11,678.50	\$2,487.50
Registration: Spring and Fall	\$37,116.98	\$0.00	\$37,116.98
Bank Interest	\$318.04	\$0.00	\$318.04
Uniforms	\$0.00	\$18,136.10	(\$18,136.10)
Awards /Pins	\$0.00	\$1,764.84	(\$1,764.84)
Umpires	\$0.00	\$11,470.50	(\$11,470.50)
Marketing	\$0.00	\$1,617.00	(\$1,617.00)
Field Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tryouts (Arena)	\$0.00	\$1,325.00	(\$1,325.00)
In Person Registration	\$0.00	\$250.00	(\$250.00)
Equipment	\$0.00	\$1,962.83	(\$1,962.83)
Porta-Potties	\$0.00	\$1,568.37	(\$1,568.37)
Storage/PO Box	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	(\$1,200.00)
Little League Fees (Charter+Allstars)	\$0.00	\$3,100.00	(\$3,100.00)
First Aid	\$0.00	\$878.60	(\$878.60)
Board Supplies	\$0.00	\$1,044.00	(\$1,044.00)
Training	\$0.00	\$250.00	(\$250.00)
Refunds	\$0.00	\$880.00	(\$880.00)
Field Rental	\$0.00	\$2,700.00	(\$2,700.00)
<b>Total Summary</b>	<b>\$61,101.02</b>	<b>\$59,825.74</b>	<b>\$1,275.28</b>
<b>Bank Totals as of the end of August</b>			
Checking Account			\$1,275.28
Certificate of Deposit			\$63,808.65
		Total	\$65,083.93



HPLL President &lt;hpllpresident@gmail.com&gt;

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## Ideas for Next Season

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**Jamey Ciesielski** <hockey\_6@q.com>  
To: HPLLPresident@gmail.com

Tue, Sep 8, 2015 at 8:36 PM

Scot, thanks for letting me share some thoughts.

Pictures should be scheduled on opening ceremony day. The teams should be given fixed slots and the uniforms should be issued just prior to the picture time slot. This will increase opening ceremony participation, complete the pictures before the season is under way and it is impossible to find time to get pictures into the schedule and have all the kids show up. By not issuing the uniforms until the picture slot, it forces the parents and kids to be present to get the uniform and number they want or they are out of luck.

Tryouts should be broken down into a pitcher and catcher session only on one day for all age groups and then hitting and fielding on another day. Only the coaches, managers or assistants are allowed to score their specific age group.

All Star interest needs to go out at the mid season point. That will allow coaches to begin discussing with potential candidates whether they are interested or will even be in town to play. This will allow HPLL to have a good idea of who really can play before the season is even over. Tryouts then can be more focused on selecting players for specific positions that need filled and not just a free for all like pre season tryouts.

Please call if you have questions or don't understand some of my ideas.

Jamey