

## HIGHLIGHTS OF VBBA BOARD MEETING

The VBBA board meeting minutes are available for members in this newsletter and can also be found on the website. President Scott Westgate sent the official transcript of the meeting to this month so they could be included in the newsletter. Some highlights are:

The VBBA will assist member clubs in obtaining a 501c3 status

The 2011 VBBA conference will be held March 25th through March 27th.

Robert "Anvil" Wynne is now performing the web master duties.

Trustee Marcus Dickson is now chairing the Rules Committee .

Election of officers will take place at the March conference in Cleveland. President Westgate clarified election procedure for the board members.

The next meeting was set for January 16, 2011.

*Editor's note:*

*The President has asked in the minutes for names of those who might want to serve on the board. If you know of a person that would make a good addition to the board, please let President Westgate know.*

*The new web master, Robert Wynne is ready to work with members to get the VBBA.org site accurate. Check your club's listing and give the webmaster the information needed to update your club's info. Contact him at umpire@vbba.org.*

*Come to the conference in Cleveland to meet more vintage enthusiasts.*

*Dave B=*

## 2011 CONFERENCE IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

**Conference details from <http://cbbbc.webs.com/2011vbbaconvention.htm>**

- o Date: Friday, March 25th - Sunday, March 27th
- Hotel: [Hilton Garden Inn & Gateway Conference Center](#)
- o 1100 Carnegie Ave. (E. 9th & Carnegie)
- Room Price - \$99.00 - [two queen beds](#)
- o Parking Price - \$8.00 per day
- o Hotel is directly across street from Progressive Field, around the corner from SABR Headquarters, and 2 blocks from our Friday night party venue, The Clevelander - no need for taxis once at hotel!
- o **Reservations due by 2/25/2011 - Tell hotel you are with Vintage Base Ball Association to get discount.**
- o Hotel is located at entrances to two major interstates (I-90 & I77)
- o Convention Cost:
- o \$85 for VBBA Member (prior to 1/11/11)
- o \$95 for non-VBBA members (prior to 1/11/11)
- o \$95 for VBBA Member (after 1/11/11)
- o \$105 for non-VBBA members (after 1/11/11)
- o \$65 - Banquet Guests Only!
- o **Convention Cost is due by 1/11/11!**
- REGISTRATION FORM - [2011 VBBA Registration Form.doc](#) - fill out and mail in payment. - or - Go to our on-line registration page - [Convention Registration](#) & pay via credit card or paypal.**

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## CONFERENCE AGENDA

The tentative agenda for the 2011 VBBA conference in Cleveland is posted on the web site:

<http://cbbbc.webs.com/2011vbbaconvention.htm>

This site has the agenda, beginning with Friday, March 25th, 2011 through Sunday, and has a jam packed list of activities sure to please the vintage base ball enthusiast. Make your plans and bring a friend.

### VBBA BOARD of DIRECTORS

Scott Westgate, President  
Paul Salomone, Vice Pres.  
Chris Burton, Secretary  
Rich Arpi Treasurer  
Eric Miklich, Historian  
Gary Hetzel, Trustee  
Bill Dieckmann, Trustee  
Brian Sheehy, Trustee  
Jay Demagall, Trustee  
Marcus Dickson, Trustee  
Dennis Wiegmann, Trustee

# Vintage Base Ball Association Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2010

**Present:** Treasurer Rich "Aces" Arpi, Trustee Bill "Pic" Dieckmann, Trustee Marcus "Razorback" Dickson, Vice President Paul "Quickstep" Salomone, President Scott Westgate, Trustee Gary "Handlebar" Hetzel, Trustee Brian Sheehy

**Not Present:** Secretary Chris "Sawdust" Burton, Trustee Jay "Tomahawk" Demagall, Historian Eric Miklich, Trustee Dennis "Pops" Wiegmann

President Westgate called the meeting to order via conference call at 7:30pm.

Item 1: 501(c)(3) Application  
President Westgate announced that the 501(c)(3) status granted the VBBA in September is for the VBBA only and not for its members. To obtain an "umbrella" for the Member Clubs requires a special Group Exemption. However, an individual 501(c)(3) MUST BE obtained first prior to applying for the Group Exemption.

The IRS representative advised Mr. Westgate that to receive a Group 501(c)(3) status, a \$4,000 IRS USERS FEE is required. This does not include any law firm fees that may or may not be needed (the individual exemption was obtained without incurring law firm fees over the last two years). Westgate suggested that the VBBA table the idea of a Group Exemption due to the added extreme application costs and the added burden of obtaining annual detailed financial data for all Member Clubs wishing to receive the potential umbrella 501(c)(3) coverage. HOWEVER, the VBBA will specifically assist

those Member Clubs in obtaining their own individual 501(c)(3) status by using VBBA boilerplates and VBBA Member expertise in obtaining them. The Executive Committee agreed with this train of thought.

Item 2: 2011 VBBA Conference  
The convention will be March 25-27. Preliminary information can be found on the Blues' website: <http://cbbbc.webs.com/2011vbbaconvention.htm> and a link to this site is on the VBBA website.

Item 3: VBBA Website  
President Westgate reported that Robert "Anvil" Wynne had volunteered to be the "interim" webmaster for the VBBA website. Mr. Wynne is a member of the Rochester Grangers in Michigan and coincidentally is the webmaster for that VBBA Club's site. Much progress on the VBBA website has already been made including using Anvil's expertise to help other VBBA Members build their own websites.

Gary Hetzel suggested using an "outside of VBBA" entity to work on the VBBA website. His club in Cream City is very pleased with this situation due to the expertise of website building and maintenance and the lack of bias in making recommendations. Eric Miklich had indicated similar thoughts in a prior email message earlier in the month.

Mr. Westgate and Mr. Miklich will be in charge of finding and recommending the next permanent webmaster.

Item 4: History/Rules/Customs Committee  
Mr. Dickson, an original member

of this committee, indicated that he will take charge in getting this committee's activities functioning again. Glenn Drinkwater has also been notified about this thought process and he is in complete agreement that this Committee will be fully functional by December 1, 2010.

Item 5: VBBA Elections  
Mr. Hetzel wanted clarification on the upcoming Elections to be held in Cleveland in March for the VBBA Executive Board. Mr. Westgate brought to the attention of the meeting attendees the following verbiage from the Code of Regulations:

*The Nominating Committee. This committee consists of the President, a Trustee appointed by the President, and a member in good standing not presently serving on the Executive Board appointed by the President. This committee will facilitate the annual election of officers by presenting a slate of eligible candidates for consideration. The slate should be presented to the Secretary by 60 days prior to the annual convention. The Secretary shall send election ballots to all full member clubs in good standing by 30 days prior to the annual convention. To be counted, ballots must be properly completed and must be received by the Secretary at the annual convention.*

With the Convention still 4 months off, Mr. Westgate suggested to all meeting attendees that if they had nominees that they thought would be interested in being on the Board in 2011; let their names be known to him for consideration as soon as possible.

Next meeting set for January 16, 2011, 7:30pm Eastern time.

Arpi motioned to adjourn.  
Dickson seconded.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

## **Member Profile: John “Choo-Choo” Shannahan**

John “Choo-Choo” Shannahan, Captain and Founder of the Mudville Base Ball Club of Holliston, Massachusetts, is proud of his club’s association in the VBBA, and the part it plays in helping today’s baseball fan understand and appreciate the origins of our National Pastime. He is delighted that his team is viewed within his community as a historic link to a time before the Civil War when Holliston teams were the best in Massachusetts, and prime catalysts in the development of the Massachusetts Rules. One of the team’s top moments was in May 2008, when they proved victorious on the Boston Common in a game played to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first game played under the Massachusetts Rules. A Holliston team had also been victorious in that first game played in May 1858 on the Boston Common.

John has been involved in vintage ball since 2003, when he helped organize what he thought would be a one-time game played by the Massachusetts Rules. The game proved so popular, that the players determined to play more often. The Mudville Base Ball Club was formed to acknowledge the town’s historic link to the poem “Casey at the Bat”, as well as to provide a vehicle for playing games outside Holliston.

The players on the Mudville Base Ball Club are generally older than most of their vintage opponents, but with age comes freedom from family responsibilities that might restrict many

younger players. As a result, the team generally takes two road trips a season, and has visited many of the country’s top vintage base ball sites.

2010 was an exciting year for the squad. Besides games against local opponents, the team was the guest of the Saginaw Old Golds at a May tournament in Cooperstown, and in July travelled to Stockton, California for a Mudville vs. Mudville encounter against the Amador County Crushers. The game received considerable press coverage, being covered by the New York Times, and then picked up by papers across the country and Canada. Despite losing to the Crushers, the trip was a fabulous opportunity for like minded players to share their love for the sport.

Choo-Choo plays the outfield, and having broken a finger playing this past summer, feels that he has finally arrived as a vintage player. As a striker, he has limited power, but still moves pretty well around the stakes for a player of his advanced years.

Choo-Choo is delighted to have made many friends as a result of his team’s VBBA membership, and hopes that they all can make it up to the Boston area to play a few games at some point.

*Editor’s note: I believe that Choo-Choo has understated his abilities on the field.*  
Dave B=

## **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

Treasurer, Rich Arpi has mailed out renewal forms to all member clubs. If you have misplaced yours, a renewal form is included in this newsletter. It appears on the next page.

If you are not currently a member of the VBBA, you can join now. Complete the form and mail it to Rich Arpi with your check made out to “Vintage Base Ball Association”

Thanks for supporting the VBBA.

D. Brooks

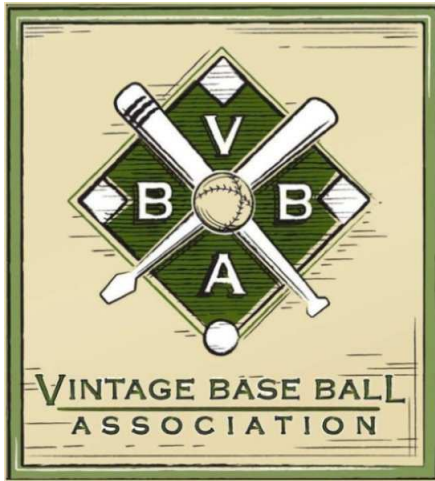
## **EQUIPMENT**

While browsing some vintage base ball web sites, I saw an article about socks. The Providence Grays site has a long article about 19th century base ball socks and how they got their period appropriate stockings.

The write-up is excellent and includes some explanatory pictures. If your team is committed to portraying the game with historical accuracy, then you need to review this information.

Go to the Providence Grays web site and check it out.

Dave B=



# Vintage Base Ball Association Membership Application

The VBBA offers three different annual memberships as described below for each calendar year, with dues to be paid by December 1<sup>st</sup>. With your membership, you will receive our newsletter and invitation to the annual conference. Full Club members are also entitled to two votes on association issues. Be sure to check out the website [www.vbba.org](http://www.vbba.org) for more valuable information as well as links to Full Club and Associate Club member's websites.

Name:				Phone	
				:	
Mailing Address:					
City:		State		Postal Code:	
		:			
Email Address:					
Club Affiliation:					
Club Website:					

	\$50 Full Club Membership: For clubs who play at least 6 matches per year.
	\$35 Associate Club Membership: For clubs who are not interested in a full membership or do not play 6 matches per year.
	\$10 Individual Membership: For individual ballists, civilian interpreters, base ball historians, fans, etc., who wish to support the organization.

Make checks payable to the Vintage Base Ball Association.

Mail payment to:

Rich Arpi  
VBBA Treasurer  
2445 Londin Lane East, Unit 410  
Maplewood, Minnesota 55119

Thank you in advance for supporting the Vintage Base Ball Association.

# FIRST YEAR TEAM: Norwood Highlanders, Getting Started

Submitted by team founder Col. Jim "Cornbred" Mattingly

After watching from the outside for four years, in July of 2009 I started gathering information for a new team. Having only watched, I wasn't sure what would be involved in getting a team together, what we would need or how we would find other teams to play, so I contacted one of the local teams to find out. Awaiting a reply to my email of questions, I seriously expected a response akin to, "check the internet" or at most, "here's a link". What I got instead was an email back from my contact, full of information, as well as the note that he had forwarded it to several other ballists from his team and their partner team - and most of them replied with tips and, more importantly, encouragement. Where in other times where I have begun something, asked for info, and found a cold "we were here first" attitude, every one of these guys were welcoming, helpful and supportive. A couple of them even called me to discuss the game and offer advice. I can't thank The Cincinnati Red Stockings and Buckeyes enough for their help getting us off the ground. Anyone reading this, just starting a team, the best advice I can give you is to ask for help. You will be glad you did.

I took all of this information and made some unilateral decisions. To avoid a lot of haggling later, I went ahead and chose our team name, home field and uniform. As Norwood didn't historically have a baseball team in the 1800s, I chose the

name Highlanders from our city nickname "The Gem of the Highlands" only to find out that much later they did have several teams in the Highlander League here in town. Home field would be Dorl Field, which sits in front of the U.S. Playing card factory, in town since 1890 and our uniforms would be red shirts on white pants. To keep with our fellow Cincinnati teams I followed their lead in utilizing the 1869 rule set, keeping this an 1869 region. With that, I adopted the style begun by the 1869 Red Stockings and went with knicker style pants with red socks. This gave me the ability to get a uniform cost that I could present, up front, to prospective ballists.

Having those decisions made up front made the rest a lot easier. The next step was to send invitations to join our squad. The invitations presented the basic information, laid out the expectations, and included the cost of the uniform and future financial obligations. My brother and I sent this out to an initial list of eighteen select candidates. With all of the information already present, all they had to do was decide if they wanted to be a part of it or not. Of the eighteen, sixteen replied. Fourteen signaled their intent to play. When it was time to collect the uniform fee, however, that number dropped to nine.

In September, we held a meet and

greet so the guys could all get to know each other a bit before things took hold. We discussed how many matches we would like to play in our first year (10), we decided how many ballist we would like to carry (14), we shot the breeze, laughed much, smoked some stogies and drank a lot of beer. This group was a good foundation for the new team.

If your area has a group scheduling meeting, this is a great way to set your schedule for the season in one afternoon. In November, we attended the scheduling meeting in Dayton and it went very well.

Again, much encouragement from everyone for the upstart from Norwood. We met many teams from all over Ohio and came away with a full schedule, ten dates with teams as near as fifteen minutes and as far as three and a half hours away. Looking back, I think ten was a great number to start with. We wound up adding a couple as the season evolved and it still didn't stretch us too far. If you don't have a group scheduling meeting, contact other teams as early as possible to line up a match.

In January, 2010, we collected the funds for uniforms and got our order out to K&P Weaver, the uniform company. They offered a ten week turn around time, but I think we got them back much sooner. As we took on a couple of side projects to raise some funds for equipment, I began buying up wood baseball and

# Norwood Highlanders, Getting Started, continued

softball bats from local thrift shops which I would lathe bare and convert to vintage bats. Many of the guys ordered bats from Phoenix Bats as well. We also went about trying to find all of the detail items that will help provide the ambience of the vintage game.

Without having practiced, in March we met with members of the Red Stockings and Buckeyes for a practice match. We came out of the gate hot, but our inexperience showed early and often as we got pummeled by the senior ballist. However, the experience we gained from being out there playing the game was far superior to talking about the nuances or reading about the rules. I would highly recommend a new team playing some practice games with an established team before you get going. Even one match will provide you with much more knowledge than you expect. It will also really stoke that fire to play the regular season. Practice. Practice. Practice. We went twice a week, wherever we could find a big, green space. It takes a while to get used to catching bare handed. Truth be told, we still didn't have a good handle on it as our season closed (but we were getting better).

Try to get your financial house in order early. This is a custom game and everything has to be bought new (to look old). That cost a lot of money. You will need balls, bats, bases, a home plate (we used a plow disc painted white) and a water jug. It's nice to have a couple of

extra uniforms for subs, and those came in handy for us during the summer. It's always nice to host the travelling team to a picnic type meal after the matches. It gives you time to hang out and get to know each other and some of them have travelled a great distance to play you, best to send them home fed. This also cost money. Part of our initial sign on deal was that every year following your initial \$200 uniform buy in, each member agrees to pay a \$50 dues to help cover costs. If you have fourteen guys, that's a quick \$700 on top of what you could get from sponsors.

With all of that set, all that's left is to play ball. Our season started out rough, with one win in our first five dates. However, by mid-season we were clicking (although still having trouble catching the outfield pop-up). We won five of our last six dates, and against really good teams. The best part of it was the camaraderie of the ballists. Gone was the over-competitive nature of the beer softball league, replaced by the gentlemanly competition of the vintage game.

It was a great first season. We learned a lot and met a lot of great people. Here is a quick list of things we learned in our first year:

- 13 guys aren't enough when everybody goes on vacation in July. We added three more for next season.

- Don't spend too much time worrying about decorative elements. Just play ball and gather as you go.
  - Buy more than two dozen balls.
  - Once your red shirt stops bleeding, your red belt will bleed for another month.
  - If you think a 23 run lead is enough, you're probably wrong.
  - A game on Saturday means that you'll be able to walk again by Wednesday. (stretch early and often)
  - Give the hurler some good natured jabbing when he can't throw a strike. He deserves it.
  - Every once in a while let your bat-boy bat (another lesson from the Red Stockings). He'll feel great about it and so will you.
- Lastly, have fun. Nobody wants to play a team of jackasses, including you. Even on your worst outing you're still playing base ball with a bunch of your pals. Smile. Enjoy the game and so will the cranks.

By all means, if you have any questions, need any tips or just want to talk about base ball, email me at [norwood.highlanders@gmail.com](mailto:norwood.highlanders@gmail.com) or find us on facebook. I am happy to promote the tradition of assistance and friendship that I received from the start.

Keep your eye on the ball, swing level and have fun,  
Col. Jim "Cornbred" Mattingly  
Captain, Norwood Highlanders  
Norwood, Ohio



# WWII Girls Baseball Living History League 2010 Summary

*By Rebecca Tulloch, WWII Girls Baseball Living History League Manager*

The WW2 GBLH has wrapped up our 1<sup>st</sup> season of exhibition play. We have grown in numbers from 2 members at the beginning of 2010 to 11. We have enough players now to fill out one complete team. In 2011 we are hoping to expand our numbers to be able to field a 2<sup>nd</sup> team. We are making connections in the Kenosha / Racine, Wisconsin area to begin recruiting members for the Kenosha Comets and Racine Bells.

This past year we had a great deal of fun appearing at a number of Historical WW2 reenactments and are planning to repeat many of those appearances again in 2011. We play at about 2 events a month. One the highlight of the year was participating in the Rededication of Beyer Stadium in Rockford, Illinois in June. Beyer Stadium was the site where the original Rockford Peaches played and is depicted in

the 1992 film "A League of Their Own". At the re-dedication we even had the opportunity to meet several of the original All-Americans who played in the original league. The original Beyer Stadium was torn down in the 1990s and the city of Rockford is starting to restore the field. The only feature of the original stadium still standing is the Box Office Gate house. Thus far the city has rebuilt the diamond, backstop and scoreboard. Another highlight of the year was an opportunity to play some ball with the Australian women's baseball travelling team where we played a game with them at Beyer Stadium in August.

Any Ladies out there who accompany your husbands and boy-friends to their vintage ball games every weekend; now is your chance to come play ball with us.

We play exactly how the original players played in 1943; with a 12" softball and underhand pitching, which is different than what was depicted in the film. We are mostly about teaching baseball women's history through playing ball and having a lot of fun doing it; experience playing baseball is not necessary, but always helpful. We are building the original 4 teams representing the Rockford Peaches, Kenosha Comets, Racine Belles, and South Bend Blue Sox; so if you live in Northern Indiana, North East Illinois, or South East Wisconsin and would like to play some 12" Softball with us, please send me an email with you interest. To learn more about our league and send us an email, visit our website at: [www.ww2girlsbaseball.com](http://www.ww2girlsbaseball.com).



League Member in front of original Beyer Stadium Ticket Gate House at Rededication Ceremony in June 2010.

# EXTRA

## 3 STRIKES; 4 BALLS

That was the headline—3 strikes; 4 balls—in the Evening Sun on November 20, 1888. The newspaper was reporting on the impending change in the rule of the grand old game. Since the start of the rules in 1845, over forty years had past and many years there was a change in how umpires and stikers and hurlers thought about a pith to home plate. Was it a hittable pitch? Was it a high or low strike? Was it something the striker ignored so the runner could advance? Call it a strike? Or ball? This aspect of the game was in flux for a long time.

Now, late in 1888, would the game accept another change to calling pitches? The Evening Sun reported that the Committee on Rules probable recommendation on balls and strikes “excited a good deal of discussion among the baseball men.” in New York for the annual meeting of the National League. Ultimately the game would settle into a very long period of 3 strikes, 4 balls and this seems it is as it should be.

When fans come to a vintage base ball game, this is one thing that many of them ask about. “Why didn’t the umpire call a strike?” “What was that warning the umpire made to the pitchers?” Many of the rule sets we use when playing base ball have many aspects that the casual fan does not know. Take time to explain more about the game and your club may have many more repeat fans. Sideline interpretation is something we can benefit from.

## PROMOTE VBB

Vintage base ball continues to grow all over North America. New teams are starting every year. The game is becoming more popular. There may be a new club in you r town. The VBBA board is looking for ways to increase membership. Do you have some ideas about how to foster the spirit of vintage ball?

The Mid-Atlantic Vintage Base Ball League had a great idea. November 20, 2010 members of the Mid-Atlantic Vintage Base Ball League were scheduled to play an exhibition game and hold a base ball fair. Players from the league intended to play several innings then invite spectators to play several innings. Nine teams from five states were to send players. The players will circulate through the spectators and explain the game and rules and show off the period uniforms and equipment. The Fair was organized by Susan Douglas of the Roxborough-Manayunk-Wissahickon Historical Society.

Another way to create interest in the vintage game is to hold tournaments in places new to vintage ball. There have been several of these in the past year. Teams have played at resorts, on islands, and in national parks.

Some teams have scheduled a match with another team at a “halfway” point and used this as an opportunity to promote the game. Other teams played in special games that raised money for charities. A Minnesota team has played against professionals in February to raise thousands. If you have an idea to promote the game, let the board of directors know of your ideas.

Dave B=

# EVENTS

If you are overwhelmed by the desire to play baseball this coming February, go to the Farmers Branch Historical Museum in Dallas, TX. There will be a game on February 11th, 2011 between the Farmers Branch Mustangs and the Rawhide Creek Tanners vintage base ball clubs. They are inviting any and all to play in this game, which starts at 3 P.M. And they remind interested parties that if they intend to play, they should leave their gloves at home, since real men and women don’t wear gloves.

March 25th through 27th the VBBA is holding the annual conference and members meeting in Cleveland. See first page for more details

July 16th and 17th of 2011 is the date of the tournament in Gettysburg, PA. There will be nine teams from seven state at this years tournament. Players from Colorado, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania will all participate in the tournament.

## ON LINE:

If you enjoy the on line world, google “Vintage Base Ball Players Association” This group is dedicated to “the style of play known as vintage base ball.”

## SOME BASEBALL BOOKS:

”59 in ‘84” is a book about Hoss Radbourn written by Ed Achorn,

Dorothy Seymour Mills wrote “Chasing Baseball Our Obsession with Its History, Numbers, People and Places”



# MINUTES, VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION MEETING

September 19, 2010

**Members Present:** Treasurer Rich "Aces" Arpi, Secretary Chris "Sawdust" Burton, Historian Eric Miklich, Trustee Brian Sheehy, Vice President Paul "Quickstep" Salomone, Trustee Dennis "Pops" Wiegmann, President Scott "Chooch" Westgate

**Members Absent:** Trustee Jay "Tomahawk" Demagall, Trustee Marcus "Razorback" Dickson, Trustee Bill "Pic" Dieckmann, Trustee Gary "Handlebar" Hetzel

Westgate called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

## **Item 1: 501(c)3 application**

Westgate reported that the IRS approved the VBBA's application for 501(c)3 status

- The acceptance letter does not reference blanket coverage. Westgate will inquire if donations to member clubs can earn tax-exempt benefits.
- The treasurer must now file a 990 form annually. The VBBA paid nothing to a preparer - only a \$400 filing fee to the IRS.

## **Item 2: Conference**

Demagall was not available to provide additional details or an update.

## **Item 3: VBBA website**

- Westgate reported that the domain has been transferred from Jumpline to Yahoo!
- Westgate also reported that Jason Kladiva is set to have the new site online imminently. Kladiva was not available to provide details.

## **Item 4: Rebate program**

- Arpi reported that two clubs

have already submitted for a rebate.

- Dave Brooks has disseminated information on the program and forms to vintage clubs.
- Arpi will remit checks to those clubs and future applicants. Several board members reported news of clubs joining the VBBA for first time.

## **Item 5: Chadwick Model Base Ball Player Award**

Dickson was not available to offer a report on its presentation.

## **Item 6: Rules Interpretation Committee**

No member was able to offer an update on the committee. Miklich is interested in participated in the future. Paul Drinkwater hopes to revive the committee's work in 2011.

## **Item 7: Encouraging membership**

- Demagall and Miklich proposed dozens of ideas for increased benefits to members through e-mail following the July meeting. The two suggestions discussed at this time were exclusive website pages at VBBA.org and nationwide hotel discounts.
  - o No specific pages were mentioned to become exclusive. The idea was tabled for a future meeting.
  - o The board hopes that a salesman could convince a national chain to offer a discount to VBBA member clubs. These discounts could be earned by showing a membership card, like AAA.
  - o Wiegmann suggested that the VBBA sell merchandise. Tee shirts, decals and pins were proposed. Westgate moved to get a quote on 50-100 pins for the membership. Wiegmann seconded. Motion passed.

Burton will get quotes for the three items. The VBBA will offer them for sale at the 2011 convention and the new website.

**New Business** Wiegmann suggested sponsoring regional events.

It was discussed what sponsorship of these events might entail, beyond sending a representative. Salomone suggested events both in the Midwest and East. Burton suggested that these events could help spread the game geographically, in states where there are few or no vintage teams but interest.

Miklich will summarize a proposal he made in 2005 and forward it to the current board.

## **Next meeting time and date**

November 14, 2010 at 7:30 pm EST

Wiegmann motioned to conclude meeting

Miklich seconded

Westgate adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.

*Editor's note: These minutes were not included in the last issue of the newsletter and are included now.*

## **BOARD MEETING**

The Board of the Vintage Base Ball Association will hold their first meeting of the new year on January 16, 2011.

Please thank the officers and trustees for their dedication to making the VBBA a great organization.

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## Baseball Artifacts of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

By Richard "Pastime" D'Ambrisi

The era of 19<sup>th</sup> Century amateur gentlemen's club base ball is known for its rigid adherence to protocol. These early base ball customs are clearly illustrated by this outstanding Star Base Ball Club challenge letter of 1859. Proper etiquette required that matches between clubs be first explored via a written invitation. The frequency that these invitations were extended must have been often as noted by this being a preprinted form to be completed with the particulars of the proposed match. Other salient points are the references to "First Nine", "friendly match game of ball" and a mid-week game indicating these may have been business men who could take time off early from work to be on the field by 3 PM. This is an exemplary piece of 19<sup>th</sup> Century base ball ephemera.

