WSSL BoD Meeting Minutes - 8 Jan 2025

Attendees: Dick H., Kathy S., Ben D., Steve S., Andy J., Bill L. and Steve C.

The meeting kicked-off with the welcoming of three new board members, Commissioner Dick H., Communications Director Kathy S. and Treasurer Steve S. The Commissioner then requested that each member provide their perspective regarding expectations for this board's tenure in 2025.

The discussion turned to a review of a proposed survey for WSSL members expected to be released later this month. The goal is to obtain member inputs that will assist and guide the BoD in planning for 2025.

The Board next turned to the importance of volunteers to fill the many operational, administrative and logistical needs throughout a season. It was agreed that a number of such responsibilities could be overseen by a WSSL "Operations Manager" that would fall under the board's Treasurer position. It was also agreed that the Rules/Umpire Committee would continue to fall under the board's Secretary position and the Recruitment and Marketing Committee will continue to fall under the board's Communication Director position. It was further noted that player Development and Assessment activities will continue to fall under the Commissioner.

The Board next reviewed changes and updates to the Player Registration Form and it was agreed that 2025 member dues will remain at $75.00. Steve S. provided an update on 2024 expenditures and an assessment on fiscal projections for 2025.

The Board discussed and approved a Facebook recruiting/marketing campaign to run in February and March with the goal of bringing in new players and with a focus on increasing Yorktown Division numbers to at least keep pace with members who do not plan to return. The strength of Jamestown Division was assessed as stable, and if any change is likely, potentially an additional team could be established.

The need for an updated league marketing flyer was discussed and will soon be in the works.

It was agreed that Dick H. will assume the role as primary focal point for liaison with the City of Williamsburg Parks and Recreation.

The board discussed the league's current stable of sponsors and how important they have proven in helping keep player dues at a very reasonable level. Dick H. and Kathy S. will contact our existing sponsors to bring them up to speed on the league's growth and development as well as to ideally continue these mutually beneficial relationships into the future.

The next board meeting is scheduled for 5 February at 11:30

WSSL BoD Meeting Minutes - 2/5/2024

Attendees: Dick H., Ben D., Kathy S., Andy J., Steve S., and Steve C.

The meeting kicked off with a discussion addressing the recent resignation of Bill L., Jamestown Division President, and the need to appoint a replacement to complete the remaining 11 months of his term. After a healthy discussion of a number of potential candidates, the Board ranked a small group of potential replacements and Dick H. advised he would make inquiries later in the afternoon to gauge interest/availability of these candidates in their order of rank.

The Board next turned to the Jamestown Division manager/assistant manager teams as proposed by Bill L. and it was agreed that the group would be approved as submitted for the 2025 season.

The discussion turned to the results from the recently concluded league-wide player survey, of which it was noted by Ben D. that 138 responses had been received. It was agreed that the high-level responses to the survey questions would be provided to the membership, with any narrative comments being held for review and consideration by the Board. The Board noted that the survey results returned an overwhelmingly positive response to overall satisfaction with the WSSL writ large, while also noting that a few areas called for revisiting current rules/practices to address potential changes. Dick H. advised that he would provide a summary of the results to the membership within his next update email as well as providing the high-level results themselves.

Andy J. next provided a status of his efforts to finalize the Yorktown Division manager/assistant manager pairings for the 2025 season, advising that he was close to formally proposing these manager teams and would provide an update in the near future.

The next topic raised was the ongoing FaceBook marketing campaign and the overall new player recruiting efforts. Ben D. And Kathy S. provided a summary of these efforts to date and all agreed that we should redouble our message to membership to encourage their use of personal networks to attract potential new members. It was noted that initial planning was underway to support an additional (8th) team in the Jamestown Division for 2025.

As Communications Director leading our League social initiatives, Kathy S. proposed an initiative to approach additional potential league sponsors, targeting restaurants primarily in 2025. Additional potential funds would be utilized to defray WSSL operating expenses and to enhance social activities and community engagement initiatives.

Steve C. next provided an update on the ongoing WISC off-season workout program. It was noted that the initial weeks of the program have been well attended and the feedback has been positive. It was noted that John Antretter had alerted us to impacts from the school calendar that likely require a review and potential rescheduling of our Monday New Player Orientation and Focused Instruction sessions. Updates to follow.

Steve S. followed up with an update of the League's financials as provided to the Board in an recent email. Additionally. Steve noted the current inventory of new softballs for 2025 play. It

was also noted that the League's 2025 liability insurance policy was being discussed with our provider and updates will follow.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 5 March 2025.

WSSL BoD Meeting - 3/5/2025

Attendees: Dick H., Kathy S., Ben D. Andy J. Steve S., Larry R. And Steve C.

The meeting opened with the Commissioner welcoming Larry R. to the board as the Jamestown Division President for the remainder of 2025.

Special guest Will Murray, WSSL Operations Manager, kicked off a discussion with his work to date on lining up a vendor for hats and jerseys for this upcoming season. Will identified Colonial Sports as the best vendor option and noted they were the league's original vendor, so in additional to best price and quality, they already have a number of our templates to work with. Sample hats and jerseys were passed around and the board concurred with Will's assessment.

The group then turned to a discussion on new player recruiting updates, the ongoing Facebook campaign and the projected estimated totals of players expected for each division. It was noted that 51 Yorktown players and 87 Jamestown players had paid to date. Andy J. advised he was expecting to field five teams in Yorktown with rosters of 12-13 players for each team. He further explained that he has tentatively lined up five prospective manager/assistant manager teams in preparation for the upcoming Rookie Camp and the Yorktown draft scheduled for 26 March.

Larry R. advised that he was expecting to field eight Jamestown teams and was in the final stages of identifying his eighth manager/assistant manager team. He noted that the Jamestown draft will take place on 27 March.

Arrangements for Rookie Camp were next discussed with a decision reached to combine the division rookies into one camp as the numbers projected didn't warrant trying to conduct two separate camps. Administrative details were addressed and it was determined that the camp sessions would begin at 10:00 am with registration/sign-in at 9:30.

The board next discussed that a number of league members are currently on a rehab glide path towards playing at some point in the 2025 season and that a Physically Unable to Perform (PUP) list would be established to track this group and to move them to a team as they are able to return to playing status.

Steve C. introduced the concept of assigning one Senior Umpire for each division vs, one individual trying to oversee a league that has grown larger every year, is now two separate divisions going on year three and has a few rules that are different from one another. Tom Dolan has volunteered as the Yorktown Senior Umpire and Dean Wright has volunteered as the Jamestown Senior Umpire. After a discussion of the potential merits the board agreed to move forward with the change.

Steve S. provided a brief overview of the league's financial status and noted that we had received our liability insurance certificate for 2025 and a copy would be provided to the City.

The board turned to discussing sponsors and it was noted that 2024 sponsors were expected to repeat their support for the WSSL in 2025 and that an additional sponsor or two could very well be added.

The next board meeting is scheduled for 4/1/2025.

WSSL BoD Meeting - 4/1/2025

Attendees: Dick H., Kathy S., Ben D. Andy J. Steve S., Larry R. And Steve C.

The meeting opened with the Commissioner and board discussing arrangements for the 2025 Season Opening Day arrangements for both divisions (4/8 for JTD and 4/10 for YTD). After ensuring that all present were on the same page a contingency opening Day rain-date for JTD was decided as 4/10/2025.

The board then turned to a discussion of specific Yorktown and Jamestown player assignments regarding two rookie players who came on board subsequent to the draft and could be used to level out a team roster in both divisions on at least a short-term basis.

Arrangements for mid-season tournaments for both divisions were discussed next. The dates for both divisions will be 6/24 and 6/26 and are on the league's master schedule.

Steve S./Treasurer spoke about the final details being addressed to ensure that our liability insurance COI meets the the City Parks & Recreation requirements. It was noted that the identical process has been followed for the last few years without an issue. It is expected that this will be formally agreed to very soon.

The discussion then turned to the Jersey Hand-Out gathering at Billsburg Brewery from 12:00 - 3:00 on Sunday, 6 April. A small group will show closer to 11:00 to reserve some picnic tables from which the jerseys will be distributed. It was decided that, like the previous year, there would be no WSSL provided beverages and food for this event.

The board discussed the only other WSSL sponsored social event currently on the books, our End Of Season party in late October (date TBD). It was agreed that the model employed last year seemed to work very well and initial thoughts are to pursue another catered food event with two beverage tickets supplied by the league.

AED training was the next topic raised and, based on a recent agreement with a local firefighter friend of a league player, 10 WSSL members (five from each division) will receive familiarization training on these devices within the next few weeks.

The initial schedule for post-game league lunches was proposed for the initial week.

Dick H. And Kathy S. discussed league sponsorships and it was noted that all legacy sponsors were either already signed up or were expected to repeat again as sponsors for 2025.

Relative to recruitment efforts the concept of using the Yorktown Division All-Star game as a weekend exhibition game was discussed. Potentially attracting members who are close to retirement who can't attend a weekday morning game to observe the WSSL product was noted as a primary benefit. More to come on this topic.

The next WSSL Board meeting will take place in early June (date TBD).

WSSL Minutes – June 9, 2025

Board Members in Attendance – Dick Hoell, Kathy Sprague, Ben Di Vito, Steve Sheffler, Larry Rouse, Andy Jacobs, Tom Dolan

Key inclusions in this edition. Please read further for additional information

Summer Break – June 27 – August 11
Breast Cancer Awareness – Preferred Date October 19, Alternate October 26;
Volunteers needed – contact Kathy at 2014grandmaks@gmail.com
'Welcome to the Second' half celebration – August 16
CPR Training to be offered for those interested
WSSL seeking Webmaster – Thanks to Ben Di Vito for his efforts since 2019
Both leagues continue to use flexibility in schedule adjustments
Strategic Focus Areas – The future of the WSSL

I. Sponsor Update
   a. League is in good shape with sponsorship
II. Breast Cancer Awareness Game
   a. Planning has begun for the 3rd annual event
   b. Hoping to secure an October 19 date which is set to correspond with a youth tournament like last year
   c. October 26 is alternate date
   d. Over $7500 raised last year and goal to surpass that this year
   e. Kathy (2014grandmarks@gmail.com) is the event contact and is looking for volunteers for planning, game ops and associated fundraising
III. Mid-Year Social
   a. 'Welcome to the Second Half' celebration discussed
   b. August 16 was secured at 4 pm at the Powhatan Secondary Clubhouse
   c. Likely to be a pot luck dinner with WSSL providing water and beer
IV. AED/CPR Training
   a. An AED session held June 5 was very successful with 16 players taking part.

b. While AED training is critical, CPR training is just as important.
c. The League is arranging for a 3 hour CPR training provided by one of the firefighters at a local fire station free of charge.
d. This training will take place shortly after the summer break.
e. Anyone interested in attending this session should contact Dick at rhoell@hotmail.com

V. Webmaster Position
a. A huge thank you to Ben Di Vito for his wonderful service to the league as the webmaster since 2019.
b. As the WSSL looks to fill this position Ben has provided the following skill requirements and information:
    i. There is NO need to know HTML or other types of coding.
    ii. A comfort level using web browsers and office software (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
    iii. Basic image editing is helpful
    iv. WSSL currently uses the website builder known as Weebly, a web app which is easy to learn
    v. For more information you may contact Ben at bdivito@cox.net

VI. Schedule Adjustments and Rainouts/ Heat Index Cancellations
a. Both League Presidents have been working hard to be creative while maintaining the wishes of their teams and players
b. Thanks to both Larry Rouse (JTD) and Andy Jacobs (YTD) for their hard work.
c. Both Presidents will be working on second half schedules that give the members of the WSSL the best opportunities to play the maximum number of games

VII. Strategy Discussion
a. Board began discussions of staying ahead of the curve relative to the future of the WSSL (Strategic Focus Areas - SFA)
b. Examples of future SFA Discussion
    i. Growth – additional divisions
    ii. Logistics associated with growth such as field availability, costs etc.

c. Future discussions will need both Board and player inclusion

WSSL Minutes – July 24, 2025

Board Members in Attendance – Dick Hoell, Kathy Sprague, Ben Di Vito, Steve Sheffler, Larry Rouse, Andy Jacobs, Tom Dolan

Key inclusions in this edition. Please read further for additional information

Honoring Gary Driver
August 12 – Second half begins
August 16 – 'Welcome to the Second Half' Celebration
Breast Cancer Awareness – Preferred Date October 19, Alternate October 26;
Volunteers needed – contact Kathy at 2014grandmaks@gmail.com
Strategic Focus Updates

I. Second Half
   a. Play begins for both divisions at Kiwanis Park on August 12
   b. Second half schedules can be found on the WSSL website

II. Honoring Gary Driver
   a. Sadly, Gary passed away suddenly on July 7
   b. On August 12 prior to the first contest (approximately 8:45) a ceremony will be held at Kiwanis Park
   c. Additionally on August 9 at 1:30 at Monfalcone Field in Deer Park (11523 Jefferson Ave., Newport News) there will be a Celebration of Gary's life

III. 'Welcome to the Second Half' Celebration
   a. The mid-season party will be held August 16 at the Powhatan Secondary clubhouse from 5pm until 9pm
   b. The league will provide water, beer and all paper products
   c. The following link should be used to RSVP and sign up for a dish (https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AA9A629A7F58-57718569-midseason)

IV. Breast Cancer Awareness
   a. Planning is continuing for the 3rd annual event
   b. Possible dates continue to either October 19 or October 26

c. Kathy (2014grandmarks@gmail.com) is the event contact and is looking for volunteers for planning, game ops and associated fundraising

V. Strategy Discussion
   a. Three areas have been identified to address
      i. League growth
         1. Additional division(s)
         2. Optimal number of teams per division
         3. Managing the balance between the desire to continue to grow while being able to keep up with the necessary logistics
      ii. Volunteerism
         1. How to get more people involved
            a. Game logistics
            b. BoD positions
            c. Special events
      iii. Providing/Promoting Player Development
         1. Tournament Participation
         2. Promoting softball-focused camps
         3. Continuing WISC off season program
   b. This will be a long term process that will involve many opportunities for member involvement and participation

VI. Next Meeting Scheduled for August 22 at 11:30

WSSL Minutes – August 22, 2025

Board Members in Attendance – Dick Hoell, Kathy Sprague, Ben Di Vito, Steve Sheffler, Larry Rouse, Andy Jacobs, Tom Dolan

Key inclusions in this edition. Please read further for additional information

Key Dates for Remainder of the Year
Sponsor Spotlight
Breast Cancer Awareness Game – Date October 19, 3pm; Volunteers needed – contact Kathy at 2014grandmaks@gmail.com
Sponsors
Additional Membership Classifications
Strategic Planning Process

I. Key Dates
   a. October 14/16 End of Season Tournaments – both divisions
   b. October 19 Breast Cancer Awareness Game – 3pm
   c. October 21 All Star Games – both divisions
   d. December 7 – Williamsburg Christmas Parade

II. Sponsor Spotlight
   a. New addition to BoD updates
   b. This month spotlights Javier Fuentes – State Farm Insurance
   c. Inaugural sponsor in 2019
   d. Link to website http://www.sfvirginia.com

III. Breast Cancer Awareness
   a. Planning is continuing for the 3rd annual event
   b. Date is October 19, 3pm
   c. Kathy (2014grandmarks@gmail.com) is the event contact and is looking for volunteers for planning, game ops and associated fundraising

IV. Sponsors
   a. Sponsors will be charged $300 down from $500 for 2026

b. This is based on
    i. Strength of the League's finances
    ii. Preliminary 2026 budget planning
    iii. Intent to secure 14 sponsors for 2026 season
c. Membership is encouraged to provide any potential sponsors to the Board

V. Additional Membership Classifications
a. Two new membership classifications beginning in 2026
b. Social Member
    i. A non-player membership for those who don't want to or can't play but still wish to be part of WSSL
    ii. These members will receive a hat
    iii. Will be invited to social events
    iv. May umpire or keep score at games
c. Substitute Player Member
    i. Player either undrafted, unable to begin the season, fulfill an entire season or whose work schedule limits their availability
    ii. These members would serve as replacements or subs
    iii. These members will also receive all of the benefits afforded those of the Social Membership
d. Dues for each of these memberships will be determined as part of the 2026 budget process

VI. Strategic Planning Process
a. The organizational phase of this process continues
b. The three focus areas are
    i. League growth
    ii. Volunteerism
    iii. Providing/Promoting Player Development
    iv. A subset of the Board consisting of Dick Hoell, Andy Jacobs and Larry Rouse are being tasked with identifying specific actions to start addressing the focus areas

v. The goal is to complete this process for the new Board in January
vi. Once the new Board reviews the specifics feedback from players will be solicited

VII. Next Board Meeting September 19 at 11:30 at Brickhouse Tavern

WSSL Minutes – September 18, 2025

Board Members in Attendance – Dick Hoell, Ben Di Vito, Steve Sheffler, Larry Rouse, Andy Jacobs, Tom Dolan

Key inclusions in this edition. Please read further for additional information

Key Dates for Remainder of the Year
Sponsor Spotlight
Breast Cancer Awareness Game *Change* – Date October *26*, 3pm; Volunteers needed – contact Kathy at 2014grandmaks@gmail.com
November League
Umpire Clinics
Updated Weather Rule
Strategic Planning Process

I. Key Dates
   a. October 16 – Breast Cancer Awareness Game – 3pm
   b. October 21/23 End of Season Tournaments – both divisions
   c. October 21 All Star Games – both divisions have been cancelled for this year
   d. December 7 – Williamsburg Christmas Parade
   e. December 9 – WSSL Annual Meeting

II. Sponsor Spotlight
   a. New addition to BoD updates
   b. This month spotlights Brickhouse Tavern
   c. Inaugural sponsor in 2019
   d. Two locations
      i. 755 Scotland Street – Williamsburg
      ii. 141 Herman Melville Avenue – Newport News

III. Breast Cancer Awareness
   a. Planning is continuing for the 3rd annual event
   b. Date has changed to October 26, 3pm
   c. November 2 will be the rain date

d. Auction items will be graciously accepted
e. Kathy (2014grandmarks@gmail.com) is the event contact and is looking for volunteers for planning, game ops and associated fundraising

IV. November League
a. Larry Rouse is coordinating the November League
b. The order of preference for the league is:
    i. Players from the Jamestown Division
    ii. If room, prospective new players to the league/Jamestown Division
    iii. If room, players from the Yorktown Division

V. Umpires Refresher and Training Clinics
a. Will take place as part of the WISC off season development program
b. The clinics will include:
    i. Handling difficult plays
    ii. Proper Positioning
    iii. Live situational training

VI. Updated Weather Rules
a. Additions have been made regarding:
    i. Excessive heat
    ii. Wind chill
    iii. Lightning
    iv. Air Quality
b. They will appear on line for the rest of this season and will be incorporated into the Rules Manual for next year

VII. Consideration of Rule Changes
a. Division Presidents will be contacting their division managers for rule change input
b. All other members are encourage to provide input to their team managers

VIII. Strategic Planning Process

a. Three strategic goals have been identified
    i. Enable and manage the growth of the WSSL in order to provide more senior opportunities
    ii. Ensure enough quality/trained volunteers to effectively support the needs of the league
    iii. Provide opportunities for players to increase their skills, knowledge and understanding of the game
b. The intent is for:
    i. Action items to be identified by the end of the year
    ii. New BoD to react to the those items beginning in January
    iii. Then solicit input from players.

IX. Next Board Meeting October 17 at 11:30 at Brickhouse Tavern

WSSL Minutes – October 17, 2025

Board Members in Attendance – Dick Hoell, Kathy Sprague, Ben Di Vito, Steve Sheffler, Larry Rouse, Andy Jacobs, Tom Dolan

Key inclusions in this edition. Please read further for additional information

Key Dates for Remainder of the Year
Sponsor Spotlight
Sponsor Update
Breast Cancer Awareness Game *Change* – Date October *26*, 3pm
November League
End of Year Survey
Finance Update

I. Key Dates
   a. October 26 – Breast Cancer Awareness Game – 3pm
   b. November 1-23 – Nominating Period for Open BOD Positions
   c. November 24 – December 1 – Electronic Voting Period for Open BOD Positions
   d. December 7 – Williamsburg Christmas Parade
   e. December 9 – WSSL Annual Meeting
   f. December 9 – Holiday Lunch at Revolution Golf following Annual Meeting

II. Sponsor Spotlight
   a. New addition to BoD updates
   b. This month spotlights Mark Riley – Agent for New York Life Insurance Company and a Financial Services Professional for NYLIFE Securities LLC – https://www.newyorklife.com/agent/mpriley

III. Sponsor Update
   a. There are currently 11 sponsors confirmed for 2026
   b. Several others are in the works

IV. Breast Cancer Awareness
   a. $4600 as of now in donations. The goal for this year is $10,000
   b. Date is October 26, 3pm
   c. November 2 will be the rain date
   d. Auction items will be graciously accepted
   e. Kathy (2014grandmarks@gmail.com) is the event contact and is looking for volunteers for planning, game ops and associated fundraising

V. November League
   a. Larry Rouse is coordinating the November League
   b. The league will consist of 64 players and 6 teams
   c. Games will be 9:30 and 11:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Kiwanis Park
   d. There will be a $10 fee per player to participate

VI. End of Year Survey
   a. The end of year survey is being finalized and will be sent out to the members soon

VII. Finance Update
   a. The league continues to be in solid shape financially

VIII. Next Board Meeting November 14 at 9am at Shorty's