

**Scrap Iron Board Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2018**

The Board Meeting was called to order by President, Andy Shapiro at 9:00 am. The following executive board members were present: Terry Goodrich, Vice-President, Jim Casswell, Treasurer, Bruce Brothis, Fund Raising Chairman, and Mark Haupt and Art Graebe, at large board members.

Present representing their teams were:

50 AAA Alliance - Karagiannes, John
50 AAA Elite - Christopher, Michael
55AA Mile High – Riley, Jim
55 AAA CHF – Hunnings, Chip
55 M Rocky Mountain Thunder - Haupt, Mark
55 M Rocky Mountain Thunder – Fortier, Dave
60 AAA Heavy Metal - Buonaiuto, Ed
60 AAA Heavy Metal - Brothis, Bruce
60 AAA Rockies - Casswell, Jim
60 AAA Xplosion - Silvey, Dan
60 AAA Xplosion - Jark, Barry
65 AAA 5280' - Goodrich, Terry
65 AAA Diamonds - Graebe, Art
65 AAA Still Kickin – Pena, Lu
65 AAA Still Kickin – Shapiro, Andy
65 M High Octane – Liverant, Terry
70 AAA Reds - Alma, Larry
70 AAA Diamonds – Moore, Dick
70 M Legends - Massong, Mike
70 M Legends - Wiechmann, Alan
70 M Legends - Broeckelman, Greg
80 M Gray Berets - Mattos, Fred
UIC/Umpire – Gudlidge, Tim

The minutes from the February 24, 2018 meeting were approved.

SCRAP IRON BANQUET:

January 26, 2019

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Luncheon

Downtown Aquarium

700 Water St

Denver, CO 80211

www.aquariumrestaurants.com

Cost: \$35 per person - Helps support the club

Menu includes: Sandwich buffet

Ice tea, water, coffee and Cash bar

Family friendly – kids and grand kids welcome

Includes free parking and discount admission to Aquarium

Fund Raising - Raffles and a silent auction

If you have any items to donate please let Bruce Brothis know. Remember, we also want items for the ladies.

Coaches need to give Bruce Brothis a head count and Jim Casswell \$\$\$ by Jan 15. Please send one check to cover your team.

AWARDS:

Most Valuable Player - Each team will have 90 seconds to present their MVP award at the banquet. Please get the name (correct spelling) of your MVP to Art Graebe by December 16 so the plaques can be prepared. If you have more than one MVP the extra plaques are \$50 each.

Hall of Fame – Any SI member can nominate another member to the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame. Contact Mike Massong, committee chairman, or the website www.scrapironsoftball.com for details. Nominations are needed and due December 16.

Founders (previously the Ken Green) Award - Presented by the board to a member that contributes distinguished service to the club. Any club member can nominate someone. Please send nominations to Andy Shapiro by December 16.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The club took in less money than it spent in 2018 reducing our reserves which accomplished the goal from last year to put more funds towards team budgets so they can go to more tournaments. Several factors were discussed: two teams in 2017 didn't play and their budgets carried over; the 75, 80 and 85 teams that pay half dues went to more tournaments in 2018 and spent much of their budgets; large donations were steady from 2017 but are expected to decline in 2019; and the club needs a new financial model to look for more income.

Other highlights include: The skills competition at the Rocky Mountain Championship took in \$745 this year, \$250 more than last year. The grocery card program was up from last year to just less than \$6,000. This is free money and a strategy to get more involvement is needed. Private large donations held steady for one more year but are expected to decline. Fund raising at the banquet was up from last year by almost \$1,000. Income from dues was up by nearly \$8,000 primarily because of new teams.

USE OF BUDGETED FUNDS:

There was a discussion of policy concerning dues when a player leaves a team or a new player joins a team. There are no refunds of dues if a player has played one tournament with a team and wishes to leave the team. Likewise, when a player joins a team and plays a second tournament he is expected to pay dues. Petitions for extenuating circumstances can be made to the executive board.

There was also a discussion of policy concerning use of another team's budget. It seems there is nothing specifically prohibiting this in the club by-laws. A motion was passed to prohibit this action. A committee was formed (Jim Riley, Don Poulter, Greg Broeckelman, Alan Wiechmann and Bruce Brothis) to write a policy to address the issue.

There was also a discussion of inappropriate use of budget funds at the end of the year to essentially spend all the money in the account. There is no policy addressing this. It has always been handled on the honor system. The committee above will examine this issue and make a recommendation if a policy is needed. Regardless, end of year purchases will be scrutinized better by the board in the future.

FUND RAISING:

A suggestion was made to add two new skills to the competition at the Rocky Mountain Championship – base running (speed) and throwing (distance and accuracy). All agreed and Bruce Brothis will try to add them.

Jim Casswell presented an opportunity for those members 70 and older that are subject to Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) of a traditional IRA to make contributions to the club that could have tax benefits. The process is briefly described in the December newsletter. Talk to your financial planner or tax guy.

There was a discussion about approaching the Gaylord Hotel, near DIA airport, to be a sponsor for the Rocky Mountain Championship and/or the Scrap Iron club. The fund raising chairman and executive board will pursue this action.

Another proposal was made to recognize corporate donors on our website. It also relates to the Gaylord Hotel discussion above. The Scrap Iron website, as constructed and paid for, does not allow for commercial advertising. If permitted it allows the host domain to put unrelated advertising on the site, also. The proposal did not pass. Corporate donors could be acknowledged in the newsletter, however.

SCRAP IRON DUES:

There was a discussion about the requirement for at least 12 dues paying members before a team is eligible for a budget from the club. The motion was made to change that to 13. The motion did not pass.

Based on the financial discussion above, the addition of more teams to the club, the vitality of our older teams going to more tournaments, the desires to keep budgets at or above current levels and the expected changes to the club's financial model changes to the dues structure were discussed and made. The general dues will be \$225, up from \$195 last year. Several new dues structures for the older teams were also discussed. The one that passed changes the dues for 75's and 80's to \$160 and \$100 for the 85's, both up from half price (\$97.50) last year.

Rosters and dues checks are due to Jim Casswell before any reimbursements can be made to the team. Please identify dual roster players paying their dues to another team and send a check for the remainder of the players. Coaches were reminded that after one tournament a player is no longer a sub and must pay SI dues to play in a second tournament.

NEW SI 2019 TEAMS:

Last year the club welcomed five new teams - Still Kickin 65 AAA (was 60 Legends), Heavy Metal 60 AAA (was 60 Freedom), Explosion 60 AAA, Mile High 55 AA, and Alliance-Scrap Iron 50 AAA. This year one team is moving up (High Octane from 60 to 65 Major), one team changed their name (3N2 to Legends 70 Major), one team folded (Legends 75 Major Plus) and one new team was proposed and accepted into the club. Welcome to coach Bart Prieve and the 70 Diamonds 70 AAA. The deadline for any more new teams to join the club is the February, 2019 board meeting. We could have 18 teams in the club for 2019.

Last year the bylaws were changed to set the minimum age to be a member at 40. There was another discussion this year about trying to recruit younger teams into the club. Mark Haupt has a contact that is willing to help recruit new 40's teams. Mike Christopher said there is a new Facebook page the club could use to advertise for 40's teams. He will look into this. Tim Gudlidge said there was a large pool of 40's in Colorado Springs he would be willing to try to recruit.

Under the new team discussion it was suggested that Scrap Iron expand outside Colorado. Mike Christopher said he knows teams in California and New Mexico that would like to join the club. Several good points for and against were presented. It was discussed and decided that all Scrap Iron teams must be based in Colorado at this time.

Also discussed was what the composition of a Scrap Iron team should be regarding out of state players. Virtually every team has at least one out of state player on their roster and in some cases the majority of the team. Two suggestions were made to address this issue. Both included that by 2020 all Scrap Iron teams must be at least 50% from Colorado. The committee mentioned above charged with making changes to the bylaws will also make a recommendation on this issue at the February meeting.

PLAYER EVALUATION PROCESS:

The club has developed an individual player evaluation process that can be used as justification for moving players from one rating to another. A draft process was developed by Terry Goodrich and Mark Haupt and handed out to all coaches for their review and comment back to Terry. After comments are incorporated it will be sent to SSUSA for review and approval.

ELECTIONS:

The President and Treasurer of the club agreed to stay on for one more year. They hope to be replaced then. The Secretary position will also stay the same. A motion was made to retain the existing board. The motion passed.

A motion was made to elect John Parisi to the executive board as Vice President, replacing Terry Goodrich. The motion passed.

Greg Broeckelman, Jim Riley and Bruce Brothis expressed an interest in being at-large members and president respectively on the board when openings happen.

The Hall of Fame Committee will retain Mark Haupt for another term. Dan Silvey will replace Arn Richardson. The rest of the committee will remain unchanged.

OTHER LOCAL SOFTBALL OPPORTUNITIES:

The Winter Indoor League will happen again in 2019. They play double headers on Wednesday mornings at the South Suburban dome near Centennial airport. If two full teams would like to join it could be expanded to two days per week. There may be limited openings on the two existing teams. If you have a team or are an interested single player contact Terry Goodrich.

The Parker 65+ League was a success last summer and will happen again in 2019. They have 4 teams and play double headers, before it gets dark. Contact Alan Wiechmann if you are interested.

There is a Fun League that plays pickup games at Vanderbilt Park in Denver on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the spring (March/April) and fall (September/October). They play double headers. Players are from all ability levels. It's a good tune up for the spring and fall tournaments. Contact Terry Goodrich if interested.

There is a group of senior softball players in Colorado Springs that get together every Saturday at Cottonwood Park, weather permitting, for batting practice and games, if there are enough players. Contact Tim Gudledge if interested.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

All coaches are encouraged to submit up to date contact information for the players on their rosters. The information is used for distribution of the newsletter and other information. It is also used for data base inquiries. Please send to Jim Casswell with your dues and/or Rick Keller, our data base manager.

Art Graebe is the newsletter editor. He is always looking for articles to put in the newsletter. Please help him keep the newsletter interesting by submitting articles about the club, teams or members. The January newsletter is featuring Hall of Famers. If you are one please send Art an article about that experience.

Barry Jark will stay on as our Web Master. He is always interested in information and pictures about the club he can post.

The next Scrap Iron board meeting will be at the same location on February 16, 2019 at 9:00 am. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

NEW TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

This information became available after the board meeting. Andy Gonzales (970-397-6183) has worked with NIT and SPA to organize a new senior tournament – the Rocky Mountain Shootout. It will be in Greeley on May 30 to June 2. I know, it will conflict with Reno for some Scrap Iron teams. It will include 40's to 80's age groups. It could be 2 or 3 days with a 4 game guarantee (two seeding and double elimination) format. The cost is \$450. It is a ring tourney and qualifies teams for the SPA Worlds. It is already on the SPA website. The link is below with more details. It would be good for Scrap iron to support this local tourney, if possible. Scrap Iron may provide a \$100 contribution to each team that plays.

<http://softballspa.com/Packet9New.aspx?TournID=310>

Update – Andy realizes the Reno conflict and has offered to change the dates to July 13-16. Would this encourage more SI teams to support this tourney?