

The Sacramento Men's Senior Baseball League

Presents

2017 Hall-of-Fame Induction



June 22, 2017



SMSBL President's Message,

I would like to congratulate the 2017 SMSBL Hall of Fame inductees on their recognition for a life time of baseball achievements. You have been selected by the Sacramento H.O.F. Committee to join a very small and elite class of SMSBL baseball players. This year we are also welcoming one of our most respected umpires as well, Roy Giusti. I am proud that this H.O.F. selection Committee has taken notice that this American pastime needs and isn't baseball without the umpires. So Roy, "Thank You for many memories." Over the years you were fair, tolerant, and always professional.

Our 2017 inductees are all very deserving and respected throughout the league in all age divisions. With Father/Son baseball that SMSBL founder Val Lewis adopted years ago many of you have participated both locally and nationally.

I hope you enjoy the evening with your families and teammates. You are all very worthy.

The SMSBL is continuing to grow and now boast 4 leagues all wrapped into one SMSBL. The total number of teams signing up this year for league play were nearly 100 teams. This league is working with the community and has stepped up to assist many High Schools. The highest rainfall on record and the school districts were stuck with poor fields. They called me asking for help. With the help of Mark Vendeiro, league Facility Rental Coordinator, he was able to find days to support about 6 H.S. schedules. The Complex & Fields are taken care of by our newest SMSBL Field Superintendent Brad Crawford. His pride in his field work and knowledge has benefited all of us. This complex would not be shining the way it does without the tireless work of Steve and Eric Welch. Steve and Eric installed both the Scoreboards that were donated by the Boras brothers. Steve also rebuilt both mounds, installed new grass and fought with the poor weather the whole time. The grandstands were refurbished by Derek Bulluck and his crew and painted by Gary Stonebrook and Josh Stonebrook. The Outfield fence was repaired as well, by Ron "Grizz" Williams. To all others that came out to volunteer, the league thanks you as well.

I would like to thank the entire board for their support and another year of success. We welcome our newest board member Scott Brandt, the 50 Commissioner. Thank you to Jim Tygrett-DeNuzzi for continuing to consult and help me succeed as President.

Please visit our website www.smsbl.com to follow our league and see all the Board Members that volunteer their time so we all may enjoy such a successful league. Without the SMSBL Board members the league could not succeed.

Thank You, Alan Van Ness
EKV Final Assembly Technician Lead
SMSBL President
916-355-3338 Office
916-806-1292 Cell

Welcome to the eleventh Sacramento Hall of Fame dinner, and thirtieth year of the Men's Senior Baseball League.

It is a special night for the 6 inductees who now get to share a part of history and leave a legacy for the Sacramento MSBL.

As stated to many of you before, you all belong to perhaps the finest local men's baseball organization ever established - the SMSBL.

The listing of former HOF members for your league is astounding with their amazing contributions, devotion, and visions for your league in past years and years to come.

I am so fortunate to have known these men and have become close friends with many.

I wish you all a most deserving evening, and congratulations on your inductions!

Steve Sigler



Steve Sigler
PRESIDENT MSBL / MABL

One Huntington Quadrangle, #307
Melville, NY 11747

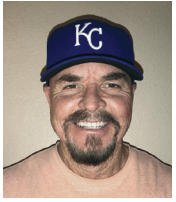
(631) 753-MSBL



Gary Ewbank

Raised in Sunnyvale, California, my youthful interest in baseball probably began while attending SF Giants' games at Seal Stadium in San Francisco. I have fond memories of later heading to Candlestick Park to watch the Giants, collecting shoe boxes full of baseball cards, and listening to Russ Hodges and Lon Simmons broadcast Giants' games on my transistor radio that I listened to through my pillow when I was supposed to be asleep at night. My own formal baseball career started when I was 8 and I tried-out for Sunnyvale American Little League. I had great fundamental coaching when I was young, and Little League seemed like a summertime "right-of-passage" for my friends and me. Even though I was small in size, I was an All Star catcher when I was 11-12 and even back then played most positions, much like I do now. I followed LL with 3 years in Sunnyvale Babe Ruth where I mostly played middle infield as my smallish size and

90 foot base paths probably restricted my catching/pitching. In high school I skipped baseball and played tennis, later playing intercollegiate tennis at Chico State. Summers during college found me playing fast-pitch softball in Sunnyvale on A/B level teams -- but it wasn't until 1991 while teaching in EGUSD that softball teammate Steve Croockewit invited me to join a startup hardball team -- the Dodgers -- in the fledgling SMSBL -- then playing at Renfree field. I have played SMSBL since then on a number of different teams including the Cubs, the RiverCats, the Patriots, the Capital Dawgs, the Solons, the Giants and the Tribe. On any team, I still enjoy the teammate camaraderie, the strategy, the post-game re-hash of game situations and the many friendships I have cultivated, along with the challenges of playing competitive age-level baseball. I was drawn to post season World Series tournaments in the early 2000's and have played on some very good national level teams -- including the USA Patriots, the Sacramento Solons and the Tribe. To this date, I have 11 World Series rings from MSBL and other organizations including a Father/Son championship ring with my son Dan -- and probably twice that many 2nd place / runner-up finishes. I coached freshman baseball at Valley High school in the late 1970's and find myself now playing against many of my former high school players now in the SMSBL. Shout-outs to my wife Sharon and my family who have allowed baseball to be "my thing" and to all in the SMSBL who have supported my contributions to their teams. Thanks to Jerry Karnow for placing my name in nomination for the HOF -- I am truly honored and grateful to all in the SMSBL who make this possible and who have provided my life with continued enjoyment.



Phil Adams

Phil was All City Junior and Senior years at Highland High School in Bakersfield, CA. He attended Bakersfield Junior College and hit three home runs in a junior college game. From there, Phil received a full ride scholarship at Fresno State. He played and was roommates with Terry Pendleton. After Fresno State, he was offered a whopping \$800 bonus from the Cincinnati Reds. Along with the bonus came all the perks of free bus rides to and from rookie ballparks in Billings, Montana. He turned it down and still regrets that decision today. Phil started at MSBL in 1982. He has played 25 consecutive years in the National World Series. He has won 11 national championships. A highlight in one of his world series games, he hit three home runs against Long Island at Tempe Diablo Auxiliary field. Phil was also inducted into the Woodland/Davis Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame. "I appreciate very much being inducted into the MSBL Hall of Fame and feel honored to be part of this elite group of baseball players. When I was a young player

baseball was about the statistics and winning but throughout the years it's the relationships that have resonated with me. I have made friends for life and we've been through so much on and off the baseball field. As time has gone on my body begins to show all the years of playing. Today, I'm a DH, I need runners, I can't throw a ball for my dogs but even though the aches and pains have changed my game, my heart has grown with appreciation for my fellow brothers on the field. In the scoreboard of life I'm winning every time I step out on the field."



Roy Giusti

I grew up in Marin County CA and played Little League and Pony League baseball. My step-father was not an athlete but encouraged me to work hard and excel. I played freshman baseball at Redwood High School in Larkspur and summer ball in San Francisco. Even before my junior year I was playing semi-pro ball for the adult Scavengers in S. F. I was only 14 years old but my skill and experience allowed me to play a starting role on my varsity squad in both my junior and senior years. As an all star, I played with players like Bill (space-man) Lee. In my senior year I was picked to represent the Northern Cal All Stars in The Examiner All Star team and played at Candlestick Park. I was drafted by the S.F. Giants but decided to attend the University of Arizona. There I played against Reggie Jackson, Sal Bando, Duffy Dyer and Rick Monday. I continued to play semi-pro ball until I blew out my right shoulder. That injury ended my playing days in 1970. Because I loved the game so much, I looked for a different way to stay

active at a high level; hence, my umpiring career began.

Continuing to umpire Little League and Pony ball, I moved to Auburn in 1977 where I resumed umpiring at James Field and the surrounding area. Fortunately, I was taken under the wing of an old PCL umpire who taught me the real basics. In 1991, I attended a Jr. College umpiring camp in Sacramento and was picked to work Jr. College ball. My first game was in at American River College in 1991. In 1989, a former student of mine in FOA in Auburn went to umpire school, was hired and sent to the MLB Fall League for seasoning. The MSBLWS was taking off and they didn't have enough officials locally to cover the games. Eric called me and I flew to Phoenix to work the tournament. That is how I was first introduced to MSBL. In 1990 I worked my first of 27 seasons for Sacramento MSBL. During those years I returned to Phoenix more than 20 times to work the MSBLWS and earned the prestigious National MSBL Ed Carter Award in 1998. I've had the privilege to work over 30 final game and countless playoffs. In 1991, I joined the NCOA and began working high school baseball in the Sacramento area. In 1993, I attended the 5 week, Jim Evans Professional Umpiring School. Following that I was hired to work the Western League for 2 years and the Golden Baseball for 3 seasons. I still have a small JUCO schedule in the GVC and a full high school schedule in Sacramento. My first love however, is my association with Sacramento MSBL and the many friendships I've made over nearly 30 years. I've watched many players begin in the 18 open division and are playing in the 50's and 60's now. When I finally retire I think those friendships will be missed the most.

To be inducted into the Sacramento MSBL as the first umpire is honor that I can't even put into words. I would like to express my gratitude to my family, the MSBL Board of Directors and the many members who have graciously shown their support. Thank you and my fellow inductees for this great honor.



Jeff Hughes

Jeff was born and baptized at Stanford University. Growing up in the south bay area, he began playing ball in the Los Altos Pennant Little League in 1960, moving to the Los Altos Babe Ruth & Mountain View Senior Babe Ruth leagues while playing high school ball at Awalt HS and then onto college ball at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. He played winter ball in Fontanetti's league in San Jose, the Central Coast Mexican-American League and a developmental league in San Jose in the 1970s. Playing three sports in high school, Jeff lettered in football, baseball and soccer. Organizing a semi-pro soccer team that played in the Peninsula Soccer League against "real" adult soccer players from England, Mexico, Spain, etc., he quickly learned that Americans didn't have a clue about playing soccer in the 1970s! Continuing into adult baseball, Jeff got started in the San Jose MSBL when the league was started in the 1980s. After being transferred to Santa Cruz, he played on his company's AAU hardball team and the Watsonville Angels of

the California Old Timers League. When he was transferred to Sacramento in the early 1990s, one of his teammates suggested that he contact a guy named "Rankin" about playing ball in Sacramento. Jeff joined the SMSBL and became a MET playing for Harry Hart along with "the guy named Rankin." When the METS folded, he played for several other teams (Mariners, Braves, Padres, Pirates, Yankees & Giants) before finding his home with the Athletics. Jeff has been a regular at the MSBL World Series playing with the NorCal Old-Timers, Lodi Father/Sons, Cardinal Father/Sons, Red River Braves, Patriots, Silverbacks, Norcal Old Timers, Sacramento Diamonds, California Tribe (2013 World Series ring) and he has managed the Sacramento Heat Father/Son and the Holmade Woodys Father/Son teams along the way. Jeff is very honored to have been selected to be inducted to the SMSBL Hall of Fame, joining many of the players that he has played with and against over the years!

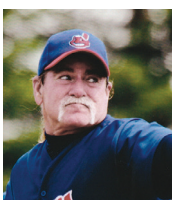


Wayne Sjolund

Wayne was born to love baseball, as his mom and he would tell you. Wayne was born in San Francisco in 1961, the second son of a baseball crazy mom; this was a lady that would call the TV repairman out every September to check the tubes in the TV even though nothing was wrong with it just to make sure it did not break during October. Wayne's grandfather played for the San Francisco Seals during the 30's and baseball had always been part of the household. Wayne played little league with the American River Little League in the Rosemont area of Sacramento. While never an All Star and always undersized, he constantly strived to be as good as his brother, Joe. Wayne played Farm through the Senior league as well as attending any camp that was close and that his family could afford. A highlight was the week long UC Davis camp.

When high school rolled around, Wayne believed with all of his training and knowledge of the game that this would be easy, so he shared his thoughts with the typing teacher and baseball coach who then told him he should start his own team since he knew so much. Well, that's the beginning and end Wayne's high school baseball story. After high school, Wayne started playing tournament softball, during this time he met some guys that played in a City baseball league on Sundays and baseball was back! Now more humble and stronger, the game was better than ever. In 1990, Wayne was eligible to join the SMSBL and played until 2005, finally winning that much coveted World Series title with the CalZona Tribe. During those years, Wayne played for the Dodgers, played and managed the Cubs and finally joined the Tribe. During the 15 years in the league, Wayne played in 11 World Series and managed a team in 8 of those. The highlight was in 2005 when the Tribe lead by Ken Chavez won the championship. Wayne was not supposed to be part of this team due to surgery on his knee the previous winter and the promise to his wife Leslie that he would retire. Wayne convinced himself that it would be good PT to help Ken with the team and one thing led to another and he was playing again.

The SMSBL has been a great experience, the baseball partly, the friendships more. A special and most heartfelt thank you goes to Leslie, Wayne's wife of 24 years, for having the patience to allow him to participate in something for so long while she took care of things while he was out. And to the boys, Chet and McClane who were drug to so many games and Trick or Treated so many years alone while dad was in Phoenix chasing that ring. It is a great honor to be invited to join this small fraternity of terrific men.



Bob Wooden

Has been playing baseball since Little League. Played and lettered at Lincoln High School in football and track on an all star and all-league level. Started coaching JV boys and girls baseball and softball at age 18. Now coaching rookie and T ball with the grand kids. Has been playing hardball since the late 30's primarily SMSBL and MSBL. Played on multiple SMSBL league championship teams including winning the initial Father/Son SMSBL tournament. Bobby has hit 4 grand slams home runs in his career, one a walk off, and the first one ever hit at the McAuliffe SMSBL complex and a few games hitting 2 homers. His track career is evident in his ability to steal bases and is an excellent base runner. Multiple Regional MSBL tournament victories include the Woodland Davis Best in the West (MVP), Vegas Kick Off and Vegas Open. Honored to have played on 8 MSBL World Series Champions with the Tribe, Sac Giants, Sac Royals, and Auburn Braves. Planning on continuing to play a long time.



Past President's Comments

Val Lewis (1984-1990)

It is a pleasure to welcome each of you into the 2017 SMSBL Hall of Fame! Each of you are deserving of this great honor. Congratulations for your outstanding baseball skills, your outstanding sportsmanship, and for being a credit to the League and to our community!

Jerry Karnow (1991-2002)

Congratulations to our New 2017 inductees into the Sacramento MSBL Hall of Fame. Also, a special congratulations to our "FIRST" umpire induction Roy Giusti. A very well deserving umpire, gentleman and friend who has worked many years for Sacramento MSBL, Phoenix World Series and many High Schools. We, as a committee and a league are very proud to induct Roy into the Sacramento MSBL Hall of Fame. "He always made the right calls" (???). Also, thanks to Lanny Ropke for his service to the HOF committee, as he will be stepping down as chairman and turning the gavel over to Jim Tygrett-DeNuzzi. Again, welcome to the new members inducted into this year's Sacramento Men's Senior Baseball Hall Of Fame.

George Esposito (2003-2004)

The SMSBL has built up a rich tradition and a well earned reputation over the years. This was due, in no small part, to the quality of players and leaders over these last 34 years. This year's class of inductees proves the point. Please welcome Roy Giusti, Phil Adams, Jeff Hughes, Wayne Sjolund, Bob Wooden, and Gary Ewbank to the SMSBL HOF.

Jim Lortz (2004-2007)

It was an honor and a privilege for me to have been your President for four years. Now as a member of the SMSBL Hall of Fame, I would suggest that each and everyone of you strive for that honor. As for those being inducted, you are as special to this Club as the honors is to you on this special occasion. To the new Hall of Fame inductees, welcome to the Club! It is now our responsibility to maintain and improve The Hall of Fame membership through your input, sponsorship and support. Congratulations!

Lanny Ropke (2008-2009)

The Sacramento Men's Senior Baseball League has become the premier MSBL League in the country. To a great extent, this is due to the leadership and quality contributions of the men represented on this page and the men whose names are enshrined on the Hall of Fame brass plaque mounted at our baseball facility.

Tonight we add six more deserving names to that plaque, and my congratulations, appreciation, and best wishes go out to these very special people and their families.

Jim Tygrett-DeNuzzi (2009-2012, 2013-2014)

Presiding as president of this outstanding organization was not only an honor but a privilege. During my two terms as president I was totally impressed by the many people who have contributed so much to the success of this league. I am proud to be a part of this for so many years. Tonight, join me in welcoming Jeff, Gary, Phil, Wayne, Roy, and Bob, perfect examples of the kind of people that have made SMSBL one of the most respected leagues in the country. Congratulations to you all.