

The Sacramento Men's Senior Baseball League

Presents

2018 Hall-of-Fame Induction



July 14, 2018



SMSBL President's Message,

It is my honor and privilege to welcome this year's HOF class. It is quite the honor to have been selected myself to join you. With many of you it was a pleasure to be your team mate and now we are forever team mates in this enshrinement. I hope this evening will be special for you and your families. Thank you Phil and Patty Gelhaus for your hosting this special evening.

This year 2018, we have grown even more with the merger of the Sunday Cordova MBL league. On behalf of the SMSBL, I would like to welcome Eric Aller & Juan Yanez and all their teams. This addition will help grow our bright future, as the majority of those teams are 18+. The SMSBL is now the largest league in the country as we now exceed 100 teams offering 4 separate leagues. Our league has been given notice that this will be our last full season at McAuliffe. Groundbreaking should begin by August. To lead this league through this transition will be both an honor and a challenge. This is not something I could accomplish without the help from my fellow board members. It also is going to require excessive volunteering from players in this league to see this transition through.

I would like to thank the current board members for their continued service. Please visit www.smsbl.com to see all they do. There also are many non board members who volunteer to keep this league successful. Jim Tygrett-DeNuzzi- League consultant, Jane Burkitt - Photography, Jeff Gardenhire - Father Son Director, Ken Jungsten- 60 Commissioner, Juan Yanez - 18 Commissioner. Also a special recognition to Brad Crawford- Field Maintenance. The fields and our complex are still the most desirable in Northern California.

Thank You, Alan Van Ness

Congratulations on your induction into the SMSBL Hall of Fame. Our National organization is currently in our 31st year, and the Sacramento MSBL has been right along with us since year 1 under Val Lewis.

Your league has had exemplary leadership throughout its three decades plus, and now under Alan Van Ness, the tradition continues.

You are all entering into an incredibly respected group, whose passion, vision, and finite objectives paved the way for your league's continued success.

There is NO finer league in our entire National organization than the SMSBL. I wish all of you a terrific evening, and you can all know your contributions will always be enshrined.

Steve Sigler



Steve Sigler
PRESIDENT MSBL / MABL
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Gilberto Banuelos

Born and raised in Jalisco, Mexico, Gilberto (aka Gil) didn't play in an organized baseball league, such as little league, MSBL, until he was 22 years old. However, his passion for baseball began, at the age of 16, when his uncle gave him a homemade baseball bat. Thanks to him, he began playing in a Mexican league. At that moment, he was hooked for life.

He played baseball for many years in Mexico. When he was 22, he played organized baseball (i.e., city winter and night leagues, Woodland-Davis championship games, and MSBL tournaments) in Sacramento, Arizona, Las Vegas, and San Diego.

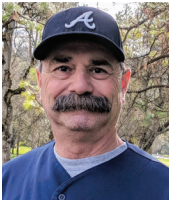
In 1992, he was invited to play in what is now the Woodland MSBL, and in another league, with the Pirates. During this time, he was chosen for All Star games and was a key player on various Championship teams. He received many trophies, and awards. He also received a MVP award in one of the All Star games.

In 2009, he received a phone call from his lifelong friend, the late, Dennis Viegas inviting him to play in the MSBL World Series in Phoenix. He (Dennis) also told him that if he wanted to win a championship ring, he needed to go with a "winning team" (i.e., the Sacramento Tribe) to Phoenix. He will never forget when Ken Chavez included him in the roster for Phoenix...especially after meeting the Sacramento Tribe team players...his new baseball family.

Since 2009, he has won five Championship rings and one MVP ring while playing in the MSBL World Series in Phoenix.

Currently, he is playing with the A's (50+) and Dodgers (60+). He is one of the rare catchers that can still catch 9 innings and sometimes extra innings in the same day if he is needed.

He thinks he is the first Mexican-born player inducted into the Sacramento MSBL Hall of Fame. His favorite quote is from Al Gallagher 1971, "There are three things in my life which I really love: God, my family, and baseball. The only problem - once baseball season starts, I change the order around a bit."



Mike Borba

Mike Borba grew up in Chino, CA. He started playing baseball in the farm /little leagues. He lived close to the little league fields where he and his brother would go play in pickup games everyday. They would play anything from full games to home run derby to just practicing pickles depending on how many guys showed up. He played two years of high school baseball. After graduating high school he played and managed a semi pro team before moving to Auburn in 1982. In 1989, while Mike was coaching little league, Rod Tompkins asked him if he would like to try out for his newly developing men's senior baseball team, the Auburn Braves. Since then, Mike has played every year for the Auburn Braves, except, in 1993 when the Braves moved from a 30+ to a 40+ division and the league at that time did not allow waivers. Mike played one year with the 30+ Dodgers before returning back to Auburn Braves. He has earned 6 championship rings and played in 6 finalist games. The championship games have been with the Sacramento Majic, Auburn Braves and the Sacramento Tribe. In addition, Mike played with the Sacramento Tribe and earned 6 championships with them in Las Vegas and San Diego. Mike is proud to say that he has played in every World Series except for the first one which, had he known the league existed he would have played in that one as well. He went from being one of the youngest players on the team to now the oldest. Admittedly, the SMSBL changed his life. It became a way of life and he has made many friends with the guys in this league in the 30 years of playing. The founding Sacramento SMSBL certainly helped make the MSBL great. Every team here plays so competitively, yet, we are always family, especially when we go to tournaments. Mike is honored to be inducted into the Sacramento Hall of Fame. He would like to take a quick moment to thank the Hall of Fame board, his team mates who recommended him, his family and especially his wife who is continually encouraging him to play and stay active in baseball.



Bobby Brown

Bob grew up in Davis playing baseball in little league, Babe Ruth and high school, graduating as a Davis High School Blue Devil in 1979. After spending 4 years skiing and working in Tahoe, Bob returned to baseball to play SS and 3rd base for Cosumnes River College earning All Bay Valley Conference honors in his final Season.

After junior college, Bob continued to play during the pre-MSBL years for the Davis Red Sox, General Fire and Sacramento Smokeys before finally joining the Woodland/Davis MSBL in 1992. In Woodland, Bob played for the Pepsi Pioneers, Pirates and Cougars and was inducted into the Woodland Davis MSBL Hall of Fame in 2010.

Bob joined the Sacramento MSBL in 2009 with the Sacramento Giants where he continues to play and manage.

Bob is extremely honored to have played in several MSBL World Series, earning rings with the Sac Giants and more recently, the Sacramento Royals. Bob is entering his 26th season with MSBL and his very proud to have played and managed on several Sacramento Giants league championship teams.



Jeff Gardenhire

Jeff grew up in Stockton CA and baseball is in his blood. Not meeting his biological father Benny Guerrero until High School he had no idea where his love of the game came from. His dad played minor league baseball, played on a National Fast pitch championship team, coached at St Marys High and is in the Stockton Sports Hall of Fame. His sisters all played fast pitch softball. So it was destiny that Jeff followed in the family passion. He played for Pioneer Little League, Canal Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, and NCal Mexican American Leagues. He set a single game strikeout record in Canal Babe Ruth striking out 16 in a 7 inning game. Jeff was an all-star at all levels playing Of, SS and Pitching. He was the MVP of the NCal Mexican American league as an 18 year old. He played with some of the best baseball teams in northern CA at Stagg High School. As a sophomore Jeff led the staff with a 5-2 record with 2.00 era. In 1977 at Delta Junior College he red shirted his first season only to put his college career on hold to serve as a missionary for his Church in New England. After returning home from a two year mission his love for the game was re-kindled playing softball. After a 4 year absence he walked on at Delta College and reunited with his old coach Pat Doyle from 83-86. On that team he won a coveted award as the most inspirational player for the 83-84 seasons. After College he played a couple of years in the NCal Mex league and soon found a new outlet "fastpitch softball." Jeff played the hot corner on very good Lodi teams in A & B fast pitch tournaments. Jeff's SMSBL career began in 1993 playing for Bob Eisleman on the original Sacramento Cardinals. Jeff led the team that year in BA hitting .567. Except for two breaks in between he has been in the league ever since. He has served briefly on the board and Played and managed. After the Cardinals he has played and or managed for the Cubs and Rangers. The last five years he has proudly played as a Sacramento Rocket. The 2008 Cubs team was his first managerial league Championship. In 2002 Playing in AZ for the first time on the Father Son team Sacramento Stars his love affair with Father Sons began. He has stated "This is the best tournament by far." He is currently the SMSBL Father Son tournament director. He is also currently the manager of the father Son CA Capitals who has two local tournament Championships and one National Championship finish in the four years at the helm. He attributes his success to the players on the teams. He has developed strong bonds and lifelong friendships through SMSBL. His baseball competitiveness is still there but it has been tempered by more important things. "It's the People and relationships I value now. This is why I am still playing." When his oldest son Lance passed away in 2003 the league held a ceremony and presented his family with a memento. "That meant a lot to me." Guys I had competed against became fellow brethren who love the game and people as I do." Life took center stage that day. That same year he hit his one and only homerun on July-1-03. That ball sits on his bookshelf in his office with some other special mementos and pictures that reminds him of the special people he has shared moments with playing in the SMSBL. "I love this game but for different reasons now. It's the people who make it great."

Current SMSBL HOF Nominated list:

Mike Miklaus • Bill Swanson • Dave Everingham • Scott Reeves • Tina Haas
George Esposito • Terry Callahan • Dave Harden • Craig Parker



Rocky Lange

“Baseball is just a normal part of life”. Rocky started playing for Del Campos little league in 1962. He enjoyed a lot of success there and then moved on to play in Del Campos senior league for a couple of years then moved on to play four years of American Legion ball for Carmichael. Rocky played high school ball for Jesuit high one year of j.v. and three years of varsity. Rocky was all-league his junior and senior year and was honorable mention all-city his senior year. Rocky has been playing in the SMSBL for twenty-six years with White Sox and the Cardinals. “Baseball is AWESOME”! The people we play with and against are great! In the end as most will attest to the relationships and the camaraderie you have with fellow ball players is the most important thing! And oh yeah the beer and cigars! Thanks for everything!!



Alan Van Ness

Alan’s little league career ended in 1975 as the NY. State Champions. After moving to California to finish HS he played for Roseville, CA. big league team and was the only 16 yr old to make the team and was a relief pitcher. Roseville won the 1980 League Championship. After joining the United States Marine Corp in 1983 he continued to play baseball and made the Marine all star team. In 1985 he played for the So. Cal Whittier Yankees as a knuckleball pitcher in the Pico Rivera Mexican League. where he went on to finish 9-0 and won the 1985 Championship game. During his time in So Cal he coached Little League for 10 yrs in Hacienda Heights and Diamond Bar.

Alan moved to Sacramento 1995. The next year he answered an ad in the Sacramento Bee from 18+ A’s Manager Jerry Marquardson looking for a pitcher. This was one of many teams he would play on. Most notably the Sac Dragons 2005 and still today. After many years and many Championships in league play on different teams, 2010 he assembled his own Championship Team, Sacramento Rockets. From the first year his team won 3 straight league titles and 4 of 5. After 18 years of W.S. Play and in 5 Championships he finally won a MSBL W.S. Ring with the 2016 Sac Royals.

In 2009 he joined the SMSBL Board. He did marketing and signed up 10 sponsors his first year. Then went on to take the Commissioner job for 18+ League, then the overall Commissioner while continuing the Marketing efforts. In 2014, SMSBL President Jim Tygrett- DeNuzzi retired and Alan was elected by the board of directors to take over the league duties as SMSBL President. With the success of growing the league and his extensive community involvement he was selected as “2015 MSBL National Man of the Year”. By 2018 the SMSBL has become the largest league in the country. Alan intends on seeing the new SMSBL Complex built and moved under his leadership. The appreciation of his wife Teena’s support and the support of the entire board is his belief of why he is successful. He is very conscious of the history and work of the previous Presidents and is especially thankful to Jim Tygrett- DeNuzzi for his continued assistance. To be inducted in the SMSBL HOF is the most humbling recognition in my career.



Mark Weathers

Mark began playing baseball in little league and was coached by SMSBL’s hall of famer Joe Soto’s father. From there he went on to Delta High School to play and pitch. After high school Mark attended a few pro tryouts and then went on to marry, raise a family, and go into business.

In 1993, while attending a basketball camp with a daughter at UC Davis, he noticed a baseball game being played and became curious. He approached non other than SMSBL future hall of famer Dale Hall who told him it was a 30 and over League and to look in the Sacramento Bee for scheduled tryouts. Two years later in 1995, after 15 years of not playing, he finally started playing ball again on Sundays and was hooked.

In 1998 he met Jim Tygrett-DeNuzzi and began playing with the Rangers in the SMSBL. From there he went on to play with the infamous Mets, Cardinals, Giants, and now A’s. He also plays Sunday league with the Buzzards. He has been a valued member of multiple league championship teams over the years. Mark has also sponsored a team in the past in the SMSBL. Mark is known for his hitting, power, and excellent first base skills. He continues to play in regional tournaments in Las Vegas, Palm Springs, Woodland, and others when available. He has been attending the MSBL World Series since 1995 and has rings with the SMSBL Tribe, Reds, and Giants.

Mark is the kinda guy you want as your teammate. His induction is a testament to the all around player and person he is and a great addition to the SMSBL hall of fame.



Mark Vendeiro

Mark was born, raised and attended high school in Sacramento. His love of baseball began with Little League. From there he went on to play in junior high as well as high school at Norte Del Rio. Mark played two years in East Sacramento Babe Ruth before leaving for the US Navy. He played fast pitch softball in the Navy and was chosen to play in the All Navy tournament. No baseball was available in the Navy. After returning home he started a family and couldn’t find time to play baseball again until he turned 38. Once he was asked to play in the Sacramento City Sunday league he was hooked again.

Mark played for a couple of teams in the City league and was invited to play in the Sacramento Men’s Baseball League for Freddy Creal’s Tigers. The Tigers won several championships during his time with them. After about six years with the Tigers he went to the Giants in the over 40 league. After a couple of years and two championships Mark went to play with the Cardinals and has been there ever since. Mark has MSBL World Series championship rings with the Tribe and Royals.

Mark has been a member of the SMSBL Board of Directors for the last four years, and has served as a league commissioner and is currently McAuliffe facility rental scheduler and coordinator . Prior to his board service Mark was an active volunteer contributing many hours and heavy equipment to prepare the fields for the upcoming seasons. Mark’s ability as a player, commitment as a board member, and countless volunteer hours over the years are to be recognized and commended.

Hall of Fame Committee

Jim Tygrett-DeNuzzi, Chairman • Val Lewis • Jerry Karnow • Lanny Ropke
John Rice • Ken Chavez • Steve Welch • Gary Stonebrook • Bob Snook at large



Past President's Comments

Val Lewis (1984-1990)

"Congratulations to all the inductees. It will be a pleasure to welcome you into this wonderful Hall of Fame fraternity".

Jerry Karnow (1991-2002)

Congratulations to our new 2018 Sacramento MSBL Hall of Fame inductees. You can be very proud joining this highly esteemed class of Hall of Famers. Also many thanks to all who support these deserving men. Again, welcome to the eight new members inducted to this year's Hall of Fame.

Jim Lortz (2004 -2007)

It was an honor to be your President. 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 our input, sponsorship and support. Congratulations!

Lanny Ropke (2008-2009)

Tonight is a special night for eight special people. My congratulations to all of you. It was my pleasure to take part in your selection. And, thanks to all of you attending tonight, showing your support for the league, the Hall of fame, and the new inductees. I also want to thank those current Hall of Fame members that showed their respect for this organization, their generosity, and their support for the next generation by donating to the purchase of the new HOF plaque. The current plaque and the new one will be occupying a special place at our new facility.

Jim Tygrett-DeNuzzi (2009-2014)

Here we are again at another HOF banquet honoring tonight's well deserved inductees. These eight gentlemen are another reason we, the SMSBL, are the most successful MSBL affiliate in the nation. These most recent hall of famers have a resume that include contributions such as board member, active volunteers, and league and national champions. They are to be congratulated. They define what the SMSBL represents as a well respected organization in our community and across the MSBL nation.

In Memory: Inducted Last at Bat

Ted Bofinger	2007	2017
Dale Hall	2007	2012
Ken Papini	2011	2008
Dennis Viegas	2011	2011
Bobby Alonso	2014	2013
Mark Crump	2015	2015
Tim Day	2016	2018

