



MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE



P.O. Box 1752, Media, PA 19063
www.angelfire.com/pa/medialittleleague
Telephone Messages (610) 566-0702
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Volume 2, Issue 1

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2002

Upcoming 2002 Events

Registration – Rose Tree Firehouse

January 26 noon – 3:00pm
January 29 6:00 – 9:00pm
February 2 9:00am – noon
February 5 6:00 – 9:00pm

Player Evaluations – Springton Lake MS

February 16 1:00pm (10 year olds)
2:30pm (11 year olds)
3:30pm (12 year olds)
February 23 1:00pm (8 year olds)
2:30pm (9 year olds)
3:30pm (makeups)
March 3 1:00pm (makeups)

Picture Day & Share Drive - MLL Complex

April 6 10:00am

Opening Day/Building Dedication -

MLL Complex

April 13 10:00am Parade
Games to follow

General Membership Meeting -

SL Middle School Auditorium

May 1 8:30 PM

Ad Book

A program/ad book will be prepared and distributed to all MLL participants. We are asking our community members to help with this fundraising effort by placing an ad in this book.

The cost of the ads is as follows:

Full Page \$100 Quarter Page \$35
Half Page \$60 Business Card \$25

Please contact Suzanne Manness at 610-565-1771 for additional information. To place an ad, please send copy of ad and payment to Ad Book, Media Little League, P. O. Box 1752, Media, PA 19063

President's Message

Striving For Excellence Through Teaching & Learning

The goal for any child playing an organized sport is to improve that child's self esteem, to develop the sense of sportsmanship, and to provide that child with the opportunity to develop an athletic skill. Media Little League has always held fast to these goals. As the new president, I look forward to the upcoming baseball season as an opportunity to focus on these goals even more than we have in the past.

The new Little League facility completed in 2001 was designed to enable educational programs as well as board meetings to be held on the second floor. In the upcoming 2002 baseball season I hope to see many educational programs implemented that will benefit the coaches, umpires and players. The Newsletter will outline the programs that the Board has been working on. As I welcome new board members I feel confident that we will reach the goals we set for Media Little League.

Sincerely,
Joe Remy
2002 President Media Little League



Delaware County Council honors Media Little League's 50th Anniversary. Front row left to right; Councilman Murtaugh, Media Little League players Brian Mehalick and Kevin Mehalick. Back row left to right; Councilman McFadden, Councilman Reilly, Councilwoman Durham (now Judge Durham), Councilman Nunn and Media Little League President Charlie O'Donnell.

Media Little League

Improvements

Changes for 2002 Season

Even as the sports calendar moved from a classic World Series into the soccer, football, hockey, and basketball seasons, your Media Little League Board was hard at work evaluating league operations, and making changes for the upcoming 2002 season. An eleven-man committee representing a diverse group of board members, chaired by Vice President Tony Antonello, met weekly in October and November, and spent nearly 300 man-hours of hard work preparing recommendations for improving Media Little League baseball. The set of recommendations prepared by the committee were presented to the Board members and the recommendations were approved at the December Board meeting. Highlights of the improvements include:

1. **Objectives for each of the 5 MLL Leagues** – A set of customized objectives were agreed to for each of our 5 leagues. These objectives contain themes of fun, safety, skills development, playing opportunities, varying levels of competitiveness, off-season play, and post-season play.
2. **Player Development** - Our Directors of Baseball will create a unique skills development curriculum for each age group, and will work with league commissioners to implement the curriculum with the help of the managers, coaches (and parents!) of each team.
3. **Post-Season Baseball** – Besides our participation in the 11-12 and 9-10 Year Old post-season tournament sponsored by Little League Baseball (Williamsport), MLL will encourage and support a significant level of post-season play for ages 8 through 12. Leave room on your June and July calendars!
4. **5 Year Olds** – Starting this year, MLL will allow 5 year old players (age as of July 31, 2002) to sign up and participate in T-Ball.
5. **T-Ball League** – After the first inning of each game, an organized skills development session will be conducted by the managers/coaches, before completing the game.
6. **Continental League** - After the first inning of each game, an organized skills competition session will be conducted by the managers/coaches, before completing the game. The results of the skills competition will be used to keep official league standings. A one-day Skills Playoff will be conducted at the end of the season to determine which team wins the league championship.
7. **Continental League** – The commissioner will organize an optional weekly baseball game, with National League playing rules (3 outs per inning; players pitch; etc.).

8. **National League** – To encourage development, managers will be responsible to give each player an opportunity to play each position during the season. Additionally, every player must play an infield position for at least one inning in each game.
9. **American League** – The American League will follow the same game rules as the Major League (most notable impact will be on base running related to stealing, wild pitches, and passed balls).
10. **Major League** – The number of teams to be fielded will be determined with the intention of giving our 12 year olds a good opportunity to be drafted. It's possible that MLL will increase from 5 to 6 Major League teams for the 2002 season, which would require a player redistribution process that would be administered by the President, Player Agent, and Major League Commissioner.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fields soon!!!

Farewell to a Friend

On November 30, 2001, the Media Little League lost a close friend and supporter, Brian O'Connor. Brian had managed and coached in the league while his and Barbara's three children – Matt, Sean, and Courtney – played from the late 80's through the late 90's. Brian had also served on the Board of Directors for a number of years, up through 1997.

Brian cared. He truly loved life, his family, and his community. He was genuine and human (for example, he was a New York Yankees/Giants fan). Brian volunteered his time and energies with family, friends, and community organizations, in whatever ways he could. His support for MLL continued beyond his children's playing days, as evidenced by his continuing sponsorship of a Continental League team in the name of his business, **Brian O'Connor and Associates**.

In memory of Brian, and in honor of the example he set for all of us, the Media Little League will continue to field a Continental team under the name of **Brian O'Connor**. Please join us, and Barbara, in keeping Brian in your thoughts.

Website

Check out and bookmark the Media Little League website at <http://www.angelfire.com/pa/medialittleleague>. It's your year round, on-line source of Media Little League information.

Here's what you'll find there:

- Event schedules
- League and team schedules
- Team rosters (with links to many team sponsors)
- Game results, game summaries and standings

We had over 1,600 hits on the website in 2000, over 4,000 hits in 2001 and hope to improve on that in 2002. If you have any suggestions or improvements, please email stephen.w.butt@lmco.com.

Field Day

March 16 – 9:00 am and March 17 – 10:00 am

Media Little League takes great pride in the condition of our complex and particularly our fields. It takes a lot of hard work and effort to maintain the excellent condition of our complex. **We need your help!** Each spring prior to the start of the baseball season, under the direction of our Field Director, Mike Caramanico, and our Directors of Facilities, Joe Rabena and Pete McGough, we prepare the complex and fields for the upcoming season. With enough volunteers it takes only a few hours of effort on Saturday to complete the required work. All of the work is then rewarded with a delicious barbecue lunch that has been prepared in past years by Doug Anderson. Please come and join us this year.



Field Director, Mike Caramanico directing Field Day activities.



Field Day volunteers enjoying lunch prepared by Doug Anderson after completing field day activities.

Volunteers

We are a volunteer organization, and are committed to creating the best environment possible for your child. We need your help, please stop and sign-up at our volunteer table at Registration. We need coaches, umpires snack bar openers and closers, fence ads and team sponsors.

Opening Day 2002 Set

April 13

The Media Little League 2002 baseball season will officially start with an opening day parade of teams on April 13. A committee has been formed to put together a day of fun for our league's players and their families. The day will be highlighted by Little League baseball at its finest as we play the first games of a season which promises to be an exciting one.

There will also be a dedication ceremony for the new fieldhouse building erected last year. Special recognition will be given to those who donated so much of their time, effort and materials in order to make this wonderful addition to our facility possible.

Media Little League 2002 Board of Directors

President	Joe Remy
Vice-President	Tony Antonello
Secretary	Rick Poynton
Treasurer	Rich Petersen
Player Agent	Scott Bosco
League Info Officer/Web	Steve Butt
Directors of Baseball (Chr.)	Mark Hill
	Bob Tull
	Jim Still
Tournament Directors	Mark Hill
	Jim Heller
Director of Safety	Matt Melone
Commisisioner - Majors	Phil Mullen
Commissioner - American	Joe Volpe
Commissioner - National	Scott Kotcamp
Commissioner - Continental	Dan Doyle
Commissioner - T-Ball	Jim Robbins
Director of Fund Raising	Ed Snow
Directors of Public Relations	Tom Mehalick
	Suzanne Manness
Directors of Facilities	Joe Rabena
	Pete McGough
Field Director	Mike Caramanico
Equipment Managers	Steve Butt
	Bill Haines
Director of Umpires	Mark Holland
Umpires - ML	Mark Holland
Umpires - AL	Bob Fanelli
Umpires - NL	Ernie Ricco
Snack Bar Directors	Joe Ryan
Sponsor/Fence Ad	Joseph Travaglini
Long-Range Planning (Chr.)	Charlie O'Donnell
Long-Range Planning	Steve McCoy
Long-Range Planning	Joe Cavalcante
Long-Range Planning	Eric Fuller
Long-Range Planning	Fred Dotts
Long-Range Planning	Dave Panichi
Long-Range Planning	Bill Hagan
Long-Range Planning	Ed Stevens

50th ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

Alumni/Parent Party and Season Opening Parade



Major League team Campbell's Boathouse enjoys a photo opportunity during the Season Opening Parade.



A sell out crowd at St. Mary Magdalen Parish Center enjoyed the show and music provided by Ed and the Beatlemaniacs.



Notable guests at Opening Day Activities included: (standing left to right) Judge R. Barclay Surrick, former MLL member Steve Danby, Phillies Announcer Harry Kalas, Long time MLL Board Members Eric Fuller and Fred Dotts, Superintendent of Rose-Tree Media School District Laird Warner and the Philly Phanatic in the foreground.



The Philly Phanatic entertained the crowd along State Street waiting for the Season Opening Parade.



The Season Opening Parade along State Street in downtown Media featured Little League players, bands, floats, fire engines and rescue trucks.



Philadelphia Phillies left fielder, Pat Burrell, autographs a baseball for Phil Blonski as Phil Mullen looks on.

50th ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Day Fun and Games



Description of Our Leagues

Media Little League operates under an annual charter from Little League International in Williamsport, PA, and is comprised of five leagues which serve approximately 500 youngsters from ages 6 to 12. The objective of MLL is to provide a safe, enjoyable environment for our children to learn the game of baseball, as well as the benefits of teamwork, sportsmanship, practice and competition. We make every effort to ensure that players are assigned to leagues best suited for their ability. Optimally, within the rules of Williamsport and varying sizes of registered age groups, we aim to provide the best environment possible for all of our youngsters. The five leagues within the MLL are:

Major League

This is the highest level of little league baseball, with teams comprised of youngsters primarily 11 and 12 years olds. On a highly limited basis, including a skill evaluation and specific parental consent, a small number of 10 year olds may be considered eligible to play on a Major League team. These teams are assembled using a confidential draft selection process, using "pooled" skill evaluations to maximize equality. Players remain on the same team from year to year, until their little league eligibility ends. There is a post-season MLL championship tournament.

American League

This level is comprised of players primarily 10 - 12 years old. On a highly limited basis, including a skill evaluation and specific parental consent, a small number of 9 year olds may be considered eligible to play on an American League team. These teams are assembled using a confidential draft selection process, using "pooled" skill evaluations to maximize equality. Players do not remain on the same team from year to year. There are post-season MLL playoff games.

National League

This level is comprised of players primarily 9 years old. Based on the number of teams and registered players, the results of their prior year manager's evaluations, and their evaluation results, a sizable number of 8 year old players will also be assigned to this league. These teams are assembled using a confidential skill-based assignment process (not a draft by the managers). Players do not remain on the same team from year to year. Scores and records are kept. Due to players' ages, certain rules are modified to ensure safety and the highest level of play. There are post-season MLL playoff games.

Continental League

This level is primarily for 7 year olds with prior T-Ball experience and those 8 year olds not assigned to the National League. Rules are modified and coaches do the pitching in this league. Scores and records are not kept.

T-Ball League

This level is primarily for players 5 and 6 years old and those 7 year olds without prior T-Ball experience. It is designed as their introduction to baseball. Scores and records are not kept.

Thanks to All

By Charlie O'Donnell – 2001 MLL President

The 2001 baseball season has concluded with nearly 500 children participating in MLL. The children told me they learned baseball fundamentals, increased their skills, were competitive, loved their uniforms, loved the snack bar and had a tremendous amount of fun. The parents also echoed these same sentiments. In the spirit of concluding our commemorative 50th anniversary, I thought this would be a good opportunity to tell everyone in our community why MLL was so much fun in the 2001 season.

It was a great time because the Board of Directors of MLL did a great job generating fun for the children. The Officers, Joe Remy, Rick Poynton, Rich Peterson, and Player Agent Jim Robbins did a great job administering the daily business of MLL and generating fun for everyone. Mark Holland and Tony Antonello moved the fun along by instructing our managers and coaches how to teach this great game. Mark Hill got our 8 to 12 years olds having a lot of fun with post season tournament play. It was the first time in the history of MLL that 8 year olds played in a tournament.

Our league Commissioners, Bill Hagen, Mark Glenn, Joe Volpe, Scott Bosco and Bob Tull ensured that from t-ball to the major leagues everyone had an organized fun environment to practice and play games. Jay Baker and Ed Snow raised money to help pay for all this fun. Tom Mehalick told everybody about the fun we had by publishing the first newsletter in the history of Media Little League.

Joe Rabena and Scott Kotcamp got our new building constructed, the fences fixed, the scoreboard operational, the backstops safe and made sure that we were in a really safe place. Mike Caramanico and Bob Fanelli made sure that we had beautiful fields to play on and have all this fun. Steve Butt and Bill Haines saw to it that we not only had bats, balls, helmets and equipment, but really cool uniforms. Steve also kept our website up to date. Mark Holland, Don Harris and Joe Travaglini, made sure that we had a lot of fun by providing plate and base umpires for each game. Thank God for the umpires.

Suzanne Manness really made sure we had a lot of fun by having all those great snacks at our new snack bar. Steve McCoy, Phil Mullen, Joe Cavalcante, John Lacey, Eric Fuller, Ed Stevens, David Panichi, Fred Dotts, Tom Connelly, Jim McEllhenney saw to it that anything and everything that needed to be done in the league and at our complex sure was done and our fun kept coming.

That's what the children told me as to why they had so much fun. The Officers and Directors of MLL did a great job for all of the children in our community during the 2001 season. It was my honor and privilege to work with each and every one of them. We must appreciate the time, effort, interest and energy these people provided to ensure all of the children in our great community had a terrific time.

In light of the tragedy of September 11, 2001, it is especially important that our children remember the fun they had during the 2001 Baseball season. MLL will continue the effort so that everyone in our great community, especially our children, will have great memories about the terrific game of baseball for another 50 years.

I thank all that participated in and supported MLL during the 2001 season, volunteers, sponsors, patrons and especially the Officers and Board of Directors. The 2002 Baseball season will be here soon and remember, you too can have fun in 2002.

A Special Thank You

By Suzanne Manness

Well, the 2001 hot dog and hamburger season at Media Little League is over. We have our new and improved snack bar completed. It was another successful year for our snack bar even though we weren't able to launch our new menu items. The snack bar was a work in progress for awhile and that prevented our trying out a lot of new items. Maybe we'll be able to have Donnie Hazziz meatball hoagies next year.

For now though, I would like to offer my thanks to the many people who were instrumental in helping me make it through another snack bar season. First I'd like to thank my partner, Ruth Ann Morris, who took the burden off my shoulder many times. Ruth Ann had many creative ideas for the snack bar, for all her hard work (she had a little baby, after all!), I truly am indebted to her. I also want to thank my dear friend and retired (that was a joke!) snack bar head Ro Mullen. Ro was always there to cover the snack bar when I needed her; she always gave me great advice on how to run the snack bar; she was my ear when I needed to talk about the snack bar. Few people may be aware of the fact that Ro Mullen is the one woman who is responsible for making that snack bar the great fundraiser that it has been all these years. While in charge of the snack bar, Ro endeavored to keep prices low and fair to our Little League family while still managing to turn a profit. This was Ro's last year at Media Little League, and I'm not sure that she will ever be replaceable. Ro is one in a million, and I know there are not words enough to tell her how much all of us appreciate all she has done for the children of Media Little League.

I also want thank all the women and one man who served as openers and closers this year. The snack bar could not operate without these wonderful volunteers

who gave up one night a week to take on the responsibility of the running the snack bar. This year those people included Barb Protesto, Rachel and Jim Burns, Janet Joy, Lori Kish-Burdsall, Kathy Robbins, Marie O'Donnell, Chris Sincavage, Ann Uhlman, and Deb Engleka, Kim Panichi, Purina Antonello, and Linda Hill. And to Linda Hill, who was forever getting a call from me (especially during post-season play) with a request to handle the snack bar duties again, I want to offer a very special thank you for her help and her friendship. Also thanks to Madelyn Hill who kept all us adults updated on prices in the snack bar! The snack bar could not have operated without all these wonderful volunteers. And thanks also to all those who worked their shift in the snack bar without complaint and with a smile on their face. They are the ones who make our snack bar the friendliest snack bar in Delaware County.

Also I need to thank two terrific men, Scott Kotcamp and Joe Rabena, who worked so hard to get the new snack bar completed and who had to live with my nagging and complaining when things weren't just right. Both of these gentlemen responded to my every request and gave up countless hours of their valuable free time to work out the kinks in the new building.

Thanks also to my fellow board members who helped out whenever they were needed this year. Rich Peterson, Joe Remy, and Joe Cavalcante were the best at working the grill during District 19 games and Opening Day. Phil Mullen single-handedly covered that counter and stocked that soda machine many times. And what can I say about the Board President, Charlie O'Donnell? Charlie was forever cleaning the snack bar and was largely responsible for the cleanliness of the place. He is truly the man with the mop!

In fact every member of the board has been a help in one way or another this year. I thank each and every one of them for always helping me handle my responsibilities.

Next year there will be a new team in place to run the snack bar. If anyone would be interested in helping, please get in touch with the League. I have had a wonderful time volunteering at Media Little League, but it is time for me to retire from snack bar duties. I will remember all the smiles and all the laughter of all the children I have seen come through our program. Media Little League is truly a wonderful place for our children, and I am happy to have been a small part of this program.

Little League Pledge

**I TRUST IN GOD
I LOVE MY COUNTRY
AND WILL RESPECT ITS LAWS
I WILL PLAY FAIR AND STRIVE TO WIN
BUT WIN OR LOSE
I WILL ALWAYS DO MY BEST**

2001 MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

MAJOR LEAGUE

HAGAN'S FUNERAL HOME

Manager - Joe Cavalcante
Coach - Eric Fuller
Coach - Fred Dotts

Timothy Brown
Philip DeGrouchy
Justin Dugan-Fellman
Ben Egan
Nicholas Grouzes
Stephen Higgins
Doug Moppert
Will Mellor
Michael Quintans
Alex Ruch
Peter Sowa
Eric Volpe

AMERICAN LEAGUE

MEDIA OPTIMISTS

Manager - Eric Harris
Coach - Mark Hill

Richard J. Burns
Jourdan Chaney
Isaac Chen
William Harris
Jordan Hill
William Horrocks
Christopher McCusker
Chris Naccarelli
Tristin Raines
Drew Schaefer
Ashwin Swamy
Brad Wenzel

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TAYLOR RENTAL

Manager - Tony Antonello
Coach - Joe Remy

Philip Antonello
Elijah Barrad
Brendan DelGatto
Jacob Enterlin
Andrew Feuerstein
Benjamin Hartzell
Joseph Infantino
Connor McCarren
Brian Mehalick
Will Provost
Andrew Remy
Vincent Travaglini
Bryan Zoll

We hope that you have enjoyed our second Newsletter. If you should have any ideas for articles in future Newsletters, wish to contribute an article for a future Newsletter, or have questions or comments concerning this Newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone at (610) 566-0702 or via email at tmehalick@aol.com.

Thank you,
Tom Mehalick – Director of Public Relations