



MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE



P.O. Box 1752, Media, PA 19063

www.medialittleleague.org

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United Way Donor Choice Code No. 04445

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NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2002

MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE 2002 AWARDS FAIR SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2002

The Media Little League will hold its Annual Awards Fair on June 15. For the last couple of years, we've hosted well over 500 people on average...you don't want to miss this year's event! We've planned this event so that the whole family can enjoy it! With hundreds of "future Major Leaguers" expected, it will be important that parents be present to "coach" their children. We're very excited about this year's event, and hope you'll be able to join in the fun. Thank you!

- WHEN:** Saturday, June 15
Rain Date: Sunday, June 16
- WHERE:** MLL Baseball Complex @
Springton Lake Middle School
- ENTERTAINMENT:** Dunk Tank, Games, Prizes, Music
- COST:** There will be **NO Admission Fee.**
(Food will be served all day at our expanded Snack Bar)
- SCHEDULE:**
- 9:00am** Championship or exhibition games in Natl/Amer/Major Leagues
- Skills competitions in Contl/Tball Leagues
- 12:00-4:00pm** Games - HR Derby, tug-of-war, relay throw, 3 legged, izzy-dizzy, sack and cup & bottle races, water balloon toss, etc.
- Activities - Fair games, dunk tank, face painting, balloon clowns, etc.
- Door Prizes
- Awards & trophy presentations

President's Message

Mid Season

The last Newsletter spoke to the League's goals of implementing more teaching programs at all levels this season. The league has been true to its promise. Mike Bucci conducted two coaching clinics. Mark Holland ran an Umpiring school. The implementation of these programs should have a positive effect at all levels of our organization.

The gods were in our favor and the rain held off, helping make Field Day a huge success. The participation was at an all time high. Under the direction of Mike Caramanico and Scott Kotcamp we were able to transform the National League Field into a first class playing field. After all of that hard work we all appreciated Doug Anderson's gourmet barbeque lunch.

Share Drive/Picture Day ran like clockwork, with Ed Snow and Tony Antonello organizing all players and coaches to fill necessary time slots and locations.

Opening Day was a huge success with all the teams participating in the ceremony. Local community leaders, fire and police departments, and various special guests, showed their support by joining us for this special event. We were privileged to have Harry Kalas throw the first pitch of the season, and to speak to the crowd with that trademark voice of his. What a memory for all of our players!

As we mark the completion of the baseball season, I want to thank all players, parents, managers and coaches for their continuing support of the Media Little League program.

Sincerely,
Joe Remy
2002 President Media Little League

Post Season Baseball

Come out and support our tournament and all-star teams. In addition to 10 year old and 12 year old Little League tournament teams, MLL will also have 8, 9 and 11 year old all-star teams. Check the schedules and follow all of the action on our website www.medialittleleague.org.

Media Little League Objectives

As detailed in our previous Newsletter, an eleven-man committee prepared recommendations for improving Media Little League baseball. The set of recommendations prepared by the committee was presented to the Board members and the recommendations were approved at the December Board meeting. Within these recommendations were objectives for each of the 5 MLL Leagues. The objectives are as follows:

T-Ball League

- Provide players/parents with a fun and safe environment as part of their first experience in organized baseball.
- Provide basic instruction on fundamental baseball skills.
- Minimize the emphasis on competition.
- Ensure that players and families want to return to MLL for the next season.

Continental League

- Provide players/parents with a fun and safe environment to play baseball.
- Provide all players with basic instruction on all fundamental baseball skills, rules and etiquette, to prepare them to play competitive baseball.
- Provide opportunities to play competitive baseball (optional).
- Create a competitive focus on skills development.
- Ensure that players and families want to return to MLL for the next season.

National League

- Provide players/parents with a fun and safe environment to play baseball.
- Provide all players with instruction on all fundamental baseball skills, rules and etiquette.
- Play competitive baseball (optional).
- Provide opportunities to play post-season baseball.
- Ensure that players and families want to return to MLL for the next season.
- Encourage off-season baseball play and/or practice, to sustain continued interest in baseball.

American League

- Provide players/parents with a fun and safe environment.
- Provide all players with continued instruction on all fundamental baseball skills, rules and etiquette.
- Play competitive baseball.
- Provide opportunities to play post-season baseball.
- Ensure that players and families want to return to MLL for the next season.
- Encourage off-season baseball play and/or practice, to sustain continued interest in baseball.
- Prepare the best players to play and win in post-season Tournament baseball.

Major League

- Provide players/parents with a fun and safe environment.

- Provide all players with continued instruction on all fundamental baseball skills, rules and etiquette.
- Prepare strongest players to play and win in Tournament baseball.
- Provide opportunities to play post-season baseball.
- Play highest level of competitive baseball in Media Little League.
- Ensure that eligible players and families want to return to MLL for the next season.
- Encourage off-season baseball play and/or practice, to sustain continued interest in baseball.
- The league will be designed with an orientation to facilitate almost all 12 year olds being selected to play in the Major League.

As the 2002 baseball season comes to a conclusion, please let us know if we have met our objectives. We would like your comments concerning the objectives we met, the objectives we did not meet and why, and also your suggestions in order that we can meet all of our objectives in future years. Please send your comments to tmehalick@comcast.net or Tom Mehalick, C/O Media Little League, P.O. Box 1752, Media, PA 19063.

Field Day 2002

A Special Thank You

A record number of volunteers participated in this year's Field Day. Under the direction of our Field Director, Mike Caramanico, our Directors of Facilities, Joe Rabena and Pete McGough and our National League Commissioner, Scott Kotcamp, we were able to transform the National League Field into a first class playing field and also prepare the other fields and the entire complex for the upcoming season.

A special thank you to all who participated in Field Day 2002. The response to our request for help was outstanding. Without your help we would not be able to maintain the excellent condition of our Little League complex. Thank you again for your help.

Media Little League Website

New URL

The Media Little League website has a new, easy to remember, URL. It's <http://www.medialittleleague.org>. For now, this new URL links you to our existing site so you can get there either the old way or the new way. Follow the action of the MLL season with scores, summaries, event calendar, etc. as others have (over 8000 hits already this year). "Bookmark It"

If you are interested in helping with the website (and we are searching for our future webmaster), please contact Steve Butt (stephen.w.butt@lmco.com) or Joe Remy (joeremy.streamline@verizon.net).

OPENING DAY 2002

Harry Kalas Opens the Season

A brilliant springtime morning sun shone through the clouds as Media Little League's opening day parade and field ceremony commenced on Saturday, April 13th. The festivities were highlighted by the presence of the great Phillies broadcaster, Harry Kalas who was recently elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

All the teams in Media Little League were well represented as the Rose Tree Fire Co. trucks led a colorful parade of baseball players to our field complex. Media VFW Post 3460 Honor Guard presented the colors for the National Anthem, performed beautifully in a combined effort by the Springton Lake Middle School Band and Chorus. This was followed by Reverend Paul Vail who reminded us of the preciousness of our youth in his invocation.



Players prepare to parade from Springton Lake Middle School to fields for 2002 opening day ceremonies.

Honored guests included Police Chiefs, Tom Davis and Martin Wissinich, Councilpersons Joan Hagan, Paul Robinson and Pete Alyanakian, Media Mayor Bob McMahon, RTM School Superintendent, Laird Warner and District 19 official George Plotts.

Quite a few of the past presidents of the league were present and were introduced. The many successes of MLL president 2000-2001, Charlie O'Donnell were mentioned and, in appreciation, he was given a MLL windbreaker. Also recognized for their service were a group of gentlemen who retired from the board this year. A special plaque was presented to former board member John Lacey who was an integral part of the success of MLL during his eighteen years of service.



Past Presidents of Media Little League present for 2002 opening day ceremonies.



Joe Remy presents a special plaque to former board member John Lacey for eighteen years of service to the league.

Harry Kalas spoke briefly but shared some wisdom with the children as he reminded them to respect their parents, coaches and umpires. He also emphasized respect for the great game of baseball. MLL President, Joe Remy, presented a congratulatory plaque to Harry recognizing his Hall of Fame election. Mr. Kalas then threw out the ceremonial "first pitch" to Eric Volpe, catcher for last year's champs, Hagan's Funeral Home. This was followed by a stirring rendition of "America the Beautiful" by the Springton Lake chorus to close out the field ceremony.



Top: Harry Kalas prepares to throw the first pitch of the 2002 season. Bottom: Harry Kalas signs the first pitch baseball for Eric Volpe, catcher for the 2001 Major League champions, Hagan's Funeral Home.

OPENING DAY 2002



League Commissioner Reports

Major League – Phil Mullen



With the Major League regular season now complete, a very close pennant race will lead to an even more exciting playoff series. After several seasons as a 5 team league, we expanded the Major Leagues to 6 teams this year. In addition to returning managers Joe Cavalcante and Jim Robbins, Mark Hill returned to the bench, and rookies Ernie Ricco, Jim Still, and Bob Tull moved up from the American League. This is a competitive group, and a group committed to developing our young athletes in the true spirit of Little League Baseball...we're fortunate to have them!

Speaking of competitive, the players have had a great season. As of this writing, 3 teams are jockeying for first place with 7 wins each, and it's clear that the pennant winner won't be decided until the last game of the season.

You can't beat that! In this year of change, we've also decided to broaden the playoff process to a full double-elimination format. Those games will start Saturday, June 1, and the schedule and results are accessible on our website at www.medialittleleague.org. We expect the playoffs to run right up to, and possibly finish on, our June 15 Awards Fair. We hope to see you there. Remember that all of our graduating 12 Year Olds are honored with a trophy that day, and by then we expect to be in a position to name our 11-12 Year Old District 19 Tournament Team.

We've made a concerted effort this year to provide extra instruction and playing opportunities for the 11 and 12 year old players interested in post-season play. Every Saturday at 4:00, a group of Major League managers and coaches have volunteered their time to work with these players. Thanks, guys! We hope that this extra work will assist them on either the Tournament Team (to be managed by Joe Cavalcante), or the 11 Year Old All Star team. Try to schedule some time to come up to the Field and watch these post season games...it's some outstanding baseball!

Enjoy the summer, and, if you get a chance, consider a trip to Cooperstown to see our friend Harry Kalas inducted into the Hall of Fame, or to Williamsport to watch the Little League World Series (with the Media Little League team on the field?).

National League – Scott Kotcamp

An exciting year has been occurring in the National League thus far. With a logjam at the top of the standings and the start of the playoffs near, only 2.5 games separate the top 5 of 7 teams and the two remaining teams are only 2 behind the pack. The playoffs will be a wide-open affair.

Team sponsors; ABCO of Delaware county, coached by Jim Heller & Matt Melone; Caramanico, coached by Mike Henry & Brian Campbell; Granite Run Pontiac, coached by Ken Williamson & Bill Samson; Dr. Gregory Hillyard, DMD, coached by Scott Bosco & Pat Degrouchy; Media Police, coached by Jim Hobson & Chet Brown; RT Getty, coached by Pete McGough & Joe Travaglini; Taylor Rental, coached by Ken Kramer, Matt Prior and Don Nasmith have done a fantastic job developing the players and making this a successful and rewarding experience for all.

The National League recently named its 9-year-old All-Star team and it looks forward to playing in three local tournaments, along with participating in many special games scheduled with surrounding leagues. Scott Bosco, Jim Heller and Matt Melone will coach the team. The league looks forward to an exiting post-season, which begins in mid-June.

Tee-Ball – Jim Robbins



It has been an exciting and fun year for the 10 teams making up the T-Ball League for the 2002 season. For the first time baseball skills are being taught and stressed in a curriculum fashion. Sometimes before games, and sometimes after the first inning, the teams are getting together and the coaches are teaching and practicing baseball. A special skills day was scheduled for May 18, 2002, but the weather was not cooperative. The coaches did not want to cancel this special day, so it was rescheduled for Sunday, June 2, 2002. All the players have a chance to "show their stuff" performing at the 10 skill areas. As the season winds down, the players who have progressed enough will be allowed to start swinging for the fences against the coaches pitching to them. All this could not be accomplished without the great managers and coaches who have given so much of their time to make this a truly fantastic year.

Clinics, Clinics, Clinics!

One of Media Little League's goals was to implement more teaching programs at all levels. This season, the league provided the opportunity for managers, coaches and parents to attend numerous clinics conducted on the fundamentals of the game, organizing practices, proper pitching techniques and umpiring. Mike Bucci conducted two coaching clinics, one for Tee-Ball and Continental managers, coaches and parents and one for Major, American and National managers and coaches. Mike's goal is to not only teach the children the fundamentals of the game but to make the game interesting and fun to play. Mike Manning of All Star Baseball Academy conducted a clinic for all interested managers and coaches on proper pitching technique. Last but not least, Mark (Blue) Holland ran an outstanding umpiring school. Mark's school will ensure that MLL remains the only local Little League organization that utilizes all volunteer umpires and the volunteer umpires are knowledgeable in the rules of the game. If you missed the clinics this year, be sure to attend next year.



Mike Bucci (foreground) putting managers and coaches through an organized practice designed to teach fundamentals of baseball to Little League players and at the same time make the practices fun.

**ALL STAR BASEBALL ACADEMY'S
2002 SUMMER CAMPS**

MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE

JUNE 24 - 28 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

AGES 7 – 12

**CALL 610-355-2411
FOR REGISTRATION AND DETAILS**

