



2017 Annual General Meeting





AGENDA

St. Albert Minor Baseball Association - 2017 Annual General Meeting

SAMBA Clubhouse

November 15th, 2017 - 7:00pm

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome by President and Introduction of SAMBA Board Members
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of 2016 AGM minutes
5. Proposed Amendments to SAMBA By-Laws and Handbook
6. Call for Open Executive Board Members
7. SAMBA Executives and Directors Reports
 - President's Report
 - Questions/Comments from any of the directors reports
8. Financial Report
 - 2017 Financial Review
 - 2018 Budget Review
9. New Business
10. Adjournment



Meeting Notes

St. Albert Minor Baseball Association

Annual General Meeting – 2016

Date: October 19, 2016

Place/Time: SAMBA Clubhouse 6:30 pm

Attendees: Board Members /Appointed & Non- Board Members/Members at Large:
Kurtus Millar (President), Colin Leathem (Vice President), Sherry Kahler (Secretary), Lorie Runnalls (Treasurer), Pat Sullivan (Registrar), Brian Bourassa (Facilities Director), Travis Parker (Technical Director), Brenda Bourassa (Jr. Rep Director), Neil Neary (Sr. Rep Director), Danielle Moffat (Special Events Director), Cori White (Marketing Director), Barb Kitzen (SAMBA/MMBA Liaison), Shelley Hudec (SAMBA/Legal Liaison), Jason Enright (Equipment Manager), Byron Whittal (Asst. Equipment Manager), John Bresler (Umpire Coordinator), John Robinson (Website Administrator), plus 59 Members At Large.

Absentees: Michelle Whyte (House League Director), Kelly Phelan (SAMBA/Tigers Liaison)

Distribution: All Attendees

Item:

Action:

1. Welcome by President and Introduction of Board Members

President Kurtus Millar welcomed all SAMBA Members and Guests to the 2016 Annual General Meeting, acknowledged the very large turnout (59 individuals from the membership were in attendance) and thanked everyone for attending. He further introduced each of the current Board of Directors, and acknowledged others that hold non-board positions, but are an integral part of the operations of the Association.

2. Call to Order

Motion: Kurtus Millar called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

2nd: Sherry Kahler

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion
Carried

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Neil Neary

2nd: Brenda Bourassa

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion
Carried

4. Approval of 2015 AGM Minutes

Motion: Brenda Bourassa

2nd: Lorie Runnalls

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion
Carried

5. Proposed Amendments to SAMBA Bylaws; Sr. Rep Director Neil Neary reviewed the current Bylaws, and in accordance with Section 1(d) of the Societies Act, provided to the Membership via Email and through an advertisement in the Gazette Newspaper the mandatory 21 days prior to this AGM, Notice of the following Special Resolutions, requiring Consideration, Membership Vote and Approval at this meeting:

Special Resolution #1- New Membership Category

Resolution to add Section 4.1 (e) to the current SAMBA Bylaws, to read as follows;

4.1(e) Director/Officer- A duly elected or appointed director or officer will be a member of the Association for the duration of their appointment or term;

Call for Questions from the Membership- None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion
Carried

Special Resolution #2- Electronic Voting for Board Members

Resolution to add Section 5.7 (j) to the current SAMBA Bylaws, to read as follows;

5.7(j) Resolutions made in writing, posted for voting on the secure Directors page of the SAMBA website, and passed by a majority of the Directors, shall be as effective as a resolution passed at a meeting of the Board of Directors duly held and constituted;

Call for Questions from the Membership- None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion

Carried

Special Resolution #3- Change to Term of Office or Officers

Resolution to amend Section 6.4 of the current SAMBA Bylaws- "The Directors and/or Officers shall be entitled to serve a maximum term of Two (2) consecutive years in the same position", to read as follows:

- The Directors and/or Officers shall be entitled to serve their term of two (2) consecutive years. The Treasurer will be entitled to serve a term of two (2) years with a maximum two (2) consecutive term limit in that position;

Call for Questions from the Membership- None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion
Carried

Special Resolution #4- Change to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) Date

Resolution to amend Section 4.4 (a) of the current SAMBA Bylaws- "An Annual General Meeting shall be held once a year for the purpose of electing the Board of Directors, approval of the year-end Financial Statement, and any Resolutions so advertised. The AGM shall be held no later than October 30 at such date, time and place, as the Board of Directors shall determine", to read as follows:

- An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held once a year for the purpose of electing the Board of Directors, approval of the year-end Financial Statement, and any Resolutions so advertised. The AGM shall be held no later than November 30 at such date, time and place, as the Board of Directors shall determine;

Call for Questions from the Membership- None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion
Carried

6. Call for Open Executive and Board/Non-Board Positions

Kurtus spoke in regards to the Open Board Positions, stressing how crucial it is to fill these important roles. Effective leadership and participation will help to ensure SAMBA's success as one of the Great Baseball Associations in Alberta. He further acknowledged and thanked the following Out-Going Board Members and Non-Board Members alike for their efforts and contributions throughout the 2016 year;

Open Executive and Board Positions:

President- (Currently Kurtus Millar)

Technical Director- (Currently Travis Parker)

Secretary- (Currently Sherry Kahler)

Jr. Rep Director- (Currently Brenda Bourassa)

House League Director (1 year)- (Currently Michelle Whyte)

Treasurer (1 year)- (Currently Lorie Runnalls)

Facilities Director- (Currently Brian Bourassa)

Registrar- (Currently Pat Sullivan)

Open Non-Board Positions:

Asst. Equipment Manager- (Currently Byron Whittall)

Bingo Coordinator- (Currently Bob Fisher)

Appointed Members:

SAMBA/ Tigers Program Liaison- (Tigers Appointed)

SAMBA/ Sr. Cardinals Program Liaison- (Sr. Cardinals Appointed)

SAMBA/ MMBA Program Liaison- (MMBA Appointed)

SAMBA/ Legal Program Liaison- (Legal Baseball Appointed)

SAMBA/ Prospects Program Liaison- (Prospects Appointed)

Elected In-Coming Board Members:

Call for Nominations for the Position of **President:**

Colin Leathem Nominates KURTUS MILLAR for Re-Election

(2nd to the Nomination- Dave Beattie)

Final Call for Nominations: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Elected: KURTUS MILLAR

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Technical Director:**

John Bresler Nominates TRAVIS PARKER for Re-Election

(2nd to the Nomination- Tony Golab)

Final Call for Nominations: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Elected: TRAVIS PARKER

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Secretary:**

Jason Enright Nominates BRENDA BOURASSA

(2nd to the Nomination- Neil Neary)

Shelley Hudec Nominates BARB KITZEN

(2nd to the Nomination- Greg Reiniger)

Final Call for Nominations: None

In Favor: Brenda Bourassa- 40+/- Barb Kitzen- 2

Opposed: None

Elected: BRENDA BOURASSA

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Jr. Rep Director:**

Travis Parker Nominates MARK BRISSON

(2nd to the Nomination- Brenda Bourassa)

Final Call for Nominations: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Elected: MARK BRISSON

Call for Nominations for the Position of **House League Director:**

Lorie Runnalls Nominates MICHELLE WHYTE for Re-Election

(2nd to the Nomination- Gil Girard)

Final Call for Nominations: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Elected: MICHELLE WHYTE (1 year term only)

- **An Amendment will be presented at the 2017 AGM to split this position, allowing for 2 individuals to take on the respective duties.**

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Treasurer:**

Brenda Bourassa Nominates LORIE RUNNALLS for Re-Election

(2nd to the Nomination- Colin Leathem)

Final Call for Nominations: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Elected: LORIE RUNNALLS (1 year term only)

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Facilities Director:**

Neil Neary Nominates BRIAN BOURASSA

(2nd to the Nomination- Sean Erikson)

Final Call for Nominations: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Elected: BRIAN BOURASSA

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Registrar:**

John Bresler Nominates PAT SULLIVAN for Re-Election

(2nd to the Nomination- Brian Bourassa)

Final Call for Nominations: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Elected: PAT SULLIVAN

Elected In-Coming Non-Board Members:

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Asst. Equipment Coordinator**

BYRON WHITTAL agrees to stand for Re-Election

Final Call for Nominations: None

Elected: BYRON WHITTAL

Call for Nominations for the Position of **Bingo Coordinator**

Danielle Moffat Nominates SHERRY KOWALUK

Final Call for Nominations: None

Elected: SHERRY KOWALUK

7. SAMBA Executive and Director's Reports**7A. President's Report**

The 2016 season was the "Year of Rain", but also another year of learning and growth. SAMBA continued to enhance our experience, while improving the various programs to put forth the best programs possible. The registration numbers exploded making SAMBA the largest baseball association in Alberta. In his President's Report, Kurtus Millar details the Achievements and Challenges in 2016, as well as some of the Key Objectives for the upcoming year, highlights of which are as follows:

Achievements

- SAMBA registrations surpassed initial expectations, with 819 total players registered in all divisions in 2016. The SAMBA Board put in countless hours, and worked diligently to make this increase in player numbers work, and ensure success in all levels of the programs.
- SAMBA Rep Teams had a tremendous season, with the most teams making the playoffs since 1993. Overall stats included a Western Championships Gold, 5 Provincial Gold Medals, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze.
- SAMBA's Fall Ball Program and Winter Baseball Camps continued into their 6th Season and enjoyed good participation numbers. Additional successful events this year included the Coach Certification Program, the Spring and Summer Camps, Tigers Camp, and Girls Baseball Day. All programs had very good registration numbers and produced very positive feedback.
- SAMBA again hosted Provincial Championships, this time at the Mosquito AA, Peewee A, Bantam AAA and Midget AA levels, and in August hosted the Western Championships for the Peewee, Bantam, and Midget AA levels for the second straight year. Outstanding reviews were received from Baseball Alberta, the Western Canada Baseball Association and from all those attending this event.

- Unfortunately most of the regularly scheduled yearly tournaments, including the ever popular Early Bird Tournament had to be cancelled this year due to rain.
- The House League division had another very successful year, and despite the weather, regular season games, as well as the mid-season and year-end tournaments were completed successfully. Rally Cap saw immense growth again this year, with SAMBA expanding the program yet again to include more teams, coaches, and even an additional playing field.
- The Grounds Crew fought a hard fight during the season, due to the tremendous amount of rain experienced this summer. Many hours were spent by the Crew, alongside SAMBA Directors and Association members, maintaining the fields to the highest level. A number of repair and maintenance projects were also completed, and new tarps were purchased for all of the Diamonds.
- SAMBA launched its new Website, which has received thousands of hits, and continued to heighten its Social Media profile through Facebook and Twitter, keeping all of the membership up to date.

Challenges

- House League Level monitoring and support continued to be an issue, as the program has grown to a level that is difficult for one person to maintain. An Amendment will be presented at the 2017 AGM to split this key position into 2 separate roles.
- Grants and Special Fundraising is an area that SAMBA will continue to focus heavily on. SAMBA is very fortunate to call Legion Ballpark home, but the facility is beginning to show its age, and will require many upgrades over the next few years.

2017 Objectives

- The Membership will incur Fee increases in 2017 to sustain the facilities, utility cost increases, salaried grounds crews and coach honorariums.
- SAMBA's current Bylaws, Policies, Procedures, and League Rules are in desperate need of review and revision. Comprehensive published documentation will ensure continuity and conformity to regulations, and decrease the volume of issues that continually arise.
- Early Coach Selections and Mentorship will be encouraged throughout the season, to allow better participation in the Winter Camps. As well, a focus on Umpire mentorship will be encouraged to address the disparity in the numbers of Players vs. Umpires.
- Individual meetings will be scheduled with the Tigers, Sr. Cardinals and Prospects Academy programs to ensure all costs and needs are

covered, and to guarantee a better, more clear understanding of the terms from all parties involved.

- SAMBA will continue its focus on a regular and efficient field and equipment maintenance program due to aging grounds and equipment. Discussions will take place with the City in the hopes of garnering more support for the facilities, and allowing growth to the membership.
- A continued focus on Sponsorship and Grant opportunities, which are integral to the running of programs, the maintenance of the facilities, and the overall success of the organization, will be maintained.
- The creation of a Contingency Fund for emergency maintenance, special projects and/or any other additional expenditures deemed necessary, will be implemented, through an increase in member registration, and it is anticipated the fund will contain a minimum balance of \$20,000 by the end of the year 2017.

Acknowledgements

- Kurtus further thanked all of the Board of Directors who came together as a team and tackled some very tough issues this year. Most assume multiple roles and go above and beyond all expectations to ensure SAMBA maintains its reputation as a first class organization. Special Congratulations were afforded to Jason Enright, who continues to volunteer countless hours to our players and programs.

7B. Questions/Comments from the Director's Reports

Kurtus gave those in attendance a few minutes to review the various Directors Reports and asked for any questions or comments.

- No Questions or Comments

8. Financial Report:

8A. 2015 Financial Review

- Treasurer Lorie Runnalls provided an overview of the Financial Statements for 2016, and answered a number of general questions from those members in attendance.

Motion to Accept the 2016 Financial Statements as presented: John Bresler

2nd: Aileen Hartman

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion
Carried

6B. 2017 Budget Review

- The projected Budget numbers for 2017 are slightly higher than the previous year, as it allows for anticipated revenue from the upcoming Casino scheduled for the second quarter of 2017. Lorie further noted that a line of expense for Chase Financial and Quick Enrollment in the amount of \$8,500 was omitted accidentally during the preparation of the Profit & Loss Budget Overview, and will need to be accounted for through an amendment to the Budget as presented. This will reflect a change in the projected income to \$30,000 from the reported \$38,500.

Lorie gave the attendees a few minutes to review the Budget for 2017 and asked for any questions or comments.

- No Additional Questions or Comments

Motion to Accept the Amended Budget for 2017 as presented: Travis Parker

2nd: Tony Golab

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion
Carried

8. New Business – From Membership

- John Tkachyk questioned the results of the recent Baseball Alberta “Transfer Forum”. Kurtus reported that he, along with Brenda Bourassa and Coaches Mark Brisson and Chuck Blackburn attended the full day open session meetings, which were open to any member of a baseball associations in the Province, and were facilitated by an outside Mediator. During the regularly scheduled Baseball Alberta Board Meeting the following day, and despite very lengthy discussions, a decision could not be reached at that time. Further discussion and a Final Vote/Decision has been tabled to their next Regular Board Meeting November 27th, the day after the AGM scheduled for November 26th.
- John Tkachyk also had questions regarding player safety, and specifically how to better protect a Pitcher while on the mound. He recommended that Baseball Alberta and all large Associations further investigate options for the overall protection and safety of all players while on the field. Additional discussions concluded that SAMBA will look to establish a Concussion Protocol for Baseball.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 8:48 pm: John Bresler

2nd: Travis Parker

All were in favor

Motion
Carried

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

St. Albert Minor Baseball Association

Sherry Kahler
Secretary
October 19, 2016

Kurtus Millar
President
October 19, 2016

Special Resolutions for the 2017 SAMBA AGM

In accordance with section 1(d) of the Societies Act, SAMBA is required to provide notice of proposed changes to our by-laws. At this year's AGM on November 15, 2017, the following special resolutions will be advanced for consideration.

Special Resolution #1 – Election and Term of Directors and Officers

That Article 5.4 (b) (i) include the position of Junior (Jr) House League Director; which is elected every even numbered year and edit 5.4 (b) (ii) to read Senior (Sr) House League Director; which is elected every odd numbered year.

Special Resolution #2 – Designation of Officers

That Article 6.1 Designation of Officers be amended in the SAMBA by-laws. Article 6.1 Designation of Officers to read:

(k) Jr House League Director (Rally Cap, Rookie, and Mosquito)

(l) Sr House League Director (Peewee, Bantam, and Midget)

(m) Special Events Director.

Special Resolution #3 – Job Description Splitting of Jr and Sr House League

That Article 6.3 Duties and Responsibilities of Officers be amended in the SAMBA by-laws. That Article 6.3 (g) be amended to read:

(g) Junior (Jr) House League Director

The Junior House League Director shall:

- be responsible for heading up the operation of the House League teams in the ~~TBall~~, Rally Cap, Rookie, and Mosquito, ~~Peewee, Bantam, and Midget~~ divisions;
- prepare a brief summary of the League Division for the A.G.M.;
- work with the Junior Rep Director, Senior Rep Director, and Facilities Director in preparing the field schedule;
- work with the Junior Rep Director and Senior Rep Director in preparing and executing player evaluations;
- work as a liaison between the respective House League division coordinators, coaches, players and parents, and
- Perform such other duties as may be specified from time to time by the board of Directors or these By-laws.

Re-number from (g) onward so that Senior House League Director immediately follows Junior House League Director.

That Article 6.3 be amended to ADD:

(h) Senior (Sr) House League Director

The Sr House League Director shall:

- be responsible for heading up the operation of the Sr House League teams in the Peewee, Bantam and Midget divisions;
- prepare a brief summary of the League Division for the A.G.M.;
- work with the Junior Rep Director, Senior Rep Director, and Facilities Director in preparing the field schedule;
- work with the Junior Rep Director and Senior Rep Director in preparing and executing player evaluations;
- work as a liaison between the respective House League division coordinators, coaches, players and parents, and
- Perform such other duties as may be specified from time to time by the board of Directors or these By-laws.

Under Article 6.3 Special Events Director change ~~Early Bird Tournament~~ to read Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament

Special Resolution #4 – Appointment of Volunteers

Amend 8.1 (a) Appointment of Volunteers to read Rally Cap Coordinator instead of T-Ball



2017 OPEN EXECUTIVE AND BOARD / NON-BOARD POSITIONS

Volunteer appointments to the following open positions are **CRUCIAL** to ensure SAMBA continues to function as one of the greatest Baseball Associations in Alberta.

CONTINUED Executive and Board Positions:

- President - Kurtus Millar
- Secretary - Brenda Bourassa
- Registrar - Pat Sullivan
- Jr. Rep Director - Mark Brisson
- Technical Director - Travis Parker
- Jr. HL Director - Byron Whittall

OPEN Executive and Board Positions:

- Vice-President (Colin Leathem)
- Treasurer (Lorie Bronson)
- Sr. HL Director (Michelle Whyte)
- Sr. Rep Director (Neil Neary)
- Marketing Director (Cori White)
- Special Events Director (Danielle Moffat)
- Facilities Director - **1 Year Term** (Brian Bourassa)

CONTINUED Non-Board Positions:

- Umpire Coordinator - John Bresler
- Grant Proposal Coordinator - Danielle Moffat
- Equipment Coordinator - Jason Enright
- Webmaster - John Robinson
- Challenger Baseball Coordinator - Karen Poniewozik
- Bingo/Casino Coordinator - Sheri Kowaluk

OPEN Non-Board Positions:

- Assistant Equipment Coordinator
- Girls Baseball Coordinator

APPOINTED Members:

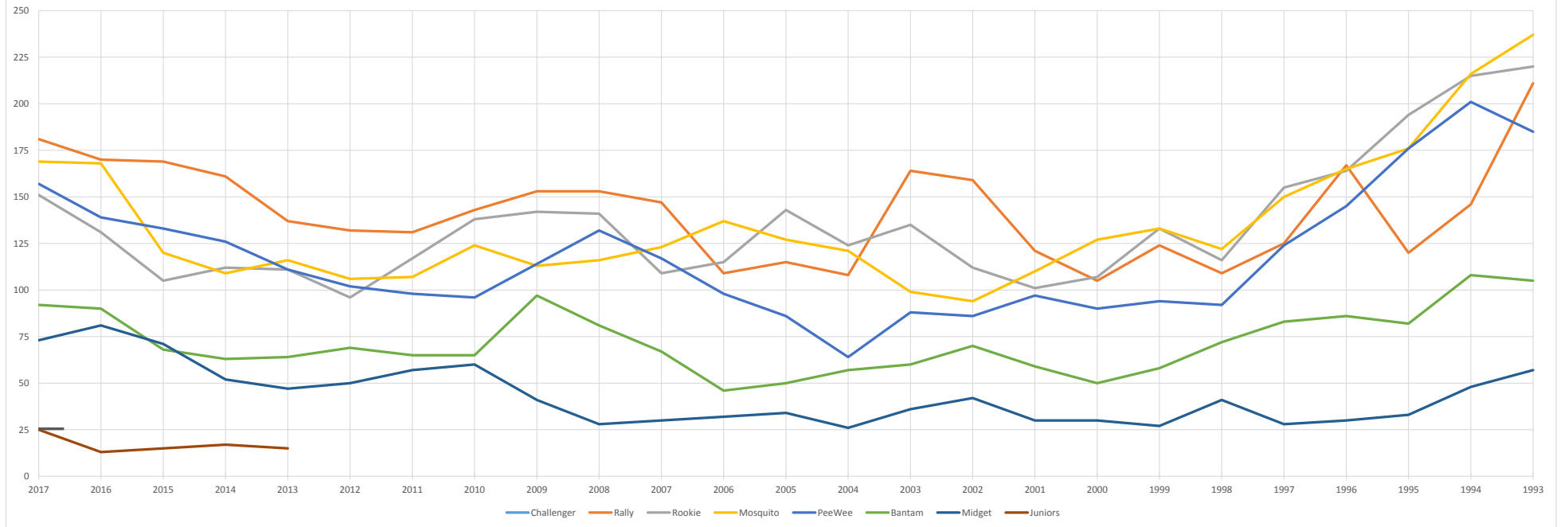
- SAMBA / Tigers Program Liaison - (Tigers Appointed)
- SAMBA / Sr. Cardinals Program Liaison - (Sr. Cardinals Appointed)
- SAMBA / MMBA Program Liaison - (MMBA Appointed)
- SAMBA / Legal Baseball Program Liaison - (Legal Baseball Appointed)
- SAMBA / Prospects Program Liaison (Prospects Appointed)



Yearly Registration Summary

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988
Challenger	26																													
Rally	181	170	169	161	137	132	131	143	153	153	147	109	115	108	164	159	121	105	124	109	125	167	120	146	211	166	X	X	X	X
Rookie	151	131	105	112	111	96	117	138	142	141	109	115	143	124	135	112	101	107	133	116	155	164	194	215	220	182	X	X	X	X
Mosquito	169	168	120	109	116	106	107	124	113	116	123	137	127	121	99	94	110	127	133	122	150	165	176	216	237	174	X	X	X	X
PeeWee	157	139	133	126	111	102	98	96	114	132	117	98	86	64	88	86	97	90	94	92	124	145	176	201	185	174	X	X	X	X
Bantam	92	90	68	63	64	69	65	65	97	81	67	46	50	57	60	70	59	50	58	72	83	86	82	108	105	85	X	X	X	X
Midget	73	81	71	52	47	50	57	60	41	28	30	32	34	26	36	42	30	30	27	41	28	30	33	48	57	47	X	X		
Juniors	25	13	15	17	15																									
TOTAL	874	792	681	640	601	555	575	626	660	651	593	537	555	500	582	563	518	509	569	552	665	757	781	934	1015	828	742	692	669	604
Rep Try Outs	177	178	142	163	160	139	102	116	118	120	135	127																		
Total Male	788	710	617	567	542	507	515	559	571	546	507	489																		
Total Female	86	82	64	67	59	48	60	67	89	105	86	48																		

SAMBA Yearly Registrations





ST. ALBERT MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

PO Box 218 Station Main St. Albert, AB T8N 1N3

www.stalbertbaseball.com



St. Albert Minor Baseball Association
PO Box 218 Station Main
St. Albert, AB
T8N 1N3

**ATTENTION: MEMBERS OF ST. ALBERT MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
(SAMBA)**

REFERENCE: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2016/2017

Attached are the Financial Statements for the year starting October 1st, 2016 and ending September 30th, 2017.

These statements were audited on October 28th, 2017 by the undersigned, Trinda MacLeod and Merilee Odegard, two members of the Association as per current Association By-Laws.

These are being presented to you this evening at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for your information. We believe these to be a true and accurate accounting of the financial affairs for SAMBA to the best of our knowledge.

Sincerely,

St. Albert Minor Baseball Association

Trinda MacLeod
SAMBA Member
ktmacleod@shaw.ca

Merilee Odegard
SAMBA Member
modegard@shaw.ca



2017 SAMBA/Tiger Liaison Report

Another successful year for the SAMBA/Tigers Partnership agreement. To start off the season, baseball evaluations went well again, and it appears as though both SAMBA and the Tigers enjoy the current schedule and the way the Rep Level Evaluations are conducted. I have had positive feedback from both sides.

Tigers Camp

Tigers Camp was held June 3rd of this year and we had another year of nearly 100 kids in attendance; final count was 92. This is a great turnout which included kids from Rally Cap through to Mosquito and all kids registered within the Baseball Alberta umbrella are welcome to participate.

We are still hearing negative feedback from some PeeWee parents as our camp is usually held on the weekend of their mid-season tournament at NEZ. With all the busy schedules out there, unfortunately we have not been able to accommodate much different, but are open to ideas in future seasons.

New shirts were designed this year, with a new colour and material that isn't so hot for the kids to wear in the warmer weather. The shirts were welcomed by all.

Discussions of raising the cost of the camp from \$20 to \$25 to cover increasing costs of food and t-shirts. The cost of the camp hasn't been raised in well over 10 years and I believe it only makes sense to have the small increase.

Tigers Tournament

The Annual Tigers Tournament was held the weekend of June 23rd-25th.

One game was canceled due to a rain delay, but the Tournament did go on to finish throughout the weekend.

The Tigers were very pleased with the field crew who did an outstanding job on the diamonds throughout the weekend.

Tigers Clinics - Legal & Morinville

The Tigers spent some time helping out the Legal Association with some clinics on two separate weekends. Unfortunately, the Morinville clinic was canceled due to weather.

The Tigers are willing to continue to try to accommodate the surrounding smaller communities for clinics for a fee agreed to by both Associations. Fees go towards Tiger Player Registration costs of the players who volunteer their time.

The Tigers 2017 AGM is scheduled for Nov 11th at the Celtic Knot, where the SAMBA/Tigers Liaison position will be named.

Submitted by,

Kelly Phelan
SAMBA/Tigers Liaison



2017 Umpire Coordinator Report

This is a short report on the state of umpires at SAMBA.

Once again I'd like to say that we had a successful season.

The strength of any program is the ability to bring in new umpires every year, have your 2nd year and more experienced umpires fulfill their obligations to the SAMBA house league program and move on to work some BA rep ball. We have met all expectations, but there is still more work to do.

We have 34 umpires registered from the SAMBA area. We have 16 new umpires first year umpires. All the umpires worked the house league program, and only 6 of the new umpires did not do any rep games. We had 9 umpires who worked some Provincial Weekends.

We have about 8 of these umpires who are committed on a full time basis, the others are either players, have other commitments not forgetting school and family. We lost 7 umpires from last year, this is normal for most Associations and SAMBA is no different. The problem we have every year is that we have to replace these umpires and attract additional new ones.

We had 7 umpires who worked primarily Rep Ball for SAMBA and BA. We had 15 umpires who worked some Provincial assignments for BA, and did quite well. They worked all over the North central part of Alberta. One of our umpires, Sam Mahe was featured as one of the Baseball Canada umpire of the week and appeared on the BC website.

Registrations are going up every year as more teams are registered. Additional umpires are required. We need more umpires, house league games are mostly during the week, and the BA Rep games are primarily on the weekends. We cannot have some of these umpires work 2 or 3 games during the week and expect them to work during the weekend, unfortunately there is a fear of 'burn-out' and we lose them permanently.

We have no umpires from Morinville, their player registration is going up and we need local umpires to work their games. We have a number of umpires from the Legal area that only work their games and quite a bit of fastball, we need them to participate in our local programs as well.

We have to make additional effort to recruit through the schools and from other sports officials. We have to have at least one or two parents from every Mosquito team to take the NUCP umpire course and assist with at least the bases at every house league game.

Have commitments from about 18 of them that they will be back, some of the others are going into university and will evaluate early next year

We have enough equipment for at least 20 umpires, some of the umpires are purchasing their own equipment. Some of the old equipment has to be replaced. Will evaluate what we have later in December or January, once that is done I will let SAMBA know what additional equipment is needed.

All in all we had a great year, have some great aspiring young umpires who should do well next year.

I would return next year if SAMBA so wishes.

Thank You

John Bresler
Umpire Coordinator



2017 Marketing Director Report

Once again, our baseball season was a busy one, as we welcomed 1000's of players, parents, grandparents and siblings to Legion Memorial Ballpark, and all the diamonds around St. Albert, we saw our membership increase and thrive.

Our community continues to grow, and our followers and membership does as well. As we fly through baseball season with practices, games, tournaments and championships we take with us many memories. We utilized our limited marketing funds to connect our community with our Association.

2017 saw some new local sponsors coming on board to support SAMBA. With many groups in St. Albert also looking for support the past couple years has been challenging. As a result, we are going to change things up a bit and look for other means to bring in sponsors and more funds. We have started to engage our sponsors with opportunity to entrench their brand into our space vs. just fence signage. This will come to life more in the 2018 season.

In addition to attracting new sponsors we are also working to maintain current sponsors. A holiday thank you card will accompany a list of great accomplishments from the year, many not possible without the help of our sponsors.

SAMBA 2017 New Sponsorships

- Sobey's
- Genstar Developments
- Martin Deerline
- Swiss Chalet
- UPS Store

Future Recommendations

- We will be reaching out to potential sponsors throughout the winter and early spring to stay top of mind for the 2018 budget year.
- Registration information will once again be advertised in member newsletters, Gazette ads, social media and Chamber digital boards.
- Social Media continues to play a role in our marketing. As we engage and grow our social media audience they become an economic way of communicating with our fans.
- Promotion of clinics and camps will continue across all our social media platforms.
- Fundraising efforts such as raffles, and seasonal sales are also on the radar for 2018.
- SAMBA will continue to participate in community events to continue to grow awareness and educate future participants.

Looking forward to a progressive and profitable 2018 season!

Cori White
Marketing Director



2017 Grant Proposal Coordinator Report

After just one year we are making great strides in our funding strategy. Our committee has met a few times this year and started off with an aggressive budgeting plan to start saving some money to help with some of our capital costs.

We have implemented some new aspects in our fundraising, we implemented a raffle, we continued to run our Bingo's and we were fortunate to have a Casino to add to our funding plan.

We have completed grants for some exciting new projects and we are hopeful to see something positive come from those.

Since last year, we are laser focused on a plan to increase our granting and donation funding. One of the barriers we were facing was that we didn't have much for matching funds to allocate to some of the grants we were writing. We knew we needed a boost. We decided to put it out there at a board meeting that we needed everyone to reach out to their contacts and find some investors in our future. Much to our great delight, John Bresler, had been in communication with his friends and colleagues at EIBF (Edmonton International Baseball Foundation). He had asked them to give us a chance to bring forward a proposal to invest in our great association and our Dream! We were so excited when they said yes. Our committee put together a fantastic presentation for their board, which Kurtus Millar and Brian Bourassa presented on behalf of SAMBA. It wasn't long before Kurtus, received the call to organize a press conference because they were interested in investing in our dream. At the event we were presented with a cheque for \$35,000. None of this would have been possible without you John - Thank you from all of us! These funds will be used to apply for some matching grants to help renovate and refurbish our fields, clubhouse and batting cages.

We plan to continue our work with the current grants we have written. We have a few prospective grants that we can leverage our new donation. In Closing, we have a solid plan going forward and with the help of our dedicated committee there is more communication on the needs and wants of the organization. We will do as much as we can to get new sources of funding flowing into the association to help our expenditures and set some funds aside for future plans.

Danielle Moffat
Grant Proposal Coordinator



2017 Special Events Director Report

Year two completed in my term and I have enjoyed every minute of my involvement in this great organization. We still have the "BEST" and hardest working President leading our great team and I am so grateful for all of the things I've learned but most of all the friendships I have made.

The season started off with Rep tryouts and many umpire and coaches clinics, all in an effort to get our favourite season of the year underway! None of this could happen without the efforts of the Prospects Academy and their players clearing off most of the leaves on our fields. This made our first big event "Spring Cleanup" much easier on everyone. Thank you very much to Cam Houston and the entire Prospects Family as well as all of the Rep families that came out in the spring to complete the task.

Once again we were delighted to host the Tigers Camp, as well as, the Girls Baseball Day; both were a great success and saw an increase in numbers. After our upsetting decision to cancel last year's Early Bird tournament due to weather, we had an absolutely beautiful weekend this year to host our First Annual Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament. We changed the name of our Early Bird Tournament to honour the legacy of Mr. Rindero, and all his contributions to SAMBA as a coach and volunteer for many years. It is families like the Rindero's, which contributed to SAMBA's success. We are so grateful for everything they have helped build. This year our tournament changed to a "AA" tournament and registered 40 teams. On the same weekend, we also held our very successful Casino here in St. Albert. Thank you to all the volunteers and families that signed up for credits this year.

We were proud to hold and facilitate the Honda Blue Jays Super Camp for a second summer. The camps offer players from 9-16 a memorable experience with former Blue Jays while learning techniques and skills from some of our favourite all-stars. Overall, the entire camp was a huge success and we hope they choose us again next year.

Legion Memorial Ball Park was the host of many provincial championships. We also had the chance to host the Alberta Zones Championships in our park and our Zone came out to represent and won the Gold! We are always so proud to host players, coaches and families in our beautiful park. Much of the hard work happens behind the scenes. Our super hero President, our tireless Facility Manager and his entire team, work so hard to make sure everything happens on time and without a hitch. In the last decade this has become a full time job as our fields are truly starting to show their age. None of our events would be possible without their hard work and dedication and I just want to say a big thank you from all of us at SAMBA.

New this year we brought back one of our best fundraisers, that had disappeared for a while. We had a cash raffle that all of our house league families helped support as their contributions to the organization. We gave away \$2500 in prizes. Thank you for making this such a great success.

It was an extremely busy yet rewarding year; I hope to remain on the board to continue some of the great work we have started.

Respectfully submitted by,

Danielle Moffat
Special Events Director



2017 Jr. House League Director Report

This was the first year the house league director was split between Junior (Rally Cap to Mosquito) and Senior (PeeWee to Midget) levels. It is my belief that splitting up the workload has reduced the number of hours required by each volunteer and has allowed us to focus on the quality of program we offer.

Our Junior programs are where we have the majority of our participants. Historically we have had 55% of our participants in the Junior House League program. That continues to be the case with the previous year as we are again in that range. We continued to have growth in our program we grew by 4.3% or 19 players this year in our Junior House League program. Rally Cap saw growth of 11 players and the number of teams stayed the same at 17, Rookie saw the biggest growth of 19 players and an increase of 2 teams. Where we had a slight decline was in our Mosquito program we decreased by 11 players. The decrease in Mosquito was not a result of registration being down, it was due to the fact that SAMBA added a 3rd Mosquito Rep team (up from 2 the year before) that took 12 players away from the house league program. Therefore, the Mosquito division actual grew by 1 additional player as we were only down 11 on the year.

Partnerships - Our partnership with Morinville Minor Baseball and Legal Minor Baseball continued this season. Both programs continued to grow. While a complaint in the past from our parents regarding the travel to Morinville and Legal, there was very little opposition to the travel to the other cities and we managed to develop the schedule to reduce the travel and create an equitable schedule for all. Our partnership with these associations does provide us with benefits of increased availability to diamonds, increased availability to players looking to rep programs, and increased competition with our programs. Our partnership with these organizations only continues to strengthen our associations and helps us to achieve the common objective of promoting baseball in our regions.

2017 Baseball Season - This year league play began a week late due to a late snowfall. We began the season on May 8 and the Season ended on June 25. Once league play began it ran smoothly with very few issues and any issues that did occur were minor in nature. Rainouts this year were not the issue they have been in the past as we had relatively decent weather, though Monday/Wednesday did have a few games rained out. In talking to some of the coaches and players, it should be noted that both felt the season is too short and wished they had another month of baseball to continue to learn, develop and have fun. Overall it seemed the kids developed from the beginning of the year and had a fun experience.

Diamonds - House League diamonds continue to be an issue. The issues range from condition of the diamonds, to lack of diamonds to grow our program. The SAMBA board has been working hard to try and rectify these issues. This year in conjunction with the City of St. Albert we set up a complaint section on our website that allows people to complain about the diamonds. These complaints go directly to the City and allows them to fix up any issues that might be easily fixable. As for the lack of diamonds, we are constantly in touch with the City working to find a solution that fits all user groups.

Historical participant data from the 2013 to 2017 baseball seasons:

2017 Season					2016 Season				
Players					Players				
	Male	Female	Total	Teams		Male	Female	Total	Teams
Rally Cap	145	36	181	17	Rally Cap	136	34	170	17
Rookie	134	15	149	14	Rookie	121	9	130	12
Mosquito	119	13	132	11	Mosquito	122	21	143	12
Total	398	64	462	42	Total	379	64	443	41
2015 Season					2014 Season				
Players					Players				
	Male	Female	Total	Teams		Male	Female	Total	Teams
Rally Cap	137	33	170	17	Rally Cap	129	35	164	16
Rookie	93	13	106	10	Rookie	94	12	106	10
Mosquito	86	10	96	8	Mosquito	72	10	82	7
Total	316	56	372	35	Total	295	57	352	33
2013 Season									
Players									
	Male	Female	Total	Teams					
Rally Cap	115	25	140	14					
Rookie	91	17	108	10					
Mosquito	83	8	91	8					
Total	289	50	339	32					

Coaches - This year we had enough volunteers to cover off all our teams for coaches. At Rally Cap and Rookie we had enough coaches to have at least 3 per team. This is a great number considering the age range of the participants. At Mosquito we were not as fortunate and were short coaches for one team, but were able to find a solution for that team. Unfortunately, due to some diamond shuffling we were not able to have our schedule out for the coaches' meetings, but we had it out and uploaded to our website before the beginning of May. The end of the year required equipment return, I found that with allocating three days of 1-hour slots to return the equipment we had 95% of the equipment returned in this short period.

This year was a great year for coaches and it should be noted that we heard numerous coaches wishing they could spend more time with the kids teaching them how to play baseball. I'd like to thank all our coaches who put forth numerous hours of their time to help teach the kids how to play the game of baseball.

Tournaments - Rally Cap had its annual Rally Cap day. 15 of our 17 teams were at the event. While it is mandatory to be at the event, the coaches of the 2 teams were quick to offer an apology and schedule the Rally Cap day at their next practice. I was very impressed with both coaches and how they realized they had made a mistake. Rally Cap had their mini tournament on the last weekend of the season. In talking with the parents and coaches there were a couple of teams that had a team BBQ between games or after their games. Overall it seems all participants had fun and enjoyed the day of baseball.

Rookie and Mosquito held their annual Mid-season and Year-End Tournaments. The weather was great. The only real issues to occur was a couple of umpire no shows (which can happen when dealing with young umpires) but a parent who is registered as an umpire grabbed his gear and jumped right in doing the last three games on Sunday. I also saw one of our Mosquito teams out supporting the Rookie and Mosquito kids while fundraising by selling cold treats and necklaces at a few of the St. Albert diamonds.

A new initiative put forward by the board this year was to eliminate medals for all teams in the tournament and only award medals for 1st and 2nd place. This was received very well and from the couple of comments I overheard from the kids was that the medal had value to them and it seemed as though it would be something they would cherish in the future. While we did not hand out medals to everybody SAMBA thinks it is very important that the kids receive a memento to remember their season by, therefore year end trophies were provided to all house league Participants.

Girls Baseball – Our number of female participants at the Rally Cap to Mosquito Level was 64 in 2017, this was the exact same number as last year. There has been relatively low growth among female participants our numbers have grown from 50 to 64 since the 2013 season. Female participants only make up 13.8% of our participants. While SAMBA is competing with Fastball (which is predominantly female) and soccer we need to find a way to advertise and entice female participants to join our programs.

Recommendations/Insights to Future Seasons

- Advocate for new ideas and ways to increase female player registration with a goal to increase registration by a minimum 25%.
- Find new, fun, and creative ways to continue to deliver our programs and develop skills in our youth.
- Determine ways to extend the House League season or create a possible summer league.
- Look at creating a House League survey to determine SAMBA member's value of our programs and to highlight the areas we do well and need to improve.
- Continuing to foster and develop relationships with the City to continue to help improve our programs and our access to facilities for our programs.
- Continue to work to improve our working relationship with Morinville Minor Baseball and Legal Minor Baseball to strength our programs.
- Continue to find ways to support, develop and retain coaches.
- Finding volunteers to help coordinate the divisions and provide support for the tournaments at the Junior House League level.

Byron Whittal
Jr House League Director



2017 Sr. House League Director Report

House League Overview:

While 2017 was my 5th year in this role, this year brought about great change as we chose to divide our House League teams into a junior and senior split. I was responsible for the senior teams, including Pee Wee, Bantam and Midge. As demonstrated in the reports of previous years, our numbers and our association continue to grow. Our Board continues to work together with the best interest of all members at heart. "Unity is strength... When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved". - Mattie Stepanek

Our Senior House League registrations continued to rise, close to 10% from 2016. To provide actual registration numbers, we increased from 183 athletes in 2016 to 208 athletes in 2017. I believe our membership is overall happy with their Association, providing a great opportunity for their athletes to play and learn baseball in their community. Our Pee Wee teams played off nights on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday in St. Albert. Our Bantam and Midget teams participated in the Edmonton Rural Recreational Baseball League, with games scheduled Monday through Sundays, playing against teams in Edmonton and surrounding areas.

Here is historical data from 2013 - 2017.

	2013				2014			
	Players		Teams		Players		Teams	
	Male	Female	SAMBA	MMBA	Male	Female	SAMBA	Legal/MMBA
Pee Wee	71	7	7	2	84	4	7	3
Bantam	35	3	3	n/a	33	3	3	n/a
Midget	14	1	1	n/a	16	1	1	n/a

	2015				2016			
	Players		Teams		Players		Teams	
	Male	Female	SAMBA	Legal/MMBA	Male	Female	SAMBA	Legal/MMBA
Pee Wee	87	6	8	1/2	90	11	9	1/1
Bantam	39	3	3	n/a	44	4	4	n/a
Midget	26	0	2	n/a	32	2	3	n/a

	2017			
	Players		Teams	
	Male	Female	SAMBA	Legal/MMBA
Pee Wee	112	9	10	1/2
Bantam	49	1	4	n/a
Midget	35	2	3	n/a

General Comments for Senior House League Teams:

- **Player Evaluations** - 2017 was the fourth year we did our best to group players by neighbourhood. There continue to be differing opinions on how to best make teams, be it either through areas in which kids live or through evaluations; however, until evaluations are made mandatory with over 90% attendance, there will always be a chance some neighbourhoods will have stronger teams than others. No matter which way teams are decided, people will not be happy - I still think grouping kids by neighbourhood is a better way to create teams unless evaluations are made mandatory.
- **Evaluations (cont)** As a suggestion by an experienced coach - (thank you Rob Brown) we also added a question to our membership to see how many players were interested in both pitching and catching. The answers provided added an additional level of complexity to the make-up of teams, but did allow coaches to know who they could play at each position.
- **Registrations** - Based on the historical data, I believe we will see at minimum a 5% increase for the upcoming year. However, we will need to determine how to manage the increase with the diamonds we have available to us.
- **Player / Team Pictures** - This year's photo sessions were again at SDI Digital Imaging. The majority of pictures were scheduled for the start of the season rather than mid-season to ensure delivery prior to the end of season. Working with SDI and making sure pictures were not on Mother's Day, seemed to work out better than in 2015. There were some teams with later dates in the month due to the amount of teams needing pictures.
- **Girls Baseball** - While our number of female players increased this year at most levels, because of the choice of nights of play (either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday) we would have been unable to create a separate girls team for any other division than Rally Cap. The feedback we received is mixed - some girls enjoying playing on mixed teams, some girls would rather play on an all-girls team.
- **League Play** - Our official date to begin was May 1, 2017 with our end date of June 25, 2017. The weather cooperated much better through the season with fewer rescheduling of games
- **Midseason** - Our Pee Wee teams participated in the NEZ tournament, with SAMBA paying for \$175 (75%) of the registration fee and the remainder, \$50 (25%) being funded by each team. The tournament was a success for our SAMBA teams, enjoying the opportunity to play other teams outside St. Albert.
- **Year-End** - The weather was hit and miss for some teams, but with some rescheduling, we were able to get the entire tournament in. The final was a barn burner, going down to the last at bat - games like this make the sport exciting, teaching players about winning and losing, and giving it all. The Bantams & Midgets played their year-end tournaments through the week with the ERRBL.
- **Practice facilities** and schedules were made available for all divisions/teams, including access to the batting cages. The requests were accommodated through Kurtus Millar
- **Coach meetings** to review and discuss the 2016 program, distribute information packages, schedules, uniforms & equipment took place at the clubhouse prior to the start of season. This year, rather than having meetings every night throughout the week, we had all of our coaches sessions on a Sunday. Even though the majority of required SAMBA Board Members were there for close to 8 hours, in my opinion, it was more efficient and effective to spend one day there getting through all the information.
- The only level in which there was a draft was at the Midget level. It was exciting to be able to field three House League teams at this level. The coaches worked very well together drafting their teams during their coaching meeting. We were fortunate to have very knowledgeable and experienced coaches at this level to help these young adults grow in their passion and ability.

- **Umpires** - John Bresler (Umpire Coordinator) and all his local umpires need to be commended for their efforts to ensure the games were played as scheduled. Colleen Allison, Legal Minor Baseball Association, also needs to be commended for her role for coordinating in Legal.
- **Facilities** - We require more diamonds!! We tried to meet with the City and Fastball St. Albert to work together to have additional fields available, and we did get additional access to two fields - but we do need more. The City of St. Albert ball fields were well maintained, grass cut and shale raked on a regular basis. They responded quickly to requests for action. The fields in Morinville and Legal were maintained regularly and to a high standard.
- **Equipment Deposit Program** - SAMBA this year once again collected a deposit from each House League coach prior to distribution of equipment. Teams were held responsible for non-returned equipment
- **SAMBA Camps and Coaching Clinics** - These clinics and camps continued throughout the year, welcoming players at all level of abilities. It's great to see the progress our athletes are making by attending a few of the camps each year.

And most of all, thanks to George, Alex, and Aiden Whyte, for their continued support to me and SAMBA as an organization which they are all a part of in.

Respectfully,

Michelle White
Sr. House League Director



2017 Jr Rep Director Report

INTRODUCTION

2017 was another good year for the Jr Rep program as registration numbers were up in both the Mosquito and Pee wee divisions and we were able to field 3 teams in both divisions.

Rep evaluations for 2017 took place at Athletes Nation and Servus Credit Union Place (Servus). All hitting was evaluated at Athletes Nation, with limited pitching and fielding drills also conducted. The majority of fielding evaluations took place at Servus for infield, outfield, and catcher/pitcher evaluations. Knowing that St Albert hockey play-offs combined with high registration numbers would continue to affect evaluation sessions, SAMBA put in place a new evaluation process for the Jr Rep Divisions which consisted of 7 evaluation sessions, including:

- Measurable Stage (2 – One hr sessions – 1 player per session);
- 2 - Baseball Skills Assessments (2 – One hr sessions – 1 player per session);
- Regrouping and cut downs where appropriate; and,
- 4 more sessions- Baseball Skills Assess (2 - One hr sessions – 1 player per session) with regrouping and cut downs where appropriate, after each session.

Feedback was requested and received from both coaches and parents on the new evaluation process and will be considered for the 2018 player evaluation process. A summary includes:

- Initial groupings of the players could be based on where they played in the previous year. For example, in the Pee wee division: Pee wee AAA, Pee wee AA, MQ AA 1/2, PW A, House league.
- One-hour slots were not enough time to complete a full evaluation of the players with the large numbers of players in each session.
- Need to have better communication with parents / players before evaluations and once again early in the process on the expectations of playing rep ball – re: time commitment, cost, length of year, tryout process and absences, etc.
- Need to have better communication between coaches in the process.
- Informally set roster sizes prior to the start of the evaluation process. Can go down, but not up.
- Provide some prescriptive measures to coaches (with their option to use) for hitting, catching, pitching, and fielding.

MOSQUITO DIVISION

In 2017 - 40 teams made up the Mosquito AA division for Baseball Alberta. In St. Albert, 41 players tried out, with 38 players being selected for one of three AA teams. 3 players were released to the House League program.

Mosquito AA Red

Head Coach: Brian Hartman

Team Size: 12 players with all 12 players graduating to the PeeWee division next year.

Overall Record: 30-5

Tournaments: Entered 2 tournaments in 2017:

- Larry Rindero Tournament - undefeated and - won Silver;
- Kelowna Tournament of Champions – finished first in pool in the round robin. After winning a thriller in the Semi-final, lost a close one in the Final to the Penticton Thunder and earned a Silver medal. A great developmental loss for the team!

Provincial Results: Competed in Tier 1 provincials in Spruce Grove. The results from a season of successful team building and player development was demonstrated in a medal round semifinal competition to a rival Red Deer team and came up short. Throughout the season, the AA Red team gave up a stingy 131 earned runs in 35 games that is 3.74 runs per game and scored 423 runs in 35 games that is an average of 12 runs per game.

Mosquito AA White

Head Coach: Colin Bergstrom

Team Size: 12 – mostly first year players, many playing baseball for the first time. Coaching staff worked well together and helped develop the group to a Provincial Gold.

Overall Record: 20-12

Tournaments: Larry Rindero and the Lloydminster Twins. Did not make the playoff round but some great learnings that paid off late in the season.

Provincial Results: Provincial Champions for Tier IV with games scores:

- St. Albert Cardinals White: 13 - Foothills Outlaws Blue: 2
- St. Albert Cardinals White: 39 - Black Gold Giants #2: 9 (Wow)
- St. Albert Cardinals White: 15 - Whitecourt Royals: 14
- St. Albert Cardinals White: 10 - Foothills Outlaws Blue: 9 - Championship Final!!

Mosquito AA Blue

Head Coach: Byron Whittal

Team Size: 12 - Mostly first year players, many playing baseball for the first time.

Overall Record: 21-15

Tournaments:

- Larry Rindero Tournament – Record in the tournament was 5-1 – won Silver;
- Darrin MacDonald (Spruce Grove) – Record in the Tournament was 2 -1 missed the semi-finals due to Runs for and Against Formula;
- Lloydminster Tournament – Record in the tournament was 2-2 and made the medal round and lost in the Bronze medal game.

Provincial Results: Finished 3rd with a 2-2 record. A well fought game against Oyen with a hot pitcher, one of those provincial games you do not expect against Parkland Blue and then finished strong against Grand Prairie. All in all, the players kept bouncing back each game no matter the results and kept their heads held high and represented St. Albert very well. A win in my books!

Some Season highlights:

- Every player got to pitch;
- Every player improved at different rates, but everybody improved during the year;
- Overall it was felt the Players had fun and developed at pace and the team as a whole won a few ball games; and,
- Coaching assistance was excellent and appreciated.

PEEWEE DIVISION

In 2017 - 10 teams competed in the AAA division and 46 teams competed in the AA division for Baseball Alberta. In St. Albert, 44 players tried out, with 36 players being selected for one AAA and two AA teams. 8 players were released to the House League program.

PeeWee AAA

<u>Head Coach:</u>	Ashley Roy
<u>Team Size:</u>	12 players with 9 players graduating to the Bantam division and 3 remaining on the PeeWee AAA next year.
<u>Overall Record:</u>	27-18
<u>Tournaments:</u>	Entered one tournament - the Valley of Champions in Kelowna and placed 3rd with a 13-8 Bronze Medal win over the Prince George PeeWee AAA team.
<u>Provincial Results:</u>	PeeWee AAA Cardinals hosted the Tier 1 provincial championships. Won their first 2 games, then lost 2 heartbreakers in the round robin. Defeated Red Deer in the Bronze medal game in a dramatic 7th inning, come from behind Balk off....yes on a BALK!

Western Canadian PeeWee Championships – Spruce Grove Alberta. Went 0-4 but all players competed during the tournament and it was a positive experience for the players and coaching staff.

Some Season highlights:

- First pitch of the season, Logan Kowaluk hit out of the ballpark, great way to start the year!
- Batted .411 as a team for the season;
- 21 Home runs;
- Coaching assistance was seasoned, supportive, and appreciated;
- Tried 5 suicide squeeze bunts, and were successful on all; and,
- All players pitched.

PeeWee AA Red

<u>Head Coach:</u>	Jason Pitruniak
<u>Team Size:</u>	12 with 7 players graduating to the Bantam division next season and 5 players remaining in PeeWee Rep next season.
<u>Overall Record:</u>	15-15-1
<u>Tournaments:</u>	Entered 2 tournaments in 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Larry Rindero Memorial (St. Albert) Tournament• Kelowna Tournament of Champions – played well and missed on the medal round semi-final game by 2 runs.
<u>Provincial Results:</u>	Competed in Tier 1 provincial championships in Grand Prairie. The AA Red team had a tough time scoring runs against the Grande Prairie Reds in an opening tournament loss and then lost a couple of close games to the Wainwright Outlaws and the Strathmore Reds #1 and as such did not make the medal round. Tier 1 was a tough tier to be slotted in and the players competed to the best of their ability.

PeeWee AA Blue

<u>Head Coach:</u>	Tony Golab
<u>Team Size:</u>	12 players (11 boys & 1 girl). PeeWee AA Blue will be graduating 7 players to the Bantam division with 5 remaining in PeeWee, all expected to stay in the rep program.
<u>Overall Record:</u>	14-17. A slow start the season that improved with the develop of the players and team chemistry formed.
<u>Tournaments:</u>	Entered 2 tournaments in 2017. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Larry Rindero Memorial (St. Albert) Tournament• Darrin MacDonald (Spruce Grove) Tournament

Provincial Results: The Pee Wee AA Blue team hosted Tier IV Provincials after no teams were willing to host Provincials for Tier IV and on the Monday before the team stepped up. The team had a tough tournament with hard weather, losses to teams that were previous in the 'Win' column and some missed expectations. All in all, the coaching staff was disappointed but proud of the team and those parents that were able to help out on such short notice.

Season developmental highlights:

- Development year for the players and the coaching staff did feel that the players did in fact develop with expectations;
- First year rep and players moving to Bantam are interested in competing in the rep program, which is a success for the program; and,
- Returning PeeWee players will be moving up from the Blue team next season.

CLOSING

Moving forward, I have received feedback and had several conversations with parents and coaches and some initial opportunities that I will be bringing forward to the board in 2018 include:

- Mosquito and PeeWee conditions and required repairs;
- More consistent team drafting process for Mosquito and PeeWee divisions;
- Improved communication for parents / players before evaluations and once again early in the process on the expectations of playing rep ball – re: time commitment, cost, length of year, tryout process and absences, etc.; and,
- BA first round tiering of our Blue teams.

In closing I would like to thank all the off-field volunteers and families who stepped up and volunteered their time this season, with everything from the annual diamond spring clean-up, scorekeeping, pitch counting, diamond set up, paying the umpires, coordinating team events, chasing those foul balls, and much more. I would also like to thank the head coaches and their staff for their hard work this season working with players in practice and leading them in their games. Coaching can be a thankless job for some, but many of you expressed satisfaction in your year-end emails with how your players developed and improved throughout the season. Lastly, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their support, patience, and understanding in helping me through my first year as the Jr. Rep Director. I have learned much and observed how dedicated this group of Directors are in making Legions Fields the best ballpark in Alberta.

Mark Brisson
Jr Rep Director



2017 Sr. Rep Director Report

In addition to teams in the AAA divisions at the Bantam and Midget levels, SAMBA was able to field two Bantam AA teams and one Midget AA team in 2017. Despite the best efforts of the Technical Committee, we were not able to field a second Midget AA team in 2017.

Bantam Division

- The Bantam AAA Cardinals had a successful season, going 24-9 in league play. The team also took first place in the Kelowna Valley of Champions tournament and earned spot in the Western Canadian Championships.
- Bantam AA Red Cardinals finished 4th in tier 1, but were unable to medal in the provincial championships in Strathmore.
- Bantam AA Blue finished in tier 5 and went 4-3 in the provincial round, but were unable to place in the provincial championships in Fort McMurray. The team represented SAMBA in our Larry Rindero Memorial Tournament.

Midget Division

- The Midget AAA Cardinals had a great season, going 33-3 with the league's best run differential. The AAA team hosted the Provincial Championships at Legion Memorial, but were eliminated in their semi-final game.
- The two-time defending provincial champion Midget AA Cardinals finished first overall with a 16-2 record in league play, but ended their season with a one-run semi-final loss in provincials. Special congratulations to Jake Enright on being selected the Baseball Alberta Player of the Year in the Midget AA division.

Respectfully,

Neil Neary
Sr. Rep Director



2017 Technical Director Report

In my fifth year as SAMBA's Technical Director of Baseball again we look at ways to improve our coaching certifications as well as helping our grass roots coaches to attain the skills required to run a smooth program. A highlight of the year was our first annual Rookie Coaches clinic that was well attended this year. I feel we provided them with great resources to coach at the young level including practice plans.

SAMBA House Leagues & Development

This year again we had numerous parent volunteers to help coach at our House League Division and again we appreciate all of the efforts and time commitment.

SAMBA Representative Leagues (AA, AAA) & Development

This year our Performance Teams had another outstanding year. We truly had an outstanding amount of experienced coaches that led our teams to success. Success not only in results on the field but also in player and coach development.

SAMBA Player Evaluations

2017 was another great year for our Rep Evals, we continue to look at ways to improve our process. The changes we made from 2016 were a huge improvement. We will continue to try and run the smoothest evals as possible

Recommendation: Always look at ways to improve

Table 1.1: Number of players registered for Rep tryouts at each age division

	2016	2017	2018 (Projection only)
Mosquito	26	37	40
PeeWee	37	39	40
Bantam	51	51	55
Midget	58	57	57
Junior	14	25	20
Total	186	209	212

Table 1.2: Number of rep teams (AA & AAA) for spring/summer at each age division

	2016	2017	2018 (Projection only)
Mosquito	2-AA & 2-A	3-AA & 2 A	3-AA & 1 A
PeeWee	1-AAA & 2-AA & 1 A	1-AAA & 2-AA & 1-A	1-AAA & 2-AA & 1-A
Bantam	1-AAA & 2-AA	1-AAA & 2-AA & 1-A	1-AAA & 2-AA & 1-A
Midget	1-AAA & 2 AA	1-AAA & 1-AA	1-AAA & 2-AA
Junior	1	1	1
Total	15	15	15

SAMBA's Off-Season Programs

2017 Winter Camps

- 78 Players Registered(increase of 20%)
- This includes the Hitting/Pitching and Fielding Camp

2017 Spring Camp

- The annual Spring Camp was held in March at Servus/Homerun Sports
- Spring Baseball Camp was once more well received by all in attendance
- 51 participants: 38 Rookie/Mosquito/Peewee players, and 13 Bantam/Midget players.
- The Spring Training Camp covered all aspects of baseball fundamentals in 30 minute station rotations

Recommendation: 2018 we will run as always our Spring Camp and a new format for the Winter Camps based out of Servus and Prospects. Bantam and Midget may not be beneficial as attendance is low.

2017 St Albert Tigers' Summer Camp

- The popular Tigers Camp was held again this year, we doubled the attendance over last year. This year we had 93 Registrants.
- A Thank you to the Tigers for continuing to work with our grass roots players

2017 'Girls Baseball Day in Canada' Camp

- This year we hosted 25 Athletes from Across Alberta

2017 Fall Baseball Season

Table 2.1: Number of Fall Ball players and coaches at each age division

	2015		2016		2017	
	Players	Coaches	Players	Coaches	Players	Coaches
Mosquito	36	3	30	4	18	4
PeeWee	21	2	27	6	25	4
Bantam	24	2	21	2	14	4
Midget	15	1	19	2	14	2
Total	96	8	97	14	71	14

Table 2.2: Number of Fall Ball teams at each age division

	2015	2016	2017
Mosquito	3	2	1
PeeWee	1	2	2
Bantam	2	2	1
Midget	1	2	1
Total	7	8	5

- 2017 was our 7th consecutive Fall Ball season. It was another great success.
- Saturday games were double-headers as scheduled with Baseball Alberta Fall Development League. Sunday games as organized on our own, with other Edmonton teams
- Fall season ran for 5 weeks, September to early of October

Future Recommendations: Continue to work with our Rep Coaches on assisting with practices for our House League program. We need to invest time at the grass roots level.

Coach Development

SAMBA Coaches/Umpire Cooperation Clinic

Well attended again, this is a clinic we receive a lot of positive feedback on. It's a very interactive session that provides coaches an opportunity to not only learn the rules of baseball, but understand the reasons behind them. The session concluded with a question and answer forum.

NCCP Coaches Clinics

SAMBA and other cities in Alberta offered a multitude of National Coaching Certification Program (N.C.C.P.) clinics earlier this spring/summer. SAMBA has always committed to continuing coach development and education. Moreover, SAMBA covers the cost of all its registered coaches that attend these nationally recognized baseball coaching clinics. It's a great way to improve your skills, confidence and value to our players. These clinics were hosted all over the Province (including a handful at our own Legion facilities), in various blocks (teaching modules), by very dedicated, highly experienced baseball Learning Facilitators, from the month of January till as late as the month of June. Thanks to all our coaches who took the time either to refresh and or to improve their skills this season.

Rally Cap & Rookie Clinic

This year we conducted our 3rd SAMBA run Coaches Clinic for our Rally Cap Coaches. This was well attended and we focused on providing our coaches with the tools to run an effective practice and provided them the skills to discuss items such as how to grip the baseball and throwing technique. We will continue to run camps such as this and will look to increase our program to the older age groups. This was the first time we have offered a SAMBA Rookie Clinic. I worked with coaches on basic tools to run their season and how to lay out a practice plan. It was very well attended and I will be looking at adding for Mosquito and Peewee.

Regards,

Travis Parker
Technical Director



2017 Facilities Director Report

2017 will be marked as the year where given enough manpower, shop vacs, propane, and drying agent, tournament and playoff games will be played no matter what. We recovered from rain to complete the House League end of year tournament, PeeWee AAA Provincials, Midget AAA Provincials, Zone Championships, and the Tigers tournament. The grounds crew, were exceptional once again throughout the year arriving early in the morning and staying late at night to ensure the games would get played. That being said, a significant amount of games and practices were lost due to diamond conditions after major rain events. The Midget diamond as in previous years had the most lost games.

In advance of the Midget AAA provincials a decision was made to drill drainage holes in the low areas in hope that this would accelerate the draining of the areas. Initial results showed success, but as heavier rain fell the drains plugged with silt and did not work. The Midget AAA provincials showed that we could no longer delay upgrading the Midget field. In August a contractor was lined up and budgets were established to upgrade the skinned areas of the infield. Construction started in late August and was complete by the middle of September. Unexpected quantities of existing shale, in excess of 8-10 inches deep in some areas increased the final construction value to \$45,000. The costs were higher than expected; however, the end result is a beautiful field that has shown to drain properly and not have ponding in any areas. In fact, after two days of steady rain the diamond would have been playable. Thanks to our contractor Décor Landscaping must be made as they worked with us to help control the costs while still providing an exceptional final product. I would like to thank Brent Moffat, Kevin Millar, and Kurtus Millar for their countless volunteer hours, and for keeping me sane through the entire process.

Rain was not the only weather-related problem from the season, high winds hit Legion Park on several occasions. The high winds resulted in downed limbs from the trees surrounding the diamonds. The alarming part is the sizes of the limbs coming down. Arborists from the City had to be called in to safely remove limbs up to 16" in diameter that were hung up in the branches of adjacent trees. The storms showed that our beloved trees at Legion Memorial are reaching the end of their life expectancy. A priority of the board for next year is to work with the City to come up with a tree replacement program that will maintain the beauty of the park while replacing the trees to prevent further property damage to our fences and dugouts.

2017 marked the first year of a sponsorship agreement with Martin Deerline. The sponsorship provided SAMBA with the use of a new mower for the season in lieu of advertising around the park. The first year was a resounding success for both parties with SAMBA benefitting by having the drag tractor available for other work while reducing our mowing time significantly. SAMBA looks forward to continuing the agreement in the years to come.

We continued our agreement with Green Drop and the fields continued to look great. In addition, an all-natural mosquito repellent was applied to the fields by Buzz Off as a trial. Initial results were good for the players, although the fans continued to be bombarded with the pesky insects.

New LED lighting was installed in the clubhouse. Thanks to Emerson Buck for the donation of the time and labour to this project. New plumbing fixtures were installed in the downstairs washrooms, thanks to Frontier Plumbing for helping with the supply of the fixtures and Jason Pitruniak for helping with the installation.

2017 saw our concession operators, Leanne and Tony Arlia, have a more profitable season with less games lost and more time being open. As usual the food quality was excellent and Tony and Leanne were awesome in helping SAMBA with raffle ticket sales, cleaning the clubhouse, and just being great supporters of SAMBA. Looking forward to next year and the early morning breakfasts after a few hours of work on the diamonds.

The grounds crew welcomed some new members this year including Jordan Blundell, Jackson Moffat, Michael Brisson, Evan Bourassa, and Tom Leathem. Ben Hoffman, Seth Waselenchuk, and Connor Burns returned as well Sean Erikson. It is hard to find a group of guys who are willing to give up their weekends throughout the summer to be at the diamond as early as 6:00 AM and stay to dark. Thank-you to all of you for your hard work this summer.

In closing I look back on 2017 as a year where we accomplished and learned a lot, and I look forward to applying this new knowledge to 2018 and beyond. Finally, thanks to Kurtus Millar who I spent a lot of time with over the last year, thank-you for your leadership and support. You make being a volunteer with SAMBA a pleasure.

Brian Bourassa
Facilities Director



2017 President's Report

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The 2017 season was my third year as association President. Once again, we faced many challenges and learnt a great deal as a team which we believe to be one of the best around. In the past 3 seasons, we have built a very strong BOD (board of directors) who worked countless hours and communicated well together to provide top notch programs to our young athletes. SAMBA continued to enhance our experience while trying to improve our various programs and put forth the best programs possible in all age groups and levels. Our registrations numbers continued to grow once again making SAMBA the largest baseball Association in Baseball Alberta. Our house league program was bursting at the seams while we maxed out on city fields and set record amounts of field usage at Legion Memorial Ball Park. However, our main goals stayed the same. We always strive to promote a fun and positive environment in our House League and Rep programs while focusing on player development and skill enhancement. Not only trying to improve our kids' athletics, but help grow them into confident, strong citizens. One major focus this season was to improve our facilities and begin to restore them to top notch levels. I am pleased to be able to present the following achievements and challenges, as well as some key objectives for the upcoming year.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Administration:

- Registrations: All SAMBA registration numbers grew and even surpassed our initial estimates. 874 athletes. The SAMBA Board of Directors worked very hard to make these numbers work and ensure all registrations were placed in their desired programs. SAMBA added team numbers in both HL and Rep. Thank you to our BOD who put in countless hours to oversee these growing programs.
- Baseball Alberta League/Player Registrations: Like earlier mentioned, the largest in BA, all registrations and team forms were completed in a timely and organized manner which met all Baseball Alberta standards and deadlines
- Multi-Year Agreements: Our Rep apparel agreement with St. Albert Source for Sports continued and worked well to provide all our Rep teams a high-quality product. The main concern with SFS is invoicing times and accuracy. SAMBA continued our House League apparel agreement with Anything Branded, previously Amyotte's, who continue to provide a great product in a very timely manner. SAMBA no longer had contract restrictions for facilities used to host our winter camps, spring camps, and Rep evaluations. Athletes Nation and Servus place were used for evaluations while Home Run Sports was added for camps. SAMBA will look at an agreement with a new indoor facility, 5 Tool Fieldhouse, in 2018.
- SAMBA was very happy to enter an annual agreement with Martin Deeline. In exchange for the use of a brand new high-speed mower, SAMBA offered and exchanged advertising at our facility and on our website. This partnership was very beneficial to our grounds crew team. The new mower cut maintenance times down and took a lot of pressure off our other machines. Thank you to Brian Bourassa and Jeff Yee for their hard work and great customer service. We hope to continue this partnership for years to come.
- EIBF Grant. A huge thank you to the EIBF who generously donated \$35,000 to SAMBA. In late August, John Bresler who has been working with the EIBF for years, secured SAMBA the opportunity to present their goals and financials needs to the EIBF. With the help of Brian Bourassa, Colin Leathem, Brenda Bourassa, John Bresler, Kurtus Millar, and Danielle Moffat, the EIBF approved SAMBA for these funds and delivered the cheque at a small press conference

organized by Jeff Hansen of the St. Albert Gazette. The EIBF described the presentation as “the best we’ve ever seen” and we thank Danielle Moffat for building the presentation. Thank you John and Danielle who led us to obtaining the funds.

PROGRAMS:

- Winter Camps continued to operate. SAMBA Technical Director Travis Parker secured facilities and coaches, Jason Enright, Brad Wolansky and Jesse Beley, to provide these camps throughout the winter months.
- Winter Ball. Thanks to Sheen Bromley and Brad Wolansky from Baseball Alberta for providing this winter program through St. Albert schools and promoting the great game of baseball.
- Spring Camps also ran again with good numbers and I believe continuing and strengthening this program would be beneficial to SAMBA’s athletes.
- Our Coach Certification and Training Program were outstanding. Our Coaching Clinics once again ran with maximum numbers and received great feedback from Baseball Alberta and our coaches. SAMBA set an all-time record number for coach certifications. Rally Cap and Rookie clinics were provided by Travis and Kurtus this season and received great feedback. These programs should only continue to grow as our membership grows. We are looking to expand those clinics in 2018 to mosquito and PeeWee levels.
- NUCP Certification continued to show strength and positive growth again this season. A special thanks to John Bresler for his hard work in training and retaining young umpires while coordinating thousands of assignments throughout the season.
- SAMBA Coach/Umpire Cooperation Clinic. This program has proven to be crucial to the development and retention of numbers of both young umpires and coaches. Thank you to Jeff Donnelly for organizing and putting on this clinic every year.
- Challenger Baseball. SAMBA is very excited to announce that our first season of Challenger Baseball was a tremendous success. Thank you to Brenda Bourassa and Kurtus Millar who attended a special Challenger clinic provided by Jays Care Foundation in Vancouver, BC. At that clinic, we met Karen and Jim Poniewozik who were instrumental in getting Challenger Baseball off the ground and running at SAMBA.
- Blue Jays Super Camp. Once again, SAMBA was very fortunate to host the Blue Jays Camp. This camp involved players from throughout the Province and was great for everyone involved. The Jays staff and alumni were outstanding people who were great to work with. SAMBA would be happy to host this event every year and hope to secure ourselves as the Northern location annually. The big name to coach this season was Roberto Alomar who proved why he’s MLB Hall of Fame material. Roberto and all the coaches provided top notch instruction to our players and coaches for two full days. SAMBA is working with the Jays to secure a Challenger Baseball portion to the camp in 2018.
- Rep Evaluations ran again this season with maximum numbers. Thanks to Mark Brisson, Travis Parker, Neil Neary, Colin Leathem, and Brenda Bourassa and all our coaches who worked very hard to allow all athletes to try-out in a safe and fair manner. SAMBA continues to struggle with the timing of evals against hockey and will look at ways to offer more options and stronger evals for all its players. SAMBA offered a new and improved version of evals this season which proved to be successful. Continued improvements to all eval system will be discussed and brought forward in 2018. Thank you to the St. Albert Tigers for assisting our coaches during the eval process. All assignments were filled and performed in a professional manner.
- Larry Rindero Memorial, formally known as Early Bird, saw its inaugural season and went off with great success. 40 + teams from around the province and every SAMBA AA Rep team, competed in this tournament. SAMBA decided to run this tournament as a AA tournament only which will

allow those teams a better Rep experience playing almost all their games at Legion Memorial Ball Park. Thank you again to Meadowview Facilities for allowing us to rent their facility and offer more games to more teams throughout this event.

- Girls Day was another success this season. While numbers continue to grow, SAMBA will look at bringing in a Girls Baseball Coordinator to offer more events where girls can prosper and gain experience together. Special thanks to Tara Sliwkanich and her team of coaches for their continued efforts in providing Girls Baseball Day.
- Tigers Camp. Always a hit, saw high numbers and received great feedback from players and parents. Special thanks to Kelly Phelan (SAMBA/Tigers Liaison) and Brad Wolansky (Tigers Manager) who once again worked very hard to provide these great experiences.
- House League this season, ran with 2 Directors. The addition of a Jr. HL Director proved to be very beneficial to the program. A special thanks to Byron Whittall and Michelle Whyte who put in very long hours allowing SAMBA's HL program to run smoothly and offer a fun and positive environment for our kids. Byron and Michelle organized and allowed SAMBA to complete the season, mid-season, and year end tournament in a timely and very positive manner that provided our athletes with some great experiences.
- The competition level of SAMBA continued to be a very gratifying and exciting experience. SAMBA offered 3 Rep teams at Mosquito, 3 PeeWee, 3 Bantam and 2 Midget. SAMBA also saw A teams prosper again this season with 2 Mosquito, 1 PeeWee, and 1 Bantam. We also, for the very first time, had 2 Jr. Cards teams. One played in the BA Jr League, and the other in the NCABL. All teams this season battled hard and we would like to thank all the coaches, OFM's and volunteers who put in countless hours to provide these athletes a place to play and grow their skills.
- Hosting tournaments continued to be very popular at Legion Memorial Ball Park. The season began with the inaugural Larry Rindero Memorial tournament, then hosted The Tigers Sr AAA tournament, house league mid-season and year end tournaments. SAMBA also hosted 5 Provincial Championships and ended the season with Zone Championships. A special thank you to Brian Bourassa and his grounds crew who battled the rain and were able to get in every event this season which proved to be a tremendous achievement on their part.
- MMBA and Legal Baseball Associations continued to work very closely with SAMBA. Barb, Scott, Shelley, and Colleen were great to work with and found to be great assets to all 3 associations. I'd also like to thank both associations who allowed SAMBA to use their facilities whenever required.
- Fall Ball saw another season battling with mother nature. 1 team at each level was offered and players proved their love of the game while combating cold temperatures, rain, and high wind speeds. Thank you to all the coaches who took on these challenging roles and represented SAMBA positively and professionally.

FACILITIES:

- Facilities was once again an up and down battle. With large amounts of rain, our grounds crew fought a hard fight this season. Our crew lead by Brian Bourassa, experienced some long hours and wet days trying to maintain our fields to a competitive level. Multiple tractor and tool repairs were required which cost SAMBA a few extra dollars. Overall, I would say with the help of many SAMBA Board members and SAMBA members, the fields were maintained to the highest level. Special thanks to Brian Bourassa for his relentless efforts to maintain our facility.
- Midget field renovations were started and completed this fall by Décor Landscaping. Their team worked tirelessly to complete the project while keeping costs down even when extra challenges were presented. The final product was excellent and the efforts of Brian Bourassa, Brent Moffat, and Kevin Millar are not to go without thanks. Those SAMBA members and the Décor Landscaping crew were truly great at bringing the field back to and even above standard conditions.

- Our clubhouse continued to maintain bookings through the season. Thanks to Kelly Phelan and now Karen Millar who provided cleaning services. We are once again hosting Taekwondo, 2 evenings per week throughout the winter with the addition of SANS preschool who run 3 mornings per week.
- Thank you to Leanne and Tony Arlia who ran the concession again this season. Nothing but good reviews to them as they also fought the battle against rain outs but provided delicious food and refreshments to all our members and visitors at a fair price.
- A big thank you to Jeannette Sullivan who continuously worked very hard at planting and maintaining the beautiful flower pots and beds throughout our facility.

MARKETABILITY AND IMAGE:

- Social Media Exposure: Thanks to John Robinson who maintained our awesome website which received thousands of hits. Thanks to Brenda Bourassa and Cori White who continued to keep all our events and info posted on Twitter and Facebook.
- A very special thank you to Stuart Trenchard and his family who sponsored us through Sobey's St. Albert
- Facilities Sponsorships: Thank you to all our fence board sponsors and Active Physio Works for their continued support. Green Drop continued their support while providing weed control and fertilizing services. Buzz Boss also stepped up to help provide insect/pest control throughout the facility.
- Fan wear. Colin Leathem worked very hard to offer fan wear this season which has proven to be a success. Thank you to Colin as well as Stephen and Heather at Elite Sportswear who all worked very hard and productively to provide this option and fundraising opportunity.
- Danielle Moffat organized and completed our new raffle program which proved to be huge in securing extra funds for our Midget field renovation. Danielle continues to work tirelessly in our Bingo/Casino program as well as our grants program. Without her, SAMBA would not be in the financial position we are today.

CHALLENGES:

- House League Monitoring: SAMBA still needs to find ways to better monitor and support our house league program. All though Byron Whittal and Michelle Whyte do an outstanding job organizing the largest part of our membership, two members simply cannot support the entire program. More support here would minimize the number of conflicts and provide an even stronger experience for our players and coaches.
- Facilities. SAMBA's very lucky to call Legion Memorial Ball Park its home. Thank you to Tara Feser and her staff at the City of St. Albert for their support. However, our facility is beginning to show its age. Many upgrades are necessary to continue providing top notch programs for our athletes. More fundraising programs and active fund promotion would seriously benefit the SAMBA facilities. A tree replacement program needs to be secured with our city as the trees really showed their age this season. A special thank you to Brian Bourassa for all his efforts!

2017 OBJECTIVES:

Administration:

- SAMBA will continue to work tirelessly to provide top notch programs and facilities to all our athletes. New house league programs are being discussed to allow membership growth. Rep programs are always being carefully monitored and tweaked to help provide support to our volunteers and better experiences to our players and coaches.
- Bylaws, policies, procedures and league rules: Review Update desperately required. Proper documentation and publishing of these would decrease a large amount of issues brought up during our season.

Program:

- Early coach selections and mentorship throughout the season. Coaches need to be selected even earlier in the season to allow them participation in our winter camps. The number of “new coaches” in SAMBA has grown significantly. A coaching mentorship program would greatly enhance the chances of these coaches’ success and sticking with the game. SAMBA did begin to modify and upgrade these programs in 2017
- Umpire Mentorship Program. The number of baseball players is rising significantly and the number of umpires decreases every year. Thank you to John Bresler who brought in many new and young umpires into our system and provided very good support to them. Members, players, coaches and parents need to understand that without these officials, we cannot play the great game of baseball.
- Tigers, Sr. Cards, and Prospects. SAMBA BOD has schedule private meetings with each program to ensure all costs and needs are covered. Better and more clear terms from all parties should make life a lot easier on all members.

Facilities:

- Continue focus on a regular and efficient field and equipment maintenance program due to aging and mature grounds / equipment.
- Light usage. Agreements towards the cost of running our Midget field lights need to implemented. The hourly cost of \$111.43 / hr will only continue to increase and as such should be covered by the teams using them. Our VP Colin Leathem has begun negotiations to obtain Provincial grants to change and add lights on our Midget, Bantam, and PeeWee fields. This grant could also provide 3 new scoreboards at those fields and would secure Legion Memorial Ball Park as one of the elite facilities in Alberta.
- Discussions with the City have begun to take place in hopes of more support to our facilities and allow growth to our membership.

Marketing and Image:

- Continued sponsorship programs/grants: These are crucial to the costs of running all our programs at a high quality. The number of programs we deliver and the condition of our facilities rely heavily on these programs. SAMBA is always looking to grow fundraising opportunities and grant applications to support all our financial goals and requirements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- Thank you to Colin Leathem who is stepping down from the SAMBA board of directors after 12 years of service. The amount of time and dedication Colin has given SAMBA cannot be praised enough. We honour Colin with a special gift on behalf of SAMBA for all his years of service.
- Thank you to Brian Bourassa the SAMBA 2017 Volunteer of the Year. Brian has been crucial to the grounds/facilities of Legion Memorial Ball Park. His countless volunteer hours allowed thousands of kids to play the great game of baseball. Without hesitation, Brian always stepped up to prep, repair, and maintain our facilities allowing games to be played in any weather conditions. We honour Brian with a special gift on behalf of SAMBA for all his hours of work.
- I’d like to thank Lorie Bronson for all her efforts. The position of treasurer is a position that demands a ton of time and commitment. Her volunteer hours are huge to the association and when the position goes unnoticed, it means she’s doing a good job. Thank you Lorie for taking on this role and all the time you’ve given us.
- We mourn the loss of a tremendous lady. This past year, SAMBA was very sad to learn that a longtime volunteer and member, Anne Mills, had passed away. SAMBA honours Anne and her family with this bench we had made in her memory.

- I would like to thank all our Board members. As my third season as President, our board came together as a team and supported each other through some very tough issues. Most people do not understand how many hours of work these people volunteer to allow SAMBA to move forward. Some even assume multiple roles and go above and beyond all expectations to ensure SAMBA maintains its reputation as a first-class organization. I'd also like to thank many of our families/volunteers who contribute significantly to our success. Special thanks must be given to the following members:

Executive and Board Members

- Kurtus Millar - Ongoing President
- Colin Leathem - Outgoing Vice President
- Brenda Bourassa - Ongoing Secretary
- Lorie Runnalls - Outgoing Treasurer
- Pat Sullivan - Ongoing Registrar
- Brian Bourassa - Outgoing Facilities Director (1 Year term to be voted in)
- Travis Parker - Ongoing Technical Director
- Neil Neary - Outgoing Sr. Rep Director
- Mark Brisson - Ongoing Jr Rep Director
- Michelle Whyte - Outgoing Sr. HL Director
- Byron Whittal - Ongoing Jr. HL Director
- Danielle Moffat - Outgoing Special Events Director
- Cori White - Outgoing Marketing Director

Appointed Members

- Barb Kitzen / Scott Richardson - SAMBA/MMBA Program Liaisons
- Shelley Hudec / Colleen Allison - SAMBA/Legal Program Liaisons
- Travis Parker - SAMBA/Sr. Cardinals Program Liaison
- Kelly Phelan - SAMBA/Tigers Program Liaison

Non-Board Positions

- Jason Enright - Equipment Manager
- Byron Whittal - Assistant Equipment Coordinator
- Karen Poniewozik - Challenger Baseball Coordinator
- Kurtus Millar - Facilities Scheduling Manager
- John Bresler - Umpire Coordinator
- Danielle Moffat - Grant Proposal Coordinator
- Kurtus Millar / Brian Bourassa - Clubhouse Managers
- Kelly Phelan / Karen Millar - Clubhouse Janitor Services
- Leanne & Tony Arlia - Clubhouse Concession
- Danielle Moffat - Bingo/Casino Coordinator
- Kurtus Millar / Brian Bourassa / Brenda Bourassa - Early Bird Tournament Coordinators
- John Robinson - Website Administrator
- Kurtus Millar - Baseball Alberta Representative

Kurtus Millar
President