

Halsey Hall Chapter – SABR
Established May 1985
Annual Report – May 28, 2020

1. Chapter meetings

- a. Spring 2019 chapter meeting – May 18, 2019
 - i. The spring 2019 chapter meeting was attended by 38 chapter members and guests and broadcast on Facebook Live.
 - ii. The following five research presentations were heard:
 - 1. Steve Bratkovich, *The Bats . . . They Keep Changing!*
 - 2. Dan Levitt, *They Deserved Each Other: The Tempestuous New York Giants Ownership of Charles Stoneham, John McGraw, and Frank McQuade*
 - 3. Sam Haag, *Baseball Performance Research: Studies of Pitching, Batting, and Baserunning*
 - 4. Alan Holst, *Baseball Diplomacy*
 - 5. Anders Koskinen, *Baseball for Becca and Other Beginners*
 - iii. Kenny Jackelen, the primary developer for baseball-reference.com, was the featured speaker.
 - iv. Anders Koskinen, Gene Gomes, Frank Kadwell and Hans Van Slooten were elected to two-year terms on the chapter board of directors.
 - v. Jim Cox, chapter membership chair, organized the drawing for door prizes awarded to one new member who joined SABR within the past 12 months and one member who has been a member for more than one year.
 - vi. Howard Luloff wrapped up the meeting with his always challenging trivia quiz.

- b. Fall 2019 chapter meeting - November 2, 2019
 - i. Over 30 chapter members attended the meeting which was broadcast on Facebook Live.
 - ii. Tink Larsen, a Minnesota amateur baseball legend and coach for more than 50 years at many levels in Waseca was the featured speaker.
 - iii. The following three research presentations were heard:
 - 1. Rich Arpi, *1890s Millers and Saints*
 - 2. Corky Gaskell, *Making a 19th Century Base Ball*
 - 3. Bob Tholkes, *Time of Game in the Amateur Era, 1860-1865*
 - iv. Ryan Barland of the Minnesota Historical Society talked about the Minnesota Baseball Oral History Project. These interviews will be on the Society's [Oral History page](#).
 - v. Jim Cox, chapter membership chair, conducted the drawing for door prizes.
 - vi. Howard Luloff wrapped up the meeting with his trivia quiz.

- c. The spring 2020 chapter meeting is scheduled for June 13.
 - i. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.
 - ii. Two research presentations will be given.
 - 1. Paul Spyhalski, *What in the Sam Hill Took So Long? Integration (or Lack Thereof) in the Southern Minny League, 1948-1957*
 - 2. Dan Levitt, *John McGraw and the Creation of the Modern Sports Environment*
 - iii. Elections will be held to fill three positions on the chapter board of directors.

2. Minnesota 19th Century Base Ball Interdisciplinary Symposium

- a. The chapter hosted the Minnesota 19th Century Base Ball Interdisciplinary Symposium at the Minneapolis Central Library on November 16, 2019.
- b. The symposium was a joint project of the SABR 19th Century Committee, the Halsey Hall Chapter of SABR, and Hennepin County Library.
- c. Key chapter contributors to the success of the symposium include:
 - i. Bob Tholkes, the primary organizer.
 - ii. Gene Gomes and Brian Madigan for developing the partnership with Hennepin County Library for the event.
 - iii. Sarah Johnson and Brenda Himrich for leading the Research Committee which oversaw the symposium, and for co-moderating the event.
- d. The second-highest total number of attendees, 69, attended this version of the symposium.
- e. Presenters included:
 - i. John Thorn, Historian for Major League Baseball, *Rival to Savior: The Western League Saves the National League from Suicide*
 - ii. Stew Thornley, SABR award-winning author and leading Minnesota baseball historian, *Minnesota's Baseball Roots: History and Highlights*
 - iii. Frank White, historian and author on black baseball, *Black Baseball in Minnesota in the Nineteenth Century*
 - iv. Dan Levitt, SABR award-winning author, *Economics of Minor League Baseball, 1876-1900*
 - v. Mike Hauptert, SABR Doug Pappas Award winner in 2014 for best convention presentation, *The Serious Business of Play: Developing Professional Baseball in the Upper Midwest in the 19th Century*
 - vi. Kristin Anderson, award-winning teacher at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, and expert on Twin Cities sports architecture, *Home Field Disadvantage: Twin Cities Ballparks and Community Conflict*
 - vii. Bob Tholkes, 19th century expert, *Hurrah for Cecil O. Monroe*
 - viii. Larry Millett, popular Twin Cities author and local historian (pictured below), *The Booming 1880s: The Twin Cities Come of Age*

3. SABR National Convention

- a. Twenty-four chapter members attended the national convention in San Diego in June 2019.
- b. The convention program included presentations by the following chapter members:
 - i. Mike Hauptert, *The Business of Being the Babe*
 - ii. Dan Levitt, *They Deserved Each Other: The Tempestuous New York Giants Ownership of Charles Stoneham, John McGraw, and Frank McQuade*
 - iii. A. J. Richard, *You're out! Girls Quit Baseball Due to Culture*

4. SABR Board of Directors

- a. In May 2020, chapter member Dan Levitt finished first out of five candidates to become a director on the Society for American Baseball Research board of directors.

5. Chapter Research and Writing

- a. Research Committee
 - i. The chapter research committee of 11 chapter members is co-chaired Brenda Himrich and Sarah Johnson
 - ii. Monthly meetings of the research committee are held on Monday evenings at the Brookdale Library.
 - iii. Future research committee meetings have been postponed due to the pandemic.
- b. Minnesota Spread of Baseball Project, 1857-1923
 - i. Brenda Himrich and Sarah Johnson, research committee co-chairs, are leading a research project to identify the first recorded baseball game played in each of Minnesota's 87 counties.
 - ii. Chapter members have been recruited to research the dates of these first games.
 - iii. A full length banner mounted on a stand has been created to display dates of the first games in each county.
 - iv. At last count, the first recorded baseball game has been identified in 58 of Minnesota's 87 counties.
- c. Book Project of Memorable Games at Metropolitan Stadium
 - i. As part of the SABR Baseball Games Project, long-time chapter member Stew Thornley is organizing a project to write additional stories about memorable games played at Metropolitan Stadium in Bloomington, Minnesota. Target completion date for the project is July 1, 2020.
- d. Halsey Hall Chapter History Day Award – May 2020
 - i. The chapter sponsored a prize for Minnesota History Day, an annual project-based competition for high-school seniors.
 - ii. Sarah Johnson, Research Committee Co-Chair coordinated the chapter's participation and reported: "With a theme this year of "Breaking Barriers," the prize went to ... a senior at Highland Park High School in St. Paul, for her exhibit

on the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. ... will receive \$150, an invitation to present her exhibit at an upcoming chapter meeting and information on other student opportunities to get involved in SABR

- e. "The Holy Cow" and the chapter Web site
 - i. Founding chapter member Stew Thornley posts "The Holy Cow", the chapter newsletter, on the chapter's Web page each month or more often if necessary.

6. Chapter activities and gatherings

- a. Twins Fest – January 24-25, 2020
 - i. Chapter member Doug Skipper organized a Halsey Hall Chapter and SABR table and display at Twins Fest at Target Field in January 2020.
 - ii. Throughout the two days of Twins Fest, chapter members Doug Skipper, Joe O'Connell, Rich Arpi, Dave Lande, Jim Cox, Howard Luloff, and Tom Flynn filled shifts at the table to greet and talk with interested fans who stopped by to find out more about the chapter or to view the banner and material.
- b. Fred Souba Hot Stove Saturday Morning - Hot stove Saturday morning breakfasts are held on a bi-monthly basis at Bunny's Northeast in Minneapolis.
- c. Town Ball
 - i. Howard Luloff, chapter events chair, organized a trip to Austin on May 31, 2019 to attend a town ball game between the Waseca Braves and the Austin Greyhounds at Marcusen Park. A pre-game dinner and the game were attended by several chapter members.
 - ii. Several chapter members attended a town ball game at Waseca on June 5, 2019 between Waseca and Eagle Lake.
- d. Book club – The chapter book club meets bi-monthly at Barnes & Noble. Books read and discussed over the past year include the following.
 - i. June 1, 2019 - *Winning Baseball: A Simple Game of 10* by Les Gerdin
 - ii. August 10, 2019 - *Ten Innings at Wrigley: The Wildest Ballgame Ever, with Baseball on the Brink* by Kevin Cook
 - iii. October 5, 2019 - *The MVP Machine: How Baseball's New Nonconformists Are Using Data to Build Better Players* by Ben Lindbergh and Travis Sawchik
 - iv. December 7, 2019 - *Hardball: The Education of a Baseball Commissioner* by Bowie Kuhn
 - v. February 1, 2020 - *K: A History of Baseball in Ten Pitches* by Tyler Kepner.
 - vi. Meetings in April and June 2020 were postponed due to the pandemic.
- e. SABR at the Saints (St. Paul Saints) – July 1, 2019
 - i. Sarah Johnson, Research Committee co-chair and Jim Cox, membership chair, organized an outing to promote SABR at the St. Paul Saints game on July 1. Chapter member Damian Schaab was the featured artist of the game.

- f. All-Star Game Viewing Party – July 9, 2019
 - i. Several chapter members gathered at Bunny’s Northeast in Minneapolis on July 9 to watch the All Star game.
 - g. “The Spy Behind Home Plate” – July 13, 2019
 - i. Jim Cox, membership chair, organized a chapter group outing to see “The Spy behind Home Plate”, a documentary about Moe Berg, at the Edina Theater.
 - h. Cedar Rapids Kernels – July 27, 2019
 - i. Howard Luloff, events chair, organized a chapter weekend to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to attend a baseball game between the Cedar Rapids Kernels (a class A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins) and the Clinton Lumberjacks.
 - ii. Umpiring at home plate during the Saturday evening game was chapter member Emma Charlesworth-Seiler, one of two female umpires in organized baseball at that time.
 - iii. Chapter members had lunch with Emma on Saturday before the game.
 - iv. After lunch, Kernels Hall of Fame/History Coordinator Marcia Moran made a presentation to chapter members about some of the notable major leaguers who played in Cedar Rapids.
 - i. Gopher Alumni vs. Minnesota Game - September 27, 2019
 - i. Several chapter members attended the Gopher Pro-Alumni vs. Minnesota game at Siebert Field at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on September 27, 2019.
 - ii. A statue of Dick Siebert, long-time University of Minnesota baseball coach, was unveiled prior to the game.
 - j. Minnesota vs. Duke - February 29, 2020
 - i. Several chapter members attended A University of Minnesota vs. Duke baseball game played at U.S. Bank Stadium on February 29, 2020. The outing was organized by Howard Luloff, events chair.
7. Chapter Board of Directors
- a. The chapter board of directors comprised of seven members conducts bi-monthly board meetings. Additional attendees at these meetings include the Research Committee co-chairs, event chair, Web master, assistant Web masters, chapter newsletter editor, and social media directors for Facebook and Twitter.
 - b. All meetings were held in person on Sunday evenings with the exception of the May 2020 meeting which was held virtually via Zoom. All future board meetings will be held virtually until decided otherwise.
 - c. For the 2019-2020 chapter year, the following chapter members served on the board. The one-year terms of the four board officers expire June 30, 2020.
 - i. Dave Lande, President

- ii. Hans Van Slooten, Vice President
 - iii. Anders Koskinen, Secretary
 - iv. Jerry Janzen, Treasurer
 - v. Jim Cox
 - vi. Gene Gomes
 - vii. Frank Kadwell
- d. In addition to the board, the following chapter members hold these positions within the chapter.
- i. Events Committee Chair—Howard Luloff
 - ii. Research Committee Chairs—Brenda Himrich and Sarah Johnson
 - iii. *The Holy Cow!* Editor—Stew Thornley
 - iv. Webmaster—John Gregory
 - v. Assistant Webmasters—Frank Kadwell, Hans Van Slooten, and Stew Thornley
 - vi. Social Media Directors—Tom Flynn, Twitter; Bob Komoroski, Facebook