

## Halsey Hall (MN) SABR Chapter's June 2024-May 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Our chapter is excited to report on the many events we held every month this past year. Our monthly newsletter the *Holy Cow!* provided many more details from the year, including accomplishments and honors earned by some of our individual members. Our chapter website [www.halseyhall.org](http://www.halseyhall.org) contains minutes of our Research Committee, Board of Directors, and Chapter Business meetings. These records go back to 1985. The website and newsletter have a "Baseball Research Primer" and source information for member research. The chapter has sites on Facebook, Twitter/X and Bluesky.

Our chapter was honored to host SABR 52 – the 2024 SABR National Convention in Minneapolis. Chapter Membership is monitored by Stew Thornley and John Buckeye. This past year the number of members listing Halsey Hall as their primary chapter increased by 28.

### June 2024

June 7 and 14- Rich Arpi led visits to the Minnesota Historical Society Museum Library for our on-going Chapter Research Project "The Spread of Baseball in Minnesota". Microfilm records of county newspapers are used to document early baseball games in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for each Minnesota county. Over the course of the year, chapter members accompany Rich for this research.

June 8- Chapter Book Club (bi-monthly) at Barnes & Noble in Roseville, MN. The book was "*Charlie Hustle*" by Keith O'Brien. Nine attended, agreeing that Rose was not sweet-smelling.

June 9- Chapter Board of Directors Zoom meeting (bi-monthly): Rich Arpi (President) and eight others attended. Upcoming chapter events discussed; *Star Tribune* writer Curt Brown let Gene Gomes know that he will have a Sunday column about Walter Ball and other Minnesota Negro League players to help promote the SABR convention in August. Ed Edmonds is our new president for the coming year and other officers were named.

June 17- Research Committee (monthly) Zoom meeting. Our "committee" consists of any chapter member who wishes to attend. There are guidelines and a statement of purpose for the committee, which plans research and chapter research activities and has fun discussing baseball topics. Eleven attended.

June 30- Townball game in Owatonna, several members attended.

New members this month: Eric Nelson, Nathaniel Wagner, Connor Reese, Bob Bradt

### July 2024

July 12- Glenn Renick and Rich Arpi visited the MN History Museum library for research project.

July 13- Outing to attend Northwoods League game Waterloo at Rochester with dinner beforehand. Ten members plus Twins scorer Dr. Kyle Traynor attended. Stew threw out the first pitch, but hardly anyone saw that due to the Trump shooting. Then it rained.

July 15- Research comm.: Ten attendees; discussed poster presentations and volunteers for SABR 52; We had a "Red, White and Blue" baseball trivia quiz honoring July 4<sup>th</sup>.

July 16- All Star Game chapter watch party – ten attended.

July 18- About 11 Halsey-Hallers (42 total) attended the Five-SABR Chapter AL Central Division Zoom meeting. This is a periodic collaborative event with four other SABR chapters discussing the AL Central Division teams.

July 20- Chapter Breakfast (bi-monthly) at Manning's: ten attended.  
New member: Theo Tollefson, and his bio was in the July newsletter.

#### August 2024

A SABR.org video featuring Dan Levitt, Ed Edmonds, Brenda Himrich and Stew Thornley was posted promoting SABR 52 and Minneapolis.

August 6- About 18 of us filled goody bags at the Hyatt for SABR 52 attendees.

August 7-11: SABR 52 in Minneapolis! Many from the host Halsey Hall and other chapters provided a great experience for SABR. Sixty-four Halsey Hall members plus a few more local volunteers attended. Members Dan Levitt and Alan Holst presented at SABR 52. Frank White, Carl Rogan, Todd Peterson and Pete Gorton were on a panel about Black baseball in Minnesota. Emma Charlesworth-Seiler was on an umpire panel.

Our two professionally-manufactured Chapter Posters, "Beyond the Twins: Minnesota Hall of Famers" and "Spread of Baseball in Minnesota", representing chapter research projects, were on display at SABR 52, and drew rave reviews.

Our chapter won MVP Level Chapter for the second year at the awards ceremony.

August 17-Book Club: *Leave While the Party's Still Good: The Life and Legacy of Harry Dalton*, by Lee Gluck. Nine attended including two non-chapter members.

August 19- Research Comm.: 14 attended; "Hefty" Trivia Quiz by Sparky Seals.

August 25- Board meeting: Ten attended via Zoom.

New members: Jeff Papas, with his Bio in the newsletter. Also new to Halsey Hall: Ross Bennett, Quinn Wahl, Marty Krogman, Henry Bednar, Tom Goldstein, Steven Bolster, Joey Thomalla. Sadly, longtime member Steve Ellsberry passed away recently; he attended SABR 52.

#### September 2024

Sept. 14- Chapter Breakfast at Manning's; 6 attended.

Sept. 20- Rich Arpi and others continued the ongoing chapter research project at the MN History Museum Library.

Sept. 23- Research Comm. Zoom: 13 attended; We discussed the Fall Meeting plans & presentations; Stew is planning to give his presentation about the 1933 Werden's All Stars at the Hennepin County Museum for a collaborative event.

Several members contributed to the SABR 52 convention journal *Baseball in the Land of 10,000 Lakes*, and the articles are online.

New member Joe Thomalla was written up in the newsletter; he received a SABR Yoseloff Scholarship and attended SABR 52.

#### October 2024

Oct. 13- Chapter Board meeting via Zoom: 9 attended; we lined up longtime coach at Concordia Mark "Lunch" McKenzie to speak at the Fall Meeting. Rich Arpi is expanding the ongoing chapter research project to include documented amateur games between schools.

We are reviewing our bylaws regarding election procedures. Dave Lande created a detailed checklist for use in executing our in-person Spring and Fall meetings at the church.

Oct. 19- Book Club: *Summer of Shadows: A Murder, A Pennant Race, and the Twilight of the Best Location in the Nation* by Jonathan Knight. 7 attended

Oct. 19- Four members participated in the SABR D.E.I. Zoom course by the Violet organization.  
Oct. 21- Research Comm. Zoom: 13 attended; Glenn Renick created our Trivia Quiz, in which the answers' first letters formed an acrostic "H-a-l-s-e-y H-a-l-l".  
Oct. 26- Frank White of our chapter gave a presentation at Target Field on Minnesota's "100 Years of Negro League Baseball History". It was combined with a tour by the Twins organization of the African American Exhibit, press box, dugouts, and locker room, and was open to the public; we promoted it and there were about 31 there, including a few chapter members.  
New members: Riley Heck, Douglas Raynie, and Andy Sjerven

## November 2024

Nov. 2- Fall Chapter Meeting, in-person at Faith Mennonite Church, and on Facebook Live. Thirty-five attended, and there were three presentations:

1. Ed Edmonds, "Researching Baseball Salaries". Ed discussed the five categories of players, based on service time, and their relation to salaries and arbitration. The players also benefit from the \$50 million bonus pool for pre-arbitration players who receive award votes, as well as the MLB Playoff Bonus Pool. Rangers players received \$500,000 each for their championship. Ed discussed eligibility for salary arbitration, the "Trade Rumors" and "Cot's Contracts" baseball websites. Teams have won 55% of arbitration hearings historically, but the salaries have increased yearly.
2. Stew Thornley, "Werden's All Stars vs. The Old Guard" in 1933 at Nicollet Park. Perry Werden was a prolific home run hitter in the 1890s. He played at Athletic Park in Minneapolis, on a site nearby that of today's Target Field. After retiring due to poor eyesight, he of course became an umpire. He organized teams for games and this game was a benefit for Red Hill, a disabled war veteran. On loan to us from the Hennepin County Museum was a souvenir over-sized wooden bat autographed by the players. Stew recapped the game with newspaper articles.
3. Bob Tholkes, "1867 Base Ball Clubs". Bob spoke on the 1857 National Association of Base Ball Players (NABBP) being formed, and that by 1867 there were more than 400 clubs nationally. Many of these were "ad hoc" teams, Federal Employee teams, Military clubs, and others. The annual meeting in Dec. 1866 set forth rules of behavior, requirements for memberships, and rules for matches and payments to players. Associated dances and fund-raisers were important social outlets for the men after the Civil War.

Special Guest Speaker was Mark "Lunch" McKenzie, former longtime coach at Concordia College in Saint Paul. He spoke about starting out coaching at junior high, and Minnetonka High School. He was a bricklayer as was his father, and he expressed how much he has always "been blessed by God" for opening up doors for him. After coaching the USA Under-16 teams for years, he began at Concordia and won the Division II championship in 2003. He's grateful to Ron Gardenhire for the Twins playing pre-season games with Concordia, which gave exposure to his program. He coyly refused to reveal how he got his nickname!

-Howard Luloff conducted the computerized Trivia Contest, and Gene operated the Jeopardy-Style screen with only a couple of blunders.

Nov. 9- Our chapter collaborated with the Hennepin County Museum to put on a program highlighted by Stew Thornley's expanded presentation on the "Werden's All Stars vs. The Old Guard" game in 1933. The event was publicized by the Museum and its magazine contained an article by Stew: <https://stewthornley.net/werdenallstars.pdf>. It was free and open to the public. Stew gave some historical city and ballpark details, as well as slides, news article details and the box score of the game. The historic souvenir bat was on display, and Stew elaborated on Perry Werden's career and life after baseball. Chapter SABR info was handed out, as well as National Pastime SABR books. About 25-26 attended, mostly members of the public.

Nov. 12- We had 52-54 attendees including 9 or 10 Halsey-Hallers via Zoom for the Five-SABR Chapter AL Central Division season recap event. The Twins choked down the stretch.

Nov. 15- Rich Arpi and two others visited the MN History Museum for continued research.

Nov. 16- Breakfast at Manning's; about 11 or 12 attended -noisy and fun!

Nov. 18- Research Comm. Zoom: 12 attended; Ed Edmonds recently spoke at Mike Hauptert's class at U. of Wisconsin-LaCrosse course on Baseball and Antitrust. Glenn Renick posted on the SABR Baseball Cards Facebook site a series about "The First 100 Years of Honus Wagner Cards". Gene Gomes' Trivia Quiz paid tribute to the Oakland A's, and their departed stars in Nov. 1976. We discussed starting up a chapter Bluesky site.

New Members Armando "Mando" Jimenez, Doug Kenison, and Ron Pease.

#### December 2024

Dec. 6- Rich, Brenda Himrich and Glenn Renick visited the MN History Library for research.

Dec. 7- Book Club: *Kiss It Goodbye: The Mystery, the Mormon, and the Moral of the 1960 Pittsburgh Pirates*, by John Moody. 8 attended.

Dec. 8- Board Zoom meeting: 11 attended; SABR Day event planned; new Bluesky site; Our chapter won't have a table at 2025 TwinsFest -due to a \$350 fee being demanded.

Dec. 16- Research Comm. Zoom: 11 attended; Stew is documenting MLB Rule Changes year by year since 1950. His work so far can be viewed at <https://milkeespress.com/baseballrules.html>

Dan Levitt has lined up former Dodgers GM Dan Evans as our Guest Speaker next spring.

New Members: Simon Steeves, Kurt Franke

#### January 2025

Jan. 11- Chapter Breakfast at a new venue, Stanley's, in Minneapolis. 8 attended, including new member Kurt Franke.

Jan. 21- Research Comm. Zoom: 13 attended; We approved two research presentations for the Chapter Spring Meeting: by Ben Ernst on the Aberdeen Pheasants, and Rich Arpi on the coverage of the 1908 baseball season by Minnesota papers. Stew submitted the Quiz, with a theme of "Hard Time Served" by various players. Sample: Alex Cole caught the last out of Scott Erickson's no-hitter, but also caught prison time for heroin possession/distribution.

Jan. 30- Our chapter's SABR Day event was a Zoom with author Zak Ford and his book, *Called Up: Ballplayers Remember Becoming Major Leaguers*. He conducted hours of interviews with 109 players who debuted between 1961 and 2018. He featured six ex-Twins.

New members: Christian Towalski, Fred Rule, Maxwell Slinden, Alex Robbins

## February 2025

Feb. 4- Board meeting: 11 attendees discussed bylaws for 1. allowing members to email their intention to be elected to the board, not just via in-person; 2. A direct-election by membership for president; 3. Rotating 3-year terms for the directors instead of 2-year. Darryl Sannes will head a new nomination committee for board members.

Feb. 8- Book Club: *The Universal Baseball Association, Inc., J. Henry Waugh, Prop.* by Robert Coover. Only 2 attended due to a heavy snowfall.

Feb. 17- Research Comm. 12 attended. Daniel Dorff completed his second BioProject, on Sun Daly. Terry Bohn's BioProjects about John Michaelson and Dan Lally were posted. Glenn Renick continued posting his work about pre-war baseball card companies on the SABR Baseball Committee blog. Steve Ginader and Steve Bratkovich published Game Project stories.

New members: Jeff Napierala, Matt Hannah

## March 2025 -Busy!

March 1- Chapter Breakfast at Stanley's, 17 attended.

March 9- MN Gophers baseball hosted Purdue, 9 members attended and met at the game..

March 11- Terry Bohn presentation about Dan Dally for the SABR Nineteenth Cent. Committee. 35 attended, including 6 other Halsey members.

March 17- Research Comm. 12 attended. Brenda Himrich and Darryl Sannes joined Rich at the Mn History Center recently. Planning for Spring Chapter Meeting.

March 18- A local Civil War History group meets several times a year, and this one featured Bruce Allardice speaking about Civil War baseball. Four Halsey Hall members attended.

March 19- Collaborative Zoom event with Ken Keltner and Emil Rothe Chapters: John W. Miller, author of *The Last Manager: How Earl Weaver Tricked, Tormented, and Reinvented Baseball*. 25 attended, including 8 Halsey members.

March 24- Collaborative Five-Chapter AL Central Division Season Preview Zoom. 44 attended, and most thought that Detroit would win the AL Central in 2025. John Bonnes of *Twins Daily* gave the Twins preview for Halsey Hall. Michigan Chapter's Gary Gillette hosted.

New Members: Carson Schmidt and Ben Schefers.

## April 2025

April 5- Book Club: discussed Melissa Ludtke's *Locker Room Talks: A Woman's Struggle to Get Inside*; seven attended.

April 10- Joint Zoom meeting with Ken Keltner and Emile Rothe chapters featuring Kat Williams of the International Women's Baseball Center, and discussed her book about Maybelle Blair. Four Halsey Hall members attended.

April 13- Chapter Board mtg.; 12 attendees discussed nominations for our board elections.

April 18- NCAA game at St. Thomas vs. South Dakota St: Six chapter members attended.

April 19- Chapter Spring Meeting, attended by 31, was held in-person at Faith Mennonite Church. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Halsey Hall SABR Chapter was celebrated!

Three research presentations were given:

1. Rich Arpi presented "The Other 1908 Season", and he spoke about the coverage of that season by the Duluth MN papers which centered more on the Northern League of MN than the famous NL and AL pennant races. Rich also explained the chapter research project on early MN baseball and encouraged more members to get involved.
2. Ben Ernst of South Dakota presented "The Aberdeen Pheasants", about how this Baltimore Orioles farm team from 1946-1971 featured several future MLB All Stars, and played a 1964 exhibition game against the Orioles. Ben was able to work with authorities to get a commemorative plaque at Northern State University honoring the Aberdeen team.
3. Eric Berg presented "Baseball Above 47 Degrees", a talk he gave at Bemidji St. University which documented the history of early baseball in Northern MN from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. He featured the first teams formed in MN towns north of 47 degrees latitude, the first ballparks, and several Black barnstorming teams and a women's team. He also covered the 1897 Red River Valley League and its growth to becoming the Northern League from 1902-1905.

Special Guest Speaker for the meeting was Dan Evans, former LA Dodgers GM and Chicago White Sox Assistant GM. Dan entertained us with stories about his childhood friend Kirby Puckett, also from Chicago's South Side. Dan traveled around the world -Japan, Taiwan, Latin America- in a variety of roles for MLB. His stories of Harry Caray and the early career of Ozzie Guillen were a treat.

At our chapter business meeting today elections were held and Jacob Sayward, Rich Arpi, John Buckeye and Howard Luloff were elected to our chapter board. President Ed Edmonds explained a plan to change how the board is elected. The by-laws amendment for this will be voted on at the Fall Chapter Meeting.

The traditional Trivia Game by Howard Luloff and Dave Lande went well on Power Point and provided a nice finish to the meeting.

April 21- Research Comm.: 11 attendees discussed Stew Thornley's application to the state for a Pillbox Plaque, and an article and photo in the St. Paul's *Pioneer Press* paper about the "Pillbox" ballpark, the historic ballpark in St. Paul. Also discussed: individual research, Ed Edmonds' work on a panel at SABR 53 about the Messersmith-McNally case, and the ongoing Chapter Research Project.

April 27- Two students at Minnesota History Day won the \$150 award sponsored by our chapter for their project "Toni Stone, Gaining a Fair Chance" by Reece Johnson and Easton Schwartz. New members: Allison Cavallin, Jim Shoulak, and Laurel Krahn.

May 2025

May 3- Chapter Breakfast at Stanley's. 12 attended.

May 14- Zoom collaboration with Ken Keltner Chapter featuring Charlie Vascellaro, who spoke about the 2024 Rickwood Field game in Alabama. He is programming manager for the Jackie Robinson Foundation and Museum. Attendance was 17, including seven from Halsey hall.

May 26- Research Comm. We discussed the recent SABR Webinar about Pete Rose and Shoeless Joe. Lively discussions! Controversial decision by Rob Manfred! We discussed expanding our

Chapter Research Project in 2025 and enlisting more researchers. Ed Edmonds' Quiz theme was "Popes on Deck" and was entertaining: Cap Anson's given name contains names of two Popes: Adrian and Constantine! Ed mentioned that he recently met with Scott Bush to have a pro bono law firm work with SABR for future issues. We had 11 attendees.

May 27- Board Group meeting held, ahead of the normal June time. New board member Jacob Sayward was welcomed and John Buckeye was chosen for Secretary. New Blood! Attendees: 12.

May 30- Chapter outing at a Townball game at Cologne, MN.

New members: Emerson Bigguns and Charlie Frenzel

We're looking forward to 2025-26!

Gene Gomes