

Halsey Hall SABR Chapter Research Committee April 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Attendees (11): Stew Thornley, Dave Lande, Ed Edmonds, Bob Komoroski, Art Mugalian, Gene Gomes, Rich Arpi, Terry Bohn, Jacob Sayward, Darryl Sannes, Dan Levitt

Pre-meeting discussion about funeral lunches, Americans with Disability Act, value of pitching wins and saves

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

1. Spring Chapter meeting on April 19
 - a. There were 31 attendees.
 - b. All three research presentations were very good.
 - c. The Trivia contest was a blowout for the winning team.
 - d. Dan Evans was a great guest speaker with many stories to tell about his time working in baseball front offices.
 - e. The chapter needs to identify at least two people beforehand to assist with technical issues encountered during research presentations.
 - f. These four people ran for the four open positions on the board: Rich Arpi, John Buckeye, Howard Luloff, Jacob Sayward. All four were unanimously elected to the board.
 - g. The clean-up after the meeting went okay.
2. Civil War History Group meeting on March 18
 - a. Three chapter members including Darryl Sannes and Stew Thornley attended the meeting.
 - b. Bruce Allardice from the Emil Rothe SABR chapter in Chicago gave a presentation about baseball in the Civil War. He was well prepared and gave a great presentation. The possibility of hosting a Zoom call in collaboration with another SABR chapter with Bruce as the guest speaker was discussed.
3. Five-Chapter American League Central Division Season Preview Zoom meeting on March 24
 - a. A total of 34 people attended this event.
 - b. The consensus was that Detroit will probably win the Central Division.
4. Research Roundtable – Around the Horn
 - a. Ed Edmonds was asked by Scott Bush to research the Messersmith/McNally decision on December 24, 1975 in conjunction with a future panel presentation on this subject. He's currently reading an 840-page transcript on this decision.
 - b. Bob Komoroski is working with the Ken Keltner chapter in Wisconsin on a joint Zoom presentation to be held on May 14 at 7:00 p.m. The guest speaker, Charlie

Vascellaro from the Babe Ruth chapter in Baltimore, will talk about Rickwood Field in Birmingham, AL. Rickwood Field is the oldest professional baseball park in the United States.

- c. Ed Edmonds attended a Zoom presentation where Kat Williams talked about Maybell Blair, a pioneer in women's professional baseball.
 - d. Art Mugalian noted that the next chapter book club meeting will be held on Saturday, June 14. The book to be discussed will be the new Earl Weaver biography by John Miller entitled "The Last Manager."
 - e. Rich Arpi explained that SABR History Day is Sunday, April 27. Two students will be awarded \$150 for their work on a Toni Stone presentation.
 - f. Terry Bohn said that the Satchel Paige project in Bismarck didn't receive a SABR grant. Phil Dixon from the Monarchs chapter in Kansas City, MO is coming to Bismarck in July to promote this project. Phil has written extensively on the Negro Leagues and Black baseball.
 - g. Art Mugalian recommended listening to the podcast entitled "Effectively Wild" and especially the three episodes about Ella Black, the first woman to write about professional baseball in the late 19th century.
5. Pillbox plaque
- a. Stew Thornley explained that a public hearing on the proposed Pillbox Plaque will be held in May.
 - b. Public comments regarding the plaque are now being accepted.
6. Other Items, upcoming events
- a. The question of digital archival storage was raised by Terry Bohn. This is a matter for the SABR national organization to explore. Dan Levitt will follow up with a committee at SABR national regarding this subject.
7. **Trivia Time Quiz**, courtesy of John "Sparky" Seals; Try to guess the theme!
- (1) This HOF player bridged the 19th and 20th centuries and is known for "hitting them where they ain't." Willie Keeler (5' 4")
 - (2) Nicknamed "The Cricket" this SS played for three teams from 1968 until 1981 and was known mostly for his ability to turn double plays. Freddie Patek (5' 5" tall)
 - (3) This HOF SS and 2B-man played 23 years in the majors for 5 different teams and was known as one of baseball's most famous clowns. In 1925, after 53 games with him as the manager, the Cubs were in last place with a 23-30 record. Not long after that, he was out on the street outside Ebbets Field in Brooklyn mimicking a newsboy hawking papers. He cried out, "Read all about it! <Player> fired!" And so, he was—the next day. Rabbit Maranville (5' 5")

- (4) This SS and 3B-man boasts the second-lowest strikeout rate in the history of Major League Baseball. In 1932, he struck out only three times the entire season, owning the single-season record for his excellent plate discipline that year. Joe Sewell (5' 6")
- (5) A pitcher who played 16 years in the majors, he had 1,072 strikeouts, was a three-time All Star, had a league-leading ERA of 2.45 in 1957, and was named AL MVP in 1952. As of this writing He's the oldest-surviving Philadelphia Athletic. Bobby Schantz (5' 6")
- (6) An excellent power hitter, he hit 56 HR in 1930 and led the NL in HR four times. He still holds the record for RBI in a season and a sportswriter once wrote of him: "For a brief span of a few years, this hammered-down little strongman actually rivaled the mighty Ruth." Hack Wilson (5' 6")
- (7) This SS played for the hated Yankees for 13 years. The Hilltoppers won seven World Championships during his time with the team. A defensive wizard, his 1217 career double plays still rank in the top 20 of all time at his position. Also, was a decent hitter. Phil Rizzuto (5' 6")
- (8) This HOF 2B-man hit with power and excelled at middle of the field defense, winning five Gold Gloves. He was a 10-time All Star and played on two World Champions. Joe Morgan (5' 7")
- (9) This former Twins SS played but 4 years in the majors and finished with a batting average significantly below the "Mendoza Line." He managed to play just one complete year at the Major League level. He had much greater success as both a player and a manager "south of the border" being named ROY in the Mexican League in 1976. Houston Jimenez (5' 8")
- (10) He played 2B, 3B, and SS for 10 years in the majors winning a batting title in 1945 hitting .309. A two-time All Star, he played on three World Championship teams. Sadly, he was killed in 1958 when the train he was riding on, for reasons still unknown, drove straight through signals and flew off the open Newark Bay lift bridge and into the bay itself. Snuffy Stirnweiss (5' 8")

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8. Next Research Committee Meeting: May 26 and June 16
 - a. Next Quizzer: ???
 9. Meeting adjourned at: 8:27 p.m.