

GLBUA 2024 News Letter

This email update is to all members of the Greater Lawrence Baseball Umpires Association. Please read the entire newsletter, as there is important information enclosed. Thanks- President Fred Simm

Coming off the 2023 Season we saw a lot of positive things.

Leagues getting back to normal.

GLBUA recruitment of new umpires was at an all-time high.

GLBUA offered the “Back to Work Program” where umpires that have let their dues lapse were brought back to work after fulfillment of certain requirements.

New venue for our Board clinics Central Catholic High School.

Summer online training program instructed by Jacob Beaudoin.

The Executive Board and our training group of Scott Young, Ron Annand, and Steve Martinelli are looking forward to the challenges of 2024.

1. **Annual dues** – the executive board recently voted to set dues at the same rates as they have been since 2019! \$50 if paid by January 1, 2024, \$60 if paid by February 1, 2024 and \$70 if paid any time after February 1, 2024. The deadline for paying in full is March 1st. The deadline for dues for 2024 is March 6th. If you do not pay by this date, you risk being dropped from the Roster. You can mail your check to the GLBUA at PO Box 701 Methuen, MA 01844. Another option is to pay online by credit card or your Paypal account, which you can access on the GLBUA website by clicking on the PayPal link on the Member page at glbua.org. See item #4 for the password. **You can also mail directly to Ken Gabriel at 20 Tammy Street, Salem, NH, 03079.**

1. **Business meeting** – **MARCH 7th Business Meeting: New Location:** Salvatore's Italian Restaurant 354 Merrimack St Lawrence Ma 01843

We are back! Our Business meeting will be held in person this year.

2. **REMINDER:** per the GLBUA constitution, each member is required to attend the business meeting to be a member in good standing. If you are **unable** to attend, you **MUST** contact a GLBUA member of the attendance committee. Jose Brito, Phil Cultrera, or Kevin Regan. Please state the reason you cannot attend. Since this is a mandatory meeting, please try to block this night off on your calendar today..

3. **The Arbiter** – The Association continues to be the only board in the state to sponsor an Arbiter account in an effort to bring more games to our members. The GLBUA will once again be paying the fee for all association members to be on the GLBUA Arbiter site. This site will be for assignments from Fred Simm, John Shaheen, Tony Barbaro, and Jacob Beaudoin only.

4. Once again, we expect to have a LOT of games for 2024! Please begin updating your Arbiter calendar with dates you are unavailable. This is a good time to block off the dates of those weddings and graduations your wife or significant other has scheduled for you this spring and summer. If your work schedule has changed, block off dates and times you cannot umpire. This is also a good time to verify your personal information, especially if you have a new phone number or home address. Don't forget to update your travel limits and the city you leave each day. We also encourage you to use the member roster to add phone numbers of fellow umpires to your cell phones.

If you have questions or want to know more about how the Arbiter works, please look at the links on the GLBUA website.

5. **Greater Lawrence Baseball Umpires Association website** – the address for our website was changed in 2018 and is now www.glbua.org. Check out the new look put in by our webmaster David Toto! Same great stuff, just a more modern look. You can also pay your dues from the Member section. The generic username and password is Login: *umpire* Password: *umpire123*. Please write that down somewhere.

6. **Pre-season exam** – all GLBUA members will be required to take the 50-question preseason exam that will be posted on the GLBUA website sometime in January. Look for a separate email soon announcing the Due date for completion will be APRIL 15th, when the exam will be discussed at our rules meeting (see #7 below). There will be review sessions in February. Steve Martinelli and Tom Torissi will be hosting Dates TBA.

7. **New Umpire Class** – do you know anyone that wants to be an umpire? We will once again co-sponsor the class with the Merrimack Valley Umpires Association. The new umpire class begins January 29th, and continues every Monday until February 26th. Exam Date is March 4th. This will be held in person at St. Michael's School 80 Maple Ave in North Andover. Ron Annand and Scott Young are the instructors. Please have interested candidates reach out to Scott at coach.scott.young@gmail.com or 978 590 3262. As always, all association members are invited to sit in and refresh themselves on the rules during any class session- It is very valuable to both the candidates and our veteran members to have experienced umpires in the room to help bring the rules to life!

8. **Meetings and Clinics** – we have a very busy slate of meetings and clinics coming up in March and April. The GLBUA constitution states that each member must attend the Business Meeting and at least one clinic annually, but we encourage you to come to as many as you can. The schedule will be posted on the Meetings & Clinics page on our website as soon as possible.

9. **MARCH 7th Business Meeting: New Location:**

10. **Salvatore's Italian Restaurant 354 Merrimack St Lawrence Ma 01843**

11. March 11th – 6:00pm – 7:45pm 2 Man Mechanics at St. Michael's School 80 Maple Ave in North Andover.

12. March 14th – 7pm GLBUA 1st Rules clinic at Central Catholic High School. Test Review.

13. March 18th – Location TBA Gym Clinic.
14. ~~March 28th~~ – Now March 25th 7pm FED Rules Clinic – with Joe Peters from the MBUA. Clinic is at Central Catholic High School. All umpires taking High School Assignments SHOULD attend.
15. ~~APRIL 4th~~ – Now April 11th 7pm at Central Catholic High School, Small Diamond Clinic, hosted by Tom Torrisi. Will be conducted in Person. Instructions to follow (**Highly recommended for 1st and 2nd year umpires and veterans that work on the small diamond**)

Want to sell some of your old equipment or shirts? The new candidates are taking their final exam on March 4th 2024, and they are usually interested in picking up some equipment at a discounted price. Also, send an email to the GLBUA secretary so that your equipment can be listed online for all members.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me or any e-board member.

We will look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting, clinics, and of course on the field.

Regards,

Fred Simm, President, and the GLBUA Executive Board