



## Past President's Comments

### Val Lewis (1984 – 1990) *Founding President*

It has been a pleasure since founding the League in 1984, to welcome each member who has been inducted into the SMSBL Hall of Fame. This year's inductees are very deserving and have brought credit to the league, and most of all, been outstanding players! I believe we could form a few teams from our Hall of Fame inductees and still win Championships at the annual World Series. Congratulations to Gary, Van, Tim, Glenn and Bob for so many years of outstanding play!

### Jerry Karnow (1991 – 2002)

It is with great pleasure to, again, congratulate our 2014 inductees into the Sacramento MSBL Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Tim Burkitt, Gary Kleinfeldt, Van Mattison, Glenn Wolff and Bob Alonso. Also, I would like to thank the families for their support for these fine inductees. I especially recall the great memories I had playing in the MSBL World Series in Phoenix with Glenn Wolff and Bob Alonso in the late 80's and early 90's (great baseball, great fun!). Again, congratulations to our five new members of the Sacramento MSBL Hall of Fame. Also, congratulations out to Jim Tygrett and Tina Haas as they were inducted into the 2013 National MSBL Hall of Fame.

### Jim Lortz (2003 - 2006)

Congratulations, to the new Hall of Fame inductees! May you not only cherish this moment now, but enjoy this recognition and achievement for the rest of your life. This is a once in a life time deal which will honor you and what you did for the Sacramento MSBL. Thank you!

### Lanny Ropke (2007-2009) *Past President and Hall of Fame Committee Chairman.*

Welcome to all of you who have come out tonight to honor our eighth class of Hall of Fame Inductees. We honor five very special and deserving men and I know they greatly appreciate your attendance on this very special night. I really enjoy this Chairmanship as it is extremely gratifying to reward deserving people for their efforts. Another enjoyable moment tonight will be to announce the Committees selection for induction next year at this time.

For 23 years I have been associated with this great league as Player, Manager, Board Member, President, and now with the Hall of Fame Committee. It has been a wonderful experience and I want to thank the founders and all those who have, and currently are, involved with the perpetuation of our league. Many thanks also to the HOF Committee, Val Lewis, Jerry Karnow, Jim Tygrett, Bob Snook, Ken Chavez, Doug Hilton, and John Rice. This is a great bunch of guys that not only take the responsibility seriously but work together very smoothly.

Lastly, I want to honor and I want all of you to know who is currently on the nomination list: Larry Donaghey, Bud Sanchez, Dave Muniz, Dereck Bullock, Dave Alsop, Morgan Snow, Dave Kepar, Mark Vendero, Mike Baker, Howard Scott, Ken Junjsten, Jerry Marquardsen, Russ Gladden, Jeff Hughes, and Rich Cable.

### Jim Tygrett 2009-2012, 2013-present

While serving on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Men's Baseball League for 14 years, 4 as President I've come to realize just how important and fulfilling it has been. The opportunity to meet and compete and make friends with so many great players amateur, ex collegiate, and past professional, get to know their families, and to start new relationships is a rewarding experience. I am especially proud to be part of an organization that is well respected across the country, leads the MSBL in national championships, and serves as a model for other MSBL leagues. Being inducted into MSBL National Hall of Fame in 2013 is an honor that has humbled me. That would never have happened without the blueprint to follow from our past presidents and boards of directors, the character and integrity of the league and it's players, and the support of all SMSBL families over the years. Therefore I must share that award with you all and thank you.



### Rusty McLain (2012-2013)

It has been my pleasure to be part of a league that is represented by a class of people who truly love the game and all that it has to offer. This year's inductees are true examples of just those people. I respect their talent, dedication and passion for the game. Baseball has been a large part of my life for as long as I can remember as I know it has for most of those involved with the SMSBL. It has taught me life lessons and brought me lifelong friends. In my seven years in the league, five as a board member, it has developed and grown to become a premier place to showcase talent, philanthropy, camaraderie and an ongoing integrity of the game at its highest level. It is with great pride that we have been able to make significant strides with field improvements and overall expansion of the league. I appreciate the time and efforts of all those involved to make it the best it can be today and for those future members. Thank you to all who volunteer their time and energies to our league, your work has produced a product that is superior to any of its kind and is valued more than you know.

# The Sacramento Men's Senior Baseball League

Presents

## 2014 Hall-of-Fame Induction



June 26, 2014



## Welcome to the Sacramento Men's Senior Baseball League annual Hall of Fame induction and dinner.

It has been a privilege to serve as President of the most successful MSBL affiliate in the nation with now at 50 national championships. This year we honor 5 more well deserving gentlemen, one posthumously.

The league has made some significant improvements over the last two years and we can thank past president Rusty McLain, especially for his work on the infields which have been completely redone. We continue to grow with the second season of our Sunday League. We now have three options to play baseball, a Spring, Sunday, and Summer night League. Rusty and Alan Van Ness, board member and Lead Commissioner, were instrumental in establishing the Sunday League. Membership at the end of 2013 is now over 800 players.

We as a board begin preparing for the next calendar year in November and end that year the following October. That takes a lot of work and volunteering on the part of the directors and support staff. I would like to recognize them and what they do to keep this league the premier amateur baseball league in the nation. They are Boyce Whitlock Vice President and website manager, Gordy Olson Treasurer, Tony Im Secretary and Record Keeper, again Alan Van Ness Lead and Sunday League Commissioner, Dave Whitesell Scheduler and Field Coordinator, Steve Welch Complex Operations Electrical / Facility Support, Ron Williams Special Projects, welcome to David Moore Spring League Commissioner, Jane Burkitt League, Website, and MSBL Photographer, and George Ortiz McAuliffe Facility Superintendent.

And purposely, last but not least, Tina Haas League Compliance and the first woman ever inducted into the 2013 MSBL National World Series Hall of Fame.

Rest assured we will continue to work hard to maintain the outstanding reputation of the SMSBL League and the facility at the McAuliffe Complex we call home. We are committed to contribute to the community and provide youth and adult baseball opportunities.

Now the night belongs to Gary Kleinfeldt, Van Mattison, Tim Burkitt, Glenn Wolfe, and the late Bob Alonso whom we miss greatly. These men are welcome additions and most qualified to be inducted into the SMSBL Hall of Fame and I am honored to celebrate their inductions this evening.

Sincerely,

**Jim Tygrett-DiNuzzi**

President -Sacramento MSBL/MABL

On behalf of the National Organization of the Men's Senior Baseball League, we wish to congratulate all of the 2014 Sacramento MSBL Hall of Fame Inductees. As our national organization gets older, as do our local affiliates and the appreciation for the original leaders and founders needs to become more profound. Their shared vision and dedication have paved the way for all of you to enjoy their success.

MSBL on a national scale is thriving, mainly due to leagues like Sacramento who mirrors our objectives and leadership.

You join an outstanding fraternity of men and I personally congratulate all of you for your recognition.

**Steve Sigler**



**Steve Sigler**  
PRESIDENT MSBL / MABL

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**Glen Wolff**

Glen was born in the Bronx in 1947. Moved to Carmichael and graduated from Hiram Johnson High in 1965. He was on the Metro League All-League team and selected to All-City as a centerfielder. Played at Sac City College in '66, then went into the U.S. Navy, and then rejoined the SCC Baseball team and was named to the All-Conference team in 1972. Glen went to dive school and worked in the offshore oil industry before working for the Sacramento Solons from 1974-'76. He then worked for the San Jose Earthquakes for a couple of years until he caught on with the Fresno Giants as the Director of Stadium Operations for the Giants minor-league AAA team. He played in the SMSBL with the A's and was an exceptional centerfielder alongside teammates Lowell Palmer, Jim Prizmich, Bob Alonso and Mike Baldwin. He was the starting outfielder for the Sacramento Stars in Phoenix when they won the championship 3 times, and hit over .400 most of the years he played in the Phoenix Series.



**Tim Burkitt**

Tim Burkitt was born in Sacramento, CA and began playing Little League at the age of 6. He played in Tahoe Tallac Little League at 11 against Dennis Viegas. He played baseball his Junior year in High School at a school in Texas. Tim started playing baseball again in 1994 after a 20 year layoff. He joined the MSBL in 1997 and has played for 18 years. He has played on the Rangers, Mets, Mariners, Rivercats, Royals, Indians, and A's. Tim has won World Series rings in Father/Son, 38, 45, 48, 50, and 55 divisions. He has 8 MSBL World Series rings and 5 more from other leagues. Tim is always ready and willing to pitch. Ten years ago, for 4 consecutive years, he threw over 325 innings each year. He has thrown 1 no-hitter in MSBL. In one spring league game, he was 7 x 7 with 9 rbis. Tim retired in 2011 after 34 years with the Department of Justice.



**Bob "Taco" Alonso**

"#6 on your scorecard, # 1 in your heart." Born in Texas, Bob lived in Pasadena during his youth years before moving north to Broderick in 1960. He graduated from Bishop Armstrong High in 1967 where he played Baseball and Football. Bob joined the U.S. Marines and made the grade of E-5 while playing Baseball for the Marine's Championship team at Camp LeJeune in 1970. He led the Mexican-American League in hitting in 1968 and the won the Night League Batting Title in 1974. Bob played for Johnny's Time Out, Reno Café, Country Maid, and the Cannery teams, in addition to playing Open Softball tournaments for 17 years. Bob played in the MSBL from 1989 until approximately 2003. He was on the '90 & '91 World Series Champions Sacramento Stars. He played for the A's during his first few years in the league and then with the Yankees. He was a mainstay for the Sacramento "Majic" and helped lead them in Phoenix to 3 MSBL World Series Championships. Bob, along with Dale Hall, always kept the team loose with their constant jokes. Bob would agree with his grandson who told his dad, "Baseball is life, right dad?"



**Van Mattison**

Van began playing organized baseball in 1961 at Lemon Hill Little League. He then moved to Willow Rancho Little League and continued to develop his skills at Southgate Babe Ruth. Van played High School Baseball at John F. Kennedy High School (Sacramento) playing only his senior year. As a pitcher/outfielder Van was a key contributor to the Cougars 1970 Metro League championship batting .365 with 5 home runs, and compiled a 5-0 win/loss record as a pitcher. After a brief stint with Southside American Legion Post 661, Van was selected by the Los Angeles Dodgers as a left hand pitcher in the 1970 free agent draft. In 1973 Van received an invitation to play baseball in the Arizona Fall League and in 1974 and 1975 received invitations to the Dodgers major league spring training camp. In 1974, Van was selected to join the Dodgers as a batting practice pitcher when the Dodgers faced the Oakland Athletics in the 1974 World Series. Van was a member of the Dodger organization for six years before an arm injury abruptly ended his career. After his professional career with the Dodgers, Van continued to play baseball in the Sacramento Night League as a first baseman for Ellis Restaurant. In 1976 Van was named Ellis' Offensive Player of the year and Co-MVP. Van began his MSBL career in 1995 with the Padres playing for several different teams including seven years with the Sacramento Giants. Van has participated in 15 MSBL World Series. During the 2004 MSBL World Series, Van was named team MVP after completing a nine inning five hit shutout as the winning pitcher in the championship game. Van has acquired 9 World Championship rings during his MSBL career, all with the Tribe.



**Gary Kleinfeld**

Gary began his baseball career in 1964 playing with the Jaguars at the age of 7 years old in San Jose, CA. He continued playing in San Jose's Branham Hills Little League for the next 9 years. He played on the all-star team at age 12 and at age 15. His Branham Hills senior league all-star team fell just one game short from qualifying for the World Series. He played his High School ball at Pioneer High School in San Jose and his College ball at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA. Gary was a three sport athlete in high school, playing baseball, football, and basketball.

Some of his best High School accomplishments were winning his final 17 games in his high school pitching career with a 0.58 ERA. He also pitched a complete game 18 inning shutout against their crosstown rival Willow Glen to secure the league championship.

While hitting a triple in the top of the 18th inning and eventually coming in to score the game's only run. Gary was elected to the first team all-league every year in High School including a league MVP honor his senior year. He was also elected to the first team All Northern California team in that year and was proudly honored on the field during pre-game ceremonies at a San Francisco Giants Game. In college his most memorable moment was as a freshman throwing a complete game 2-1 win over perennial powerhouse Fresno State.

Gary did not play any more baseball for a couple years after college. Then he heard about a semi-professional league in the bay area. He began playing again at the age of 23 for two more years. He was eventually approached by some scouts who, when they found out his age, just about tripped over themselves trying to get away. That was it for baseball until Gary joined the Sacramento MSBL in 2001. Gary tried softball off and on for several years, but couldn't get his much needed baseball fix.

"I consider myself very lucky to have gotten involved with the Sacramento MSBL, and with Ken Chavez especially. Ken is a great manager and a great person as well. It is because of him I began playing in the first place." Gary has been involved in Ken's Tribe tournament team since 2001, part of a great team and a great group of guys. The Tribe has reached the finals of the World Series for nine consecutive years while winning seven championships. They have also won nine Las Vegas championships in the Kickoff Classic and the Las Vegas Open. "I hope to continue to play for many years to come, so long as my body holds out. And then I'll play some more."