



January 15, 2004

Attached are lists of the main contributors to the League in 2003. There are so many members to thank for their significant roles. I'm sure to be kicking myself later for leaving out some heavy contributors. This league has run very smoothly due to the effort and coordination of the players on the lists. Make a note to give them a pat on the back when you see them. A special note of recognition is due to the Presidents of the SCW and SC Clubs, namely **Wayne Mitchell** and **Doug Wright (returning)**. What sterling effort they have expended for all of us. We thank you in particular and the many other highly paid volunteers.

And you? Have you done your part? Think about it. Have you contributed lately? While it may seem like all this wonderful fun happens automatically and mysteriously, it doesn't, as evidenced by the attached lists of unselfish folks. What fun for all us kids! *Still only \$25.*

The attached lists also include members who already are undertaking active duties in 2004. All of us thank them for getting involved. Great things are undoubtedly about to happen.

Special thanks to all the Team Managers of the National and American leagues. You put up with the antics of us unpredictable players and survived.

Here they are, the incomparable "Angels in the Outfield." These magnificent "Angels," contributed highly to our cause in 2003. You are the greatest!

Gail Stouthamer, Coordinator (extraordinaire); Joyce Fano, Treasurer. Card Senders: Bev Sandberg, Darlene Boinski. Card Maker: Eloise Gault.

Phone Callers: Sharon Cooke, Gladys Harrison, Barb Klingensmith, Joyce Fano, Nancy Durrer, Maggy Otto, Pat Bromley, Vera LaSusa, Linda Graham, Trish Barian, Kay Peterson, Jo Owens.

"Angels in the Wings" who help with projects: Joe Rottmann, Phyllis Freeman, Lois Fingers, Jeannette Borst, Sandy Wild, Carol Atherton, Ann Mitchell, JoAnne Nagelson, Judy Roque, Ida Aprea, Dee Masteller, JoAnne Sabo, Joan McKenna, Fran Strock and Bonnie Eckardt.

Angels in the Outfield now have their own web site. Kudos to Ken Skinner for designing the site. Linda Graham will maintain it. Check it out. www.angelsintheoutfield.com

Our gratitude goes to the Recreation Centers of SC and SCW for the manicured fields.

Some Sun City projects completed in 2003. Info provided by Tait Douglas.

- ?? Hosted the annual softball banquet for 303 attendees.
- ?? Participated in the Fairway Rec Center Fair Day with a booth and 20 players. Presented softball information through displays and conversation to area residents and guests.
- ?? Hosted the annual SC/SCW All Star games featuring games by both the American and National leagues (players by invite).
- ?? Reworked the SC ball field with new infield dirt and leveled the field along the grass line.
- ?? Printed and distributed flyers throughout the Rec Centers, Visitors Center and community businesses promoting senior softball.
- ?? Worked closely with the Rec Center grounds crew to improve the overall appearance of the SC softball complex.

Summary on possible split-up of the leagues is attached per Mike Graham. The Dec newsletter gave full details. Players will be given an anonymous "yes or no" vote the week of January 25th. If the "no" votes win, nothing changes. If the "yes" votes win, another vote will be taken later to determine what type of split is preferred by the majority of players. Please review alternatives on this important issue.

Each league will have 13 teams to start the 2nd session on 1-20. American league teams (chosen by manager draft) will have 12 players. National league teams, with 11-12 players, were assigned by the National League Committee.

Ken Skinner's January Umpire Clinic was a hit as usual. Those attending now have more confidence and better understand the in's and out's of umpiring.

Please be courteous to all of our umpires. They are us, not professionals.

A player was suspended until fall for making contact with an umpire in a dispute. Can't do that.

New SCW Clubhouse may be complete around February 15 to March 5 per Dick LeMoine. It's going to be a beauty. A large bulletin board will be on the wall of the 3rd base side. Eventually, there will be a mini-courtyard on the 3rd base side with barbecue, vending machine, etc. under the shade tree. Can't wait!

Saturn Auto signs as our 14th SCW bill-board sponsor. All of us club members welcome you.

Your SCW Club needs leads for fence bill-board sponsors. Take a minute to think about potential sponsors or businesses where you have connections. It would be a huge assist to our sponsor marketing committee. The fence can take up to 20 ads. Contact Greg Johnston at 584-9064 or Dick LeMoine at 975-9291.

Your next dues in SC and SCW are not due until 1-1-05, assuming you paid your 2004 dues. SCW 2004 dues are delinquent on February 1, 2004.

Smile...you're on softball camera! Get ready for team pictures, baseball cards and other pictorial options during our 2004 photo session February 17th and 19th. Our sponsors really appreciate receiving copies of their respective team pictures each year. You will have the option of purchasing any items Sun Photography offers at the time the photos are taken.

All pictures will be taken at SunBowl field in SC. Be there 30 minutes early. A complete price list with picture options will be posted on the bulletin boards in SC and SCW prior to picture day. The photographer will take your check at picture time. Contact Bobby Stouthamer at 214-1515.

OH WHAT THE HECK - A SOFTBALL LAMENT, by our infamous player and poet, Hugh Kelley.

As he walked from the dugout to standing on deck, He probably should quit, but Oh what the heck.

He's played 60 years - should be enough, But he can't seem to get enough of this stuff.

From the smell of the dirt to the crack of the bat, From the trash-talking guys to the inevitable spat.

His legs hurt like hell - his arm is getting weak, But when he makes contact it sure feels sweet.

Here comes the pitch as he swings from his heels, He didn't get enough he could tell by the feel.

As he laid down his bat and picked up his glove, He went to play defense in a game that he loved.

He can't play forever he's just an old man, Oh, what the heck MAYBE I CAN!

Note there are general membership meetings for both SC and SCW in February. See "Dates" below.

Dates...Dates...Mark Your Calendars

2-2-04...SCW Board Meeting, 1st Monday of month, new time...1-3:00PM, Men's Club, RHJ Rec Center

2-4-04...SC Board Meeting, 1st Wednesday of the month at 8:00AM, Lakeview Rec Center bowling lanes meeting room. **This is also a general membership meeting.**

2-9-04...Joint League Board meeting, 9:00AM, SCW. The meeting room is not yet assigned.

2-16-04...SCW General Membership Meeting, RHJ Rec Center, Lecture Hall, 10:00-12:00 noon.

2-17 and 2-19-04...Baseball card pictures. See details in an article above.

4-15-04...Annual Softball Banquet in SCW. This is a tentative date.

Members may attend any board meetings. Pick a date to see what's going on behind the scenes.

Patronize our bill-board and team sponsors. When you buy or browse, let them know you are from the Sun Cities Senior Softball League. See the attached.

Our League lost four fine people in 2003: They are: Jack Ruggiero, 33; Bob Rehberg, 9-6; Bob Knoespel, 11-23; Willard Ringenheimer, 10-26. We will miss them on the field.

Managers—be sure to distribute newsletters to your players. Some have missed them. When you see a stack of newsletters in the dugout, assume you should be looking for your packet of 12 letters with your team name and game time on it.

Our League had 400 happy members to end 2003.

Comments? Inputs? Contact John Doherty at 544-8469 with your ideas to improve this newsletter.