

BSL Candidates

For COMMISSIONER:



Marc Davino



Bill Svetz (i)

For SECRETARY:



Chris Atwood

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BILL SVETZ

Candidate for Commissioner
Incumbent



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Commissioner this year. I feel that we had a great season.

I'm very proud of some changes we made in the 2007 season, starting with the Opening Day Ceremonies, the establishment of a three-division format, providing an active fundraising program, obtaining a national sponsor (Bud Light) for the first time in two years.

We, of course, will continue with fundraising at the annual banquet. Working with Brian Ramos, our treasurer, your League will have in excess of \$7,000 at the end of the 2007 season. The 2007 BSL schedule was the first time in which we utilized scheduling software. I wish to thank John Fernandes, not only for the schedule, but for organizing all of the field operations as the Assistant Commissioner. I also want to thank Kevin Hourihan for his service to the League. I was also proud of the way the umpires were organized and their performance.

Of course with success, come some disappointments. We must improve our website to allow us to post standings and scores as soon as possible. This year, we've had some serious injuries due to either field conditions or lack of experience in sliding, running, or playing softball under lights at the Boston Common. If re-elected, I will appoint a committee to make recommendations to improve safety conditions. Looking to next year, there are some problems of concern which will be parking, field improvements, and lack of support for some of our new teams in the League.

In conclusion, I urge all of our members to attend the year-end banquet and general membership meeting where I will ask you to consider my candidacy for re-election as your Commissioner. I will, as will other candidates, make a presentation and discuss the issues facing our League next year. At that time I will be more precise in answering questions that you may have.

Again, thank you for your support.

Bill Svetz
Commissioner
billsvetz@hotmail.com

MARC DAVINO –Candidate for Commissioner

Members of the Beantown Softball League,

I welcome the opportunity to serve as your commissioner for the next two seasons and appreciate your taking the time to consider my candidacy. We are fortunate to be members of a well-run organization, one in which I hope to become more active as the next league commissioner.

So the first question I've been asked since deciding to run: **Why are you interested?** And I've also been hearing: **What would you like to accomplish?** And a few others have wanted to know: **What are your qualifications?** I hope this statement answers those questions, and more, and hope that you'll check off my name when voting at the league banquet.

Why am I interested? As a 13-year member of the league, including coaching the last two years (Joe V's in 2006, Manhunt in 2007), I've benefited tremendously and would like to give something back to the league. The Beantown Softball League, along with other sports organizations I've participated in, has done so much for me, both on the field and off. I've made an amazing group of friends, been able to travel around the country (and the world – Gay Games in Sydney 2002 was spectacular) to play in tournaments, and want to help continue the league's track record of leadership and growth.

I also feel I have a set of skills and qualities that can help the league. For example, I'm extremely committed and will – if elected – do all that I can to ensure a successful two years of softball. I'm a natural leader who has the respect of many in our league, and the larger community, including the gay media. My organizational skills are highly developed as most of my professional career has been spent in event planning and fundraising, which will also benefit the league. And I truly enjoy being involved – it's my "thing" you could say.

What would I like to accomplish? I have a ton of ideas but realize it's important to gather feedback and consensus from the membership, especially the executive committee, before moving forward. Having said that, a few of my ideas include: hosting a national tournament on an annual basis; continuing to expand the league each year; establishing a relationship between the league and the gay media to include weekly scores, standings and schedules being published; exploring the idea of All-Star games (by division); and streamlining some of the administrative processes the league utilizes.

I'm a big proponent of soliciting feedback and if I'm the next commissioner I would work with the executive committee, and the membership at large, to help determine the league's direction. I plan to be available to the membership, on the fields and off, to talk about the league and any concerns, ideas, or suggestions you have.

What are my qualifications? As I mentioned I've been a member of the BSL for 13 seasons now and have done double duty the last two while playing for the Crew and coaching a new team. I've been fortunate enough to participate in 7 Gay Softball World Series tournaments, including 2000 in Toronto when the Jackhammers were NAGAAA "B" Division champions. I've supported league fundraisers over the years, and have been an active member of the teams I've played on (Fenway Falcons, Buzz Boys, Jackhammers, and Club Café Crew). This year I served on the Friends & Family Day

planning committee, with Sandro Frattura, Chris Hagberg, and Kevin Hourihan. And I've worked with the other Division 3 teams for our pre-season scrimmage day and post-season practices as we prepare for Labor Day tournaments.

For six years I served as commissioner of the Boston Gay Basketball League and during my tenure the league expanded from 8 teams to 21, and from one division to three (competitive, recreational, and women's). I also established the Boston Tea Party Classic national tournament and served as tournament director for four years. While commissioner I also created the league's annual Summer 3-on-3 Tournament and the All-Star Game, which continues to this day. And I ensured the financial success of the league by being in the black at least \$1,000 each year I was in office. I was honored by the Chicago Windy City Classic at its 10 year anniversary by being enshrined into its Hall of Fame for contribution to gay basketball nationally (and certainly not for my jump shot!).

In 2001 I founded PrideSports Boston and served as its executive director for four years. Under my leadership the organization networked more than 20 GLBT sports organizations in metro Boston. We created a website through which we were able to promote sports in our community; we established a hotline that each sport could utilize – the BSL uses it to announce weather-related delays or cancellations; and we established a presence for sports organizations in the annual Boston Pride Parade. In addition, I was responsible – with BSL member Andy Ryder – for establishing the “Out at Fenway Park” event, one of the largest events for the GLBT sports community. Over three years we averaged approximately 700 fans in the seats for a particular game, and worked with Machine for the pre- and post-game festivities.

Last on my “sports resume” is my current involvement with the FLAG Flag Football league. For three years I've served on the board as Director of Communications. My role involves managing all league correspondence, especially to the membership; maintaining the league website; organizing the Year End Party; and taking/distributing minutes at all league meetings. During the season I officiate games (when not playing), assist at all league events, and participate in all board decisions. Last season the league added a number of new events, including our first annual Pro Bowl which I developed.

Final thoughts? I recognize that you have a decision to make and ask you to consider me as a viable candidate for league commissioner. I welcome your thoughts, comments and ideas. Feel free to contact me – MarcInBoston@gmail.com or 617-512-8501 – if you need any additional information to make your decision. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in sport,
Marc Davino

P.S. If for any reason you're unable to attend the awards banquet please submit an absentee ballot for the candidates of your choosing.

CHRIS ATWOOD

Candidate for Secretary



I'm Chris Atwood and I am running for Secretary of the Beantown Softball League. I first joined the BSL in 1987. As a longtime player, for several different teams, I have a great appreciation for the league.

I wasn't interested in league issues at first but I have become more involved lately, representing the Ramrod/Machine team on the Executive Board for the past 2 years. I have enjoyed contributing on this level and would like to do more.

In our organization, the Secretary's main job is communication for the league. While the game on the field is pretty much the same as when I started, the way the league communicates is vastly different and much better now - by website and email distribution list. While the tools represent an improvement, we can use them more effectively. It's not necessary to completely overhaul how we communicate, we can refine what's already in place.

As secretary, I see my responsibilities as...

- making league communications relevant, timely and consistent
- making registration and payment painless
- making it easy to change contact information
- making it easier to give feedback to the league officers
- ensuring that channels of communication are open between members, the Executive Board and the Officers

Here are a few ideas I would like to implement:

- post updated scores and standings on the website the SAME DAY.
- put registration on-line.
- to help newer coaches be more effective, let's have clinics on rules, keeping the score book and coaching.

Here's what I bring to the job:

- Ability to work well with a team, all the executive officers must work well together
- Ability to listen and get along with people
- Work well out of the limelight, I excel in a supporting role

- See ideas to completion
- Have an appreciation from the player's viewpoint
- I have no "agenda" - I want to see the League work better.
- My day job requires me to maintain a few websites
- I coordinated communications for a national trade union in my previous position

I respectfully ask for your support and look forward to seeing you at the banquet on September 9th. If you won't be there, please be sure to participate in this election by voting by Absentee Ballot. Details should be posted on the website.

Thank you. Please contact me with any questions.

Chris Atwood
617-201-6117
chris@redgaloshes.com

Hello,

I'm Chris Hagberg, or "Momma Kitty" as most of you know me. After careful consideration I have decided to run for League Secretary as a "write in" candidate. (I was going to run in August but when Sandro decided to, I chose not to challenge him out of respect for him. He then had to pull out of the race and I couldn't get my name on the official ballot because Sandro decided after that deadline.)

Experience:

- Joined League in 2002 as a product of the first ever "Clinic Day"
- Have attended every League meeting in last 4 years
- Appointed "Acting Secretary" whenever Secretary unable to attend League meetings
- Posted minutes/summary of those meetings on website within 24 hours
- Serve on several League Committees including By-Laws and League Structure Committees
- Professional experience currently as Executive Assistant to President of Visiting Nurses Association of Boston providing administrative support to senior management and acting as liaison to Board of Directors and all committees

Goals: Immediate

Communication of Information:

- Scores and Standings will be updated within 24 hours of completion of game schedule
- Newsletter mailed periodically during season and at least bi-monthly in off-season
- Timely announcements of fundraisers, need for additional players, and other needs
- Reduce deluge of League emails
- Create good communications among divisions and make sure each is represented fairly.

Goals: Long term

Statistical Information:

- Introduce team and player statistical software (*player stats have been successfully kept in the past*)
- Clinics to teach accurate score keeping and player statistic recording

Skills development:

- Skills development program based on a "Big Brother" model promoting skills advancement of inexperienced players by experienced ones (*will also promote good relations among divisions*)

I would be grateful to you for your support, and am available to answer your questions.

Please remember to write my name on the ballot at the League banquet Sunday September 9, 2007. Absentee ballots can be obtained from this link: <http://www.beantownsoftball.com/2007CandidateBallot.pdf>

I welcome the opportunity to serve you as League Secretary and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Christopher Hagberg
A.K.A. Momma Kitty
cjhagberg@yahoo.com