

SUN LAKES SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Oakwood Clubhouse Library

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 3:30 p.m.

Directors participating were Messrs. Kratz, Molter, Neumann, Rodgers, Santucci and Mrs. Hilby

Not in attendance was Mr. Wolfe

Guests attending were Gary Hillabolt, Dennis Kennedy, Dennis LePore, Dan Malachuk

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rodgers at 3:31 p.m.

The minutes of the December Board meeting were previously sent out to all Directors. Mr. Santucci motioned to approve the December minutes. Mr. Kratz seconded. Motion carried.

Unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Wolfe provided the financials which were read into the minutes. December was the third month of our 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. On a year-to-date basis, revenues are \$1,362 more than the budget. We had two unbudgeted revenue items in December. We received \$400 from Serene Solutions for sponsorship of the Lady Sluggers and a \$400 donation from a player who wishes to remain anonymous. Banner advertising revenues were \$245 to the good while men's dues were also \$245 to the good. Those four items account for more of the surplus. Direct Costs of Sales were \$994 below budget, but some of that is a timing issue. Total operating expenses were \$166 below budget with the largest variances being field supplies (\$600 below budget) and the unbudgeted cost of the Lady Slugger uniforms (\$400). All other expense categories were close to budget. The result of these variances resulted in our bottom line being \$2,521 to the good for the first three months. Mrs. Hilby motioned to accept the financial report. Mr. Santucci seconded. Motion carried.

Mrs. Hilby reported that membership is up to 103 full and 8 recreational memberships for a total of 111 members. That is counting one player who just returned and hasn't yet paid. We have 18 paid members for the women (Mrs. Hilby is a regular member of the association). In the men's league, 15% are IronOaks, 31% are Sun Lakes, and 54% are nonresidents. In the women's league, 42% are IronOaks, 36% are Sun Lakes, and 21% are nonresidents.

We continue to monitor the HOA fees. As of last Friday, there are 9 players who are currently playing who have not paid. There are 13 people who have joined our association but not currently playing mostly for health reasons. If they begin playing again, we will get information to them about paying their HOA fees. Mrs. Hilby will follow up with managers and players.

The men's cookout is scheduled for February 26. The ladies' cookout will be the day before on the 25th. Mr. Neumann asked Mrs. Hilby to send an email soliciting help with the grilling.

Mr. Wolfe was contacted by the Dirt Dogs letting us know they will no longer be renting the field. The boys have moved on to the next level. They wanted to thank us for what we've done over the years. This will negatively impact our budgeted revenue. Variances will show up.

Mr. Santucci shared that everything is going well right now in league play. He noted that yesterday there were two game balls left in the rocks. The tee was left out and is broken, and balls were left out next to the tee. We would like umpires to make sure game balls are accounted for at the end of the game. Mr. Santucci will email managers to ask them to have someone retrieve home run balls and to remind players to put away the tee and practice balls.

Mr. Molter gave an update on purchasing. The 11-inch balls for the ladies' games disappeared from the kitchen. He ordered replacements, and they have arrived. The new Sluggers jerseys had an incorrect email address for the sponsor, so those uniforms are being reprinted. We have one hat left. He's not sure if we can order more because they normally require ordering in groups of 24. He will wait to determine the need.

There is a new landscaping company for the HOA. Mr. Kratz met with our contact, giving him a tour of the field and explaining our needs while focusing on the grass. They will explore changing the grass cutting from Wednesday to Monday as there will be fewer playing days between mowings. Gary Hillabolt has made some improvements to the backstop fencing to prevent glare off cars. The electrician has been working on the problem with electricity to the scorer's booth. After the last adjustments, she turned everything on, waited an hour and did not encounter any problems. Hopefully the problem has been resolved.

Mr. Neumann had no new rules to discuss. There have been no issues with pitchers staying behind the screen. He is tweaking the way some of the rules are written to further clarify, but there are no changes in the rules. The updated rules will be posted on our website.

Mr. Rodgers pointed out that the wording of the annual awards hasn't been updated since 2011. He will prepare an update for discussion at the next meeting.

The 2026-27 Board election is approaching. Mr. Rodgers has formed a nominating committee including Marty Hobby, Dan Melosi and David Swann. Dan Melosi will be asked to serve as chairman. The election will be held the first week of March.

Mr. Neumann brought up the rating of players. There were players drafted lower than their ability. Mr. Neumann questioned if we should have a rule requiring players to be drafted by a specific level. No changes were recommended.

Dennis LePore shared a safety concern regarding batting practice. The basket that holds the softballs should be behind the pitcher during batting practice to avoid a repeat of a ball ricocheting off the basket and injuring a player.

Mr. Rodgers set the next meeting for February 11, 2026. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:26.

Respectfully submitted

Cyndy Hilby
SLSSA Board Secretary

SUN LAKES SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

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Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

Directors participating were Messrs. Kratz, Neumann, Rodgers, Santucci, Wolfe and Mrs. Hilby

Not attending: Mr. Molter

Guests attending were Gary Hillbolt, Dennis Lepore, Barry Lauritano, Rick Berry, Craig Thompson, Joe DiLabio

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rodgers at 3:04 p.m.

The minutes of the January Board meeting were previously sent out to all Directors. Mr. Santucci motioned to approve the January minutes. Mr. Neumann seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Wolfe provided the January financials. We are really close to budget on almost everything. Total revenues are within \$38 of budget. There were a couple of unbudgeted items. We didn't budget for the ladies' uniforms, but received sponsor money to cover the cost. We also received a donation of \$400 from a player who wishes to remain anonymous. The unexpected income helped offset the loss of the Dirt Dogs rental income as we recently learned they are no longer going to be using the field. This will be a negative the next three months. Cost of sales which includes banners are quite a bit under budget. A few banners need to be replaced in the next month or so. The only big variance on the expense side is field supplies. However, Mr. Wolfe recently received an invoice for \$320 which will make up over half of the \$700 we are under. Total expenses are within \$300 of budget. The big variance is cost of banners and billboards. Mr. Santucci motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Mr. Kratz seconded. Motion carried.

Mrs. Hilby reported that membership is up to 105 full and 8 recreational memberships for a total of 113 members. We have 18 paid members for the women (Mrs. Hilby is a regular member of the association). In the men's league, 18% are IronOaks, 33% are Sun Lakes, and 55% are nonresidents. In the women's league, 42% are IronOaks, 37% are Sun Lakes, and 21% are nonresidents. The director of fitness still has not confirmed the amount the women should pay. When he tells Mrs. Hilby it's been approved by the general manager, the team will go over together to take care of that obligation.

In Mr. Molter's absence, Mrs. Hilby shared the names of players who had not yet paid the HOA fees. Mr. Molter has contacted their managers and expects that everyone who is playing has paid by now. The recreational players who have not paid have been contacted by email. There are three new players coming from Robson. They are required to pay both the league fees and HOA fees prior to the draft.

Mr. Kratz was happy to report that in the last month there have been no sightings of the electrician. The only issue we've had is when we had too many heaters plugged in. We just need to make sure we don't overload the circuit with heaters from the bat warmers. The beverage fund is going well. Our relationship with the new landscaping company is a little different. Duane, the person in charge, is in Tempe rather than on site. When Mr. Kratz emails him, he usually hears back within a day or two. Mr. Kratz has been talking to them about adding fertilizer to the outfield. The grass is being cut on Wednesdays.

Mr. Santucci shared information about the Neighbors Who Care event which is scheduled for Saturday, March 28. We'll follow the same format as last year. There will be a target in the outfield. People will hit from homeplate. The cost will again be \$20 per player which will allow them to attend the luncheon at Poolside café. Mr. Santucci sent an email to all the managers with information. We don't know what the prizes will be, but we will receive a \$100 gift card from Scheels to give out. Donations are eligible for the Arizona state tax credit which is \$495 for individuals or \$987 for couples. There will also be a 50/50 raffle in which there will be seven winners. Rather than handing out tickets, we only have to record their names and phone number. Mr. Santucci has also talked to the director of sports at Chandler asking him to distribute the information to the managers of the teams at Snedigar.

The drafts for the spring session are scheduled for Monday, February 23, from noon to 2:00 and Wednesday, February 25 from 2:00 to 4:00. Draft tables have been sent to managers. We are down a manager in the Lakes Division as Kim VanNausdle is stepping down for the spring session. We have a decent number of new players who want to play in the league. One new player lives in Oakwood, so he will automatically be eligible for the draft. Mr. Santucci doesn't think we'll have any problem getting enough players for the Sun Division, but will need to see if those who don't get drafted can or want to play in the Lakes Division.

Mr. Neumann is getting organized for the cookout. While he has a few volunteers to help with the grilling, he still needs help in all areas, particularly with the women's cookout which is Wednesday, February 25. Gary Hillabolt and Tom Erpelding will do the shopping. Dave Martin is providing the buns. Gary will get back to Dave on quantities. The bat warmers that are being stored in the kitchen need to be removed before the cookout.

Recently a player who needed a courtesy runner went to the dugout, and no courtesy runner came to the base. It wasn't discovered until later in the inning. Mr. Neumann reached out to the SSUSA Message Board, receiving the following answer. "If no courtesy runner comes out and takes his place BEFORE the next pitch is delivered (your timing) he is out for having abandoned the base. Since this is a dead ball situation, there are two other potential scenarios available until that next pitch. (1) He may come back out of the dugout and return to first base and run for himself, OR (2) An otherwise eligible courtesy runner may come out of the dugout and complete the courtesy runner entry process."

Mr. Rodgers presented updated wording of the annual awards. He posed the question of handing out awards at the banquet or at the cookout during the tournament in April. It was decided we will recognize the top hitters at the tournament and all other awards at the banquet on March 30.

Mr. Wolfe moved to accept the updates Mr. Santucci seconded. Motion carried. Mr. Rodgers will see that the updates are posted on the website.

The Board election is coming up in March. Mrs. Hilby and Mr. Wolfe have served two consecutive terms and are not eligible to run again at this time. Mr. Neumann is choosing not to run for reelection. Dan Melosi, Marty Hobby, and Dave Swann are the members of the nominating committee and have recruited some good candidates. Mrs. Hilby will prepare the ballots, a list of eligible voters and directions for running the election.

The safety of baserunners at first and third was discussed. Mr. Neumann proposed the following rule: Players may lead off into foul territory to avoid being hit by a batted ball. A player leading off into foul territory from first base must touch first base when advancing to the next base(s). A player leading off into foul territory from third base may proceed directly home on a ground ball or base hit. On a fly ball where the runner is tagging up, the runner must be touching the base at the time the fly ball is touched by the fielder to be eligible to score. This is also true for a runner attempting to advance on a fly ball from first base. Mr. Santucci motioned to incorporate the rule change for base runners at first and third. Mr. Wolfe seconded. Motion carried. Gary Hillabolt will put a line even with the front of third base behind which the runner must stand.

The winter league tournament schedule was discussed. Several Lakes players have complained that every time we have the tournament, the Lakes players have to play the first game the day of the cookout. Gary Hillabolt puts the schedule on the chalkboard. He will switch the order for the spring session.

Recently a neighbor's window was broken by a home run ball. We've gotten a quote. Mr. Wolfe will check on our insurance deductible and whether or not a claim would raise our rates. We haven't chosen to make the player responsible, but the Board will discuss this going forward. Mr. Rodgers brought information about using a ball with lower compression to restrict flight. We'll do a little more research and put it back on the agenda. Mrs. Hilby was asked to send the membership a copy of the waiver everyone signs as a reminder of their responsibilities.

Craig Thompson brought up a frustration with the negativity of another player.

Mrs. Hilby shared an incident where one member of the women's team was injured and became unresponsive during a game in Mesa. The player is doing fine now.

Mr. Rodgers set the next meeting for March 11, 2026. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16.

Respectfully submitted

Cyndy Hilby
SLSSA Board Secretary

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Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

Directors participating were Messrs. Kratz, Molter, Neumann, Rodgers, Santucci, Wolfe and Mrs. Hilby

Guests attending were Dan Malachuk, Gary Hillbolt, Dennis LePore, Rick Berry, Dave Swann

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rodgers at 3:00 p.m.

The minutes of the February Board meeting were previously sent out to all directors. Mr. Santucci motioned to approve the February minutes. Mr. Kratz seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Wolfe provided the February financials. Total revenues were within \$40 of budget for the first 5 months. We lost field rental from the Dirt Dogs which was budgeted at \$500 a month for 4 months. This negative discrepancy was partially offset by miscellaneous income of a donation by an unnamed player in the amount of \$400. Banner revenues are almost at budget. The big discrepancy in cost of sales is the cost of new banners, but this is a timing issue. We have 8 new banners on order, and that will be somewhere in the \$800-900 range which will wipe out the variance. On the expense side we are under budget on supplies. In addition, we are under budget because the ladies' cookout was canceled. Expenses were \$500 under budget which gave us net income of \$1,800 in excess of budget. Year to date income is \$4,500 vs budget of \$2,600.

In response to a question if there are banner spaces available, Mr. Wolfe explained that he leaves the expired banners up until we can get them replaced with new sponsors. He has found many sponsors through his network and encourages members to refer others. A printable flyer is available on our website for members to take with them and use when talking to their contacts. Mr. Santucci motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Mr. Kratz seconded. Motion carried.

Mrs. Hilby reported that membership for the men stands at 116 with 8 of those being recreational players. The women concluded their season with 19 paid players.

Mr. Molter has been tracking payment of the three new players this session. One has paid his HOA fees. The other two are not showing up as paid. He will continue to follow up. There is nothing new to report for purchasing.

Mr. Kratz provided an update on field operations. Last Sunday was the Music in the Park event. Not having a stage this year helped minimize wear and tear on the field. There is a three-foot wet area surrounding a malfunctioning sprinkler head in right field. While Mr. Kratz is communicating with the HOA, response times have been slower than usual following the recent change in landscaping companies.

Mr. Santucci shared that the Sun Division managers have decided they won't have games next week as players are scarce due to the tournament in St. George. The Lakes Division games are already scheduled for 9:00, so there is no need to move those up. Mr. Neumann expressed frustration with the managers making that decision without trying to find a solution. He suggested checking to see which players are available and having a quick draft of the available players to split among the teams. While there isn't enough time to do that now, the Board supports this procedure in the future. Mr. Santucci and Mr. Neumann will investigate arranging pickup games for next week for players not affected by this.

Neighbors Who Care raffle ticket sales are off to a good start, already reaching \$400. The Play it Forward event is set for Saturday, March 28 at 9:00 and will follow the same format as last year. Entry is \$20 per player with each participant hitting ten balls. The highest scorer takes home a Scheels gift card. All competitors will receive a wristband granting them access to the luncheon at Poolside. Mr. Santucci hopes to have someone on the patio to promote sales and sign-ups. He shared that Chandler Rec will be unable to support the event this year as they have a tournament scheduled the same day.

The Ladies' Sluggers concluded their season with a 16-10-2 record. The top hitter was Mandi Marchek who ended the season with an .804 on base percentage and made history as the first woman to hit a homerun over the fence. There were four other players who hit in the .600's. The women would like to thank the association for their support, especially the grounds crew of Gary Hillbolt and Bill Jacobson, Dennis LePore and the umpires he lined up, and Bob Molter for facilitating our new uniforms. Mrs. Hilby added that most of the other teams in the league do not have the support we do. We recognize how good we have it and appreciate it greatly.

Mr. Neumann reviewed the foul tip rule, confirming the ball must go over the batter's head when caught for an out. He questioned if a player chooses not to walk, can he then change his mind after three more balls? The consensus was that the batter may subsequently take the walk. Mr. Neumann also pointed out that the new rulebook says if a runner tries to avoid a collision, he will not be called out. Previously the verbiage was "may be called safe." He will explore this further. Mr. Santucci expressed concern that we're starting to see more incidents where the pitcher is not getting behind the screen after pitching the ball, and he would like the umpires to remind the pitchers. He suggested we involve the managers as well.

Mr. Wolfe reported that Social Event ticket sales are officially underway with a strong opening day of 57 tickets sold. Pat has experienced coordination challenges with the Palo Verde banquet team due to staff turnover. Mr. Wolfe had previously alerted the Board to what appeared to be unauthorized withdrawals from our bank account. The transactions were the result of a clerical error rather than any breach of our account. The funds have been fully restored, and no further action is required.

Mr. Rodgers provided an update on the Board election. The nominating committee identified three candidates — Vern Rodgers, George Siegele, and David Swann — to fill the three available seats. Since the number of candidates matches the number of openings, a formal vote will not be required.

Gino Fiasche has set a new home run record, surpassing the previous mark with 57 home runs this season.

Mr. Rodgers set the next meeting for April 8, 2026. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 at which time the Board entered into a Special Session to discuss awards.

Respectfully submitted

Cyndy Hilby
SLSSA Board Secretary