



. . . The Friends of Baseball Newsletter. . .

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Dear "Friend of Baseball,"

In recent weeks our trustees have been working on some very exciting news, as well as some very deserving grant requests. First to our news . . . As you may know, the Portland Beavers have shown interest in, and have been willing to financially assist, Friends of Baseball. We are very grateful for their vision, interest and support.

In working with many leagues, kids and team officials over the past year, we have been amazed by what is required on a volunteer basis to insure that there will, indeed, be a game to play. More importantly, we find these dedicated individuals often do not receive the acknowledgement and recognition they deserve. While we need to find and recruit kids to field the teams, it is absolutely the efforts of the coaches and volunteers who insure that a bat meets a ball each spring.

Friends of Baseball and the Portland Beavers now wish to take a step toward raising the visibility of these selfless and dedicated individuals within our communities. To that end, we are announcing today that we are currently accepting nominations for the first annual 2007 Coach of the Year and 2007 Volunteer of the Year awards. Nominations will be accepted through May 10th, 2007 for both this year nominees. The awards will be presented June 2nd & 3rd at the youth baseball weekend celebration during Portland Beaver games at PGE Park. Teams and organizations of this year's inductees will receive \$1,000 in funding and/or equipment for their organizations. I have attached a copy of the awards criteria for your review. You will also be able to find more information on our websites at Friendsofbaseball.org or Portlandbeavers.com Please forward this announcement to interested individuals so that we have the opportunity to acknowledge our communities' best.

FOB Announces Three Grant Requests

Friends of Baseball recently announced three new grant recipients. We value developing partnerships in finding funding options for teams in the regions we serve, and these recipients symbolize those types of relationships. Each has made significant and independent progress in meeting their funding needs, and we are honored to further assist in meeting these individual needs. The organizations recently announced include: Peninsula Little League, American Legion Baseball and Lady Ballers 14-U Softball Team. We congratulate these grantees and encourage you to learn more about each organization and their individual grants by viewing our website.

Old - Timers and Active Baseball Players Association

We would like to thank OTABPA for allowing me to make a brief presentation at their annual banquet on January 13, 2007. Their president, Art Larrance, was gracious in his introduction and support of FOB. Over the past 73 years, this organization has been active through grants, scholarships, baseball clinics and community organizations, and has made an amazing impact on youth baseball. Friends of Baseball looks to this organization as its more experienced “big brother,” with a possible opportunity to build a much stronger coalition in support of youth baseball in our community. Should you wish to contact OTABPA, or wish to consider membership, feel free to contact Art at art@raclodge.com. We are honored by this wonderful group’s commitment to our community.

The Lifeblood of Friend of Baseball

While the day-to-day administration of FOB is assumed and enjoyed by our Trustees, I have been asked, “What gives you the momentum to expand upon your initial vision?” This energy is derived by individuals very much like you; individuals who take it upon themselves to assume an active role in the growth and organization of youth baseball. They are people who are not only willing to share a contact, but are often willing to provide resources essential to maximizing the potential of our limited funding. These folks ask for nothing in return, simply the opportunity to participate. Without them, our organization would be lifeless and soon become stale. Take a moment to check out the “Our Team” link on the website. These Sponsors and Advisors are the inspiration for all that is good and relevant about Friends of Baseball.

Warm Regards. . .

Keenan

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others who might take interest!

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newsletter-unsubscribe@friendsofbaseball.org

“A life is not important except in the impact it makes on other lives. . .” Jackie Robinson

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