

## 2024 SABR Election Guide

Thank you for reading the 2024 SABR Election Guide.

On the following pages you will find statements of the candidates for the offices of Vice President, Secretary, and two (2) Director's seats, and the candidates' responses to the questions posed by the Nominating Committee. We hope reading the candidates' own words will allow the SABR membership to get a better idea of who the candidates are and what each stands for. These are grouped by question and by office so you can easily compare the candidates and make a more informed decision. You are also encouraged to contact the candidates directly to ask them any questions that will help you decide your vote. To facilitate this, an e-mail address is given for each candidate at the top of their biographical section.

With the expansion of the Board from eight members to 10 in 2023, two Directors' terms expire each year beginning in 2024.

All members who have renewed for 2024 and who have an email address on file as of April 9 will be registered for online voting. You will be sent an invitation to vote on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024**, and you will receive at least one reminder email before voting closes at 11:59 p.m. MST on Tuesday, April 30.

The email contains a unique link to the ballot that allows the Tellers Committee to know who does and who does not vote online (while keeping votes completely anonymous.) Any paper ballots received from members who have already voted online will be discarded. **You can vote either online or with the paper ballot if you do not have an email address on file with us, but not both.**

When you vote, **please rank the candidates in order of preference**, with 1 being your top choice. SABR elections use a simplified preferential voting system, allowing voters to rank their preferred candidates 1-2-3 and transferring preferences until a winner with more than 50 percent of votes is achieved.

Printed on the next page are the functions of each office according to the current SABR bylaws.

Deadline for votes to be received is 11:59 p.m. MST on April 30, 2024

### **ARTICLE 3 — OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

**Officers and Directors.** SABR's elected officers shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who along with six Directors shall collectively comprise the Board of Directors. All elected officers and directors shall have been individual members of the Society continuously for four years prior to taking office. All officers shall have at least one year of prior service on the Board during the preceding five-year period; provided, however, that the Board may waive this requirement for a particular seat or particular election. No person may hold more than one seat on the SABR Board. Any incumbent officer or director elected or appointed to a second office or director's position shall be deemed to have resigned the first office immediately upon assuming the second position.

**Vice President.** The duties of the Vice President, who shall be elected in even- numbered years to a two-year term, shall include: a) Assuming all duties of the President in the absence of the President or in the event that the President is unable to accept or perform his or her responsibilities and duties. b) Chairing the Chapter Development Committee and, in this capacity, submitting an annual written report to the membership. c) Such additional duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors.

**Secretary.** The duties of the Secretary, who starting in 2006 shall be elected to a three-year term, shall include: a) Taking minutes at the annual meeting and at all Board of Directors meetings, distributing these minutes promptly to all Board members and making them available to the membership. b) Maintaining and recording all changes in the policy manual. c) Maintaining corporate files and records, either directly or by supervisory authority at the discretion of the Board of Directors. d) Having the authority to certify the bylaws, resolutions of the members and Board of Directors and committees thereof, and other documents of the corporation as true and correct copies thereof. e) Such additional duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors.

**Directors.** The six Directors, who starting in 2004 shall be elected to three-year terms, shall serve on the Board of Directors and perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors. The terms of the six Directors shall be staggered so that the three-year terms of two Directors shall expire each year. To account for the expansion of the Board from eight to ten members in 2023, and to ensure that two Directors' terms expire each year, the Director elected with the fewest votes in 2023 shall serve a one-year term, and in 2024 that seat shall again be opened for election to a three-year term.

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## For Vice President

**Allison Levin**

**Member Since:** 2013

**E-mail:** allison.levin@gmail.com

**Current Occupation:** Professor of Sports Communication, Webster University, St. Louis, MO

**SABR Experience:** I have served on the Board since 2019 and chair the SABR Analytics Certification committee and the DE&I committee. I chair the Educational Resources Committee and co-chair the AI/ML Committee. I am also President of the St. Louis local Chapter.

**Other Relevant Experience:** I run a local research conference each fall for the St. Louis baseball community. As a Board Member, I have worked on student and young professional retention, helping to develop the scholar sessions program. I also chaired the committee to examine the Board's construction, which led to term limits and other changes to the constitution of the Board of Directors. I have also helped develop and analyze membership surveys. In addition to my Board work, I present regularly at the Annual Convention and have also presented work at the IWBC/SABR Conference. I have also been asked to be on panels at the Analytics Conference and the IWBC/SABR Conference. I sponsor our university's Sports Media and Analytics Club. With my work with students, I have had several Yoseloff scholars and students attend and present at local, regional, and national conferences (including the SABR Annual Convention). In addition to the above, I serve on the advisory Board for the NINE spring training conference.

**Education:** BA, Political Science and Economics, Grinnell College, JD, Washington University in St. Louis, MA, Applied Communications, SIU-Edwardsville

### Candidate Statement

SABR is as healthy as it has been in its history, but now is not a time to be complacent, and that is why I am running for the position of Vice President. In the past five years, we have developed strategies to retain student and young professional members, and we need to see the outcomes and tweak those strategies. The Board went through DE&I training in November, and we must roll out that training to chapter leaders and research committee leaders as they are usually the first point of contact with members, which I can oversee as Vice President. Leslie and a group of chapter leaders put together chapter governance standards, and now is the time to do the same for research and chartered communities. SABR also cannot expect growth to continue at the same rate it has over the last five years and needs to be prepared with new and innovative ideas to maintain the organization and what we value while still accepting that change must come. My experience on the Board prepares me to lead in all of these capacities so we can continue to be proud of the SABR we are a part of. In addition to the above, I have the experience as a chapter leader and committee leader to speak to the challenges from those experiences and understand what is needed to succeed and thrive in those roles.

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## **For Secretary**

**Todd Lebowitz**

**Member Since:** 2000

**E-mail:** tlebowitz@bakerlaw.com

**Current Occupation:** Attorney, Partner at BakerHostetler

**SABR Experience:** Secretary, Board of Directors, since 2011. Pro bono legal counsel to SABR.

**Other Relevant Experience:**

**Education:** Univ. of Michigan, JD 1997; Univ. of Michigan, BA Psychology 1993

### **Candidate Statement**

I have been providing service to the Board as its Secretary and legal counsel for more than a decade. During my service, we have seen the Society's profile and stature grow dramatically in the baseball industry, including developing important industry ties with MLB and the Rawlings Gold Glove Awards and enhancing our historical collections with the Rucker photography collection, the Weiss Questionnaires, and The Sporting News collection. We continue to work hard to position SABR for the next decade and beyond, including ensuring a robust, diverse, and engaged membership and a platform for advancing baseball research in all of its various forms. All of these developments involve substantial effort, thought, and strategy behind the scenes, and I appreciate the membership's confidence in me and my participation in these processes. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve.

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## For Director

### Andy Andres

**Member Since:** 2003

**E-mail:** LAndres@BU.edu

**Current Occupation:** Boston University Faculty in Natural Sciences and Mathematics

**SABR Experience:** 2023 SABR Analytics Conference Lifetime Achievement Award; Co-Founder and first Chairman of the SABR Educational Resources Committee; Winner of the The USA Today Sports Weekly Award for the best poster research presentation (SABR 42); Co-Chair of the Boston Chapter

**Other Relevant Experience:** Creator, designer, and instructor of the first-ever college course in Baseball Analytics at Tufts University, 2004; Creator, designer, and instructor of the largest online Baseball Analytics course offered by Boston University and the edX.org platform, 2014-6; First-ever pitch clock operator at Fenway Park, 2023; Part-time MLB stringer since 2010; Part-time clock operator at Fenway Park since 2014; Research presentation on Hugh Fullerton at the Cooperstown Symposium at the Baseball Hall of Fame; Official Scorer for the Cape Cod Baseball League, 2017-21; Part-time Official Scorer for the Lowell Spinners Baseball Club, 2018-19

**Education:** AB Computer Science, Brown University; MS Physiology, Harvard University; PhD Nutritional Biochemistry, Tufts University

### Candidate Statement

Baseball has become central to my career as a university professor designing and creating interesting and various baseball courses at Tufts, Harvard, and Boston University. Baseball is my research focus. And my summers are occupied as a part-time employee of Major League Baseball Data Operations. This life in baseball would not be possible without the connections I have made through SABR. I ask you for your vote in my candidacy for Director of the SABR Executive Board.

SABR national and Analytics conferences and the local Boston chapter meetings have given me a vehicle for expanding my research career. My baseball research includes a well-reviewed history of sabermetrics, an historical summary of the work of Hugh Fullerton presented at the Baseball Hall of Fame, an early look at pitcher release point and injuries using pitch/fx data, an exploration of how weather impacts ball flight in both pitching and hitting, and an exploration of pitch tempo at the dawn of the pitch clock era.

Many of my students have gone onto careers with Major League Baseball front offices. Competing in the SABR Analytics Case Competition, and presenting their research developed in my courses at national SABR and SABR Analytics conferences was a great help in my students getting jobs for 18 of the 30 MLB teams.

I believe that by joining the SABR Executive Board I will help members achieve their goals in baseball scholarship.

Please consider voting for me so I can help SABR prosper. Thank you.

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## For Director

**Alan Cohen**

**Member Since:** 2011

**E-mail:** adc0317@comcast.net

**Current Occupation:** Chief Factchecker SABR Bio-Project; Datacaster – Hartford Yard Goats

**SABR Experience:** Vice-President/Treasurer CT Smoky Joe Wood Chapter; Contributor to more than 70 SABR Books and Journals; Member of SABR Negro Leagues Sub-Committee (Post 1948 Era); Oral Presentations at SABR Conventions, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023; Poster Presentations at eight SABR Conventions

**Other Relevant Experience:** Part of Retrosheet Negro League Project; Presenter at 50th Anniversary of Mets Conference in 2012; First Games Back Project (SABR Website); Extensive Research, including BRJ and National Pastime Articles on Hearst Sandlot Classic; BRJ article and continuing research on Josh Gibson; Recently reviewed a book on the 1914 Braves for Kent University Publishing.

**Education:** AB (History) from Franklin and Marshall College

### Candidate Statement

SABR is fundamental to baseball research, and directors of the board are trusted with a mission to further the excellence of research and the involvement of SABR members. Due to my experience in research and work with the Bio-Project I have had the opportunity to work with many researchers, not to mention SABR leaders. Networking is a necessary strength for a director, and I feel very qualified to network with SABR members and people outside of SABR to promote and grow SABR.

We are in a changing world and that SABR's membership is quite diverse in terms of viewpoints about the game and research of the game. My own research has included topics from as early as 1870 and has taken me to the current day. From heading up "first Games Back" to interviewing and corresponding with more than 100 persons for my "Hearst Sandlot Classic" project, to tracking down 389 of Josh Gibson's home runs, I have paid attention to detail and never lost sight of the bigger picture of why research is so important.

The future will include changes that are not currently apparent. I feel that I can react to change. My years in business gave me the ability to adapt to change. Over the upcoming years, SABR will be challenged by change and the board must be positioned to address changes from the focus of research to the playing of the game, itself.

My talents qualify me to serve in a time of change.

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## For Director

### Peter Coolbaugh

**Member Since:** December 2007

**E-mail:** peterc@baberuthmuseum.org

**Current Occupation:** Senior Litigation Paralegal

**SABR Experience:** Past chapter Vice President, current Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter President since 2022; regular contributor to chapter newsletter; SABR 50 committee member

**Other Relevant Experience:** Worked at Babe Ruth Birthplace in some capacity since 2007; Orioles Designated Hitter (volunteer sales force) since 2015. Member of Baseball HOF and MLBPA; Board member at Simmons Negro Leagues Museum of Maryland.

**Education:** BA in Criminal Justice from The George Washington University in Washington, DC (1997)

### Candidate Statement

I am nothing special. I am just a guy who over time became a bigger than average fan who loves his personal time but has a deep affection for and dedication to the history of the game. My father was involved with Little League Baseball in PA for about 25 years and his devotion to the American pastime inspired me to do the same. I wish I was a devout at age 15 as I became at 30 but in my case it was a live and learn relationship. Things I had enjoyed had faded and baseball became a central focus of my life so much so that I proposed to my bride in Cooperstown. Passion plus dedication to the game has made me learn and appreciate more over the years. I bring my own opinions to the table but love to listen to the opposition of my position as well. As I have aged, I have learned to be more open to new ideas and that research and fact finding are essential to making or proving a point. My greatest asset (I have been told) is connecting people and bringing similar folks and ideas together. I think my assistance and involvement in the BBRC since 2015 should speak for itself.

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## For Director

### David Firstman

**Member Since:** 1989

**E-mail:** dbfirstman@gmail.com

**Current Occupation:** Data Analyst – City of New York

**SABR Experience:** Member of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. Contributor, SABR Games Project. Contributor - Spring 2018 BRJ, Presenter at SABR 48 (poster winner), SABR 50, SABR 51 (oral presentation winner). Assistant at SABR convention Trivia Contest and convention registrations.

**Other Relevant Experience:** Author of the book "Hall of Name: Baseball's Most Magnificent Monikers from 'The Only Nolan' to 'Van Lingle Mungo' and More." Currently researching/writing book profiling players with longest hitting streaks from DiMaggio forward. Frequent "info about player names" resource for Jayson Stark's "Weird and Wild" columns, as well as for various media of MLB clubs. Attendee of each national convention since 2009. Member of Casey Stengel Chapter.

**Education:** B.S. – Athletic Administration, MBA – Quantitative Analysis

### Candidate Statement

SABR has provided me countless years of enjoyment, education, and comradery. As a member for more than 30 years, I'd like to give back to SABR by serving on the Board of Directors. I'm interested in helping to further ensure the prosperity of the organization by working to create age-appropriate materials for children. It is wonderful that SABR already reaches out to high schools and colleges, which has helped grow our ranks over the past decade, but I believe there is another underserved (some would say untapped) group, and that's pre-teens. We have many creative people in this organization, and many educators, so development of programming for pre-teens (books, videos) should be reasonably achievable. I'm also interested in ensuring that chapters provide some minimum level of programming and outreach. Finally, I'd like to investigate the viability (based on cost, technology needs and logistics) of providing livestreams of SABR convention presentation over Zoom or YouTube. "Virtual" convention attendees could pay a daily fee to access such live video presentations. While in-person attendance at national conventions is optimal for SABR from a bottom line perspective, travel/registration/hotel costs exceed the budgets of some would-be attendees.

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## For Director

Tara Krieger

**Member Since:** 2005

**E-mail:** tmk2130@aol.com

**Current Occupation:** Attorney – City of New York

**SABR Experience:** Director (2021-); Audit Committee; New Member Ambassador (2020-2021); SABR Research Award Committee 2017-2022 (chair 2021-2022); BioProject; Yankee Stadium book (co-editor 2023); attendee at national convention (research presentation 2015, volunteer 2017) and chapter events; host at SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Conference.

**Other Relevant Experience:** Former occupations include editorial producer for MLB Advanced Media and sportswriter at Newsday. Former member of the Association for Women in Sports Media. International Women's Baseball Center volunteer - events committee.

**Education:** B.A. Barnard College (English/Film), J.D. New York Law School

### Candidate Statement

My continued focus as part of the SABR Board of Directors is in giving back to an organization that has meant so much to me for almost my entire adult life.

My deep involvement in SABR has been wholly a labor of love. Few outside SABR believe that I create articles on baseball history—or edit a baseball history anthology—for “fun.” Few outside SABR understand how late-night discussions about which game was the subject of some 100-year-old photo is “fun.” And few outside SABR understand that for as much as you think you know about baseball, being a member means meeting hundreds of experts across the world who want to share with you all that you don’t know—and that’s “fun.”

Serving on the Board has been an honor and has furthered my connection to this great organization. I relish being in a position to listen to the ideas and concerns of so many members I consider colleagues and friends, and give them a voice where it matters.

SABR has reached an era of exceptional prosperity—it successfully emerged from the pandemic 7,500 members strong, financially stable, with a more extensive research collection and record-high website traffic. But to continue to thrive, it must continue to look toward the future—to recruiting and retaining more diverse members, and being unafraid to upset the status quo when technology and resources call for it.

I hope you will allow me to be a part of shaping SABR for another three years.

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## For Director

**Roberta J. Newman**

**Member Since:** 2000

**E-mail:** rn5@nyu.edu

**Current Occupation:** Professor of Liberal Studies, NYU

**SABR Experience:** "The 2002 MLB All-Star Tour" Nichibei Yakyu, Vol. II; "Good Optics: The 1955 Yankees Tour" Nichibei Yakyu: Baseball Tours of Japan, Vol. I; "Pitching Behind the Color Line--Baseball, Advertising, and Race", The Negro Leagues are Major Leagues: Essays and Research for Overdue Recognition

**Other Relevant Experience:** 2020 SABR Research Award: Here's The Pitch: The Amazing, True, New, and Improved Story of Baseball and Advertising (Nebraska); 2014 SABR Robert Peterson Award: Negro League research for Black Baseball, Black Business: Race Enterprise and the Fate of the Segregated Dollar (UP of Mississippi); 2003-present, Editorial Board, NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture; 2003-present, "Gang of Nine"--NINE Spring Training Conference Board

**Education:** Ph.D, Comparative Literature, NYU; MA, English Literature, University of Chicago; BFA, Illustration, Parsons School of Design; BA, English, NYU

### Candidate Statement

More than two decades ago, I was driving my family crazy with my ongoing baseball obsession. My literary scholarship was going nowhere. So my sociologist mother asked me, "Why don't you write about the game you love so much?" Looking for research support, I found SABR. Before I knew it, I was giving my first conference presentation at the 2nd Annual Seymour Conference. I haven't looked back. I've been a baseball researcher ever since, and SABR has become my home.

Joining as a middle-aged woman, I often felt like an outsider. Despite being awarded the first SABR/Youseleff grant, when it was available to researchers of all ages, my often unconventional work didn't always fit in. But the Negro League Committee helped change that, as did the Business of Baseball Committee. Over the last decade, I feel like the organization's embrace has broadened. It's important to me to help SABR keep widening its embrace, both in terms of the research it encourages and in terms of the composition of its membership. I firmly believe that it is necessary in order to keep SABR vital.

For the last three years, I've served on the Chadwick Award committee. I was also a member of the Ron Gabriel Award committee for three years--chairing in my final year. Having contributed to the national organization "behind the scenes", I think it's time I step forward. I would relish the opportunity to serve on SABR's Board of Directors.

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## For Director

### Bill Pearch

**Member Since:** 2016

**E-mail:** [wcpearch@comcast.net](mailto:wcpearch@comcast.net)

**Current Occupation:** Marketing Manager / WSP USA

**SABR Experience:** SABR Chicago (2016-Present), Secretary/Newsletter Editor — SABR Central Illinois (2022-Present), Founder — SABR Baseball Research Award Committee (2023-Present) — Publications Marketing Committee (2020-Present), Chair — Landmarks Research Committee (2022-Present) — Rucker Archive volunteer (2023) — Author-contributor: Digital Library books, The National Pastime, BioProject

**Other Relevant Experience:** Internet Baseball Writers Association of America, Here's the Pitch: The IBWAA Newsletter, author — Dwight (Illinois) Historical Society, curator-volunteer (2020-Present) — Elmhurst Park District's Elevate Elmhurst Parks Advisory Committee (2024) — DuPage Foundation (DuPage County, Illinois) Next Generation Initiative, member (2016-Present) — Elmhurst-Yorkfield (Illinois) Food Pantry, Board of Directors (2022-2023) — DuPage County charitable giving initiative (since 2001)

**Education:** MS – Integrated Marketing Communications, 1998, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL / BA – Professional Communication, 1995, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL

### Candidate Statement

Baseball is a fascinating game with limitless ways to celebrate it. Fans root for their favorite teams and players (or root against their rivals); collect baseball cards and memorabilia; visit ballparks and historic landmarks; and read, analyze and write about the game's milestones, or just play a quick game of catch. So let's play ball!

SABR's history as a dynamic organization with a rich history encompasses all types of baseball fans. I appreciate the opportunity to guide SABR's continued growth and expansion to fans, new and established, in the ways they connect best with the game particularly through strong and vibrant local chapters. SABR has made strides to expand membership to record levels and implement new programs which I'm honored to be a part of. These programs diversify membership seeking new initiatives to expand the organization's mission to connect members with baseball's history. Whether from one hundred years ago or present day.

You will see that I've focused my efforts on growing a vibrant Chicago chapter. As its newsletter editor, I'm delighted at the recognition its received throughout the years along with connecting to the wealth of knowledge from chapter members.

I'm especially proud of founding the Central Illinois chapter. I knew of many diehard fans – Cubs, Cardinals and White Sox – who reside in a geographic region that did not conveniently fall within easy access to Chicago or St. Louis chapter meetings.

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## **For Director**

**Louis H. Schiff**

**Member Since:** 2013

**E-mail:** wearehavingfun@bellsouth.net

**Current Occupation:** Broward County Court (Florida) Judge / Adjunct Law Professor

**SABR Experience:** SABR Research Award (2017) co-author, Baseball and the Law: Cases and Materials. Author: 3 SABR Games' Project; SABR Journal, Take Me Out to the Courtroom: A Look at Baseball Cases in the Florida Courts; Presenter: SABR Miami Convention; South Florida Chapter

**Other Relevant Experience:**

**Education:** B.S. Journalism, 1977 – University of Florida; Juris Doctor, 1980 – Hamline University (Mitchell-Hamline) School of Law.

### **Candidate Statement**

Baseball is my advocacy. Serving my community has been my life's work. I promise to work hard, listen to the ideas of others, and build a consensus to enable SABR to expand and continue to develop programs by encouraging others to get involved.

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## Question 1 (Vice President)

*Among other important duties, the vice president chairs SABR's Chapter Development Committee. What ideas do you have for bringing together members in areas that don't have a lot of people and that don't have a lot of SABR members? How can we bring members together in regions where there are no chapters?*

### Allison Levin

What we learned through the pandemic is essential to continue bringing together members in areas with few members or no existing chapter. Collaborating with other chapters over Zoom can be a game changer for smaller chapters. Finding a speaker or topic of common interest with two or more chapters can take a small meeting and make it more vibrant. The chapter liaison or vice president can help groups find those connections. It is also important to remember that not every SABR meeting has to be a big formal event. A chapter could go to lunch and talk baseball, and even if it ends up only being four people, that does not make it less of a get-together than a big chapter meeting. By encouraging and assisting in Zoom collaborations and providing ideas for smaller meetings, we can ensure that every chapter has experiences for its members.

Regarding regions with no chapters, first, we need to encourage all chapters to hold some meetings online, whether they be fully online or in a hybrid meeting. If a speaker is presenting over Zoom, the chapter should be able to let other members watch with no difficulty. By having meetings available on the events calendar those members who do not have access to a local chapter can still have the meeting experience. It is also crucial that when chapters meet online (and in person), they work to make every attendee feel welcome and accepted. Whether this be introductions at every meeting or the membership ambassador reaching out to attendees who are new or whom they haven't seen in a while, these small gestures make the experience of going to an unfamiliar meeting less anxiety-inducing.

At a broader level, we need to continue to make sure that all chapters know about the SABR Zoom account and are familiar with how to use it. Further, members, when they join, need to know how to join chapters, use the events calendar, and be encouraged to go to any meeting that works for them, regardless of who is hosting. Finally, SABR can continue to provide content for members, like the upcoming Ballpark Figures on the Negro Leagues, so there is something for everyone regardless of where they live and the size of their chapter.

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## Question 2 (Vice President)

*SABR offers numerous scholarships to students. What can chapters do to spread the word through educators or to students about these opportunities? How would social media platforms best be used to amplify these scholarships. What can we do better in this area?*

### Allison Levin

Chapters can help the scholarship process in many ways. First, chapters should be encouraged to reach out to local universities about opportunities for students. Most schools have Sports Management or Sports Communication programs, which is a great place to start, along with the history department. Departments are always putting together lists of scholarships for students and other ways students can build their resumes, and SABR chapters can partner with them in that aspect. Once a chapter has opened the communication lines with a University and has learned who in the Department is best to contact with opportunities, it is just a matter of keeping them informed of scholarships, internships, and other prospects for students. This small act can help grow the applicant pool and build SABR's name among young people.

Social media is another great place to amplify opportunities for students. The most significant factor about this approach is meeting students where they are. We cannot rely on Facebook or X (formerly known as Twitter) as students are not active users on those platforms. While students are most likely on Instagram and TikTok, that also does not mean we should rush out and join those platforms to reach students because simply being there does not mean they will follow our account. Considering that, we should leverage our social media by continuing to grow the SABR LinkedIn account and becoming one of the sources that somebody wanting to work in or around baseball should follow. We can do that through informative posting and cross-posting our scholarship opportunities in other groups, such as the Baseball Industry Network. While so much attention is put on how to reach students, we should not forget all the educators in SABR on social media. They are more likely to follow a SABR account on X or Facebook, and once they see the information they can and will pass it on to students. Messages should also be sent to relevant research committees and local chapters, asking them to send e-mails to their members and universities they have developed relationships with to help amplify scholarships and internships. They should also be promoted directly to student members by e-mail.

Finally, professional organizations are another great place for SABR to promote scholarship and writing opportunities. By asking those organizations to send calls out to their members, we can reach a whole new group of people and expand the reach.

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### **Question 1 (Secretary)**

*As SABR has seen its most dramatic growth in the last few years, what elements of the Secretary position have evolved with that growth?*

#### **Todd Lebowitz**

My role as Secretary and as pro bono legal counsel often feel as if they overlap. I have drafted the last several amendments to the bylaws, including the recent expansion of the board to 10 members and the addition of term limits. As Secretary, I am responsible for taking and posting minutes and maintaining other organizational records.

### **Question 2 (Secretary)**

*How can we improve our information flow from the SABR Board of Directors to the general membership?*

#### **Todd Lebowitz**

We strive to make the work we do as board members easily accessible to the membership. All meetings are open to the membership, and the minutes of every board meeting are posted for the membership on the website. The meetings before and after the convention receive the greatest amount of member involvement and attendees, but all meetings are open and the dates and times are posted in advance. Individual board members are all easily accessible, with their contact information available to members on the member directory.

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## Question 1 (Director)

*In considering our wide strata of membership, first, in what ways would you look to promote SABR that increases diversity (i.e., underrepresented minorities, women, youth), and second, how would you address a discrepancy of expectations between "veteran" SABR members and "rookie" members?*

### Andy Andres

Universities and high schools are great places to promote SABR with underrepresented minorities, women, and men. The SABR Analytics Certification is a great start, but it needs to be followed up by some concerted effort to increase membership and access to SABR resources, specifically the SABR members and their knowledge. I accomplished this access for my students over my career as a university instructor in baseball analytics through my own efforts, guiding my students to present at SABR conferences and join the organization.

But a new nation-wide strategy for SABR should be developed. Some incentive to connect students with local resources and chapter members as mentors through the local chapters themselves should be a priority for the Executive Board.

### Alan Cohen

Partnership and networking are essential for the continued success and growth of SABR. To achieve goals involving diversity, we must make ourselves known and show the relevance of SABR, be it in a broader scope of research or more inventive approach to analytics. From inner-city schools and Historically Black Colleges to other schools and colleges on the landscape, we must make ourselves known.

It should be made known that Baseball and the study of baseball is not "beneath" some folks who think of themselves as intellectuals. To those who think baseball to be too "boring," we must share the excitement and downright passion that we feel doing what we do.

SABR must listen to its entire membership and encourage chapters to plan events that will broaden their appeal. If this is not done, attendance at local events will decline. Some chapters need more help than others and, in some cases, the chapter leaders may be able to offer their suggestions to the board.

### Peter Coolbaugh

I am not a minority but I, like Babe Ruth, do not discriminate against anyone who loves our game. I am open to everyone regardless of color, gender or creed and will talk baseball with anyone. Part of SABR's recent mission from my perspective has been to include more people and given our growth since 2020 we seem to be achieving it. How diverse are we... not sure I can answer that. But whatever current initiatives are in place seem to be working as we have a growth problem and not a declining problem.

Generations are always going to be different. Older folks like things their way and so do the younger people. Compromise can only be achieved by patience and perseverance. Are we going to always agree – no. But working across generational lines is the same as crossing ideology lines and there has to be give and take on both sides. I think baseball fans are more likely to work things out given their genuine love of the game than any other type of person. The game has so much history and future advancement that it is impossible to negate where we have been or where we may be going. Having an open mind goes a long way in this scenario.

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## David Firstman

As I mentioned in my Candidate Statement, pre-teens are an underserved demographic. I'd like to see the creation of "SABRkids," with materials (books, videos, ZOOM "meet the historians" opportunities) focusing on for that age group. Turning to other minorities, I would like SABR to establish an annual award for the best book/article on the Negro Leagues. I know we have the Jerry Malloy conference and awards for youth in that field, but an annual award, to be presented at the national convention, would shine a needed light on the continuing efforts to document and preserve the history of the Negro Leagues.

With regard to "discrepancy of expectations," I'd like to see some sort of "mentorship"/"SABR buddy" program establish, where new members are offered the opportunity to connect (phone/Zoom/email) with a veteran SABR member to help them learn the ins-and-outs of what is available within SABR. We would of course have to gather enough "veteran" SABR members to volunteer for this to make it viable for all of the new members we get each year.

## Tara Krieger

Ideal diversity is understanding the needs and requirements of as yet underserved populations and making them feel seen, heard, and respected without being singled out.

The basest way to increase diversity is via programming – is SABR promoting presentations and panelists that focus on a wide range of subjects? Are the panelists themselves of mixed ages and backgrounds? Are the committees and leadership that organize these programs—both nationally and at the chapter level—diverse enough such that they can make decisions that are sensitive to different types of people?

Partnering with other organizations of more specialized, overlapping interests can also diversify SABR. The annual Women in Baseball Conference, a joint effort with the International Women's Baseball Center, has introduced to SABR members of the IWBC, many of whom are doing similar work. Hosting joint events with the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum or the Jackie Robinson Museum, for instance, can also open up SABR's outreach. On a smaller level, having chapters partner with local libraries can also bring in new audiences.

Hosting events on college campuses, or using college interns as liaisons, can convince younger researchers to sign up under a student membership. The Analytics Conference, of course, has been a rousing success, but SABR should carve out a larger space for humanities majors, as well. Not every college graduate interested in baseball is math-, science-, or business-oriented. Youth especially are looking to network through SABR, and with all of the connections SABR fosters with front offices and baseball think tanks to help students get their foot in the door, SABR should be mindful that the future historians and artists are not left behind.

Emphasizing SABR's virtual presence can also promote diversity. Virtual events carried SABR through the pandemic, and also allowed members who did not have the means or the ability to travel to see top-notch speakers and research presentations. Learning new social media platforms and producing content for those platforms will help meet and understand younger members where they gather most. Marketing virtual events on social media, such as Ballpark Figures, may also interest outsiders in joining if the guest or topic is particularly compelling to them.

As for how to bridge the rookie-veteran gap? I think back to my early experiences. When I joined SABR 20 years ago, I saw there was a place for me in spite of being part of a demographic that SABR had struggled to recruit

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(young women). What made me feel welcomed and eager to stay was that the people there made me feel welcomed, including me in their conversations and valuing my opinions, and that we all spoke the language of baseball.

Everyone wants to feel comfortable around those they can relate to. Expanding the New Membership Ambassador program (see below), or initiating a voluntary “buddy” system (between newer and established members) at large chapter or national events can help break down barriers by providing members that first familiar face. New members should be encouraged to engage in areas that interest them, or to seek out other members with common interests. Joining a committee or chartered community, or writing an article for Games Project, require no experience or service time, and getting new members involved in anything will make them feel less “new.”

### **Roberta J. Newman**

I think the best way to promote SABR, at the same time widening diversity, would be to reach out to colleges and universities, not just to those with robust baseball and sports management programs, to find new participants. Increasingly, undergraduates and graduate students have been engaging in critical sports studies, many focusing on baseball. I suggest targeting students in the humanities and social sciences, going beyond history and literature to sociology, anthropology, political science, and interdisciplinary studies. There is a wealth of potential younger, more diverse members working in these fields.

Perhaps a way to appeal to them would be to create a student conference or dedicated panels at the National Convention to showcase their work. This would also help remedy the “discrepancy” between veterans and new members, perhaps lessening the pressure upon “rookies” to meet the more conventional expectations of some older members. Creating new research committees, targeting new directions in the field might help. Of course, all SABR committees are interdisciplinary, but perhaps a committee dealing specifically with interdisciplinary research might be useful.

### **Bill Pearch**

In recent years, SABR’s robust publication program has told increasingly more diverse stories. Releases from recent years include stories about U.S. Tours of Japan, the heroic lives of baseball trailblazers like Jackie Robinson and Roberto Clemente, tales of the Negro Leagues, and Dominicans in the Majors (English and Spanish versions). These projects offer attractive recruitment incentives with aspiring non-member authors and bringing them into the fold. Through social media, I’ve used this opportunity to engage with aspiring baseball writers and demonstrated the benefits of SABR membership.

SABR must continue seeking partnering opportunities such as the dynamic programming related to women in baseball and Black baseball history through the SABR/International Women’s Baseball Center (IWBC) Women in Baseball Conference and Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference respectively. Shakeia Taylor, the host of SABR’s Ballpark Figures series, brings a unique voice and offers a compelling perspective to discussions surrounding issues related to the game. But this is just the beginning.

In the Chicago chapter, we’ve implemented several measures to bridge the gap between SABR veterans and rookies. One of liveliest activities are our chapter lunches. Every couple of months we find new locations around Chicagoland to gather and swap baseball stories. With no formal programming associated with these gatherings,

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it allows for free-flowing discussion and allows veterans and rookies to connect, share resources and strengthen their relationships.

Through our virtual new member orientation sessions, we unlocked a method of highlighting our chapter's upcoming meetings and offer opportunities to engage new members. We highlight all of the opportunities available through SABR's national headquarters down to our local chapter.

### **Louis H. Schiff**

This is the most difficult question presented. SABR should reach out to all communities and encourage membership. A "rookie" members should be given a "veteran" to be their mentor. At meetings it should be mandatory that the "veteran" members sit with "rookie" members. Members going to their first SABR national meeting should be given a discount and recognized at the meeting as a new member. "Rookie" members should be given the opportunity to present programs with "veteran" members. Team teaching should be mandatory, as it allows the exchange of ideas between the presenters, and gives the participants more information.

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### **Question 3 (All Candidates)**

*Why you? Is there a particular issue that motivates your candidacy? What differentiates you from other potential candidates? What skills do you possess that will allow for an immediate ability to contribute to the SABR Board of Directors?*

#### **Allison Levin**

I am the best choice for Vice President because I have been involved with just about every aspect of the organization and understand the challenges associated with each one. Since I have come on the Board, I have focused on student and young member retention and increasing diversity among members. With the SABR Scholars program, we are actively working on retaining students and young professionals. As we grow, we aim to attract and retain diverse members through publishing, conferences, and policies that help build acceptance and inclusion. It is not an overnight process, but each year, we see change. At this year's analytics conference, I saw the most diverse crowd I have seen since I started attending over ten years ago. This is also where my two passions meet; retention will allow us to grow a more inclusive overall membership as we become more diverse with student and young professional members.

As an educator in a sports field, I work closely with students and can see where the industry is moving and how we can adapt and change along with it. We as an organization cannot remain stagnant, maintain the same business model, and expect to continue to have continued success. We need to be open to discussing change across all aspects of how we do things to stay ahead of the curve, and I am prepared to lead those discussions as I did when I led the discussion to add term limits to Board positions. Further, after being on the Board for five years, working on many projects, chairing the SABR Analytics Certification program, having a hand in creating those courses, and chairing the DE&I committee, I understand how to take ideas and turn them into actionable items. I know how much work is involved in being an active Board member and what being an Officer will entail, and I believe I am best prepared to take this next step.

#### **Todd Lebowitz**

My involvement in the organization's governance has been a blend of providing legal counsel on various issues and serving as Secretary since 2011. These roles often overlap, and my experience as a partner at a large national law firm has regularly been an asset to the board when addressing various matters, including strategic and procedural matters, drafting of contracts and bylaws amendments, protecting our intellectual property, and relationships with outside vendors.

Even as we have evolved, there is unfinished business. I would like to see our donations program expand to involve more institutional and high net worth donors, further expanding our revenue stream while reducing our reliance on membership dues and events.

#### **Andy Andres**

My experience as a university instructor and mentor, getting to know students and their goals of working in the baseball industry, is something I have to offer the Board. I believe that my knowledge and experience helping guide students toward their hopes and dreams would help the Board right now, during this important time to grow membership among young people, and underrepresented minorities.

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## **Alan Cohen**

My candidacy is motivated by no one issue. I feel that we should position ourselves to, through our research, make baseball fun and relevant for our membership and the entirety of the baseball community, understanding that the landscape is ever changing. Why me? Through circumstances often not of my own making, I have learned to adapt to change. Having been a chapter officer, a team leader, and a project leader, I feel capable of being creative and confronting the changing landscape, and I have every intention of contributing from day one.

## **Peter Coolbaugh**

I was nominated and decided to accept. I am involved in a lot of baseball entities locally here in Maryland and have a decent reputation as a fan and someone who is committed to the game.

I am a decent writer and I know a lot of people here in Maryland in both baseball and media and I am committed to SABR's mission of the accurate preservation of our beloved game. I think having been a part of the BBRC since its formation in 2015, I have helped it grow and succeed and become one of the most active chapters in SABR in less than 9 years.

## **David Firstman**

Through my participation in many SABR disciplines (convention attendance, presentations, volunteer efforts), I have become quite well-known and respected in the SABR community. I am warm, cordial, friendly and willing to help SABR in any way I can. I possess a highly analytical mind, with the ability to see, appreciate and discuss an issue from multiple angles (it's not all about "the bottom line" ... it's about "are we using our vast and varied resources in the most efficient way to reach ALL members-current and potential").

As a member of the DEI committee, I believe I can speak for and be a passionate representative to underserved or marginalized communities.

The issue that motivates my candidacy is the development of materials for pre-teens. Given MLB's difficulties in attracting and maintaining the interest of that group in today's "social media-driven" world, we need to pique the curiosity of that group through video/audio/social media so that they form positive impressions regarding baseball and its history, which will hopefully carry forward for decades.

## **Tara Krieger**

Experience matters, and reelecting a recent incumbent means my ideas are still fresh and I can make an immediate impact without the steep learning curve of a newly elected director.

In the past three years on the Board, I have, among other things:

- served on the ad hoc committee that successfully led SABR through its first internal audit;
- participated in SABR budget meetings;
- proposed and spearheaded strategic initiatives, including taking steps on how to grow SABR's membership and streamline SABR Awards committees;
- assisted the heads of SABR publications in growing their editorial support network;
- updated SABR's policy manual for consistency and currentness.

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I also have the perspective of two demographics that SABR will need to continue to recruit in order to thrive in future generations – women and millennials.

Furthermore, my day job is as a problem solver and policy maker, in that I advocate on behalf of aggrieved constituents and recommend procedural improvements to help the City of New York run smoother.

### **Roberta J. Newman**

My candidacy is motivated by several issues. I am, first and foremost, a researcher. As my other answers suggest, I am devoted to the idea of expanding our definitions of baseball research into new areas. As a woman who does not work on women in baseball, though I am certainly interested in the topic, I'd like to see more women branch out into other areas of baseball research, as well. And although I'm certainly not a youngster, I am also motivated by attracting a younger and definitely more diverse membership.

As a long time member of the NINE Spring Training Conference organizing committee, who also has more than twenty years of governance experience at New York University, where I am a member of the faculty, I have excellent collaboration and communication skills. My experience helping to create and govern a new concentration (my program's equivalent of a major) focusing on social and cultural identities, hence my interest in expanding baseball research in the humanities and social sciences, should also be helpful. I am a writer who doesn't believe in using academic jargon, and is dedicated to making scholarly writing accessible to everyone, an experienced editor, and a leader.

### **Bill Pearch**

My passion for baseball was sparked at an early age and has flourished throughout the years. Like many members, I'm more than a casual fan. My candidacy for SABR's Board of Directors is motivated by sharing my love of the game with others and showcasing the advantages that membership provides through its local chapters. I'm proud of my role elevating the Chicago chapter's profile by reinvigorating its newsletter, and increasing the frequency and diversity of its programming. I'm honored to serve as a trusted resource for SABR staff and its volunteers, regardless of location.

I understand the challenges that SABR faces and the unique opportunities it can provide. My background as a marketing and communications manager for not-for-profit and philanthropic organizations will allow me to make immediate contributions. I've been responsible for promoting new programming and the launch of fundraising campaigns. Oftentimes, these big dreams were achieved with limited resources. In those roles, I've served as a professional storyteller and advocate for diverse causes including innovative engineering, environmental issues, impactful giving and (of course) baseball. I've planned business development strategies, donor and community special events, and public outreach and engagement efforts. Like with my role in SABR, I've been a relationship builder focused upon positioning and messaging, brand management, and style and appearance.

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## **Louis H. Schiff**

No doubt there are many qualified members to be directors. It would be an honor to be on the board. I have been a baseball fan since I was a child. In college I worked a summer job for George Steinbrenner and the Ft. Lauderdale Yankees as a public relations director in 1975-76. My father convinced me to turn down a full-time job offer to work for Mr. Steinbrenner in New York with the Yankees and go to law school instead.

I have never regretted that decision, as I have been fortunate to merge two of my greatest passions: baseball and the law. I am offering my skillset to SABR, as I will be retiring in December 2024, which gives me the opportunity to devote the time, effort, and energy necessary to be a board member. As a lawyer, judge, community leader and national educator for the past 40 plus years, I believe I can assist SABR in developing programs aimed at potential members.

Understanding both sides of an issue and listening before deciding is a strength I possess as a result of my work experience. Those who know me well tell you that I am a very good listener and that when given a project to complete, it will get done.

Having been involved in judicial education as an instructor and dean for more than 20 years, our presenters should be given opportunities to learn the basics of adult learning. This method of presentation, through the Kolb Learning Circle, is a better hands-on approach, rather than someone standing in the front of a room and reading from notes with a PowerPoint behind that person that is unreadable.

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## **Question 4 (All Candidates)**

*SABR has adopted term limits into our by-laws. How can we maintain institutional knowledge when members leave the Board? Are there other areas and ways we can have former Board members involved?*

### **Allison Levin**

Institutional knowledge was a key concern when term limits were put into place, and rightfully so. It is a huge help to have somebody you can look to and say, why did we do this or when did this happen, but that institutional knowledge can be maintained even with turnover on the Board. With the eight-year term limits, there will likely be somebody on the Board at most times who has the institutional knowledge that is needed. In cases where there is more of a need, we can maintain institutional knowledge by writing it down. If we actively maintain and keep the policy manual up to date by editing it when changes are made, there will be an accurate singular place to see how we do things. We can also have detailed minutes to refer back to understand the discussion surrounding decisions and, ultimately, why choices were made. But, perhaps the most important way we can retain institutional knowledge is by involving former board members. We must stop thinking about the Board of Directors as the pinnacle of leadership at SABR. Just as we have been working to have a funnel that helps members take on leadership roles that could ultimately lead to them being on the Board, we need to have plans to keep former Board members involved in SABR in leadership capacities. One such example is the Teller's committee, which requires the chair to be a former Board member— this can be done in other committees without disrupting a member's ability to grow in the organization. The continued leadership can be encouraged as simply as the Board President in their capacity to fill committees and the CEO and Board in their capacities to create committees calling on former Board members to continue to serve and lend their knowledge and expertise to areas where they led while on the Board. A mix of new and experienced leadership can only strengthen these committees and better reflect where SABR has come from and where it is going.

### **Todd Lebowitz**

I supported and drafted the bylaw amendments to introduce term limits and expand the board from 8 members to 10. These two changes were intended to work together, and the package of amendments was intentionally drafted in a way that would (1) promote the maintenance of institutional knowledge by allowing lengthy but not unlimited board service, (2) maximize the likelihood that officers would have prior board experience, and (3) make it easier for other SABR members to contribute and gain board experience. The amendment adopts an up-or-out system. After eight years as a director, a board member must seek a promotion to an officer role or will become termed out. The addition of a one-year director seat also creates an opportunity for members to experience board service without a longer term commitment.

### **Andy Andres**

Institutional knowledge exists within SABR through the officers of the Board, the CEO and EVP. As needed, the former members of the Board, and other SABR members, could be asked to help contribute to the issues before the Board. Also, former members of the board could get involved as ad hoc committee members as needed. I am in favor of term limits though, all institutions can benefit from new leadership.

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## **Alan Cohen**

A key to the success of any organization is proper transition techniques. Existing board members should be encouraged to share their knowledge with new members and not just walk away. In any organization, “burnout” can and does happen. As people move through SABR, they should be encouraged to find new challenges that make the full use of their talents without becoming frustrating.

## **Peter Coolbaugh**

I think an advisory board of past regular board members would be a consideration for those who have been term limited. Think of the role of a counselor or advisor with no real power to make changes but who is there to offer opinions and suggestions. I know museums and non-profits often have something similar.

## **David Firstman**

Any member who departs from the board should automatically become a “member emeritus,” with the ability (and encouragement) to attend SABR board meetings in an advisory (non-voting) position. Departing board members could be asked to formulate a list of “best practices” that were used/implemented during their tenure.

## **Tara Krieger**

SABR adopted term limits to ensure that more members received a chance at leadership positions, and to ensure there would be a steady stream of new voices participating in the organization. To safeguard against the loss of institutional knowledge, the Board proposed other changes that were also added to the bylaws:

- 1) Members who reach their term limit are free to run for the Board again if they step aside for a year. Directors who reach their term limit also may seek higher office. Such measures ensures that if a particular Board member is making an impact beyond what their term limit allows, they are not forever barred from service, and, in fact, can continue to serve (if elected) such that their experience will be put to good use with little or no break.
- 2) Officers can only be elected after serving at least one year as a Director. Such a provision ensures that all officers have some institutional knowledge before occupying SABR’s highest positions.
- 3) The expansion of the Board from eight to ten members will also better ensure that turnover will be staggered, and that more members—some of whom may have decades of (non-Board) SABR experience—will have a chance to contribute.

In addition to the safeguards within the ByLaws, the Board of Directors does not operate within a vacuum. The Board has always been free to seek out the advice and knowledge of other members, some of whom may be former Board members themselves, and to share that information (assuming a particular subject is not embargoed). Many former Board members continue to serve on committees and remain active in the organization. Notably, the Sunday morning Board meeting at the annual convention is open to the public, such that any interested member can observe.

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### **Roberta J. Newman**

I think there's no reason why former board members with continued interest in serving shouldn't be able to do so after an established period of time. It's also my experience that current board members are always open to suggestions and conversations about SABR's direction, no matter from whom. Former board members should be able to have input in that way. It's possible to maintain institutional history by tapping long time members who have not yet held a position on the board, as well.

### **Bill Pearch**

With a background working at not-for-profit and philanthropic organizations, I've seen the impact of maintaining connections first hand. For more than 50 years, SABR's board members have provided sound leadership as the organization transformed from its modest roots to more than 7,500 members. SABR's outgoing board members played a critical role in shaping SABR and remain valuable to its future. I endorse creating a SABR Board Emeriti program. With this honorary title, former board members will continue providing a vital lifeline connecting leadership with the general membership. They can share unique perspectives on potential new initiatives and serve as organization ambassadors. As SABR ambassadors, they can serve as resources to aid fundraising campaigns, make media appearances. They could be appointed to any of the numerous research and chartered committees.

### **Louis H. Schiff**

Term limits should be staggered to allow new members of the board to be mentored by more experienced and former members. Former board members can be used to develop new members.

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## **Question 5 (All Candidates)**

*Do you have any suggestions on how to grow our SABR membership?*

### **Allison Levin**

This is a tricky question because we are at a time when membership is at its highest levels, and while growth is leveling out, what Scott and the staff are doing is working. Our biggest issue moving forward is how to retain the members we bring in. There is a natural flow where we lose student and young professional members, in particular, and then replace them with a new batch. The best way I see to grow membership is to continue to work on retention. Then, instead of the typical churn of losing X members and bringing on members to replace them in the total count, the new members would represent growth, not replacement. In the past five years, we have come a long way with retention through the new member orientations that enable each member to find a home in SABR and understand how to find it, the membership spotlights that help all of us learn about resources SABR has and the resources SABR provides members—the Rucker archives, Black Newspapers, and Newspapers.com—that make SABR membership one of the best values on the market. It is clear that if a member makes it to their third year of membership, they are likely to stay on for years to come, so continuing to focus on programs that highlight the benefits of membership and maintaining contact with members in their first two years is the best way to continue to grow.

### **Todd Lebowitz**

Any growth needs to be strategic and have a purpose. Is it better to have 8,000 members or 20,000 members, and why? Getting bigger just to get bigger is not a strategic goal. Growing numbers in a way that does not advance the mission or that results in a revolving door of one-year members serves no purpose. We have consistently grown membership numbers during Scott's tenure in a steady and intentional way. We have improved retention and reduced turnover among newer members. We have increased membership among students and young professionals. I support further growth in numbers if the growth supports a strategic objective, such as increasing engagement of younger members, promoting a more diverse and inclusive membership, expanding the pool of researcher contributors with varying life experiences to encourage differing viewpoints and new research interests, enhancing our ability to produce valuable research across a broad range of topics, and improving revenues. We have expanded revenue-producing initiatives in a way that reduces our reliance on membership dues for revenue growth, which allows us to grow strategically instead of just for the sake of adding dues-paying bodies, which is not by itself a meaningful strategic objective.

### **Andy Andres**

Local SABR Chapter knowledge and experience should be leveraged to create more connections to the young people in universities and high schools in their area, first and foremost to share their knowledge, offer mentorship, but secondarily to attempt to get more young people involved in SABR.

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## **Alan Cohen**

It all boils down to reaching the general population that we are about any, and all, research into baseball from its originals to the current day. We are about history; we are about statistics; we are about whatever any member will think we are about.

We should set up “tables” wherever we can: at major league and minor league games; at college orientations; at community gatherings. We are more than analytics (“sabermetrics” does not even begin to define SABR and what many of us do), and every aspect from history to stats should be made available and relevant to the broadest possible audience.

## **Peter Coolbaugh**

More collaborations with other baseball entities. The HOF and MLBPA used to offer a joint membership. Maybe consider working with a few museums to do a joint SABR and Yogi Berra Museum membership (for example). There are so many baseball attractions out there. I am sure SABR could consider partnering with a few to grow our own numbers.

## **David Firstman**

As I've mentioned above, focus on pre-teens. Start developing picture books, short historical videos and other “kid-friendly” materials for them. “SABRkids” should be a major goal in the coming years.

## **Tara Krieger**

SABR membership is growing. The bigger issue is how to retain those new members. Data show that members who stay for three years are more likely to remain long-term and become more active. A focus of a SABR initiative on which I am working is how to keep members involved during their initial 3-5 years, so that they do keep coming back.

The New Membership Ambassadors have been successful in opening the door to new members and making them feel welcomed, via a friendly e-mail or possibly a phone call. The Ambassadors may very well be the first person that someone joins SABR meets, and they can be an invaluable source of information during those early days when navigating SABR can seem overwhelming.

I have been exploring with SABR's Member Services Manager ways to expand that program. One way is for the Ambassadors to check in with the new members they initially contacted every few months to see if they can be assistance once members have had a chance to explore what SABR has to offer. They can also recommend events and projects that might suit that particular member's interests. Ambassadors could also reach out to those people who did not renew to generate ideas as to how SABR can improve so people are less likely to let their membership lapse. Such an expanded role will likely require more volunteer Ambassadors, which is also a good way for a more recent member to assume an early leadership position and bridge the rookie/veteran gap (described in the previous question).

SABR can also lure new members by partnering with and cross-promoting with other organizations—such as the annual SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Conference—or offering discounts on dual membership, such as they

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do with the Baseball Hall of Fame. Members of those other organizations may become curious at all SABR has to offer and join.

### **Roberta J. Newman**

As I mentioned before, I think the best way to grow SABR membership is to make a concerted effort to reach out to students, both graduate and undergraduate, letting them know that SABR membership represents a great way to showcase their work as well as providing a fantastic community with whom to share their passion for the sport.

### **Bill Pearch**

Baseball is the thread that unites all SABR members. Each of us was introduced to the game through someone significant and they helped fuel our passion throughout the years. Perhaps it was a parent, a friend or a local broadcaster. My grandmother shared her passion for the game with me and encouraged me to grow as a fan. As SABR members, we have that opportunity to play that role. We are storytellers who can share our unique connections with the game and can encourage membership growth.

Membership organizations thrive when they offer its target audience unique benefits. SABR's recent Analytics Certification program (now three levels) was a home run. This program provides younger professionals with tools to set themselves apart from the competition as they launch their careers, whether in baseball or not. This is program still has much potential. We need to engage with program participants who have earned this certification. As they progress in their careers, they can serve as advocates for SABR and validate its seal of approval.

I see numerous opportunities for members to forge partnerships with organizations and institutions that can benefit from aligning with SABR. Looking locally in Chicago, I see potential for partnering with diverse organizations such as the Chicago Cultural Center, DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center, National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture, National Museum of Mexican Art and Japanese Culture Center. Partnering with these types of institutions (and in every other market) to connect baseball stories with their individual missions of bringing knowledge and history to a wider audience.

### **Louis H. Schiff**

Free memberships to anyone under the age of 18. Discounted memberships to college students, or anyone under the age of 25. A greater SABR presence on social media that appeals to young adults and teenagers.

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## Question 6 (All Candidates)

*Which game in baseball history would you have wanted to attend?*

### Allison Levin

My head says it would be Koufax's perfect game in 1965. My heart and most people who know me well will tell you that it is more likely much more recent—Clayton Kershaw's no-hitter in 2014.

### Todd Lebowitz

Dodgers-Braves, Braves Field, Boston, May 1, 1920. It was a rainy day but both pitchers seemed up to the task, and Leon Cadore and Joe Oeschger each threw a tidy 26 innings. Then darkness crept in, and the game was called with the score tied, 1-1. It was all over in a tidy 3 hours, 50 minutes. I would have liked to experience baseball in that era, and who doesn't love a good pitcher's duel?

### Andy Andres

I would have loved to have seen Martin Dihigo play for the New York Cubans in a game against the Pittsburgh Crawfords at Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson New Jersey in his All-Star year of 1935. Until Shohei Ohtani has demonstrated his all-around baseball skills, I have always argued Dihigo was the greatest baseball player of all-time, and I would have loved to see him play at the peak of his skills (30 YO) and in a memorable NJ baseball landmark.

### Alan Cohen

By luck of the draw, I have attended many games of unique significance. I attended the Mets' first home win in 1962, the 23-inning game in 1964, Game Three of the 1969 World Series, Game Three of the 1973 NLCS, and the Pine-Tar Game. All were good in their own way, but I really would have liked to attend: Opening Day, Ebbets Field, April 15, 1947.

### Peter Coolbaugh

Game 3 of the 1932 World Series at Wrigley Field.

### David Firstman

The one player I most wish I had gotten to see play was Sandy Koufax (sorry Christy Mathewson ... you're "1A"). On September 9, 1965, Koufax took the mound in Dodger Stadium and hurled a perfect game, at the time only the eighth such game in history. What made the game even more remarkable was that the opposing pitcher, the Cubs' Bob Hendley, nearly matched Koufax's achievement, as he no-hit the Dodgers for 6 2/3 innings. Hendley would end up with a one-hit, one walk complete game loss, with the sole run he surrendered being unearned. From a "Game Score" perspective, Koufax (101) and Hendley (80) may have achieved the highest combined score for a nine-inning game featuring two complete game pitchers. Alas, I was only two years and three months old on the night of the game and living 3,000 miles away in New York.

Deadline for votes to be received is 11:59 p.m. MST on April 30, 2024

### **Tara Krieger**

Probably something involving Josh Gibson in his prime. So much has been made about him as a player, but because of when and where he played and that he died so young, very little footage of him exists, and much of how good he was is anecdotal. Specifically, I'd like to see the game when he allegedly hit one out of Yankee Stadium – though it's unclear when (and if?) that happened.

### **Roberta J. Newman**

It's so hard to pick just one. But if I have to, I'd say Game 3 of the 1932 World Series, because then I'd know--or at least have an educated opinion--on whether or not Babe Ruth actually called that shot.

### **Bill Pearch**

Gabby Harnett hit his legendary "Homer in the Gloamin'" in the bottom of the ninth inning off of Mace Brown to lead the Cubs to a 6-5 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates. That victory helped the Cubs inch closer to the National League pennant. Wrigley Field did not have lights and sunset was scheduled for 5:37 p.m. High stress. Great expectations. Fans had a limited view of the action. Just how dark was the ballpark at that moment? The fans must have gone wild experiencing one of the most iconic moments at Wrigley Field.

### **Louis H. Schiff**

October 16, 1969 – Game 5 of the World Series. I was 14 years old and listened to it on the radio, but it would have been fun to have been at Shea Stadium and stormed the field after the Mets won!