

2021 SABR Election Guide

Thank you for reading the 2021 SABR Election Guide.

On the following pages you will find statements of the candidates for the offices of President, Secretary, and one (1) Director's seat, and the candidates' responses to the three 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 his/her biographical section.

All members who have renewed for 2021 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 **April 19, 2021**, and you will receive at least one reminder email before May 3.

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 below are the functions of each office according to the current SABR bylaws.

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 four 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. 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.

President. The duties of the President, who shall be elected in odd-numbered years to a two-year term, shall include: a) Presiding over the annual business meeting and chairing the Board of Directors; b) Working with the Executive Director to ensure that the organization maintains positive and productive relationships with media, funders, donors, and other organizations; c) Signing contracts and letters of agreement approved by the Board of Directors. The President may delegate signatory power, as appropriate; d) Ensuring that the Board of Directors and its members: 1) are aware of and fulfill their governance responsibilities; 2) comply with applicable laws and bylaws; 3) conduct board business effectively and efficiently; and 4) are accountable for their performance; e) Such additional duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors; f) Except as otherwise provided by the Bylaws or explicitly delegated by the Board of Directors, the President shall have no greater authority than any other member of that body.

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 four 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 deadline for your vote to be received is
11:59 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on May 3, 2021.***

For President

Mark Armour

Member Since: 1983

E-mail: markarmour04@gmail.com

SABR Experience: BioProject committee chair (14 years), Baseball Cards committee co-chair (3 years), NWSABR president (2 years), SABR Board (3 years)

Other Relevant Experience: BS Computer Science/Math (Rensselaer, 1982); MS Computer Science (Northeastern, 1990); Forty years in the computer field as a software engineer; Author or editor of seven baseball books

Candidate Statement

In my two years in this position, I have advocated for the Board to focus on long-term strategy and to allow Scott and the staff to run the organization. We were in the process of a dedicated effort to create a Strategic Plan when the pandemic took hold, but in the coming year I hope and believe that we can return to that effort.

In the past two years, the Board approved funding for a major overhaul of the website, asked Scott to create an Editorial Board that would manage and approve publication projects, and made the difficult decisions to postpone or substantially repurpose several SABR conferences including two national conventions. Thanks to the CEO and staff, who implemented all of the above along with an aggressive fundraising plan, SABR has enjoyed many successes in this terrible year.

In the past year, I conceived and played a major role in SABR's "50 at 50" project that has created monthly web articles (Best 50 books, Greatest 50 games, etc.) to capitalize on SABR's 50th anniversary year. I was proud to chair the Negro Leagues task force that assembled members throughout the organization and recommended that SABR recognize seven Black leagues from baseball's segregated era as major leagues. The Board agreed with our findings.

The job of the SABR Board is to manage the long-term health of SABR, and to support the CEO and the staff. The job of the Board president is to foster an atmosphere that allows all eight Board voices to be heard in hopes that we come to a consensus in a cordial and efficient manner. I believe I have done this.

**For Secretary
Todd Lebowitz**

Member Since: 2000

E-mail: tlebowitz@bakerlaw.com

SABR Experience: Secretary, Board of Directors

Other Relevant Experience: Pro bono legal counsel to SABR since 2005, advising on numerous matters relating to intellectual property, contracts, personnel, business strategy and implementation. Partner and member of BakerHostetler's Sports and Entertainment Legal Practice Group. Performed legal work for a major league baseball team, including drafting player contracts and negotiating terms with player agents; for Major League Baseball, including related to record archives; and for several major league players, including covering a variety of personal non-baseball legal matters. Conducted a study entitled "The Effect of Financial Rewards on Intrinsic Motivation: A Study of Long-Term Contracts in Major League Baseball."

Education: University of Michigan, BA in Psychology, 1993; University of Michigan Law School, JD, 1997

Candidate Statement

I have been providing service to the Board as its Secretary and legal counsel for the past several years. During my service, we have seen the Society's profile grow dramatically in the baseball industry, including developing important industry ties such as our role in the Rawlings Gold Glove Awards. 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.

Deadline for votes to be received is 11:59 p.m. MST on May 3, 2021

For Director
Tyrone Brooks

Member Since: 2013

E-mail: Tyrone.Brooks@gmail.com

SABR Experience: Current Director

Education: University of Maryland at College Park (Accounting, Marketing, '96)

Candidate Statement

My relationship with SABR has grown tremendously over the last eight plus years thanks and I am thankful for the community that is SABR. It has truly been an honor to represent SABR the two years on the board. Since my first interactions with SABR, a feeling of acceptance has played a vital role in wanting to be an advocate in shaping the direction of SABR.

I was fortunate to first collaborate with SABR through the SABR Analytics Conference and as I peeled back the layers of the organization, I was exposed to a community of passionate baseball fans who were so welcoming to me. I attended my first convention in New York City (later in Pittsburgh and San Diego) and also attended the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference when it was held in both Pittsburgh and Kansas City years back. These SABR experiences in addition to the Women in Baseball Conference showed me this community is truly special, as this is a place for everyone who loves the game. I want to contribute to the continued expansion and reach of SABR, allowing as many others as possible to have similar memorable experiences. Like many, I am eagerly anticipating the day we are all together in Baltimore (my hometown) to celebrate the vast history and contributions of so many members.

SABR is embarking on a period of dynamic membership growth and I believe I can contribute as a determined voice willing to collaborate across the organization to bring new ideas to the table, yet allow us to remain committed to our long standing community of baseball enthusiasts. Thank you for your time and I look forward to better days ahead.

Deadline for votes to be received is 11:59 p.m. MST on May 3, 2021

For Director Tara Krieger

Member Since: 2005

E-mail: tmk2130@aol.com

SABR Experience: SABR New Member Ambassador 2020-present; SABR Research Award Committee 2017-2021 (committee chair 2021); BioProject editor and contributor 2007-present; contributor to various SABR publications; frequent attendee at national convention (research presentation 2015, volunteer 2017) and Casey Stengel chapter events; volunteer host at SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Conference (2020).

Other Relevant Experience: Currently an attorney for the City of New York. Former occupations include editorial producer for MLB Advanced Media and sportswriter at *Newsday*. Former member of the Association for Women in Sports Media. Current Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for Baseball Across America, a 501(c)(3) that helps underserved kids attend college. International Women's Baseball Center events committee.

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

Candidate Statement

What a strange, unprecedented year it has been for the baseball world. It has been more than a year since most of us have sat in the stands at a ballpark, and it will be at least three years the next time SABR will finally gather en masse at a national convention. And although I have missed seeing my baseball friends in person, I do not feel as though I have been thoroughly cut off from the baseball community, between all the virtual meetings and other small projects in which I have been involved, mostly via SABR.

SABR has been one of the few constants in my adult life, having joined fresh out of college. It was there when I changed careers and needed an escape, and there when I moved to a different city and was looking for a familiar face. I have made amazing friendships that traverse demographics; I have gained valuable research and writing skills from working on various projects and interacting with other members; and I have enriched my baseball knowledge in learning from some of the best baseball minds in the world.

SABR can be and should be the foremost resource of baseball information for enthusiasts, but only if we continue to ensure that it is so. My candidacy is about giving back to an organization that has given me so much, and building on the foundation of the first 50 years, to ensure future generations of all ages and demographic who love baseball have an even better experience than I have had.

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For Director
Alex Marks

Member Since: December 2013

E-mail: alexmarks13@msn.com

SABR Experience: seven years

Other Relevant Experience: three years as Secretary for Rocky Mountain Chapter

Education: B.S. in business management from Syracuse, Ph.D. in law from New England School of Law

Candidate Statement

I am privileged and honored to be considered and nominated as a Director candidate for the National Board of the Society for American Baseball Research. I have been a Board member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter since 2016 and a Secretary since 2017. I have also been an active participant in numerous SABR events, including being a regular attendance at the annual SABR analytics conference. If elected, I will work tirelessly to bring the greatest baseball society on earth into a new dawn of baseball analytics, including working to enhance the outreach of our membership into the greatest sport on earth.

Question 1: 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?

Mark Armour

The SABR Board created a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and is prepared to act on its recommendations as they come forward.

One effort I want to push is that SABR require all committee and chapter leaders to commit to diversify their presenters, writers, and managers of their groups. The first step is that everyone is welcome to attend, but the second crucial step is that everyone is encouraged to participate fully in the group's operations. Every woman presenter, or Black writer, or Latino co-chair, makes it much more likely that other underrepresented people will feel empowered to step up.

Todd Lebowitz

Success in the 2020s requires an emphasis on diversity and inclusion (D&I), and that is true whether the organization is for-profit or non-profit. I see the difference that D&I makes every day in my role as legal counsel serving major corporations. Diversity in leadership ensures a variety of perspectives and life experiences, allowing an organization to understand multi-faceted issues in a more comprehensive way.

As a member-driven organization, SABR needs to continue its focus on expanding its connections with diverse and younger baseball fans. This has been a constant point of discussion in the SABR boardroom, with D&I having been identified as a strategic focus in our most recent strategic planning session. During my tenure on the board, we have established a committee dedicated to this issue, with the goal of generating ideas and implementing actions to help achieve these goals. D&I is a constant discussion, and as we roll out new programs and events, there is a constant discussion in the boardroom about how to be more inclusive, how to encourage expanded participation, and how to ensure a feeling of welcomeness for a diverse group of baseball fans.

SABR continues to take steps to make the Analytics Conference a must-attend event for students interested in entering the game professionally. We need to continue outreach to the under-30 crowd, and we are fully committed to doing so.

SABR can – and is – an organization that is well-positioned to serve the interests of all who are interested in what we do, regardless of age.

Question 1: 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?

Tyrone Brooks

In my line of work with Major League Baseball, promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the sport of baseball is a major element of life that I personally live and breathe every day. For the past five years I've had the opportunity to work in partnership with SABR bringing underrepresented groups (women, persons of color) to the SABR Analytics Conference and for many of our attendees this is their first interaction and exposure to SABR, so it is important they feel welcomed and valued. This is a great opportunity to build a bridge as we look to bring in younger and more diverse lovers of the game. SABR Virtual Analytics was a great success this year in bringing in so many younger new members, so now is the time to act upon making this group know they are wanted and supported. SABR officers and chapter leaders can now use our platform to combine forces to extend a helping and welcoming hand to join chapters across the country, letting them know their voices will be heard and accounted for. Many younger new members want to work in baseball, which in many cases will require them to look at ways to create tangible research projects. SABR chapter leaders can encourage this providing an opportunity for new research and discussion within each chapter and a vital testing ground. In my opinion, as a board there must be a directive to chapter leaders to engage diverse and younger voices every quarter (events, research, etc.) which will be very intentional and purposeful. As part of this initiative, success must be measurable by various data points (surveys, engagement data, etc.). In many ways, an opportunity for mentorship is highly valued and much needed as younger members attempt to find their way into the organization. Opportunities such as the above will allow both new and veteran members to get out of their "comfort zones" yet build new expectations across each chapter. The messaging from the board and executive staff should emphasize breaking down barriers yet define the commonalities which display bind us all together as an organization.

Tara Krieger

Attracting a more diverse membership is important, but retaining it is even more so. I applaud SABR for its efforts to increase diversity so far, but convincing more youth, women, and minorities to join will not promote diversity if they do not stay involved.

People feel most comfortable around others they can relate to, so making new members feel welcome should be the priority. One way to do this is by initiating a voluntary buddy system—pairing up a new member with a more established member to guide them through their first year and introduce them to the SABR community (both virtually and via events). Associating that first familiar name or face with the organization can help bridge the rookie-veteran gap and break down barriers. (I have seen promising responses as a SABR membership ambassador, but four or five people cannot handle the influx of new members attending their first events or starting their first projects.)

Another incentive to stay would be to initiate a referral program—if a SABR member who joined recently refers a friend, they receive an acknowledgement, and a discount on their renewal membership fee. For those who do not renew, a quick check-the-box survey asking for a reason might be illuminative to find out what they care about.

From a marketing standpoint, SABR could lure in more youth by better understanding where younger baseball fans "gather"—such as learning new social media platforms and producing new video content for those platforms. Using college interns as cross-campus liaisons would also be helpful in recruitment of younger members.

Lastly, SABR can lure new members by partnering with and cross-promoting other organizations that cater to specific demographics—I have seen the success, for instance, of the Women in Baseball conference that was a dual effort on the part of SABR and the International Women's Baseball Center. SABR also offers deals on membership for those also joining the Baseball Hall of Fame. Hosting events with similar organizations can introduce SABR to those organizations' boards and memberships, and that coupled with offering such "dual" memberships can pique others' curiosity.

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Question 1: 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?

Alex Marks

1) I would look for ways to promote and expand our excellent opportunities for younger and soon-to-be professionals, including the Diamond Dollars Case Competition and Yoseloff Scholarship, by actively going out to education institutions to market SABR to target programs and departments. I would also target to enhance our outreach to Hispanic communities and attempt open more opportunities in the world of baseball analytics for Hispanic individuals who are interested in baseball analytics by marketing to such chapters like the Puerto Rico, Panama, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Venezuela, Curacao and other Latin chapters. El béisbol es universal.

2) To address a discrepancy in expectations between "veterans" and "younger" SABR members, I would look to form a bridge among the two sectors of our membership in those events that are tilted towards one more so than the other. For example, I would look to attract the "veteran" membership in events that tend to favor our "younger" membership, such as the analytics conference, and then vice versa for those events our "veteran" membership tend to favor over the "younger" memberships, such as the annual convention. I have also been very active in trying to engage and recruit other members within our community, including doing outreach to the local academic institutions and their analytics program (specifically with the School of Mines in Golden here in Colorado and their Analytics department).

Question 2 (President): The current global pandemic has created a great deal of chaos in SABR's event planning this year. In response to cancellations of various in-person conferences, the SABR Virtual platform was developed and received with great enthusiasm. With the coronavirus still raging across the country, how do you think remote events are going, and what more could SABR offer to membership as COVID-19 continues to restrict SABR events such as the 2021 convention, and other high profile in-person engagements?

Mark Armour

All of the credit for the initiatives that led to SABR's virtual programming should go to the CEO and the staff. The Board has been supportive and provided assistance as asked, but the ideas, the planning, and the implementation all came out of Phoenix. Scott has already announced our "Summer of SABR" celebration, a series of virtual events that will help ease the sting of the postponements of the national convention and the Malloy conference. Details are forthcoming. I believe that the Board will again help out as needed.

I believe that the programming has been fantastic. We have had more people truly participating in SABR than ever in our history, and these lessons are not lost on the Board. I expect that we will be 100% virtual for several more months, with hopes (fingers crossed) that we begin to see in person gatherings by the Fall. I envision a future in which virtual meetings continue, and in-person meetings have a virtual component.

Question 2 (Secretary): Now that SABR has reached its 50th anniversary, are there any revisions to the membership handbook or by-laws, that you would recommend or suggest? Explain your answer.

Todd Lebowitz

Potential changes to the SABR policy guide (handbook) are a constant topic of discussion in the boardroom as we always strive to adopt best practices. The meaning of best practices constantly changes as technology advances, laws change, and staffing needs change. The policy guide is one of the tools we have as an organization to promote transparency and memorialize expectations for members, committees, and chapters, and it is a resource for members.

By-laws, by their nature are different, and are not intended for frequent revisiting and revision. They provide the basics of the corporate structure of the organization and how it operates. I am always open to ideas about whether by-law changes should be considered, but the bar is much higher than for changes to the policy guide. I would like to see modest changes to the board structure to add a ninth at-large member on a one-year term, as a way to allow members interested in board service to get a taste of what board service involves and how the board operates.

Question 2 (Director): This past year, Major League Baseball (MLB) restructured and contracted clubs within the Minor League Baseball (MiLB) system. For the many fans who do not live in large cities, this was their most tangible relationship with professional baseball. What impact do you think the decimation of MiLB is going to have on SABR?

Tyrone Brooks

While it is unfortunate some markets have lost affiliated professional baseball, many of those markets effected have regained baseball in some form (both professional and collegiate) through the creation of the rebranded Appy League (college summer league), Pioneer League (independent) and the new MLB Draft League which will provide an opportunity for many markets to remain steadfast in the fandom of new and upcoming players who they will continue to follow in their journey into professional baseball. I believe the impact of these changes will have little to no effect on SABR members. The reach of Major League Baseball (through the MLB At-Bat App and regional networks) will continue to see viewership in these markets and fans will continue to have the resources to follow their favorite teams.

Tara Krieger

I see the restructuring of the minor league system as an opportunity to recruit members to SABR who have lost that baseball community they once had with their local ballpark. The teams may have gone, but the fans remain—certainly in the short run—and the only way to make sure those fans whose love of the game was tied to their minor league team doesn't die is to reach those communities *now*. Marketing to say, former New York-Penn League season ticket holders, about how SABR can fill that void may pique their interest (and that of their children) in baseball outside their local team. It's worth noting that younger fans engage with the game differently than older fans do, and the Internet connects all, so younger fans are ripe for this kind of recruiting, particularly as they age from competitor to spectator.

Fans, particularly older fans, may be looking for ways to preserve the history of those defunct minor league teams, and SABR may be the organization capable of bringing together a small group to save a local ballpark, or start a research initiative to capture those histories. And now is the time to do it, while memories are fresh and documents are still available. It's probably within SABR's best interests to exercise any connections they have to heads of the front offices of any of those former minor league teams (who may still be winding down their affairs as we speak) to see what papers and other team artifacts are available for preservation that might otherwise be thrown in the trash, and the costs involved in preserving them.

Alex Marks

I think the restructuring of the MiLB system will be a tough adjustment early on for those communities severely impacted by the loss of these professional baseball clubs, especially those that are SABR members. However, I feel this is a great opportunity, especially here within SABR, to become more involved with those communities and specially those who are now under a different league structure. For example, here in the Rocky Mountain region, there is a new partner league with MLB called the "Pioneer League" that consists of eight teams for the upcoming season (nine for 2022 with the addition of the Windsor Owls in Northern Colorado) within the northern and central rocky mountain region states of Idaho, Montana, Utah and Colorado. I see this as a great opportunity for not only these regions to be introduced to great talented baseball, but also for SABR to become deeply affiliated with these teams to form our own partnership and show their fan base what a great opportunity SABR can offer for their baseball fans.

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Question 3: Over the years, SABR members have been extremely generous in donations to the organization. Through the Friends of SABR program, a member can give as little as \$10 per month or simply make a one-time gift of \$100 or more. The SABR Giving Circles allow a benefactor to give to a specific SABR cause, such as the Research Circle, or the Preservation Circle, and so on. How can SABR effectively fundraise through corporations and foundations, external from membership?

Mark Armour

Scott created the Friends of SABR program, and several fundraising campaigns throughout the past two years. As this question implies, most of our fundraising has targeted members. The Board has discussed, and I know Scott has investigated, ways that we can apply for foundational grants. This past year has been focused on short-term issues, but we will be returning to this.

The main issues for the Board in this area are: achieving and demonstrating long-term financial health and stability; and formulating an honest aspirational vision. We have made progress on both of those issues.

Todd Lebowitz

This is a great question and one that we constantly discuss. When I joined the board, member dues were the primary source of SABR revenues. That is no longer the case. It has long been my belief that our funding should be generated much more from donations by corporations and high net worth individuals who wish to support our mission, and I believe there are many untapped potential large donors out there. We continue to encourage members to include SABR in their estate planning and annual giving. Seeking small donations has proven – especially in the political arena – to be a successful way to raise substantial funds through grassroots interest and has the secondary effect of building allegiance between small donors and the organization.

We are moving in the right direction. Scot has done an excellent job prioritizing philanthropic giving as a way to generate revenues for SABR, including through the programs listed in the question. The pandemic presented unprecedented challenges with respect to revenues that we budget from events but, through Scott's creativity, nimbleness, and leadership, we have done remarkably well in protecting that important part of the revenues side of the budget.

The short answer is that I believe there is a tremendous untapped market with respect to corporations and high net worth individuals who would support our cause with five and six-figure donations if we can find the right way to identify and reach out. This is something that the Board and Scott are working on. We have made great strides in that direction, but we have a long way to go in terms of securing more frequent large donations.

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Tyrone Brooks

Yes, many individual SABR members continue to generously donate funds including significant resources which have positively impacted the bottom line of the organization. The next step as an organization is to look strategically at corporations and foundations which align closely with the values of SABR and the membership to provide a mutual common ground that helps raise the visibility of our partners and SABR thus creating a win-win situation. First and foremost, SABR must be positioned to handle such donations from a fiscal operating and reporting viewpoint (accounting practices, reporting, etc.). This is a current area of discussion presently which will require more internal resources and controls which will make the organization a bigger target for larger corporate donations.

As a board, this will require focused strategic approach to find new partnerships aligned with the core values of SABR and empower CEO Scott Bush and his staff to execute events and various corporate activations. Baseball is an amazing game which embodies so much of what keeps our members motivated: an inner spirit that makes us always feel like a kid, fun family entertainment, and the love of the history of the game being passed down from one generation to the next. We must embrace our past to direct our course of where we are headed in the future. Since we have different segments of members- those typically more geared toward the history of our game and others toward new age (with SABR Analytics and technology)- we have a chance to navigate a cross-section of member segments that would be attractive to corporations and organizations of various sizes, styles, and community reach. This will all be defined by closely examining and defining our member base, our culture, and the community we serve.

Tara Krieger

Again, cross-promotion is key. Corporations and foundations donate to an organization like SABR because it is within their interests to do so, and finding those shared interests will drive donations. Those shared interests may come from connections with the Friends of SABR—people who give are often connected to people or other organizations (or employed by them) that they can encourage to sponsor events. Or it may come by offering incentives—SABR could offer (possibly discounted) memberships, products, or services to a not-for-profit in exchange for a donation, which the not-for-profit could then use to fundraise themselves. Or it may simply come from starting small—asking for donations from a local sporting goods shop (particularly if it's in the city of an upcoming event), or asking for in-kind donations from businesses that can then be sold in a raffle or an auction—sometimes those in-kind donations can develop into cash donations over time.

Alex Marks

We can effectively fundraise through promoting our opportunities for young, soon-to-be professionals within the baseball industry to educational institutions and looking for them to sponsor not only their students, but events as well. We can also work more with professional baseball clubs to have them offer financial incentives to connect them with these same educational institutions and their students so they can have an open pipeline to talented future analytics professionals.

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Question 4: What are three things you would like to accomplish during your first year on the Board?

Mark Armour

(This would be my fourth year on the Board). Although I believe the Board should be looking ahead more than one year a time, I hope that in the next year we will (1) finalize a strategic plan, (2) work with the CEO to create a more welcoming organization for all members and potential members, and (3) support a growing emphasis on on-line publishing. A fourth goal is that we can transition to a virtual/in-person hybrid for SABR events as we hopefully begin to put this pandemic behind us.

This has been a very trying last 12 months for everyone, and SABR is no exception. I believe that SABR has weathered this crisis as well as possible, and will be a better organization when the crisis has passed.

Todd Lebowitz

I am already on the board. But three things I would like to see accomplished in the next year are:

- Continued expansion of virtual events, including at the chapter and committee level;
- Expand ease of access to virtual resources and accessibility to research, using the website; and
- Expand SABR's visibility and importance among the general baseball community, including expanding event participation among a broader range of baseball fans of all ages and backgrounds.

I cherish my association with SABR and the opportunity I have been given to serve on the Board. I hope to continue to be able to serve you and the membership.

Question 4: What are three things you would like to accomplish during your first year on the Board?

Tyrone Brooks

As I mentioned briefly above, I would like to (1) work collaboratively with our officers and chapter leaders to help build a bridge to help guide our newest members to connect with our individual chapters. It is vital for new members to feel welcome and outreach from our chapter leaders will be a first start in this “orientation” process to help new members discover their voice and open a gateway to further enjoyment of our great game, uncovering the history which makes baseball so riveting.

Before the pandemic started there were initial internal SABR office discussions to engage historically black colleges and universities (HBCU’s) to get students from these schools more involved in SABR and this naturally aligns with my work with Major League Baseball and our efforts to bring these students into our baseball labor workforce. I would love to be involved in (2) collaboratively helping to build this bridge of HBCU’s and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI’s) to SABR with new impactful ideas such as establishing school chapters, assisting in curriculum development (more analytical and data driven), and creating competitions to encourage participation in SABR events such as SABR Analytics (including the Diamond Dollars Case Competition). A HBCU has never competed in the Diamond Dollars Case Competition and I want to help work in collaboration with our SABR leadership to help break this lingering barrier to access.

I want to use my vast baseball network (3) to help bring more current professionals actively involved in SABR chapters. The pandemic has made us adjust to a virtual environment and this has opened an opportunity for anyone to jump on their laptop, tablet, or phone to participate in any discussion. Even when we have the ability to host in-person social events bringing people together, we will still have an opportunity to virtually bring people from all over the country and world together, including baseball crazed areas such Japan, Korea, Mexico, etc. A mixture of live and virtual events will be a valuable platform for SABR to take advantage of and help bring more working professionals into our chapters throughout the year providing a diversity of thought to bring us all closer together.

Tara Krieger

1. Establish a research/mentoring system—At SABR national conventions (when we attended in person), a handful of seasoned researchers sit down with members to answer questions about process. Now that SABR has become proficient in Zoom, setting up quarterly or bimonthly live video chats with a researcher would allow novice researchers to ask these same questions directly to an expert. Particularly for newer researchers who do not know from whom to seek advice, these sessions can be beneficial orientations to the world of baseball research, and affirmations that you do not have to be a professional writer to write a book-length project. It would also be another way for SABR members to stay connected during the pandemic.

2. Make virtual platforms a permanent part of chapter meetings and national conventions – One of the interesting successes to come out of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the ability to attend more SABR meetings than ever before, from chapters that are a plane ride away, or from events that I otherwise would not have the time or funds to attend in person. Virtual presentations have allowed both for a wider audience and for members of chapters who maybe aren’t as active to have as much access to some incredible research, speakers, and panels they might otherwise not be able to see. When we return to in-person events, such “virtual attendance” could be offered at a deep discount from the actual price of the event.

3. A Women in Baseball Media database—a comprehensive webpage of all women who made some contribution to baseball media, however small, be it a high-profile it a high-profile reporter at the World Series, or someone who covered high school games for the local paper. but biographies of women with notable or interesting careers, and audio and video clips—both archival content and contemporary oral histories. The multidisciplinary project would partner the Women in Baseball, Baseball and the Media, BioProject, and Oral History committees, as well as be a source of information and inspiration particularly to women working in the industry.

Deadline for votes to be received is 11:59 p.m. MST on May 3, 2021

Question 4: What are three things you would like to accomplish during your first year on the Board?

Alex Marks

- 1) Assist the Board in establishing principles of an outreach program/initiative for underrepresented communities/groups of our membership.
- 2) Working with other board members to create a robust fundraising initiative.
- 3) Enhancing our virtual accessibility and event technology through additional member events and programs.