



# California District 4

October 16, 2018

Volume 29 Issue 2



## California 4 Little League

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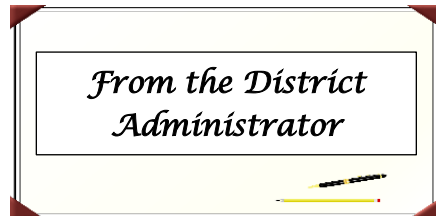
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## California D4 Finances

### -October Statement-

Opening Balance	17,514.24
Western Region Fund (Antioch)	2,156.00
Western Region Fund (Martinez)	1,104.00
Western Region Fund (NOLL/SOLL)	700.00
Meeting in San Bernardino	125.00
DA Travel	1,365.16
Volunteer Dinner	100.60
Storage	187.00
Lewis Cup Awards	1,750.00
Vendor Donation	225.00
District Dues (Alameda)	3940.00
Ending Balance	14,191.48



On Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, California District 4 held its annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner. The event was held at the Martinez Masonic Lodge. A tri-tip and chicken dinner prepared by the Lodge awaited all of those who attended. This was a night to give thanks to our local league UICs as well as those umpires who serve on the District Training Staff and those umpires who go above and beyond working post season games. In addition, we thanked those managers and coaches who took teams to Western Region Tournaments and the time and commitment it takes from them and their families. For the first time we recognized the Volunteer of the Year winners from our local leagues. Finally, the District bestowed the coveted Lewis Cup Award to

the league who best participated in all District activities. This year's winner was North Oakland Little League. Below is a listing of all the special honorees that evening.

### Volunteer of the Year Winners

Alameda – Paul Skuta

Albany – Amber Crowley

Antioch – Alfonso Martinez and Brandi Dawson

Clayton Valley – Carin Musak

Concord American – Johnny Seymour

Continental – Grayson Lawrence

East County – Mike Rosalez

Martinez – Michele Vierra

North/South Oakland – Lisa Sutton

Pinole Hercules – Tom Snyder

Pittsburg – Ashley McLennan

Richmond – Pablo Ramirez and Sharee Taylor

### Ernie Lewis

**Dedicated Volunteer of the Year**

Geoff Shiu



### Umpire Awards

**League Chief Umpire of the Year**

Patrick Brandt (Concord American)

**Junior Umpire of the Year**

Rodney Green (Richmond)

**Rising Star of the Year**

Matt Avery (Pinole/Hercules)

**True Grit Award**

Jeff Ralleta (Concord American)



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## Iron Man Award

Norm Downing (Pittsburg)

## Behind the Umpire Award

Jeanne Blades (Pinole Hercules)

## Carlos Camacho Award

Don Waddell

## Lewis Cup Winners

1<sup>st</sup> – North Oakland

2<sup>nd</sup> – South Oakland

3<sup>rd</sup> – Concord American

pleasure of working the 2000 Little League World Series in Williamsport. Geoff's outstanding work at the World Series garnered him the plate in the championship game. The game ended a on a called strike 3 seen across the nation on live television. Geoff has also volunteered on the Pinole Hercules board of directors for 28 years. He was a founding member of the California District 4 Umpire Association and has served as an instructor at the Western Region Headquarters in San Bernardino since 1990. As if that was not impressive enough Geoff has been a member of the District 4 staff since 1988.

I'm in the process of setting up a meeting for next month, I'm sorry I wanted to have it set up before our meeting. Due to some health issues I'm running behind.



From ADA 50/70/Junior/Senior Baseball, Marco Rosen

## Baseball News:

We had our first meeting October 10, 2018, leagues represented were: East County, Antioch, Clayton Valley, Walnut Creek, Continental, Concord American, Martinez & Pinole. Leagues not present: Albany, Alameda, NOLL/SOLL, Pittsburg & Lafayette. We spoke about the 2019 season expectations as well as plans for the Intermediate & Junior Divisions. Items planned but dates not yet set are:

- January Scheduling meeting - Interleague Intermediate & Juniors TBD.
- February Pre-season "Sand Lot" Tournament – TBD
- March Big Diamond Umpire Clinic: Teams to help out for "camp games"
- April Mid-Season Weekend Tournament: Intermediate & Juniors - Date TBD
- Interleague rules were discussed.
- Continuous batting order was discussed, this will get more kids playing time and involved in the game.
- In order to qualify for TOC each team **MUST PLAY MINIMUM of 6 games in district** during the 2019

Heartfelt   
**THANKS**  
**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**



From Liz Berg, ADA Safety

The ASAP template will be updated and available on the D4 website by October 30th.

Please ensure all 15 basic requirements are included.

Visit <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/asap/> to learn more. Liz will notify leagues when the submission page is made available. ASAP's with creative layouts and with additional safety practices may be selected by Little League to win the award for Best ASAP. 2 runner ups are selected from each region and earn a credit toward their charter fees. The grand prize winner receives a complete set of Musco field lights for their league.



From ADA Challengers,  
Stephen Mohammed

League Presidents, would you please forward your Challenger Representative @ [pginstall@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pginstall@sbcglobal.net).

## Volunteer Spotlight

This month in volunteer spotlight we introduce the 2018 winner of the Ernie Lewis dedicated volunteer of the year winner "Geoff Shiu". Geoff was honored for his years of service at the volunteer recognition dinner on Saturday September 29. Geoff started his Little League career in the spring of 1981 as a member of the Pinole Hercules Little League. Geoff took up an early appreciation of the art of umpiring as he attended his son's early games. With no umpires available he quickly jumped into action (sandals and all) and called his first game. Being the perfectionist that he is, Geoff quickly became a student of the game and the art of calling balls and strikes. Through his dedication to the craft of umpiring Geoff was deservedly rewarded with the opportunity to work the 1992 Big League Softball World Series, as well as had the



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season. AS well as play against any other district.

- Spoke about Vendor Night.
- Spoke about recruiting coaches and kids to play in the higher divisions of LL Baseball.



From ADA Little League Baseball, Steve Harris

As you start to ramp up registration logistics for the upcoming season, something to consider is making a strong marketing efforts at the younger age groups. There's a wonderful article on Little League University by Liz DiLullo Brown, LL Vice-President of Marketing, titled: DEFINING WHAT "FUN" MEANS STARTS IN TEE BALL (<https://www.littleleague.org/news/defining-fun-means-starts-tee-ball/>). The article isn't about registration, it's about ways to keep the sport fun as the players get older, and trying to bottle that excitement and fun the players have in Tee Ball. As I read the article, I couldn't help but think how important it is for us to increase our efforts at the younger ages, particularly because these are the age groups that have never registered for Little League, therefore likely don't know where, when, or how to register. I encourage the leagues to share best practices to increase registration numbers at the younger groups... this is the best and easiest way to ensure continued growth and success for a league.



From Don Waddell, ADA D4 UIC

## District 4 Staff Will Run Your Rules Clinics

This year the District 4 umpire staff is offering to run your League Rules Clinic. We will provide the teaching staff and a 2 1/2 hour Little League rules presentation that is a suitable for managers, coaches, umpires and other volunteers. The host leagues need to arrange for the meeting room which must have a projection screen and power outlets, along with Rule Books, local rule handouts, and any refreshments. To arrange a date for your Rules Clinic contact Don Waddell.

### District 4 Umpire Training Dates

Here are the dates for the planned Umpire Mechanics Training to be run by the District 4 umpire staff. Please put these on your league calendar and encourage participation by your league umpires, managers and coaches.

### Basic Umpire Mechanics

For the new umpire who needs the basics and returning umpire who wants to improve their skills and be ready for higher level competition. Clinic will cover positioning, signals, and basic plate umpire duties in a 4 hour session. Two identical clinics are being planned to encourage attendance - Sunday, February 10 and Saturday, March 2.

### Junior Umpire Clinic

Returning this year for the third season is our very popular Junior Umpire Clinic for your teenage umpires. This is a 6 hour clinic that will prepare your youth to be successful on the field as an umpire, and improve the skills of the youth who have some experience. Instruction is tailored for the teenager and includes fun activities

along with instruction. We finish this clinic with "Camp Games" where the umpires actually perform the skills learned in the clinic. Sunday, February 24.

### Big Diamond Mechanics Clinic

If you have Intermediate, Junior or Senior baseball in your league this is the clinic for the umpires assigned to those divisions. A short 4 hour clinic that teaches what is different on the Big Diamond and why. Live action drills finish up the clinic to practice the new mechanics. Sunday, March 10.

We are looking for leagues to host these clinics. If your league is interested please advise Don Waddell.

### League Chief Umpire Meeting

The first meeting of the League Chief Umpires is set for Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 pm at the UC Cooperative Extension office at (fill in the address). This is an important meeting to help the League Chief Umpires with their duties for the new season. Attendance by each League Chief Umpire is required, or send a substitute.

### Western Region Training Opportunities

A reminder that several Western Region training opportunities are scheduled to be held at the Regional Center in San Bernardino. These are excellent opportunities for your umpires or other volunteers to get the best instruction on organization, rules and mechanics.

Here are the clinics - Umpire in Chief/Train the Trainer - November 9-11

All League Chief Umpires should attend this clinic at least once, and perhaps every other year. This clinic is designed to get you ready for your job as League Chief Umpire, focusing on volunteer umpire program recruitment, development,



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recognition, and retention. You will walk away with the tool kit for your job as Chief Umpire, how to work with your board, how to run a training clinic, and more.

## Rules Clinics

January 19-20 and February 22-24

Review of Little League rules and regulations for all league members - managers, coaches, board members, umpires.

## Umpire Mechanics Clinic February 22-24

This clinic will emphasize the on field experience and umpiring philosophy for local league as well as District umpires. Base and plate mechanics will be taught with an eye towards attendees learning new skills, removing some of the rust as the season approaches and bringing training information back to the leagues and Districts. Umpire gear is required.



California District 4 would like to thank the following for their participation in Vendors Night.

Bookoo Fundraising

Positive Coaches Alliance

San Francisco Giants

Alpine Awards

Greg Casey Photography

Shooting Stars

Score Sports

UC Berkeley Athletics

Official's Outlet

Home Team Sports Photography

BSN

Oakland A's

99 Pledges

Wilson Awards

Protime Sports

Golden Gate Fundraising

Simply Selling Shirts