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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE BOOSTER CLUBS

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2016 AAHLBC Convention Recap

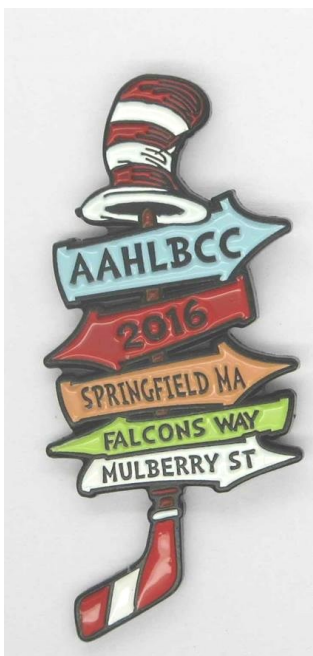
By Tom Mara, Hershey Bears Booster Club...

The 2016 convention will stand out for many reasons, but we can certainly begin with the venue. The Sheraton at Bradley Airport is literally ON the airport. It made for some great conversation starters and though many of us were right by pushback areas, I personally didn't hear any complaints about the noise or requests for room changes.

More and more, the Convention begins on Wednesday. Nearly 40% of those coming in chose the early route, and the result was a big bump to our newest "event" – the Jeremy Hall Memorial room crawl. A group of rooms are volunteered, and a small game of "High Card" is played in each room. It's strictly voluntary, and you can play in all or part of the rooms. We had a number of first-time attendees join us for our 3rd annual, and it led to an all time high of \$840 being raised. The money was then given to a "family member" (in this case, a married couple) who has come on hard times financially. The event is a nice, fun social, but the impact on these people is very strong, and it reinforces the idea that we consider the Convention a family event.

Though the airport location didn't really give you the option of walking to dinner, there were numerous options available within a short distance, and the hotel concierge/bellhop/shuttle driver was more than happy to assist.

Thursday was a day for more people to arrive, and for people to strike out in search of adventure. The organized trips didn't go, but people used the ideas to help them plan their day. Yankee Candle's flagship store, Sturbridge Village, Foxwoods & Mohegan Casinos, and numerous other destinations were targeted by numbers of people.



Some made sure to be back for the pub crawl, somewhat minimized by time restrictions and including a full dinner stop. The high point of the event was a musical trivia contest which highlighted the 60's & 70's, making the "more experienced" members of the group happy and inspiring numerous singalongs.

Getting back to the hotel, we converged on the hospitality room for an evening of fun, card & dice games, and some great conversations. Friday held more of the same, as the last of the arrivals came on board, and more people ventured out for fun and adventure. A number of people stayed behind to take advantage of the hotel amenities or just to relax and chat with friends in the lobby, the rooms or at lunch. The evening brought the annual "theme party" and the people responded in kind – Dr Seuss characters were everywhere! After a terrific dinner, we were ready to judge the

participants, and they were ready to go as well.

Emcee Howie Lewis, aided by former Convention attendee, now deejay Mark Haryasz, kept the participants and the crowd into the festivities from start to finish. Prizes were awarded to the winners in several categories, and our own Melissa Schmelz rocked the place during the ladies competition, finishing second! After the show, there was dancing and music before people went back to the hospitality room or headed to bed.

Saturday morning brings the raffle breakfast. Tables set up by nearly all attending clubs sell tickets for 50-50 or various items, including a payment for next year's Convention,

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Mission Statement

The purpose of this organization will be:

- a. To promote better understanding between Booster Clubs and the American Hockey League Organization.
- b. To Compare and attempt to alleviate problems confronting each individual Booster Club.
- c. To act as a social organization for Booster Club members.

Submitting an Article

To submit an article to this newsletter, please email it to lighthouseman2@yahoo.com with "AAHLBC Newsletter" in the subject line.

Please note: Your club must be a member of the AAHLBC in order to submit an article to this newsletter.

Editor: Bill Walch

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hockey items, and our own contribution, the Chocolate Basket. After that comes the morning meeting, a full on recap of what has, is and will happen at Convention. It begins with the American & Canadian anthems (one of two renditions) and then business is taken care of. After that, people go off to the pool, to lunch, or back to bed to prep for Saturday night. Dinner Saturday at Convention is our chance to prove how well we clean up, and the people never disappoint.

We were treated to yet another terrific dinner, and then got our annual "State of the League" address courtesy of Sean Lavoine from the league office. It was then time for the raffle drawings. The combined totals from the 50-50 drawings was \$3,075 which helps out many clubs during the season with their charities and team events. The big winners of the night were Pittsburgh's Ron Whartenby, who won the trip to next year's Convention, and Wilkes-Barre's Diane Spegar, who walked off with our Chocolate Basket! After dinner, it was off again to the hospitality room, where we officially capped the festivities with another rendition of the anthems before heading for one last night's sleep.

I want to thank everyone who helped out this year with hospitality. It's a good thing we do, and the Convention people appreciate us, so we strive to do the best we can.

Kudos go out to the Springfield Boosters and their "helpers". Knowing they were shorthanded, people from many other clubs pitched in to help with registration, information, and any other ways they could. The Falcons/Thunderbirds Boosters worked very hard to give us a good event and it worked.

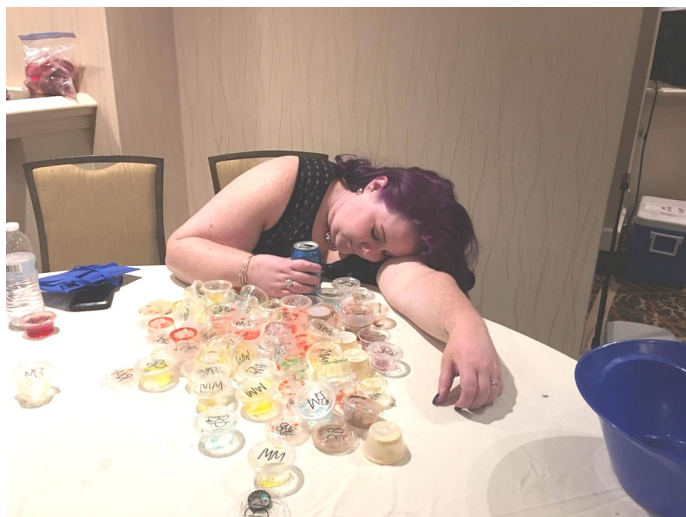
Thanks to Chip Hanuscik and the E-Board for another great event. The hotel was terrific, and they keep giving us full quality weekends at extremely good prices.

Thanks go out to the staff at the Sheraton Bradley. There were a few glitches (understandable, given the size of the group), but they worked very hard to solve any problems. The food was great, the rooms were very nice, and the view was terrific.

We look forward to next year's Convention. The Bridgeport Sound Tigers boosters are already hard at work putting things together, and given that P.T. Barnum was a Bridgeport native, the theme for next year was an easy call – "The Circus", or "The Greatest Convention on Earth!"). Details will be posted to the membership as they become available.

2016 Funniest Photo Contest Winner Announced

Congratulations to Lindsay Twiggs on submitting the winning photo. Lindsay will receive a \$20 gift card to a national chain restaurant of her choosing and her photo will be part of the Association of AHL Booster Clubs Recap Video put together by Dennis Gottesman. Thanks to all who participated!



Booster Club Happenings

The **Albany Devils Booster Club** held its annual picnic on August 14th. It was at Elm Avenue Pak in Delmar, NY.

The **Binghamton Senators Booster Club** are planning to put welcome bags together for the Binghamton team again this year.

The **Bridgeport Sound Tigers Booster Club** will host the 2017 AAHLBC Convention...The BSTBC recently participated in the Stroll and Roll for Rett Syndrome... BSTBC election results:

President: Debbie Lietuvninkas
Vice President: Brian Jennings
Vice President: Michelle Sawyer
Secretary: Lori Uilecan
Treasurer: Jackie Ziegler
Members at Large: Mark Novicki
Karen Signes

The **Chicago Wolves Booster Club** will hold a pregame tailgate party prior to the Chicago Wolves season opening home game...The CWBC election results:

President: Craig Bochat
Vice President: Casey Pifke
Treasurer: Kristen Petru
Recording Secretary: Josh Pifke
Membership Secretary: Vacant
Corresponding Secretary: Megan Goebel
Executive Board Directors: Rob Garritano
Bob Swyter
Mark Swiss

The **Cleveland Hockey Booster Club** will get the opportunity to have the Calder Cup at their November meeting!

The **Chicago Wolves Booster Club** will attend their annual night at a Schaumburg Boomers baseball game on August 5. It is Star Wars Night! There will be post game fireworks, plus a prize wheel from WBIG.

The Hartford Wolf Pack Booster Club will hold a Meet and Greet Dinner with the players on November 9th.

The **Hershey Bears Booster Club** election results:

President: Mike Schmelz
Vice President: Paulette Kraybill
Treasurer: Harry Young
Secretary: Amy Shellehamer
Membership: Denise Shellehamer
Trustee: Linda Campbell

The **Lehigh Valley Phantom Phan Club** had to cancel their August 20th summer picnic.

The **Manchester Monarchs Booster Club** will hold its annual Thanksgiving with the team on Monday, November 21.

The **Peoria Rivermen Booster Club** will hold a Christmas Banquet on December 14th.

Pittsburgh Penguins Booster Club member, Wally, won the 50/50! Congratulations, Wally!



The **Providence Bruins Fan Club** had to cancel its planned October 1st car wash fundraiser due to the inclement weather...The PBFC has planned a road game viewing party on October 26th at Dave and Buster's to cheer on the Providence Bruins as they play in Toronto.

The **Rochester Americans Booster Club** will hold its Christmas Party on December 1st.

The **Rockford IceHogs Booster Club** held its elections for 2016-2017:

President: Kelly Brewer
Vice President: Vacant
Sergeant of Arms: Tom Davie
Treasurer: Lori Davie
Secretary: Vacant
Hospitality: Beth Sweeney
Membership: Lisa Brewer

The **San Antonio Rampage Booster Club** recently participated in the Foam Glow 5K.

The **Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins Booster Club** will be putting together welcome bags for the players. They are also planning to do scrapbooks for their players this year!...The WBSPBC have planned their annual Meet the Players Mixer for November 1st.

Rochester Boosters Enjoy Fun in the Sun

In mid-August, the Americans Booster Club had a chance to enjoy fun times at their annual picnic. The event was held at the Greece Canal Park. During the event, Mary Dribble was presented a thank you gift card from the club for her service as Foundation Executive Director. The club also extended a small appreciation of their gratitude to Virginia for her service over the last 8 years as club president. What looks to be a very interesting game, attendees participated in a balloon pop race. There are questions as to who enjoyed the game more...the participants or the spectators. A water balloon and cherry pit spitting contest ensued, as well. Photos below.





AAHLBC Convention DVD Order Form



To purchase a copy (one DVD) of the AAHLBC Convention Recap videos, contact Dennis Gottesman. Ten percent of DVD sales will be donated to this year's convention charity. DVD orders must be postmarked **no later than** Nov. 30th, 2016 & DVD's will be shipped out soon after.

Please circle the convention years you would like on your DVD:

2016 Springfield	2015 Albany/Utica	2014 Pittsburgh	2013 Rochester
2012 Cleveland	2011 Hershey	2010 Binghamton	2009 Baltimore

_____ **Number of copies you are requesting.**

\$15 Each DVD

\$_____ **Total Amount Due**

Please mail your DVD order to: Dennis Gottesman, 25 N. Lancaster St, 1st Flr, Jonestown, PA 17038

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

If you have any questions regarding DVD sales, you can contact Dennis Gottesman via email at icecold061@gmail.com or by phone (717) 991-2037.

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CASH!!!

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Boosters brush up on their Painting Skills

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins Booster Club gathered at Art n Vino on August 13 for a fun evening of painting and socializing. Here are some photos of the event.

