



# FACE OFF

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE BOOSTER CLUBS

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## Rochester Host the AAHLBC

From HBBC Bear Facts, by Tom Mara...

What is now known to nearly all attendees as the annual "Family Reunion" took place on a mostly sunny extended weekend in Rochester, NY and the 49th annual event provided its share of surprises as 225 people converged on the Rochester Doubletree Hotel.

It used to be that Convention was a Friday - Sunday event. Over the years, some people started arriving early, and Thursday was the die-hards arrival day. In the past few years, Thursday has become so popular as an arrival date that some Convention side trips are scheduled for that day, and up to 50 people will arrive as early as Wednesday. Such was the case this year, as some folks were already taking in the sights of the area, and quite a few of us got together to enjoy some of the great area restaurants and taverns. A number of us ventured to Frontier Field (site of this year's AHL Winter Classic) for a Red Wings baseball playoff game, as the Rochester Booster Club readied for the arrival of the majority of people on Thursday.



Mary Dribble, Ann & Virginia Paddock of the Rochester Booster Club

Thursday brought plenty of arrivals and the lobby was bustling with the greetings of old and new friends. The morning was time for what has become a tradition - Frank Marshall of Utica arranges a visit to a local fireman's memorial for a service and remembrance. A number of Convention goers took an active role in the service as well.



Part of the group at the remembrance

In mid-afternoon, the Pub Crawl group ventured to a section of town just off Lake Ontario for some beverages, food and scenery. Places like Scuttlebutts, Nola & the Pelican's Nest

(Continued on page 2)

**In  
This  
Issue**

**2013 Convention Recap**  
Page 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

**Contact  
Information**  
Page 2

**Everything is  
Grand in Michigan**  
Page 6



## **Board of Directors**

### **President:**

**Terri Lewis**

terri\_lewis@verizon.net

### **Vice President:**

**Bill Walch**

lighthouseman2@yahoo.com

### **Treasurer:**

**Chris O'Shea**

hockeynanny20@aol.com

### **Secretary:**

**Cindy Haluszczak**

tetaksenia@aol.com

### **Convention Chair:**

**Chip Hanucsik**

## **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](mailto: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**

*(Continued from page 1)*

welcomed us with both beverages and food, and the view (including some boats that had us planning to play Powerball) was terrific.



*Gene Wells (Binghamton) and Hershey's Dennis Gottesman lounge in the chair at the Pelican's Nest.*

After returning to the hotel, some folks went to have a full dinner, some took advantage of the hospitality room to renew the card & dice games or reconnect with old friends, and some just called it a night.

Friday bought in the rest of the attendees and a slew of activities. The scheduled side trip went to Niagara Falls to see the sites and hit the casino on the NY side; still others ventured off on their own to hit lesser known places. A small group headed to Buffalo to visit the Anchor Bar (original home of the Buffalo Wing), and others headed downtown to Nick Tahou's for a Garbage Plate (a Rochester "must", apparently).

Friday night brought ..... this:



*It's called "Grapenuts"*

*(Continued on page 3)*



*(Continued from page 2)*

Manchester's Bill Walch, who you may remember from the 2012 Convention's Tina Turner revue, turning the theme of "Flower, Flour, Wine" on its ear. His fellow Manchester boosters took a slightly more conservative, though equally inventive tone, coming as the "Dandelions".



It made for a very entertaining Friday, and the Lowell boosters went towards the "Wine" aspect, channeled "I Love Lucy" for this:



*Remember the "Grape Stomping" episode?*

After the show, there was the annual dance party and hospitality room for connecting. Many members get together to discuss issues in their clubs and get suggestions on how to handle different things (fundraising, charities, player events, etc). This common support is a big part of why we call ourselves a family.

On Saturday, the raffle & merchandise sales preceded the annual general meeting.

New officers were elected:

President: Terri Lewis (Bal)  
Vice President: Bill Walch (Man)  
Treasurer: Chris O'Shea (Wor)  
Secretary: Cindy Haluszczak (Pit)  
Convention Chair: Chip Hanucsik (WBS)

A good deal of information was provided on the 50th Convention in 2014. Check with your club or at [aahlbc.org](http://aahlbc.org)

Afterwards, a pair of buses took members to different places - one to the Genesee brewery & Casa Larga Winery, and another to a boat cruise on the Erie Canal. Those of us on the boat got a look at a part of Rochester many of us had never been to, and learned a good deal about the history of the waterway we were on.



*Pittsford, NY – one of several charming small towns along the canal*

Saturday night was the annual "We clean up good" exercise, and the folks didn't disappoint. The Doubletree staff gave us a great dinner, and we listened to Sean Lavoine from the AHL office before welcoming guest speaker Rob Ray. Mr. Ray was a lot of fun on the mike, sharing his memories of his AHL days and interacting well with the fans.

The final order of business was our raffle drawings. It's pretty impressive when you realize that over \$2,400 was raised just from the 50-50 team raffles, money that helps out Booster Club charities throughout the league. Some was also donated back to the Convention charity, the Janis Foligno Foundation, named for the wife of former Bears coach Mike Foligno. There were also several very impressive prizes, as Ray Clarke of Manchester won a pair of All-Star jerseys, and Avis Rodney of Hamilton took a suitcase of chocolate home, courtesy of the Bears Booster Club. It's often been said that they won't let us in the door if we don't bring the chocolate, but it's a lot of fun for everyone, and the winners go home very happy.

The last night in the hospitality room is always tough, as there are a number of people handling their good-byes there to get early starts on Sunday. There's also the cleanup after the last member leaves, and I thank my great team (George Darling, Eric Mundis, Cathy Rynard, Lesli Hall, Amy Shellehamer, and those friends from other

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

clubs who stayed around to help). Several cases of water and soda were donated back to the Rochester BC to give to local charities, and several excess cases of beer were sold with those proceeds going to the Convention charity. After that, it was a short night's sleep and on to the toughest part of any Convention - Sunday morning.

Along with the 'family reunion' title, we look at Convention as the unofficial start of hockey season. Many plans were made to get together during the season, but for too many, this was "Goodbye till next year" as our schedules simply don't offer enough opportunities to visit. It makes this all the more special that our ties go beyond what the league schedules allow.

A huge thanks goes out to the host Rochester Americans Booster Club. They worked hard all year to put on a first-class show, and came through in a big way.

Thanks also to the staff at the Doubletree, who were on the spot 100% when we needed things taken care of. I highly recommend you keep this hotel on your "short list" if you visit Rochester.

Next season will be our 50th Convention, and we're hoping to have a large contingent of Hershey boosters on hand. Also, a big thanks to David Sturm (Rochester),

Michelle Gagnon (Manchester), Lori Uelican (Bridgeport) and our own Dennis Gottesman for use of the pictures!

### Additional Convention Notes

A very special group picture was taken at this year's Convention. The eight people in this photo have lost a combined 785 pounds over the past year. We want to congratulate everyone involved, and note that the support of friends is an important part of this process.



Donna Dowling (Philly); Jeff Krupel & Lori Uelican (Bridgeport); Dan O'Grady (Manchester), Cathy Hooper (Portland); Mike Rementer (Philly); Cathy Rynard (Hershey) & Marcia Siara (Lowell)

## **Rob Ray with the Rochester Americans Booster Club**





## Funniest Convention Photo Contest Winner

Last year, this contest did not garner any entries by the deadline. This year, 10 photos were entered.

To determine a winner, 10 people not affiliated with any booster clubs were asked to rank all photos, assigning a 10 to the photo they thought was the funniest, down to a 1 for what they thought was the least funniest.

The photo to the right received the highest point total, making it the 2013 Funniest Photo in this years contest.

Congratulations to Lori Gomez Uilecan of Bridgeport. She submitted the winning photo and won the \$20 gift card to a national chain in her area. Thanks to the others for entering their photos.



## Other Convention Photos



Photos by David Sturm, Rochester Americans Booster Club



# Everything is Grand in Michigan



**"Good Things Happened Together During 2012 2013**

**Thanks To The American Hockey League - Cities  
Arenas - Teams - Staff - Players - Games - Fans"** *(COW)*

**The ROAD Traveled Ending AT  
The Grand Rapids Griffins Van Andel Arena**



**May Four Two Thousand Thirteen  
Western Conference Quarter Final Score  
Houston Aeros ZERO  
Grand Rapids Griffins SEVEN**

**May Twenty One Two Thousand Thirteen  
Western Conference Semi Final Score  
Toronto Marlies THREE  
Grand Rapids Griffins FOUR**

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**June Five Two Thousand Thirteen  
Western Conference Champions Score  
Oklahoma City Barons FOUR  
Grand Rapids Griffins FIVE**



**June 18 Two Thousand Thirteen  
Calder Cup Champions Score  
Grand Rapids Griffins—FIVE  
Syracuse Crunch TWO**

