

James Wagoner Elected Chairman of the Board

James Wagoner of Fort Smith, Arkansas has been elected as Chairman of the Board of Babe Ruth League, Inc. Mr. Wagoner is completing the remainder of the term (due to expire on December 31, 2007) left vacant by former Chairman Bill Smith who recently retired.

The importance of a Board of Directors cannot be overstated. They are the governing body of an organization. An effective Board of Directors has a clear understanding of its roles and responsibilities. The Board of Directors of Babe Ruth League, Inc. is second to none. Most members have come from the "grass roots" level. They have contributed immensely to the success the program enjoys today. James Wagoner is and has been one of those types of Board Members.

Wagoner's life revolves around Babe Ruth Baseball. If there was ever a good will ambassador for the program, it's James Wagoner. When it comes to Babe Ruth League, Inc., James always finds time. Give him an opening and he'll talk about the program morning, noon and night. Need someone to accompany you to a contract signing, World Series onsite inspection or any other Babe Ruth function, Wagoner quickly packs his bag and is there without having to ask twice.

James began volunteering his time to the Babe Ruth program in 1962, serving as a coach while still in high school. After serving our country in the US Marine Corps during the Viet Nam war, he resumed coaching in the Fort Smith Babe Ruth League. Shortly after, he was elected as League President. Wagoner went on to serve as a District Commissioner and Assistant State Commissioner. In 1984, he was elected as Arkansas State Commissioner, a position he held until being elected as Southwest Regional Commissioner and an automatic member of the Babe Ruth Board in 1988.

During Wagoner's tenure as a Board Member, he has been an excellent activist for Babe Ruth League, Inc. He has also served on several Board Committees, including the Executive Committee. Babe Ruth President/CEO Steven Tellefsen said, "James well deserves to hold the title of Chairman of the Board. He is always ready and willing to do whatever is asked of him in the name of Babe Ruth League. His enthusiasm for the program is highly contagious. James has been very instrumental in the rapid growth and success of the organization. But, he is quick to let you know that this success is a joint effort to be shared by every commissioner and volunteer."

In hearing the news, former Board Chairman Bill Smith remarked, "The Babe Ruth program has been a big part of my life. Having the opportunity to positively change the lives of thousands of children for the better has been an ultimate experience that words cannot describe. I have met many great people along the way; people I still cherish as close friends today. Stepping down as Chairman of the Board was not an easy decision for me. However, due to personal reasons, it was the only decision to make. I was very pleased to learn that James Wagoner will be taking over the reins as Chairman. He is one of those individuals I have come to cherish as a friend and admire as a person. I cannot think of a more qualified individual to serve as Chairman. James' knowledge and experience in the Babe Ruth program from the 'grass roots' level to a Board Member will be beneficial, not only to him as Chairman, but to the entire Babe Ruth program. I wish him and Babe Ruth League, Inc. all the best and am confident

the program will continue to flourish with James at the helm of the Board.”

As an advocate for helping youth, Wagoner has been a high school football official for the past 38 years, and has officiated high school and college basketball for 15 years. Wagoner is a person who cares about his community and its residents. This is clearly evident from his 35 year ongoing membership in the Fort Smith Optimist Club. In that organization, James has held many positions, such as lieutenant governor of the statewide Optimists. In addition, he has served on the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors for the past 28 years, where he has been a sponsor, coach and a mentor. He is a past President and current member of the State Alliance. Wagoner was inducted into the Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame in 1998.

A native of Fort Smith, Arkansas, James and his wife Edna have four children; all four are teachers in public education. Wagoner owns and manages an insurance agency, which he started in 1969.