



**BFA STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION ADDRESS
OCTOBER 2011**

What a year... In the last 12 months we have doubled in size and revenue. We have taken on more challenges and everyone in this room has played a huge part in the success of our organization. We could not have grown this association without all of your hard work, time, and dedication. I would like to thank all of the BFA board members for everything you have done over the past year. You all played an important role in the growth of our association. We have accomplished a lot this year. A special thanks to the board members who will be moving on, or taking different roles and helping us for years to come. You all have dedicated a ton of your time, energy, and ideas to help make BFA what it is today. Thank you

This year BFA has approximately 160 families and over 175 girls participating in our year round programs. We have added kids at every age level this year. Our biggest growth was in our fall ball program. We had 145 girls playing on 14 teams. That is double last falls numbers. A couple great points this fall was we were able to have a 16u and an 18u BFA team. Jim was also able to add an additional 18u elite team to our family as well. Giving the Clutch Hitters kids an opportunity to grow as a team and keep competing at a high level. Jim has committed a ton of time to our organization as player development. He has made a major impact on our kids and builds confidence in everyone that he works with. He has a lot on his plate now with 3 elite teams and has chosen not to stay on the board. I am pretty sure he will still be involved next month, next year, and knowing Jim the way I do for years to come. So thank you Jim. We will see you at the clinics.

This year we took in about 31 thousand in profits from our 3 summer tournaments, of which we paid almost 8 thousand to high school booster clubs. We could not have had the successful tournaments we did this summer without the help and support of our high school booster clubs. It's an honor to work with all of them and a pleasure to help their programs grow as well.

The BFA Bash summer tournament has become one of the premier girls softball competitions in Minnesota. The facility and the competition is always first rate. Kevin Casper's has been a huge part in the success we have had the last few years and will be missed. We have had a group of members working on making the tournament transition easier by defining roles and adding a few more positions to help continue to be the best run tournament of the season for everyone involved. Thanks again Kevin for all your hard work, I look forward to your continued help. We grew the tournament again this year by adding an elite level and about 12 more teams. Planning has already started for next year with hopes of adding more teams to have all fields at Dred and Kelly in use all weekend.

This year we also very successfully took on the NAFA 10u Nationals. Which they would like us to continue running for years to come. Thank you everyone who volunteered to make it a weekend those kids won't forget.

Our summer teams enjoyed many successful tournaments this season. Several teams bringing home 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishes at many local tournaments. Amy's team won the Summer State Tournament. Jim's 14u team finishing off an amazing season at the World Series in Kansas City with a 7th place finish out of over 90 teams. Not to mention Jims dizzy bat championship.

We have added 2 more temp fences and new bats to our equipment ready for next summer's season. Bob Christianson started an annual field improvement day. August 20th a crew of volunteers that were gathered by Bob spent hours at Jefferson field pulling 4 bags of weeds and making it useable for the fall season. So going forward we will continue to pull together, get more people involved to help clean up our parks. Thanks Bob and everyone who helped out.

There are several projects still in the works from field improvements to Dred 3 and the netting in the wheel at Dred. All of which we should see happening very soon.

So once again we have accomplished a lot over the last 12 months. I would like to thank everyone in the room for all the hard work and time you have given and all the hard work and time that you will be giving this year. The kids, families, and friends of BFA Thank You...

Jason Wendlandt
BFA Board President