



August 23, 2011

Dear NCAAA Family,

Yesterday evening, members of your NCAAA Executive Board attended a softball consolidation meeting at the Alexander Community Center. We did so with an open mind and with due regard for what is in the best interest of all the leagues in our town with the hope that the most desirable avenue to be pursued could be determined.

The purpose of this meeting was to attain the detailed information on the direction and intentions of those proposing this new organization and to address any concerns we brought to the table. The meeting was conducted by what was conveniently referred to as a "Steering Committee" as opposed to being referred to as a "Board". We believe that this was done to stress the fact that they, as a group, will not make any commitments to the other organizations in the town on behalf of their own proposed new organization.

At the close of the meeting, all of us firmly concurred that the vision for this new organization as it was communicated by the steering committee is not consistent with the mission, values and goals that have made NCAAA the asset that it is to our community. We concluded that the proposed softball league would not adequately address the needs of our membership and would leave a noticeable void in the north sector of our town which is the primary demographic of our membership. Some of the issues and concerns we attempted to address are as follows:

NCAAA has been a participant in the town Interleague Softball program since its inception collaborating with the other four existing leagues to provide competitive play for all of our young girls. We were told that if NCAAA chose to remain independent, no guarantees can be made on behalf of their new organization that this collaboration to facilitate competition would continue.

The success of NCAAA is predicated upon serving families. Every program that we offer (baseball/softball, football/cheerleading, boys basketball/girls basketball) offers participation opportunities to both genders. Our financial structure in terms of registration costs and fundraising responsibilities is positioned so as to serve families rather than just boys or just girls. We believe that two separate registration fees, two fundraising commitments and two transportation responsibilities for those families that have children of both genders is an unrealistic burden. We believe the lost revenue from fracturing our baseball/softball families will greatly inhibit NCAAA's ability to continue to provide the same quality experience that all of our members now enjoy. We were told that people simply must find a way to deal with the financial and transportation issues.

Our town of Cheektowaga is 29 square miles with a population in excess of 90,000 residents. We recognize the importance that our whole town has to be served and we applaud the tremendous contributions that have been made by all of our organizations. We believe, however, that the size, demographics and resources of our town necessitate that there be more than one organization to fully serve the needs of our entire community and provide choices to our residents. If we proceed with a consolidation so extreme as to go from five leagues to one league, the only choice for Cheektowaga residents who are not adequately served by this new organization is to seek opportunities in neighboring townships. This real consequence does not benefit anyone in our community.

We attempted to address the fact that NCAAA has evolved into a full calendar program and that the success of our organization is contingent upon each program supporting and feeding the others. We believe that participation in cheerleading and girls basketball would significantly decline if softball were no longer part of our equation. In response, we were told that our interests are selfish and only focused on those residing in the north end of the town.

When asked if NCAAA were to reconsider in the years following if things changed and it became apparent that it was in the best interest of our membership and community, we were again told that the steering committee cannot make any commitments that they would be willing to accept our merging at that point in time.

In conclusion, NCAAA would like to see all of the youth in our town continue to have opportunities to participate in competitive athletics. We want only success for every organization providing these opportunities to our youth. For those organizations that feel merging is in their best interest, we support their right to do so and we wish to extend our hand of friendship and collaboration to them as we have done in the past with the hope that it is not rejected. We do, however, believe that it is in the best interest of NCAAA and of the town of Cheektowaga at large for us to continue to operate independently as a baseball and softball organization.

We do wish to incorporate as much input from our members as possible into our decision making process. We encourage everyone to attend the parent informational meeting on Wednesday night at the Alexander Community Center and report your concerns back to us. Members of the NCAAA Board will be available at the 777 Maryvale Facilities on Monday August 29th at 7:00PM eager to hear from everyone.

Sincerely,

Your NCAAA Board of Directors