

East Woonsocket Little League was founded in 1951. Since the league was founded we have gone through many changes to keep up with the City of Woonsocket's growing, and at times, declining population. In the mid 1960's to mid 1970's East Woonsocket Little League saw it's peak growth period. To accommodate for this growth two new fields were added to insure our children have ample quality fields to play the game of baseball. Both fields were named in honor of two of the Woonsocket area's home-grown Major League greats; Napoleon Lajoie and "Gabby" Hartnett.

League registration numbers remained strong until 1999 when our three-league city merged into our two currently existing leagues; Bernon and East Woonsocket. Since that time we have struggled to build on our registration numbers from year to year. Various socioeconomic factors along with the rise of youth soccer and football programs have caused our number of participants to decline.

Over the last five years East Woonsocket Little League has started to see its registration numbers climb back to the level of around three hundred participants per season. This resurgence of player registrations is due to the tireless efforts of the Board of Directors of East Woonsocket Little League. Aggressive grant seeking missions and profitable fundraising efforts have allowed us to keep our registration fees low. We have also re-introduced a Girls' Softball program back to the city of Woonsocket which had been non-existent since 1999.

As we take the next steps to grow our program we come to the realization that our field availability schedules are at maximum capacity for our Softball and Baseball teams. Plans for Little League field expansion by the city of Woonsocket have become unclear for the near future due to the budgetary strains in this tough present- day economy.

Having lights for our current Majors Division Hartnett Field would allow for a more flexible schedule when it comes to practices and actual games. We also could potentially attract District and State baseball tournaments that could benefit our program financially as well. Financial stability of our league would most importantly allow us to offer the best registration rates for our families of the East Woonsocket area.

We at East Woonsocket Little League appreciate your consideration when voting for the Granite City Electric's Field of Dreams 4 finalists.

Thank you,

Steve Girard

President, East Woonsocket Little League

