



## *Protect Our Nation's Youth*

### A Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the 2009 PONY Baseball / Softball season!

The PONY Baseball / Softball International Board of Directors met in Washington, PA. during October 2008 to review our corporations needs for the future. To this end, rule change issues, on-line registration and the development of an "AND UNDER" program took center stage. There were very few rule changes of significance in both the baseball and softball programs. All rule changes are listed in the respective 2009 rule books or they can be found on the pony.org web site listed under "hot topics".

PONY Baseball has adopted an "AND UNDER" program starting with the upcoming 2009 season. This new program will allow a league to chose between the traditional two year age group program or the "and under" program or a combination of both programs simultaneously. The decision as to which program or combination of programs of participation is solely the discretion of the local league. A player can only play "up" into one age group and can participate on only one tournament team. Players must meet all criteria of eligibility including participating in 50% of games during the regular season. Please check the pony.org web site (hot topics) for frequently asked questions on the "AND UNDER" program.

Other topics of interest during the 2009 Board meeting included the on-line registration process and World Series and Softball National sites and dates. We encourage all leagues to use the on-line registration process clearly outlined on the PONY web site. PONY has implemented a monetary charge for paper registrations starting in 2009 to those leagues who choose not to register on-line. Starting in 2010, on-line registration will be the only option. No paper registration will be available. All World Series and Softball Nationals sites and dates are currently posted on the pony.org web site. Of particular note is the inaugural Bronco 11 World Series to be held in Chesterfield County (Richmond), Virginia. This will be an eight (8) team tournament starting on July 29 and concluding August 1, 2009. We look forward to a very successful tournament and encourage all registered leagues to enter Bronco 11 teams during the 2009 season. Hopefully, in the near future, all zone sites will have tournament information listed for your respective zone tournaments starting at the lowest levels.

During the upcoming baseball / softball season we encourage you to register all divisions of your league with PONY Baseball / Softball. We feel that PONY, Inc. offers the very best program for player participation throughout the world. Our program offers each league the flexibility it needs for maximum participation by all players while providing the opportunity to play the "real game of baseball and softball".

For further assistance, please contact your respective Zone Vice President listed in the PONY Baseball or Softball rule book or Division Directors as listed on our pony.org web site. The headquarters and volunteer staff of PONY Baseball / Softball are dedicated to our motto "Protect our Nations Youth" To this end, we are here to serve our constituents.

Have a great season!

Terry N. Faust  
East Zone Vice President and  
Chairman of the International Board of Directors