



# The Garfield Backer

Newsletter for the "Garfield Heights Browns Backers"  
www.ghbb.com

Volume 13, Issue 1

May, 2012

## Note to all members:

I have been approached by many members, both at the Venture and that I see around Garfield Hts, about our plans to remain at the Venture Inn. As president, it is not my decision to remain at the Venture Inn, it is yours. Enclosed in this year's mailing is a stamped postcard that you, the members, can tell me what you want. If your vote is to move our meeting place, please take the following into consideration: 1) the bar must be in Garfield Hts...2) It must be large enough to allow up to 50 members...3) It must have enough TV's, preferable large screens, so we are not cramped. These are the main features that the Venture Inn provides to us. Page two of this newsletter is a little history of our club, from newsletter Volume 4, from October, 2002.

If the members vote for a new place, I will take the top two locations and visit with at least one other officer to check the location out for the above considerations, and to talk to the owner(s) to see if they are interested. I will get back to all of you on how these meetings go, and to allow you to vote on which facility to re-locate to. We currently have 113 members. Please vote, make your opinion known. Return the card by June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012.

## Membership

Membership renewal is now underway. If you are not a lifetime member yet, your application for renewal is enclosed. If none of your information has changed, please fill out your name and mail back to me with your membership fee. Only active members are eligible for discounts and home game tickets and continue to receive this newsletter. Remember, after your third consecutive paid year, you are **PAID FOR LIFE!**

### Has your member information changed?

If your address has changed, please fill out a application to update your information.  
Newsletters returned are removed from the active mailing list.

### 2011 Club Funds

Beginning balance - \$1645

Ending balance - \$2148

Side boards paid for all door prizes, Christmas party,, newsletters, food each game. We also donated \$251 to the Cleveland Browns Foundation Charities and \$344 to the Garfield Hts American Legion to help defray the cost of shipping care packages to our troops overseas. Not bad when we averaged only 15 members coming to the Venture Inn per game.

**GHBB merchandise available via  
our website..www.ghbb.com**

## The Garfield Heights Browns Backers

*"Our History", published October, 2002*

By: J.F. Hammer Sr.

President: Garfield Heights Browns Backers

The idea for the "Garfield Heights Browns Backers" was started back in December of 1998, with just a few customers, and an owner, sitting around a tavern on Broadway. The Browns were coming back to Cleveland the following year. One member of the group wanted a get-together location for watching the Browns, and suggested having the tavern open on game days. Another thought the idea may not be feasible, and suggested that we have revolving house parties each week, between certain individuals. Yet another expanded on the thoughts, and made mention of forming an Official Browns Backers Club. This idea was discussed further, and we began to pursue it heavily. A Browns Fan Club, although not official, was started at the location on March 1, 1999. Six and a half months later, on September 13, 1999, we became an "Official Chapter" of the "Browns Backers Worldwide" organization. Our official chapter number (199) seemed most appropriate.

Unfortunately, due to the unavoidable delays during the year, many lost interest. The club had only 15 members at its inception. The following year we added 6 more, bringing the total to 21.

Then in late February, 2001, our meeting location was sold, and Backer activity slowed to less than a crawl. In fact, there were no activities even planned during the 2001 football season. Many of our members, were no

longer patronizing the establishment. Meetings became few and far between.

In February, 2002, a failed rebuilding attempt was made. The club had been moved to a new location, however the response there, was null. I was reluctantly getting ready to assign the club an "Inactive" status.

Then, near the end of August, 2002, a conversation with Debbie (our new VP), led to another rebuilding attempt. With another move to our meetings location, and three new officers (VP, Secretary & Treasurer) we once again started to rebuild. It seems apparent, that this move was the right one.

The Venture Inn was officially named as the Home for the "Garfield Heights Browns Backers" on September 17, 2002. The first officers' meeting, (held prior to the official date) took place on Tuesday, September 3, 2002. Several others have been held since. At the time of this writing, we have 30 active adults, as well as 8 junior members. Door prizes (for members) and 50/50 raffles (on game days) were started almost immediately. Future activities are in the planning stages. Even a web site and an online forum are being discussed. The dedication and enthusiasm of our new officers is phenomenal, and I wish to personally thank them for it.

I would also like to thank all of our current members. With your continued support, I feel that the Garfield Heights Browns Backers can, and will, become one of the best in the BBW organization. ❖