



California Bowling Writers

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Women's Bowling Celebrates 100 Years

Originally called the Woman's National Bowling Association (WNBA), the Women's International Bowling Congress was formed in St. Louis, Missouri, in late November 1916. It was the first widely recognized women's association for the sport of ten-pin bowling. The founding women were aided by male bowling alley proprietor (Washington Bowling Alleys in St. Louis) Dennis J. Sweeney, who obtained permission from the American Bowling Congress (ABC) in 1907 to hold a national women's tournament on their lanes, and held one in 1916, providing the inspiration.

The first official meeting of the WNBA was held on October 26, 1917, in St. Louis. It later became *The Women's International Bowling Congress*. The purpose of the organization was agreed to be: "To provide, adopt and enforce uniform rules and regulations governing the play of American tenpins; to provide and enforce uniform qualifications for tournaments and their participants; to hold a national tournament, and to encourage good feeling and create interest in the bowling game."

The WNBA held its first national tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 11 – 12, 1918.

When it became a part of USBC in 2005, there were over 1.2 million WIBC members playing in 67,000 sanctioned leagues in over 2,700 local associations. Local associations exist in every state as well some foreign countries. The national tournament held by the WIBC, now called the USBC Women's Championships, is the largest women's sporting event in the world. The 1997 tournament in Reno, Nevada, attracted 14,872 five-woman teams (for a total of 88,279 participants), the largest entry for any team tournament in history and a women's world record.

Letter from the Editor

Bowling and all of its arms seem to be in flux and most are suffering with the challenges we all face. The promoters of past years are getting older and with the lack of support from places we used to depend on it is becoming easier to back away than it is to fight the system.

It is always hard to accept change, especially when it so far removed from the *way we used to do it*. It seems that leadership believes in throwing it all out and starting anew. Problem with that is there are some things that are staples, will always work and should remain among the purpose of the organization. These things need to be saved, maybe tweaked a little, but always there to preserve continuity *and* loyalty. When people get to the point where they feel there is no place for them or their ideology – good people are lost.

People are not eager to make a commitment. It isn't any different than it used to be and we were seeking people to serve with us and making the experience really sound good – *not much work, one meeting a month.....yeah, sure*. However, once you get involved, and with committed and innovative leadership – you were (*Cont. on pg 2*)



In This Issue

Opinion, USBC and CSUBC convention coverage, Team USA Win, Calendar, This 'N That, Misc.

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*A publication of the California Bowling Writers
Mary Lynly and Nancy Chapman, Editors*

Letter from the Editor (cont. from pg 1)

hooked. Many association leaders, no matter what position, have been around for a long time continuing to give their all to the organization. People *will* take chairmanships if you help them and become an asset to the board. You can't just throw a leadership role to someone and assume they know how to do it.

I recall my first year on the CWBA board and getting my first assignment. I was excited to be on the board but had no clue how I was supposed to proceed. President Agnes Duffy came to my rescue – calling me to see “*how I was doing.*” EEK. I told her I really wasn't sure how to proceed and she tutored me and I was on my way with confidence. She continued to keep in touch to see that I was able to do the job or needed additional help. I certainly didn't want to embarrass myself and went to work! Agnes didn't want to be embarrassed by any member of her board not being prepared!

It takes all of us working as a team to make things work. Don't be there at the board meeting and forget the whole thing as soon as you leave the meeting. Keep a spot in your brain for the organization, always thinking how you can do your job better and keeping in touch.

Mary Lynly

USBC National Convention

By Bette Addington

The USBC National Convention was held at The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV in April, 2016. Of note: The American Bowling Congress (ABC) began in 1895. It was said, “Bowling will never become a major sport until it was accepted by women.” The Women's International Bowling Congress (WIBC) began in 1916. This year, we are celebrating 100 years of the Women in Bowling. In recognition of this, the convention recognized the oldest and the youngest women delegates—93 and 21 years old—respectively.

Bowling Charities:

BVL – 45 states donated a total of \$595,489.98 to BVL during the 2014-15 season bringing the overall total to \$45,274,033.88 since BVL began in 1942. USBC recognized **CA for donating (once again) the largest amount, \$119,686.00.** Michigan came in second with \$56,484.53 during the 2014-15 bowling season. Susan B. Komen – Bowling communities have donated \$11,000,000.00 since they began donating to this charity. (*Note: \$600,000 – lowest amount since this started.*)

National Membership Dues:

Current Bylaws state National dues not to exceed \$10; State dues not to exceed \$5 and Local dues are determined by their membership. The convention voted to allow an increase – National dues not to exceed \$15; however, an increase will not take place until the 2017-18 season. At that time, the National dues will be \$13. Dues will not increase again before the 2022-23 season. The primary reason for the increase is to support software upgrades to both Bowl.com and WinLabs.

Associations (local & state) Mergers:

Proposals passed to force local (68%) and state (72%) associations to merge. Mergers of unmerged associations to be effective Aug. 1, 2018.

Junior Team USA won the World Championships!



Here they are flanked by coaches Kim Terrell and Rod Ross. Our own Michael Tang – left front, and Wesley Low right front.

LINCOLN, Neb. – The Junior Team USA boys used a near-perfect deciding-game effort to claim their third consecutive team gold medal at the World Bowling Youth Championships, and Korea was dominant on the girls' side to return to the winner's circle for the first time since 2010.

The winning team at Sun Valley Lanes on Monday included Anthony Simonsen, Wesley Low, Kamron Doyle and Michael Tang. Doyle and Low were part of the winning team at the 2014 World Youth Championships in Hong Kong.

“Early on today, we didn’t know what to expect with the new format, but (Team USA head coach) Rod (Ross) told us to just do what we did all week and show everyone why we were the top qualifiers,” said Low, who also won gold in singles and doubles (with Simonsen) and the silver medal in all-events. “We used that advice to help turn the momentum, and to go on to complete the three-peat feels amazing. It has been really special to be a part of these last two wins.” Korea rallied for six consecutive strikes in the middle of the deciding game, while the United States girls suffered three open frames in the loss. Team USA girls included Julia Bond, Gazmine Mason, Jordan Richard and Stephanie Schwartz. “Taking the two gold medals individually was nice, but winning gold in team would’ve been amazing,” said Mason. The history of the

Worth Repeating

Info from the Windy City Bowling News

One of the more stunning tidbits of news that emerged from the USBC Annual Meeting in Reno in late April was the financial report that confirmed the balance in the SMART scholarship fund currently sits at just of \$57.3 million dollars. Other than Football and Basketball that get University funding, does any other sport have that kind of scholarship funding?

This is a stunning number when you consider USBC’s gross worth was \$44.6 million at the end of 2015 fiscal year. SMART is worth \$13 million more than USBC? There was a time it was suggested YABA get out of the scholarship business. It was said that the look around the room was as though someone shot a puppy or set the American flag on fire. The rationale was that bowling was awarding all kinds of scholarships but no one knew if the scholarship recipients were actually staying involved in the sport. This is probably true of many scholarship recipients who research scholarships available to help finance their schooling while never really intending to stay involved with the donor’s business or activity.

It was suggested that perhaps a tracking system would be a good idea requiring recipients to report to the donors as to their involvement following college. USBC never considered the idea. When SMART was founded in 1994 there had been no standards or rules for local groups who were raising scholarship money. YABA created SMART to solve those issues, and despite a number of growing problems, the system took hold, matured and worked.

As of 2006, SMART managed scholarship accounts for 99,206 kids and when SMART became a separate entity in 2010, managed independently of USBC’s finances by a group of professionals, it was managing \$35.6 million in assets. As of 2015 those assets topped the \$57.6 million milestone, and now represent 196,582 individual account-holders.

Tournament winnings for youth are sent to SMART to protect their amateur status. I wonder what the percentage of these contributions is that are never applied for and what happens to these funds? – Ed.

World Youth Championships dates back to 1988, when it debuted in the Philippines as the International Youth Championships.

For complete information on the World Youth Championships, visit 2016wyc.worldbowling.org.

USBC Merger and Dues – I was Thinking...

By Mary Lynly

While dues are not really a big thing, bowling has enjoyed low dues for a long time with people paying big bucks in some leagues and a bargain in others and in comparison, dues are paid once each season and are not all that much but the *value* of our membership is important. Unfortunately, we are living in a world of entitlements, low employment and wages for many and the bill at the supermarket goes up all the time. I once worked for the head Industrial Engineer for Sylvania Electric in Mountain View and he had worked in South America. He told me that one thing he learned there is no matter how poor people are they will have cars, booze and recreation. People can live with paying more for things but when the value is not there people no longer participate. No organization is worth its salt without membership but when the value erodes and nearly disappears, it adds salt to the wound.

After reading about the required merger of associations by 2018 numerous things crossed my mind: I think we are facing the following challenges:

- What would happen to the association names and logos (many we helped create) we have so long associated with?
- What about processing – will there be one or two “processing centers” to service what were once associations? Will it be convenient? Can computers create solid friendships and give leaders someone (live) to talk to.
- How will leadership work? Obviously, with the tremendous drop in membership since USBC became our “*National Governing Body*”, will there be the incentive to lead, to participate – *for the love of it*?
- What about the communication we once had from National to State to Local? This was the glue that held us together and today it is Social Media or nothing.
- For all intents and purposes, the USBC/BPAA focus is on Elite, Pro and Youth bowling. Retention has always been the goal, but since the adults are the ones who make it possible for youth to bowl, travel and participate in tournaments and other endeavors will they be only the cash cows?
- What happened to “purpose, incentive and independence of any kind?” People have to have a *reason* to be a part of anything.

Are we dissolving into nothing but a tournament club? Will this be the proprietor run organization people once feared?

- What about those associations who were steadfast in their desire to remain independent and involved in their own associations hosting award dinners, local tournaments, charitable and other events indigenous to their group?
- Will there be a voice from local and state bowling writer groups or will the desire for National to have “only their own” prevail and quash anything they consider competition or a voice other than their own.
- Slowly but surely our leadership has stifled any desire to work on behalf of the parent organization and President Wilkinson has said he is not concerned about membership...then what? The current leadership are all proprietors....thus, the proprietor bottom line mentality.
- It is hard to see all of the people who have given as much as 50 years of their time and treasure to supporting and promoting bowling become the undesired group, and in the eyes of current national leadership, “best gone.”
- As I now go through my multitude of items and information saved that have what I consider historical value, it saddens me to know that current leaders consider years of information of no value – even though I realize the importance of *moving on*. Is this what they call throwing out the baby with the bathwater?
- Has our leadership learned anything about what endears people to an enterprise/organization/ association or will they blame the “times” forever? True, times have changed and property values has chased bowling centers away but hard times also bring innovation. Yes, some are building new types of bowling arenas but unfortunately the structure is gone. Secretaries used to handle league stats and money and now the bowling center does it leaving the named secretary with little or no attachment or hands on of her league. Rules are loosie goosy, people cheat, and it seems to be OK because no one knows the rules anyway. Few have a rule book. If you want a change in the league sheet – forget it, can’t do it. (*cont. on pg 6*)

California Bowling Writers 2015-2016 - Officers & Directors

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This 'N That



Jason Belmonte of Australia earned his second consecutive and third overall Best Bowler ESPY Award Wednesday evening during the 2016 ESPY Awards ceremonies at the Microsoft Theater. Belmonte, who won his first ESPY Award in 2011, was among winners in a variety of sports and special moment categories that were determined by fan voting. The winners were announced during ABC-TV's Espy Awards. Of note are seven time winner Walter Ray Williams and four times for Pete Weber and Norm Duke.

Robin Romeo of Newhall won her third consecutive Senior Queens title at The Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas - an amazing feat. Until now no one had ever won three consecutive Senior Queens. Not since MARION LADEWIG has a woman dominated any aspect of bowling like Romeo is dominating the ladies senior game right now.



Las Vegas – A matter of hours after he was surprised as the 2016 recipient of the Jim Jaryszak Laneman Award at International Bowl Expo on June 29, LaGrange, Ill. native **John Forst** was found unresponsive on the Mandalay Bay property. Forst, who was suffering from terminal brain cancer, was 55. At Bowl Expo, Forst had a final opportunity to reunite with a horde of friends, colleagues and former competitors from his days working with Storm Products, Kegel, USBC and PBA competition before he decided to spend some idle time playing slots. According to unofficial reports, he took a break to get some fresh air, wandered off and was found hours later where emergency resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.

Reno, NV - A new bowling tournament aimed at honoring active and retired members of the armed forces is headed to the National Bowling Stadium. In what's shaping up to be an annual event, the Biggest Little Veteran's Week Military Tournament will take place Nov. 7-10, 2016 and is hosted by the Eldorado Resort Casino, Silver Legacy Resort Casino, Circus Circus Reno and Reno Tahoe USA.



PJ Haggerty of Rocklin, CA averaged 235 defeating Michael Haugen's superior 10-2 match play record by a 40 pin margin at the Battle of Black Oak Casino at Black Oak Lanes in Tuolumne, CA for his 10th Regional Title.

Bowling Calender August through December

- August 12-14:** Cal Bowlers Tour 2016 Reno Invitational, National Bowling Stadium
August 13: National Bowling Day 2016, nationalbowlingday.com
August 18-21: CUSBC Senior Singles Tourn., Valencia Lanes, Newhall, calusbc.com
August 26-28: Pam Buckner Open, National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV.
August 27: CBW Board and Annual Meeting, National Bowling Stadium
September 6-12: Fall/Winter Bowling Leagues start
September 16-18: PBA Sands Regency West/No.West Fall Classic, NBS, Reno
September 24-25: Central Valley Masters Scratch Open, Regency Lanes, Bakersfield
September 30-October 2: PWBA/BPA/PBA50 Parkin West Open, Bowlium Lanes, Montclair
October 6 – November 6: 2016 Storm Open Festival of Bowling Mxd. Tourn., NBS, Reno
October 10-13: Senior TAT, The Orleans, Las Vegas
October 14-16: PBA No.West/West Twin Falls Open, Bowladrome Lanes, ID
October 15-16: CUSBC State Singles, Black Oak Lanes, Tuolumne, calusbc.com
October 21-23: PBA Ken Fowler Auto Centers West/No.West, Ukiah
October 22 – November 20: 47th Cal State Senior Open Championships, Sacramento
November 3-9: US Open, SouthPoint Bowling Plaza, Las Vegas
November 7-10: Biggest Little Veteran's Week Military Tourn., NBS, Reno
November 27-December 11: PBA World Series of Bowling VIII, NBS, Reno
December 31: Deadline for CBW Phone Card Drive 2016 donations

FOR YOU SO. CAL GALS

The So. California Friendship Tournament will be held SUNDAY OCTOBER 2, 2016 hosted by Orange County 600 Club at Linbrook Bowl. This is open to any active 600 Club member South of Santa Maria, California. Get Entry forms from: Orange County 600 Club, c/o Ladine Jones, PO Bix 10009, Anaheim, CA 92801 or 714-225-2409 or email: orangecounty600@att.net.

The National 600 Club tournament was held in Las Vegas this year along with the USBC Tournament and was very successful. Next year will be in Baton Rouge, LA. Information about National 600 Club is on the website: www.national600.com.



California USBC Welcome 94 Delegates To 2016 State Convention in Redding

By Bette Addington

2016 CUSBC Star of Tomorrow: Wesley Low, Jr. was awarded the 2016 CUSBC Star of Tomorrow. Among his many accomplishments: are (12) 800 career series with 833 as his highest; (12) 300 games; and he is tied for the most JAT titles (21.) Low also has two PBA titles under his belt. Wesley is 18 years old and starting his second year at Wichita State.

BVL: CA associations raised \$103,371.48 keeping us at the top spot in the nation for contributions, a place they have dominated for eons.

Adult Championships: The 2017 Adult Championships will be at Country Club Bowl in San Rafael hosted by Marin County USBC. The tournament will open on April 7-9 and run until June 16-18. NEW—The Women's Championship for 2017 will change to a one handicapped division format (90% of 220) with \$10 Optional Scratch Events. The Open Championships format will remain the same. Advanced entry forms are available on the CUSBC website: www.calusbc.com.

Youth Championships: Country Club Bowl in San Rafael will also host the 2017 Youth Championships on July 8-9 and 15-16. Advanced entry forms are available on the CUSBC website: www.calusbc.com.

Pepsi Championships: paid out \$50,000 in this year! 2016 champions: Alli Azevedo (U12 Girls) Linbrook Bowl; Jennifer Loreda (U15 Girls) CSU Fresno; Ashley Santos (U20 Girls) CSU Fresno; Christian Chan (U12 Boys) Classic Bowl; Richard Paul III (U15 Boys) Harvest Park Bowl; John Reyes (U20 Boys) Delta Bowl (tie) and Matthew Carpenter (U20 Boys) Mira Mesa Lanes (tie).

Legislation: Annual state adult dues increased from \$1 to \$2 - effective Aug. 1, 2016. USBC national state adult dues increase from \$11 to \$13 will go into effect the 2017-18 season.) All other proposals were withdrawn.

Election: All incumbent positions on the CUSBC Board were re-elected by acclamation. Those re-elected were President Rosie Parker, 2nd VP Kathy Bruegeman, Sgt.-at-Arms Lynn Graves, Director #2 Larry Peppers, Director #8 Mabel Sheasley, Director #10 Eugene McCown, Director #14 Lynn Matsubara, Director #16 Thomas Leigh, and Director #18 Andre Eubanks. Paul Kramer from Sierra USBC, ran from the floor and will fill the Director #4 vacancy. President Rosie Parker and Assoc. Manager/Director Larry Peppers be the 2017 USBC Delegates for USBC convention that will be in Las Vegas.

USBC Merger (cont. from pg 4) Also, now the personnel in bowling centers change so often you can't even establish a relationship and they certainly can't do it with you. When I worked in a center I knew every bowler...by name!

- When a new bowler comes into a league it is painful to watch them struggle – anyone offer to help? Maybe an unknowing league member but that seems to be it. They won't be back.

- I reflect on how the well-oiled machine events run by WIBC and ABC used to be. Attending events run by BPAA/USBC is evidence of the absence of anyone who has real hands on knowhow and it is bumble after bumble. There seems to be no feel for professionalism. This might get better but the people who have learned something will probably be "replaced."

- There are many smart, sharp people who run local events – I wonder what the incentive for them will be? I wonder if our leaders think they can learn anything from them.

- I have no problem with dues raise, but in response to the question asked – there was a time that associations offered value for the membership dues. Now it seems to be – give me money or you get less, or nothing.

- What I think is worse is having the experience of putting a lot of effort into helping to make a professional tournament in our area special for the participants, instead of welcoming our help we were treated like we were raining on their parade. To say the least – *never again*.

- Amid the merger mania common sense appears to be a thing of the past and current benefits are often marketing schemes and provide nothing to be learned. I repeat what I learned from an article that talked of the "Merger Mania" a few years ago and how it failed businesses. When they went back to the drawing board to see what happened, they discovered they had *forgotten the people*.

Phantom Radio Begins 14th year



Phantom Radio is *unique* by being the first (scheduled) internet: "Bowling Talk how". According to the number one (1) monthly bowling magazine: Bowlers Journal International, Phantom Radio: "Is a pioneer in the field of internet broadcasting with its weekly bowling show. The fact that the show is regularly scheduled makes it a real ground-breaker in the field."

Enjoying passing along information, we began in April, 2002 with what was to be an informative interview with Coach Richard Shockley. The Show caught on right away, so we thought we would interview a bowling writer next as a way of furthering more information to our listeners.

We then decided to interview different types of bowling personalities to get all of their opinions about our great Sport. Suddenly, the Show became a: "Who's Who" in the world of bowling.

Each week, *The Phantom*, interviews a new guest from "each and every area" of the world of bowling. Don't miss this exciting Show, as it is always: Topical, Informative, Educational, Entertaining, Colorful and sometimes even Controversial. If you have an idea for a guest to be interviewed, please be sure to let us know. AND, let "that person" know that YOU want them to be interviewed. Make sure that you send us the e-mail address of the Guest that you want to hear. And, send *them* a note telling THEM that YOU want *them* to be on the Show. To gain access to ALL the Shows, go to: www.kegel.net/phantom

If you have never heard the show....try it, you'll like it!

"Life Can Be So Sweet" (*On the Sunny Side of the Street*)

by Pat Helwig

Grab your bowling bag, shoes, and maybe a kid or two, Leave your worries on your doorstep
Life can be so sweet in the bowling center of your dreams.

Greeted with a smile as you enter the center and welcomed by your name from desk personnel.
First stop is the supervised play room, drop off the offspring then look for a league sheet and
Move on to scheduled lanes.

You can hear the pit-a-pat with a happy tune in their step...It's your teammates!
Ready with greetings in the bowling center of your dreams.

League fees paid, lineup all set, bowling shoes on, equipment all in place, then warm the body
With a stretch or two or more.
The league welcome message sounds clearly over the PA system followed by best wishes for good scoring.
Bowlers line up and shadow practice begins.

The shot is great, good scoring a cinch.
With worries at your door step...Bowling makes life so sweet
In the bowling center of your dreams.

Outlets for Story & Article Publication

The *InfoLink* encourages and will accept stories of 200-500 words, relating to bowling. Articles should be focused on individual accomplishments, special events, community involvement, prose, etc. Because we are focusing on special articles by our writers, reporting of scores or association related events will not be accepted. Send your stories to: CBW Website, c/o Kathy Watson at kwatson@royalancestry.com or to the InfoLink, c/o Mary Lynly, lynlymary@surewest.net.

Also, included for your convenience, other California bowling publications who will accept stories and articles for publication:

- **BOWLING WORLD NEWSPAPER** ~ Donna Hazel, Editor ~ Website: www.bowlingworld.com
P.O. Box 111178, Campbell CA 95011-1178 ~ E-mail: readit@bowlingworld.com
Office: 408-821-7332 ~ Fax: 408-366-0847 or 925-215-2242
- **CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS** ~ Carol Mancini, Editor ~ Website: www.californiabowlingnews.com
P.O. Box 4160, Downey, CA 90240 ~ E-mail: news@californiabowlingnews.com
Office: 562-807-3600 ~ Fax: 562-807-2288





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Membership Application

Open to Men, Women & Youth

Membership dues are \$20.00 (\$21 per Paypal) for August 1 through July 31

Membership Pins are \$3.00 each

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax Number _____ E-Mail _____

Association _____ W.B.A. or B.A. or USBC

Birthday _____ (month/day ONLY)

Note: contact information is available to all members. Would you like to be excluded? **Yes No**

Would you like to have the InfoLink Newsletter emailed to you ? (circle one) **Yes No**

Do you write for any publications? Please list here (use additional paper if needed):
