

Wisconsin State Delegate Report

May, 2009 – Reno, NV

The fourth annual USBC Convention, held at the Reno Events Center, opened on Friday, May 1 with 1,346 attendees consisting of 1,151 registered delegates and 195 guests. Chief Operating Officer Kevin Dornberger introduced President Jeff Bojé and the USBC Board of Directors.

In his report, President Bojé declared bowling is America's game, bowling is home, and bowling is like dancing in the rain. He announced the 2011 Convention will be held in Grapevine, Texas in conjunction with the BPAA Convention June 27 – July 2. This will enable attendees to visit the International Bowling Campus which currently houses USBC and BPAA and will soon house the Hall of Fame and Museum and will include a Training and Research Center. The later date will allow youth bowlers to attend the Convention. He stated there has been a lack of trust from members as well as between USBC and BPAA. He emphasized the need to build mutual trust if the sport is to move forward.

COO Dornberger touched on current problems facing the sport:

- ❖ Less people willing to commit to the traditional league model, people are too busy to commit.
- ❖ Communication/Delivery system, there are currently 160 employees versus 230 employees previously.
- ❖ Relationships with proprietors and what needs to be done.
- ❖ Develop more membership options including shorter programs and senior membership.
- ❖ Modernize membership benefits.
- ❖ Better use of state associations as educational and communication conduits.
- ❖ Turnkey programs for joint implementation with proprietors.

Breanne Eoff reported on Youth Development.

- ❖ The In-School program has been updated.
- ❖ Bowlopolis has been developed for ages 4 – 12.
- ❖ Youth bowlers will receive a jersey when purchasing a standard membership.
- ❖ The awards program has been revamped.
- ❖ Weplay, a free and easy to use website that can be used to communicate league and tournament information.
- ❖ USBC High School Bowling, there were 52,000 high school bowlers in '07-08' and this does not include club programs. The individual states regulate HS bowling, not USBC.
- ❖ Collegiate bowling is growing.
- ❖ USBC Junior Gold is in its 10th season.
- ❖ Junior Team USA is made up of the top four boys and girls from the USBC Junior Gold tournament.

Mindy Corr gave updates on the various tournaments. The USBC Women's Championship Tournament will be held in El Paso, Texas in 2011. The new tournament format will include 100% handicap, new divisions, larger prize fund, and it will always be in a stadium environment. The tournament will be held in Florida every three years starting in 2013.

Steve Wunderlich presented information on the new Affinity Program that will offer product discounts from over 300 companies. This new membership program is a tangible value and program information can be found on Bowl.com.

Chance Spann said the new Bowl.com will include:

- ❖ Highlights of youth and adult bowlers as well as coaches.
- ❖ Social networking.
- ❖ Easy navigation, three clicks.
- ❖ Podcasts.
- ❖ Educational and coaching.

Brandi Bloodworth Connolly stated the new Virtual Membership is available to members and non-members. It will provide social networking, similar to Facebook. Attendees were encouraged to work with proprietors on virtual membership. A webinar will provide instructions on how to set up pages.

Libbi Fleming, Strategic Planning Chair reported a mission statement should focus on what the organization does and who it does it for. The vision statement should state where the organization needs to be headed. The USBC priority issues are sport development which includes Bowlopolis, a joint effort that is proprietor operated. There are currently more than 700 bowling centers participating in the program. High school bowling and collegiate programs continue to grow. Other programs include sport bowling, the PBA Experience, and the PBA Women's series. The new training and research center is being constructed and industry cooperation is essential.

The Bowlers to Veteran Link presentations acknowledged the following for their contributions:

- ❖ Top State: Virginia
- ❖ Top Local Association: Nation's Capitol Area USBC

International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame, Executive Director Jerry Belts said the museum is moving to the International Bowling Campus in Arlington, TX. He will not be relocating to Texas and is stepping down as Executive Director. The International Bowling Hall of Fame and Museum honored:

- ❖ Top State Association Contributors: Missouri State USBC
- ❖ Top Local Association Contributors: Bryon, Ohio USBC
- ❖ Largest Contribution by a local association per member: Bryon, Ohio USBC

The following were recognized for their accomplishments:

- ❖ Joyce Deitch Trailblazer Award: Tom Clark, Muskego, WI
- ❖ Helen Baker Outstanding Association Volunteer of the Year Award: Jean Tonola-Smith, Massillon, OH

- ❖ Proprietor of the Year: Charles Kinstler, Laguna Beach, CA
- ❖ Kerm Helmer Horizon Award: Mike Nyitray, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- ❖ David Dahms Coach of the Year: Debbie Haggerty, Citrus Heights, CA
- ❖ Youth Program Volunteer of the Year: David Driscoll, Mount Dora, FL
- ❖ Youth Female Ambassador of the Year: Amanda Hollenbaugh, Tucson, AZ
- ❖ Youth Male Ambassador of the Year: Kyle Mauerman, Tremont, IL
- ❖ BPAA Association of the Year: St. Louis USBC

Stars of Tomorrow presentations were made, each will receive a \$1,500 scholarship renewable up to three years.

- ❖ Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow: Ricki Williams, Wichita, KS
- ❖ Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow: Chris Bardol, Brockport, NY

It was announced that Kyle Mauerman, Tremont, IL has been selected to serve a one year term as Youth Representative on the USBC Board of Directors effective August 1.

The convention reconvened on Friday with a memorial service honoring men and women who had passed away the previous year.

The annual Bowl for the Cure ceremony presented a check in the amount of \$701,675.14 to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. This brought the total raised through the years to over \$7 million.

The Hall of Fame ceremony was hosted by USBC and Professional Bowlers Association Hall of Famer Nelson Burton Jr. USBC Hall of Fame members were introduced. Six new inductees into the USBC Hall of Fame are:

- ❖ Veteran Category:
 - Gene Stus, Allen Park, MI – Became a pro bowler at the age of 50 and had a highly-successful career on the Professional Bowlers Association Senior Tour. He was the first Senior Tour player to roll a nationally-televised 300 game.
- ❖ Meritorious Service:
 - Tom Kouros, Deer Park, IL – Tom is an internationally-acclaimed author and bowling instructor, he authored Par Bowling and Par Bowling: The Challenge.
 - Lowell Rothschild, Tucson, AZ – Lowell is a former ABC Board Member and President.
- ❖ Superior Performance:
 - Wendy Macpherson, Henderson, NV – Wendy a 20-time Pro bowler champion. She is the all-time earnings leader in women's professional bowling having earned \$1.2 million. She is the only woman to win a regular division USBC Open Championships title. She was selected Woman Bowler of the Year four times.
 - Mark Roth, Fulton, NY – Mark is an accomplished Pro bowler, having won 34 PBA titles and is credited with introducing the high-revolution power game into the sport. He was selected Bowler of the year four times and was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame.

- John Petraglia, Jackson, NJ – John was not present as he does not fly and accepted via video. He is an accomplished Pro bowler having won 14 PBA titles, the first at age 19. He also won six PBA Senior Tour titles.

The convention resumed on Saturday with a welcome from President Bojé. A Meet the Candidates session followed. The eight candidates, vying for four positions, responded to various questions. Candidate Gary Sparks from Indiana had withdrawn for personal reasons.

A new electronic voting device was used along with voice vote to speed up the voting process. Delegates voted on 24 proposed amendments, approving thirteen, rejecting ten, and one was ruled out of order. One of the rejected amendments would have given the USBC Board of Directors the flexibility to adjust national adult dues. Another rejected amendment would have created a USBC national executive committee to act on behalf of the board. The proposed forced merger of non-merged state and local associations by August 1, 2011 was also rejected.

This is the final year of the original stagger system for board members. Elected to three-year terms were incumbents Tamoria Adams, Charlotte, NC and Libbi Fletcher, Warren, MI and newcomers Bob Klatt, Prior Lake, MN and Jay Nephew, Dallas, TX.

Closing remarks from President Bojé focused on embracing change and trusting each other and he hoped that delegates were leaving with more trust than they came with.

My sincere thank you for the privilege of representing the Wisconsin Women's Bowling Association at the 2009 USBC Convention.

Judy Engelbrecht
2009 Wisconsin State Delegate