

Wisconsin State Delegate Report

May, 2010 – Reno, NV

The fifth annual USBC Convention was held at the Reno Events Center. Pre convention activities included various educational workshops with a focus on “Moving Forward Together”. Announcements of new projects include a two season rule book in an attempt to cut costs. Another project is an on-line certified league officer training program which will include a program fee. A Meet the Candidates session was also held which enabled delegates to ask questions of those running for the four open board positions.

The convention convened on Friday, April 30 with opening remarks by President Jeff Bojé. The talented BVL group Re-Creation performed a touching rendition of the National Anthem. President Bojé introduced the new Executive Director Stu Upson, who then introduced board members.

Executive Director Upson stated he was not from the bowling industry and shared his professional credentials. He said his thoughts on bowling include a great passion by bowlers, a sense of history, and honoring contributors to the sport. Throughout the convention he emphasized The Past, The Present and The Future – “Moving Forward Together”.

The Past included mistakes caused by not listening, rushed development, inadequate communications and insufficient testing. Mistakes included WINLABS, youth membership processing, Bowl.com and the automated telephone service. He pledged they would not repeat these mistakes.

The Present focuses on the financial status of the organization and decreased income, mainly due to the decline in tournament entries. Both adult and youth membership declined 6% in the 2009-2010 season. Efforts have been made to balance the budget by reorganizing, reducing costs, eliminating positions and putting programs on hold. The \$5.5M Greendale, WI building has not been sold and they are looking into leasing options. Youth development continues with Bowlopolis in over 900 centers, a 2% increase in high school bowling participation and collegiate bowling increased 15% by adding 26 new schools.

The Future financial objectives include building financial reserves and a dues increase may be an option for the 2011-2012 season. Effective with the 2011-2012 season, WinLABS will no longer be supported by Microsoft and will be phased out. Adult membership will be processed online, similar to how youth memberships are currently processed. The 2011 Open Championships will be held in Reno, NV, and the 2011 Women’s Championships will be held in Syracuse, NY. Both tournaments will have online registration. Future objectives include better customer service along with stopping the membership and revenue decline. Executive Director

Upson ended his presentation stating the keys to future success include communication, trust, commitment, and industry focus.

A new, independent SMART Bowling Scholarship Funding Corporation has been formed for the preservation and protection of fund assets. There was some controversy when the full funding of the funds was questioned and challenged. According to the auditing accountant, the SMART program has a deficit of approximately three million dollars; the adjustment on the financial statement indicated the amount was covered by USBC. USBC's financial stability was questioned and whether they could actually cover the deficit.

A memorial video presentation honored men and women who had passed away the previous year.

Darlene Baker, BVL Chairman announced that over \$826,000 was donated last season to the Bowlers to Veteran Link. She acknowledged the following top contributors:

- ❖ Top State: Virginia
- ❖ Top Local Association: Minneapolis, MN USBC

The members of the group Re-Creation were introduced and performed some of the songs they perform at Veteran Hospitals. The group has been performing for more than 25 years. This talented group of young performers is truly an inspiration to all with their moving tribute to our Veterans.

The convention reconvened on Saturday with the credential report indicating there were 1,132 attendees consisting of 1,049 registered delegates and 83 guests.

The 10th annual Bowl for the Cure ceremony presented a check in the amount of \$1,161,707 to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. The record breaking donation was a 70% increase over last year. This brought the total raised through the years to over \$9 million.

The International Bowling Hall of Fame raised \$1.4 million last season. The goal was \$1M; the new goal for next season is \$2M as funds are needed to continue to update the facility.

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

Hall of Fame inductions will no longer be held in conjunction with the USBC convention. Ceremonies will be held at the International Bowling Campus in Arlington, Texas. A video presentation was shown honoring the new inductees:

- ❖ Veteran Category:
 - John Handegard, Spring, TX
- ❖ Meritorious Service:
 - Betty Barnes, Reno, NV
- ❖ Superior Performance:
 - Kim Terrell-Kearney, Grand Prairie, TX

- Marshall Holman, Medford, OR

A video presentation acknowledged the following awards:

- ❖ Joyce Deitch Trailblazer Award: Tina Martin, Novato, CA
- ❖ Helen Baker Outstanding Association Volunteer of the Year Award: Harry Stewart, Coon Rapids, MN
- ❖ Proprietor of the Year: Jamie Brooks, Wylie, TX
- ❖ Kerm Helmer Horizon Award: Jim Zebehazy, Leesburg, FL
- ❖ David Dahms Coach of the Year: Donald Armstead, Philadelphia, PA
- ❖ Youth Program Volunteer of the Year: Karl Nickolai, Waterford, MI
- ❖ Youth Female Ambassador of the Year: Blair Blumenscheid, Columbus OH
- ❖ Youth Male Ambassador of the Year: Kevin Russell, Markham, IL

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

- ❖ Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow: Heather D’Errico, Rochester, NY Her brother, Marc won the Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow award in 2003.
- ❖ Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow: Andrew Koff, Miami, FL

It was announced that Amanda Hollenbaugh, Tucson, AZ has been selected to serve a one year term as Youth Representative on the USBC Board of Directors effective August 1.

Libbi Fleming, Strategic Planning Chair reported the vision of the USBC is to grow the sport. The 2010-2011 priority issues include growing the sport; grow revenue, package and test new memberships.

Delegates voted on twenty-four proposed amendments, approving eight and rejecting sixteen. Rejected amendments included three proposals regarding dues, the forced merge of local associations by August 1, 2011, and a 28 part amendment which included giving the USBC board the authority to make decisions, with the exception of increasing dues.

Elected to three-year terms on the USBC Board of Directors were incumbents Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, Keller, TX and Michael Italia, Warrington, PA and newcomers Mark Martin, Waterford, MI and Deanna Rose, Fairport, NY.

The 2011 convention will be held June 29 – July 2 at the Gaylord Texan, Grapevine, Texas.

The convention closed on a good note, delegates seemed pleased with the results of the voting and willing to give the new Executive Director Stu Upson the opportunity to prove himself.

It has been a pleasure to have represented the Wisconsin Women’s Bowling Association at the 2010 USBC Convention and I thank you for the opportunity.

Judy Engelbrecht
2010 Wisconsin State Delegate