

2011 USBC Convention Delegate's Report

The 6th Annual USBC Convention was held at the Gaylord Texan Hotel and Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas. With temperatures hovering around the 100 degree mark for the entire week, those of us from Wisconsin and the northern states were extremely grateful for air conditioning in ALL of the buildings we visited.

Qualifying for the US Women's Open began on Saturday, June 25th and continued through Wednesday, June 29th with match play concluding the qualifying on Tuesday afternoon and evening in Euless, TX. Delegates and guests were encouraged to attend as spectators.

Delegates could begin registering for the Annual Meeting on Monday, June 27th and on Tuesday a tour of the International Bowling Campus in Arlington was offered.

There were 19 different workshops offered on Wednesday and Thursday (June 29th and 30th). They varied from Association Business/Taxes to Youth Development, League Secretary Certification, Rules, WinLABS for Beginners and Advanced workshops. Others offered information on High School and Collegiate Programs, running successful Championship Tournaments and Board Meetings. Membership Development and Effective Communications were also topics among several others.

Those I attended included Rules, Business/Taxes, Effective Communication and Championship Tournament practices.

The Tax seminar answered questions and confirmed that the practices being used by WS USBC WBA are correct and legal. Every association is required to file a version of the 990 form yearly. Failure to do so could result in the loss of an association's charter and tax exempt status.

The Rules seminar informed attendees that summer league averages will be treated the same as fall/winter averages. All averages need to be reported regardless of the number of games bowled. USBC is posting composite averages on their website and will use all averages regardless of the number of games in the figures. USBC will be offering online training for league officers in the upcoming months. Watch the USBC website (bowl.com) for confirmed dates. The rule book is now available online and can be downloaded to many of the electronic devices currently being used.

The Effective Communication seminar illustrated different ways for an association to stay in touch with their members. The most effective way was to conduct email blasts to members. There are several companies who will provide a service that allows more than the average email account allows. Other ways suggested were to set up Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The Championship Tournament seminar focused on finding out what worked and what didn't work with the last tournament. It was suggested to conduct a tournament committee meeting within weeks of the end of the tournament so the memories were fresh and problems could be addressed. It was stressed that we need to communicate with the bowler to find out what is wanted and expected. Several association officials shared successful ideas they used in their associations.

On Thursday afternoon Bowl Expo opened featuring vendors who cater to the bowling industry. This was a trade show where guests, delegates and bowling proprietors could sample foods from at least a dozen food vendors, view the latest in bowling equipment and apparel and accessories, as well as try new arcade and video equipment geared for entertaining bowling center patrons.

Thursday evening attendees had an opportunity to attend the USBC Women's Open Finals at Cowboy Stadium where portable lanes were constructed on the 50 yard line. Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., Leanne Hulsenberg, Roseville, Calif., Liz Johnson, Cheektowaga, N.Y., Shannon O'Keefe, Arlington, Texas, and Lynda Barnes, Double Oak, TX competed as finalists. Fifth seed Linda Barnes defeated Shannon O'Keefe, 268 – 166 in the first game. She went on to defeat Liz Johnson, 259 – 225, but met her match in game three against Leann (Barrett) Hulsenberg, falling 248 – 246. Leann went on to defeat Kelly Kulick, 218 – 183 for the Championship and prize payout of \$50,000.

Friday morning, July 1, 2011, the USBC Annual Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President, Darlene Baker, as she welcomed the delegates and guests.

Executive Director, Stu Upson took roll call of the USBC Board of Directors by way of introductions, to start the general session.

The delegation asked to stand while the group, "Re-Creation" did an amazing rendition of the National Anthem. This group works in conjunction with BVL to entertain America's veterans in Veteran's Administration Centers and State Veteran's Hospitals throughout the United States.

The Nominating Committee Chair, Mike Italia gave the credentials report stating there were 991 delegates, 11 Athlete Delegates and 22 board of director members registered for a total of 1,024 eligible to vote. In attendance there were 93 Alternate delegates and 135 members/guests for a total attendance of 1,252.

The Memorial portion of the meeting was presented in the form of a video depicting several USBC members who passed away in the last year.

The BVL Award presentation was given by President and BVL Chair, Darlene Baker along with committee members, Marci Williams and Tony Manna. "Re-Creation" gave an additional performance and recognition to the contributors who made the largest donations. Donations to BVL totaled nearly \$750,000.

USBC Awards recognitions were given via video and presentation was as follows: Ellen Goss of Garland, TX, Helen Baker Outstanding Association Service Award, James Doty of Noblesville, IN, Proprietor of the Year Award and David Patrick, Cibolo, TX, Joyce Deitch Unity Award. Steve Lawson of Mahomet, IL, Kerm Helmer Horizon Award, and Marty Jones of Providence, RI, David Dahms Coach of the Year Award.

Youth Award winners included: Cera Dailey of Sherwood, AR, Youth Female Ambassador of the Year, Lance Ragland, Sunnyvale, TX, Youth Male Ambassador of the Year, Nicole Mosesso of Centerville, OH, the Alberta E. Crowe Award and Brent Bowers of Mulvane, KS, the Chuck Hall Award.

The USBC Hall of Fame announcement gave recognition to the 2011 inductees. Del Ballard, Jr., Keller, TX, Superior Performance, Carol Gianotti, Perth, Australia, Superior Performance, Roseann Kuhn, Hays, KS, Meritorious Service, Jeff Richgels, Oregon, WI, Outstanding USBC Performance, Cheryl Robinson, Placentia, CA, Veteran's Award and Wayne Webb, Columbus, OH, Superior Performance were all honored.

Breast Cancer survivors from among the attendees presented a check to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Bowl for the Cure in the amount \$952,082. Local and State Associations contributed \$485,000, Bowling Centers contributed approximately \$400,000 while miscellaneous groups and individuals donated \$67,000.

The Legislative Session included 3 proposed amendments; one was rules related and two bylaw related. Rules changes need a majority vote to approve while legislative changes require 66 2/3 approval.

Amendment LR 1, Rule 100h, seeking to lower the age for senior leagues to 50 was rejected, 272 yes to 699 no. There were 971 votes cast and 486 needed to approve. Proposal was rejected by a 44% margin.

Amendment B1, Article II Purposed, Section B, Chartering State and Local Bowling Associations. The original amendment required non-merged state and local associations to be merged by August 1, 2012. (Original amendment was amended to August 1, 2013 by delegate vote). The amendment was rejected, 523 yes, 440 no. There were 963 votes cast and 642 needed to approve. Needing 66 2/3 approval, the proposal received 54%.

Amendment B2, Article IV, Board of Directors, Section B. Election, Item 2. The proposed amendment changes requirement for credentials to be filed with USBC from 24 hours to 30 days. The amendment was approved, 702 yes, 275 no. There were 977 votes cast and 652 needed to approve.

Delegates were provided with electronic clicker devices for the election of four USBC Board members. They were informed there would be four rounds of votes on the first ballot to select the candidates. The delegates were instructed in the first round to vote for their first choice. After the votes were tabulated everyone was instructed to vote for their second choice, and so on. At the end of the four rounds the numbers from each round were tabulated for each candidate.

Darlene Baker, Mohomet, IL (795), Marci Williams, Wichita, KS (667) and Jo Dimond, Columbus, OH (530) were elected to the board. Candidates needed 488 votes for approval.

Anthony Colangelo, Middlesex, NJ, (360) was dropped from the ballot with the fewest votes and remaining candidates, Karen Jost, Alexandria, VA (436), Karl Kielich, El Paso, TX, (436) and Bill Vint, East Troy, WI (434) were the focus of the second ballot.

None of the candidates received the required number of votes for election with the following results; Bill Vint (423), Karen Jost (276) and Karl Kielich (274). Karl Kielich was dropped from the ballot having the fewest votes and the third and final ballot elected Bill Vint with 607 votes. Karen Jost received 359 votes.

The attendees were given an opportunity to ask the USBC Board of Directors questions during a "Town Hall" style session. Delegates and guests presented questions ranging from the "SMART" Scholarship Program to awards and rules issues.

President Darlene Baker gave closing remarks as she thanked the delegates and guests for attending the meeting. She thanked them for their dedication to the sport and the bowlers they represented. The 2011 USBC Annual Meeting was adjourned.

The week concluded with a celebration for the 2011 USBC Hall of Fame inductees on Friday evening. Attendees, friends and family could help them celebrate by attending a Hall of Fame Reception.

I would like to thank the Delegates at the Wisconsin State USBC WBA Annual Meeting for giving me the opportunity to represent them at the 2011 USBC Convention. It was truly an honor.

Pat Tebon, Delegate