

USBC 2009 Convention
Reno
April 29 – May 2, 2009

The theme of the 2009 Convention was trust and change. In his opening remarks, USBC President Jeff Boje stated that there has been a lack of trust not only between USBC and BPAA but also with the bowlers. We need to build a mutual respect and trust and trust the board to do the right thing.

USBC will develop more membership options and better use the state associations for education and communication. They feel they need better relationships with the people who have direct contact with the bowlers in the pits. New programs will be developed and the state associations will be paid by USBC to participate in those programs. A new BOWL.com will be rolled out later this year. You will be able to get to whatever you want in three clicks or less. It will include Social Networking where you can connect with other bowlers similar to MySpace or Facebook. Also, BowlTV has been added to Bowl.com. They will be adding video with coaching tips, tournament highlights and bowling history.

With the move to Texas and the turnover in staff, USBC seems to be hiring very capable young people who are on the leading edge in their fields. Their presentations in the workshops were very professional. They seem to have some good ideas and maybe with guidance from the veteran staff who made the move USBC will be able to move bowling into the future and grow the sport.

USBC is very concerned about the future of the Youth program. At the rate of decline in the past several years, 10% from 2008 to 2009, in 6 or 7 years they feel there will be no more certified youth. They have raised the dues but each bowler will receive a jersey with their certification. They are hoping this will create more visibility and more youth will want to certify. The awards program is being changed. The 300 and 800 rings are being brought back in a new design that the cost is less than what is allowed by the High School Associations in all states. They are also adding more patches and lowering the requirements to receive these patches. A patch can be earned by bowling 1 pin over their average which I feel is going a little overboard. There was much discussion in the workshops and in the convention on the fact that the board can change things for the youth without approval from the delegates. A by laws change would be needed to allow the delegates to vote on changes for the youth, which I feel will be submitted for next year's legislation.

The dues increase by-laws change was defeated along with the mandatory merger by Aug. 1, 2011. The state dues increase and creating an Executive Committee were also defeated. USBC says they will have to cut programs if the dues increase was not passed. They did not say which programs they were considering to make the cuts in. There was attempt to bring back legislation on the dues increase after the elections and many of the delegates had left convention to go home or bowl. After a motion was put on the floor by someone who voted against the increase, there was much discussion on the ethics of bring it back to the floor. Jeff Boje made a personal comment on his stance that it would not be trustworthy to bring it back to the floor when so many delegates had left thinking all the important stuff had been finished. The motion to reconsider failed. I think a lot of people gained a lot of respect for our president with him giving his personal opinion when passing the dues increase would have been in the best interest of USBC. Some of the associations who made comments on the merger stated that they felt the associations could not work together and if they were forced to merge, they would not certify.

The finals of the Queens Tournament was shown live on ESPN from the Reno Events Center and open to the attendees of the Convention. The Clash of Champions, which was taped to be shown May 9th at 4:00 on CBS Sports, was held again this year on lanes installed in the Reno Events Center for the competition and the Queens Finals.

A check for \$701,675 was presented to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure from The Bowl for the Cure events conducted nationwide.

Georgia State USBC WBA received a plaque for contributing the 4th highest amount to BVL for a state for the 2007-08 season with \$19,014.64. They have changed the deadline for contributions to May 31st, so you will need to get your money in earlier.

Hall of Fame Inductees included Wendy Macpherson, John Petraglia and Mark Roth in the Performance division. Gene Stus was inducted in the Veteran category while Tom Kouros and Lowell Rothschild were selected for Meritorious Service.

The Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow Award was presented to Ricki Williams of Wichita, Kan. and Chris Bardol of Brockport, N.Y. received the Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow Award. Both of them will receive \$1500 scholarships, renewable up to three years.

The Joyce Deitch Trailblazer Awards was presented to Tom Clark from Muskego, Wis. The Helen Baker Outstanding Association Volunteer Award went to Jean Tondola-Smith from Massillon, Ohio. Charles Kinstler, who purchases bowling center in Southern California that are in danger of closing, was named The Proprietor of the Year. The Kerm Helmer Horizon Award was given to Mike Nyitray from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Debbie Haggerty, from Citrus Heights, Calif... was selected as the David Dahms Coach of the Year Award. The USBC Youth Program Volunteer of the Year Award went to David Driscoll of Mount Dora, Fla. Kyle Mauerman from Tremont, Ill. was named USBC Youth Male Ambassador of the Year while Amanda Hollenbaugh from Tucson, Ariz. was named USBC Youth Female Ambassador of the Year. Each one of them will receive a \$1500 scholarship.

Elected to a three year term to the USBC Board were Libbi Fletcher, Tamoria Adams, Bob Klatt and Jay Nephew. Kyle Mauerman was named USBC Youth Ambassador representative to the USBC Youth Committee. Two current board members, Perry Daniels and Michael Carroll, were not re-elected and Linda Scott chose not to rerun.

The 2010 USBC Annual Convention will be held April 28 – May 1, 2010 in Reno, NV. The 2011 USBC Annual Convention will be held June 27 – July 2, 2011 at the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine, Texas in conjunction with Bowl Expo. Shuttles will take attendees to the International Bowling Campus so everyone will be able to see the new Hall of Fame and the new training facility.

There were 1362 members representing 412 local associations and 63 state associations in attendance with 1165 registered to vote.

Thank you for allowing me to represent the Georgia State USBC WBA at the 2009 Annual Convention and no I did not hit the jackpot!!!

Mary Ann Compton