

Thank a Veteran Today!

Although Veteran's Day isn't officially celebrated until November, the bowling community is constantly raising funds to support our VA hospitals nationwide.

The Bowlers to Veterans Link was founded in 1942 by a group of bowlers who wanted to help boost the spirits of our active duty troops. When World War II hostilities drew to a close, we made a promise to veterans recuperating in hospitals across the country: We won't forget your sacrifice.

Today, there is a national network of volunteers raising funds to continue this mission. BVL dollars pick up where government funding leaves off. The BVL purchases sports equipment; provides music and arts programs, sponsors holiday parties, and so much more.

Locally, the Metro Detroit USBC has supported BVL since its inception, and the Greater Detroit BA and Detroit WBA previously. The John Dingell VA Hospital in downtown Detroit takes veterans from the Day Center to Thunderbowl to bowl periodically. When they go, MDUSBC picks up the tab. Each Christmas season, we host a holiday luncheon at Thunderbowl and pass out gifts, and we even sang Christmas Carols last year! Then of course, they bowl, along with staff members from the hospital. They enjoy it so much.

This year, we are again trying to increase our contribution to BVL by selling raffle tickets during the month of October, which will coincide with the Michigan Lottery Daily 3 evening drawing. Each ticket costs \$10, and we hope to sell all 1000 numbers so that we can make our largest donation ever to our hospital. The money we raise here supports our VA Medical Center.

Please see one of the Directors to purchase a ticket when asked, or contact our office.

Again this year we are also reaching out to all of our certified leagues and asking them to pass an envelope one night or donate one night of their 50/50 to BVL. Thank you all so very much for your support last year which totaled nearly \$9000 from the Bowling Capital of the World! If your league wishes to participate, please pass the envelope and drop it in the MDUSBC bucket at your center to come to our office. It is so appreciated and so needed.

Are you employed by the government and can give to the Combined Federal Campaign? This program allows federal workers to support BVL as part of the

annual giving program, as well as through the USBC Honor Score Award program, permitting high score award winners to contribute what would have been the cost of their award to BVL. There are many ways to give, so please help out in any way that you can!

We will have the big “check” to present to the John Dingell VA Medical Center from last year’s fundraising from Metro Detroit which I am sure they will not believe their eyes when they see the generosity of our bowlers and supporters! The Michigan Bowling Associations stepped up last season as well! The past season due to the money raised in our state, Michigan was 4th in the nation for states contributing to BVL and were recognized at the USBC convention. Thanks to all of you!

We have nearly 70 bowling centers in our area; what if each one donated just \$100...it would help our VA hospital so much! The challenge is on, proprietors, please help!

I will represent BVL again this year at Arlington Cemetery for the Veteran’s Day services and I am honored to do so on behalf of all of you who support our VA Medical Centers and BVL. I will write about this year’s trip in a future article.

BVL donated a check to the VA Administration of over \$900,000 last year raised primarily by the bowling industry! Great job by all!

Let us not forget the freedoms we have been given by the men and women who have given so much!

Thanks to all who have served and are still serving....we salute you!

God Bless our Troops and God Bless the United States of America.

Libbi Fletcher

Together We Can....BRIGHTEN VETERAN’S LIVES

Metro Detroit USBC BVL Committee, Chair

BVL Committee