

All the bowling news that's fit to print in the Bowling Capital of the World



## VOL. 1, NO. 1

## NOVEMBER 2016 Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame Elects Four New Members



**Erica Ewald** 

The Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame Committee, a committee of the Metro Detroit USBC (MDUSBC), has elected four new members to its Hall of Fame and named three others for special awards. This will increase the number of hall of fame members to 260.

Erica Ewald of Oxford, Lauren Roberts of Warren, Mason Brantley of Detroit and Anthony Stipcak of Redford earned their place in the prestigious Hall. Greg Gumtow of Clarkston, Harry Burkey of Grosse Pointe Woods and the late Ely Rose will receive special awards.

Ewald has won five Detroit Women's Bowling Association titles. In 2001 she won the All-Events and Doubles and in 2002 Team, Singles and All-Events.

In 2012 she won the Michigan State USBC WBA Doubles.

She has seven All-City selections including captain in 2011.

Her high career average is 232 in the 2009-10 season and also boasts thirteen 300 games and four 800 series with an 826 high.

Roberts won the Metro Detroit USBC Queens in 2012 and the Detroit Women's Bowling Association Doubles in 2000.

In this issue

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Columns



Lauren Roberts

She also won a Rip 10/MDUSBC Women's Series event in 2012.

Her high average is 233 in the 2008-09 season. She has four 300 games and three 800 series with a 815 high.

Brantley won the Metro Detroit USBC Masters in 2011. He also has three local team titles (2003, 2015 and 2016).

Brantley won the Metro Detroit USBC Masters in 2011. He also has three local team titles (2003, 2015 and 2016).

Three times he's been named to the All-City team, being honored as captain in 2011.

Additionally he has three Michigan Majors titles and one PBA Regional title along with multiple top five finishes. He also has several other titles in various tournaments around the Midwest.

His high average is 246 in 2006-07. He has 66 certified 300 games and thirty-eight 800 series with 880 high.

Stipcak won the Greater Detroit Bowling Association Doubles in 1987. He also won two Michigan State Team titles with Ansara Big Boys in 1986 and 1994.

## Features

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**Mason Brantley** 

He has two Michigan Majors ttitles, was awarded Michigan Majors Bowler of the Year in 1987 and leading money winner. In 2014 he was inducted into the Michigan Majors Hall of Fame.

In 1990 he represented the United States in International competition earning a Gold and Silver medal and high qualifier in the finals as a member of Team USA. He also won titles in Lee Evans Tournament of Americas



**Anthony Stipcak** 

and tournaments in Ireland and the Netherlands.

His high career average is 232. He owns eight 300 games and three 800 series with 841 high.

He joins his wife Cheryl as only the third husband and wife team in the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame. The others being Dick and Geraldine Beattie and Tom and Bonnie McKay. (continued on page 3)

Keirns wins second MDUSBC Queens title



MDUSBC President John Vorpagel (c) congratulates MDUSBC Queens champion Michelle Keirns (r) and runner-up Sandra Schultz at Airway Lanes in Waterford.

See full story on page 3

Welcome to the Bowling Showcase News

## From the Editor Mark A. Martin **MDUSBC Association Manager**

Page 2



#### Dear Fellow Bowlers:

The Metro Detroit USBC is proud to present the Bowling Showcase News, a 12-page full-color monthly newspaper, which is available in all MDUSBC bowling centers.

The newspaper will be published through April 2017 and from September through April in the next season.

This publication is a result of the support from the MDUSBC Board (pictured below). If you see any of them in your bowling center thank them for their support of bowling. This serves as another example of your association leading the way.

The purpose of this publication is to communicate with bowlers in the Bowling Capital of the World and support the sport that we all love. Hence the tagline "All the bowling news that's fit to print in the Bowling Capital of the World".

I hope you enjoy our efforts and as always if you have comments or quese-mail tions me at mark.martin@mdusbc.com.

Sincerely, Mark Martin **Bowling Showcase News** 

Published by: Metro Detroit USBC 28200 Southfield Rd. Lathrup Village, MI 48076

(248) 443-2695

Web: www.mdusbc.com

Mark Martin, Editor

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## 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 \$7500 from the Bowling Capital of the World! This was actually down a bit from the previous year, so please consider donating from your league this year! 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. Let's hit the \$10,000 mark this year!

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 3<sup>th</sup> in the nation for states contributing to BVL and were recognized at the USBC convention. Thanks to all of you!

We have 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 also!

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.

And that's my Personal Perspective!!

Libbi Fletcher Together We Can.... BRIGHTEN VETERAN'S LIVES Metro Detroit USBC BVL Committee, Chair

Visit www.bowlforveterans.org for more information

## MICHELLE KEIRNS WINS MDUSBC QUEENS

2013 MDUSBC Queens champion Michelle Keirns of Holt remained in the winner's bracket on Sunday and defeated Hall of Famer Sandra Schultz of Macomb 269-248 to win the MDUSBC Queens at Airway Lanes in Waterford Township.



Keirns qualified third in the field of 34 and received a first round bye with a six-game total of 1,344 on games of 255, 235, 246, 193, 190 and 225. In match play she beat defending champion Shannon Rowe of Detroit 222-191, 2014 Queens champion Angela Wilt of Westland 205-197 and Kim Maddy of Utica 213-178 to advance to the championship match. She averaged 225.3 for 10 games of competition.

Schultz barely made the cut by four pins, qualifying 11th with 1,284 on games of 236, 223, 211, 227, 172 and 235. In match play she lost her first match against defending champion Shannon Rowe 238-213. Waiting for the next match she

went to the practice pair and made an adjustment, which helped propel her to win the next five matches. She reeled off wins over top qualifier Kathleen Bishop of Westland 265-194, Sarah Dorow of Midland 225-213, Nicole Harrison of Shelby Township 246-195, avenged the earlier loss to Rowe 244-173 and Kimberly Maddy 208-199. Schultz averaged 225.6 for 13 games.

Keirns took home the top check of \$1,000 plus a tiara pendent necklace compliments of Chinn Jewelry. Schultz settled for \$500.

Defending champion Shannon Rowe finished fourth for \$250.

Complete results are available at www.mdusbc.com under "Tournaments". The event was sponsored by Turbo 2-N-1 Grips and Chinn Jewelry.

## MDUSBC Women's Series Returns

The MDUSBC Women's Series has returned for the sixth season. The series will be a scratch event for women only.

Qualifying will be four games and match play will be single-game single elimination to determine a winner. The competition is expected to last less than four hours.

The entry fee is \$45 (\$50 if paid on site) and first place will pay \$500 based on 24 entries.

The first event will be Sunday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. at Mayflower Lanes in Redford.

In conjunction with the five events will be a season long "cup" competition, where all competitors will receive points for each event they participate in. The top player in points will receive \$500 and the top 15 will cash.

Other events are scheduled for Dec. 11; January 8; March 12; and April 9.

The MDUSBC / Rip 10 Invitational concludes the season on May 7, 2017 at Shelby Lanes.

Julie Oczepek of Reese is the defending Cup champion.

These events will be held regardless of the number of entries as we continue to support competitive women's bowling in the Bowling Capital of the World.

## Hall of Fame

(continued from page 1)

Greg Gumtow will be honored with the Thomas W. McKay Award for a lifetime of service to the sport of bowling.

Harry Burkey will receive the Judge Watts Award for making outstanding contributions to the promotion of bowling.

Ely Rose will receive the George Prybyla Industry Award resented for someone involved in the ownership or management of a bowling center that has contributed to the promotion of the sport.

Induction ceremonies will take place Sunday, Nov. 6, 2016 at DeCarlo's Banquet and Convention Center, 6015 E. Ten Mile Rd., Warren. Cocktails will be served at 4 p.m., dinner at 5 p.m. with ceremonies to follow. Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased through the MDUSBC office at (248) 443-2695 ext. 104.

Q. What does a bowler and a Thanksgiving guest have in common?A. They both want a Turkey.

Q. Why should a bowling center be quiet? A. So you can hear a pin drop!

## Michigan State Merger moving smoothly

## (Ann)ouncements Ann Block MDUSBC Director



In April at the USBC National Convention in Las Vegas the legislation for the non-merged locals and state associations to become merged become a mandate. This action must be completed by August 1, 2018. At the time of the vote Michigan was not a merged state. One of the hats I wear at this time is as a member of the merger committee for the Michigan State WBA. The committee has been meeting for some time and all aspects of the existing programs are on the table. Here are some details of the current progress.

The legislation had been on the agenda at the convention for several years. The margin for passing the amendment to the by-laws grew smaller every year. According to USBC By-Laws an amendment to them needs a 2/3rds approval vote. That margin of approval was met at the convention this past spring. This means the Michigan State BA, WBA, and Youth will become one association serving all facets of state bowling.

The three Michigan existing associations started having merger meetings last season before the vote. The state associations were against the merger vote at the convention. The feeling was that although many locals and states had successfully merged since 2006 merger, at the state level for Michigan this was not a good fit. Michigan has three very large state tounaments and the three associations had very successful programs for their members. Each association had a focus on their members. The leadership of the state associations are always looking towards the future and the future plans include merger. Being team players the current state board are committed to making the merger a smooth and efficient transition.

The merger committee meets every month with goals for each meeting. The target date for merger is set for August 1, 2018. The organizational meeting for the new Michigan State USBC is set for the first weekend after the holidays in 2018. The site will be in the middle of the state so anyone interested in being a part of the new Michigan State USBC Board will have a chance.

The attributes for a new board member should be a person with vision, a person with a worker bee attitude, and a person with a true volunteer spirit.

As more details for the new board and organization are decided they will be made available in various ways. All three existing associations will have information on their websites, social media posts, and in this column.

Until next time!

# How to pick up that pesky corner pin

Pro Tip Michelle Mullen USBC Gold Coach



The 3 keys to picking up the10 pin (7 pin for lefties) are angle, swing and ball reaction.

1. **Angle**. Stand far left on approximately board 35, with your target between the third and fourth arrows (a right-hander counts the arrows from right to left; a leftie, from left to right). Note: although there is always a dot on board 35 at the foul line, there may not be a dot on board 35 at the beginning of the approach.

Turn your shoulders to face the pin but walk *straight* to the foul line, with your shoulders open, to end on the same board you started on, to maintain your angle.

2. **Swing**. Keep your swing loose! Learn to relax and trust it. Trying to force the shot only makes you erratic. With a good angle, and ball reaction, you should not have to force the shot!



3.Ball Reaction. If you walk straight, your swing is loose and you hit your target, watch your ball as it heads toward the pin. Does it suddenly hook at the very end to miss it? If so, the problem is ball reaction. Achieve a different ball reaction by either changing your release or simply use a plastic ball that does not hook. Having a plastic ball for spares will be one of the best investments you will make in your game!

Before claiming that your problem of missing the corner pin is a mental one, check these 3 keys to be sure you are executing properly with good strategy.

For more on "Troubleshooting the Corner Pin Shot" and other tips, visit YourBowlingCoach.com.

## MICHIGAN STATE TOURNAMENTS CLOSING DATES FAST APPROACHING

The Michigan State USBC Women's Championship deadline is Jan. 11. The tournament will begin Feb. 18 at Bay Lanes and Monitor Lanes in Bay City.

The cost is \$25 per person per event and \$5 for optional all-events. Also available is the optional scratch division, which is \$5 per person per event.

For more information on reserved dates and times contact Michigan Women's Association Manager Sharon Schildroth at (616) 635-2032.

The Michigan State USBC Open Championship will begin Jan. 7 at Airport Lanes in Jackson.

The cost is \$25 per person per event and a cost of \$10 for all-events. The optional actual division prize list is \$10 per person per event.

Reserved entries are due by Nov. 26. While the bowling season seems to have just begun these deadlines are fast approaching to act today.

For information on reserved dates and times call MSBA Association Manager Richard Loughlin at (517) 788-9135 or cell (517) 914-5437.

Entry blanks for both tournaments are available in your local bowling center and also at the MDUSBC office.

## Veteran Broadcaster Dave LaMont Tabbed as New Play-By-Play Announcer for PBA Tour Telecasts

**CHICAGO, III.** – The Professional Bowlers Association and ESPN have announced that veteran play-by-play announcer Dave LaMont will join PBA's broadcast team at the start of the new ESPN-PBA telecast season that begins with the live finals of the PBA World Championship during the GEICO World Series of Bowling VIII in Reno, Nev., on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. ET.

LaMont joins PBA Hall of Famer and 13-time Tour winner Randy Pedersen, who returns for his 16th season as color analyst, and former Miss USA Kimberly Pressler, who returns in her role as sideline reporter, as ESPN's PBA broadcast team.



Metro Detroit USBC presents Bowling Showcase, a half-hour television show, airing on WADL-Detroit every Saturday at 10 a.m. and on mdusbc.com and YouTube.

Each month is a magazine show featuring bowling events around the Bowling Capital of the World. On the other weeks there is fierce competition through the Challenge series.

The next magazine show will air on Nov. 12, followed by three consecutive weeks of the Bowling Showcase Youth Challenge. There are four teams competing for the title. The teams are from the Blue Ribbon Bowling Group, Cherry Hill Lanes North, Mayflower Lanes and Oak Lanes. The format is a one-game Baker style scratch event with the losing team being knocked out of the competition.

Starting Jan. 7 sixteen adult teams will square off for the adult title with the championship match airing on May 13.

This show is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors, listed to the right. Please patronize them as they make it possible to produce and air the show. Tell them that you appreciate their support of the promotion of our sport.

#### Sponsors

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#### Bowling Showcase Challenge Teams Lew Ansara

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## Every Saturday at 10 a.m.

### Youth Challenge Teams

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#### Metro Detroit USBC Final Standings

2016 Adult/Youth Baker Tournament Sorted by Event, Division

Adult/	Youth Baker, Adult/Youth Baker, Handicapped	Actual		Handicap		Scholarship
Place	Team name	Score	Нсар	Score	From	Points
1	Gilbert, Johnny / Parker, Jonathan I	1,248	249	1,497	Detroit, MI	40
2	Lenz, Arthur A / Lenz, Aaron A	1,231	213	1,444	White Lake, MI	30
3	Schneider, Joshua M / Franz, Troy E	1,307	120	1,427	Commerce Twp, MI	20
4	Rutkowski, Joshua C / Leavitt, Brandon	1,207	216	1,423	South Lyon, MI	10
5	Walters-Wright, Sekeithia D / Wright, Tyler C	1,112	300	1,412	Eastpointe, MI	10
6	Knorp, Barney F / Knorp, James B	1,153	249	1,402	Livonia, MI	10
7	McCormick, Zachary E / McCormick, Matthew W	1,030	369	1,399	New Boston, MI	10
8	Wright, Anthony R / Taylor, Ronald	1,382	12	1,394	Detroit, MI	10
9	Lobato, Daniel R / Gauvin, Nicholas W	1,304	87	1,391	Brownstown, MI	10
10	Clayton, Kenneth D / Clayton, Drew T	1,112	258	1,370	Clarkston, MI	10
11	Felix, Anthony L / Thomas, Abery L, III	1,325	36	1,361	Clinton Twp, MI	10
12	Campbell, Nicholas / Campbell, John J, Jr	1,083	276	1,359	Wyandotte, MI	10



**BOWLING CENTER NAME (# of Lanes)** 300 BOWL (52) **AIRWAY LANES (32)** ALLEY 59 (24) **APOLLO LANES (14) ASTRO LANES (48) BEECH LANES (16) BEL-MAR II LANES (32) BELMAR LANES (16) BIDDLE BOWL (8) BONANZA LANES (44) BOWL ONE LANES (40) BOWLERO LANES (16) BRONCO LANES (32) CENTURY BOWL (52) CHERRY HILL LANES (52) CHERRY HILL NORTH (36) CLASSIC LANES (32) COLLIER LANES (32) COUNTRY CLUB OF DETROIT (6) COUNTRY LANES (32) DETROIT ATHLETIC CLUB (8) DRAKESHIRE LANES (40)** FERNHILL COUNTRY CLUB (12) **FIVE STAR LANES (50)** FORD LANES (24) **FRASER STAR LANES (16) GARDEN BOWL (16) GROSSE PTE YACHT CLUB (6) HARBOR LANES (20)** HARTFIELD LANES (52) HAZEL PARK BOWL (24) **IMPERIAL LANES (80) INDIAN LANES (32)** LAKESHORE LANES (16) LANGAN'S ALL STAR LANES (18) LUXURY LANES (16)

## Bowling Centers of the Metro Detroit USBC



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CITY	<b>ZIP CODE</b>	PHONE
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# USBC soliciting bids for 2022 Open Championships, 2021 and 2024 Women's Championships

11th Frame.com Jeff Richgels



The United States Bowling Congress is soliciting bids for the 2022 Open Championships, and the 2021 and 2024 Women's Championships, according to ads in SportsTravel magazine that were first noted by Keith Dumphy in his excellent Facebook page devoted to the Open Championships.

Although USBC has made no announcement I have seen, the Women's Championships solicitation indicates that the 2021 Women's Championships no longer is headed to Mobile, Alabama.

And the tournament page at BOWL.com confirms that with a listing for 2021 that says "TBD," or to be determined.

I have a query into USBC asking what happened.

USBC Executive Director later posted this on the Facebook thread off of this story:

"Before this one steams out of control on the guessing and transparency front. I'm not sure exactly what we were not transparent about. We have recently been sending out bid packets to perspective cities like we always do. Mobile was removed from our site when the decision was made and negotiated not to go there in 2021. Both the city and USBC parted on good terms. Mobile is a great partner. And to be clear, we opened conversations with them in the best interests of all concerned and they appreciated us doing it. Bowling centers gives us the opportunity to go to more cities that our bowlers want us to go to and so we opened up a date to do that as the consumers have asked for. It didn't warrant a press release as we worked hand in hand with the city and they plan to bid for future events and we hope to go there on another date which we are now prospecting for which is the proper time for more people to become aware. You guys are the same group that gets upset for no reason even though the transparency is right in front of you. You wait for Jeff to report it then complain we were not transparent when it's not something anyone really cared about until now. He saw it and reported it which is his job to do. It's funny, so many believe we are supposed to be the news as well as making it. I appreciate that but just like so many things, we make decisions, we operate our business and then someone reports on it when they care about which is what happens here. The transparency is in the document that has gone out to CVB's, sports commissions, some proprietors and is set to go out to all shortly as it has all been planned to do. We hid nothing. I mean, it's nice that you care about every detail but to say we were not transparent about this is a bit of a stretch knowing its all right in front of you. It's standard operating procedure, we just haven't done it in a while because of all the Reno and Vegas dates. If you will recall we created two of these openings by renegotiating with the city of Reno and Las Vegas to make room for some eastern destinations. Mobile was the next step. Also, it's what everyone has been clamoring for. A move from the west to more accessible, driveable destinations. We have now begun that search. As a close, anyone interested in having it come to their city, please feel free to give me a call and let's see if we can get the right people in the room."

My response was that "One also could easily say that if you announce going to a city in a news release you would announce not going as well." My 2013 story included the release — I also noted that Stu Upson was USBC ED then, not Murphy, and that the link for the USBC release in my story no longer works due to a BOWL.com upgrade since then.

For the Women's Championships, USBC states that "a minimum 48-lane center is required, with two centers of at least 48 lanes or one 60-lane center preferred. The host city is responsible for a tournament subsidy and facility enhancement fee of a minimum of \$600,000."

This story from 2013 at Alabama.com makes it obvious that the decline of the Women's Championships likely was the reason for Mobile not hosting.

Danny Corte, the executive director of the Mobile Sports Authority, said in the story that the "event is expected to bring 30,000 to 35,000 bowlers to the Port City between April and July 2021 and have an economic impact on Mobile of more than \$40 million. ... This event has been around since 1916 and give or take a few years around World War II, they have a solid history of bringing 30,000 or more to their event."

However, the Women's Championships has drawn 4,209, 3,768 and 6,123 4-women teams in the past three years, which ranges form 15,072 bowlers to 24,492 bowlers.

The Mobile event was to have been on a 48-lane build-out at the Mobile Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center where the 1994 Open Championships was held. That event drew 9,285 teams.

The story noted that no contract was signed, and the hosting fee was to have been \$650,000.

"The bad news is this event is eight years away," Corte said . "The good news is we have eight years to spread that payment out. We don't know what the final number is going to be, but we'll probably use several funding sources over the next eight years."

For the Open Championships, USBC seeks, among other things, "a minimum of 90,000 square feet for a 56-lane venue" and a "facility enhancement fee of \$1.5 million."

#### FUTURE HOST CITIES

**OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS** 

- 2017 Las Vegas
- 2018 Syracuse, N.Y.
- 2019 Las Vegas
- 2020 Reno, Nev.
- 2021 Las Vegas
- 2022 TBD
- 2023 Reno, Nev.
- 2024 Las Vegas
- 2025 Baton Rouge, La. 2026 - Reno, Nev.

#### WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 2017 Baton Rouge, La.
- 2018 Reno, Nev.
- 2019 Wichita, Kan.
- 2020 Las Vegas
- 2021 TBD
- 2022 Reno, Nev.
- 2023 Las Vegas
- 2024 TBD 2025 - Reno, Nev.

Source for host cities: BOWL.com.

# For more of Jeff Richgel's posts

## visit www.11thframe.com and subscribe

# Company Bowling Outings

## The Perfect Score for League, Casual and Infrequent Bowlers

Bowling, etc. Phil Goodman Figure 8 Networking



It's amazing how many ways people rate their bowling experience. Some people evaluate it by the number of pins knocked down while others focus on the amount of food and beverage consumed. A few consumers believe customer service and employee friendliness are the two most key elements. Many people, especially younger ones, tend to be awed by the number of arcade games, bumper cars, laser tag and escape rooms, go karts, redemption prizes, laser walls, and the many additional fun factors now found in bowling and family entertainment centers. Music, dancing, and glow light effects are the key to fun for many. The traditional league bowler will focus on lane conditions while the birthday party parents are always happy when the bowling center staff cleans up the mess instead of them. Networking and business groups are most happy when the audiovisual equipment ran smoothly during their meeting while the corporate event planner takes a deep breath after their event went well and everyone had a good time.

The point made in the opening paragraph is quite clear. Everyone who comes to the bowling center has the opportunity for a great time; no matter who you are. Serious bowlers do not lose focus after their party partners just threw a gutter ball because the time spent bowling is relatively the same. Unlike duffs on the golf course or nervousness on a high ropes course, the bowling ball returns at the same rate of speed right to you. No delays and no feeling guilty about holding the group back from fun.

After reading the first two paragraphs, one might conclude the only reason to bring companies/ groups to a bowling center is to meet the emotional, physical and social needs of everyone in the group; no matter their age, size, physical challenges, or individual preferences. This is only partially true. Bowling centers also offer economic and organizational advantages for company outings that few other venues have to offer. From an economic or financial standpoint, bowling centers have a price range from downright inexpensive in relative terms to country club pricing for amenities, whatever suits your needs. Pricing flexibility is based on day and time of the event as well as the specific bowling centers itself. Some bowling centers are very basic with the lanes, snack bar, banquet rooms, and simple audiovisual equipment. Other locations have boutique type arrangements with separate room, couch like seating, large screens, the most up to date technology, and first rate catering services. From an organizational perspective, there is no better venue than a bowling center. The rectangular shape of the bowling area allows hundreds of people to be in view of each other, Interaction among participants is inherently encouraged. The equipment needed is available for all ages and abilities inclusive of people with physical challenges. Last but not least, the weather is guaranteed to be good. A variety of company outing formats are noted below:

## Schedule your holiday bowling party with your local center today!!

Holiday Parties – This type of event is usually 2-3 hours and is typically scheduled during a weekday evening or weekend afternoon. Many companies include both the employees and family members for this event. Bowling, food, and party time in a banquet room are included with the holiday parties.

Team Building Events:

Corporate Type - Meeting time, award presentations, meals, bowling and other team building activities make up the components of this highly structured outing. The time frame is typically 1/2 day but can also be scheduled for the entire workday period. Bowling activities include traditional games, wacky bowling styles, team elimination bowling, Challenge the Boss (most exciting) game, and others. Additional activities include dance contests on the lanes, karaoke challenges, cheerleading competitions, arcade game tournaments, and much more.

Fundraising Events – Company fundraising events are on the rise. With the twofold purpose of helping others and building company spirit, many companies are seeking these opportunities. Bowling events are the perfect activity for everyone to participate. One corporation in Detroit raised in excess of \$100,000 in a single day event for a youth oriented non-profit organization. Amazing.

Networking/Sales Oriented Meetings – This type of meeting is designed to engage others for the purpose of building relationships and subsequent business within a two to three hour time frame. The event usually begins with a meal and followed up with a presentation. The remaining time is spent on the bowling lanes to discuss opportunities while engaged in a relaxing activity. In many situations, the event concludes with "striking" the deal.

In very simple terms, bowling and family entertainment centers rate a perfect score for company outings. For more information, contact:

Phil Goodman Figure 8 Networking C: (248) 210-3953 E: f8nLeaders@gmail.com

## 2004 ABC Tournament Team Champions Fred Bauss \* Kerry Kreft

## S & B Pro Shop

Located Inside BOWL ONE LANES 1639 E. 14 Mile Rd. in Troy

## (248) 577-0440

Monday - Friday 2-8 \* Saturdays 12-6 AMF - BRUNSWICK - COLUMBIA EBONITE - STORM - TRACK

DEXTER & LIND SHOES - KR BAGS Special Discounts for Youth Bowlers, Michigan Majors Mid States Masters, MJMA

FRED BAUSS - KERRY KREFT - JEN KREFT - BRAD SMYTH

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Detroit

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Bowling Showcase News

November 2016

## **MDUSBC 300 GamesAugust - September 2016** City

Joseph Tetreault Leandre Thomas James Deplanche Raymond Halstead Frederick Whitmore Vladimir Craycraft Daniel Jordan Leandre Thomas Frank Hoffman Richard Haist Bryan Winkel Kenneth DeGraaf Daniel Pollak Kyle King Terrance Bell Gerald Johnson Frederick Harrington Jr Altramese Webb Jalen White Brandon Henderson Lenard Jackson Jr Frederick Whitmore Dean Shipman David Schumacher Daniel Pollak Ronald Handlen Reginald Green Ronald Ellis Tyler Heaberlin James Holley Ji Norman Adams Troy Daniels Marland Gibson Kevin Katarzis Larry Franz Kevin Trumbull Paul Dalton Bobby Goike Darrell Olds Robert Slayden Jr Brandon Thompkins Kevin Wonch David Steele III Stephen Kerr Kristopher Langer John Dula James Williams Barry Grey Derrick Hill James Leslie Kevin Katarzis Daniel Schroeder Michael Tomiak Jacob Reid James Uelmer John Capo Michael Hunt Jody Riddle Scott Kujawa Ronald Ellis Graylen Wright Ronald Ellis an III

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# **Bringing the Kids Back to Bowling**

STRIKES ME By Bob Johnson Bowlers Journal International



Why does bowling struggle to attract the number of youth participants that it once did (like when I was a kid, and the 40-lane center where I grew up was wall-to-wall with kids on Saturday mornings)?

The total number of participants is one barometer, but does not necessarily paint an accurate picture of what's going on. That's because with only about half as many centers today as there were back then (the midto late-1970s), it only makes sense that the total number of bowlers would be down.

A more telling statistic would be the number of youth bowlers per lane, but that's a challenging figure to nail down because there are so many centers today that are focused on either family entertainment or selling adult beverages, to the exclusion of the sport. These facilities, for the most part, simply do not offer youth programs.

The really scary part of this equation is that when I was nearing the end of my junior bowling days, the population of the United States was 222 million. Today, it's estimated to be a hundred million more. That means we have around one-third more people, yet the youth bowling numbers have gone down. Way down.

Yes, there are pockets of success that bowling can point to with pride. Junior Team USA typically dominates whatever competition it enters. The Junior Gold Championships and the Teen Masters have become magnets for the nation's top youth bowlers. High school programs are flourishing in many states. But the bowlers for those programs and tournaments don't just magically appear. They have to come from somewhere, and it's the "somewhere" that has been disappearing from our sport. Without feeder programs offering fun and competition for the very youngest to those well into their teens — even the best programs eventually will cease to exist.

Some have said one problem is that bowling has become "invisible" to a significant portion of the population. There is a generation that was largely shut out from bowling because of the wall-to-wall leagues that once existed during the early evening hours. Those people now are parents, and many continue to believe that it's challenging to get a lane. Bowling is bottom of mind for them, and they have not introduced our sport to their kids.

As a result, we're now in danger of missing two consecutive generations — something that would have killed any sport that did not once have a player pool of more than 10 million from which to draw.

So what's really going on here? Many theories have been floated.

Some say the weekly league fee is too high. Well, I can tell you that my granddaughter's three-month football program costs way more — and all of it up front — than a full season of youth bowling.

Some say the bowling season is too long. That issue has been addressed by many, if not most, proprietors through the scheduling of multiple "short-season" leagues. Still others say the game has become too easy, and kids shy away from it because they prefer a challenge. I believe there's some merit to this argument, but it doesn't explain why so many kids are not giving bowling a try in the first place.

I decided to use that great arbiter of public opinion — Google — to see if it could provide any insight. In my completely unscientific research, I decided to simply Google the names of three sports, and then search them again with the word "youth" placed in front of them.

"Golf" yielded 1.2 billion results, while "youth golf" garnered only 4.39 million. "Soccer" brought 600 million results, while "youth soccer" generated 11.3 million. Now here's the interesting part: "Bowling" generated far fewer overall results, 220 million, but "youth bowling" produced 22.6 million — more than golf's and soccer's youth numbers combined, and a significantly higher percentage of the overall hits.

That tells me bowling actually is doing a pretty fair job of getting the word out about its youth component. It also tells me that we need to do a much better job of capitalizing on that statistic.

Bob Johnson is Editor of Bowling Center Management and Senior Editor of Bowlers Journal International. He has won more than 70 national writing awards over the course of his career. For Bowlers Journal subscription information, visit www.bowlersjournal.com.

	Senior Singles Open www.ssopen.org		
2	016 SCHEDULI	E	
DATE	CENTER	TIME	
11/19/16	5 STAR LANES	10 AM	
12/3/16	MERRI BOWL LANES (GRAND FINALS)	9 AM	
2	017 SCHEDUL	E	
DATE	CENTER	TIME	
1/7/17	THUNDERBOWL LANES	10 AM	
1/28/17	300 BOWL	10 AM	
2/25/17	IMPERIAL LANES	10 AM	
3/4/17	BONANZA LANES (SENIOR / SS)	10 AM	
3/18/17	WESTLAND BOWL	10 AN	
4/8/17	ROSE BOWL LANES - WINDSOR	10 AM	
4/29/17	ASTRO LANES	10 AM	
5/20/17	NOVI BOWL	10 AM	
6/3/17	OAK LANES (OVER / UNDER 50)	10 AM	
6/24/17	TOWN & COUNTRY LANES	10 AM	
7/22/17	WONDERLAND LANES	10 AN	
8/5/17	MERRI BOWL (NON CHAMPIONS)	10 AM	
8/26/17	WAYNE BOWL	10 AM	
9/23/17	SUPERBOWL LANES	10 AM	
10/28/17	PLAZA LANES	10 AM	
11/18/17	5 STAR LANES	10 AM	
12/2/17	CENTURY BOWL	9 AM	



# 2016-2017 SCHEDULE OF TOURNAMENTS & EVENTS

## **ADULT / YOUTH**

OCT. 2, 9, 2016 PLUM HOLLOW LANES, SOUTHFIELD

### MIXED

OCT. 22, 23, 29, 30, 2016 NOV. 5, 6, 12, 13, 2016 HAZEL PARK BOWL, HAZEL PARK

QUEENS OCT. 15-16, 2016 AIRWAY LANES, WATERFORD

SUPER SENIOR MASTERS NOV. 5, 6, 2016 THUNDERBOWL LANES, ALLEN PARK

YOUTH TOURNAMENT NOV. 6, 13, 20, 2016 DEC. 4, 11, 2016 CENTURY BOWL, WATERFORD

500 CLUB DEC. 4, 2016 MAYFLOWER LANES, REDFORD

MASTERS QUALIFYING - JAN. 21, 22, 2017 MATCH PLAY – JAN. 28, 29, 2017 BOWL ONE LANES, TROY

SENIOR MÁSTERS QUALIFYING – FEB. 11, 2017 MATCH PLAY – FEB. 12, 18, 2017 REGAL LANES, WARREN

## WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

FEB. 11, 12, 18, 19, 26, 2017 MARCH 4, 5, 11, 12, 2017 CHERRY HILL LANES, DEARBORN HEIGHTS

**OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP** 

FEB. 11, 12, 18, 19, 26, 2017 MARCH 4, 5, 11, 12, 2017 CHERRY HILL LANES, DEARBORN HEIGHTS

SENIOR TEAM MARCH 11, 18, 25, 2017 STERLING LANES, STERLING HEIGHTS

JUNIOR MASTERS MARCH 25, 2017 WOODHAVEN LANES, WOODHAVEN

> WOMEN'S SERIES NOV. 20, 2016 MAYFLOWER LANES, REDFORD

> > DEC. 11, 2016 REGAL LANES, WARREN

JAN. 8, 2017 SUPER BOWL, CANTON

MARCH 12, 2017 MAYFLOWER LANES, REDFORD

APRIL 9, 2017 FORD LANES, DEARBORN HEIGHTS

> MAY 7, 2017 – RIP 10 INVITATIONAL SHELBY LANES, UTICA