



CHANNEL CHATTER

ILLINOIS WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION



VOL. XXII NUMBER 1

September 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Some of us freeze up if anyone mentions strategic planning. In his book "The Board Members Guide to Strategic Planning" author Fisher Howe provides, a hand on guide to strategic planning. The following is just a few comments from his book:

"An organization undertakes strategic planning to reaffirm or to modify its mission – why it exists, what its purpose is, and what it now does – and to agree on its vision – what it wants to be and do in the coming year. Strategic planning need not be more; it must not be less. Strategic plans need not be long, but they also should not be too brief.

In nonprofit organizations it is the board's job to see that planning takes place and it is done well".

As we continue our transition to USBC, the state and local board of directors must become involved in strategic planning. We can do it!

Along with you I'm looking forward to a great 2005-06 bowling season.

Be sure to add Fun to your bowling game!

Thought: Go as far as you can see, and when you get there, you will see farther.

Madeline Dotta, President

2006 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The following will be inducted into the IWBA Hall of Fame on February 19, 2005

Outstanding Bowler, Lee Abt, Chicago WBA
Meritorious Service - Marty Gleen, Champaign-Urbana WBA
Member of the Year - Myrt Stauche, Waukegan WBA

Marlene Coffman, Chairman Hall of Fame Committee

MC HENRY COUNTY HALL OF FAME

The McHenry County Bowler's Association will be celebrating its Second Annual Hall of Fame Induction on September 17, 2005.

The festivities will be held at D'Andrea Banquet & Conference Center at 4419 Northwest Highway in Crystal Lake. Cocktails at 5:30, Dinner 6:30 p.m. and awards presentation to follow. Ticket price is \$25.00 per person.

For information and purchase contact Mary Peacock at 815 568 3319 by September 1.

Inductees are Michael D. Murphy for Superior Performance; John Brockhaus Sr. In Memorium

Lois McCarry for Meritorious Service and Joanne Morris for Meritorious Service

Submitted by Marlene Bockmann

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

As the new bowling season begins, there is lots of change going on with local associations and the state organization.

As of September 12, 2005 the Illinois WBA office is moving to a new location at Unit 22, 1224 Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, Illinois. We have been told that the phone numbers will remain the same as will the fax number. E-Mail will not change.

I have notified all of the association managers about the awards program and have mailed new forms to each of you. Elsewhere in this publication is a news item concerning the awards. A request is being issued that the awards be sent to the state office in a timely manner so that the bowler is not penalized and will receive their award in a relatively short period of time.

The Board of Directors are working on the bylaws, strategic plan, and other matters pertaining to the new USBC. The bylaws will be presented at the annual meeting in February at Springfield, Illinois.

Credential forms and the nomination forms have all been mailed to each association, if you haven't received them as of this date, please contact the office.

Remember that Achievers are not born, they are made

Earlene M. Nelson, Secretary

IWBA 2005-2006 REVISED LEAGUE AWARDS

As the 2004-2005 season has ended and all award applications were received in the IWBA office, the IWBA has revised its league awards for the 2005-2006 season based on the July 31, 2005 ending inventory.

In league, IWBA will continue with the 150 pins over average in a series award (one per season), the 275-297 game award (one per lifetime), and the 675-699 series award (one per lifetime). The high game and high series in your local association will continue as in previous years. None of these awards are duplicated by USBC.

During the state tournament, 300 games will be awarded a crystal clock. An 800 and over series will be awarded a crystal pin.

I would like to report that during the last week of July, three associations sent in 32, 57 and 94 pages of award applications. Secretaries or Association Managers, please send your reports, report of membership, and awards application forms to the office in a timely manner. Not only do you create a work overload for the IWBA office staff, you also do your membership a disservice

Submitted by Melinda Calvert, Treasurer

IBA/IWBA STATE SENIOR TOURNAMENT

Entries are coming in slowly but surely for the 2005 State Senior Tournament. This year's tournament is being held at the Four Seasons Bowling Center in Freeport, IL.

Reservation dates and times are filling up fast. Please remember that the reservation deadline date is in September but the actual closing date of the tournament is in October. Entries were mailed last May to all houses and to all those who submitted entries last year.

We have received notification from USBC that the National Tournament will be held in March of 2006.

More information will be available at the tournament site.

For more information on this year's tournament, feel free to contact me by telephone at 217-753-1857.

Melinda Calvert, Tournament Manager

"DUES FOR THE ILLINOIS USBC WBA"

The Illinois Women's Bowling Association submitted its letter of intent to charter as an unmerged association of the United States Bowling Congress. The process has resulted with a name change to the Illinois USBC WBA. However, the entire process of chartering is not complete.

Because the process is not complete, state dues for members for the 05-06 season remain at \$2. Once the process is complete, dues will be reduced to \$1 for the 06-07 season. Even though some changes are taking place, and the state association has to prepare for a reduction in dues, there still are benefits available for members. Even with some changes, the state will continue providing awards for certain achievements, which is only one of the benefits provided.

The new design of the membership card has caused some confusion for female members of local associations that have decided to merge and mixed leagues of unmerged associations. Some members are receiving a message the state tournament is the only benefit of being a member of the state association, so if one doesn't bowl in the state tournament, then save money and join the men's state association. This can drastically affect the Illinois USBC WBA.

Through the strategic planning process, the state association is evaluating many changes to meet the requirements of the USBC charter. If membership decreases due to this confusion, the reduction of state dues received, coupled with the per member reduction the following year, may result in more services or benefits being eliminated or keep new programs from being initiated.

As local association leaders, please encourage your members to continue their relationship with the Illinois USBC WBA regardless if they bowl in the state tournament or not. Better yet, why not encourage more members to participate in the state tournament, after all, it is a benefit of membership.

MAIL IS BEING RETURNED:

Ladies, it would be very helpful if whenever you move or have any type of address change, you notify the Illinois WBA Office as well as your local utilities, credit cards or magazine companies. We have a lot of mail returned and it is very expensive to mail to an inactive address when one letter would take care of the address change.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

AURORA WBA

The Aurora WBA 600 Bowling Club is ready for the 2005-06 bowling season. The tournaments for this year have been scheduled.

October 29th a Mixed Scotch Doubles at Parkside Lanes

January 21st a Mixed Scotch Doubles at Valley Bowl

April 9th the Annual Singles Tournament, Luncheon and Annual Meeting. Bowling Center to be announced at a later date.

The Club Doubles Tournament was eliminated this year due to lack of participation.

The Annual Meeting has been held and the following officers and director were elected. President Dorella Wilson, Sgt-at-Arms Judy Lynd and 1st Director Paula Paradis.

Submitted by Sally Miller, 600 BC Secretary

BLOOMINGTON WBA

The Bloomington USBC WBA is getting ready for another bowling season. The joint Bloomington USBC WBA and BBA workshop was held on July 27 at the Public Library Meeting Room with 60 people in attendance. Supplies were distributed for the 2005-06 bowling season. The Bloomington USBC WBA -BBA Hall of Fame dinner will be held on October 8th at the Elks Lodge. Tickets may be obtained from the Bloomington USBC WBA and BBA Board Members. A joint senior tournament will be conducted on October 8 and 9 at Pheasant Lanes. The Bloomington USBC WBA Association Tournament will be held the first two weekends in November at Twin City Lanes. All in all this fall we have a very busy schedule planned for our bowlers and board members.

Submitted by Earlene Nelson, President

DECATUR WBA

We're bubbling over with good news. We are really proud of the fact that Tammy Jones broke the national record of most 300 games in a season. Tammy shot eleven (11) 300 games during the 04-05 season; including two in the men's City Championship tournament. The previous national record was held by Altramese Webb, Detroit, 02-03. Breaking records is nothing new for Tammy; however, this might be her most satisfying national record since it showcases her individual skills. In 1999 Tammy was a member of a 3-woman team that broke the national record for highest single game of 855 (prior record was 803). In 2001 Tammy set an all-time high tournament record of 815 in the IWBA Championship Tournament.

As for the rest of us, we're proud that we broke our previous record by collecting \$1455.91 for BVL during the 04-05 season, not to be overshadowed by another record of raising over \$2,000 for Relay for Life on July 25th.

We have our sights set on breaking an all-time high attendance record at our Fall Membership meeting on Sept. 19th. We will need 121 members to show up and we're working hard to make that happen. Marlene will surely let you all know if we are successful in this attempt.

Everything we do breaks a record; if not in results, at least in effort. We're proud of the record breaking spirit in both categories thanks to efforts of board members and many volunteer that make these things happen!

We just can't wait for the next record to fall!

Submitted by Vivian VanderBurgh, Publicity Chairm

JOLIET AREA USBC WBA

She bids us a fond farewell

Mary Jane retires: Herald News bowling writer of 56 years will give the keys a rest

Well, sports fans, the time has come to sign off. Not to say good-bye because I know we'll not lose the bond that has tied us for all these years.

For over 56 years, I've had the privilege of serving as a conduit to the news of our sport. But, the pipes are getting a little rusty and I have to re-route them now.

I'd like to thank the *Herald-News* and Dick Goss for the opportunity to address you this last time and for the support and space bowling news has been afforded. The staff I've had the pleasure of working with includes Dick, Don Hazen, Ray Strappazon and Bob Draskowski. We're very fortunate to have had such award-winning teams producing our news in the Joliet area. Thanks, too, to Randy Chapman, the current publisher, for all the courtesies.

Many bowling centers have come and gone over the years. And our proprietors of these centers have not only provided us the homes for our games, but have been enthusiastic fans themselves. Thanks to you all, past and present. I believe that the first lanes in the area were in what are now two homes on South Raynor Avenue. Remember Jahneke's, Bowl-Era, Washington Lanes, and, of course, Rivals Bowl? I've been proud to serve on the local, state and national organizations. In particular, the WIBC and IWBA boards. And, my heart has always been and always will be with the JAWBA. I've also admired the parade of Hall of Fame installations. Many great accomplishments have been achieved and acclaimed and will continue to be so under the new USBC.

My heartfelt thanks to the bowlers, readers, workers and bowling fans who helped perpetuate bowling and its news throughout the greater Joliet area. I wish I could personally thank you all.

There have been many local bowling greats – those who have done so much for the sport – that I've had the privilege to know over the years: Helen Brown, Lena Gurnic, Jim Stefanich, Mickey Spiezio, Cliff Tolle, Bill Stukel, Maybelle Cooling, Dane Walker, Don Jahneke, Cindy Kontos, Patti Schultz, Nikki Lunsford, Libby Hall and Barbara Smith, among MANY others. And, I must remember especially our recently departed first secretary of the Joliet Women's Bowling Association, Gladys Hardy.

As in all sports, our patient families cheer us on, keep us focused and put up with our noisy sport. And, all in the background. My love goes to Stanley for all his love, coaching and support, and to my kids for the late-night typewriter banging and deliveries of columns to the downtown Herald News building, sometimes in their jammies in the days gone by.

As for me, I'll still be your biggest fan. Strike on, you bowlers!
– *Mary Jane Sporar has retired after more than 56 years writing about her love, bowling in the Joliet area.*

PEORIA WBA

Neither high gas costs or high temperatures could slow down some board members from taking to the highway to pick up trash or sometimes treasures. This project is done four times a year rain or shine. A workshop was held Aug 2nd for new secretaries and on Aug 3rd a joint workshop was held with the men for shall we say "seasoned" secretaries and league officers to get their supplies & go over the new USBC information.

Membership development entered a team in the Relay For Life in June and they raised approximately \$1300 for cancer research.

Peoria proudly announces that Ann Brown will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in Nov for Meritorious Service. Congratulations Ann.

Peoria invites you to check out our website and say hello www.geocities.com/peoriawba

Peoria Publicity Committee

ROCKFORD WBA

The Greater Rockford Bowlers Hall of Fame Dinner and Dance will be held NOVEMBER 12, 2005, at the Tebala Shrine Temple located - 7910 Newburg Road, Rockford, IL. Cocktails ~ 5:30, Dinner ~ 6:30, Ceremonies ~ 7:30 with Dancing to follow. Reservations are requested at least a week before and can be made with Jan Welsh at 815-964-6477 or with Shorty Servin at 815-398-4664. Cost of the ticket, \$25.00 per person. As of today, the guest speaker has not been finalized.

Submitted by Toria Funderburg, Rockford and Belvidere WBA.

SPRINGFIELD WBA

The Springfield WBA is very busy this fall getting ready for all of you to come to Springfield for the 77th Annual Meeting and Tournament.

Our Hall of fame is October 8th at the Northfield Center. Tickets are \$15.00 and may be secured by contacting Lisa Bumgardner, President of the SWBA

Melinda M. Calvert, Springfield WBA

TWENTY YEAR CLUB LUNCHEON

The IWBA 20 Year Club will hold its Annual Meeting and Luncheon, February 19, 2006, at the Springfield Downtown Hilton. All current members will receive a copy of the 2005 minutes and their invitation in a December mailing.

Please make sure that I know of any name changes or address changes prior to December. After we make our reservations with the Hilton, normally the Wednesday prior to the luncheon, the IWBA is responsible for that number of paid luncheons. I do know that the mail is not always reliable, but it is extremely hard to add people after the deadline unless we have last minute cancellations. If you say you mailed your return reservation and I do not have it, the only way I can work you into the luncheon is if someone cancels at the last minute. People that are just "no shows" after making a reservation, are responsible for the luncheon dinner price.

We look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible in Springfield.

Melinda M. Calvert, 20 Year Club Chair

INVITATIONS FOR WORKSHOPS

The 2006 IWBA Workshop will be held in the Kankakee WBA area on July 22, 2006

A form was included in the mailing for Presidents and Secretaries for inviting the Illinois USBC WBA Workshop for the year 2007. If your association is interested in inviting this workshop complete the form and mail to the Illinois USBC Office in Bloomington..

ATTENTION PRESIDENTS:

It is time to appoint your publicity chairman - information should be sent to the IWBA Office. A complimentary copy is sent to all reported publicity chairmen. Also it would be helpful if those publicity chairmen would send an article concerning the activities of your association to the IWBA office so it could be included in the next publication of the Channel Chatter.

The articles submitted by Publicity Chairmen, may be submitted via the e-mail address if they so desire, but it must be submitted in Microsoft Word or typed as a part of the body of the e mail .

Calendar of Events for IWBA and Associations around Illinois during the months of September to December

Bloomington Hall of Fame on October 8, Elks Club
Springfield Hall of Fame on October 8, Northfield Banquet Hall

IWBA - IBA Senior Tournament - Freeport, IL - October 29, 30, November 5, 6, and 12, 13, 2005

Decatur Hall of Fame, October 15, 2005 at the Holiday Inn
Rockford Hall of Fame, November 12, at the Tebala Shrine Temple

Peoria Hall of Fame, November 19, at Ramada Convention Ctr.

Illinois Women's 600 Bowling Club

The Illinois Women's 600 Bowling Club's annual tournament will be held on October 1, 2, and 8, 2005 at the Kingpin Lanes Springfield, IL. The squad times are 1:00pm and 3:00pm on Saturdays and 10:00am and 12:00pm (noon) on Sunday.

The annual dinner/meeting will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at the Northfield Inn Springfield, IL. The Springfield 600 Club will be hosting our tournament and dinner/meeting this year. Entries to the tournament and dinner/meeting reservations have been mailed. You must be a member of the Illinois Women's 600 Bowling Club to bowl in the tournament or attend the annual meeting. For more information you may contact Donna Schmidt, 2403 W. Barker, W. Peoria, IL or call at (309)673-3850. You can email Donna at djschmidt5@insightbb.com.

Donna Schmidt, Illinois Women's 600 Bowling Club
Tournament Director

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As local association leaders, please encourage your members to continue their relationship with the Illinois USBC WBA regardless if they bowl in the state tournament or not. Better yet, why not encourage more members to participate in the state tournament, after all, it is a benefit of membership.

*A gossip is like an old shoe,
its tongue never stays in place*

Tributes to Mary Jane Sporar

Mary Jane Sporar just kept rolling along

The issue: Mary Jane Sporar has retired after writing a bowling column for 56 years.

We say: She did a great job for a great sport.

Our View

Hopefully not lost among the Labor Day barbecues and other traditional end-of-summer activities was the end of the line for a local legend.

Mary Jane Sporar retired her bowling column that day after a 56-year run, 54 of those in *The Herald News*. She chronicled the evolution of smokey bowling alleys such as Jahneke's and Rivals, to the current "bowling centers" complete with light shows and music.

Her columns focused on the local big names such as Jim Stefanich and Bill Stukel, and some of the not-so-familiar. Maybe even you appeared in her column after rolling a high series or two, or were skillful and/or lucky enough to throw a 300-game. Mary Jane made sure you got the attention in the newspaper you deserved, even if that meant calling our sports department when the pages were about to roll themselves.

But, bowling at one time was one of the most familiar games and sports in America. To say, everybody bowled would not be much of an exaggeration – at least not when referring to the large middle class of America.

Together with another legend – WJOL's Don Ladas – Mary Jane has to be heartened at what she helped create nationally. The bowling alley of the 1950s through the 1970s was just a regular place for friends to meet after work, families to gather for an evening, or the community to get to know each other a little bit better because there were so many people to see. Maybe you would see someone like Ralph Kramden or Ed Norton.

Today, many people wander into bowling centers for the first time in years to bring their children to a birthday party. Bowling has become a popular venue, whether it's for kids to have a school outing, or for adults to throw a party.

Many groups, most notably Big Brothers Big Sisters, include bowling as one of their main annual fundraisers. For some, those events might spur, or rekindle, more than just a passing interest in the sport.

While bowling at its best is a challenging sport, most anyone can bowl. And if one doesn't consume too many beers or snacks, it's actually quite healthy to lift a weighty plastic orb and toss it a couple dozen or so times down an alley after a short sprint. More importantly, it's a nice way to meet other people.

Mary Jane Sporar met many people in her lifetime. And she chronicled their strikes and gutterballs, both in the lanes and in life.

We've been privileged at *The Herald News* to have Mary Jane share the news about our area's bowlers for so long.

Mary Jane, we'll miss you here, your late-night, last-minute calls and your earnest and passionate words about the sport you so love. We wish you well. And, we'll paraphrase the last words of your last column:

Strike on, Mary Jane Sporar.

– *The Herald News*

Dedication defines Mary Jane

Bowling coverage: She went above and beyond because she cared so much

I probably should have known this day was coming. But somehow, in my mind, Mary Jane Sporar defined infinity. She would be the bowling writer for *The Herald News* forever, and that was that.

The members of the local bowling community who loved her work – and even those who did not always see eye-to-eye with her – would have to agree Mary Jane's brand of dedication comes along maybe once in a lifetime.

Can you imagine, 56 years of pumping out weekly columns, getting other news to us at *The Herald News*, making sure all the bowling establishments had the forms they needed to get their scores in the paper – and often, delivering the completed forms here herself.

If all there was to her job with *The Herald News* were to sit down at the typewriter or computer once a week and bang out a column, that would have been one thing. But when it came to promoting her sport, Mary Jane wanted nothing short of the best.

That's why she worked so diligently at getting the scores here, why she let me know when we slipped behind in getting scores in the paper, why she constantly made late-night phone calls to our office to make sure the latest 300 game or 800 series got its rightful and timely publicity.

That love for her sport also is the reason she spent so much of her time serving with local and national bowling associations. And why she put in so much time to make sure local kids had opportunities to bowl, learned the proper techniques and etiquette and were cited for their accomplishments.

Mary Jane has won scores of awards through the years for her writing and her service to the bowling community. I would not be surprised if more awards came her way in the near future.

Her work and dedication certainly was not lost on our community in general. In 1995, the Joliet/Will County Project Pride Hall of Pride chose four new inductees, including two from the sports arena.

One was Gordie Gillespie.

The other was Mary Jane Sporar.

What does that tell you?

What it tells me is we had one terrific lady taking care of our bowling beat for 5? decades. But alas, the time has come for her to move on.

Jean Johnston, known well to the local bowling community, will be taking over the chores of a weekly column in the immediate future. Local bowlers will get their news published as they have in the past.

But what Mary Jane did for our bowling community since 1950, that can never be erased, never be forgotten. She is one of a kind, and we were so fortunate to have her.

Take it easy, Mary Jane. You deserve it.

You're the best.

– *Sports editor Dick Goss (dgoss@scn1.com) can be reached at (815) 729-6092.*

– *Published with the permission of the Herald News*

NON SMOKING SQUADS AT IWBA STATE TOURNAMENT.

2ND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL AND MAY

FIRST SQUAD OF EACH EVENT ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION:

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*To do nothing for fear of making a mistake
could be the greatest mistake you make.*
