



THE ELEVENTH FRAME

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER , November 2023
The governing body of wheelchair bowling with the USBC
AWBA.org



From Our AWBA Chairperson, **Eddy Hutchens**,
I am wishing you all a very Happy Holiday Season.

We had a great year of Tournaments with lots of fun as we celebrated our Bowling Family get-togethers. Unfortunately, I will not be attending the Las Vegas Bowling Tournament; I am getting work done on my hand and elbow so it can heal over the Holidays.

We just held our 62nd AWBA National Tournament in Ft. Worth, Texas. Despite the smaller turn-out of bowlers, it was a great time with some great bowling happening throughout the week! Gary and his Tournament staff did it up right for us and I am very thankful. This year we not only held the Nationals but we did it in Memory of Lucky Beam's passing. He will be greatly missed by our entire organization.

With that being said, we are now actively searching for the home of our 63rd National Championship. If you have any interest, please contact me asap. You will get all the help you need from your AWBA's Board of Directors. A lot of the fund raising is already done for you so please give it some thought.

Our 64th National Tournament will be held in the Chicago Illinois area. This event sounds like a late May to early June tournament. Kenneth and Johnny will most definitely put on a great event.

As the year comes to an end, I want to send out a huge thank you to our sponsor, Storm. Storm has been with us for many, many years and we are very thankful for that. The AWBA was very sad to hear of the passing of Storm's Co Founder Bill Chrisman. He inspired so many in the bowling community and he will be dearly missed by all. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bill's Wife Barbara, as well as the entire Storm Headquarters Family. Unfortunately, the AWBA was not able to attend Bill's Memorial in Las Vegas. We regret that immensely.

The AWBA would also like to thank, I am Bowling, BPAA, USBC as well as the many others for helping make the AWBA who we are today.

As always, your BOD's are always here to hear your thoughts and help in any way we can. We are here for you, it is your organization so let us know where we can make your tournament experience's better.



Frank Goebel, Secretary

It wasn't what was expected, but **together we made it work.**

I spent considerable time improving our scoring spreadsheet for our tournaments. Elements of this first appeared at the Vaughan (Romeoville) tournament in May, things were more developed for the Mid Atlantic (Short Pump) tournament in September, and many things were put together for our recent National (Fort Worth).

While there are still ways in which I wish to continue improving things, I was generally happy with how things worked out in October. Mathematically, the Match Play segment for the Scratch division worked, although I wish I'd asked a few additional questions beforehand. Lessons were learned all around, as follows.

Still, me sitting with the eight qualifiers, we looked at what I produced and found that we could adapt it to work. Many of us voiced an opinion in one manner or another, but nobody was particularly stern, and everyone had the aim of having things be workable. I was quite happy to be a key part of that group—we all maintained our status of being mature adults and were content in the end. As things progressed, I was made aware of how some things had been previously done. And this is just one of several ways I will continue improving this as we work towards the next AWBA National, wherever that may be.

Together, we made it work.

I've mentioned that I have twenty years of experience as a league secretary. Of note, I did a league that had weekly Brackets contests going, and there were always some bowlers that wanted to be paid instantly and would badger me while I was entering scores, reviewing subs, and checking points results. But at our National, despite me doing my work in plain sight, I was impressed in how everyone pretty much left me alone to do the scores entry that I would have to do, and I wasn't bothered much at all. I mentioned this to a few folks, and they suggested that I was rather prompt, and I was grateful for that sentiment. But I really must take that further—it wasn't that I was speedy, but that I was trusted by the bowlers to produce proper results.

And it's that trust for which I am truly grateful to every AWBA member, whether one attended the 2023 National, or will be part of future AWBA events. When I talk about these tournaments with my local league bowlers or with non-bowling family and friends, I share with them that I feel trusted by you, our members. I may repeat this incessantly, but as always, I do not take this trust or respect for granted. If anything, I hold that same trust and respect for all of you as you cross the lanes with me or speak with me on any topic.

I stated this in my previous article, and I will repeat it again: When I congratulate another bowler, whether an opponent, partner, teammate, or fellow entrant, it's because they've been successful in knocking down pins. And I stress that it's the pins that are all that we should seek to fell, not each other. There are too many negatives in life as things are, to bring any ill will into our gatherings. I pledge to continue that mentality in all that I do, whether on display or behind the scenes.

Finally, I'm happy to report that I've already received a few high score submissions from bowlers. I recommend that as soon as you have that "big night," be it a new personal high score or something relatively high for you, let me know about it right away. Tell me about it when you and your league members are freshly happy about whatever accomplishment it may be, even if it's not necessarily a high score, but some other accomplishment, like the conversion of an intricate split, a new string of strikes or spares, a clean game or series, an all-spares game, or success in a local tournament where you are the only wheelchair participant. It's a lot easier to do it right after it happens, than trying to do a season recall in April about something that may have happened in December.

Together, we'll make it work.



AWBA bowlers and their families from around the country gathered in Ft. Worth, Texas to participate in the 62ND AWBA National Championships held at Cityview Lanes. Bowlers came from all 4 corners of the United States to compete, renew friendships, develop new ones and all left with a feeling of accomplishment and great satisfaction. The week began with the Board of Directors meeting where your board spent most of the day reviewing proposals and putting in place rule changes that will make the organization better.

Bowling competition got started on Tuesday with the Nelson Welker Doubles Championship and history was made as the first 2 women won the doubles championship. Gina Jenkins and Pam Fountaine, 2 new women members, bowled extremely well to take the title in a very close match. Congratulations to both for placing their names in the history books. Tuesday afternoon the Al Uttecht Tournament of Champions was held. The Scratch Division was won by Shawn Beam and the Handicap Division was won by Stephen Smith. Congrats to both. Wednesday the Team competition was held with 12 teams. The Team Champions were Gabe Diaz Deleon, Gary Poole, Kevin Schaefer. Wednesday night we held the social at City View with great food and good times had by all.

Thursday Opening ceremonies were held honoring Lucky Beam. The 62nd was dedicated to Lucky for all of his support to the members of the AWBA for many years. Lucky was awarded the BILL HART SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD and was presented to his son Shawn Beam. He expressed his thanks to the AWBA and gave further in-cite to his dad. Then the AWBA bowlers took to the lanes to begin singles competition. The first two sets were a challenge as the lanes were difficult for some to read and adjust to. With 6 new members of the AWBA competing this year, it was enjoyable to watch as they overcame nerves and the competition itself. The house shot we faced for 4 days was more than fair and while it gave some a great deal of trouble, many great scores were bowled by all divisions. Friday saw the continuing of Singles competition with the 3rd and 4th sets. Friday night the up/down was once again, huge success with 26 teams and were join 8 members from the USBC. It was a fun filled night with lots of people having a wonderful time.

Saturday saw the final set of Singles competition being conducted and the pin count in all divisions was very close. In the "B" Division roll off, John St Andria, new bowler, defeated a new bowler, Taylor Nichols.. St Andria then moved on to face Pam Fountains with John victorious. ST Andria took on Jenniner Hooten with John moving on to face High Qualifier Kavin Monroe. John was the winner, 224-208, winning his first National Title. In the "A" Division, Mike Tucker took on Chris Murphy with Murphy outlasting Tucker to take on Mike Marcheskie. Mike prevails to take on Rick Mahaney. Mahaney prevailed to take on High Qualifier Gary Poole. In the in Gary won out to capture his 1st National "A" Division title 222-218. Finally, in the Scratch Division, Jason Nelson took on AWBA Chairman Eddy Hutchens with Jason coming out victorious. Jason then faced Shawn Beam with Shawn beating Jason. Shawn then took on David Nelson with David showing Shawn the door and ready to take on High Qualifier George Holscher. In the end David came out the winner and the 2023 National Scratch Champion and winning his first National Title. Congratulations goes out to all our winners in all categories. Saturday evening, we held the Awards Banquet at BILLY BOBS where we had a great meal and wonderful time with friends.

On the individual awards, Jennifer Hooten won the Alma Ludwig Award, John Kellner won the Senior Championship. Jennifer Hooten won the Buddy Cole, and Luck Beam won the Bill Hart Award. Shawn Beam won the Scratch Richard Carlson Award and Gary Poole won the Handicap award. National Achievement Awards: High Average, George Holscher, High Scratch Series, High Handicap game and series, Shawn Beam, HHG and HHS, Rick Mahaney. Most Improved Average John Melvin.

In closing, let me first thank my best friend Onie for all the hard work she did prior to the event and during the event.. She was a huge help in many areas. A number of others stepped up and volunteer to assist in many areas Cheryl Poole and Sue May you 2 were awesome. Let me thank a very strong committee for a great job, Shawn Beam, Smiley Wallace, and Phillip Daniel!!!! Thanks to all our National Sponsors for without you, this would be difficult to do. A big shout out to Carolyn and Del Ballard for keeping their Pro shop open during the event. Thanks to Ken and Kathy Keegan of IAMBOWLING for your great support. Thanks to the USBC and their support for many years, BPAA and Frank, thanks so much. Gary Hulsenberg, you're the man and thanks to Storm!! Thanks to City View Lanes and their great Staff. Finally, thanks to all of you for coming. It has been an honor to serve as your tournament co-director this year.. I hope you all have enjoyed each event and we appreciate your kind words. WE look forward to seeing you as the AWBA continues to grow and support the sport of wheelchair bowling. See you at the next nationals next year!!!!

The 7th Annual PVA Mid-Atlantic Invitational, sanctioned by AWBA, was held September 22-24th at Short Pump Bowl America in Glen Allen, Virginia, with 30 bowlers from 9 states registered to compete.

The festivities began with a bowling clinic co-hosted by PVA and the AWBA and attended by bowlers, many of whom were newcomers to the sport hoping to hone their skills and potentially enter bowling events in the future.

Our doubles competition featured 11 teams, with the winning duo of Mark Hartney and Carl LaGroterria followed by Debra Freed and John Melvin in 2nd place, and Jimmy May and Michael Marcheskie finishing third.

On Friday evening, Mid-Atlantic PVA hosted an Up & Down event, pairing each of our registered wheelchair bowlers with a trio of stand-up bowlers representing our partners throughout the community. With 29 teams and a total of 116 bowlers, it was a night of friendly competition, and a chance to showcase wheelchair bowling as a sport which displays genuine ability, and not disability. The team of John Melvin and Chris Bacon, along with Corey Dumas and Sam Norton held-on to secure 1st Place honors.

Saturday and Sunday featured our singles competition. In the A-Division, Michael Marcheskie locked-up the 1st Place prize, with Randall Pope finishing second and Wayne Webber in third. Competing in his first-ever wheelchair tournament, Daren Crespo finished first in the B-Division, followed by Kathy Tilbury and Carl LaGroterria. Our Scratch Division winner was David Nelson, Jr., followed by Eddy Hutchens and George Holscher.

As always, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of PVA is honored to host this event in association with AWBA. A strong expression of appreciation goes out to each participant, along with their families and caregivers, and our partners, supporters and volunteers. A special thank you to Frank Goebel for efficiently handling scoring responsibilities for the entire weekend event. Additionally, our thanks to USBC, Storm Bowling, Logo Infusion and Bowl America for their unwavering support. And when it comes to support, we must also thank the PVA Mid-Atlantic team of Sarah Lake, Sue May, Evelyn Jones, Sabine Coiner, Janet Groessler and Wayne Poteat for their dedication and effort in making the event a huge success.

My thanks to all who attended the event, and we look forward to seeing you again next fall for the 8th Annual PVA Mid-Atlantic Invitational.

Happy
Thanksgiving



**FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TO
ALL OUR WONDERFUL MEMBERS
AND
THEIR FAMILIES**





HAPPY NEW YEAR



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ,
November 2023
The governing body of
wheelchair bowling with the
USBC
AWBA.org
Gary Ryan Editor



New Life Members

Taylor Nichols
Pam Fountaine
Gina Jenkins
John St Andria
Todd Costa
Darren Crespo

New Members

Noah Master
Paul Austin

WELCOME TO EACH OF YOU

Keep me OR Frank posted as to all your high scores so they can be
posted in the newsletter each quarter.

BOWL UP A STORM!!!!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM
OUR SPONSORS

