



THE ELEVENTH FRAME

PERIODIC NEWSLETTER, July 2025

The governing body of Wheelchair Bowling with the USBC
AWBA.org



Hello AWBA Members,

We are well into the summer with hot days ahead; some of you enduring hotter days than others. The May weather was beautiful in Romeoville, Illinois for our AWBA National Tournament. This was one of the smoothest tournaments by the AWBA for many reasons.

Number One Reason: Working with the **Vaughan PVA Chapter**. Vaughn was awesome including a lot of help from **Keith Cooper** and his Staff. This tournament worked so well that we are going to do it again next year with Vaughn PVA in Romeoville for the next AWBA National Tournament. Make your plans early, and get those hotels booked. Since now we know where everything is!

Second, the AWBA Members truly stepped up to sell the National Raffle Tickets. These tickets sold quickly and easily. I appreciate each and every one of you who sold at least one book. Many of our members sold several books. **Thank You!!!!** We cannot put on these National Tournaments without the sale of these tickets.

The Support we receive from our National Sponsors—STORM, IAMBOWLING, USBC, BPAA, SPORTAID, and BOWLERO—is great and amazing. Year after year our sponsors have been there for the AWBA. We are proud and thankful for all of their continued support of the American Wheelchair Bowling Association. **It reinforces the strength of the AWBA.**

Last, but far from least, our Bowlers and Tournament Staff. It is so nice to go to tournaments again and not have problems. The flow of the National was well planned out by our tournament committee. We spent every Wednesday night, starting in October of 2024, planning these details. We all had our duties and they got done. Thank you to all of our Board Members as well as the Vaughn Chapter PVA. We truly worked well together.

Coming up in August. Yes, this August 15-17th: Your next AWBA tournament is at the Bowlero Lanes in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. We are having two divisions, Handicap and Scratch. We will also have Doubles, and an Up/Down Tournament on Saturday. We are very eager to see how a Saturday Up/Down works out. Please plan on this one too. All you have to do is get your name to **Frank Goebel** at fwgoebel@aol.com. He will take it from there. The tournament is also on our website. Have a look. Colorado is one of the best places to be in August. Try to plan a few extra days of sight-seeing.

We will then finish up the AWBA Tournaments with **Jimmy May** in Richmond, VA in September. This is always a great tournament. The Mid Atlantic PVA is dedicated to the sanctioning of the AWBA once again this year. As you know, a great time will be had by all. I look forward to seeing you all there, as well.

Eddy Hutchens, Chairman

BOARD of DIRECTORS — 2025 ELECTION
SEE Frank's Article — page 4 of this Newsletter

63rd National Championships – Romeoville, IL

The **American Wheelchair Bowling Association (AWBA)**, powered by the **Vaughan** chapter of the **Paralyzed Veterans of America (Vaughan PVA)**, recently held its 63rd National Championship Tournament in Romeoville, Illinois.

Kicking off the gathering Wednesday was the three-bowler **Gene Ramus Team** event. The team of **John St. Andria (TX)**, **Richard Goebel (VA)**, and **Kevin Schaefer (CA)** were on top by a 43-pin margin as Team champions.

Immediately following was the **Nelson Welker Doubles**; after three games, the top four teams qualified for a bracket play-off. Winning both games was the team of **Curtis Wolff (CO)** and **Richard Goebel (VA)**, Doubles champions.

Opening ceremonies were held Thursday morning with all participants, with a welcome by Romeoville mayor **John Noak**. Two four-game sets were bowled in three divisions, and a third set was bowled Friday morning.

Following the third set (12 total games bowled), the Scratch division was cut to the top eight bowlers. The group then began a round robin of head-to-head match play with their scores adding to their pinfall total, with an additional 30 pins added for every match won, no matter how high or low the score. A position round concluded the match play sequence, pitting the leader against the bowler then in second place, the third and fourth place competitors faced off in turn, and so on. Following that, the field was cut to the top five, with the sixth place qualifier, chairman **Eddy Hutchens (CO)** serving as alternate and taking the low cash prize.

In that stepladder playoff, fourth and fifth place **Shawn Beam (TX)** and **David Nelson, Jr. (NE)** bowled to a tie at 140; a two-frame roll-off ended in a second tie at 37; a second roll-off broke that tie with scores of 47 to 37 in favor of Beam; Nelson finished 5th. Beam then out-bowled **Albert “Brooks” Martin (WV)** 162-149 (Martin finished 4th); then faced ramp bowler **Kyle Kennon (NJ)** winning 167-146 (Kennon, 3rd). In the championship match, leader **George Holscher** was victorious with 165-130: Beam 2nd, Holscher 1st.

While the Scratch match play was concluding, the A and B Handicap divisions bowled three additional games to reach 15-game qualifying scores. At this point, positions six through eight were determined, and the top five bowled their own stepladders.

In A Division, **John Kellner (PA)**, **Mike Marcheskie (FL)**, and **Johnnie Baylark, Jr. (IL)** were 8th, 7th, and 6th respectively; Fifth qualifier **Rich Goebel (VA)**, 5th, lost to **Chis Murphy (SC)** 4th, who then fell to **Rick Mahaney (LA)**. Mahaney then out-bowled **Chris Deckard (IN)** 3rd, and **John St. Andria (TX)** 2nd, to claim his first National Championship title.

In B Division, **Steve Harris (MO)**, **Keith Cooper (IL)**, and **Bill Burns (NV)** were 8th, 7th, and 6th respectively; Fifth qualifier **Sabrina Harge (IL)** faced, in turn: **Jimmy May (VA)**, **Pam Fontaine (TX)**, **Cheryl Gerdes (IL)** who finished 5th, 4th, and 3rd respectively; Harge then faced leader **Gina Jenkins**, settling for a 2nd place finish, with Jenkins becoming the **third woman in AWBA history** to claim a National Championship title.

Additional competitions included the **Al Uttecht Tournament of Champions**, won by George Holscher (VA) Scratch, and John St. Andria (TX) Handicap; the **Richard Carlson All-Events** won by George Holscher (VA) Scratch, and John St. Andria (TX) Handicap. The **Buddy Cole Most Improved** prize went to John St. Andria for out-bowling his scratch scores recorded in Fort Worth, Texas in late 2023, and the **Alma Ladwig Memorial Women’s Champion** was Gina Jenkins (TX).

Curtis Wolff

AWBA Treasurer and Life member

This year has been exceptionally successful in terms of securing sponsorships and donations. I would like to extend sincere appreciation and recognition to the Vaughan chapter of the PVA for their substantial contributions of time, effort, and financial support toward the national tournament held in Romeoville, IL. Their generosity covered all lunch expenses for bowlers and their guests, paid for all bowling games, and provided a significant addition to the banquet fund, which enabled us to offer reduced rates.

Additionally, we would like to formally recognize our key sponsors: Sportaid, IAMBowling, USBC, and our principal sponsor, Storm—the bowler's company. All sponsorship contributions are fully allocated to the tournament's prize fund. We encourage you to support and express gratitude to our sponsors, as their generosity enables us to provide substantial payouts across three distinct categories, ensuring that participants at every level have an equitable opportunity to succeed.

The board members, along with numerous individual participants, played a pivotal role in the success of our national raffle fundraiser. I have confirmed that all 1,000 tickets were sold and properly accounted for. After deducting the prize funds and entry fee rebates, the event generated a net profit of approximately \$13,000. Congratulations and sincere thanks to everyone involved for your valuable contributions.

This year, members who sold one book of tickets, valued at \$500, were reimbursed for the singles entry fee of \$150.00. This approach provides mutual benefits. With only 1,000 tickets available at \$20.00 each, every ticket purchaser has a significant opportunity to win a cash prize of up to \$2,500.00.

This is an excellent opportunity: sell one book for \$500 and receive a value of \$150.00 in return. We encourage you to participate again next year and recommend monitoring upcoming announcements regarding ticket sales opportunities.

Annual ticket sales play a crucial role in supporting our mission. Not only are the proceeds allocated as prize money and donations for other tournaments, but they also contribute to essential operating expenses such as insurance, website development, and the ongoing administrative costs required to maintain our 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

MEMBERS ON THE LANES

November 19, 2024: **John Melvin**, 201 (125 average)

January 14, 2025: **Debra Freed**, 216 (119 average); 494 series.

February 17, 2025: **Shawn Beam**, 277 game, 666 series.

February 20, 2025: **Brooks Martin**, 300.

February 26, 2026: **Chris Deckard**, 616.

April 9, 2025: **Toodie Perry**, 166 (Personal high game).

April 17, 2025: **Dan Formento**, 220-524.

April 22, 2025: **Grant Buehler**, 210.

April 27, 2025: Emerald Coast Bowling Association: **Dave McGinnes**, Inducted into their **Hall of Fame**.

Frank W. Goebel II

AWBA Secretary and Editor

Everyone that knows me is aware of my passion for our sport. The energy that goes along with that extends to me doing what I can to improve the experience for everyone around me. When I tell people about an upcoming event, it's seeing the familiar as well as new faces that motivates me.

Thus, it was quite a setback on a personal level when work interfered with my participation in our National. I hope that my demeanor, once I arrived Friday evening, was still a positive one for everyone. If nothing else, I was able to introduce Reuben, my mascot bear. Thank you for presenting him with his own swatch.

Still, there were lessons learned. I had been improving, hoping to perfect, a scoring spreadsheet. We couldn't have had a smooth tournament without the help of **Julet Hutchens**, to whom I introduced this tool. Getting her feedback tells me that I had something quite good, but that still needs improvement. Some elements worked wonderfully, at least. It's this overall partnership that will enable future tournaments to have as few internal problems as possible.

With this, we have a regional tournament all set for mid-August in **Denver, Colorado**. Entries are already coming in. We do have an online entry form that will result in an online payment. If you anticipate entering but need time to confirm, email me anyway and I'll be able to set you up in a tentative status that I can easily make "live" in the spreadsheet once you arrive.

Important note for Colorado entrants: The 2025-26 season for the **United States Bowling Congress** (USBC) begins August 1, and in order to bowl, you will need to purchase your membership (sanction) before bowling. This is outlined under USBC Playing Rules--Chapter 1, Membership (must be paid before participation in a tournament) and Rule 300c, Eligibility. Additionally, our by-laws require **USBC membership** to participate. I will be able to assist anyone needing help at the tournament as we start. Once paid, this will be your 2025-26 membership for the season and you will not have to pay a membership (sanction) fee for your league(s), unless you bowl in more than one local association. Those that can, go to bowl.com/about-us/join-now and on and after August 1, you may purchase your membership then. Please let me know that you've done that so I can maintain my info database for the tournament.

The next three pages of this newsletter are the entry forms and information for the **Denver Invitational**; the two pages following that are for the **Mid Atlantic PVA Invitational**. Registration for the latter tournament, in Short Pump, Virginia, may be done at [Mid-Atlantic PVA Bowling Tournament](#).

I'm happy that I'm receiving additional personal bowling and other achievements. These can be any scores of note; you can submit something that you've seen another member do, and it doesn't have to be a particular milestone or personal record (but those are always a pleasure to share). I'm equally interested in learning if any of you happen to win or place high in some local tournament, have a high score award for your league, are on a league champion team, are inducted into a local hall of fame, and more. If you receive some community recognition not related to bowling, let me know about that too.

Lastly, there's the **election** for our **Board of Directors**. Up for election this year are the offices of Vice Chair held by **George Holscher** and Secretary, plus the Director seat held by **Chris Murphy**. All three have indicated they will be running for re-election. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please email me a portrait photo plus a brief biography outlining your interest in the position that you choose, plus any qualifications or goals that you feel would be pertinent to members voting. Please get those to me no later than August 24, 2025 (one week following the Colorado Tournament). Once received, I will prepare a ballot that I will distribute via email separate from any other communication, with instructions on casting that ballot either by postal mail or email.



American Wheelchair Bowling Association Colorado Regional



August 15-17, 2025

Bowlero Wheat Ridge • 9751 W 49th Ave • Wheat Ridge CO • (303) 425-1601

Entry Form

Bowler Name _____ USBC ID _____

AWBA Membership: Life Annual

Division Scratch Handicap

Event Options

Singles \$150.00 \$ _____

Doubles \$ 30.00 \$ _____

Up/Down \$ 30.00 \$ _____

Total Fees (\$210.00 for all) \$ _____

To submit: Use Adobe Reader fill-in, save this PDF, attach as email to Frank Goebel (fwgoebel@aol.com), or send him an email with the information typed into the email text.

Entry fee payment: <https://awba.org/donate>



Event Schedule

Friday, August 15	9:30	Check-in
	10:00	Doubles
	1:15	Singles (4 games)
Saturday, August 16 <i>Note time of Up/Down</i>	9:30	Singles (4 games)
	1:00	Up/Down Check-In
	2:00	Up/Down
Sunday, August 17	9:30	Singles (4 games)
	12:00	Stepladders

Prize List

Singles per Division

Place	Scratch	Handicap
Champion	1000	1000
Runner-Up	600	600
Third	400	400
Fourth	200	200
Fifth	100	100
	2300	2300
		4600

Doubles

Champion	200	(100 each)
Runners-Up	100	(50 each)

Up/Down

Champion	400 (per team)
Runners-Up	200 (per team)

Dear Members,

The American Wheelchair Bowling Association will be holding a short weekend Regional Tournament in Wheat Ridge, Colorado on August 15-17.

This will be more of a “condensed” tournament, where we’ll do our Doubles on Friday morning, follow it with the first four games of Singles. Saturday morning will be the second four games of Singles, and the Up/Down will be Saturday afternoon, due to lane availability at the center. Sunday morning will be the final four games for Singles (twelve total).

We will do just two divisions: Scratch, and Handicap. The entry form is attached to this email.

Since this is relatively short notice, we are throwing in a few incentives, provided that we receive a total of 25 entries:

1. We will add a \$50 prize for All Events for both Scratch and Handicap (15 game total).
2. For the Scratch division, there will be a bonus prize of \$100 for the first bowler to hit four consecutive strikes within the same game (a four-bagger or hambone).
3. For the Handicap division, there will be a \$100 prize for the first three consecutive strikes in the same game (turkey).

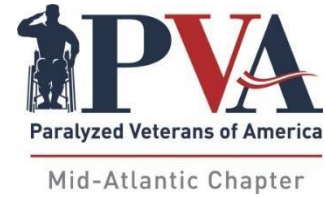
The strike bonuses will be based on the frames when bowled. If two or more bowlers achieve the milestone for their division in the same frames, the prize(s) will be split.

You can enter the tournament this weekend by providing your information to secretary Frank Goebel, or by sending an email. Once submitted, please submit your payment at <https://awba.org/donate>.

If we do side pots, those may be collected in cash at check-in.

Eddy Hutchens
Chairman
American Wheelchair Bowling Association
AWBA.ORG
Storm Staff
I Am Bowling Staff
3 Time Team USA

Frank W. Goebel II
AWBA Secretary



9th ANNUAL PVA MID-ATLANTIC INVITATIONAL
(Sanctioned by AWBA)
Bowl America – Short Pump, VA
September 19-21, 2025

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - AUGUST 30, 2025

On behalf of the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter, please accept our invitation to join us for the 9th Annual PVA Mid-Atlantic Invitational – *Sanctioned by AWBA*. Every year, our tournament committee takes great pride in providing our bowlers, their families and caregivers with a first-class experience – and this year we hope to showcase our best event yet!

We hope that you will consider our official tournament hotel for your accommodations. Other options are provided – all of which have many restaurants and popular shopping areas nearby. Please be aware that the tournament committee will not be handling transportation to or from the hotels or bowling center. It will be helpful if those of you who are driving would consider ride-sharing with your fellow participants.

As tournament director, I hope that each of you will consider joining us this year. Even better, spread the word, and share the fun and excitement of our tournament with other bowlers!

Yours in fellowship,

Jimmy May
Tournament Director

Jimmy May
2641 Sandhurst Ln
Midlothian VA, 23113
Home 804-794-7447
Cell 804-240-9019

Bowl America - Short Pump
4400 Pouncey Tract Rd
Glen Allen, VA 23060
804-360-8222

PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter
11620 Busy St
No. Chesterfield, VA 23236
804-378-0017

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT HOTEL:

Embassy Suites by Hilton
2925 Emerywood Parkway
Richmond, VA 23294
(804) 672-8585

Contact:
Steven Rios – Sales Manager
\$159 / Night

Includes 2-room suites, made-to-order breakfasts & complimentary cocktail hours
(Make your reservations early - ADA suites are limited)

OTHER HOTEL OPTIONS:

Hyatt Place Innsbrook
4100 Cox Rd.
Glen Allen, VA
(804) 747-9644

Hampton Inn & Suites
12341 W. Broad St.
Richmond, VA
(804) 773-7111

Hilton Garden Inn
4050 Cox Rd.
Glen Allen, VA
(804) 521-2900

Holiday Inn Express
9933 Mayland Dr.
Richmond, VA
(804) 934-9300

Fairfield Inn & Suites
9937 Mayland Dr.
Richmond, VA
(804) 799-1200



9th ANNUAL PVA MID-ATLANTIC INVITATIONAL
(Sanctioned by AWBA)
September 19-21, 2025

BOWLING CENTER LOCATION:

Bowl America - Short Pump
 4400 Pouncey Tract Rd
 Glen Allen, VA 23060

AWBA#: _____ USBC#: _____

ALL REGISTRATIONS & PAYMENTS MADE DIRECTLY TO PVA MID-ATLANTIC

Mail Entry Form & Fees To:

PVA Mid-Atlantic
 11620 Busy St.
 No. Chesterfield, VA 23236
 Or: via PayPal: <https://www.pvamidatlantic.org/donate/>

Singles Entry Fee: \$150.00 _____
 Doubles: \$ 30.00 _____
 Up & Down: \$ 30.00 _____
 9th Year Donation: \$ _____
 Total: \$ _____

Please Print:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone#: _____ Email: _____

Check Division Entering: SCRATCH: ___ HANDICAP: ___

Doubles: Partner: _____ Handicap: _____ Please Assign: _____

Up & Down: Partner: _____ Handicap: _____ Please Assign: _____
 Partner: _____ Handicap: _____ Please Assign: _____
 Partner: _____ Handicap: _____ Please Assign: _____

Average Verification: Failure to provide required verification will result in any prize money and/or other awards being withheld until such verification is submitted.

Those without qualified averages must bowl in the scratch division. The AWBA adjusted tournament average designee will provide adjusted tournament average information. In all cases where the adjusted tournament average is USBC book average, the adjusted tournament average will be the entrant's entering average. All participants must present valid AWBA and USBC membership cards. AWBA and USBC membership fees will be accepted for new members, which is required to participate in the event. For new bowlers, a league scoresheet will be accepted to establish an average (a minimum of 12 games).

Signature _____

Please check all that apply Power Chair ___ Manual ___ Para ___ Quad ___ Stick ___

Are You a PVA Member? ___ Yes ___ No Chapter: _____

Shirt Size: M_ L__ XL ___ 2XL ___ 3XL _____

PERIODIC NEWSLETTER
July 2025

The governing body of
wheelchair bowling
with the USBC
AWBA.org

Frank Goebel Editor



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from chairman Eddy Hutchens

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including Election information for our Board of Directors

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Prize List/Schedule, Invitational Letter

Mid Atlantic PVA Invitational
Invitational Letter, Entry Form

BEST WISHES FROM OUR SPONSORS

