



THE ELEVENTH FRAME

PERIODIC NEWSLETTER, March 2026
The governing body of Wheelchair Bowling with the USBC
AWBA.org



Hello AWBA Members,

Recently, you all should have received an email from our Secretary, Frank. In that email, Frank spelled out our **64th AWBA National Tournament**. This is going to be in May, in Romeoville IL. We held it there last year and our hopes is to make this year's event even better.

PLEASE do two things: First, **Register Now!!!** We need those entries in **ASAP** so we can get the jerseys ordered and delivered on time. Frank put a deadline on the info email he sent out, get registered. No exceptions, if your entry is not in when we order the jerseys, you will not get a jersey. We are not ordering extras. I am going to call **I Am Bowling** to order the towels today or tomorrow. I will then get the final date that your registration must be in. As Frank said, register today but the entry fee is not due until late April.

Second, email me your address and how many books of **National Raffle Tickets** you want me to send you. We cannot put on this tournament the way we are accustomed to without the sale of these books. I need each of you to sell one book, please. They are easy to sell when we get most of our members to sell one book. Plus, the sale of one book gives you a refund on your singles entry at this year's National. That is a \$150.00 rebate. **YOU CAN DO IT!!!**

I cannot believe how fast May, and our Nationals, are coming. Your executive board and committee have much yet to do, but we are hard at work to make sure we have another outstanding time in Romeoville. I will soon acquire the **Storm** Merchandise for our daily giveaways, raffles, and Up/Down event. If interested, any of you could help us out by donating a raffle item to our tournament, which we would appreciate.

Let's all work together on these ticket sales! We will see you soon, in Romeoville.

Eddy Hutchens
Chairman, American Wheelchair Bowling Association

HALL OF FAME

The American Wheelchair Bowling Association is pleased to recognize the following newest members of the organization's Hall of Fame, to be inducted at the banquet following the 64th National Championships.

Shawn Beam
Kevin Schaefer

9th Annual Mid Atlantic PVA/AWBA Invitational

Short Pump, VA – September 2025

The Mid Atlantic PVA Chapter, partnered with the American Wheelchair Bowling Association, held its annual Invitational Regional Tournament in Short Pump, Virginia, near Richmond. Despite difficulties with the host bowling center, a worthwhile tournament ensued, with 31 entrants.

Doubles: Champions after a bracket playoff were **Richard and Frank Goebel**; Runners-Up were **Jimmy May and Michael Marcheskie**. Third place went to **Toodie Perry and Mark Hartney**; Fourth were **John Kellner and Brooks Martin**.

Singles competition was bowled under a very challenging condition. B Division's top qualifiers were **Charles Powell, Jennifer Maher, Mark Hartney, John Stacy, and Brent Patterson**; A Division's leaders were **Richard Goebel, Chris Murphy, William Ingersoll, John Melvin, and Dave McGinnes**; scratch were **George Holscher, Jason Nelson, Brooks Martin, Shawn Beam, and Frank Goebel**. Stepladder grid images to the right show how those matches progressed.

Other prizes: High series and game by division were respectively: B Division, **Jennifer Maher and Mark Hartney**; A Division, **Richard Goebel and Chris Murphy**; Scratch, **George Holscher and Shawn Beam**. In the Up/Down, the champion team was captained by **Chris Deckard** with second place's teams captained by **Eddy Hutchens** and third place, by **Bob Goddard**.

Secretary's note: I sincerely apologize to the entrants, fellow board members, and the leadership of the Mid Atlantic PVA chapter for not having published these results shortly following the tournament. While the weekend was a rather stressful time, that should never be an excuse for setting aside this key element of my role with the tournament and the organizations. The follow-up USBC transmittal was done as required and timely.



B DIVISION STEPLADDER

9th Annual PVA/AWBA INVITATIONAL • SHORT PUMP, VA



Bowler	Score	T/B	Hcp	Total	Result
1 Charles Powell	93		128	221	RUNNER-UP
5 Brent Patterson	136		109	245	CHAMPION

SIGNATURE OF RUNNER-UP

Bowler	Score	T/B	Hcp	Total	Result
2 Jennifer Maher	90		93	183	3RD
5 Brent Patterson	78		109	187	ADV

SIGNATURE OF THIRD PLACE FINISHER

Bowler	Score	T/B	Hcp	Total	Result
3 Mark Hartney	110		88	198	4TH
5 Brent Patterson	102		109	211	ADV

SIGNATURE OF FOURTH PLACE FINISHER

Bowler	Score	T/B	Hcp	Total	Result
4 John Stacy	90		119	209	5TH
5 Brent Patterson	104		109	213	ADV

SIGNATURE OF FIFTH PLACE FINISHER



A DIVISION STEPLADDER

9th Annual PVA/AWBA INVITATIONAL • SHORT PUMP, VA



Bowler	Score	T/B	Hcp	Total	Result
1 Rich Goebel	144		69	213	RUNNER-UP
2 Chris Murphy	179		61	240	CHAMPION

SIGNATURE OF RUNNER-UP

Bowler	Score	T/B	Hcp	Total	Result
2 Chris Murphy	120		61	181	ADV
3 William Ingersoll	111		68	179	3RD

SIGNATURE OF THIRD PLACE FINISHER

Bowler	Score	T/B	Hcp	Total	Result
3 William Ingersoll	115		68	183	ADV
4 John Melvin	107		69	176	4TH

SIGNATURE OF FOURTH PLACE FINISHER

Bowler	Score	T/B	Hcp	Total	Result
4 John Melvin	153		69	222	ADV
5 Dave McGinnes	116		68	184	5TH

SIGNATURE OF FIFTH PLACE FINISHER



SCRATCH STEPLADDER

9th Annual PVA/AWBA INVITATIONAL • SHORT PUMP, VA



Bowler	Score	T/B	Result
1 George Holscher	179		RUNNER-UP
3 Brooks Martin	187		CHAMPION

SIGNATURE OF RUNNER-UP

Bowler	Score	T/B	Result
2 Jason Nelson	134		3RD
3 Brooks Martin	158		ADV

SIGNATURE OF THIRD PLACE FINISHER

Bowler	Score	T/B	Result
3 Brooks Martin	141		ADV
5 Frank Goebel	129		4TH

SIGNATURE OF FOURTH PLACE FINISHER

Bowler	Score	T/B	Result
4 Shawn Beam	160		5TH
5 Frank Goebel	167		ADV

SIGNATURE OF FIFTH PLACE FINISHER

George Holscher
AWBA Vice Chairperson

I hope that everyone made it through the holidays, and the end of 2025, happy and healthy. And, I also hope that the start and subsequent months of 2026 have continued to treat you fairly on and off the lanes.

That being said, as Vice Chairperson of the AWBA it is my pleasure to serve the general membership, and to help keep all of our bowlers' best interests in mind. This coming year the AWBA, in partnership with the **Vaughan Chapter** of the **PVA**, is proud to be an administrative guide during this year's National Tournament in Romeoville, Illinois. Last year's national tournament was a great event but was not without its small glitches. This year we hope to build off of that performance, and make this year's tournament that much better, and we hope to see you all there for some great competition and a gathering of good friends. Also, don't forget that at the national tournament there will be a general membership meeting where you can make your voice heard about what you would like to see happen in the future concerning the AWBA, and the sport of wheelchair bowling. You can find the registration page on the AWBA website.

Along with the AWBA national tournament there are other opportunities to get wheelchair bowlers seen across the country, not just your local leagues, but I would encourage bowlers to bowl in your local, state, and national USBC sanctioned tournaments. I myself will be bowling in Reno this year at the **USBC Open National Tournament**. It is a great experience and a fun time. The more wheelchair bowlers that get out there to bowl, the better chance we have to attract some new talent to our events.

Four of our members of the AWBA have been selected to compete this May for the **Para Team USA** during the **2026 International Bowling Federation Para Bowling World Championships** in Bangkok, Thailand. **Debra Freed, Gina Jenkins, Shawn Beam**, and myself are looking forward to representing the USA during this competition and hope to bring back a bunch of hardware. This year, competing with us will be two standing bowlers with limb deficiencies as part of our team, and we look forward to bowling with them as well.

I invite any member to contact me with any concerns about the AWBA, and I will do my best to see that those concerns are addressed by the Board of Directors, and reply with any determinations. All the board members' contact information can be found on the AWBA website.

Lets all have a safe, healthy, and hopefully high scoring year.

2026 ELECTIONS—BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Later this year, the offices of Chair—currently held by **Eddy Hutchens**, and Treasurer—currently held by **Curtis Wolff**, as well as three Director seats—held by **Shawn Beam, Jimmy May, and Toodie Perry**, will be up for election. We will publish directions on how to submit a name for either officer position or a director seat in the first newsletter that will follow the upcoming National Championship tournament. Bear in mind that the director seats are “at large” and will be voted together. The top three vote-getters in the directors' race will be elected to the board beginning January 1, 2027, and will serve three years.

Curtis Wolff
AWBA Treasurer

Free Singles Entry into the National Championships **National Raffle Ticket Sales**

Our biggest and most important fundraiser every year is our national raffle tickets sale. Last year—thanks to our members who sold \$500 worth of tickets receiving one free Singles entry—the sale was so successful that we finally sold out all our one thousand tickets offered every year for \$20 each. This gave us a gross amount of \$20,000 in sales and after payments and expenses our net income was \$14,000.

I was informed by a lot of our members that they simply did not know this was available. So, this year we have increased the amount available to two thousand tickets. 100% of all proceeds go back to membership in the form of prize fund money for Nationals as well as sponsorship and donations to other AWBA sanctioned tournaments.

If you are interested, contact any of the board members or send us a message through www.info@awba.org. We will be sure to get you the tickets so you can earn your free singles entry to this year's tournament.

Sponsorships Recognition

Our 64th AWBA National Championships are returning this May 13th – 17th to Lucky Strike Lanes in Romeoville IL. The last several years have been an immense success in part due to the sponsorship and promotion by the **Vaughan Chapter** of the **Paralyzed Veterans of America** in the Chicago area. Last year they were kind enough to donate enough money to pay for all the bowling, lunches at the bowling center between shifts, and making a substantial donation to help cover the banquet cost of the awards dinner on Saturday night. This allowed us to contribute more to the prize fund and to offer our members who attended the banquet a great meal at a reasonable price for everyone who attended.

This donation was over \$10,000 contribution. Please be sure to give special thanks to them as well as our other sponsorships like **Storm Bowling**, providing well over \$3,000 in cash, bowling balls, and discounts to all our members. **I Am Bowling** who donates annually \$2,500 as well as members discounts and gift certificates for our Nationals bowling jersey as well as other certificates and awards for AWBA sanctioned events. And the **United States Bowling Congress** donates \$2,000 annually to the AWBA national tournament in addition to providing travel and expenses for to AWBA bowlers who make **Para Team USA**. This year through our ranking system as well as members who provided resumes for their qualification have again selected a delegation from our membership looking forward to bowling at the **International Bowling Federation (IBF)** tournament coming up soon in Bangkok, Thailand.

In addition to other sponsors, your membership and entry fees enable us to continue to pay out over \$22,000 in prize money including payouts to over twenty-two people of the thirty-nine who attended the tournament and competed. You will not find a better deal on any other amateur tournament in the world as we continue to strive to provide an opportunity for every level of wheelchair bowler to compete in a fair environment and have an opportunity to win some cash back. And in some cases, a lot of money.

Note: Below form is not fillable. A fillable PDF form was previously emailed to members.



64th AWBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Powered by

Vaughan Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America

May 13-16th, 2026

Lucky Strike Romeoville, Illinois

Entry - Closing Date - April 3rd, 2025 Postmark to receive National Shirt

(Enter now pay later)

All payments must be made or postmarked by April 30th—no exceptions



Games Bowled At:

Lucky Strike Romeoville 735 Center Boulevard
Romeoville, IL 60446
(630) 378-2695

Mail Entry To:

Curtis Wolff – AWBA Treasurer
5470 E 138th Ave Thorton, CO 80602
Digital entries: awba.org website

Gene Ramus National Handicap Team Entry
Counts Towards All-Events
10:00 AM Wednesday, May 13
Entry Fee: \$50.00 per person

Entering Team Declining Team

Teaming with: _____
and: _____

Please assign available teammate(s).

Nelson Welker Doubles Entry
Counts Towards All-Events
2:00 PM Wednesday, May 13
Entry Fee: \$50.00 per person

Entering Doubles Declining Doubles

Partnering with: _____

Please assign partner.

Please Check all that are applicable:

- Para Quad
- Veteran
- Over the age of 65

Bowler Information (please print)

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
AWBA # _____ USBC # _____
Cell _____ Email _____
Shirt Size _____ Division: Scratch Handicap

- Singles Entry Fee \$150.00 _____
- Up/Down (_____ bowlers paid here): × 40.00 _____
- List "Up" bowlers to be on your team here and include above:
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
- Doubles (enter partner to the left) 50.00 _____
- Team (enter teammates to the left) 50.00 _____
- Side Pot (Scratch) 20.00 _____
- Side Pot (Handicap) 20.00 _____
- Banquet (Number attending _____) × 35.00 _____
- Wednesday Night Social Number attending _____

TOTAL FEES DUE \$ _____

Paying by Check Credit Card

Banquet Options for attendees:

We will contact entrants for entrée choices before the tournament

AVERAGE VERIFICATION: Bowlers will enter with their AWBA Adjusted Tournament Average. There is no need to provide league sheets or any other information, except for new bowlers with the AWBA. New bowlers must present a league sheet with at least 12 games bowled. Entrants without qualified averages must bowl scratch.

Please pay all fees with one check made payable to American Wheelchair Bowling Association, mail to 5470 E 138th Ave, Thorton CO, 80602. You may also pay with credit/debit card at awba.org/donate/.



AWBA 64th National Championships—Schedule of Events

All items subject to change

Tuesday, May 12

- 5:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting (location TBD)
- 6:00 Social at Bowlero
- Six lanes to have tournament oil pattern for optional practice

Wednesday, May 13th

- 9:00 AM Check-in Opens
- 9:45 Announcements
- 10:00 Team Event Begins
- Lunch on your own
- 2:00 PM Doubles Begins
- Bracket Playoff to follow
- Following Doubles: Pizza Social at Bowlero

Thursday, May 14th

- 9:00 AM Registration Opens
- 10:00 Opening Ceremonies
- 10:15 First Squad Begins (4 games)
- 1:00 PM Lunch provided by Vaughan PVA
- 2:00 AWBA Membership Meeting
- 3:30 Second Squad Begins (4 games)
- 7:00 Hall of Fame Dinner (Location TBD)

Friday, May 15th

- 10:00 AM Third Squad Begins (4 games)
- Lunch provided by Vaughan PVA
- 1:00 PM Scratch Match Play (4 games)
- Down-time for A and B Division
- 6:00 Up/Down Registration
- 7:00 Up/Down Begins (3 games no-tap)
- Prizes presented at conclusion

Saturday, May 16th

- 10:00 AM Fourth Squad (3 games) A and B Division
- Scratch Match Play (4 games)
- Lunch on your own
- 1:00 PM Stepladder Playoffs commence
- Top 5 in each division
- 5:00 Banquet at Franconi's



64th AWBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
Lucky Strike Lanes 735 Center Blvd Romeoville IL 60446

*****Singles Event Prize Fund Based on 60 entry's*****
Guaranteed payout based on 1 in 4

***** \$22,420.00 total purse !*****

	<u>Scratch Division</u>	<u>"A" Division</u>	<u>"B" Division</u>
1st Place	\$2000 & Trophy & Swatch	\$2000 & Trophy & Swatch	\$ 2000 & Trophy & Swatch
2nd	\$1500 & Plaque	\$1500 & Plaque	\$1500 & Plaque
3rd	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000
4 th	\$700	\$700	\$700
5 th	\$500	\$500	\$500
6 th	\$250	\$250	\$250
7 th	\$125	\$125	\$125
8 th	\$75	\$75	\$75

	<u>Scratch Division</u>	<u>Handicap Divisions</u>
All Events	\$100	\$100
High Qualifier Singles	\$100 (12 games)	\$100 (15 games)
Carlson Trophy	\$100 (3 game set)	\$100 (3 games set)
High Tournament Game	\$100	\$100
Buddy Cole Most Improved	\$100	\$100
Alma Ludwig High Women's	\$100 (12 games)	\$100 (15 games)

You can only win in one individual award.

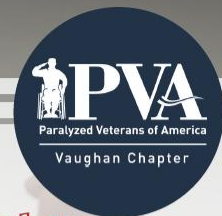
<u>Doubles</u>	<u>Team</u>
1 st \$500.00 & Trophy	1 st \$525 & Trophy
2 nd \$300.00	2 nd \$300.00
3 rd \$200.00	3 rd \$225.00
4 th \$100.00	4 th \$120.00

Annual Awards & Certificates

Bill Hart "Sportsmanship"
 Award Plaque and ~ \$ 125.00
 Tournament of Champions S. ~ \$ 125.00
 Tournament of Champions H. ~ \$ 125.00
 Senior Class Champion ~ \$ 125.00



Up Down Fundraiser



As Part of

64th AWBA NATIONALS Powered By Vaughan Chapter

Friday, May 15th, 2026 Romeoville, Illinois

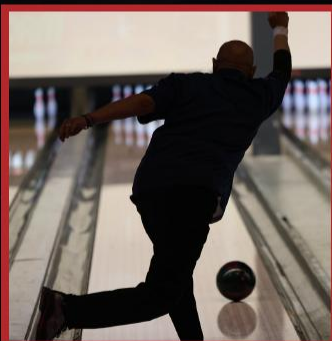
LUCKY X STRIKE

- 4-person teams (3 Up 1-Down)
- Great time with friends and family
- Prize fund for teams 1st-4th place
- Check in at 6:00 P.M
- Roll off starts at 7:00 P.M.

Prize Package

- 1st place - \$500
- 2nd place - \$280
- 3rd place - \$200
- 4th place - \$100

Register Here



For more information email or call:

keithc@Vaughanpva.org

708-947-9790 ext.223

Frank W. Goebel II
AWBA Secretary and Editor

Starting with last year's National, I began maintaining key pages for the program book. Among them are historical listings of the locations where we have held this tournament, changes to its format over time, compilations of past champions in the several events, members of the Hall of Fame, and other significant data.

One key aspect is the presence of a dagger (†) next to a name of someone who has passed. And I'm sure that we have names of some whom may have passed, but we hadn't been notified of that specifically.

In less than a one-month period, I've sent notices about four members who had recently died. Each had something notable about their tenure with the AWBA, whether it be holding some office, having been a tournament director, winning one or events over one or more years, or had some other impact touching the experiences of other members.

With that, I added necessary daggers to the program book pages, as there were multiple entries of some names.

After emailing each notice, I received replies from others who remember them fondly. My tenure with the AWBA goes back only to 2019, so I had not met **Merv Kaya, Rich Spizzirri, Harold Bowman, or James "Sully" Sullivan**. But the words that our fellow comrades had to say about them not only conveys how they were valued parts of our organization, it further indicates that the people currently active have a wholesome and heartfelt admiration for each other, and it makes me happy to know that this kind of warmth persists today.

As I wrote when I sent the entry forms, the awba.org website doesn't yet have the capacity to accept entries. You can of course send me a form (from that email, not this newsletter) filled-in on your computer, so that we can at least get the shirts ordered. If you plan on entering, get me your shirt size by April 3; you can do the rest of the entry later and pay as late as April 30.

Meanwhile, I want to recognize high scores and averages/improvements. I have no way of knowing most high scores unless submitted, so please email me separately with your achievements from the past season. In the newsletter that will follow National, I want to list every new personal record reached this year, but I can only do that if I know about it. And we have trophies for the individual highs—I will need to have that information also by April 30. Please get that information to me as soon as you can.

IN MEMORIAM

Merv Kaya
Rich Spizzirri
Harold Bowman
James "Sully" Sullivan

PERIODIC NEWSLETTER
March 2026

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

Frank Goebel Editor



INSIDE

Welcome Letter
from chairman Eddy Hutchens

Mid Atlantic PVA 9th annual Invitational
Results and Recap

Vice Chairman George Holscher's notes
including IBF Para Championships

Treasurer Curtis Wolff's notes
including Ticket Raffle Promotion

64th National Championships
Entry Form, Schedule, Prizes, Up/Down

Secretary Frank Goebel's notes

BEST WISHES FROM OUR SPONSORS

