



There is more to the game than you think!

“Having little or no interest or concern” is how *Webster* defines **apathetic**—a fairly accurate description for a great number of the bowlers in and around the metropolitan area.

If more individuals would take an interest in what is happening to the sport of bowling as it relates to their leagues, as opposed to just playing the game, there would be greater appreciation for the sport.

Other than rolling a ball and obtaining a score, quite a few bowlers could not begin to tell you the first thing about ABC/WIBC rules and regulations. If they are bowling in sanctioned leagues—and hopefully they know the pitfalls of being unsanctioned—I would be curious to know if they know anything about the contents of the constitutions which govern their leagues.

“If it ain’t broke don’t fix it” seems to be the general attitude of most league bowlers. League officers are elected mostly because of their popularity as opposed to knowing the particular functions of their office. The importance of being a league officer is often taken for granted—thankless positions which serve no purpose at all if you take a survey of the bowlers.

Little do they realize that these are the individuals who keep the league in operation. Little do they realize that being a league officer is more than meets the eye. However, all league officers are not as dedicated as they should be for the position that they hold, and if there is no concern from league members as to the operation of the league, they may surely reap what they sow.

To bowl for an entire season, only to find out that the prize fund is short or non-existent, can cause a real headache for even the apathetic bowler whose only care is rolling a bowling ball. But had that individual inquired about a financial statement or an audit of the league’s financial records prior to the end of the season, the situation may have been

avoided.

The leagues belong to you, the bowlers. You make the leagues what you want them to be. Your league officials are there to ensure that rules and regulations that you have adopted are observed and enforced. Failure to perform the duties of the offices as prescribed by ABC/WIBC can bring about their suspension from ABC or WIBC. Did you know that?

Not only does this *comme ci, comme ca* attitude exist in leagues, but throughout the local associations. Do you know what

your sanction fee does other than get you a card? Have you *ever* been to an association meeting to find out how our associations are addressing issues at the national conventions?

Most bowlers participate in leagues for fun and relaxation. However, it’s still important to know the who, what, and why of your particular league. If you don’t know, ask questions. If your league officials can’t answer your questions, call the associations.

Get involved in the process. Become concerned about what is right or wrong. Learn the rules and regulations.

There is more to the game than just knocking down pins.

Harry Ladson, a youth coach at Bowl America Silver Hill, is a past recipient of the Greater Washington Bowling Senate’s James “Sonny” Steward Award for his numerous contributions to the sport of bowling.