

2016 USBC Convention Report

Although many of the leaders and delegates were still using a prior events theme “Together ... We Can” as a rallying point, the theme for this year’s event was “Today’s Vision, Tomorrow’s Future”.

The number of seminars and workshops was, again, reduced to just a handful of offerings: USBC Recruitment, USBC Retention, Information Technology, Youth Membership Services, Rules, and A Future For The Sport. Networking events overlapped the Recruitment and Retention workshops, while the IT and Youth workshops overlapped each other.

The Information Technology workshop highlighted the upcoming release of WinLabs 12 that included showing some features and improvements from previous versions. It was also stressed that WinLabs 12 must run on, at earliest, Windows 7; Windows XP, which has reached end of life, will not be supported.

I did inquire about Web Labs, which would have taken platform dependency out of play, and was told that there are plans to bring it back. The reason for its suspension is that, in order to make a hard deadline of the phase out of current version of WinLabs, too many features would not have been ready in time.

In our annual membership meeting on 28 February 2016, those members present brought forth their desires for how we, as a delegation, would vote on legislation. The delegation at the Convention voted against our membership’s recommendations on all pieces of legislation.

Some notes from the legislative session ...

1. There was new information on B-3 after our meeting that warranted our delegates to change our vote.
2. At the conclusion of the day, I was asked by a sitting national board member how we voted on B-1 (which did pass) to which I responded as our membership directed us: against. After being chastised for “knowing better” that we could change our vote and that our association is (paraphrased) a good old boy network looking out for themselves, I started to remind this board member that we did have a membership meeting but was cut off with a “Thanks for what you do”.
3. Two nights prior, I was approached by another board member about our position. We had a great discussion with a “respect for our position in representing our membership” even though this board member disagreed with our position.

Following legislation was the election of candidates to three open spots on the USBC Board: three members were slated (two sitting board members whose current terms were expiring), and two more ran from the floor (one was a sitting board member whose current term was also expiring).

The chair of the Nominating Committee explained their decision to slate only three candidates “as it appears the committee is making the choice of the delegates. Believe me when I say we typically want very much for you to have a choice from a variety of slated candidates, but we had extremely unusual circumstances this year.”

- “The president of our board and the chair of our Legal and Legislative Committee are both up for re-election. Each of these individuals have been mentored and trained to assume these very vital roles.”
- “Additionally, in evaluating our board’s needs, it became very apparent that we need someone with an extremely strong financial background because the chair of our Finance Committee is terming out next year. Our board has a responsibility to guide the use of millions of dollars to support our beloved sport. As you know from reading the financial report, it can be extremely complex.” The current chair of the committee is an attorney and CPA and the committee felt the third candidate was qualified to fill that role.
- “You need to know the risks in having a Finance chair who is about a term out and a need to retain our president and chair of Legal and Legislative in the roles they are trained to do and are performing very well.”

This was also explained in a session the day before where the delegates had the chance to ask questions of the candidates. In that session, one delegate from New Jersey asked a poignant question about candidates running from the floor being at a distinct disadvantage from those slated (citing the sitting board member not being slated). In a town hall session that followed the legislative and voting sessions, several delegates felt that all qualified candidates should have been slated.

The process of voting for candidates was restarted twice: the first was due to various keypad issues with the electronic voting devices; the second was because the chair apparently “[had] not worded this very well and I apologize for that. So, we’re going to do this all over again.”

As it was cited that the wording for the call for votes had not been worded properly, I am including the wording for this round of calling for the votes which is available at bowl.com.

- “Right now, voting for your first candidate is now open.” This was immediately stopped as delegates were not ready.
- “We are now open for voting on your first candidate.” The list of candidates was then displayed in the following order: numbers 1 through 3 were the slated candidates, in alphabetical order; numbers 4 and 5 were the candidates running from the floor, in alphabetical order.
- “Voting is now open for your first candidate.”
- After the requisite pause for delegates to vote, “I see no issues so voting is now closed for your first candidate.”
- “Voting is open for candidate number two.” This was repeated a second time, followed by a correction to vote “for your second choice”.
- After a pause for voting, “Voting is closed for your second vote.”
- “We are now opening the voting for your third candidate.” A correction followed to vote for your “third choice.”
- After a pause for voting, “Voting is now closed.”

The three slated candidates received a majority of votes on the first ballot.

A few delegates in the town hall session felt that the election process favored the slated candidates; personally, I felt the wording still was not correct the third time around. Subsequent conversations I had with delegates from other areas echoed similar sentiments, that they felt there was a specific agenda with regard to the elections.

In summary, the 2016 Convention was certainly an eye-opening experience. As in previous events, I enjoyed the opportunity to connect with delegates from other areas and vendors to share experiences and ideas. At the same time, I lost some respect for the process as a whole and two national board members for their conduct.

-- Robert Ashley III

2016 USBC Convention report

The 2016 USBC Convention was held in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 27-30, 2016. Some of the highlights include expanding the number of sessions through networking as well as seminars on member recruitment and retention.. We also learned from the Information Technology session that WinLabs 12.0 will be the next version. Seminar presentations are available on <http://www.bowl.com/conventionseminars/>

There was a welcome reception for delegates at the Orleans Hotel and Casino host for all convention activities. The first day was highlighted by motivational speaker Christine Cashen and her use of humor.

Delegates heard presentations from many industry leaders, including BPAA, Strike Ten Entertainment, PBA, World Tenpin Bowling Association and the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame.

USBC President Frank Wilkinson and Executive Director Chad Murphy made formal presentations and emphasized the theme of this year's convention – "Today's Vision - Tomorrow's Future", stressing the need for a strong National Governing Body to help build a better USBC.

Presentation of national awards were made to a number of individuals, including Gazmine Mason of Cranston, Rhode Island as the Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow and Jack Cook of Denville, New Jersey as the Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow.

The USBC Hall of Fame induction dinner saw 5 new members honored: Kim Adler, Mike Durbin, Steve Kloempken, Harry Sullins and Joan Romeo.

Key legislation acted on included proposals to require all local and state associations to merge by August 1, 2018 (Approved), raising the cap on National Dues from \$10 to \$15 (Approved) with the commitment by the National USBC Board to raise dues \$3 in the 2017-18 season and not to raise dues again until at least the 2022-23 season, and a tournament rules proposal to modify Rule 319c requiring all participants to report any average adjustment or rerate unless tournament rules state otherwise (Approved).

League rule proposals to require submission of January 1st averages and requiring a legal line-up at the start of any game were both rejected strongly by the delegates.

Ceremonies were held for Bowl for the Cure, where a check for \$618,031 was presented and BVL, where \$909,000 was presented. NCAUSBCA received a plaque from BVL for 1st place for local associations and Virginia was honored as the 3rd highest state association.

Elections were held for 3 open board spots for 3 year terms. Incumbents Mark Martin and Frank Wilkinson were re-elected and newcomer Jeffrey Ussery of Tonganoxie Kansas was elected.

The USBC Board re-elected Frankie Wilkinson of Staten Island, New York to President for the 2016-17 season. Cathy DeSocio of Wichita, Kansas was re-elected Vice President.

Andrea Dale, delegate

2016 USBC Convention report

The USBC Convention was held at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 27-30, 2016.

Andrea and I worked the BVL Booth the first afternoon. There was a welcome reception for delegates the first evening after the Rules Seminar. The seminar was sub-par this year as all but one of the scenarios had 3 ridiculous answers and one correct answer. Copies of the seminars can be found at <http://www.bowl.com/conventionseminars/>

The first full day was highlighted by motivational speaker Christine Cashen and her use of humor. I attended presentations on Membership Recruitment and Membership Retention as well as a networking seminar on Youth. The youth session was different because my table had 8 people from 1-2 center associations and the other individual was from a 4 center association. They all seemed fascinated that we didn't work closely with our proprietors. I explained we had corporate, military and independent centers and there was no togetherness.

Delegates heard presentations from many industry leaders, including BPAA, Strike Ten Entertainment, the PBA, World Tenpin Bowling Association and the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame.

USBC President Frank Wilkinson and Executive Director Chad Murphy made formal presentations and emphasized the theme of this year's convention – "Today's Vision - Tomorrow's Future".

Presentation of national awards were made to a number of individuals, including the Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow and the Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow. Also honored were the Youth Volunteer and coach of the year as well as the outstanding association service, unity and proprietor of the year.

Andrea and I attended the USBC Hall of Fame induction dinner where 5 new members were honored: Kim Adler, Mike Durbin, Steve Kloempken, Harry Sullins and Joan Romeo.

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Elections were held for 3 open board spots for 3 year terms. Incumbents Mark Martin and Frank Wilkinson were re-elected and newcomer Jeffrey Ussery of Tonganoxie Kansas was elected. I felt the elections were tainted in that the Nominating Committee chair insisted that the 3 slated candidates "had" to be elected as they all filled key positions while one of the incumbent directors, Anthony Colangelo, ran from the floor and failed to receive enough votes to be re-elected.

The USBC Board re-elected Frankie Wilkinson of Staten Island, New York to President for the 2016-17 season. Cathy DeSocio of Wichita, Kansas was re-elected Vice President.

Thomas E. Dale, Jr. delegate

REPORT FOR THE 2016 USBC CONVENTION

May 15, 2016

To the Officers, Directors, and Members of the
Nation's Capital Area USBC Association

The USBC Convention held 26-29 April 2016 with the theme "Today's vision tomorrows future" highlighted the concepts of increased involvement to keep bowling alive and thriving. The convention kicked off with exhibits and seminar by the Rules team on Tuesday evening. However, the convention momentum continued to accelerate with an awesome motivational speaker on Wednesday followed by seminars and networking opportunities. The convention continued to progress with a "Meet the Candidates" session on Thursday followed by an all-delegates seminar titled "Continuing To Build A Future for the Sport" and afternoon presentations by Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL) and Susan G. Komen Meet for the Cure. The Convention concluded on Friday with presentations of national youth awards and scholarships, USBC National Recognition Awards and the Annual Meeting for the legislative session and board elections in the afternoon.

During the rules seminar there was an in depth discussion about encouraging bowling tournament participation and the some reasons why participation has declined. Some of the reasons identified for the negative trend in tournament participation were: poor management, poor return on tournament investment (last place should at least receive their entry fee back), failure to honor time commitment (ensure tournaments start on time), failure to make the competition fair and manage and deter sandbaggers. It is encouraged that tournament managers be mindful of rule 17a, 319c and if the need to exercise tournament average adjustments is utilized make certain to have valid reason.

New and innovative concepts continued to be revealed as the speakers from building a future for the sport proposed the idea of leveraging e-commerce. One idea was to post photos of directors online to aid bowlers in making the connection with association representatives. In order to advance the sport and augment exposure of bowling, it is imperative to increase technological communication and begin to highlight the great accomplishments of the association bowlers. This will enhance the accomplishments of the sport, encourage new bowlers and solicit valuable volunteers. This seminar was a great Segway into my next two seminars, recruitment and retention.

In the recruitment seminar it was noted that it takes a village to build a great association. To grow NCAUSBCA we need people, but more importantly we need the right people engaged and excited about the goals and accomplishments of the NCAUSBCA and the bowlers within the association. It is important and necessary to get bowlers involved in committees to acquaint them with the association and stimulate recruiting. A few of the benefits of recruiting are:

- To strengthen NCAUSBCA membership
- Reduce the burden on association manager
- Increase awareness of association purpose
- Allows the members to become a significant part of the change

These wonderful traits to encourage new participants in the sport are the valuable tools that will lead to sustainment of the sport.

During the legislative session, delegates voted on seven proposals involving changes to bylaws, league rules and tournament rules. Among the four proposals to the USBC National Bylaws was a proposal to increase national dues for the first time in 10 years. The present bylaw state dues cannot exceed \$10; the proposal that passed agreed to raise the dues with a ceiling of \$15. Two other bylaw proposals sought to require non-merged local and non-merged state associations to merge by Aug. 1, 2018 were also passed.

Lastly, there were three open positions on the USBC board which will be filled by Frank Wilkinson, Mark Martin, and Jeffrey Ussery. The National positions need diversity and it would be nice to see the emergence of new energy and some fresh faces as USBC Board of Directors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Black

Cynthia Black, NCAUSBCA Director

2016 USBC Convention Report

Las Vegas, NV

April 26-29, 2016

The convention format was slightly different this year. On the opening day, Tuesday, April 26, there was a Rules seminar from 5-6pm, open to all delegates. The theme of the Rules seminar was what can be done to increase tournament participation. The Rules team identified some rules and potential tools to make increased tournament participation a reality. Some of the reasons bowlers participate in tournaments are: (1) its fun; (2) to win money; (3) the competition; (4) to support a cause, e.g., BVL; and, (5) to bowl with family and friends. Some of the reasons bowlers do not bowl in tournaments are: (1) the tournaments are poorly run, e.g. squads do not start on time; (2) prize fund offers a poor return their investment, e.g., not getting their entry fee back if they are in last place; and, (3) an uneven level of competition, e.g., high average bowlers (200+) bowling in a handicap tournament with average bowlers. There was a discussion regarding how to identify and sandbaggers and how to defeat them. Rule 319a-e should be used to possibly identify and defeat sandbaggers.

On Wednesday April 27, after the motivational speaker Christine Cashen's presentation, the seminars commenced: The Future of Associations seminar. The initial discussion was the history of WIBC, ABC and the Youth Bowling Association because in order to know the future you must know the past. The USBC's commitment to associations is to: (1) celebrate the past; (2) be mindful of the present; and, (3) ensure bowling's future. In order to keep that commitment USBC needs the associations. The future envisioned is that associations provide the best service to the sports—league services, member services, lane certification, tournaments, community outreach, and support of charities.

The second seminar I attended was—USBC Recruitment. This seminar explored the need for recruitment in bowling and included ways to engage volunteers. Volunteer recruitment: we recruit volunteers to enhance our ability to become stronger, reduce the burden on the association managers, create backup support, e.g., WINLABS, to increase awareness of the association's purpose, and to work together to achieve a shared purpose. How do we recruit—internal evaluation of BOD members who should rank themselves regarding interests and/or skill sets by completing a volunteer information form—and external recruitment. We can find volunteers by placing recruitment flyers in bowling centers; creating handouts for the league secretaries, local BVL or Bowl for the Cure fundraisers; communication both personal and by posting on Facebook on association's websites.

Thursday morning, April 28, started with a Meet the Candidates session to hear from the candidates running for the USBC Board of Directors. An all delegates seminar--A Future for the Sport-- followed which highlighted USBC successes in 2015 and their commitment to be a leader for bowling as the national governing body and a partner to the bowling that includes state and local USBC associations. It was noted that support was needed for proposal B3—dues increase—as an investment in associations at every level and the sport of bowling to ensure that all of the USBC services and programs continue.

The afternoon session included BVL, Susan G. Koemen Meet the Cure, BVL, SMART, Bowling Proprietor's Association, TNBA, Strike Ten Entertainment, Professional Bowlers Association, World Bowling, International Bowling Museum & Hall of Fame presentations. The NCA was the top local association contributor with \$23,448.

The Friday morning session included award presentations and the report of the President, the strategic planning report, the IBC youth development report and the executive director's report. The afternoon session started with the legislative session.

The legislation session was held in the afternoon. The results are as follows: Amendment LR 1, duties of the secretary, rejected; LR 2, requires legal lineup at start of game, rejected; Amendment TR 1, average adjustments (rerating), requires bowler to report any previous reratings or adjustments, accepted; USBC National Bylaws, B1 and B2, requires non-merged associations to be merged by August 2018, accepted; Amendment B3, allows national dues to increase up to a maximum of \$15, accepted; (Note: there was a motion for secondary amendment to allow national dues to increase the maximum of \$1 a year for each of the next five years that was rejected.) Amendment B4, USBC National Bylaws allows state associations to have delegates for affiliate associations, rejected.

Phyllis Cook