



Florida State USBC



FLORIDA STATE USBC NEWSLETTER

January 2021



[President's Message](#)

[Fred McFarland](#)

Just a short note as we leave 2020 and begin 2021. The bowling community had a tough road to travel this past year. Centers having to close, some for a longer period than others, leagues with their seasons shortened. Our state tournaments were rescheduled, fortunately we were still able to hold all of the tournaments with participation levels down 40%. Thanks to all who came out to support those tournaments. I would like to remind everyone that this year's tournaments are on schedule to run at their normal times, so get your entries in early. The Open is being held in the Clearwater/St. Petersburg area with cohosting associations, Gulf Coast and Suncoast. The Women's is being held in the Ft. Myers/Cape Coral area, hosted by Southwest Florida. All the youth tournaments are in the Tampa/Zephyrhills area. With regards to our tournaments, I would like to remind local associations that are hosting one of our tournaments, that this is an opportunity to enhance your coffers as you are able to retain 75% of all profits garnered from fundraising at the tournaments, including brackets. If your local association is interested in hosting a tournament, feel free to contact the state office for a bid package.

As 2021 begins, I hope that it's a happy and healthy year and we can return to a more normal bowling lifestyle.

Marion County USBC

Debbie Whitten

I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please keep everyone in your thoughts and prayers as this year comes to an end and none too soon. We have lost more bowlers and bowlers have lost family members and the sadness just does not seem to end.

Our local association is getting ready to host our local tournaments such as the Mixed, Youth, Open, and Women's. These will take place in January, February and March. This will give the local bowlers time to get their entries in for the State Open and State Women's tournaments.

National Tournaments are still kind of iffy at this point with the Open being moved to begin May 1, 2021, from the original starting date of March 6, 2021 and the Women's Tournament being moved from Addison, Illinois, to Reno, Nevada, with a new starting date of April 23, 2021 and not April 18, 2021. This was not as drastic as the move the Open took. This has caused a lot of bowlers to rethink participating in the national tournaments in 2021. For more information, please go to bowl.com and check the Open Tournament information page or the Women's Tournament information page.

The USBC National Convention will be virtual with no information available at this time. Unsure exactly what they will offer and who will be allowed to attend and how they will attend. The question is, with there being some legislation that was to be voted on at the 2020 Convention will that be postponed or will they set up somehow for delegates to "click" yes or no and have their vote counted. Only time will tell what USBC is able to set up and how well will it be attended....

An important issue facing bowlers and bowling centers is lane inspections. These have been put on hold as USBC was going to unveil their new lane inspection protocol at the 2020 convention. Some centers have not been inspected going on two years and bowlers are questioning the conditions of the lanes. This is a legitimate concern if lanes are out of spec or pin decks are not setting pins correctly (off spot) and a multitude of

other issues that should concern the proprietors. Lanes and equipment are not cheap and to let them go without being properly maintained is not fair to the bowler or the proprietor.

Hopefully by the time of the next newsletter we will have answers to most, if not all, of these questions and concerns.

Again, let's all pray that the year 2021 will be uneventful, a return to what we Americans consider "normal" (which will more than likely not ever return to what we grew up with or came to enjoy) and that the world will be a more peaceful place for all people.



[Greater Miami USBC](#)

[Sharon Colon](#)

Happy New Year to all! We hope this finds everyone safe, healthy, and ready for a much better year than 2020. Despite the fact that our part of the state is still a Covid hot spot, we have made a concerted effort to follow safety protocols to keep our sport alive and well. So many thanks to our wonderful Bird Bowl Center that has been so accommodating and rigid with Covid rules in order for us to continue our participation in all the sport has to offer.

So far, we have had a few tournaments that have been very successful and well received. On Nov. 15th we held our BVL Baker's Doubles Tournament and even had to turn away a number of teams because we filled up quickly. This year our champions were Brian Bringas and Charlie Forero, (1045), second place went to Miguel Cantu and Eugene Tiger (1037) and third place went to Paul Rosenfeld and Carlos Tijero (1027). Thanks to all who participated in this fun and charitable

event. On Dec. 6th we had our annual Don and Paula Carter Adult/ Youth Tournament. This was also well attended. The top scoring teams were as follows:

Div. A – 1 st -	T. Salinetto/E. Salinetro	1587
2 nd -	F. Nodarse/D. Delgado	1580
3 rd -	N. Candolero/W. Harrell	1538
Div. B - 1 st -	C. Morales/A. Sanchez	1543
2 nd -	Gillian Pons/G. Mejia	1538
3 rd -	R. Toffoli/A. Toffoli	1517

The next two tournaments to be hosted at Bird Bowl will be on Jan. 9th- Florida State/Miami Youth Leaders BVL Scholarship Tournament and on Jan. 16th and 17th – 2021 Women’s City Doubles Tournament (with optional singles) where there will be a \$400 minimum added to the prize fund, split evenly between Singles and Doubles. We hope to see you there!

Our bowlers have shown that wearing masks and distancing themselves socially hasn’t gotten in the way of their scoring as you will see in the following lists of honor scores so far:

Men (series) Chris Szymanski – 835, Igar Rodriguez- 823, Fernando Guadalupe- 820 (3 800’s in the last month) Gary Fox- 800, and Andre Molinari- 800.

Men (games) 300’s – Charlie Forero, Fernando Guadalupe, Albert Morales, Jesus Villacis, and Chris Best. Close, but not quite 300 - Mike Urdanivia- 299, Truc Nguyen- 297, Richard Cheney – 289, and Eugene Tiger – 289.

Ladies (series) Janeka Butler 787 and Caitlin Graham- 760.

Ladies (games) Caitlin Graham- 300, Janeka Butler- 298, and Sherry Cockfield- 290.

Junior bowlers (series) Ryan Toffoli 729 and Conner Piphoo- 722.

Junior bowlers (games) Tyan Toffoli- 297 and Eric Garcia 286.

1st time 200 game – Tyler Salinetro.

In Memorium - Selma Beckham (99) passed away on October 28th. She was a Bantams Coach for years and years at Bird Bowl. Selma valiantly coached through cancer, heart problems, and even a broken foot. She just stopped coaching 3 years ago when her health issues started to interfere with her driving! She was a special lady that positively impacted so many lives. She will be greatly missed!

I recently received an e-mail with this poem enclosed and I would like to share it with you.

A Year in Review (author unknown)

It is a month before New Year's,
And all through the town,
People wore masks,
That covered their frown
The frown had begun
Way back in the Spring
When a global pandemic
Changed everything.
They called it Corona,
But unlike the beer,
It didn't bring good times,
It didn't bring cheer.
Airplanes were grounded,
Travel was banned.
Borders were closed
Across air, sea and land.
As the world entered lockdown
To flatten the curve,
The economy halted,
And folks lost their nerve.
From March to July
We rode the first wave,
People stayed home,
They tried to behave.
When summer emerged
The lockdown was lifted.
But away from caution,
Many folks drifted.
December came
And cases were spiking,
Wave two has arrived,
Much to our disliking.

It's true that this year
Has had sadness a plenty,
We'll never forget
The year 2020.
And just 'round the corner
The holiday season,
But why be merry?
Is there even one reason?
Well, I gathered the ribbon,
The garland and bow,
As I played those old carols,
My happiness did grow.
Christmas wasn't cancelled
And neither was hope.
If we lean on each other,
I know we can cope.

Until next time, May all of the good scores be yours.

[Charities Committee](#)

[Maryann Adkins](#)

HAPPY NEW YEAR to All and I pray that 2021 is a better year than 2020!

I know some associations have held their BVL fund raisers and I hope those who have not, will do so soon, our Vets need your support! All funds that Florida State USBC receives, goes to BVL Nationals to be divided equally and sent to our 7 VA Hospitals, to help our Veterans. I want to thank the associations that have sent in their donations and remind those who have not to please do so. Our Vets need your support in these difficult times!

Our other charity is the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation. All money received stays in the state of Florida. They sponsor many programs within the state. They are rated 4 stars out of 4 on Charity Navigator.

Thank you for all your hard work and support of these worthwhile causes, that benefits our Florida Veterans and Breast Cancer.

The Greater Tampa USBC Association wants to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year. It has not been without challenges this year due to Covid-19. We lost several members and our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

We tried unsuccessfully to have our annual meeting twice but were not able to get the required quorum. The board met via zoom and business was taken care of as much as we could. Our president, Bill Walker appointed the following positions and we welcome and congratulate them to our board. Vonda Stringfield was appointed 2nd Vice President, Don Gould and Mike Lee were appointed directors and Bailey Morrow was appointed a Youth Director.

Our winter leagues still seem to be down 30-40% as of now and some leagues that had planned to start in January have not started up. Many are waiting for the vaccines and hope they can return.

The Greater Tampa USBC is going to be very busy this year as we are hosting the Pepsi/Fl. Handicap Finals in April, the Florida State Youth tournament along with East Pasco USBC in June and finally we are hosting the Florida State Women's Senior Tournament in November.

We are scheduled to have our youth city tournament the end of January and hope we are still able to have it.

Congratulations to Angela Newson who shot her first 300 game on November 30 and Ian Fournier who shot his first 300 game on December 6.

Until next time, hope everyone stays safe and healthy.



Calling All Seniors

Pamela Cameron

CALLING ALL SENIORS.....and what constitutes a senior you ask? Well, USBC says you are a senior at age 50. Have you considered joining a “senior“ bowling league? Many senior leagues participate in the morning hours, and there are many benefits to bowling at that time. Bowling rates are usually less, senior sanction fee is less and bowling centers are not crowded. Your local bowling establishment will appreciate the business and work along with senior bowlers. I can speak from personal experience. I bowl in a small, senior ladies league. We currently have 6 teams with 3 bowlers each and our league begins at 10:00 a.m. We bowl our three games, we cheer each other on and then some of us go out to lunch afterward. So come on seniors, contact your local bowling association or bowling center for assistance in organizing your senior league. Grab your neighbors and friends and “Let’s Get Rolling”.

Liberty Lanes/Largo

Karen Shaffer

Hello, my fellow female bowlers. First of all, I hope you had a nice holiday full of love and joy!!!!

WELCOME 2021!!!! Beginning Jan. 16TH and every 3rd Saturday of the month Liberty Lanes Ladies Challenge will be held!

Kegel Challenge Bourbon Street 6240 is the pattern for this month's event. All ladies and youth bowlers are welcome! Any interested ladies can email us at info@libertylanesbowling.com or call us at 727-397-3947 to enter our monthly ladies tournament. We will be paying both divisions, scratch and handicap.

Visit <https://libertylanesbowling.com/tournaments> for tournament rules.

Please sign up early and if you wish to bowl with somebody either for the Doubles Nassau or to bowl on the same pair, let us know ahead of time. If you bring a partner you will get 5 raffle tickets for a new bowling Ball.

Happy and Healthier 2021 ladies, see you soon!!!!

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our newsletter this issue. Please remember that anyone can submit an article. Hope to see many more submissions for our next issue.

Attached you will find a story written by one of our board members. We hope you enjoy it!

BOWLING



What beginners think I do



What my friends think I do



What society thinks I do



What my instructor thinks I do



What I think I do



What I really do

Florida's only Masters Champion

By Michael Nyitray

When we think of a USBC Masters champion we think of talented hard-working athletes with poise under pressure... and you would be correct. But we do not think about the journey on the way to becoming that Masters champion. I'm not just referring to the early years as a professional bowler, because what happened before becoming a pro, even when a youth bowler has an impact. *Everything* contributes to becoming a Masters champion and not all winners of the Masters tournament have multiple tour titles, multiple majors or destined to be a PBA Hall of Famer. In fact, there are number past Masters champions that had limited tour success with a handful whose lone PBA tour title came when winning the Masters. This is the story of one of them.

The journey of 1967 ABC Masters champion, Lou Scalia, took many turns that ultimately led him to winning his one and only PBA national tour title, and it was a major. It's important start by recognizing one important fact, Lou is the only Floridian ever to win the Masters title, which ironically, he won in nearby Miami, less than one hour from his home. What most did not know, including myself, Lou was not originally from Florida, rather he was initially from Buffalo in upstate New York.

A passionate bowler from a very young age Lou was carrying a respectable 179 average at age 16. That's when Lou's family moved to Hollywood, Florida in 1959. Fortunately, South Florida was at the time a hotbed for competitive bowling. Lou continued to improve averaging in the 190s by age 19. His talent was recognized by top local player Mike Praznovsky, a future Florida Hall of Famer, and was asked to join his team for the local classic leagues in 1961-62 season. Back in those days being invited to join a top-tier team was quite an honor. Around that same time, Mike Praz told Lou about a scratch singles tournament being held in nearby Palm Beach County.

Never one to shy away from a competition, Lou was excited to compete in this tournament. Not only because there was a big first place cash prize, but also because re-entries were permitted. Because of the very difficult lane conditions and the special 4 lb. pins, scores were always very low. Often a winning average score for the five-game tournament was in the 190s. After bowling their first squad Lou and Mike Praz were high from the South Florida bowlers with 5-game scores of 910 and 920, respectively. But out of nowhere this guy from Jacksonville named Glenn Pierce (also a future Florida Hall of Famer) shot an amazing 1008. Lou noticed that Pierce was playing an extreme outside line, pointing the ball up the 2-3 boards and had a reaction like no one else in the building. Despite never having played the extreme gutter, Lou could see why Pierce's line was working and decided to give it a try. Lou shot 1018 for his next 5-game block and took over the lead; ultimately winning the tournament. According to Lou, winning that tournament against so many strong bowlers from across the state was the jump-start to his transformation into what became the 1967 Masters champion a few years later.

That local tournament effectively changed the course of Lou's bowling career (and his approach) because up until that tournament Lou had a very straight arm swing that was perfectly suited for playing "up the track" anywhere around the second arrow, which most people did during that era. Along with a straight arm swing Lou had excellent balance throughout his approach with a zero-board drift. The board he started on was the board he slid on. But when faced with a challenge good athletes can be creative and Lou came up with an unexpected adjustment strategy. Keep in mind this was the early 1960s and there was no instant video or film feedback at the time, so Lou did not realize he did not adjust "parallel" to right to play that extreme outside line. In his mind he "saw" a solution of moving only 3 or 4 boards to the right with his feet and target the 2nd board like Pierce was doing. Lou effectively delivered his new strategy resulting with a tournament win. After all, that was his intention when he entered that tournament, to win it.

In April of 1965, Lou became the first bowler in Florida history to roll a sanctioned 800 series. His 808 was bowled at Cloverleaf Lanes during league with teammate Mike Praz and other local top-level players. Anyone who wasn't there assumed Lou played the gutter that night, I know I did. But no, Lou actually played near the 3rd arrow that magical league night. Let's not forget the best players are smart enough to play what the lanes are giving them the best chance score. To play the 3rd arrow with his drift-to-the-right/backswing-away-from-body style Lou started up against the ball return on lane 36. That night everything fit Lou's his eye, his feel and his talent, viola... a new state record.

By the mid-1960s, Lou was competing part-time on the pro bowler's tour with moderate success. Well, that is being generous because according to Lou, if he didn't have his shot, he struggled just to get a check. Making an occasional final, Lou's confidence against the game's best continued to grow. Then in 1967, the ABC Championships tournament, now known as the USBC Open Championships, was coming to the Miami Beach Convention Center. But first was the ABC Open Championships and Lou found a great shot off the gutter. In the weeks before the Masters, Lou delivered three strong performances in the Singles, Doubles and Team events taking the lead in All-Events, ultimately finishing 2nd overall to legendary bowler, Bob Strampe, on the very last weekend. After that came the ABC Masters, one of the premier tournaments in all of bowling. Starting with a 10-game qualifier, the top 63 scoring bowlers advance to the double-elimination match play consisting of four-games total pinfall matches. The defending champion was automatically seeded into match play, rounding out the 64 finalists. The double-elimination match play format was simple, win your match you advance to the next round. Lose once, you're still 'alive' but you drop down into the loser's bracket. Lose your second match and you're eliminated from the tournament.

Walking into the Miami Beach Convention Center excited to play but with no particular expectation, Lou qualified easily by doing what he did best, playing the gutter. In match play, Lou was dominating. Winning match after match against some of the biggest names like Ed Lubanski and past Masters champion Harry Smith, Lou went undefeated throughout match play earning the top-seed! One of the benefits of being the top-seed in the Masters is you have to be defeated *twice* to be eliminated because his opponent in the title match already had one match loss.

Bowling for the title Lou was going to face PBA tour champion Bill Johnson, a well-respected player on the tour. Though Johnson already had lost one match, Lou had his hands full not just because he was not just going up against a well-experienced professional but he was also up against the gravity of the moment in trying to win a Masters title. Admittedly, Lou did not start the match well, mostly because he was so nervous and just couldn't get comfortable, yet he still managed to bowl games of 208-194-216 for a respectable 618. There was just one problem, Johnson was bowling great opening with an impressive 668 for his first three games. Down by 50 pins with only one game to go, Lou thought the match was all but over, which ironically removed any nervousness. And as the old adage goes, "*it ain't over 'till it's over*". The two bowlers started their fourth and final game of their first match quite differently. Lou came out striking and Johnson didn't. Then Johnson chopped the 6 pin off of the 6-10 in the early frames and never could get things going. When Lou struck in the 7th frame, he actually took the lead in the match. That's when the sell-out crowd erupted in celebration. Lou said he heard the crowd erupt but didn't dare look up because he didn't want to get distracted as he still had plenty of work left to do. Johnson's struggles continued and was unable to put any strikes together for the remainder of the game, finishing with a disappointing 177. Lou on the other hand kept striking ending up with a clean 258 game, giving him an 876 total to Johnson's 845. At age 25, Lou Scalia was the 1967 ABC Masters Champion!

After the match, the always classy Johnson came over and congratulated the new Masters champion. Johnson also complimented Lou for playing such a smart match, admitting that he got ahead of himself after the 3rd game on what he might need on the next pair *when* bowling their second match. His thinking ahead instead of staying in the moment, cost him that first match and ultimately the Masters. During our

discussions, Lou said he vividly remembers Johnson's admission and admired him for sharing that personal thought after their hard-fought match. In late 2020, I told Lou of a recent discussion I had with PBA legend Larry Lichstein regarding his Masters win. Lichstein told me he had a conversation with Bill Johnson not long after that Masters tournament where Johnson shared another perspective of that fateful match. Johnson said the energy within that sold-out Convention Center was totally in favor of the hometown Scalia. As Scalia struck over and over that 4th game, the crowd got louder and louder making it ever more difficult to focus. Johnson talked about how helpless he was as Scalia just kept striking and how the crowd just kept cheering *and* how he couldn't do anything about it. Lou was quite surprised to learn of this additional side of Johnson's inner-thoughts. Once again, Lou stated what a nice man Johnson was and how they remained friends for years after they both retired from competitive bowling.

While the 1967 Masters was Lou Scalia's lone PBA title, he did have a 3rd place finish in the 1967 Portland Open later that season along with another top-10 finish on the PBA tour. No doubt it was on the strength of his dominating win at the Masters and his solid performances on summer tour, Lou was later selected to 1967 Bowling Writer's "All-American First Team" and was later inducted in both Broward County and Dade County bowling association Hall of Fames. Lou's successful bowling career also included bowling talk show host, bowling coach and owner of Florida's first-ever bowling pro shop with its own pair of lanes with automatic ball returns.

Kicking off the grand opening of Lou Scalia's Pro Shop in 1972, bowling legends Dave Davis and Johnny Petraglia were on-hand for not only photo-ops for local bowlers, the two PBA champions bowled a match right there on the pro shop lanes in front of a packed house. Also in attendance was local superstar Paula Sperber, fresh off of her win at the 1971 U.S. Open. Paula added a special surprise to the grand opening. Already a big media event, to everyone's surprise – including Lou – bowling icon Don Carter walked in to offer his congratulations and support for his friend's new pro shop.

A natural in front of the camera, Lou was the host of a two bowling talk shows. Starting with "*Bowling Talk*" in 1977 which first aired on a South Florida UHF channel and ran for four years. Some years later Lou partnered with Bob Geismar to produce the national televised bowling show, "*The 10th Frame*". From 1990 to 2000, Lou provided engaging interviews with the biggest names in bowling offering insights, both technical and personal, on what helped make them the great champions along with other helpful information. For more than three decades, Lou Scalia was one of the most influential individuals in Florida bowling, both on and off the lanes.

What makes Lou's story all the more remarkable, it might not have happened at all if not for seeing Glenn Pierce play the gutter in that local Florida tournament in 1961. During one of our discussions, I asked Lou if he thought he would still have won the Masters if he had not changed his straight swing / straight approach during that local tournament. Lou responded immediately, "*Absolutely not. I've no doubt I would have remained just a good local bowler.*" Lou added, "*That change allowed me, when I had my shot, to be as good as anybody.*"

These days Lou Scalia lives in Tennessee and is still in the memorabilia business when not pursuing his other passion: golf. And for the record, Lou can shoot his age or below, that is when he is not helping his friends improve their golf games.

About the author: Michael Nyitray is a USBC Gold Level Coach and a two-time U.S. Olympic Committee National Developmental Coach of the Year and currently serves as a director on both Florida State USBC and Broward County USBC association boards. Having grown up in South Florida, Nyitray observed first-hand Scalia's impact on the Florida bowling community, including working at Lou Scalia's Pro Shop during the 1984-85 bowling season.

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