



# Florida State USBC



## FLORIDA STATE USBC NEWSLETTER

March 2023

### President's Message

Fred McFarland

I would like to remind everyone that we are at the beginning of our tournament season, and now is the time to send in your entries. The first 2 of our tournaments will be the Pepsi/Florida Youth to be held in Tallahassee and the State Mixed in honor of the tournament founders Bob and Connie Peters to be held in Lakeland. Next, is the Open State running in May and June being cohosted by Greater Tampa and East Pasco. The 2 centers are Pin Chasers Midtown and Pin Chasers Zephyrhills. The Women's State will be held the last 2 weekends in May and the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of June hosted by Southwest Florida and the 2 centers will be Coral Lanes and Lightning Strikes. Following is the last tournament for the summer, the Youth Scholarship. The Greater Orlando will be hosting this tournament at Boardwalk Bowl in Orlando. Again, now is the time to be sending in your entries to the tournament directors to secure the dates you would like to bowl. I would also encourage you to pass the information along to bowlers in your leagues and associations.



## USBC Helen Baker Award

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The USBC Helen Baker Award for Outstanding Association Service is named in honor of the fifth president of the Women's International Bowling Congress. It annually recognizes an outstanding bowling leader who has made invaluable contributions to the local and state associations as an innovator, creator and mentor of adult programs.



We would like to congratulate our own **Dalia Keyes** who has been named as the 2023 recipient of this prestigious award.

Dalia has been a member of both the Greater Tampa and Florida State USBC for 49 years. At both levels, she has contributed her time and talent in a variety of roles while serving in a number of director, officer and committee positions.

Dalia is the present Greater Tampa USBC Association Manager and a member of the Youth Committee. On the state level, she is the current Sergeant at Arms, Youth Tournament Director and Youth Leader Advisor. On the national level, she is a former director of the Women's International Bowling Congress and the Young American Bowling Alliance.

Her commitment to the sport is noteworthy as Dalia has spent countless hours visiting bowling centers in an effort to inform league members about the benefits of sanctioning with the USBC.

Congratulations Dalia!! It is well deserved honor!!

## FSUSBC Tournaments Directors

Katheryn Auton

As our association grows, we are adding tournament directors to our association. I will remain as the association Tournament Director. I will continue to be Director for the

Open Championship Tournament. This year, I will be running the Senior Women's Tournament

At our past Board Meeting, I recommended, and the Board passed the following individuals to be individual Tournament Directors, effective immediately:

**The Women's Championship Tournament**

Florida State USBC, Inc.  
Women's State Championship Tournament  
C/O Debbie Whitten  
P. O. Box 831059  
Ocala, FL 34483

**Mixed Championship Tournament**

Florida State USBC, Inc.  
Mixed State Championship Tournament  
C/O Ashley Chisano  
4302 Hollywood Blvd., #257  
Hollywood, FL 33021

**Men's Championship Tournament**

Florida State USBC, Inc.  
Men's State Championship Tournament  
C/O Bruce Combs  
P. O. Box 20027  
Bradenton, FL 34204

*Congratulations to the above individuals for being made Florida State USBC Tournament Directors!*

**FSUSBC Tournaments**

**Toni Maddux**

First of all, I would like to congratulate our 3 new state tournament directors, Debbie Whitten, Ashley Chisano and Bruce Combs. I know they will all do a great job for the bowlers.

Please go to our website, [Floridastateusbc.com](http://Floridastateusbc.com), for all of our upcoming deadlines and tournaments. Pepsi and the Mixed Tournaments are starting this month and from what I hear entries for each tournament is up from the previous year and that is fantastic. If you have any questions about any of our state tournaments contact the tournament director listed on the entries or call the state office. All of the entries are in most bowling centers and on our website. The only way to make these tournaments successful is with the support of our members.

Local associations interested in submitting bids for our 2025 tournaments, the deadline is June 30th. Information for bidding was sent out February 1st.

## USBC Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow

This award annually recognizes star qualities in a male high school senior or college student who competes in the sport of bowling. Star qualities include distinguished certified bowling performance on the local, regional, state and national levels, academic achievement and extracurricular and civic involvement.



We would like to congratulate Zachary Andrews from Jacksonville, FL for being this year's Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow Scholarship recipient.

## Tallahassee USBC

## Michael Fleischacker

The Leon County Division of Tourism/Visit Tallahassee welcomes the Pepsi Youth Bowling Championship to Tallahassee for its 2023 edition. The big stage is the dream for all athletes, its where the hard work, dedication of players, coaches, and parents intersect with championships. As the Championship Capital of Florida, Tallahassee has gained recognition as the place where the best athletes of all ages test their skill and enjoy the feeling of competition at a high level. Championship competition is something that our community has embraced and the level of support and commitment to athletes shines through in all interactions. Whether it's the front desk of the hotel, the staff at a local restaurant, or at the bowling center where the competition is happening, we want you to have an experience that will live in your memory for a lifetime. There has been a longstanding love of bowling here in Tallahassee, and we are ready to show the bowlers of Florida that youth bowling in the panhandle is booming! We thank each of you for coming to Florida's Capital for this prestigious championship and we hope you get to experience the warm Tallahassee welcome that makes our city so special to us. We also thank the Tallahassee USBC association along with Dan Pizzi and his team at Capital Lanes for helping make this event possible.

The upcoming deadline for local associations to host the 2024 annual meeting is March 31st. If you have any questions, please contact me before the deadline.

**SAVE THE DATES** The 2023 Annual meeting activities will begin Friday, October 13th thru Sunday October 15th. The annual meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza, Fort Myers at Bell Tower Shops, 13051 Bell Tower Drive, Ft. Myers, 33907 beginning on Saturday. Rates are \$119 without breakfast \$139 with breakfast for 2. Reservations must be made by September 23rd, to get the group rate. The delegates get-together and registration will be on Friday night from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. Bowling will be held on Saturday morning and registration will continue on Saturday, the youth luncheon and youth Hall of Fame will be at 11:30 am. The annual meeting will begin at 1 pm with our traditional memorial service and the meeting will begin following the service.

Cash social in the lobby will be on Saturday night from 5 to 6 before the annual awards and Hall of Fame dinner at 6 pm. All adult tournament winners and Hall of Fame winners and one guest will be invited to the dinner; additional winners and honorees will pay the regular dinner fee. The annual meeting will reconvene on Sunday morning at 9 am until the business is complete.

Please check our [Floridastateusbc.com](http://Floridastateusbc.com) website for more details closer to the event. The SAVE THE DATES will be updated on a regular basis.



The 2023 Pepsi Tournament will be held at Capital Lanes in Tallahassee for five weekends from March 18 through April 23. Over 2600 youth bowlers from every corner of Florida will be participating in this year's event. This is the first major State bowling event ever held in Tallahassee. Visit Tallahassee has added an additional \$15,000 in scholarship to the event. The tournament will top \$100,000 in scholarships for the

second year in a row. The Pepsi Tournament is a USBC National event, sponsored by Pepsi, BPAA and Storm.

Capital Lanes and Visit Tallahassee are rolling out the red carpet for our event. They plan to have food trucks in the parking area and possibly games and events as well. Capital Lanes is a state of the art 40 lane center conveniently located on Capital Circle on the east side of our state capital. Bowlers and their families need to spend a little extra time exploring this historic area. Tallahassee is home to Florida State University and Florida A&M University. Each campus also has their own bowling center as home for their respective collegiate teams.

Your Pepsi Tournament team of Allen Solomon, Karen Shaffer, Tim Andersen, youth leader Zachary Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator Michael Fleischacker and center manager Dan Pizzi look forward to welcoming you. Brackets will once again be run by Fred Shaffer, who volunteers his time yearly to bring you even more scholarship opportunity.

There will be a daily bowling ball raffle to raise money to help send our champions to the National events in Indianapolis this July. We will send our first-place girl and boy champions from the U12, U15 and U18 divisions to represent us in Junior Gold. Our top 2 boys and girls in the Florida Handicap Tournament are invited to represent us as Team Florida in the National Youth Open Tournament. Last year's Team Florida won first place in the Open which was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



USBC Convention, GMUSBC

Miguel Baro

Hello fellow bowling associations in the State of Florida!

As you may be aware the USBC National Convention will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada at South Point Hotel and Casino. Like each and every year it is a chance to make your voices heard for the bowling community. This is my second year attending physically as a delegate to the USBC Convention. This year will be my third year as a delegate since

2021. My experience attending convention was enjoyable both virtually and physically. In 2021 I had my first chance to experience the USBC Convention virtually since the 2020 Convention was cancelled due to the Covid pandemic. I enjoyed watching the motivational speaker. I did learn a lot from the seminars that were offered. I also got to vote remotely on the legislative portion at Convention. I got to virtually meet other delegates from around the country. We shared what we do in our associations, for example, Hall of Fame banquets, tournaments and local awards. I can say for my first experience in 2021 the virtual way of convention was very informative and I enjoyed it. Then in 2022, I had the opportunity to attend the convention physically. Like the saying goes "whatever happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." In 2022 I physically attended the USBC convention. I was excited! Being born and raised in Florida I have travelled up and down the east coast of the United States. This would be the first time I was visiting a city on the westside of our country. All the lights and glamour of Vegas peeked my excitement. There are a lot of stories I can tell but I will not disclose them here. Convention was an awesome experience attending physical aside from visiting Vegas on my free time. This was the first convention that was physically held after the Covid 19 pandemic. I got to see old friends from around our state. I also got to meet and make new friends from around the country. I interacted with fellow delegates from Chicago land. They are very fun people! I really enjoyed watching the motivational speaker who give us delegates and volunteers on what we do for our bowling community. Another seminar I enjoyed was the "Rip off the Rearview Mirror". Not only was the speaker teaching us how to use techniques in handling situations in the bowling center but created scenarios on how to start conversations with our bowlers. I got to witness the retirement of two great female bowlers from Team USA, Stefanie Johnson and Shannon O'Keefe. I am going to leave this topic about attending convention both physically and virtually open. My intention is whenever you the association manager, officer, or director have the opportunity to attend convention, either physically or virtually, learn from those seminars and do it. If there is an opportunity to vote remotely make your voice from your association heard. We are the representation of our bowlers.

Marion County USBC

Debbie Whitten

Here we are getting ready to end the first quarter of 2023. Seems like only yesterday we were getting ready to start fall leagues and we are in the final weeks of fall leagues and getting ready to floor the summer leagues. Keeps everyone busy keeping up with all the activities associated with bowling - starting a league, ending a league and recruiting and trying to retain bowlers.

This has been a little bit of a strain this year as many leagues do not have an endless supply of “substitutes” waiting around to bowl or actually join the league. Some bowlers only bowl one league and do not want to sub in any other league. This is more with the senior leagues than the mixed leagues. There are not many eligible 18 to 30-year-old bowlers wanting to join leagues and make a commitment for 32 to 36 weeks so as the older bowlers either stop bowling due to health reasons or pass away it makes filling league teams harder and harder. Some leagues have cut back to 3 person teams to have a big enough league that people want to bowl.

One of the other issues many leagues are facing is the constant rise in prices for league bowling. Where do you draw the line? When the center is getting twice what the prize fund is for the bowlers how long will they continue to bowl? How much do you keep raising what you put in the pay envelope before the bowlers say, “enough is enough” and do not return to bowling? With the majority of the Gen X and the Gen Y’s not joining anything that has a time commitment or a membership fee, is league bowling going to disappear? Time will tell.

Along those lines, how much longer will bowlers participate in tournaments when again the lineage goes up each year and the prize fund is not equal to or more than the lineage and expense fees as well as the other costs of traveling, food, gas and lodging?

So, if not participating in tournaments will league bowlers continue to certify?

Not all areas are facing these issues as they have a strong youth program and a strong support group and are in an area that is not mainly considered a “senior” environment; so hopefully certified league bowling does have a future.

Moving on to the local scene - the youth city tournament, the mixed open tournament and the open championship tournament have concluded and up next will be the women’s city championship. All tournaments are down to one weekend as participation has dropped over the years.

Congratulations to Ashley Chisano, Bruce Combs and Debbie Whitten on stepping into a “tournament director” position on the Florida State USBC Board. Ashley is the tournament director for the Memorial Mixed Tournament, Bruce is the tournament director for the Men’s Only Tournament and Debbie is the tournament director for the Women’s Tournament. All tournament entry forms are on the Florida State USBC



website so check out the dates and locations of the tournaments as well as the deadlines, so you don't miss out.

Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time goes into effect on Sunday, March 12, 2023, possibly for the last time, if the government does what it has said for several years it was going to do, make this the permanent time and we will not change the clocks after this. There are some states that have never participated so it will not have any effect on them. Unfortunately, the government does not always do what they say they will do so be prepared to fall back in November....

Be safe, have fun and keep bowling so that we can keep bowling alive.

Indian River County USBC

Jennifer Biggs

It's a Bowlers Life!

March is here coming in like a lion! Where has the season gone? So many different tournaments, hotels, and the ever-popular question "where are we this weekend?".

The State tournaments are underway as well as local associations running their own. We often find ourselves running from youth bowling to an adult tournament, changing our shirts as we go.

For our youth leagues, we have 8 coaches between two centers. I see our future bowlers with such excitement in their eyes and the high fives with teammates but also disappointment when they don't do well. I see our coaches as encouragers. They inspire our next generation of bowlers with hope when needed. They give support to foster willingness and confidence for a positive outcome. They continue to build their skills, character, and self-confidence. So, THANK YOU to all of the youth coaches that come to the centers every week to work with our future bowlers.

In February, we held our Valentine Scotch Doubles Tournament. The tournament doubled in size (98 participants). Our county tournament will take place March 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to see growth there as well. We're "Talking it Up"! The county youth tournament will take place on April 8<sup>th</sup> at Vero Bowl. Our annual meeting will also be held in April. The coaches at Strike Zone will be having a Major Minor starting in May for 12 weeks. Vero bowl offers various leagues for both youth and adults during the summer.

Enjoy the end of the season!

### **58<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENT**

The Florida State USBC Youth State Scholarship Tournament will be hosted by Orlando Regional USBC starting June 3 and ending June 18. The event will be held at Boardwalk Entertainment Center.

We encourage all youth bowlers to participate in this prestigious event and there is no qualifying to be eligible to participate. It is a handicap tournament, and we also offer optional scratch events.

We will be awarding a minimum of \$50,000 in Smart Scholarships so we encourage the centers and bowling program directors to please get your bowlers involved.

Applications should be in all centers, and are also available on our website [www.floridastateusbc.com](http://www.floridastateusbc.com). You can also contact me at [daliakeyes@aol.com](mailto:daliakeyes@aol.com) and I will be glad to forward an application to you.

Deadline to submit applications is May 01, 2023.

We look forward to seeing you in June.



Tell me...what is the best sport ever? Is it Baseball? Football? Tennis? Soccer? Any guesses? Everyone is entitled to their own opinion but let me tell you why BOWLING is the correct answer. Like most lifelong keglers, I started bowling as a child. Saturday mornings, my mother would drop me off at the local lanes for my three weekly league games. There were no bumpers back in the 1970s and actually keeping the ball on the

lanes was an accomplishment. As I grew in life, my bowling improved and so did my love for the game of ten pins. No matter what point I was in my life, bowling was something I could always look forward to and was there for me.

In 2019, I experienced a major life change when my husband's job got transferred from New Jersey to Florida. I went from bowling 3 nights a week and to moving and not knowing anyone. Talk about eye opening. Both my husband and I decided we would join a league or two to meet some new people. Unfortunately, Covid had other plans and we were all shut down.

Fast forward to 2021 and my husband joined a league he enjoyed. With my work hours, I was unable to find a league that was conducive to my schedule. Finally, this season, I found a league that would work for me. But one huge cloud hung luminously over my head. I hadn't thrown a ball in over 3 years. Would I still be able to bowl? Did I even have equipment that still fit?

The first night of league arrived and I prayed that I would not embarrass myself. As I picked up my first ball in practice, I hoped I wouldn't trip over my own feet. That 15-pound ball felt like 50, but at least it went down the lane...and not backwards. (I did warn my teammates to be on the lookout. Ha! Ha!) When I was living in New Jersey, I was a fairly good bowler. Came home many nights with a bit of disappointment and even at times, angry because of my performance on the lanes. Will I ever be at that competitive level again? Probably not. But, every time I shoe up, I will always give 100% and try my best. Ironically, I'm probably bowling the poorest (numbers wise) I ever have in all of my time on the lanes, but I'm enjoying it more than ever. Once I got out there, it all came back. My timing, my approach, my follow through. It was like I never stopped. Just like riding a bike.

## First Coast USBC Youth HOF

Allen Solomon

The First Coast USBC Youth Hall of Fame Committee is proud to announce their inductions into the Youth Hall of Fame. Induction ceremony is held annually before the Coaches Memorial Tournament. This year's event will be held March 12 at Yulee Bowling and Amusements in Yulee, Florida.

To be inducted this year for bowling achievement are boys Alex Evans (King Pins) and Thomas McLaughlin, Jr. (Batt Family fun Center), and girls Alexandra Welch (Jax Lanes).

All three are very popular former youth bowlers who excelled at every level during their youth careers.

To be inducted for Youth Meritorious Service is Christopher Vetter (Batt Family Fun Center and Bowl America Orange Park). Chris began volunteering in his leagues and at youth events at a very young age. He was a First Coast Youth Leader, helping with fundraising, coaching and working events for years.

For Coach of the Year, we will honor Hall of Fame member Steve Palmer and for induction into the Hall of Fame will be Rick Tarrant. Palmer has been an active coach at Batt Family Fun Center for 19 years. His tireless efforts have been recognized by bowlers, parents and fellow coaches. Tarrant has been an active youth coach at Jax Lanes and then King Pins since 2004. He works hard to help youth bowlers on their journey to collegiate bowling.

To honor coaches who are no longer with us, we will honor Coach John Galarneau for years of service at Beach Bowl in Jacksonville Beach.

We would like to invite everyone to attend this annual event as we honor these well deserving bowlers and coaches. Then stay and watch or bowl in our annual No Tap Coaches Memorial Tournament which even has a newly created adult/coaches division. For information on the event, please go to [fcusbcyouth.com](http://fcusbcyouth.com).

Southwest Florida USBC

Krissy Stewart

Hello fellow bowlers! All of us in Southwest Florida hope that this month's newsletter finds EVERYONE around our beautiful state doing much better than when our last newsletter went to print.

I know that one thing is for sure, some may be still struggling from Hurricane Ian that hit our area just over 5 months ago, but it also seems that we are getting better as a whole as we take it day by day.

We are starting to see businesses re-open all over our county including Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel Island. The Sanibel Lighthouse (an iconic site on Sanibel Island) was finally re-lit yesterday, home's roofs are starting to be replaced, and our "seasonal" visitors still seem to be coming stronger than expected for this year. I am not saying that we aren't still facing challenges, BUT we are definitely showing that now, more than ever, we are #FLORIDASTRONG!

Our Association just finished up our local "Open" tournament this past weekend. We ran it over a two-weekend period at Lehigh Lanes and even with the challenges that we all have been facing, our entries were up 33% from last year! WOO HOO! I want to commend our Association Manager and our local Association's Board for the dedication and hard work they have done to get these entries up like that! We did have one 300 game rolled during the event by Evan Baranecky! I was lucky enough to be a part of his team when he conquered this honor score. Way to go, Evan!!!!

This weekend (March 3-5), Lightning Strikes Bowling Center will be hosting the PBA and PBA50 Non- Champion tournaments. I am sure that the field will be full of high scores on both the "youngster's" side AND the "experienced" side of the tournament. I can't wait to fill you in on the details in our next newsletter of honor scores and who the Champions are.

Then, the following two weekends, Bowland Beacon in Naples, will be hosting our local Association's "Men" and "Women's" tournaments. I have not heard how the entries are going for them since the deadline has not approached yet, but fingers crossed... we will be "UP" in our entries in these two events also.

I wanted to share with you a FUNdraiser event that our Association held during our "Open" tournament. USBC had sent out an email mentioning that the month of February was the month for "Bowl for the Cure." So, our idea to raise money was to have a tournament "within" the tournament. We asked bowlers to donate \$20 where \$10 went to USBC's Bowl for the Cure and the other \$10 went to a prize fund. This \$20 was not part of their entry fee for the tournament. It was a separate event in so many words. The format was that every bowler that entered would take their highest 3 game set with handicap from their Singles, Doubles and Team Event series. So, they actually had 3 chances to place in the side FUNdraiser/tournament. We ended up having 81 bowlers sign up!!! We paid 1:6 for this event. So, 13 bowlers will receive winnings! I thought that was awesome! So, we raised \$810 for USBC's Bowl for the Cure! It was an easy way to raise donations for a great cause. I want to personally thank everyone that was a part of this successful event.

Lastly, I would like to give a HUGE shoutout and THANK YOU to our bowlers and Lisa and Pat Ciniello (owners of the Bowland and HeadPinz centers in Southwest Florida). On February 18<sup>th</sup>, they donated \$25,000 to the "HOME BASE Veterans" Organization. These funds will be used to help the brave men and women who served our Country through the Home Base Warrior Health and Fitness program. Which is based out of Florida Gulf Coast University. They ALSO donated \$15,000 more to the National BVL for its efforts as

well. WOW! Kudos to everyone! Let's keep up these efforts because we know that those funds raised are desperately needed, not only in our area, but all over the Country.

I hope that everyone is enjoying their winter bowling season as it is coming to an end soon and then it will be time to sign up for summer leagues.

Take care! Stay healthy! Score BIG!



## Youth Committee

Ryan Waters

### **Landen Tournament sets a record!**

The 2023 Bill & Millie Landen Memorial Youth Scholarship Tournament ("Landen") was held January 14-15 at Jax Lanes Bowling Center in Jacksonville – the first time it has been hosted in Northeast Florida. 80 youth bowlers from Florida and Georgia competed on three different sport shot patterns over the 2 days, culminating in an exciting stepladder finale for all 4 divisions. While the event was promoted a guaranteed prize pool of \$7,500 – surpassing last year's record prize pool of \$6,100 – through additional donations, fundraising, and a higher turnout a total of **\$10,000** in SMART scholarships was awarded!

The 2023 Landen Tournament was dedicated to the Vogel Family for their many years of service towards youth bowling and the Youth Leaders program. The Landen Tournament is planned, coordinated, and executed every year by the Florida State Youth Leaders (youth bowlers) under the guidance of adult advisors. FSYLA President Patrick Waters and Sergeant-At-Arms Mitchell Stuart did a tremendous job as the Tournament Directors, supported by their advisors (Dalia Keyes and Ryan Waters) plus a few adult volunteers.

The Florida State Youth Leaders welcome youth bowlers (ages 12+) interested in representing their peers at the state level, developing their leadership skills, and learning more about running tournaments and serving on boards.

## **State youth tournaments on the horizon**

Spring is almost here... and in Florida that means it's Pepsi (and FL Handicap) Tournament season! These two youth tournaments are being held at Capital Lanes in Tallahassee for the first time ever, over 5 weekends in March and April. League Directors have already been given squad confirmations for their bowlers who qualified back in November and January. Be sure to review the dress code and rules before traveling to Tallahassee – and book hotels before they are sold out of the Pepsi group rates!

The entry deadline for the 2023 Florida State Youth Scholarship Tournament will be here before you know it (May 1<sup>st</sup>). We are expecting a good turnout this year due to the tournament location (Boardwalk Bowl in Orlando) along with a guaranteed prize pool of \$50,000! The tournament takes place the first three weekends in June, so now's the time to start forming your teams and planning your trip.

## **Noteworthy youth bowling performances from around the state...**

On 1/21/2023 during the YBAM Juniors/Seniors league at Bowlero Mandarin, Danielle Fendenheim set a new series record for First Coast USBC Youth Girls with a 793 series (scores of 235-255-300). Danielle broke the prior FCUSBC Youth Girls record of 782, which stood for over 20 years! Her performance also makes the Florida State USBC's All Time "Top 10" Series for Youth Girls as the 8<sup>th</sup> highest series.

On 2/26/2023 during the Space Coast Youth Tournament at Bowlero Melbourne, Ian Harmon set a new series record for Space Coast USBC Youth Boys with an impressive 857 series (scores of 258-299-300). Ian broke the prior SCUSBC record of 856, which stood for over 5 years! His performance also makes the Florida State USBC's All Time "Top 10" Series for Youth Boys as the 10<sup>th</sup> highest series.

## **FSUSBC Hall of Fame**

**Michael Nyitray**

Once again, the Florida State USBC has an outstanding Hall of Fame class for 2022. This past year we had two men, two women, one boy and one girl inducted.

An interesting feature of this year's Hall of Fame class is that it's representative by not one, but two, Guinness World Record holders. On the men's side Matt Gilman used to be the youngest person ever to have all a certified 300 game at age 11. Our youth girl's inductee, Hannah Diem, who still is currently the Guinness world record holder having rolled her 300 game at only 9-1/2 years of age.

**Adult MEN-Superior Performance**

Sam Costa – Palm Beach County  
Matt Gilman – Broward County

**Adult WOMEN - Superior Performance**

Christina Hardee – Orlando Regional  
Paula Urdal-Wenzel – Sarasota-Manatee

**Youth BOY - Superior Performance**

Pete Vergos – Orlando Regional

**Youth GIRL - Superior Performance**

Hannah Diem – Greater Tampa

The Florida State USBC introduced a new recognition this year. For those Florida bowlers who don't meet the ten (10) state tournament requirement for our FSUSBC Hall of Fame but still have the resident and achievement requirements, they are eligible for nomination for the *Florida Lifetime Achievement Award*. It's important to note this recognition also has a community service component, emphasizing on the promoting of bowling within Florida.

**2022 Florida Lifetime Achievement Award**

Nelson Burton Jr – Martin County

As a result of all he has accomplished in, and on behalf of, bowling in the state of Florida, the FSUSBC board of directors selected Nelson "Bo" Burton Jr. as their first recipient of the FSUSBC "Florida Lifetime Achievement Award".

In the 1970s, Burton won 2 of his 9 ABC Titles and 2 of 18 PBA Tour titles *in* Florida. In the 1980s, Burton was involved with multiple projects promoting bowling throughout the Sunshine State. Starting in 2002, Burton's lifetime Florida league average is 231 spanning 20 seasons. He has amassed an incredible 40-300 games and 31-800 series *after* turning sixty! At 67, he bowled an 868 series setting a new Martin County USBC series and averaged 247, the highest average in Florida during the 2008-09 season. Four years later, Burton broke his own county record with an 878 series, which was the season's second highest series in Florida. Burton's and was elected into the Martin County USBC Hall of Fame in 2013.

The Florida State USBC is proud of our latest class of state hall of famers!

**Greater Miami USBC**

**Sharon Colon**

Greetings from down South! Well, we are just finishing up our three City Tournaments and are ready for some well-deserved rest. Looking back to the beginning of this season we can smile as we have already achieved success on so many levels this year. For the most part we have shown growth in our league membership, especially in our youth



leagues, which have doubled since last season. We also have so many happy bowlers who compliment us on our tournaments and all that we do for them. Despite the economic circumstances in this post Covid period we continue to meet our goals in raising money for BVL and Florida Breast Cancer Foundation. Are we proud of ourselves.....damn straight would be the answer to that question. Achieving this success in our one-house association wouldn't be something you would expect, but we dwell on the positive and make the best out of any obstacle that presents itself.

Just what is success? In researching this I found a few quotes that pretty much define the word:

- “Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.” (Author unknown)
- “There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.” (Colin Powell)
- “Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted.” (David Bly)
- “Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” (Warren Buffet)

I thought it was important to touch on this subject due to conversations I heard from other associations while attending our conventions over the years. Hearing so many complaints about the lack of success and cohesion that they were having, especially since the pandemic started, really made me sad. Setbacks do happen, but just remember that success is not an escalator ride....it is taking a step-by-step approach and believing that you can reach your goals. I think the reason our association has been so successful is that we love the sport, work well together with a common purpose and always look for ways to be even better. Our group is there to help our bowlers in all ways possible. We give advice or suggestions to our leagues, but don't think our position on the board makes us more important than others. Most of our board members have been active within the association for an average of 20 plus years so we have experienced a variety of situations to draw from.

Kudos are warranted for so many people because of the following: our tournaments run smoothly due to the efforts of our Association Manager who is amazingly organized and well versed in the rules of the game along with the dedicated directors that volunteer so much of their time and energy. We have outstanding leadership, the best auxiliary group ever, an absolute wizard that orders and helps deliver the awards, an amazing baker whose brownies are revered, accurate bracket organizers, etc. We are also

blessed to have a great working relationship with Bird Bowl's management and employees.

Why is this important? We have happy bowlers who are improving and enjoying the experience on a regular basis. We hope you can all experience success in your endeavors this year too.

Well, we still have a few tournaments left and invite you to join in the fun. Check out our website, GMUSBC.com to get tournament info. Until next time "may the good scores be yours!"



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## Youth Scholarships

Dalia Keyes

### **PATSY WEDDING/J J GARRETT SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Florida State USBC offers two scholarships that are available to high school seniors and college students, and we award up to \$1000.00 for each.

Applications should be in all centers, and also available on our website [www.floridastateusbc.com](http://www.floridastateusbc.com). You can also contact me at [daliakeyes@aol.com](mailto:daliakeyes@aol.com) and I will be glad to forward an application to you.

Deadline to submit applications is May 01, 2023.

Greetings to All

The Greater Tampa USBC Association has been busy running our youth and women's city tournaments and will have the open soon. We awarded over \$4500.00 in Smart Scholarships and recently had our awards party and had over 60 in attendance.

We are also preparing for our upcoming annual meeting to be held in March. We will also be inducting a new Hall of Fame member Vonda Stringfield for Meritorious Service. Vonda has been involved with our local association for over 10 years and currently serves as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Vonda is very deserving of this award. Congratulations Vonda.



We have five delegates (2 who will be attending the USBC National Convention in Las Vegas the end of April.

Once we return from Las Vegas, we will be hosting the Florida State Open Tournament for eight weekends and will be very busy doing that. We are hosting the doubles/singles event at Pin Chasers Midtown, while the team will be at Pin Chasers East Pasco hosted by East Pasco USBC.

Until next time, hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

The Space Coast USBC would like to thank all the bowlers who have joined this 2022-2023 season. The association will be busy this year with 7 tournaments. 5 being local Space Coast USBC Tournaments, Florida State Women's Senior Tournament in November 2022 and Southeast Tournament in May-June 2023.

Representatives from the Space Coast USBC have attended the Florida State Annual Meeting in St Petersburg. It is always good to talk and exchange ideas with other associations as was the case. Association members returned with trophies and awards presented at the Florida State USBC awards presentation. The awards were then presented to the recipients at their bowling leagues.

I would like to thank the Florida State USBC Board and committee for the publicity award given out for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Outstanding Overall Article, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Outstanding Association Article and 1<sup>st</sup> Place – First Time Venture.

We thank the Florida State USBC for having us host the 2022 Florida State Women's Senior Tournament at Shore Lanes Merritt Island on November 5-6, 12-13, 2022. We as a bowling community had our challenges the last weekend (November 12-13, 2022) of the tournament as that mid-week was Hurricane/Tropical Storm Nicole that came ashore in Vero Beach (Nov. 10). The bowling center had limited power before the start of the bowling shift on Saturday (Nov. 12), but with the help of the power company, power was restored in time for bowling to begin. There was a problem with the last squad on Sunday afternoon as the bowling center lost a phase of the power to the building when a storm passed through the area. So, most of the pinsetters and scoring systems were offline. A plan was put in place by Kevin Richardson (Shore Lanes Merritt Island – Center Manager) to try and finish this final squad of the tournament with the only lanes that had power to the pinsetters. First, I want to thank the bowlers who were on this shift for their patience as Kevin, Toni Maddux and Katheryn Auton tried to find a solution to this dilemma.

The word that I would properly describe this last squad event is “UNPRECEDENTED”!

All the remaining open bowlers were removed from the lanes and from the center. The remaining tournament bowlers were placed on lanes 3-4, 15-16, 25-26 and 35-36 which were the only working lanes in the entire bowling center. Besides that, all the automatic scoring systems were not working properly, so the tournament bowlers had to manually take score. There was one set of lanes where the pinsetters would not reset after each

ball. So, the bowlers had to hit the reset button to cycle the pinsetter. A representative from the Space Coast USBC (Cynthia Schroll) was down at the ball return rack pushing the reset button after each ball was being thrown. At the end when the last ball was thrown, silence was in the bowling center signaling the end of the tournament. It was a long day for this last squad and people stayed and helped to the end.

Special thanks to Shore Lanes Merritt Island, Kevin Richardson, and the staff. Especially the mechanics. Thanks to Toni Maddux and Katheryn Auton for being there at the tournament site. To all the Volunteers and Space Coast Board Members who came and helped support this association during this tournament, THANKS!

**SPACE COAST IS WHERE TO BE IN 2023!!!**  
**Southeast Bowling Association Handicap Tournament**

The Space Coast USBC will be the host Association for the 32nd Annual Southeast Bowling Association Handicap Tournament on May 20, 2023, to June 25, 2023. The host bowling centers will be River Lanes in Titusville for the Team Event and Bowlero Melbourne in Melbourne for the Singles & Doubles Events.



The Southeast Bowling Association Handicap Tournament (SBA) returns to the Space Coast after 21 years since it was last hosted in 2002. The first Southeast Bowling Association Handicap Tournament was hosted in 1992 by the Florida Space Coast BA in Melbourne and Palm Bay. The Southeast Association comprises of 7 Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia).

The Space Coast USBC are excited to bring the tournament back to the Space Coast and Florida. We hope you will have time in your busy bowling schedule to support and participate in this tournament. Be sure to check our Facebook page and our Web Site [www.scusbcbba.com](http://www.scusbcbba.com) for entry information.

The youth tournament was held on February 25-26, 2023, at Bowlero Melbourne. The youth scores were incredible. The final squad on Sunday was the most memorable of all. A 289, 299 and three (3) 300's were bowled. It was a memorable afternoon for all those who witnessed the bowling of these youth bowlers.

Jennifer Chiarillo Scores of 221, 223, 300 for a Series of 744.  
Tyler Wickfelder Scores of 221, 257, 289 for a Series of 767.

Kaitlyn Knight and Ian Harmon are Doubles partners.  
Kaitlyn scores of 211, 235, 300 for a 746 series.  
Ian scores of 258, 299, 300 for an 857 series.  
Their Doubles Scratch Total of 1603.

Honor scores for this tournament are  
3 – 300's, 1 – 299, 1 – 296, 1 – 11-In-a-Row, 1 – 800 Series, Several 700 Series.

Great bowling from our Space Coast Youth Bowlers!!! I can't wait to see what happens next year!

From the editor's desk

Margo Buzzard

I would like to thank everyone for their submissions for this newsletter. I think this may be the most articles I have ever received! I hope everyone enjoys reading about the events going on around our state. Please share the newsletter with your friends and fellow bowlers.

Good luck and good bowling!!

