



JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

FRED W. MCFARLAND, SR. **FLORIDA STATE USBC, INC., PRESIDENT**

On behalf of the Florida State Board of Directors and myself we hope everyone is safe and well during the Corona Virus Pandemic . I know that myself that biggest problem for me was the unknown factors and all the conflicting information be broadcast every day .

The first year as your president has been a challenging one .Having to deal with the Pandemic and trying to maintain and host all of our state tournaments . To update you on those tournaments when this news letter comes out the Open will have started ,the youth starts in June and the Ladies mid July. We had to make a venue change for the Pepsi it is being moved to Cypress Lanes in Winter Haven due to the number of CORONA cases in the Ft. Lauderdale area at the time.

I know some of our bowlers are not comfortable at this time to come out and participate in the tournaments this year and we totally understand their concerns ,we certainly don't want to jeopardize anyone's health. We'll be happy to see those bowlers who chose not to attend this year back next year at their respective tournaments .

In January we held our first meeting as your new Board of Directors. I had assigned members to the various committees ,this was the first time they were able to meet in person and exchange ideas .The finance and budget committee put together a budget for the 2019-2020 season and it was approved by the board . It was a productive meeting and the committees came up with some good ideas for the future.

In closing I just want to say be SAFE BE WELL and GO BOWLING!!!

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CELESTE O'NEILL, FLORIDA STATE USBC

Hope everyone is doing well and we get back to normal soon, but I am not sure when that will actually happen.

I want to remind everyone of our website at www.floridastateusbc.com where you can find anything out regarding what we do as the Florida State USBC. We also have a Facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/FloridaStateUSBC/?eid=ARDkYdjkrbiQpZr6D6SJsDH47HWMvzqTuBdTUjPbQWLRx4h8M_HV6m564FAF3iRL8WIKWNMMQIwpcVKv and the Florida State USBC Youth Leaders page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/167567926641900/>

All of our state tournament dates are on the website, along with standings from the OPEN tournament. Also information about the Pepsi tournament, from Allen Solomon.

Bid proposals for 2022 state tournaments and the 2023 Pepsi and Florida Handicap tournaments went out to the association managers on June 12th, and they are due on July 31st.

The next newsletter will be due on October 1st. Hopefully we will have some good news and everyone will be up and running by then.

The youth state tournament we are recommending that you wear a mask.

Till next time.....



DEBBIE WHITTEN - MARION COUNTY

In January I wrote that here we are in the year 2020 and wondered how many of us thought we would see this milestone. Well, I for one am ready for this year to be over as it is not at all what I expected it would be.

The first quarter of the year was uneventful and we were planning our summer leagues and tournaments and working on the calendar for the 2020-2021 season. Then around the middle of March we were told that there was a pandemic virus hitting the United States and we were to stay home away from everyone and everything, leagues were cut short due to the bowling centers closing without warning, lives were changed in ways we never thought possible.

The USBC National Convention was postponed and then finally canceled. The National Tournaments have been moved several times and unfortunately some bowlers had to decline attending this year and some had their entry moved to the 2021 Tournament in hopes that it will be held when and where it is originally set for at this time.

States started shutting down completely. The media kept hyping up how horrible and dangerous the virus was. Some states did nothing. They did not close anything or stop anything and people went about their day-to-day life and they have suffered no more issues or even less than the states that shut down.

We have suffered the loss of family and friends and have been unable to hold services, give comfort to those that need it or even to grieve as we need to.

In Marion County our centers are opening slowly, with limited days and limited times, limited amount of bowlers in the center and limited food/beverages being offered. At this point in time we are unsure if leagues are going to be able to hold fall organizational meetings as some leagues take up the whole center and that is not allowed currently. Will the structure of bowling be different from now on? Only time will tell.

Our state tournaments have suffered this year with centers closing, dates being rescheduled and bowlers canceling. Hopefully, as we move forward toward the fall and the general membership meeting that we can keep building a tournament base that will grow.

As we move through the rest of the year we have to wonder if life as we knew it before the middle of March, 2020, will be a thing of the past or if we will be together bowling, celebrating, eating out and living as we had prior to the virus.

I hope that everyone moves forward as they feel comfortable in going out and being around others and is respectful of how other people are dealing with moving forward in their own way.

Let's all pray that the balance of the year finds peace and good health for everyone, that the year 2021 is calm with no catastrophes, that leagues finish normally, that the USBC Convention and Tournaments go forward and that local tournaments and meetings proceed without incident.

BERNIE SOBOTTA - ORLANDO REGIONAL USBC

What a whirlwind of events we have all encountered these past few months. We hope that there will be an antidote for the COVID 19 Pandemic soon and that you continue to be aware of your surroundings and do social distancing.

All of the Centers in our association are open. They are all following the rules set forth by the Governor and the CDC regarding cleanliness, sanitation and social distancing.

We've heard enough about the corona virus lately so let's focus on something pertaining to bowling. Here are some accomplishments from Orlando bowlers that are worth recognition.

We've all probably thought about how excited we would be to bowl a 300 game, but have you ever dreamt about bowling your first 800 series? Well this young man's dream came true on a Tuesday night in the Coasters Classic League at Boardwalk Bowl. Justin Wedding (grandson of Patsy Wedding) came to bowling just like he does every Tuesday night. Never in his wildest dreams did he think the following would happen. He opened the series with a 279 game. Spare in the first frame, 9 spare in the 2nd frame and then 10 strikes in a row. The second game started with the first 5 strikes, 6th frame a 9 spare, then off the sheet for a 279 game. What would he do in the 3rd game? He had the first 9 strikes, a 9 spare and a strike in the 10th. A triplicate 279 game, bowled 3 different ways, with an 837 series. What a way to bowl your FIRST 800 series. Congrats Justin!

Phil Wessel who bowls at the Oviedo Bowling Center was the 5th place finisher shooting a 924 in the Forty Frame Game National Championship Finals in Las Vegas. Phil qualified for the National finals by placing 1st in the USA tournament this year with a score of 1215. This year there were more than 6,400 bowlers from all 50 states and several foreign countries. Congrats Phil!

Carole Jones is a member of the Orlando Regional USBC Hall of Fame for Superior Performance. Carole moved to Denver and continued to bowl in leagues. In March of this year, she was inducted into the Denver Hall of Fame for Superior Performance. She is now back in Orlando and again a member of our association. Her honor is well deserved. Congrats Carole!

Kenny Lawson was chosen as the newest member to be inducted into the Orlando Regional USBC Hall of Fame for Superior Performance. Kenny bowled in the Seminole County BA and the Orlando Regional USBC for many years. Due to the pandemic his induction has been postponed until we confirm the new date for our Annual Meeting. He is more than deserving of this honor. Congrats Kenny!

Suheil Jammal, II is a member of our Association but he is not on our board. He has taken the liberty to create a blog to share information with our bowlers. He is such an asset to our association. He helped spread the word about our City Tournaments, relayed information regarding the USBC guidelines for the COVID 19, and contacted all of our Centers regarding their opening dates. He and his team have helped to build 3 leagues, one is a 32 – 4 person team

at 9:00 pm. The other leagues are a 40 – 5 person team, and a 30 – 5 person team, which will be 40 teams this coming season. His enthusiasm to encourage people to continue to support our sport is overwhelming. His efforts are more than appreciated.

On a sad note, Jim Caron, a longtime member/director of the Seminole County BA and a current director on the Orlando Regional USBC Board of Directors, passed away at the age of 90. Jim was involved with our Youth program, and an active bowler in 4 leagues throughout the city. He will be missed.

Let us take the time to reflect on what's important in life. The COVID 19 pandemic has given us much to think about. Enjoy the summer and look forward to being on the lanes once again when the winter leagues begin.

Until then, stay safe and continue to do social distancing.



You're never too old for a homework assignment

Michael Nyitray

During our February Ocala state meeting earlier this year a number of topics were discussed. One new topic that was approved by our board is that we are now going to provide on our association website a listing of our State's annual high series and high averages for men, women, boys and girls.

Shortly after returning home I gave Rocky Heckroth, our long-time state association director, a call to give him an overview of this weekend's state board meeting. As we all know, Rocky always try to attend all state board meetings, but was unable to make it to our Ocala '20 meeting. After explaining our ideas of "Top 10" scores, Rocky offered to do some research on behalf of the Emerald Coast USBC association as he was their association manager for more than three decades. We discussed a variety of ways we could recognize all past high scores, we ultimately coming up with reviewing past yearbooks for confirmation for the annual high series and high averages.

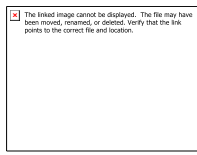
Knowing that Rocky is a retired college professor, I then asked Rocky if he would mind if I gave him a "homework project". After a short pause he said, "*Sure, I would love to have something to do, especially if it would help our state bowlers.*" I asked him if he could go through all of his association books and identify the high average and high series for all four categories going back as far as their yearbooks go. That's when Rocky said they have yearbooks going back to the 1964/65 season. He then said he could not be sure how soon he could get this information together, but he did say he knew where their yearbooks were and is looking forward to the project.

Over the following weeks Rocky and I spoke several times regarding his progress. Along the way I learned was that Rocky had a 97th birthday coming up in March. He also told me that he was diagnosed with macular degeneration and all of the reading he was doing was with a magnifying glass. Soon after Rocky's letters started to arrive. What he had done was put together various descriptions of what he had been accumulating. What I found most fun was the opening of one of those letters saying "I'm submitting my homework".

What makes this project even more impressive is that he did have scores from yearbooks going back to 1964. He hand-wrote, in very organized columns, page after page of these his associations annual high series and high averages.

When I called to thank him for one of his 4-page letters the first thing Rocky did was apologize for not having scores from *every* year for *every* category. I assured him no apology was necessary as we appreciate all of the information he's provided. To show how invaluable Rocky was for his association 'homework' he remembered the correct spellings of some of the more unusual last names that I could not make out. These details helped me use the USBC website to confirm dates and specific games of high series. Since then, I've put all of Rocky's information into Excel and will be getting them to our association webmaster soon.

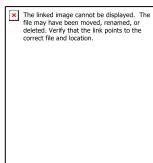
I hope Rocky can be an inspiration for other associations to research their past yearbooks to identify past season high series and high averages they have listed. At 97 years young, Rocky Heckroth shows you're never too old to get a homework assignment. He definitely earned an "A" in my book.



Florida 500 Club, Inc.

www.florida500club.org

It is believed that Thomas Haynes Bayly in his poem titled Isle of Beauty wrote "Absence makes the heart grow fonder". It is so true, We can hardly wait until we are all back together again and it looks like it going to be a little longer. Florida 500 Club has announced the 2020 Annual Tournament in Tampa has been CANCELED and rescheduled for 2021. Hope this newsletter find everyone safe and well. Take care, see you next year.



What does dogs & cats have to do with bowling? Well we love our animals and to prove it we were going to have a fund raiser to make sure they are taken care of, at our “Paws for Bowling” banquet however it will have to wait until next year. Ps: you don't have to wait, check out your local humane society for ways to help.



Daytona Beach 500 Club

This years Daytona Beach 500 Club Hall of Fame Award went to Sadie Compton, What? That's ME. Get out of Town. Shut the front door. You got to be kidding. What a special moment and honor to receive this award for something all volunteers do “Because we care”. Thanks.

We had our 34th Daytona Beach 500 Club Championship Tournament and congrats goes to our 2020 Champion: Sharon McDuffie and to our 1st Place Doubles winners, Jerrie Batson & Mary Bonny.

Future Tournaments to be held at Ormond Lanes (386)672.2014

Daytona Beach 500 Club Invitational, September 26, 2020

7th Liz Cocks, 9 Pin No-Tap, Christmas Food Drive, December 6, 2020

NOTE: please check with Ormond Lanes to verify play or cancellations

MARY BERNER LIGHTNING STRIKES BOWL, FORT MYERS

We have all experienced a very rough time over the last few months due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. As a result of this forced closure, we were working daily to make needed changes and upgrades to our center to ready the Center for opening. We are committed to being better than ever once this virus runs its course and allows us all to get back to our daily routines.

We here at ⚡ Lightning Strikes Bowl 🏹 have seen the light at the end of the tunnel and are back open and have begun running our monthly events in full force down here. ⚡ Lightning Strikes 🏹 is a 50 Lane Center so there is plenty of room to spread out. It is host to many large events including its well-attended weekly Tournaments held every month.

We hold these Tournament every Month

1st Saturday – Women’s 5 Gamer (\$300 1st Place Guarantee - open to both Youth & Adult females)

2nd Saturday – Senior 5 Gamer (\$350 1st Place Guarantee – age 50 years & older)

3rd Saturday – Handicap 5 Gamer (\$500 1st Place Guarantee - open to both Youth & Adult)

4th Saturday – Scratch 5 Gamer with Bonus Round & Step Ladder finals (\$1,000 1st Place Guarantee - open to both Youth & Adult)

Last Sunday of each month – No Tap Doubles (Adult only)

Our weekly events are all Live Streamed and hosted by non-other than PBA Hall of Famer: Larry Lichstein. Larry's lifetime of bowling experiences and bowling knowledge are conveyed weekly.

We love having new bowlers experience our Tournaments and hope that your readers will be competing in our Center very soon!

Facebook page info: <https://www.facebook.com/lightningstrikesbowl/>

Website info: <https://www.lightningstrikesbowl.com/>

KRISSY STEWART, SOUTHWEST FLORIDA USBC

This past January, one of the great woman bowlers of Southwest Florida passed away.

Carole Lemke was originally from Wisconsin but relocated to Southwest Florida back in the late 1980's. She was dominant on the lanes in Wisconsin and continued that dominance in the state of Florida.

She was a Florida Bowling Queens Champion in 1991 but began to struggle with many health related issues that hindered her bowling career. But, with the help and support of her family, close friends and strong faith, she was still able to overcome many of those issues.

Her son spoke it best when he said, "She accomplished more in a short period of time than anyone given the circumstances. My mother was very strong and resilient and was known for her class and grace in bowling competition for over 50 years. But, was also one of the most gracious, genuine and nice people that anyone could know."

We will miss you, Carole Lemke. Rest in peace, my friend.



MORE FROM KRISSY.....

Hi there from Southwest Florida USBC! All of us hope and pray that everyone has fared well during these past couple of months. The year 2020 (so far) has sure been a challenge for all of us, whether it's been our health, our business, our jobs, etc. But, we as a bowling community, are strong! We are fortunate enough to have a strong band of men, women and children of all ages that support each other! I know that we all will make it through this to the best of our abilities. Everyone needs to stay positive, follow CDC guidelines by social distancing, hand washing, etc. and we will prevail!!!!

Unfortunately, I know that some of our friends, family, acquaintances, etc. have not been so lucky throughout this pandemic. I am guessing that each of us know someone or of someone that has either fought this virus or even worse, lost their life. I would please ask, as you are reading through our newsletter, to please stop at some point, and take a moment of silence for all of those that have been affected by one way or another due to Covid-19. I also ask, that during that "moment," please be sure to THANK the heroes that we are surrounded by! We all know that in our bowling community, there are MANY, MANY, MANY heroes amongst us! You may not know what each of your bowling teammates or other league members may do for a living, but I assure you.... There are numerous bowlers that are nurses, doctors, paramedics, police officers, firefighters, truck drivers, mail carriers, grocery store employees, etc. that have put their own lives in danger daily to try to ensure that we are as safe as possible during this crazy time. So, if YOU are reading this and happen to be one of our HEROES... I thank you! We ALL thank you!

Now on to BOWLING!!!! Our association is very excited for the upcoming months! We will be hosting the Florida State Women's Annual Bowling Tournament. It all begins in July. Naturally, we are used to this tournament being bowled right now during the month of May and into the early part of June. Well, as we all know, the "norm" of years past has had to be re-adjusted. We feel very lucky that the State Board and our local bowling centers have decided to run this event, but just a few months later. I have spoken with our local bowling centers and they have assured me that they will be following all recommended CDC guidelines at that time during this event. So, we are very excited and look forward to cheering on all of the ladies that will be participating in this year's event!

Our local board has actually taken some time off from our volunteer duties since March. (As I am sure most of all of the Association Boards have done). However, prior to the pandemic getting into full swing, our local Board was able to get our end of winter bowling season fundraiser off of the ground. It was a great success! We sold tickets for \$2 each that had 3 numbers on each ticket. Ticket numbers ranged from 000-999. (So, 1,000 tickets were sold in all). Then, all we had to do is wait for the "Cash 3" numbers for the Florida Lottery to be drawn for each day in April. That's it! So, for example, if the numbers 112 or 813 or 369, or 941, etc., etc., etc. came out during the afternoon or evening drawings and you held that ticket with those numbers in that exact order, you won some money! Once the month of April's drawings completed, our association's office cut checks back to the individuals that held winning tickets. It was that easy and that much fun to anxiously await the drawings of the "Cash 3" every day. It

actually gave the ticket holders something to look forward to and maybe brighten their day while being quarantined.

As of June 1st, we have seen all of our bowling centers in our area open back up. They all may not be open to their full schedule like they were prior to the Covid pandemic, but they are open!!! Which is AWESOME NEWS, since I have seen some centers not so lucky around the country☹ I have reached out to some of the proprietors in our area, and they have stated that they are following CDC guidelines to ensure everyone's safety. They have incorporated things for social distancing such as, limiting the number of bowlers per lane, skipping lanes so that bowlers are not side by side, blocking off tables that are beside each other, marking areas on the floor by the snack bar and control desk to request people that stand in line not be closer than 6' apart, cleaning and sanitizing restrooms and bowler's circles more frequently, employees wearing masks, using "throw away" menus, no condiments out on the tables for everyone's use, etc.

Our bowling industry has made some enormous changes over the last few months. Naturally, these changes have come at a HUGE COST. (Honestly, all businesses are faced with this same challenge) So, if you are comfortable in going out, please support your bowling centers! Go out and practice, join a league, frequent their restaurants and bars. Proprietors need all of us bowlers now, more than ever! So, please do your part, if you can. All of us want to get back to seeing our friends, our competitors, our teammates out on the lanes. Without all of our support, we won't be able to do that like "old times."

I hope that the second half of the year 2020 is a much better one than we have seen in the first half. Please take care of yourselves and each other by following guidelines passed down to you from the CDC and your local governments. If you aren't feeling well for any reason, please stay home... for all of our sakes. As I mentioned before.... Bowlers are strong! We will prevail! I wish you lots of luck out on the lanes and great camaraderie amongst your bowling friends, teammates and competitors!

Until next time.....

CELESTE O'NEILL GULF COAST USBC

Well, this is one crazy world we are living in. I do not think it will be normal anytime soon. I work from home, now, and I have to say I like it a lot. Glad that the bowling centers are open and hope that everyone is following the rules and do not relax and go back to the old ways, and make this worse than it is.

During the closing of Florida, one of our centers, Liberty Lanes, closed for about 2 weeks, than Alex Ross, feeling terrible that he had to lay off his workers, decided to contribute to the community and brought employees back in to cook and to deliver food to first responders. Every single day lunch time and dinner time, they delivered to fire stations, hospitals, police stations, the county jails, Sunstar Ambulance.

One of the mom's of the youth bowlers, Laurie DeBoer decided to make masks and they were available by donation. The donations went to help Liberty Lanes feed the first responders.

In addition to Liberty Lanes delivering food to the first responders they also took orders to anyone in the area that wanted to place an order. Liberty Lanes has the best home cooked meals in the area. Not only was Alex able to bring back employees to work during the time they were closed for business, but Laurie & Aiden DeBoer came out to help, and Carmen Aquilar, coach and bowler, and Lucy Sandelin, coach and bowler, and Joann Herman, bowler came out to help out as well.

They do take donations, to keep their program going. If anyone is interested in making a donation - <https://libertylanesbowling.com/>

Now just a little bit about Gulf Coast USBC, our annual meeting was to be on April 18th and that was cancelled it has been rescheduled to be at Liberty Lanes and on July 18th at 1 pm. We have a board meeting on July 11th and then we will decide if we are having the St. Petersburg Women's Classic. It has not yet been decided if it will take place and which centers it will be at this year. As soon as we know and if we are able to have the tournament, we will get entry prepared and get it out to the associations and bowling centers and bowlers, and get it rolling.

All four of our bowling centers have re-opened. I personally have not been to any of the centers, but some around are starting tournaments as well.

Till next, time, I hope everyone is staying safe.