



NEWS TO SPARE

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Mission Statement: The Greater Houston USBC Association ensures the integrity and protects the future of the sport, provides programs and services and enhances the bowling experience.

Special Points of interest

- * From the President
- * From the Association Manager
- * Senior Bowlers
- * Our Memory Book
- * Bowling on the Collegiate Level
- * Tournament Information
- * Nat'l Bowling Week
- * Youth Events
- * GHUSBC Services

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We're on the Web
www.bowlhouston.com
Come visit our reconstructed site

Also visit us on Facebook.
We can be found at
Greater Houston USBC

October—Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Reality Check by Larry Caldwell

Have you ever noticed that it usually takes a “jolt of reality” to get you off your backside so that you do what you should have all ready been doing? Well we got our “jolt” last Thanksgiving when our soon to be forty year old daughter and mother of three small children was diagnosed with breast cancer. Our first reaction was devastation. Every time I thought about it I cried and I thought about it a lot. Dad's little girl had a problem and Dad could not fix it. We had to rely totally on our faith and the medical profession. Fortunately, in our Houston area, we have some of the best medical doctors and facilities in the World. Our daughter had a mastectomy and reconstructive surgery in January and so far the prognosis is excellent as all follow up tests have shown no traces of cancer.

I have related this personal story not to solicit sympathy but rather to illustrate another reason why I am proud of the Greater Houston USBC Association. As you probably know by now, the Association is a Section 501 C (3) organization which means that it is a charitable organization that can accept tax deductible donations. The Association in turn makes donations to other charitable organizations. The two primary organizations that are sponsored by the Association are the BVL (Bowlers to Veterans Link) and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Being a veteran and a father to a breast cancer survivor, both of these organizations are near and dear to my heart.

I realized it was time I got off my backside. On Saturday (October 3, 2009) I actually participated as a volunteer along with

twelve other members of the Association in Houston's annual Susan G. Komen Run For The Cure. We were told that this years run was the largest turn out that they have ever had. Imagine that in this current economic climate. I must tell you that even though this was an easy task it was a very rewarding experience. All the participants were upbeat and happy and we had many wonderful and enlightening conversations and exchanges. We also saw many clever costumes and outfits. As a result of this experience and the experience we had with our daughter, I plan to become more active from a “hands on” standpoint regarding these organizations.

Our Association participates every February in a “Bowl For The Cure” campaign in connection with our national office. In addition, we are a sponsor and participate in Houston's annual Luci Bonneau Pro Am Tournament benefiting the Stehlin Foundation. At our City tournaments, we have 50/50 pots or a direct solicitation for the BVL. We are also a sponsor of the University of Houston Cougar Bowling Club annually and help raise additional funds through their annual Bowl-A-Thon. This years Bowl-A-Thon event is Saturday, October 17, 2009 if you are interested in participating.

As previously stated, I am very proud to be a member of the Greater Houston USBC Association and I wanted you readers/bowlers to know that we are about a lot more than just bowling. In that vein, when you get a chance to participate in our events, please do. Remember that bowling really is fun and if you can help make someone else's life a little brighter while you are having fun, *we all win.*

From the President by Donna Hall

As the talk of the town turns to “*Back to School*” it is a sign that summer is coming to an end and we, as bowlers know that means it is time to think about joining a fall league. The new bowling season begins long before the leaves begin to change and summer turns into Fall.

By now many of the Fall leagues have been bowling for over a month, which means the league certification application should already be turned into the bowling office to insure 100% bonding coverage. The prize list should have been approved no later than the fifth week and the president should have appointed an audit committee. Check with your league president to make sure these things have been taken care of with the proper timeframe.

It is not too soon to make plans to bowl in the Association Championship Tournaments. Entry forms are already in the centers and posted on the website for your convenience. It has been a long time since a national tournament has been held in our state and this year the ladies will bowl in El Paso. Ladies, here is your chance to participate in one of bowling’s prestigious events without ever leaving the state.

A special thanks to all of you who celebrated National Bowling Week with us at the Astros game. We think this

will become an annual celebration due to the response for tickets and the positive comments we received from many of you.

We will continue to strive for improving the communication with our members. Our website has a new look and it has undergone some major changes. Be sure to check it often and keep up to date on the latest in Houston bowling. Also, we have added a Facebook page to give us an added means of communication with our members. We invite you to become a fan of Greater Houston USBC and receive news from the association or send your comments to us.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the President of this association for the past three years. I feel very fortunate to work alongside an amazing group of men, women and youth volunteers who work together to provide Houston bowlers with programs and services to ensure the growth of our sport. It is our mission to enhance the bowling experience for Houston bowlers. We want to hear from you if you have an idea or suggestion for us. Consider becoming part of our volunteer network and join us as an ambassador for our great sport.

Have a great season!

From the Association Manager by Cheryl Polak

The announcement by USBC of changes in the awards program was met by the various local associations with mixed emotions at USBC’s annual meeting in Reno last spring. Greater Houston USBC Award Committee has been assigned the task of proposing new awards to the Local Recognition Program to include the achievements of bowlers that USBC no longer recognizes.

At the present time, Greater Houston’s Recognition Program includes:

199 On the Nose (179 average or less)
 220 to 249 Game (179 average or less)
 250 to 274 Game (200 average or less)
 275 to 289 Game (No Average Limit)

These awards are presented prior to league play to give individual recognition to the bowler among their peers.

We also recognize 300 games, 800 Series, 700 Series (bowled by Women and Youth). These awards are presented at the Fall Membership Meeting, held this year at the Hobby Hilton on Airport Blvd, Houston on October 10th at 1:30 PM.

The Recognition Committee will be meeting soon and will address reinstating awards no longer offered by USBC (4-6-7-10 (the big four), 7-10 split, All Spare Game, Triplicate, Dutch 200). The committee will also take into consideration providing recognition to leagues (League High Averages and League High Series). Upon approval from the board, changes to the existing local recognition program will be introduced.

ROVING SENIORS by Cindy Berry

Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house we go. That may have applied many years ago, but not for today's grandparents, especially if they are bowlers. Today you'd better call first because grandparents are no longer sitting at home waiting for grandchildren to visit. The grandparents are the ones going over the rivers and through the woods to the bowling centers and participating in the latest senior tournaments or the Roving Senior Travel League.

Senior bowling is so much fun, whether I am a participant in the senior tournaments, or just been along for the ride. I do qualify for the tournaments for grandparents but not for seniors since I have not yet reached the ripe old age of 55. I am the coach, chauffeur, companion, score-keeper and just all around "go-fer" who is often referred to as the "kid". If you're thinking it wouldn't be much fun to bowl with the senior set, I have news for you. It's more fun because even though the competition is keen, the seniors are not as intense as some of the younger set. The main focus is bowling well while having fun.

This year our travels took us to Killeen for the TSUSBC Senior Tournament. This tournament has age requirements so my husband had to find a partner other than myself. There is not much to do in Killeen and while it appears most businesses are located along the freeway, you would be surprised at the depth of this little town once you leave the highway. Just finding an ice cream parlor was a major undertaking and we found ourselves at the entrance to Fort Hood with nowhere to go but back the way we came. After much laughter and turn-arounds, and a few wrong turns out of the wrong lane we finally did find the kind of ice cream we were looking for. I know that sounds like we shouldn't be driving but we did have a lot of cooperation from the local drivers to allow us to do that. The five teams that participated

did not bowl their best but the jokes, laughter and companionship was fantastic. Traveling to the Grandpa and Grandma Tournament in Natchez, Mississippi involved a road trip of approximately 6 hours. Natchez has all the charm of an old town in a Civil War setting, containing a rich and historic past. Stately mansions and turn of the century architecture makes the long trip worthwhile. Just crossing the mighty Mississippi on the majestic cable bridge makes you think time has stood still. We were able to do some sightseeing and took some of our party to see my favorite site. It is the Catholic Church in downtown Natchez that is shaped like an old paddlewheel boat. The graveyard beside the church is dedicated to the fallen Confederate soldiers; decorated with old cannons, statues and bells that are towered over by magnificent oak trees. It is a quiet, peaceful place that is good for the soul.

The bowling center also makes you think time has stood still. Although the atmosphere is a lot more recent than the Civil War, there are 16 wooden lanes with old style ball returns and music playing 50s and 60s rock and roll. They have door prizes and a basket filled with prizes that you chose from when you get a double. The basket is always running out of prizes as the men are always getting strikes. Our women's team has had the pleasure of coming in first in this tournament in the past. Don't go there for the money, just the good time and fun you can have in a small and beautiful town. An added attraction is a casino on the Mississippi where you can go spend all the money you *didn't* win at the tournament.

The last trip this summer was to the 50+ Tournament in Beaumont that a friend introduced us to several years ago. I actually meet the qualifications to bowl in this one and someone else who came along for the ride was the "kid" and "go-fer". Over the two weekends there were five teams from the Roving Seniors Travel League bowling, but there were several other teams from Houston also participating. Did I say earlier that the competition was keen? The

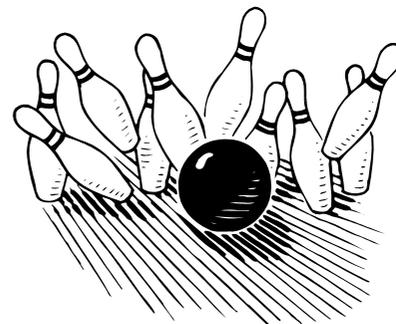
first weekend Jim Stirling bowled a 279 in his first game! Senior indeed!

To give you an idea of the things that happen during these trips that make them memorable, one of the ladies on our team noticed a man walking by not looking our way. What does she do to get his attention? She throws her rosin bag at him. She is usually very conservative and we thought she was flirting with him and couldn't believe what she had done. It turns out she did know him and had had breakfast with him the Saturday before. Is there more to this story than what we've been told?

There many rumors of things that happened from tournament trips over the years. One was that someone, sleep-walking, got locked out of their room in the middle of the night. When they woke up they were out in the hall, not clad in their usual apparel, knocking on someone's door thinking it was their own. Un-huh!! Another was that someone had to be almost carried out of Mexico when the state senior tournament was in McAllen last year. Too much "Border Buttermilk"? Un-huh!! We have also heard that you'd better watch your speed coming through Mississippi. But of course, that's all they are....rumors, just rumors.

If you are old enough and want to have fun, with competition as a bonus, you might want to join us the next time we go out of town.

KEEP BOWLING!



Our Memory Book

It's always a sad thing when a person leaves us, but it's exceedingly sad when it's a family member or a very dear friend.

Jim Cooley, GHUSBC Board Member, Volunteer Extraordinaire

Jim Cooley, needing heart surgery, of which he was too weak to have, and battling kidney failure along with cancer tried to carry on, but the burden was too great to overcome. We lost our fellow board member on August 18, 2009 and miss him more than words can say. But Jim would want us all to carry on the business of promoting the sport he loved

Mary Debo, Youth Coach, Volunteer Extraordinaire

Mary was a former coach with AMF Windfern and Max Bowl West. She started the first Junior Gold League in the Greater Houston area. Her pride and joy was the Law Enforcement and Youth Tournament of which she was the founder over 15 years ago. She worked hard to have the tournament sponsored each year and was it was free to the participants. Three years ago the tournament was re-named to the "MARY DEBO LAW ENFORCEMENT & YOUTH TOURNAMENT" in her honor. She was inducted into our Greater Houston Coaches Association Hall of Honor in the Spring of 2009. Mary's accomplishments were posted in the Spring Issue of this publication under the "Greater Houston Coaches Association Hall of Honor article.

Larry Miller, Volunteer Extraordinaire

Larry passed away after a brief battle with cancer at the young age of 61. an avid bowler himself, Larry was always there to help the youth organization in whatever capacity was necessary and wore many hats. Larry coached a lot of the Houston youth bowlers at Emerald Bowl and Dynamic Lanes. His "can do" attitude will be missed by those who were fortunate to have him as a coach. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the GHUSBC Scholarship Fund, 2805 Bagby, Houston, TX 77006. You may visit Larry's memorial at www.mem.com.

*We wish this to be a mark of respect to our departed
fellow bowlers whose deaths occurred during the 2008-2009 season*

*Joseph Baker
Bettie Bowie
Milton Brown
Dennis Deegan
Linda Dees
Linda Eidelberg
Shane Ellsmore
Roberta Fiore
Sally Gebhardt
Gary Goodwin
Ed Grace
Mark Grant
Liz Hemann*

*Pattie Hilliard
Kenneth Huff
Sam Iocono
James Jernigan
Kenneth Kramer
Lavern Lewison
Michael (Mike) Loughlin
Terry Macarthur
Jackie McCordic
Robert Meilert
James Meriweather
Milton Miller
Virginia Murthough
Tommy Odom*

*Ray Phillips
Nadine Raffoul
Alton Sargent
Joyce Sopczak
Helen Southern
Bernice Vick
Gloria Wachsmann
Nadine Wade
Larry Ware
William (Bill) Waters
Elsie Wells
Esther Wharton
Barbara Wilson*

In sacred memories still live the friends we used to know



2010 Greater Houston USBC
Men's Invitational Championship Tournament

January 16th & 17th—January 23rd & 24th

Host Center

Palace Lanes—4191 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, TX 77025

(713) 667-6554

\$1,000.00 will be added to Scratch prize fund by Palace Lanes

Multiple Team Entries Allowed—Brackets Offered

**City Champion received paid entry to the 2011 TSUSBC Masters or
Sr. Masters Tournament**

**Entries postmarked after 1/09/10 will be assessed \$10.00 per bowler
And be subject to lane availability**

Entries can be found in the Bowling Centers and on www.bowlhouston.com

2010 Greater Houston USBC
Women's Championship Tournament

February 20th & 21st—February 27th & 28th—March 6th & 7th

Host Center

Emerald Bowl—9307 Boone Road—Houston, TX 77099

(281) 933-6180

Multiple Team Entries Allowed—Brackets Offered

**City Champion receives paid entry to the 2011 TSUSBC Bluebonnet Queens or
Senior Queens Tournament**

**Entries postmarked after 2/13/10 will be assessed \$10.00 per bowler
And be subject to lane availability**

Entries can be found in the Bowling Centers and on www.bowlhouston.com

National Bowling Week Celebrated at Minute Maid Park

Over 300 people attended the Astros game on Friday, September 4 to celebrate National Bowling Week. Many of the bowling fans arrived early to get an umbrella and stayed late to watch the fireworks as the Astros beat the Phillies 7-0. A special commemorative t-shirt designed by Haley Polak was worn by everyone who attended the game. Due to the number of tickets sold and the positive responses we received from our members, we think this may become an annual event. *(See pictures Page 8)*

Susan G. Komen Run for the Cure

Greater Houston USBC participated in this event on Saturday, October 3, 2009. A dozen board members directed crowd traffic along the race route, ensuring that participants were going in the right direction at all times. Many ideas about this event have surfaced and GHUSBC will probably put in a team of runners for the 2010 race.

Youth Events from Tory Brown

Greater Houston Youth Travel League started 9/20/09. Our travel stops are posted on <http://houstonyouthbowling.com/>.

The Houston Youth Leaders membership has decreased sadly. Every youth bowler is a Youth Leader. Come out and make a difference. Next Youth Leader meeting is Sunday Nov. 1st, at 4:30 at Emerald Bowl

Alpha Bowl is hosting their 11th Annual Youth Thanksgiving Eve No-Tap Scholarship Tournament. Entry forms are posted on <http://houstonyouthbowling.com/>.

Chris Barnes is hosting a Thanksgiving Youth Classic Bowling Tournament in Willow Creek, Irving Texas, November 22, 24, 25, 26. Entry form is posted on http://www.bowlingmom.org/files/Updated_Chris_Barnes_Entry_Blank.pdf. Jr Gold spot will be up for grabs.

October 11th Jr Gold Qualifier is in Killeen Texas. Squad times and location is posted on http://www.bowlingmom.org/files/October_11th_Qualifier.pdf.

October 25th Jr Gold Qualifier is in Round Rock Texas. Squad times and location is on http://www.bowlingmom.org/files/October_25th_Qualifier.pdf.

Greater Houston USBC—Services Provided

Average Book
Web Site
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Newsletter

League Officers Education & Training
Open Championship Tournament
Women's Championship Tournament
Men's Invitational Tournament
Youth Championship Tournament

University of Houston Collegiate Bowling—Scholarships awarded annually

Recognition Awards—Secretary of the Year & Scholarships for the male and female Youth City Champions

Achievement Awards
High Average, High Series, 800 Series, 700 Series (Women & Youth), 300 game

Local Association Awards
199 on the Nose, 220-249 Game, 250-274 Game, 275-289 Game

Championship Tournament Awards

Charities
Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL & Michael Debakey Veterans Hospital (local)
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and The Stehlin Foundation (local)
Bowling Foundation—charitable arm of bowling & Special Olympics

Bowling on the Collegiate Level by Robbie Fravel

Have you ever wondered - what happens to our local youth bowlers when they graduate high school and begin the next chapter of their lives? Some run off to college, some run off to work, some run off to marry and some just run off. I feel very fortunate to know that some run off to bowl! We have many youth bowlers who are not only continuing their education, but they are bowling on a collegiate level for their chosen university. I sent a small survey out to some and below is the first of a series of responses. It is amazing how our "youth of the past" is moving forward to be our "leaders of the future".

The following is information from **Courtney Ward Bolin** a former youth bowler from the Palace Lanes program. Courtney attended West Texas A&M University and majored in Psychology.

Questions

Answers

What is your take on collegiate bowling?	It was a great experience and it gives you opportunities that you would not have otherwise. I had great coaching at home, but I got the opportunity to have good & different coaching there too and it made me a better bowler.
How does college bowling differ from your youth bowling experience?	It makes you feel as if you are a part of something that you have the potential to make great. It is all up to you, how you want the experience to be.
What is your most memorable experience as a collegiate bowler?	Either making all tournament team at the Hoosier, a huge tournament bowled on three different patterns, or going to the collegiate singles in Milwaukee.
What is the experience you wish never happened as a collegiate bowler?	As with anything you do in life, yes, there were a few character building moments.
What bit of advice would you give those who are considering collegiate bowling?	It's not for everyone; the experience is what you make it. You also have to remember that more importantly, you are there to get an education, and bowling is just a plus.
Did you receive scholarship money as a collegiate bowler?	Yes, I did receive scholarship money.

2009 Greater Houston USBC Youth Championship Tournament

November 14th & 15th and November 21st & 22nd

Host Center

**Copperfield Bowl, 15615 Glen Chase Drive, Houston 77095
281-550-8710**

Scholarships to be awarded—USBC Certified

Random Draw Scholarships—\$25.00 each squad

Entry deadline for reserved lanes—October 25, 2009

Entry and Team Re-entries will be accepted up to squad time—if lanes are available

Greater Houston USBC Celebrates National Bowling Week at Minute Maid Park



Scoreboard at Minute Maid Park
"Gr. Houston USBC Celebrates National Bowling Week"



Greater Houston USBC Section at Minute Maid Park
High on seating, high on bowling!



The Kelley Sisters love bowling and the Astros



l to r: Dot Breland, Vicki Chevalier, Bill Fisher, June Dietrich, and Bob Beck

GHUSBC works Run for the Cure



Run for the Cure

GREATER HOUSTON USBC ASSOCIATION

2805 Bagby Street
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OFFICERS

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2nd Vice President—*Kendra Hardy*
3rd Vice President—*Lance Thompson*
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Sandy Little

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AMF Clear Lake
AMF Diamond Bowl
AMF Humble—*Mike Goodwin*
AMF Stafford
AMF Willow—*Robbie King, Bill Walker*
AMF Windfern
Armadilla Lanes II
Copperfield Bowl—*Tom Bandy, Charlie Lewis, Michelle Phillips*
Cougar Lanes (U of H)
Del-Mar Lanes
Emerald Bowl
Main Event
Max Bowl North—*Neilia Gallien*
New Fun Plex
Palace Lanes—*Tom O'Dell, Walter Goldston*
Ten Pins—*Jim Sands*
Times Square Entertainment
Tomball Bowling Center

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES-AT-LARGE

Bob Beck, Glenda Millar, Margie Rountree, Joe Thompson, Robert "Marty" Martin

(If you would like to volunteer at the center where you bowl, please e-mail us at gusbc@bowlhouston.com)