

## FLORIDA STATE USBC WBA NEWSLETTER

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### **CLEARWATER USBC WBA, INC. JOANNE BATES**

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We are starting another year of bowling. This is my 50<sup>th</sup> year of bowling and my 48<sup>th</sup> year of bowling with the Clearwater Women's Association. Our association started in 1958 and our family moved here in September 1960. I joined a league right away at Largo Lanes and have been bowling in association leagues since then. I became a member of the board in 1978 and have been with them since. I can remember when our association had about 9000 members and 7 lanes. Now we are down to about 600 members and 3 lanes. How times have changed over the years. But I still enjoy my bowling and will be bowling in my 30<sup>th</sup> National Tournament in Reno next year. Good Lord willing.

Being our membership has dropped so much we have reduced our number of board members also. Probably the same as other associations. I noticed there are fewer associations sending in news also. Too bad. I enjoy reading what other associations are doing. This is my third time of my being Publicity chairman and I will try to get news sent in on time.

We had a team from our area finish 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the USBC open tournament last June. The tournament was held in Boynton Beach. The team name is "Suncoast USBC" and the members were, John and Linda S[icer, Mike Pavlak, Debbie Pierson and myself Joanne Bates. We had a total of 3595.

Our association shares offices with Suncoast USBC and have moved into new offices. Mainly to save money as the new offices are 50% less than before. Our new address is Clearwater USBCWBA, 300 S. Duncan, Suite 237, Clearwater, Florida 33755.

There will be a "Strike to Spare a Life" tournament to be held at Tarpon Lanes on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> with squads at 1:00 and 4:00 each day. This tournament is held to support the cure for cancer and B.V.L. The tournament is sponsored by Clearwater and Suncoast Men's association. It's open to all USBC sanctioned members, so come on over and have some fun.

Lets have a FUN BOWLING year and more members.

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**SEMINOLE COUNTY USBC WBA**  
**PATRICIA HARBIN**

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Hello to all the bowlers of Seminole County. Welcome back to all returning bowlers who have made the best choice to support their teams and bowling leagues. We all have heard of the job losses and closing of businesses during these uncertain times in this country. So many of our bowlers are stretching the dollar to make it purchase the gasoline needed to get to the bowling center of "league night". Everyone needs a time out to have fun and see their friends.

Wondering what I should write about for October this past Monday night during my league "Mar-dells' Ladies", I had my answer when I heard an announcement on the loud speakers in the center offering congratulations to a member of our league on a 200 game? Do you remember how long you had bowled before you had your first two hundred game? Do you remember your first 500 series? Lets all offer CONGRATULATIONS to a former Duck Pin bowler from Connecticut, Millie Schilling. Millie not only bowled 211 for her first game over 200 but it was a clean game. Then to top the scores for the night she had a 156 game and 179 game for her first 546 series. A person who has only participated for about three years in regular league bowling and usually bowls only once a week deserves a round of applause for such an achievement. Next, let's see that 300 hundred game soon Millie.

Bowling is one of the most self-rewarding games I know. Still it is up to each individual to help her-self improve her skills. I have a small bowling library and yet after all these years I find myself referring to those books or videos trying to correct something I was doing wrong. I doubt, unless I could practice 4 to 5 hours a day, I will ever be satisfied with my game. One of the hardest adjustments I have yet to make is changing centers. If you are going to bowl in a tournament and you have the opportunity, try a few games in that house before you bowl for score. Just becoming ac-climated to the lighting and sounds within a building sometimes can make a difference in a persons' confidence.

Women bowlers of Seminole County, the news I write is about you. If you have anything you want to share with others in the county, state, or USA, please drop a note to Pat Harbin, 721 River Woods Trail, Chuluota Fl. 32766. It's your letter. Help me make it so. I want the state to know what a great membership we have in Seminole County. Thanks and lets support bowling in Seminole County.

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**OCALA USBC WBA**  
**DEBBIE WHITTEN**

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What a change from fall of 2007 to the fall of 2008. The economy has taken a nose dive and so has participation in bowling, at least in the Ocala, Marion County, area. We have many leagues that have one or more vacancies on their teams and unfortunately we have several leagues that did not have enough interest to actually form again this year. One of the hardest hit areas is the youth program.

A thriving program at one time with full centers on Saturday mornings we are down to one Saturday morning league and one Monday night match play type format. Too many other activities going on at the same time that are not as long as bowling and the other activities are not something you have to pay each week for on top of paying a "certification" fee. Parents are looking more closely at what activities their children participate in and at this time bowling seems to not be a sport that is high on their list. Kids have a hard time committing to 33 to 36 weeks of one activity. Possibly bowling will need to take a look at our structure and see where it can be modified to fit with today's family's lifestyle.

Ocala bowlers that participated in the National Tournament made us proud and many of the participants brought home money for their efforts.

The women from Ocala that participated in the State Tournament made us equally proud as 5 (5) teams cashed, and in the Division 4 Doubles event Lisa Aeschliman and Jamie Scott brought home first place honors along with Jamie Scott placing first in Division 4 all events. Another first place honor goes to Sandra Griffin and Penny Lumpkin for doubles Division 5. Look for these ladies in Melbourne at the 2009 State Tournament.

Our Youth Association has completed the steps to comply with becoming Registered Volunteers and most of our coaches and board proudly wear their lanyards so that the parents, guardians and other adults that accompany the youth to league competition and tournaments can be assured that their children are in good hands, while they are with the volunteers.

Here's to a better year on the lanes and in the world!!

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**WEST VOLUSIA USBC BA**  
**JENNIE MERO**

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Here we are in the new 2008-09 season and things are off to a booming start. Meetings held and all tournaments have been set, budget set, and hopefully it will be a good year.

With the economy the way it is and our bowlers losing jobs and homes, we still manage to find time to bowl. Leagues in West Volusia aren't as strong as last year, maybe losing a team or two or not bowling on more than one league, but you can count on bowlers to show up if they can find a way.

There is one bowler on the Fred Cone Ladies league that won't give up. Her name is Vinnie Wasson.

Vinnie has been bowling on the league for about three years and two years ago she was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. By the end of last season, Vinnie was using a ramp to roll her ball. That didn't stop her. She ended up getting the High Handicap Game for the season. During the Association Awards Banquet, Vinnie was presented with a sportsmanship award. Vinnie is back bowling again this year, however, she is now in a wheelchair and uses a computer to talk to her team members. She is a real team player and won't give up!

In October, the Youth Tournament is scheduled, and the BVL Tournament is coming up in November. We are shooting last year's total of \$1,300, Hope to see you at the Senior Tournament in Lees-burg.

West Volusia's Website is up and running. Contact us at [www.wvusbca.com](http://www.wvusbca.com).

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**FIRST COAST USBC ASSOCIATION**  
**MARY FRANK**

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On August 13, Roger Limer conducted his first board meeting as President of the First Coast USBC Association. Mary Frank, who opted not to seek re-election, totally supported Roger's election. He announced that he wasn't letting Mary go anywhere though, saying she will continue to assist him, write bowling articles, take charge of the association's history, continue with the taxed, categorize all pictures and information regarding the Hall of Fame, and work on Ways & Means. Obviously Roger doesn't believe in retirement. At the conclusion of the meeting, Diane Limer, the Office Manager, presented Mary with a beautiful white gold USBC ring set with a ruby and the inscription *President*. In addition to the ring presentation, the board honored Mary with flowers and a cake for all the many years she served the bowlers in the Jacksonville area, for being instrumental in the merge process, and for her dedication and service as the first president of the merged First Coast USBC Association.

This season the FC USBC board welcomes three new youth representatives. They are Trayce Dennis, Jennifer Smith and Catherine Vinson. The board is extremely fortunate to have these young people volunteer to assist and eager to serve. Jennifer is now President of the State Youth Leaders, while Catherine serves as President of the First Coast USBC Youth Leaders.

Entry forms have already been distributed for the Unification Tournament, which will be held on October 4. This event, initiated for youth scholarships, was the brainchild of Buddy Craven. He named it "unification" as a lasting remembrance of the merger among the men's, women's, and youth's organizations. The team format, obviously, consists of one gentleman, one lady, and one youth.

The BVL Tournament entries will be in the centers this week. Scheduled for November 1, this Mixed Scotch Doubles tournament also includes a youth division. The entry fee was raised to \$25 a couple, with the VA Hospital in Lake City benefitting from the increase. The youth winners will receive patriotic medals, which will be presented during their regular Saturday morning leagues. To enhance the significance of this event, the Bishop Kenny JROTC will again present colors. During the first week of November, Lane Representatives will be visiting all centers, "shaking their cans" throughout the leagues. This can collection adds additional money for the benefit of our veterans.

New information will be appearing on the Senior Tournament entry form this year. In addition to the Singles and Doubles events, scheduled for December 6 and 13, an optional Team event will be held the following Sundays. Many of our seniors have shown an interest in a team event, so the FC USBC is happy to oblige. The FC USBC takes their role in bowling quite seriously. Any and all tournament changes have come at the request of the bowlers, and it is the bowlers who always benefit from the services of the FC USBC.

Plans for the Association Championship Tournament will also have a new twist this season. At the request of some bowlers, the Open and Women's events will be held separately. Since most of the entrants bowl in mixed leagues, and many enjoy bowling with their spouses, the women's Division will be held two weeks after the Open Division's events.

Congratulations to John and Arcola Limer, who were married on September 27. John is the son of President Limer. The couple will reside in San Diego, where John will continue serving Uncle Sam as a member of the United States Navy.

This past summer, Jacksonville lost one of its bowling icons. Glenn pierce passed away after an ex-tended illness. A great bowler himself, Glenn taught and mentored those wishing to take their bowl-ing skills to a higher level. His knowledge and instruction allowed many bowlers to achieved local, state and national recognition. Glenn was elected to the Greater Jacksonville Bowling Association's Hall of Fame in 1975 for Bowling Achievement. May he rest in peace.

The FC USBC questions the recanting of the Award program presented to the delegates attending the 2008 Annual Convention. Why would this be such a financial hardship? A Florida pin (which can be purchased for \$1.00) and a computer-generated welcome card would only be given to "new" members and those returning to the sport who have not bowled in the last

five years. Don't blame the merger process for lack of income; all women have the option to join the FS USBC WBA. According to USBC, in an email dated Sept. 30, 2008, it reads in part "There are 54 associations in the state of Florida of which 19 are merged serving men, women and youth, and 4 are merged serving men and women." The solution to the Award program doesn't require rocket science, just common sense. Revoke the \$4.00 per hour salary paid to the FS USBC WBA board "volunteers" to work their own association tournament. These "volunteers" already receive mileage, plush accommodations and meals; they don't need a salary too. This revocation would generate more than enough money to implement the Awards program. Problem solved! Put the members' money where it belongs - with members.

The FC USBC wishes everyone a Blessed and bountiful Thanksgiving. God Bless.

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