



FLORIDA STATE USBC WBA NEWSLETTER

December 2008

Andrea McCarraher, Editor
1765 Grove Avenue ~ Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 939-0672
AJMC300@aol.com

From the Desk of Your State Association Manager

Katheryn Auton

Greetings from your state office. We have been rather busy with finalizing the 2008 Senior Doubles and Singles Tournament and starting to process the 2009 State Championship Tournament entries.

The 2008 Senior Doubles and Singles Tournament was hosted by the Leesburg USBC Association in Leesburg at AMF Leesburg Lanes. Many thanks to Leesburg USBC President Ann Westfall and her crew, along with AMF Leesburg Manager Loretta Lockett and her crew; they did a superb job and made the tournament a success.

As the tournament progressed through the two weekends of bowling, we witnessed the bowlers having loads of fun and scoring big. Our high roller of the tournament was Nancy Wroe of Port Charlotte; she rolled the tournament's overall high game of 279, and the tournament's overall high series of 673. The senior participant of the tournament was Vee Kopecky of Wildwood (Leesburg USBC) at the age of 91. In her six games of tournament play, she averaged 143 which was 20 pins over her league average of 123.

Tournament prize checks have gone out, and the big winners of the handicapped tournament were:

Doubles: Debra Severson and Lucy Jones of the Orlando USBC WBA with a score of 1,467

Singles Div. 1: Sherry Woodhouse of the Indian River USBC WBA with a score of 755

Singles Div. 2: Elsie East of the Lake Triangle USBC with a score of 724

All Events Div. 1: Sherry Woodhouse of the Indian River USBC WBA with a score of 1,479

All Events Div. 2: Lucy Jones of the Orlando USBC WBA with a score of 1,418

Besides prize money, winners of the All Events Division 1 and 2 will receive from the FS-USBC-WBA paid entry into the 2009 USBC Senior Championships to be held in Reno on the 30th and 31st of June, along with a tournament shirt and roundtrip airfare. I'm sure these two ladies, Sherry Woodhouse and Lucy Jones, will represent Florida with pride and make us all proud. Sherry and Lucy have a great trip!

This is the time of year when everyone is thinking about the holidays, and not necessarily bowling, but following are some due dates which need to be remembered:

December 31st: Proposed Legislation for bylaws changes
Nominations for the 2009 Hall of Fame
Nominations for the 2009 Pilar Cohalla Award

January 31st: Candidate resume forms for the state board

February 1st: FS-USBC-WBA newsletter articles
Delegate credentials
Early state tournament entries

As I close, I would like to wish everyone a Blessed Holiday Season!

SEMINOLE COUNTY WBA

Patricia Harbin

This month I have the sad task of informing all of those who have not heard of the death of Seminole County's Association Manager, Mardell Gonterman, who passed away on October 1, 2008 in Sanford, Florida. Mardell had been secretary/treasurer of the Seminole County's WBA for over 20 years. She showed her love of bowling through many extra hours of work; work that was necessary to keep Seminole County bowlers records accurate, before the use of computers and laptops were in everyone's homes and briefcases.

Over the past years our attendance has declined in Seminole County but Mardell had never lost faith that it was just a temporary thing and that eventually the membership in women's bowling would regain in the sport we all love.

The best way to let the readers of our newsletter know how we feel about our loss and what we thought of Mardell is to let you read the words of her friends and team members in Seminole County. They wrote their thoughts; I pass the words on to you....

Joan Price - Mardell was my team-mate, and I surely do miss her. She made me laugh all the time and teased me about my (Brit) accent, but never once did she make me feel inferior. When I missed my easy spare, her answer was, "Get it next frame" and I did. She was a good person with a heart of gold and dearly loved her "Ladies" on Monday nights. I will remember her fondly in days to come.

Nancy Norris - Mardell was one of my best friends. She loved and cared about her family and friends and loved the sport of bowling. She was a generous, dependable person and was always there when you needed her. She hated flying... You had to lean with the plane when flying with her. She usually drove when we went to tournaments and she was famous for her "U" turns. I miss her greatly.

Dottie & Cindy – I have been asked to describe my memories of Mardell in one paragraph. This task is impossible. I have so many memories of Mardell that I cannot do this in such a short amount of space. She was a coach for my bowling; a friend all the time and a role model for everyone who knew her. Mardell used to help me teach bowling to elementary school children. They all loved the chance we gave them to learn bowling.

Mary Bartels – Mardell was a person who was full of knowledge about bowling. She was a great asset to the Seminole County WBA. In addition to that she was my friend for many years and went out of her way to support you in anything you did. Not a day goes by that I don't think of her and all of our fun times at many tournaments, whether we bowled good or not. She may be gone in Heaven but my memories of her will live on.

Rhonda Gorman – Mardell.... There aren't enough words to describe the wonderful person she was. She was a very giving and caring individual. The love I will have, always have for Mardell. I will see you again one day; in the meantime you will be missed very deeply.

Terry Pattishall – I've only known Mardell for six years since I've started bowling for the league. In that time I've gotten to know and respect her. She is a great person to have shared a part of my life with. She will be missed.

Paula Lindamood – I hadn't bowled for years. When I decided to join this league, Mardell was very nice and helpful and made me very comfortable. We will miss this great woman.

Millie Schilling – I've only known Mardell for three years and whenever I bowled Toys for Tots for Christmas, she always made me feel comfortable by making sure I was on a team with women for the Monday night bowlers. She always took care of her girls. I'm happy I met her. She is missed a lot.

Sherree Smith – Mardell Gonterman was my grandmother or should I say mother, because she adopted me and raised me as her own from the age of two years old. She was a wonderful person. She put everyone in front of herself. Bowling was her life and she enjoyed it so much. She gave me a wonderful life, showed me many things and loved me very much; for that I am grateful. She may be gone but she will never be forgotten. I love you Grandma; I will carry you in my heart forever.

Patricia Harbin – Those are just a few of the many friends whose life was touched by Mardell. I first met Mardell when I was bowling and working as a youth director and coach in another center in Seminole County. As a member of a women's league in the center I was impressed with her attitude toward the rules of the WIBC. A meeting was always held with strict decorum of procedure yet Mardell made everyone there feel welcome. As time passed, I became a member of the board and when my original center joined another association, I started bowling in Airport Lanes in Sanford, Florida. Mardell's Ladies was the Monday league I chose. I quickly learned why Mardell was loved and respected so deeply. She was always gracious and kind. Her devotion to the sport of bowling drove her to work harder than she should have at times; always giving the job at hand her best effort. I grew to admire her for the compassion she had for the smallest of this earth's creatures. Mardell was a person whose memory will always be in our hearts. To quote George Eliot it seemed she lived her life with this in mind.... "What do we live for if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?"

This Christmas season; try to remember someone who may be suffering the loss of a loved one with an unexpected token gift; a gift of cookies or just a homemade casserole. Material gifts are appreciated but the gift of human thoughtfulness at a time when another is still grieving is still the way to show the spirit of Christmas. This season do something that shall take away a little sadness from the world's vast store. Because of some kind act to others; help the world be a better place that you lived in today.

BROWARD COUNTY

Bob Foreman

This is my first article for the Florida State USBC Women's Bowling Association newsletter on behalf of the Broward County Association. Thank you to everyone involved for giving me this opportunity.

I thought that in my first article I should probably introduce myself. Many of you might be thinking, "Why would a guy want to volunteer to write for the WBA?" Well, this is my first year as a Broward County USBC representative, and one of my primary goals in this position is to promote the sport of bowling in whatever way that I can, and this is the first of many things that I wanted to do.

All of you know about the challenges that the sport is facing over the past few years. Little by little, we have seen bowling centers closing down throughout the state and very little new centers opening. The economy has added to the decline of league bowlers this year, and even open bowling has been down everywhere.

But there is hope. People are coming back to bowling. In last months Broward County USBC Juniors Tournament, we had a great turnout with 46 teams, 97 Doubles, and 194 Singles. And the numbers are in for the USBC membership in Broward County this season; 1900 teams and 7423 bowlers.

So people are coming back to bowling. It's still the number one participation sport in the USA and a great way for families to get together and get a little fun and exercise at the same time.

To emphasize this in a big way, last year, I wrote an essay for the USBC in a national contest and finished in ninth place overall. This was my tribute to my father and family and bowling.

With the holiday season approaching, I wanted to share this essay with all of you and wish you the happiest holiday season. In the next newsletter, the WBA tournament season will be off and running and I will be posting the results and other items of interest in our next newsletter.

Until then, please enjoy the "Lane of Dreams":

"Lane of Dreams"

Some people call Baseball the National Pastime. Nope. I've even heard arguments for Football, Basketball and even some other lesser known sports. Not a chance. In my mind, it has always been and will always be bowling. It has brought my family together in many ways that are simply beyond measure.

My dad worked as the Entertainment Director at a big hotel in Florida. He would often finish work at the wee hours of the morning and bowl in his tuxedo with his friends. That earned him the nickname; "The Gentleman Bowler". He once took a then young Bill Cosby to that same bowling center when he was just getting started with his own family and career. Dad was really good, a lefty who once won the Florida State Tournament. I remember that the trophy he brought home was taller than me at the time.

My earliest memory of bowling with my dad was a Father and Son league on Sunday morning. He taught me how to hook, and my first league average was a 125. I can remember learning to score by hand. In the first few weeks, my ankles were sore from hitting them with the ball on my delivery. At the end of bowling, we never missed the always great breakfast afterwards in the bowling center's restaurant. I can still smell the hash browns.

Years passed, and we both grew older. I eventually got married. My wife Donna loves to bowl and she told me many tales of her big sister Toni who was actually bowled in the LPBA back in the early 1980s. Toni sadly had developed lung cancer and left our world way too soon. But Donna and I carried on, and joined our first league together in 1986, aptly named the "Friday Sociable's." My dad and Donna's nephew Tim later joined our team, and we won our first league championship. The bowling center and restaurant where we celebrated are long gone, but our trophies are still displayed above the head board of our bed.

Don't ask me what's on TV on Friday nights, for our Sociable's league has still continued through 3 decades, 3 different bowling centers and many roster changes.

As my dad grew older and eventually retired, he would often come out to watch us and offer me some gentle coaching. "Stay down and follow through" he would always tell me, and that was usually enough to get my game back on track.

Although his skills gradually and eventually diminished, Dad kept on bowling right up to the week that he died in 2002. Since that time, and every year on his birthday, his seven children and their extended families all get together and bowl.

Today, as I continue to bowl with my wife, and now with my 21-year old son, I often feel my Dad behind me on the Lane of Dreams. "Stay down and follow through." I smile, and look at my wife and son, and always give it my best.

Bowling has always meant family to me. It has brought nothing but great times and more importantly, love.

Thanks, Dad... I love you.

“1200 Smiles Worth a Pot of Gold”

October 31st and November 1st, over 1200 athletes including 12 from Volusia County, participated in the Special Olympics Florida hosted by Disney’s Wide World of Sports in Orlando.

Special Olympics Florida was founded in 1972, and is an affiliate of Special Olympics, Inc. headquartered in Washington D.C. Training programs have been developed to improve athletes’ overall physical fitness and sport-specific competence. Year-round training and competition is available to every athlete by many volunteer coaches. Athletes are divided into competition division based upon their ability, age, and sex.

Placing 3rd in Division 62 for Female Doubles was Lisa Gall and Robin Martin with a score of 345. In Team Events, Division 92 and taking the Gold was Edward Kastner, Chad Russell, Andrew Kastner and D. Rulles with a score of 1121. Division 85 had Jeffery Hook, Brandon Ladue, Casey Mosher and Tony Demedina placing 2nd with a 940 score. It was Gold all the way in Division 42 and 53 Singles. Winning Division 42 was Tony Owens with a 213 and Albert J. Miller taking Division 53 with a score of 299. Albert is a member of the West Volusia USBC. Volusia County can be proud of their athletes.

Check out www.specialolympicsflorida.org for more information regarding the Special Olympics.

We just finished the BVL Tournament and I am proud to say that we beat last year’s total of \$1300. 00. We still have a couple more leagues to hear from, but hitting my goal was the best thing ever. I know our Veterans will appreciate it.

Now that Thanksgiving is over, tournament time is on the horizon. Plans are being made for the Senior Men and Women’s tournament in February and the local city in March. Everyone is starting to finalize their entry for State in Melbourne and Nationals in Reno. Hopefully I will pass your path during one of these tournaments.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS...

We have had a busy two months here in Clearwater with leagues starting again and lining up tournaments for the year. Our associations held the “Strike to Save a Life” tournament November 1st and 2nd. There were only 42 entries but we were still able to have money for Susan G. Komen and BVL. Our associations did the walk through the lanes collecting money for our veterans November 9th through November 15th. The donations were very good this year and we plan to send Bowling Kits overseas for the service personnel. We have pictures from the past two years to show how much the

service personnel are enjoying their bowling in the fields. We hope to send more bowling kits overseas this year.

Some of us bowled the 55+ tournament in Leesburg this year on November 8th. I didn't bowl that well but enjoyed it. I also enjoyed the chance to visit with Toni Maddux and Katheryn Auton whom I like.

We stopped at the Russell Stover candy outlet on the way in and stored up on our supply of Sugar Free Chocolates and let the ladies at the tournament sample them.

Our Youth association held their yearly Youth/Adult tournament October 26th and they said it was the biggest turnout they've had in the last several years. They got a lot of compliments and people asked when they would have another.

I would like to wish everyone a great bowling season and a Blessed Holiday Season.

SOUTH BREVARD USBC WBA

Goldie McGervey

The members of the South Brevard USBC WBA are looking forward to hosing the 2009 State Convention and Tournament. Many of you will remember that we served as hosts in 1997 and 2004. Since you visited us last, we have some new restaurants in the area and our shopping has greatly improved. The Melbourne Square Mall has been renovated and at The Avenue Mall in Viera, many new stores have been added. A visit to historic downtown Melbourne is always interesting with some quaint and unusual stores.

Across the street from Harbour Lanes is the Melbourne Greyhound Park with simulcasting for Greyhounds, Horses and Jai-Alai and a large new poker room with 30 tables. Our beaches are still beautiful and we have a great Zoo. So when you are not bowling we offer many other things to do.

Our theme is "Harbour Lights Come and Shine in 2009" and we certainly hope you do!

LEE COUNTY USBC

Dee Paskowski

Hello to all who take the time to read the newsletter. It has been almost 3 years since I last wrote for this area, prior to the merge. Although the merge encompassed several counties, I am focusing on only what I am aware of, which is Lee County.

Your new Editor, Andrea McCarraher, prevailed upon me (today) to offer something, so, with little time available to me, I will attempt to give a little for your reading pleasure.

Before I get into the pleasure part, please let me say how very sorry we all are to have lost Mina Tinsley, as a past local board member (in many capacities), Hall of Famer, State Board member, Editor, and a friend to many.

Now to the pleasure part, as it is always a pleasure to think of Mina Tinsley. Mina has left behind a lingering scent of love, cheerfulness, wisdom and warmth to all whom were fortunate to have known her. The Memorial Service was perhaps the best one I have ever attended! Andrea McCarraher gave a very moving and funny presentation about the lady she has known for many years as a mentor and friend. Thank you for sharing, Andrea! The mood was so up-lifting-and for me, such a treat to see so many familiar *female* faces, that I thought I would not see again. From State - Pilar Cohalla, Sue Jacobs, Vermill Brooks, Carolyn Redman, Andrea McCarraher, former county Pres., former board members Joann Greenwell; now a part-time resident, Mary Smith, who drove from Ga. to be here to honor Mina, Beatrice Rucker, Carolyn Hulette and Gloria Sawyer. It was especially nice to see Ginny Messer; a long time dear friend of Mina's. I could go on, but I assure you that Mina herself would be thrilled to see all of us joined together, once again in our "sisterhood," in her memory. We all shared a special bond, each having different and unique talents; each appreciating one another's offerings to make our members feel special. My heart recalled many happy times we all shared, and the joys we felt when we achieved our goals, always with the ladies in mind. Even in death, Mina had created the aura she always wanted; because she fostered, nurtured and installed in so many her spirit of giving and laughter. Thank you, Mina, for sharing so much of yourself with us all.

The bowling community recently lost a friend. Justin Brantley, 16, recently passed away due to injuries sustained in an unexpected accident. Justin was an energetic young man who loved to bowl and compete. He was an active member in four different leagues and participated in as many tournaments as he could. Justin recently rolled a 300 game in PRACTICE! Our hearts and prayers go out to his family and friends. Justin will be missed by all. Because of his passion for bowling, and the number of friends in his bowling family, a memorial reception was held at Friendship Lanes. Many donations to help the family with the unexpected expenses were made. Thank you to all who attended and donated. A special thank you to the Friendship Lanes family.

Because it will soon be Christmas, let me take this opportunity to wish you all: Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah - whatever is your tradition, and may 2009 bring a healthy economy, lighter hearts, and many new friendships in your bowling circle!

I wish everyone a very Happy Holiday season and wishing all of you good luck and good health in 2009! Oh yes....., time to write about bowling good or bad. Somehow my October newsletter was not delivered so it was not published in the October issue. I learned to make a copy of it. Lesson learned.

Our association was very surprised to hear of the unexpected passing of Mina Tinsley. I only met Mina once when I introduced myself at one of our state meetings. It was a pleasure to meet her. She had done such a great job for a long time. We congratulate Andrea McCarraher for stepping into Mina's footsteps and look forward to working with her. I just hope she doesn't mind correcting my mistakes as Mina did in the past. Good luck Andrea, I hope to meet you one of these days.

I am including the poem "Heaven" in memory of Mina. It was sent to me in my time of need. Our association sends well wishes to all of Mina's family and friends.

"Heaven"

Love without measure
Space without time
Life with no crying will one day be mine
Hearts never breaking
Hands that don't fight
Days that don't end
With the darkness of night

The lamb and the lion
Will walk by my side
In a world where freedom abides

Windows of glory swing open wide
To shower down blessings
And shine down a light to my soul

I do believe
Oh, can't you see
That that's what Heaven will be like
That's what Heaven will be

Friends that don't leave you
Smiles that don't fade
Nobody's hurting, no one's afraid
No hungry children
Loved ones don't die
No sad farewells
There'll be no more goodbyes.



The Greater Pensacola USBC Association (GPUSBCA) inducted its first Hall of Fame class in a recent ceremony. The former GPBA and PWBA merged in 2006. The newly merged association decided that when it came to setting up their HoF, they wanted to do it right the first time. The HoF Committee researched men's, women's and state Halls of Fame from around the country. Information was taken from more than 40 different halls, looking at what would work best for us. They looked at Superior Performance standards, as well as Meritorious Service. This process took more than a year to gather the information and work out the details of what the criteria would be for induction. A point system was developed and nomination forms were created. The forms were also put on-line on a website the association uses. The point system was made so that it would be difficult to get in, but achievable. HoF members from the previous men's and women's associations were not grandfathered into the new Hall. They could, however, be nominated and selected on their own merits, based on the new criteria. Two of the four inductees, in fact, were also members of the old Halls of Fame.

The four members of the first class all have impressive resumes. Three of the four were inducted for Superior Performance and one for Meritorious Service. Theresa Chaney and Mike Christenson, who are also in the PWBA and GPBA Hall of Fame, were both inducted for Superior Performance. Chaney has been on the All-Star team every year since 1998, when it was created, except for one season when she was injured. Christenson has been one of the top bowlers for many years. He has thirteen 800 series and more than thirty 300 games. Doug Drewry was the third bowler inducted for superior performance. He is the only senior bowler in Pensacola to have been named captain of the regular All-Star team. He also holds the record for finishing a season with the highest average in the Greater Pensacola area, at just under 240, and he did it as a senior bowler. The final member of the initial class was Denise Myers, who was inducted for Meritorious Service. Since moving to Pensacola in 1992, she has been secretary for numerous leagues. She has also been a member of the former PWBA board, the former YABA board (at the same time), served as president of both at various times, and was elected as the first President of the GPUSBCA.

Also recognized with the Hall of Fame inductees were the All-Star teams. The GPUSBCA has teams representing the Youth Boys and Girls (11 and under, 12-15, and 16 and up), Men, Women, Senior Men, Senior Women and Special Bowlers. Kristin Myers was the recipient of a \$1000 scholarship awarded by the association. She not only was a good bowler, she was also a member of the Youth Leaders for six years, 4 of them as president. She had a 3.49 GPA at West Florida Tech High and was a People to People Student Ambassador. She is currently attending Jefferson Davis Community College on a softball scholarship. Overall, it was a great event that was attended by nearly 150 people.

FIRST COAST USBC

Mary Frank

On Saturday, October 4, the Annual Unification Tournament was held at Bowl America Southside. One man, one woman and one youth comprised each team vying for plaques and scholarship money. There were two divisions based on the combined bowler's team average. Over three hundred dollars in scholarship money was awarded to the youths. When the scores were tallied, the winners of Div. A were youth bowler Heather Sharp, Jerry Davenport and Dudley Holmes with a 1783 series. Both Jerry and Dudley were repeat winners from last year. Div. B, whose averages were 179 and below, found youth bowler Brianna Orourke, Kathy and Rickie Petersen capturing first place with 1928. Rolling 1910, youth bowler George Kemp paired up with Carolyn Nicolini and Chris Angelou for a strong second place finish.

The First Coast USBC held their Fourth Annual BVL Mixed Scotch Doubles Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 1 at Cassat's Batt Bowl. Entries were down a little this year, probably due to a date conflict with the Florida-Georgia football game. The event paid three places for the Adult Division, whose winners were Kerri Cayenne and Haylan Washington, who rolled a 789 set. The Youth Division also had three sets of winners. Krystina Wynn and Jon Wynn rolled to victory with their 767 set. The youths will all receive patriotic medals that will be presented to them during their regular league play. An added incentive to raise money for the VA Center in Lake City was a raffle held during the tournament. Victor Guye's lucky number netted him a bowling ball. Donny Atwood won the bowling bag, and the bowling shoes were won by Ken Webb. The BVL Committee and the FC Board extended sincerest thanks to center owner, Barbara Batt, for the donation of the raffle items. The league collections throughout the centers have not yet been tallied. A beautiful plaque awaits the center whose bowlers contributed the most money per bowler per league.

Ten delegates and one alternate represented the First Coast USBC at the Florida State USBC-BA's Jamboree in Lakeland. The guest speaker was USBC's Jim Zebahazy. Jim was very informative and touched on subjects from Youth bowling to the USBC move from Greendale, WI to Arlington, TX. The Saturday night banquet, served buffet style, was enjoyed by all. None other than "Elvis" entertained the group, handing out his famous "scarves" and posing for pictures. The State Hall of Fame was also held during this celebration. On Sunday, under Unfinished Business, delegate Mary Frank asked for a vote to show how many delegates favored merging at the State level with the women and the youth. She pointed out that information received from USBC stated that of the

54 associations in Florida, 19 were merged serving men, women and youth, while four were serving men and women. To many people's surprise, the vote was 66 For, 27 Against. Both Mary and out-going President Fred McFarland were pleased with the results. Perhaps now the State of Florida will be able to move forward and join the other states who have voted to merge. Immediately before the conclusion of the meeting, Lakeland was awarded the 2010 Tournament, while Ft. Myers will host the 2010 Jamboree.

The FSUSBC Senior Tournament is scheduled for December 6th and 13th, at 1:00 p.m., at Phoenix Lanes. An optional four bowler team event will be held at 9:00 a.m. on December 7th and 14th. Although Singles will be divided into four age classes, there will only be one division in Doubles and the Optional Team events. Handicap Doubles and Singles winners in each age group will win a paid entry to the Florida State Senior Tournament Doubles/Singles event.

On Saturday, Nov. 15th, a memorial service was held for Lana Fitch, who passed away on Oct. 1st. A true competitor, Lana bowled in numerous state tournaments and was a member of the Florida Bowling Queens until she was forced to quit due to her illness. Both she and her husband, Billy, were inducted into Jacksonville's Bowling Hall of Fame for Bowling Achievement; Billy in 1977 and Lana in 1985. She will always be remembered as a great bowler, a lady all women bowlers wanted to emulate.

Early Friday morning, Nov. 7th, the First Coast USBC lost one of its greatest patrons, Ruthie Martin. Ruthie's name was synonymous with Ways and Means. Ruthie fought a valiant fight, never gave up, and never lost her sense of humor. She was still working on a W&M project two weeks before her demise. She served the bowlers and Board for over 45 years, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1998 for Meritorious Service. The First Coast Board mourns the loss of such a dedicated lady.

The First Coast Board offers their sincerest condolences to the family of FS-USBC-WBA Director, Mina Tinsley. Mina, who had an infectious smile and a heart filled with honor, will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by all who were privileged to know her.

The First Coast USBC wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you be blessed throughout the holiday season and enjoy good health and everlasting happiness in 2009.

PALM BEACH COUNTY USBC WBA

Gay Esteves

I was thinking about the sport of bowling. As far as football or baseball sports goes, more people are spectators than actual players. But in bowling everyone bowls on the same field so to speak. Professionals still bowl on actual bowling alleys just like I would on league night. I love football also but I haven't found many over 40 woman's football league to join.

The word sport.....has many definitions:

“An athletic activity requiring skill or physical prowess”, “recreation”, a “pleasant pastime”, “a gambler”, “Something treated lightly or tossed about like a plaything”, “jest”, “mirth”, “to pass time in amusement”. (All definitions from Dictionary.com)

All I know is that bowling as a sport is fun!

It’s where I go to forget my day, relax, and play with my friends. And it’s always exciting.

- ❖ You can meet more people in a bowling alley than at a bar.
- ❖ You share ups and downs with another group of people (another team) for three games.
- ❖ You physically touch other human beings (high fives, etc.)
- ❖ You can eat and drink if you want while you do it!
- ❖ You make future dates to meet and bowl again, if not just every week at the same place same time.
- ❖ You watch other people interact and also bowl (the best people watching other than the airport or mall
- ❖ Show off! The best flirting is at Bowling alleys. (where else can you flirt with people and then leave when it’s over, no questions asked)
- ❖ Show compassion freely. (How many splits in one game can a person take?)

The sport of bowling should be in great position in the Unites States. It should be number one as far as participants. Anyone can bowl, join a league, play in a tournament, etc. We need bowling; we need interaction with other people and camaraderie.

Bowling has made me a better daughter, sister, mother and wife. If for no other reason than understanding what may happen with the throw of the bowling ball... It’s a gamble, it’s often laughable and you may cry, all in one game. Just like life. Then again bowling is just a game. Right?

GREATER MIAMI USBC

Sharon Colon

Hello everyone!! I need to start by saying that we were very sad and surprised to hear of Mina’s passing. She was a wonderful person and will be missed by so many people.

Our association has been working hard to promote bowling in our part of the state. Since we only have one bowling center left, it is difficult to have as many tournaments as we would like. We did have a junior scholarship tournament that was fun for those that attended. We intend to have additional tournaments in the near future which will be available for juniors across the state to participate in. Entry forms will be sent to your association to distribute to anyone interested.

Our First Vice President, Glenda Beckett, had some very involved back surgery in early September. I am pleased to announce that she is healing well and has been able to start participating in all of the association business. Her sense of humor and expertise were sorely missed. Her husband, Jim, needs to be elected “Husband of the Year” for all that

he has been through during her recovery. He was at her beck and call, cooked, cleaned, lost sleep, as well as taking time off from his clubs, etc. He did this all with a smile. What a wonderful husband to have!

As many of you know, I enjoy writing about bowling trips that we have gone on. This is about our most recent one and I am calling it.....

“The Bowling Trip That Didn’t Want to End”

It all began one Friday morning. We got in groups to carpool our way up to the St. Pete Classic Tournament. Everyone was happy and looking forward to a good time. That lasted about 30 minutes and then our bubble burst when a police officer stopped our driver to give him a speeding ticket. Luckily, the officer was nice and downsized the ticket. We decided to forget about the event and continued on our way. Our arrival and check-in was uneventful, but then came the next day..... We woke up early and got in the car. One of the ladies pressed the button on the GPS that would direct us to the bowling center. Unfortunately, the address to the center was not the one listed for Saturday, it was the one for the next day. We didn’t discover that until we were blocked by an Iron Man event. No matter which way we went, the roads were blocked. We called and asked for other directions and then called our other teammates to alert them of the problem. It turned out that they were already at the bowling center, as they had the right directions. We asked them to see if we would be able to bowl in the next shift as we didn’t think we would make it in time. The arrangement was made and they didn’t even complain, they just went shopping until the 1:00 shift would begin. In the meantime, we were circling the St. Pete area. It ended up taking us over three and a half hours to make the 20 minute trip. We bowled and thought that tomorrow would be better. Wrong again. We arrived at the house in plenty of time and some of us were really bowling well. When the singles event began, all of us were now pretty confident of good scores. Unfortunately, there was a power surge that shut off the monitors for a few minutes. Usually, that is not a problem, but the person at the desk did something out of sequence and lost all of the scores in the middle of the second game. One of our bowlers was on pace to bowl her best game ever, but we ended up having to start over. Depressed and upset, she never got it back together and this cost her a good score and possible prize money. We were ready to encourage her to take some of her pain medicine as it kind of zonks her out. On another trip; this same person was riding in a caravan of sorts and when someone called her about our progress she kept saying that she couldn’t hear them. It turned out that she had her phone upside down. This along with the fact that she tried to get into her hotel room with a casino gaming card, let us know that the medicine was stronger than any of us thought. The good news is that we all arrived home safely and were already planning our next trip.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and I wish everyone a wonderful time during the Christmas/Hanukkah holiday season. Remember that during these times of economic hardships that being a friend to somebody is something better than gold. Also, take time to pray for our soldiers that are overseas or abroad.

Until our next issue, I hope that all the good scores are yours.

All Ocala bowlers pass along their sympathy to the family of Mina Tinsley on her recent passing. She will be missed at the State Convention.

Here we are Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmas is just around the corner. Ocala Women participated in both the State 500 and State 600 Club Tournaments and came home winners. A good time was had by all. The Ocala Women next ventured to the St. Pete Classic and again came home winners.

Latest news from USBC is that the bowling center planned for Osceola County has been put on hold as financing cannot be secured at this time. Seems that USBC is looking for a new venue for the Open Tournament to be held in 2011.... I wonder where they will go. They plan on holding the 2013 Women's Championship in Osceola County if the arena can be built by that time. Guess we will all have to wait and see what transpires.

The economic situation in Ocala is bleak at best. Most of the large industries have closed and everyday more people lose their jobs. Unfortunately, with job losses come losses of bowlers. With bowling being an individual's entertainment or recreation or sport and not a necessity of life it has to be the first thing that is eliminated from the family expenses. Our hopes and prayers go out to all the families that are struggling and our wish is that 2009 will be a year of prosperity and happiness for all.

I would like to take this opportunity to first say that trying to fill the shoes of Mina Tinsley; who was the newsletter editor for the past 10 year's will be a task among tasks! I can only hope that Mina is looking down from above, watching over my shoulder guiding me as the new editor so that I may possibly do the job half as well as she did. Mina was a very dear friend of mine for many, many years. When her daughter, Karen called me to inform me of Mina's passing, my heart broke and knew immediately that numerous hearts in the bowling world would also break when all of her friends learned of her passing. Karen asked me if I would speak at her memorial service and I told her it would be an honor. I'd like to share my memorial of Mina with you.

“Remember When”

Mina was an avid bowler who loved the sport of bowling and loved her bowling friends. She became a member of the Lee County WBA in 1961 and held every office in the association; served on all committee's as well as serving as the parliamentarian. Her name was submitted by her dear friend Ginny Messer for consideration for induction into the LCWBA Hall of Fame, where she was inducted on March 22, 1992 for Meritorious Service. I was there the evening she was inducted along with her long time friend Mary Griffin who was also inducted for Meritorious Service. I remember thinking what an honor it was to be inducted into the LCWBA Hall of Fame. In 1997, I was lucky enough to share the honor of becoming a Hall of Fame member because Mina submitted my

name for Superior Performance. I was extremely proud that Mina, a lady known by all because of her integrity and honor had submitted my name. I will always be thankful to her for that.

Mina was a member of the Florida Bowling Queens. Marie Wright, Carol Gallo, Mina and I often traveled together many times to the tournaments where we shared a lot of fun times. I remember one evening; it was a Saturday night. We had bowled all day and it was about 10:00 at night. Mina and I had a hankering for some "Butter Pecan" Ice Cream. So we got out of our PJ's, got dressed and set out not knowing the area we were in, but found a 7-11 and bought some Butter Pecan ice cream. We went back to our room and ate the entire pint of ice cream and went to sleep right afterwards because we had to be at the lanes bright and early the next morning around 7:00am. That was one of the fun things about Mina; she was up for almost anything.

Well....., almost up for anything as long as it was good clean fun. There were times at nationals that Mina had had enough fun, but Ginny Messer and I along with a few others went out to more delegate's parties. On those occasions, Mina stayed in the hotel room and read her books but wanted to hear all about the fun we had when we got back.

There was a mishap along the way one time when Ginny and I were down in the hotel bar along with a few other bowlers while Mina was upstairs reading. We were sitting around talking and have a drink or two when the DJ played the song "Shout" by Otis Day & the Knights. Well, Ginny decided she wanted to dance and get up and "**Shout!**" Let's just say that the tennis shoes Ginny had on didn't make for good dancing!

Shortly after Ginny starting dancing, I was calling upstairs to Mina to tell her that I thought we needed to take Ginny to the hospital. She had fallen and broke her ankle, but was taken care of by Mina during the rest of the time we were in Lansing Michigan.

Mina was a fairly reserved lady that didn't speak badly of others and rarely did I hear her say any curse words other than maybe "damn." I remember one Queens tournament where Marie, Mina and I were bowling. Mina had just had artificial nails put on a few days before we left to bowl and hadn't really tried bowling with them. During one of her games on our first squad, one of her nails snapped off right down to the quick, taking part of her own nail with it which started bleeding all over the place! Mina, being the fairly reserved and quiet lady that she was said "Damn; that hurts." I thought that was pretty incredible because I'm sure it hurt like the dickens! If that had been me, my "*cursing Tourettes*" would have set in and I probably would have said every curse word known to mankind!!! But not Mina..... She obviously couldn't bowl the rest of the tournament; but she was our cheerleader for the rest of the weekend.

During our national tournament in Indianapolis; Mina was talking about the historical museum in Kokomo, Indiana; a home that she knew quite well because she spent some time there while growing up because of her grandparents. The next day we set off on a road trip to Kokomo where Marie, Carol & I got a "personalized" guided tour by Mina who told us lots of stories, told us about parties that were held in the ballroom and shared some of her other memories about the home with us. On the way back, all Mina could

talk about was stopping and eating at a “White Castle” which we did. That was a real treat for all of us that day and we still remember the fun time we had on that special trip. To this day, whenever that subject comes up, we talk about how beautiful the home was and think it’s neat that Mina was a part of it.

Mina served as a director on the state board from 1993 and was recently re-elected this year in 2008. She served on numerous committees at the state level and also served as editor of the state newsletter, doing so for the last 10 years. This was a job she did with true professionalism and a job she loved!

At our last state board meeting in Tampa, Mina and I traveled together as we always did. By the time we got to the hotel, it was lunch time. We couldn’t locate any of the other state board members so we decided that just the two of us would go to lunch. We talked about going to the Olive Garden because we both like the soup and salad, but why go there when you could go some place special in Tampa??? I decided it would be a treat if we went to the “Columbia Restaurant” in Ybor City. We had a great lunch and she talked about the times she went there with her family as a young girl because her father loved that restaurant. By the way, she and I both ordered the “1905 salad” which I couldn’t finish because it was a very large serving, but she ate EVERY SINGLE BIT! She loved that salad!

Mina was so happy to be at the meeting that weekend and loved being with her friends from the state board. I know that I along with the other state board members will cherish and remember that weekend. As I said, so many of her friends are due to her involvement with bowling from the state and national level to the local level and the Lee County WBA.

Mina served on the local board from 1961 until the last meeting of the LCWBA on June 4, 2006.

The last sentence of the official minutes for that meeting reflect a quote from Mina as saying:

"I do not know what my life would have been like without serving the association these many years and being involved in the bowling world."

Well...., I can honestly say that "WE," her bowling friends do not know what Our Lives would have been like without Mina!

I miss you Mina.... You will always be in our hearts!

Before closing, I’d like to thank Toni Maddux for having faith in me and appointing me as the new editor. I look forward to meeting all of the writers at our state convention in May. I’m delighted at the amount of articles that were submitted for this issue. I thank each of the writer’s for taking the time to report the bowling scores, stories and other news from their association. Keep those articles coming....

Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season!

The following was submitted by:

Goldie McGervey, President-South Brevard USBC WBA

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL...

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the town
No noses were frozen, no snow fluttered down

No children in flannel were tucked into bed
They all wore shorty pajamas instead

To find wreaths of holly was not very hard
For holly wreaths grew in every back yard

In front of the houses were Daddy's and Mom's
Adorning the crotons and coconut palms

The slumbering kiddies were dreaming with glee
That they would find surfboards under the tree

They all knew that Santa was well on his way
In a red Thunderbird instead of a sleigh

He whizzed up the highways and zoomed up the roads
In a snappy convertible peddling his loads

As he jumped from the car he gave a deep chuckle
He was dressed in Bermudas with an Ivy-League buckle

There weren't any chimneys, but that caused no gloom
For Santa came in through the Florida room

He stopped at each house, stayed only a minute
As he emptied his bag of the toys that were in it

Before he departed he treated himself
To a glass of orange juice left on the shelf

Leaped into the car and put it in gear
And drove over our bridges, singing with cheer

But we heard him exclaim as he went on his way
"MERRY CHRISTMAS Sunny Florida, I wish I could stay!"

And To All..... A Good Night!

Author Unkown