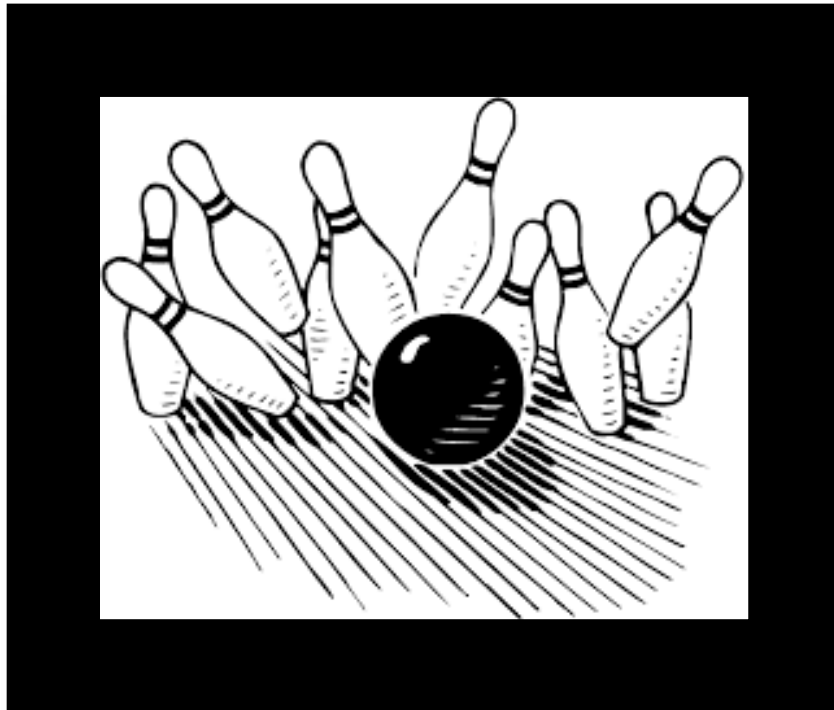


The Blind Bowler

American Blind Bowling Association

April 2021



ABBA1951.com

**Official Publication of the
American Blind Bowling Association
APRIL 2021**

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings All,

It appears that we might be sailing close to the end of the pandemic. Even though we know the virus will still be around, things are starting to return to The New Normal.

I am excited and hoping that we will all be able to come together again at the mid-year in November. Unfortunately, we will not be bowling in May. But our hearts and minds will and should remain on encouraging each other. I'm looking forward to our family coming together again.

“Strikes and Spares, forever!”

Until November, stay safe, wear your mask, and stay healthy.

~Joyce Spencer Mintz, ABBA President~

From the Desk of the ABBA SECRETARY TREASURER

Once again “Please remember members who said good-bye to family, friends and team members, and all who are no longer with us, especially those who COVID-19 claimed.” Continue to remember those in Texas who experienced snow and temps like never before and all of our states receiving unusual low temps.

“Thanks” to our new Blind Bowler editor, Website manager (Patrick & Ian Koo) along with our Facebook organizer Sharon Benton. Hopefully, all have seen/read one of the issues of the Blind Bowler, clicked on the website and logged into Facebook. With all of these informational pieces, everyone should be well informed as to the workings of the ABBA,

realizing we are up and running. Please cooperate with each of the sites by sending information to The Blind Bowler at The-Blind-Bowler@outlook.com.

CONTINUING TO ASK ANY LEAGUE, OR MEMBERS WITH USED GUIDERAILS – IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DONATE OR SELL, PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY @ 248-410-2411 OR rozellacampbell2826@gmail.com.

HATS OFF!!!! TO OUR LEAGUES WHO ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE BOWLING AND EARN AWARDS. A REMINDER TO THOSE SENDING IN AWARDS.

- If you are not going to use the original form, please include the following – Person's name, League, Date bowled, Visual Status, average, award desired (only one), check to either Send or Hold and lastly (Secretary's information – Name and address).
- Reasoning behind all of the above – I have received Forms without/or: A) games bowled (4) months ago, B) Visual status, some with just M or S etc. We use, PM, PF, SM, SF, TM, TF, average, H/S not checked and C) some with more than one award checked and incorrect information.
- Please if you are not sure how to complete the form etc., text or call me.
- Congratulations: some leagues only have 2-3 members sanctioned
 - Alton Area, Chicago Tappers, Cincinnati, Colorado, Daytona, Delaware Valley, Dreamers, Forsyth, Greater Cleveland, Lighthouse Industries, Madison Out of Sight, Milwaukee Beer Barrels, Motor City, St. Louis Pin Splitters, Raleigh Outlaws, Rock County Railers, St. Louis Rail Rollers, and The Top Cats, PA. Tyler Texans, Gate City.

Awards this period:

- Jack Shepper ? – average 143, bowled 227 earning 75 over, Delaware Valley, PA

All of the following – Colorado Blind Bowling Assoc., Northglenn, CO:

- Ron Neer SM – average 204, bowled 256, earning Bronze Medal
- Make LoRusso ? – average 127, bowled 167, earning Bronze Medal
- Christine Menges TF – average 88, bowled 146, earning Bronze Medal
- Eric Meyers SM – average 166, bowled 257, earning Bronze Medal
- Ron Neer SM – average 204, bowled 268, earning a Silver Medal
- Eric Meyers SM – average 172, bowled 264, earning a Silver medal
- Chris Menges SM – average 177, bowled 264, earning Silver medal
- Jeanette Gonzales TF – average 39, bowled 106, earning 60 over

From Greater Cleveland:

- D'Peaches Dinkins SF, average 234, Split Conversion Chevron of 6.7
- Andrea Marley PF, average 94, Triplicate Chevron for 122

Realizing most have been notified by now that we were able to talk with the Marriott O'Hare and received their consent to move all dates for the 2020 Tournament and Mid-Year meeting to November 2021 Mid-Year Meeting, Thursday, November 18 – Saturday, November 20, 2021 and the Convention, Wednesday May 25 – Sunday, May 29, 2022.

Cut-off dates for reservation for the Mid-year – Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, Room rate \$105, presently tax is 17.40%. For reservations call Marriott Reservations at 1-800-228-9290 or 773-693-4444. Please identify yourself as part of the American Blind Bowlers Association group staying at the Chicago Marriott O’Hare located at 8535 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631.

Anyone who might drive, parking is \$10 per day. No reservation will be held without a credit card.

The schedule for various meetings and the name of the room will be given in Sept./Oct. More detailed information and awards etc. received after March 1, 2020 will appear in the 1st Blind Bowler issue in Oct. 2020.

Continue to be safe, warm, and masked. Get the vaccination!!!!

**~Rozella Amerson Campbell, ABBA Secretary/
Treasurer~**

2021 ABBA TOURNAMENT UPDATE

After much deliberation, the May 2021 Tournament in Chicago has been officially postponed until next season.

2021 ABBA Mid-Year Meeting

In November 2021, we will have the Mid-Year Meeting in Chicago at the Marriott O’Hare. Please plan to attend. Hotel information is listed below:

Event: 2021 ABBA Mid-year Meeting

Dates: Thursday, November 18 - Saturday November 20, 2021

Where: Chicago Marriott O'Hare

Hotel Address: 8535 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631

Hotel Phone: 773-693-4444

To make a reservation, please call Marriott Reservations at 800-228-9290 or 773-693-4444.

Deadline for reservations is Thursday, October 21, 2021.

**** Note:** Guests should identify themselves as part of the American Blind Bowlers Association group staying at the Chicago Marriott O'Hare.

All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. The hotel will not hold any reservations unless secured by a credit card.

Room Rate: \$109 local taxes currently 17.4%.

Committee Meetings will be held on the 19th and Board Meeting the 20th. (Various Committee times have not been determined).

Parking is \$10 per day.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE
NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee has extended the due date for accepting nominations for all elected positions until May 1, 2021. All officers will be voted on and nominations may be sent to A.J. Inglesbee until May 1, 2021. If you would like to

nominate someone or yourself, please do so as soon as possible.

Officers up for election are: President, 1st & 2nd President, Tournament Director, and Secretary/Treasurer. A brief description why you believe the candidate should be elected is necessary.

Please send nominations to A.J. Inglesby at:
blindbowler300@me.com.

If you have any questions, you can reach him at 336-324-0265.

IN LOVING MEMORY

This year has been filled with more strife and sorrow than this nation has seen in a long time. Unprecedented, historical events have surrounded us for over a year and have left nobody unaffected.

Over the past 12 months, we lived through political upheaval, natural disasters, and a global pandemic. Below, we'd like to mention the names of those who we loved and lost. Most of the comments have been submitted by members who wish to honor their family or friends. May we honor them with love and thanks for the joy they gave us.

Top Cat Blind Bowlers, Pittsburgh, PA

Submitted by: Mike Staab, Secretary

I would like to honor, Ed Fitzpatrick from the Top Cats. Ed was the secretary for the Top Cats for many years before me. Ed was also president of ABBA and was a big part of ABBA

itself. I learned a lot from Ed. You could say he was my mentor. Kevin, his son, still bowls with the Top Cats.

Forsyth Blind Bowlers, Winston Salem, NC

Submitted by: Jerry Mintz, Secretary

We lost a member this year. He was a very dear friend of my league. His name is Johnny Hayes. The Forsyth Blind Bowlers will never forget him.

American Blind Bowling Association

Submitted by: Rozella Campbell, ABBA Secretary

Kathy Brockman: For those who cannot remember her, there was always the joke about getting a stool so she could be seen. She held many positions in Mid-West and ABBA down through the years and was Life Member #27. She was one of our great reference people when it came to the interpretation of the By Laws and policy. She wore a smile most of the time and always willing to help where needed. She was great at shorthand and took the minutes of the Mid-Year, Board and Convention minutes during my tenure as Secretary Treasurer, making sure that she sent them to me in time to send to the membership. She was a person you could easily love.

Mr. Jim Fleming, former husband of Cathy Fleming, passed away recently after illness. He was Life Member #26, was among the first to be a part of ABBA, he and his wife bowled in the International Tournaments representing the USA & ABBA, both served in various positions in ABBA and helped to shape and design the organization. Jim was not recently active in ABBA, yet we cannot forget his accomplishments with the group.

American Blind Bowling Association

Submitted by: Carol Travers

We lost one of our oldest Lifetime members, Doris Flowers. She was 93 years old and suffered from liver complications.

Raleigh Outlaws, Raleigh, NC

Submitted by: Sharon Benton

Mike Rush bowled with the Raleigh Outlaws in Raleigh, NC. He was the beloved husband of ABBA member Ginger Rush.

Friday Morning Rollers of High Point, NC

Submitted by: LaDonna Watts

The Friday Morning Rollers of High Point, NC also lost one of our own (not from COVID). Wesley Whitsett passed away on February 27. He was a father and grandfather and was loved very much.

Gate City Blind Bowlers in Greensboro, NC

Dottie Nealey bowled with the Gate City Blind Bowlers in Greensboro, NC. Dottie was a social worker for the blind and was active in the NFB and ACB.

American Blind Bowling Association

Submitted by: Tanya Jones, ABBA 2nd Vice President

It is with a heavy heart that I need to inform you that one of our committee members passed away. Ernest Sherrill bowled in Michigan. He was committed to the ABBA and was a joy to be around and he will be missed. Ernest was the President of the Flint Billion Dollars in Michigan, now the All Stars. He served on the ABBA Legislative committee.

American Blind Bowling Association

Submitted by: Kylie Sykes

Wayne Keeney encouraged new bowlers to bowl because he loved the sport so much. He never lost sight of the dream. His dream came true when bowling at the Orleans. He never lost sight of that dream. He served on every ABBA committee and was the president of the organization as well.

Also, we would like to send our love, strength, and prayers to those who may not have been mentioned above.

Mile High Blind Bowling League, Denver CO

Submitted by: Sharon Hoffman

Good afternoon. This is sad news regarding Doris Flowers. Doris Flowers went to the Lord on January 8, 2021. Doris was born July 28, 1926. Doris is survived by her 4 children Sharon Hoffman and husband Raymond, Lee David Burton, Susan Alexander and Mary Broadrick, 10 grandchildren, 14 Great Grandchildren and 5 Great Great Grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Alfred Flowers.

Doris was a current member of the Mile High Blind bowling league in Denver Co. Prior to moving to the Denver area, Doris was President of the 14R Blind Bowlers in Lansdale PA and had served for many years. Doris was very active in National ABBA committees and attended every tournament. She was active also with Mid-Atlantic Blind Bowling and attended some of their tournaments in the fall. Doris started bowling with a traveling blind bowling league in the early 1960's in Pennsylvania. She was instrumental in starting the 14R bowling league in Lansdale PA.

Doris had many talents from crocheting, caning chairs, baking and cooking which she enjoyed.

She will be missed.

Lancing 300 Bowling League, Lancing MI

Lay Pierce: Was an excellent singer and very active in his church.

David Bigelow: Never had an inside voice. You knew when he was around. He loved his Bacardi and Coke, camping and campfires.

Barb Phillips: Loved driving bowlers to league bowling and tournaments. She enjoyed going to her cottage and reading.

Jim Bourgh: He loved to read, playing cards and fishing. He loved to go Christmas shopping then to dinner with his two women friends. (wife of 40 plus yrs. said)

Don Koski: Loved sailing his own sailboat (he had his braille instruments), reading and classical music.

Don Hunt: He loved going to horse racing, camp fires, and riding in cars.

Don Cardinal: Liked to go on cruises and going to bars, playing the ukulele and keyboard.

ABOUT OUR FAMILY

To our bowling family,

The ABBA has been formally organized and thriving since 1951. Covid-19 and other factors have caused concerns. The current officers and committee members are aging and in some cases are struggling to continue to serve as an officer or committee member. I am hopeful that many of the younger members are enjoying bowling enough to step up and consider becoming active in our organization, in efforts for our organization to continue to provide opportunities for blind/visually impaired persons throughout the U.S. to continue friendly bowling competition. If you are not sure what you would like to do, access our website and learn about the positions and committees. Then, contact me or any of our current officers or current committee members to ask questions. I am very sure that you possess the skills and talents to keep this great organization moving forward. My contact number is 216-212-4959. Consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by:

~Wilbert Turner, A CONCERNED PAST PRESIDENT~

PS: consult the Blind Bowler and/or our Facebook page/website for the names and contact information of other members.

Alton Area Blind Bowlers – East Alton, Illinois

Article submitted by: Donna Beiermann

The Alton Area Blind Bowlers are still bowling. There are only four of us and we are bowling about every other week. We started to bowl this past August for the season. The bowling alley closed the second week in November and did not reopen until the third week in January. We enjoy getting together, seeing one another, and bowling. We haven't decided how much longer we will bowl this season. We hope to bowl a few more years.

Hope everyone stays well.

~Alton Area Blind Bowlers~

A MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC RELATIONS

Happy Spring!

For most of us, we are definitely excited to see more sunshine and less snowflakes. The PR Committee has been working diligently on behalf of ABBA.

We've been making some upgrades and changes to the ABBA1951.com website. Check it out for information and updates about the organization and its members.

And, find us on Facebook. We are trying to get to the 100 mark of followers. Sharon Benton is doing a great job with keeping us informed on our social page.

We have also made a lot of progress to your advantage, but you will have to check out the website to see what I mean. 😊

So, keep smiling and make people wonder what they are missing!

~Tonia Koo, Public Relations Chair~

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello Everyone,

Please remember, any league may submit an article to The Blind Bowler for publication. We are always on the lookout for stories about our members to share with the ABBA community. Email your submissions to The-Blind-Bowler@outlook.com. I can't wait to hear from all of you.

Also, please take the time to check out the website at <https://www.ABBA1951.com>. Pay special attention to the Officers page and the Leagues page. If there is anything that needs to be updated, corrected, and/or changed, feel free to drop us an email at The-Blind-Bowler@outlook.com.

Cordially,

~Patrick Koo, The Blind Bowler Editor~

