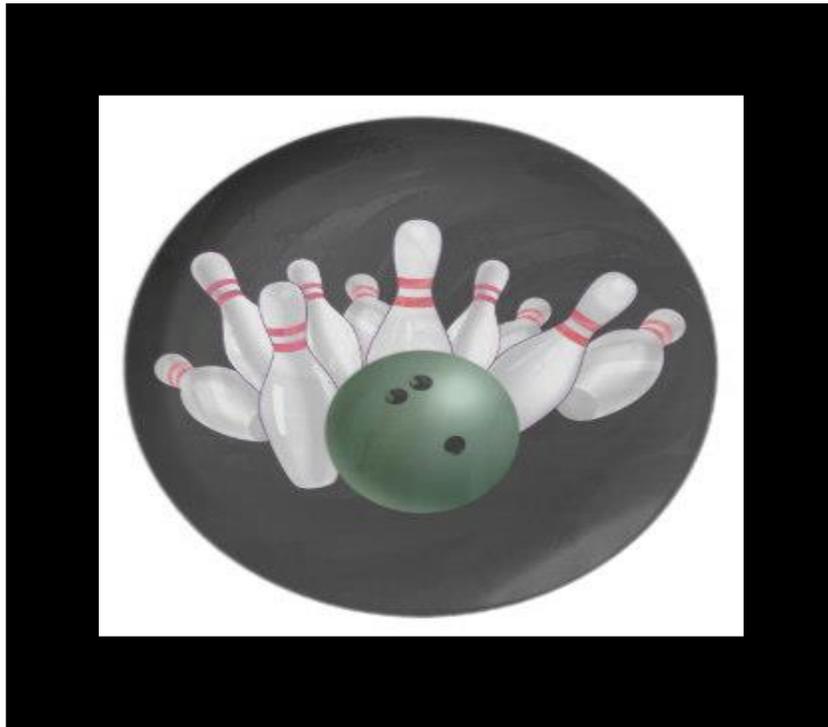


The Blind Bowler

Official Publication of the
American Blind Bowling Association

April, 2019



Mario Diming, Editor
1333 W. 59th Street
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**72nd ANNUAL ABBA TOURNAMENT
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
May 29- June 3, 2019**



Our 72nd National Tournament is approaching fast where we are returning to Pittsburgh. Hope everyone is getting excited about that upcoming tournament and preparing to be in attendance.

2018 – 2019 OFFICERS

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Editor's Welcome

We are approaching the end of another bowling season. I hope everyone has had a great and fun season on the lanes. Hope everyone is bowling the best and if not, you have a few more weeks to get back on track.

To get everyone a little bit more excited about the 72nd Annual ABBA National Tournament. I have arranged ten fun and informational things to do in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I hope you will find something fun on this list about Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania that you will investigate doing while on break from bowling. Also, Mike Staab in pervious articles mentions other things that will also be fun to do.

10 THINGS TO DO IN PITTSBURGH

- Visit the Neighborhood of Make-Believe - At the Heinz History Museum, Mister Rogers fans young and old can check out the display of the original set and items from the children's show, including the entryway and living room where Mister Rogers would lace up his sneakers, King Friday's castle, the Great Oak Tree where Henrietta Pussycat and X the Owl live, and more.
- Defy gravity on an optical illusion hill- Pittsburgh is no stranger to hills (see: Canton Avenue), and one of the most mysterious hill intersections in the region (and maybe the world) is between McKinney and Kummer roads in North Park. When you put your car in neutral, you will magically roll uphill. This is worth the short drive just to head to North Park, which offers a variety of activities -- in addition to this *Ripley's Believe It or No*thead-scratcher -- like ice skating, trails, kayak rentals, a pool, and more.

- Supersize your brain at a Big Mac museum- Even though going to McDonald's seems like a stupid thing to do with out-of-towners, this particular restaurant is truly special because it includes a Big Mac Museum -- yes, the Big Mac was invented by a Yinzer, specifically Jim "MJ" Delligatti. This museum/restaurant has seating for 122 people, a PlayPlace, McDonald's memorabilia, and a bronze statue of Delligatti that you can eat French fries next to. Best. McDonald's. Ever.
- Drive the steepest street in the United States - With a maximum grade of 37%, Canton Avenue has been featured in car commercials for its steepness. Take a drive up or down it, but we don't recommend cycling it unless you want to practice for Pittsburgh's dangerous Dirty Dozen race.
- Explore the Warhol Museum- While he may be associated with New York's arts and film scene, Andy Warhol was a Pittsburgher, and this North Shore museum commemorates the avant-garde soup-can icon. With rotating exhibits and daily/weekly events, there's always something new and fun to do at the Warhol. Just make sure you go to "the cloud room," as it's a must-see.
- Relive your arcade heyday at Games N' At- The tagline of this game emporium practically implores you to show up, whether you've got visitors in tow or not: "It's a Pittsburgh thing." Choose from duckpin bowling, video arcades, pinball games, foosball, skeeball, and more. Plus, it's BYOB as long as you're 21 or over.

- Spend an evening at Kennywood - Sure, it's tradition to spend all day at Kennywood amusement park, but if you go after 5pm, not only is it cheaper, but most people are probably leaving by then, which means fewer lines for roller coasters. Plus, evenings at Kennywood are magical thanks to all the lights and the classic atmosphere. Other than the spring and summer, Kennywood also has special holiday events, with Fright Nights in the fall and Holiday Lights in November and December.
- Visit one of America's best record stores - *Rolling Stone* magazine named Jerry's Records in Squirrel Hill "one of the best record stores in the United States," and for good reason: it's home to half a million albums. Even if you're not a vinyl enthusiast, it's worth taking a trip through the past with this expansive collection.
- See most of Western PA in a matter of minutes at the Carnegie Science Center - If you can't get to everything you want to hit with out-of-town friends and family, you can always walk through Western Pennsylvania when you visit Carnegie Science Center's Miniature Railroad & Village, which includes mainstays like Primanti's and Fallingwater, and former landmarks like Forbes Field and Crawford Grill.

President's Letter

I just wanted to take a few minutes and think everyone in the organization for the last two years of being the president of this great organization. It really has been an honor to serve everyone in this organization. I look forward to seeing everyone in Pittsburgh for this year tournament. If you have not made your hotel reservations, please do as soon as you can. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

If I do not see you this year in Pittsburgh, I look forward to hanging out with you and next year's tournament in the Cincinnati Northern Kentucky tournament.

The next thing I wanted to announce is the second membership meeting of this season. It will be Tuesday, May 7 at 9 PM Eastern time. The common number is 515-739-1015. The access code is 484921771 I hope we can get many more members and this conference call for all the officers can hear your concerns and questions before we get to Pittsburgh. I look forward to talking to everyone that night. Lastly, I look forward to seeing everyone who is going to Pittsburgh. This year, tournament in Pittsburgh is going to be one for the ages and I hope everyone can attend and enjoy it.

From the Desk of the Secretary Treasurer

Hello Members,

Time to start packing for our Association, Your State and the National Tournaments. For those who have experienced tons of snow, unusual freezing temps., rain, or other weather conditions and survived, we will see some of you soon. In the meantime, please note:

League secretaries must file the 990 EZ form with the IRS each year. If this is not done, the league is removed from the list of ABBA leagues covered by the nonprofit status. Leagues not covered under the 501c3 status please ignore the following information.

The IRS sent annually a form with all of our subordinates, (if you did not file a 990 EZ form, you were dropped and those who are no longer members) We must comply as it relates to the activities

of our subordinates, requiring leagues under our umbrella to produce documentation that they have filed the 990 EZ, IRS paperwork or the league will be removed from our list. Following is a list of leagues listed as our Subordinates by the IRS; you're not a subordinate if your league is not listed. If you want to become or renew your status you must:

1 – Obtain an EIN # from the IRS (can apply online) – go to the IRS website at www.irs.gov/businesses

and click on Employer ID Numbers. Or call 1-800-929-4933.

2 – Submit a letter to the Secretary Treasurer with the following information – EIN #, Sec. name, League Name & mailing address, statement that you are in good standing with the IRS and abiding by the Rules of ABBA.

3 – Sign and return to ABBA, 2829 Tall Oaks Ct. apt. 11, Auburn Hills, MI 48326.

Leagues that were dropped because the letter was not returned.

Lighthouse, Chicago Braille, Tyler Texans, Brew City, and TNABA Nashville.

Current Subordinates:

Rock County Railers, Milwaukee Beer Barrels, Forsyth, Greater Cleveland, Cincinnati Blind, St. Louis Pinsplitters, and Peninsula Strikers.

UPDATED PITTSBURGH INFORMATION

Presently the meeting schedule is as follows, changes made will be posted in Pittsburg or listed in this issue by the Chairperson. All meetings inclusive of Registration and the Chinese Auction will be held in the "Grand Station II – V" area.

Wednesday, May 29th @ 9 am – Finance –

Fred Nickl Chairperson
Thursday, May 30th @ 10 am – Tournament -
Linda Keeney Chairperson
Thursday, May 30th @ 11 am – Legislative -
Joyce Spencer, Chairperson
Thursday, May 30th @ 4 pm – Public Relations –
Tanya Wilson, Chairperson
Friday, May 31st @ 8 pm – Board Meeting –
President A.J. Inglesby presiding
Sunday, June 2nd @ 8 pm – Convention –
President A.J. Inglesby presiding

Chinese Auction will be in the area of Registration, beginning on Thursday –Sat.

All Auction item winners will be announced at the Dance on Saturday Night.

Registration: Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday 1:30 – 3:30 pm, only those designated representatives will receive League materials.

Other events/activities will be reported by those in charge.

The following members have earned the listed award since the printing of the last Blind Bowler –

(60) pins over for averages 85 or less

Rob Howell PM - Average 66 - bowled 135
Milwaukee Beer Barrels, WI
Natalie Orrell PF- Average 73 - bowled 137
Colorado Blind Assoc., CO

(75) pins over average

Sandra Anderson SF - Average 125 - bowled 202
Greater Cleveland, OH
Ashanti Hall PF - Average 68 - bowled 143
Milwaukee Beer Barrels, WI
Laurie Heesen SF - Average 127 - bowled 215
Rock County Railers, WI
Joe Froemming SM - Average 169 - bowled 250
Milwaukee Beer Barrels, WI
David Koo SM - Average 146 - bowled 221
Cincinnati, OH
Donita Dinkins SF - Average 136 - bowled 212
Greater Cleveland, OH
George Morris SM - Average 146 - bowled 242
St. Louis Pinslitters, MO
Chad Remus PM - Average 55 - bowled 139
Milwaukee Beer Barrels, WI

(Bronze Medal)

Jeff Sjpantikow PM - Average 146 - bowled 216
Milwaukee Beer Barrels, WI
Vicki McBurnnett PF - Average 115 - bowled 188
Tulsa Strikers, OK
Mike Staab PM - Average 167 - bowled 220
Top Cats, PA
Jeff Miller SM - Average 184 - bowled 257
Colorado Blind Assoc., CO
Greg Gontaryk TM - Average 128- bowled 174
Delaware Valley, PA

(Silver Medal)

Mark LaRusso TM - Average 117 - bowled 202
Colorado Blind Assoc., CO

Ron Neer SM - Average 190 - bowled 264
Colorado Blind Assoc., CO
Carol Travers PF - Average 132 - bowled 189
Colorado Blind Assoc., CO
Frances Council PF - Average 118 - bowled 207
Raleigh Outlaws, NC
Jeff Watson PM - Average 130 - bowled 236
Milwaukee Beer Barrels, WI
George Holiday TM - Average 114 - bowled 178
Delaware Valley, PA
Mandi Hoiley PF - Average 158 - bowled 223
Raleigh Outlaws, NC
George Holiday TM - Average 112 - bowled 185
Delaware Valley, PA

(Split Conversion Chevron)

Jayne Leute SF - Average 137 - Split 8/10
Lansing 300, MI
Renee Benton SF- Average 100 - Split 7/10
Raleigh Outlaws, NC
Karen Broderick PF - average 89 - Split 7/8/10
Raleigh Outlaws, NC

(TriPLICATE Chevron)

Alexis Lake SF - Average 114 - Triplicate 116
Colorado Blind Assoc. CO

If your award-winning score is not listed, or that which is listed needs correcting, please let me know and I will correct the oversight.

~Rozella Amerson Campbell, Secretary Treasurer~

2019/2020 Proposed By-Law Change

Currently Reads-

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SECTION 2: ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

The officers of the Association shall be elected by majority vote at the annual convention of the Association. The term of office for the President shall be two years beginning August 1. No individual may hold the office of President for more than one consecutive term. The term of office for the Vice-Presidents shall be two years beginning August 1. The term of office for the Secretary-Treasurer and Tournament Director shall be three years beginning August 1. League representatives shall serve for a term of one year beginning August 1. Area Association representatives shall serve for a term of one year beginning the date determined by each Area Association.

The officers of the Association shall be ex-officio officers of the Board of Directors.

Any legally blind member of ABBA is eligible to hold office in the Association, and any sighted member is eligible to hold the office of Secretary-Treasurer or Tournament Director.

Purpose Change –

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SECTION 2: ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

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Secretary-Treasurer and Tournament Director shall be three years beginning August 1.

League representatives shall serve for a term of one year beginning August 1. Area Association representatives shall serve for a term of one year beginning the date determined by each Area Association.

Any legally blind member of ABBA is eligible to hold office in the Association, and any sighted member is eligible to hold the office of Secretary-Treasurer or Tournament Director.

~ Submitted by Charles Glaser~

Midwest Blind Bowling Association

62nd MIDWEST BLIND BOWLING ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT REPORT

We would like to thank everyone who came to the Midwest Bowling Tournament. Hope that good time was have by all. We had great food, music and score. We also would like to thank everyone who participated in the Chinese auction and raffles it turned out to be very successful. We would like to send out many thanks and praises to the volunteers who work very hard to make this tournament successful. The Arlington Lanes bowling alley and Wyndham Garden hotel was very welcoming and helped in any way that they could. This was my first time doing a bowling tournament thanks for all the support. I have some pictures that was taken at the bowling alley. Please let me know if anyone wants them to be email.

~Submitted by Sharon Williams, Secretary of Windy City Blind Bowlers~

2020 Midwest Blind Bowlers Association Tournament

Tournament dates: March 20-22, 2020

Cleveland Tournament
Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel
5300 Riverside Drive
Cleveland, Ohio 44135
216-267-1500

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1553115036585&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Last Day to Book: Monday, March 9, 2020

Room Rate: \$99 +taxes based on single/double/triple/quad occupancy.

Club Level: \$129+taxes; *MUST CALL TO RESERVE* the amenities for the upgrade to Club is breakfast buffet daily in restaurant and “1 hors d’oeuvre Sunday-Thursday.”

Cleveland is looking forward to hosting the 2020 Midwest Tournament. We have a full itinerary so there is something to keep everyone entertained. On Thursday we will open our silent/Chinese auction and liquor basket raffle. On Friday, Meet and Greet your fellow bowlers in hospitality, next you can sing karaoke, and before you lay down enjoy music at our Pajama Jammy Jam (best male and female PJ’s contest). On Saturday our dance will begin at 8pm, so bring your dancing shoes. We will also pass out 20 \$20 bills during the dance; winner must be a registered bowler and present when name is called to collect.

Bowling Alley

RollHouse Entertainment Parma

12859 Brookpark Rd. Cleveland, Ohio 44130
216-267-2150

Conveniently located just off Interstates 71 & 480; 10 minutes from our hotel.

Cleveland has several attractions like the House of Blues, Sporting events, Tower City, Casinos, Comedy Clubs and Great Eateries downtown. We hope you all come and join us in 2020!

**~ Submitted by D'Peaches Dinkins, Event Specialist
from The Greater Cleveland Blind Bowlers~**

Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee is working on advertising the 72nd National ABBA Bowling Tournament in Pittsburgh. We continue to distribute the Blind Bowler Newsletter and make information available on the website.

In addition, we have worked with the fundraising adhoc committee, on contacting businesses and organization who provide products, services and job opportunities to our members that attend the Expo that we are hosting on Saturday, June 1st from 8am to 5pm at the Ballroom in the Sheraton. (12-1 pm is the lunch break) We want to encourage all members and guest who are in Pittsburgh to attend the Expo on Saturday. This is an excellent opportunity for you to become familiar with products and services as well as job opportunities that are available. Note: all individuals who attend the Expo will be entered in the door prize drawings for gift cards. There will be drawings at both the morning session and the afternoon session.

Thank you to all committee members for all your hard work and diligence.

~Submitted by Tanya Wilson, Public Relations Chair~

National Tournament Committee

Pittsburgh National Tournament I hope you are as excited as we are about this year's National Blind Bowling Tournament. As we are hoping for a big turn out, we are planning many activities and events to accommodate everyone. Although our registration deadline has passed and has been passed along to Sandy, it is not too late to plan for a fun-filled weekend. Remember the cut-off date for hotel reservations is April 29th. The room rate is \$105 +tax per night, if booked before April 29th. This rate can be used for reserving rooms three days before and three days after the tournament dates. If you try to reserve a room after April 29th, you will be charged regular room rate. Supper Shuttle is giving us a 10% discount to and from the airport to the Sheraton. Total fee is \$22 each way. Call (412) 322-8507 to book your shuttle ride and don't forget to use the discount code X8RCT when you call. The Sheraton Hotel courtesy van will pick anyone up who is traveling by Amtrak or Greyhound that number is (412) 292-1829. As I have previously mentioned in the Blind Bowlers, there are many things to see, as well as, plenty of restaurants and entertainment waiting for your arrival. The hotel courtesy van will take you anywhere in a 3-mile radius, so your opportunities are endless. Additionally, anyone wishing to book group tours, such as the Just Ducky Tour (412) 402-3825 or the Gateway Clipper (412) 355-7980, need to be made in advance. Lastly, we have organized a dance on Saturday night from 8 AM-Midnight with \$25 cash give away every 45 minutes (you must be present to win). There will also be a silent auction with great prizes, so you do not want to miss out on this. I am still working with many venues in the area to make your stay here in Pittsburgh as enjoyable and memorable as possible.

~Mike Staab, ABBA Tournament Committee~

CHINESE AUCTION – CALL JANICE AT 612-722-3041

Please start thinking about what you will donate to the Chinese Auction in Pittsburgh! Janice Erkilla is anxious to hear from you so she can plan our next auction. Call her at 612-722-3041 or email at ggeezlouise@yahoo.com – the sooner the better!

Your donations will help to once again make the auction a huge success. We hope to have approximately 25-30 items on display for you to try and win. Thank you in advance for your support!

TOURNAMENT SHIRTS IN PITTSBURGH

Tournament shirts by Northwest Designs will again be available in Pittsburgh. You will have your choice of several colors and styles of shirts, and you will be able to personalize each one to your liking.

~Linda Hoepner, ABBA Tournament Committee~

PITTSBURGH SHUTTLE INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL

A code was put together this year as well as an a link was created for custom booking page just for the ABBA. It can be added to the conference website, passed on via email. The offer is the same as last year, 10% off all services except Exclusive SuperShuttle rides.

<https://group.supershuttle.com/group-page/american-blind-bowling-association/>

The code is Y5WUR

Nominating Committee

What's again all it is time for elections this year we are re-elected president first vice president second vice president we have many, many people in ABBA however only two has stepped up and said they wished to be president of ABBA Joy Spencer and Charles Glazier please come to Pittsburgh to put your voice to the test it is time for all of a ABBA to step up and make the decisions that could help or hurt us for the next two years

So please come out as you all know the first vice president holds the money this year Fred Nickl has been in control of the finance committee and has been first vice president for the last two years now, he's been challenged by Tanya Wilson from North Carolina please make it's your duty to ask questions and vote for first Vice President. This is only you are unique situation where we have no candidates looking to run for second vice president please someone step up let's make ABBA better.

~Robert McDonald, Chairperson Nominating Committee~

From the Past President Committee

This year I'm at a loss we had an opportunity to give away my leaves to an average individual who has never attended an ABBA sanctioned tournament the Wayne Keeney award is set up to bring new members to national tournaments there were no reciprocates for this award this year no one applied which tells me I have a lease are not growing what information is not given out please let step up I would like to challenge you all.

You usually the way Keeney award gives \$600 to remember to travel to an ABBA sanctioned tournament this would cover tournament fees hotel and most of transportation we need to look at least five applications next year I know only one person can win but we need at least 5 to 20 new members next year. So here is what I

am willing to do I I will challenge in my league to bring in at least two new members I need each and every one of you guys to challenge yourself and your legs to do the same let's grow let's get new members at the tournament Cincinnati is coming up and is looking to be a real big tournament let's have some fun and get back to enjoying bowling.

~Robert McDonald, ABBA Past Presidents Chairperson~

Fundraising Committee

To my ABBA family and friends from the desk of the fundraising chair,

In September 2018, the ABBA opened an online fundraising store which sells candy, dried fruits, nuts, and trail mixes. The purpose of fundraising is to support our organization in its' effort to continue to provide a great organization such as ours with providing the financial means of to name a few, helping first time bowlers experience a bowling tournament, make sure we have rails available to visually impaired men and women across America, provide rails to newly formed leagues that cannot afford to buy them, and other needs of our organization. We appreciate donors who make donations to our cause, volunteers who spend countless hours making possible for us, etc. However, when possible, we should be first in line when there is an opportunity for us to support us. Somewhere during my lifetime, someone said, "a picture is worth a thousand words". Please look at the picture below and follow up by joining the 13 ABBA members listed here and their friends; buy at least one item from our store and you can raise over \$2400 for our organization! The following members, their families and friends has raised for the ABBA thus far; \$401.16.

AMERICAN BLIND BOWLERS SAYS THANKS TO!

Linda Hoepner, MN; Sandra McDaniel, FL; Robert Doc Wright, CO.; Donita Dinkins, OH; Kimberly Swinney, OH; Patricia White, OH; Chane Johnson, OH; Ivory Pattilo, OH; Renae Payne, OH; Ester Crawl-Bey, OH; Terrell Jones, NC; Tanya Wilson, NC; and Wilbert Turner, Ohio; and their family and friends.

Please go to the following website and check it out!
<https://americanblindbowling.terrilynncares.com/>

Note, to save money, you can save on shipping by ordering as a group, couple, or as a league. Your support is greatly appreciated in advance.

GO ABBA, LET'S DO THIS!

~Wilbert Turner, Chairperson Fundraiser Committee~

News from Alton Area Blind Bowlers

The members of the Alton Are Blind Bowlers are sorry to hear that Wally Burnmeister passed away. He was a friend to some of our bowling members. I, Donna have called him several times over the years and really enjoyed talking with him. The Burnmeister family is in our thoughts and prayers.

One of our members Doris Gowin passed on November 18, 2018. Doris was born March 1st, 1941 in Jersey Co, Illinois. Doris was a member of the Alton Blind Bowlers, Madison County Association of the Blind, and an active member of many other organizations. Doris bowled for around 10 years and always looked forward and enjoyed league bowling and being around others. Over the years she attended multiple tournaments and really enjoyed herself especially when she bowled very good. She also enjoyed

working with crafts, playing cards and cooking - where she made her homemade rolls.

Doris is survived by her brother, many nieces and nephews and a lot of friends that she made over the years.

May Doris be remembered, and we will keep her family in our thoughts and prayers.

The Funeral was held on November 21, 2018.

~Donna Beiermann, Alton Area Blind Bowlers~

CLOSING WORDS FROM EDITOR

I really hope that everyone found the information shared in this issue very informative. If you have any questions or concerns about the information shared or the layout of the blind bowler, please contact me so we can have discussions about this. It has been another amazing year being The Blind Bowler Editor. I hope to continue to be the Blind Bowler Editor in the future. I hope everyone has an amazing summer and get some rest after the long bowling season and of course the bowling tournament!! Hope to see everyone in **PITTSBURGH!!!**

~Mario Diming, Editor~

