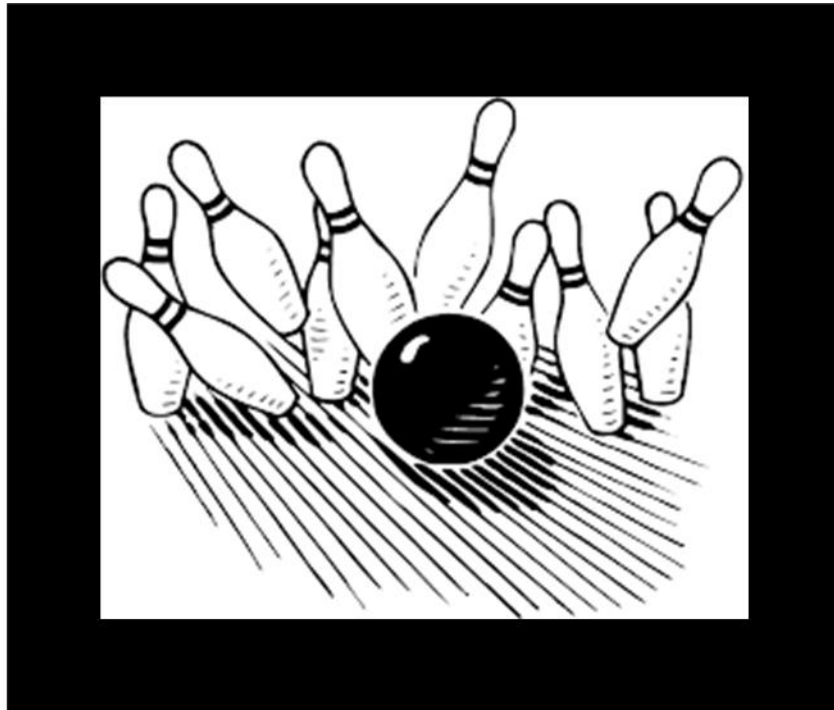


The Blind Bowler

Official Publication of the
American Blind Bowling Association

April 2020



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**73rd ANNUAL ABBA TOURNAMENT
CINCINNATI, OHIO / NORTHERN
KENTUCKY**

May 20 – May 24, 2020

CANCELLED!!!



We are getting closer and closer to the 73rd Annual American Blind Bowling Association National Convention/ Tournament that will be returning to Cincinnati. Hope everyone is getting excited.

Editor's Welcome

First, everyone should have received news by now. The 73rd Annual American Blind Bowling Association National Convention/ Tournament has been cancelled because of the global pandemic that is happening right now called COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus. I'm hoping everyone is staying safe and practicing social distancing if possible, unless you're an essential worker. Normally, I would be leading into 10 Fun Things to do in Cincinnati, but we will be passing on that.

I hope everyone is safe in this uncertain time. Try and enjoy this time at home with your family. Just know this shall pass as well. I hope to see everyone at next year's tournament which will be in Chicago, Illinois.

Happy Reading!!

~Mario Diming, Editor~

The 73rd National Convention / Tournament

Hello Officers, Committee Chairs/members, League Secretaries, and Life Members,

We the Executive Board of ABBA, after teleconferences on Sat. March 14 and 23, decided to cancel the May Convention in Cincinnati/KY. This was due to the many restrictions placed on our states from our national and individual state governments.

We have spoken with the hotel, vendors, D.J, bowling alley and transportation. Everyone was very understanding of our decision. We have a signed cancellation of the contract. The hotel informed us they would notify and cancel all reservations. Any deposits would be refunded to the charge cards. If this has not occurred, please contact the Secretary/Treasurer 248-410-2411 or rozellacampell2826@gmail.com.

Raffle tickets can still be purchase from Janice Erkilla. You can simply contact Janice and request the number of tickets needed and then send her a check for the amount purchased. The Drawing will take place Sunday, May 24, 2020. (Janice Erkilla – 5253 42nd Ave. S. – Minneapolis, MN 55417 – 612-722-3041 – rerkill@comcast.net. Information regarding the raffle will be given in The Blind Bowler.

Those who may question the authority of the Executive Board to make these decisions, please refer to: Policy Statement E-2 Executive Board.

We will end the year as usual with all the required forms sent in before the deadline.

Thanks so much for your understanding and cooperation.

Added Note – I, Joyce, realize election for Secretary/Treasurer and the Tournament Director were set to end and we were supposed to have elections at the convention. However, those officers will remain in position for the 2020-2021 season, and elections will be held in Chicago in 2021.

Thank you again for your cooperation

~The ABBA Executive Board: President, Joyce Spencer Mintz; 1st Vice, Fred Nickl; 2nd Vice, Tanya Wilson Jones; Tournament Director, Sandy McDaniel; Secretary/Treasurer, Rozella Amerson Campbell~

From the Desk of the Secretary/Treasurer

**2020/21 MID YEAR & MAY CONVENTION – CHICAGO, IL
– MARRIOTT CHICAGO O’HARE**

For the 2020/21 Season, Mid-Year will be: Nov. 19-22, 2020 and
May Convention, May 26 -31, 2021 at the Chicago Marriott
O’Hare Hotel – 8535 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631
773-693-4444

Room rate \$105 – +17.4% - room block cut off, 10/29/20. More
information will be provided as received.

AWARDS EARNED (JANUARY – MARCH 2020)

AWARDS – realizing many have suspended bowling for this
season, we will begin to mail out in April those awards held.
Listed below are the awards earned, after the last printing of The
Blind Bowler (Jan.).

PLUS 60 FOR AVERAGES 85

Rhonda Lang - TF - Average 56 - Bowled 119 - Milwaukee, WI
Joyce Wolf - T - Average 65 - Bowled 133 - Rock County,
WI

Larry Lura - PM - Average 77 - Bowled 138 - Minneapolis, MN
Alex Lee - PM - Average 78 - Bowled - 139 - Minneapolis, MN

75 PINS OVER AVERAGE

Bob Lockwood - SM - Average 137 - Bowled 212 - Minneapolis,
MN
Kimberly Swinney - SF - Average 127 - Bowled 202 - Greater
Cleveland, OH
Eric Meyers - SM - Average 166 - Bowled 245 - Colorado Blind
Assoc.

Mike Heesen - S - Average 169 - Bowled 244 - Rock County, WI
Jack Shepper - SM - Average 145 - Bowled 221 - Delaware
Valley, PA

Carol Travers - PF - Average 123 - Bowled 199 – Colorado Blind
Assoc.

Dray Alexander - SM - Average 151 - Bowled 229 - Cincinnati,
OH

Clayton Bellinger - ? - Average 165 - Bowled 245 - Daytona
Beach, FL

David Koo - SM - Average 131 - Bowled 212- Cincinnati, OH

100 PINS OVER AVERAGE

David Koo - SM - Average 107 - Bowled 244 - Cincinnati, OH

Matthew Donley - SM - Average 149 - Bowled 264 - Colorado
Blind Assoc.

BRONZE MEDAL

Mark LoRusso - TM - Average 124 - Bowled 166 - Colorado Blind
Assoc.

Elaine Vining - SF - Average 159 - Bowled 221 - Minneapolis, MN

Rodney Watlington - PM - Average 178 - Bowled 242 –
Philadelphia, PA

SILVER MEDAL

Charles Saunders - SM - Average 168 - Bowled 266 - Cincinnati,
OH

Jeff Miller - SM - Average 197 - Bowled 268 - Colorado Blind
Assoc.

**ANY AWARDS NOT LISTED, or CORRECTIONS RECEIVED,
WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE BLIND BOWLER.**

2019/2020 Proposed By-Law Change

The following Proposals and By-Law Changes were submitted. The name of the person submitting the item is listed at the end. Please copy and keep. They will be presented to the Board & Convention, May 2021, Chicago, IL.

Past Presidents By-Law Proposal

C. All new contracts must be reviewed and approved by the Finance committee before being signed

PROPOSED CHANGE

Article V OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS Section 2 ELECTION AND TERMS OF OFFICE

DELETE: Line 3 No individual may hold the office of President for more than one consecutive term.

NEW LANGUAGE

LINE 3 REPLACEMENT

The President may run two terms or four years consecutively provided majority votes at the annual convention.

~Submitted by Clayton Saunders~

Members of The American Blind Bowling Association,

I am sending you these proposed by-law changes in advance of the deadline because if enacted, they will significantly change the administrative structure of our association and I want you to be as knowledgeable when making your decision as possible.

If you receive this information more than once, please accept my apology. I am sending this to the two most comprehensive lists

that I have for ABBA members.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me by phone, text or email. A phone call will require you to leave a message as I do not answer calls from numbers I do not recognize.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1: OFFICERS

Current Language:

The officers of this Association shall be President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Tournament Director. These officers, associate members and life members together with one representative from each member league and Area Association and as many additional persons as may be determined by the delegates at the annual convention shall be known as the Board of Directors.

Change:

Eliminate the Office of Secretary/Treasurer and the position of Assistant Secretary.

Create the Office of the Secretary and create the Office of Treasurer.

Remove all references to the Secretary/Treasurer and Assistant Secretary in the By-laws and policy statements.

Proposed Language:

The officers of this Association shall be President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Tournament Director. These officers, associate members and life

members together with one representative from each member league and Area Association and as many additional persons as may be determined by the delegates at the annual convention shall be known as the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 2: ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

Current Language:

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 or until a successor is elected 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

Passage of this amendment will eliminate the position of Secretary/Treasurer and Assistant Secretary. Responsibilities and duties of the Secretary/Treasurer and Assistant Secretary will be appropriately reassigned as identified in the new Article V Section 8 “Duties of the Treasurer” and Article V Section 9 “Duties of the Secretary” and any references to the Secretary/Treasurer in the By-laws and policy statements will be removed.

Change:

Revise Terms and Term limits for the officers of the association in order to establish consistency and fluidity when officers change

Proposed Language:

The officers of the association shall be elected by majority vote at the annual convention. The President, Second Vice-President and Treasurer shall be elected for two (2) year terms in odd number years with a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms. The First Vice-President, Secretary and Tournament Director shall be elected for two (2) year terms in even number years. The First Vice-President and Secretary will also have a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms. The Tournament Director's terms are unlimited. Terms of office shall begin August 1 of the year elected. Vacancies in any of these positions for any reason shall be filled in accordance with Article V Section 4 of these By-Laws. Partial terms filled from vacancies will not be considered as part of term limitations.

This amendment will take effect immediately after its adoption to facilitate the transition.

Transition:

This section will be removed when transition is complete.

Transition will take effect as follows:

The President will not be affected.

The First Vice-Presidents term will be extended until 2022.

The Second Vice-President will not be affected.

The Treasurer will be elected to a one (1) year term.

The Secretary will be elected to a two (2) year term.

The Tournament Director will be elected to a one (1) year term.

As of August 1, 2020, the position of Assistant Secretary is eliminated.

Starting August 1, the stipends for the Secretary/Treasurer and Assistant Secretary will be combined and divided by direction of the Board between the Secretary and Treasurer.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 8: DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

The fiscal year shall begin August 1 and end July 31 of the succeeding year.

The Treasurer shall:

A. Receive any and all monies and other property paid or donated to the Association except where otherwise stated in the By-laws.

B. Keep a correct account of all receipts and disbursements and publish an annual report to the Association.

C. Deposit all monies received by the Association in individually titled accounts in a national bank or banks to the credit of, and in the name of, the ABBA.

D. Draw all warrants for the payments of bills allowed by the Board of Directors. The signature of the Secretary/Treasurer together with the signature of the President or 1st Vice-President shall be required for the withdrawal of all funds belonging to the Association with the exception of the Tournament Fund.

E. Based on guidelines established by the Finance Committee, authorize the payment of bills of a general nature.

F. Provide guidance to league and association officials regarding financial matters associated with their relationship with ABBA.

G. File the annual incorporation document and fee with the State of Delaware, annual report form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service and fulfill any other requirements stipulated by government entities.

H. Provide any information with regard to the association's finances requested by the Finance Committee or the President.

I. Perform any other duties consistent with the office of Treasurer requested by the Board of Directors or the President.

J. The Treasurer shall not be compensated at the end of his/her term until all the accounts are closed and transferred to the newly elected/incoming Treasurer. In order to receive his/her last full stipend, all assets must be turned over to the new/incoming Treasurer within thirty (30) days. Should this transition not occur in the specified time allotted, an amount of stipend reduction will be determined by the RIEC. The last stipend must be issued and signed by the new/incoming Treasurer and the President.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 8: DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary shall:

A. Keep a true record of all proceedings at the meetings of the Association and Board of Directors.

B. Maintain a membership roster and such other records as may be determined by the Board of Directors or President.

C. Conduct correspondence of the Association, including sending to leagues and Area Associations, notice of meetings and minutes of the Board of Directors and the annual convention.

D. Conduct the ABBA awards program.

E. File statistical reports received from league secretaries and local tournament officials.

F. Annually compile, publish and distribute a book containing the averages of ABBA members who competed in twenty-one (21) or more league games during the preceding bowling season.

G. Annually compile, publish and distribute, to all leagues, Area Associations, Life Members that are active in blind bowling, Associate members, ABBA Officers and Committee Chairs, a complete and current copy of the By-laws and Adopted Policy Statements. These shall be sent within ninety (90) days following the Annual Convention. Supplemental print or Braille copies will be sent on written request.

H. The Secretary shall not be compensated at the end of his/her term until all relevant materials consistent with the office of ABBA Secretary including but not limited to: files, average books, awards, minutes, membership records, statistical reports, a current copy of the By-laws and Adopted Policy Statements and anything else the board deems pertinent to the duties of the Secretary. In order to receive his/her last stipend, all the aforementioned must be turned over to the new/incoming Secretary within thirty (30) days. Should this transition not occur in the specified time allotted an amount of stipend reduction will be determined by the RIEC. The last stipend must be issued and signed by the new/incoming Secretary and the President.

ARTICLE VII: STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 9: LIMITATION OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

No member of the ABBA, except the President, Tournament Director and the Secretary/Treasurer, may serve on more than

one standing committee concurrently. The Past Presidents Committee shall not be counted in applying the restriction set forth in this section unless otherwise specifically stated. All committee appointments shall be for one year beginning August 1, except as set forth elsewhere in these By-laws. Any person on or presiding over any ABBA standing or special committee must be a current member of ABBA.

Change: From one committee to two committees.

ARTICLE VII: STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 9: LIMITATION OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

No member of the ABBA, except the President, Tournament Director and the Secretary/Treasurer, may serve on more than two standing committees concurrently. The Past Presidents Committee shall not be counted in applying the restriction set forth in this section unless otherwise specifically stated. All committee appointments shall be for one year beginning August 1, except as set forth elsewhere in these By-laws. Any person on or presiding over any ABBA standing or special committee must be a current member of the ABBA.

**~Submitted by Charles Glaser, Chairman, ABBA Rules Interpretation and Enforcement Committee 678-521-2976
cglaser2@gmail.com**

**~Rozella Amerson Campbell, Secretary Treasurer
March 2020~**

Legislative Committee

The legislation committee has met several times to review additions and changes to the By-Laws. I want to thank the committee members for their hard work.

~Submitted by Tanya Wilson- Jones, Legislative Committee Chair~

Public Relations Committee

Greetings from the Public Relations Committee

Unfortunately, most of us had to cut our season short. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. I had a nice little message about how I looked forward to meeting and seeing you at the tournament, but fate had its very own ideas for us.

I hope you all had a wonderful season and some great scores were bowled and great memories were made. At this time, I would like to remind everyone about the website and Facebook page. Our website is **WWW.ABBA1951.COM** Check it out and let me know if there are additions or changes that need to be made. The listed leagues are those who were sanctioned for 2019-2020. We will add/subtract as needed.

~Submitted by Tonia Koo, Public Relations Chair~

Tournament Committee

CHINESE AUCTION – CALL JANICE AT 612-722-3041

Please start thinking about what you will donate to the Chinese Auction for next year's tournament. 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 – of course, the sooner the better!

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

~Linda Hoepner, ABBA Tournament Committee~

ABBA Fundraising Committee

ABBA 2020 CASH RAFFLE

The ABBA Cash Raffle and Fundraiser is underway!

We all love winning **CASH**, and these odds are much better than the lottery! **Each ticket has 4 chances to WIN!** Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00. Two-thirds of the money raised will go to the ABBA General Fund and one-third of the money will be divided equally between **4 lucky winners!** The more tickets sold, the higher the **CASH** prizes!

EXAMPLE: If \$6000 were raised by selling tickets, \$4000 would go to the ABBA General Fund and \$2000 would be divided between **4 winners!** That would mean \$500 each!

Another thought...if each of the 800 ABBA members purchased 1 ticket for \$5.00, that would be \$4000. That makes \$6000 very attainable! Contact Janice Erkilla if you would like to buy or sell tickets to friends, family, or colleagues. Anyone that knows your enthusiasm about blind bowling would love to purchase a ticket!

The drawing will be held on May 24. Winners do not need to be present to win. Leagues may also send in printed names, phone numbers & addresses of those wanting to purchase tickets, along with a check made payable to ABBA, to Janice Erkilla, 5253 42nd Ave So., Minneapolis MN 55417. Janice and Linda can fill out the tickets for you.

Email Janice at rerkill@comcast.net with any questions or call 612-722-3041 or call Linda McClary's cell phone at 612-207-5582. Keep in touch with us about how ticket sales are going. We can reorder tickets if needed.

Remember – you determine the amount of the **CASH** prizes – the more tickets you buy or sell, the higher the **4 CASH** prizes!

~ABBA Fundraising Committee~

Indianapolis Bowling League for the Blind (IBLB) News

The Indianapolis Bowling League for the Blind (IBLB) has two members getting married on May 9, 2020. A couple on our league has decided to tie the knot...please congratulate Jerry Swineheart and Lynne Warfield. They are both members of the Indianapolis league.

Also, another member from our league, Russell McNeely, has been a part of blind bowling for over 50 years.

Thank you for considering these special events.

~Eva Clark, IBLB Secretary~

Remembering Nancy Giddings

Hello family,

We've got some sad news to pass along. The widow of Gar Giddings, our former tournament chair, bowling partner and mother of the Giddings girls, Miss Nancy Giddings has passed away. We were informed of this by Mike Staab.

Spoke with Annie and she stated if anyone wanted to send cards, please send it to her address: 3317 Oakland Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

Annie also mentioned that right now they are trying to get things settled and comply with her mother's wishes. The organization will be sending a special card. A donation can be made in her honor to her husband's "Gar Giddings Fund" which she started when he left us.

Checks should be made out to ABBA/Gar Giddings Fund.

Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers and everyone please stay safe and strong.

Thoughts and Prayers for Ginger Rush and Sandy McDaniel

Unfortunately, more sad news to pass along. Our former secretary/treasurer, Ginger Rush, lost her husband and our Tournament Director Sandy McDaniel just lost her son, Lee. Please folks, keep these families in your prayers for their strength. If you would like to send cards of comfort:

Ginger Rush
5709 Setter Circle
Raleigh NC 27609

Sandy McDaniel
1317 Fairway Ave.
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

~Rozella Amerson Campbell, Secretary Treasurer~

Thoughts and Prayers for Jayne Leute

I would like to send our condolences to Jayne Leute and her family on the passing of her father Donald Leute. Jayne currently works as the Tournament Director for the Midwest Blind Bowling Association. If you would like to send cards of comfort:

Jayne Leute
6330 Beechfield Dr.
Lansing, MI 48911

~Mario Diming, Editor~

CLOSING WORDS FROM EDITOR

Sorry, to end The Blind Bowler with so much sad news especially in tough times of turmoil that we are in right now. Please keep the Giddings, Rush, McDaniel, Leute families in your thoughts and prayers, as well as everyone else that is dealing with the pandemic currently. I 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 tough but amazing year being The Blind Bowler Editor. I hope everyone stays safe over these next few months. Hope to see everyone in **CHICAGO 2021!!!**

~Mario Diming, Editor~