

# The Blind Bowler

American Blind Bowling Association

April 2023



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**The Blind Bowler**  
**American Blind Bowling Association**  
**April 2023**

**IN THIS EDITION:**

1. ABBA 2022 – 2023 OFFICERS .....	1
2. PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE SPRING 2023 .....	2
3. FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY TREASURER.....	3
4. 2023 NORTHERN KENTUCKY ABBA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT .....	8
5. FROM THE DESK OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ...	11
6. FROM THE PAST PRESIDENTS’ COMMITTEE .....	13
7. FROM THE EDITOR.....	13



# **ABBA 2022 – 2023 OFFICERS**

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SPRING 2023**

As I write this message in mid-March, Spring has not sprung everywhere. But don't lose faith, even for folks in the north that are still shoveling snow, spring is just around the corner.

This is the time of year when everyone is fine-tuning their bowling skills for the spring tournaments. I just returned from the Midwest Tournament where we had a great time bowling and socializing.

This year's National Tournament in Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky is starting to shape up. Room reservations have already surpassed last year's, and we still have two months to go. This means more fun, competition, and a chance to reunite with friends. Read on in this issue of "The Blind Bowler" and find out more information about our tournament.

Have a happy and healthy spring with lots of strikes and spares and get ready for a fun time at the May National Tournament.

***Charles Glaser – President***

## **From the Desk of the Secretary Treasurer**

(February 28, 2023)

Hello Members,

By now I am sure most of you have received the news. Linda Keeney our 33rd Life Member, former secretary of the Lost Angels Blind Bowling league, and one of our oldest members who continued to bowl until her health made bowling impossible, has passed. She served on many committees, especially Tournament, Legislation, R.I.E.C., and public relations. She will be missed but never forgotten. The organization sent a proclamation to be read at the service. We were told Mr. Robert Kent, who helps to send out our guiderails, will read the proclamation. "Bobby" as he was called, was very close to Linda and her husband "Big John." Please continue to remember "Big John," he has lost a lifelong mate.

It is time to make your reservation for the Annual Convention in Florence, KY. Our Tournament Director has distributed information regarding: Where we will be bowling, team makeup, great places to eat, and a lot of fun things that will be entertaining. So, if you have not reserved your room and considered what you need to pack, what are you waiting for? Start packing for our last fun activity of the season.

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 501(c)(3) status please ignore the following information.

The IRS sends a form annually 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. A list will be distributed as soon as documentation is sent from the IRS.

Below is a By-Law Change that will be presented at the May convention.

### **Current Language:**

## **ARTICLE VII STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **SECTION 5 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

- This committee shall consist of a Chairperson, the "Blind Bowler" editor, and three members appointed by the President. The committee shall be responsible for planning and implementing all publicity for the Association, editing and publishing a newsletter three times a year to ABBA members, promote blind bowling in general and plan and organize youth bowling



activities. Additional information or newsletters may be published electronically without additional cost to ABBA.

**Change:**

- Add the Webmaster to the committee and reduce the 3 appointees to 2.
- Change from 3 publications a year to 2.

**New Language:**

**ARTICLE VII STANDING COMMITTEES  
SECTION 5 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

- This committee shall consist of a Chairperson, the “Blind Bowler” editor, the “Webmaster”, and two members appointed by the President. The committee shall be responsible for planning and implementing all publicity for the Association, editing, and publishing a newsletter two times a year to ABBA members, promoting blind bowling in general and plan and organize youth bowling activities. Additional information or newsletters may be published electronically without additional cost to ABBA.

**Tournament**

Meeting schedule, times and rooms will be sent to all registered league secretaries when information is received from Committee Chairs. I have been notified by Finance, they will meet before their arrival in Florence, Ky. They felt it would be better to forgo the meeting and allow members to use the time for sightseeing etc... (Good decision Mr. Turner.) Any changes will be posted in Florence, Ky.

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**

- Susan Schweinfurth TF – Average 38 – bowled 106 – Lansing 300
- Vaughn Beck TM – Average 85 – bowled 149 – Colorado Blind Bowling Association
- Veronica Rodriguez TF – Average 67 – bowled 132 – Colorado Blind Bowling Association

**75 pins over average**

- Danny Butler SM – Average 132 – bowled 211 – Lansing 300
- D.J. Hill SM – Average 155 – bowled 242 – Cincinnati Blind Bowling League
- Mike Heesen SM – Average 167 – bowled 242 – Rock County Railers
- Braydon Shear SM – Average 113 – bowled 201 – Rock County Railers
- Camaren Wharton SM – Average 127 – bowled 215 – Forsyth Blind Bowlers

### **Bronze Medal**

- Jack Shepper SM – Average 150 – bowled 254 – Delaware Valley Blind Bowlers
- Larry Smith TM – Average 111 – bowled 171 – Philadelphia Area Blind Bowlers
- Mathew Donley SM – Average 183 – bowled 255
- Marlene Kaiser TF – Average 89 – bowled 145 – Colorado Blind Bowling Association

### **Silver Medal**

- Luis Quiles PM – Average 158 – bowled 246 – Forsyth Blind Bowlers
- Mark LoRusso TM – Average 130 – bowled 178 – Colorado Blind Bowling Association
- Charles Saunders SM – Average 188 – bowled 261 – Cincinnati Blind Bowlers

### **Split Conversion Chevron**

- Steven Langtry SM – Average 90 – picked up 4>6 split – Lansing 300

### **Triplicate Chevron**

- Mandy Drak PF – Average 62 – bowled 3 (70) games - St. Louis Pin Splitters
- Terry Verlinghieri PF – Average 95 – bowled 3 (107) games - Philadelphia Area Blind Bowlers
- Coach Callender TF – Average 23 – bowled 3 (43) games

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. Awards received after this publication will be listed in the next Blind Bowler.

***Rozella Amerson Campbell - Secretary Treasurer***

## **2023 NORTHERN KENTUCKY ABBA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT**

I hope everyone is excited about coming to Northern Kentucky this year. We will be staying at the Cincinnati Airport Hilton, 7373 Turfway Road, Florence, KY 41042. Call the Hilton reservation line at 1-800-Hiltons and note that you would like to reserve a room in a group block at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport. Ask for the group rate for “ABBA 2023 Convention” or reference the group code “ABBA23”. The discounted room rate is \$109.00 per night. The cut-off date to make reservations in the block at the discounted rate is April 26, 2023. Any requests after this date are based upon availability and are not guaranteed the group’s discounted rate. Guests are encouraged to make reservations as soon as possible to ensure availability. Please note a credit card will be required to secure the reservation but will not be charged until you check-in. They do provide complimentary shuttle service from the airport. They also provide complimentary parking and basic Wi-Fi. There is an on-site restaurant for breakfast and dinner with a menu full of Kentucky favorites, 15% discount in restaurant for attendees.

Several local restaurants are within walking distance of the hotel: Rafferty's, Applebee's, Cracker Barrel, O'Charley's, Longhorn's, Texas Roadhouse, Wendy's, Steak 'n Shake, Skyline Chili and other nearby restaurants.

We will be bowling at Bellewood Lanes, 1211 Waterworks Road, Newport, KY 41071. They have 32 lanes, an on-site pro shop, lounge, and snack bar.

This year we will have pre-ordered tournament shirts for \$30. All shirts will have to be paid for before April 20th. If you would prefer to pre-order now and pay at the tournament, I will do that, but I need you to order before April 20th. Shirts will be available for pick up when you register for the tournament. If you have no one to pick up your shirt, I will mail it for \$3.00. No extra shirts will be ordered to sell at the tournament. The only way to get one is to order one. The shirt colors are Black, White, or Royal Blue. For the bowlers that cannot see, the image has a Steel Bridge over the river. A Bourbon Distillery with a bowling ball playing the Bango and a bowling pin playing a fiddle. A Racehorse, a river boat flying the American Flag and the Kentucky State Flag, carrying two bowling balls with glasses of bourbon. (See image next page.)

The Hospitality Room will be Friday and Saturday in the Frankfort and Louisville Room. We are planning some fun activities and will provide free snacks and drinks. More information will be provided closer to the tournament.

If you need any other information, feel free to contact me.

***Sandy McDaniel - Tournament Director***

**Blind Bowlers - ABBA Kentucky Tournament**



**ABBA NATIONAL  
BLIND BOWLING  
NORTHERN  
KENTUCKY  
TOURNAMENT**



# **FROM THE DESK OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

## **REFLECTIONS AND UPDATE**

Hello Bowling family. On March 2nd, we are going to memorialize another ABBA pillar. ABBA has been a “pearl” in the lives of visually impaired men and women officially since 1951 to current. It is not an accident that this organization has endured longer than many of us have lived. It has been sustained by some committed pillars such as: Wayne and Linda Keeney, Walter Burmeister, Alfred Flowers, Judy Refosco, Alice Hoover, James Benton, and many others which the list is too long to list, but many of you know who they are. ABBA sorely misses their commitment. Since the pandemic, we have struggled, but we have not given up. Pillars like Sandy McDaniel and Rozella Campbell and many others continue to persevere. It is time, however, if we are going to survive for another 72 years, for members the ages 18, 28, 38, and 48 to step up and not let the efforts of our pillars who are leaving us fall by the wayside. ABBA provides for many of us fun, competition, socialization, friendships, and a real sense of belonging to something special to the blind community. Recently a few of the past presidents met and the question was raised:

What can we do going forward? In the meeting, we did not finish a response, but our secretary Treasurer Rozella sent us information regarding services for Linda in the event that we felt a need to uphold John Mavis. Many of

us can, in memory of Linda, make a contribution to the Wayne Keeney Fund in her honor. Linda began the Wayne Keeney fund because Wayne was passionate about ABBA and wanted to share it with as many new bowlers as possible by making it possible for first time bowlers who never got to attend a national tournament a financial scholarship to help them get there. John Mavis, Robert Macdonald, and I are going to donate \$100 to the Wayne Keeney fund in honor of Linda. It is my hope that some of you will consider a donation to the Wayne Keeney fund as well.

In keeping our focus on finance and sustainability, the board of directors increased our membership dues to \$20 effective August 1, 2023. Also, do not forget about the Gar Giddings Fund. Both Gar and Nancy were pillars of this great thing called, ABBA. I hope to see you in May, once again. Stay safe and have fun bowling.

LATER,

***Wilbert Turner – Chair of Finance Committee***



## **FROM THE PAST PRESIDENTS' COMMITTEE**

Greetings from the Past Presidents,

We are pleased to announce, after careful deliberation, the recipient of the Wayne Keeney Scholarship Fund. The 2023 recipient is Mr. Jim Siwak of the Lansing 300. It is our pleasure through this fund to assist Jim, who has been a long-term member of the ABBA since 1984, to attend the 2023 National Tournament.

Congratulations Jim Siwak! And thank you to all our applicants.

***Joyce Spencer Mintz - Past Presidents' Committee Chairperson***

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Well faithful reader, it is the end of another bowling season. That means it's Tournament Time!!! I hope to see a lot of you at this year's tournament in Kentucky. And, for those whose path does not intersect with mine this tournament season, please have a safe and joyous summer. We will meet again in the pages of this periodical next fall / winter.

Faithfully yours,

***Patrick Koo – The Blind Bowler Editor***





**ABBA**

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