

# BWAA eNews

September 2007 Newsletter

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## Baker repeats as Kegel Bowler of Month for August



Tom Baker, King, N.C., has repeated as Kegel Bowler of the Month for August. The BWAA Bowler of the Month Committee's July award-winner won his eighth PBA Senior Tour

## BWAA Planning Committee, Board to meet in Milwaukee

The BWAA Planning Committee and Board of Directors are scheduled to meet in Milwaukee on Saturday, Oct. 27, in conjunction with the USBC Masters TV finals set for Sunday at Miller Park.

The Planning Committee, chaired by Mike Hennessy, includes Vice President Dick Evans, Executive Director Steve James, President Hazel McLeary, Jackie Wyckoff and Lyle Zikes. This group will discuss issues such as the "new" organization's future, its long-term goals and how to achieve them in advance of an afternoon board meeting.

BWAA members who plan to attend Masters week festivities are more than welcome. Qualifying and match play will be held Tuesday through Friday, Oct. 23-26, at AMF Bowlero in suburban Wauwatosa. USBC's "BowlFest," which will feature booths, displays and "celebrity" bowling matches on the TV lanes in Miller Park, is planned for Saturday evening. The TV finals will air live on ESPN at 1 p.m. (Eastern) on Sunday, Oct. 28.

For media credentials, contact Rosie Leutzinger at the PBA (e-mail: [rosie.leutzinger@pba.com](mailto:rosie.leutzinger@pba.com)) or call 206-332-9688.

Several BWAA members also will remain in Milwaukee for an extra day to serve on the USBC Hall of Fame Committee. Five BWAA members appointed by USBC President Jeff Bojé to one-year terms on the committee are: Bob Johnson, Fran Deken, Chuck Pezzano, Dick Evans and Jim Dressel. Steve James, Pearl Keller and Bill Spigner also serve (as USBC Hall of Fame representatives). Tom Clark and Bill Vint are USBC staff liaisons.

## Speaking of committees, would you like to serve?

If you have not been assigned to a committee, but would like to volunteer your services, please drop President McLeary a note (e-mail: [hmcleary@telus.net](mailto:hmcleary@telus.net)). You will find a list of 2007-08 committees and assignments on our official website ([www.bowlingwriters.com](http://www.bowlingwriters.com)) in the "About BWAA" section. Just click on the "Committees" tab.

## "Teddy Bear" fund-raiser set for USBC Convention

BWAA will continue a long-standing tradition started by the National Women Bowling Writers by conducting a special "Teddy Bear" raffle during the 2008 USBC Convention in Kansas City, Mo., May 7-10.

All BWAA members are encouraged to donate a Teddy Bear (size should be 10-12 inches tall) to the fund-raiser, which again

title by defeating David Ozio, 256-213, in the Dick Weber Invitational title match.

Baker's win in the final event in the 2007 PBA Senior Tour season, not only clinched the award for the second month in a row, but earned him BOM honors for the sixth time in the past four years.

The victory was especially significant because Baker and Ozio are the top contenders in the PBA Senior Player of the Year battle.

Other significant vote-getters were Shannon O'Keefe, who led the USBC U.S. Women's Open qualifying after 32 games with a 214 average on four different PBA conditions, and Michele Feldman, a former pro who led the field of 16 women who qualified for this fall's PBA Women's Series, totaling 6,790 pins for 32 games over four days on four different PBA oil patterns.

### **BWAA's Tip of the Month**

#### **Eliminate the word "that"**

"That" may be the most unnecessary and/or over-used word in the English language. Whenever you enter "that" word in a sentence, try removing it and see if the sentence flows better.

will be organized by BWAA member Helen Lesh of Roseburg, Ore. Teddy Bears of all types - dressed, plain, unique - are welcome. The bears will be displayed at the Westin Crown Center where all USBC delegates will have an opportunity to participate in the raffle.

NWBW used this program to help raise more than \$60,000 in contributions for the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame over the years. In the past, items such as music boxes and snow globes have been featured.

If you'd like to donate a bear to the 2008 project, please call Helen at 541-672-1151 or drop her a note: 2090 NW Excello Loop, Roseburg, Ore. 97470.

#### **David Bassity leaves PBA, returns to alma mater**

PBA Public Relations Manager Rosie Leutzinger advises that PR Coordinator David Bassity has accepted a job with his alma mater the University of Oklahoma to be its track and field SID and No. 2 football contact. "It's a great opportunity for him and we're happy for him that he'll get to head back home in Oklahoma," Rosie noted. "Please send all questions and requests to me moving forward."

#### **Ebonite's Bob Reid suffers heart attack**

We've just learned that Ebonite VP-Marketing Bob Reid suffered a heart attack in early September. While there is no such thing as a good heart attack, Bob was sent home from the hospital on Sept. 13 and is on the road to recovery.

### ***Hints, Admonitions, and Downright Threats from a Jaded Reader of Too Many Sloppy Essays, Part II***

*(The following was written by R.I. Wolfe, York University, in 1975. It includes some fundamentals of English that are worthy of review by any writer, no matter how experienced. Because of its length, Wolfe's commentary is being presented in installments. The first installment was published in the June 2007 BWAA Newsletter)*

#### **IF YOUR (COPY) CONTAINS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING UNCORRECTED ERRORS, BEWARE!**

**Failing to respect a deadline:** Hand in your essay on the due date, or let there be a note from your mother or spouse or grieving friend that you are dead. No excuses, explanations or pleas for mercy will be entertained.

**Neglecting to proofread:** Since you **do** have a deadline to respect, you must budget your time carefully. Submitting a sloppy essay is a mark of disrespect in all directions: for yourself, your upbringing ("Hey, was you raised in a barn?"), your school, your teacher - indeed, for society itself. I can't ask you to write half a dozen drafts of your essay (I don't do it myself, though I should);

### Bowlingwriters.com is "under re-construction"

BWAA's website is currently under "re-construction." Kathy Watson is leading the effort to re-design the website to include BWAA's new logo and incorporate important historical information from the merging of the NWBW and BWAA. Once the website re-design is complete, it'll be much easier to update and will include more news and other features, including a new "educational" section.

### Moving? New phone number? Let Steve James know

Our business IS communications, so nothing is more important than letting you know what's going on in your organization. And that task can only be accomplished if our Executive Director has your current e-mail address, telephone (and/or cell phone) number, or new mailing address. If you've made an addition or change, please get in touch with Steve ASAP (e-mail: [sjames2652@wi.rr.com](mailto:sjames2652@wi.rr.com)). Phone: 414-351-6085.

but you can do at least two, and then read over your final draft and correct any mistakes you catch.

### IF YOU DO THESE THINGS, YOUR GRADES MAY OR MAY NOT SUFFER, BUT I CERTAINLY WILL.

- Writing sentences without verbs - unless you do so on purpose, for effect.
- Same with the splitting of infinitives: To unconsciously split an infinitive is bad. If you have a good reason for splitting an infinitive, split; if not, not. But know what you are doing and why you are doing it. (Contemplate your navel.)
- Making paragraphs twitch with "which's" that have but ambiguous antecedents; or bristle with a thistle-thatch of "this's" that have no recognizable antecedents at all; or teem with unrecognizable "they's" and "them's": "They went into the house and switched on the lights, which showed them stuffing the silver into stout burlap bags. This startled them, which made them angry, so they hit them on the head with blunt objects."
- Exhibiting fear of three little words, only one of which is in the title of the dear old song. The three useful, harmless little words are "but," "of," and "I."

a) Fear of "but" results in "howeveritis." Try to use "but" wherever it is appropriate; if, however, you must use "however" or die, wait a seemly moment and shove it in somewhere in the interior of a sentence: do not give it pride of place at the head. **However**, if you want to be emphatically emphatic, and stop the reader dead, then that's the way to do it (the way I've just done). You can - indeed you must - begin with the word "however" if it means, not "but" or "nevertheless," but "no matter how." Like this: "Writing with grace and verve is a talent not given to everyone, and no person can demand that another be talented. However pedestrian the writing style, however, there can be no excuse for lack of attention, of sheer sloppiness." You can avoid much of the difficulty by using "but" instead. "But you can't start a sentence with 'but'," you say. Yes you can. Honest. Also with "and."

b) Fear of "of" results in the repeated perpetration of the barbarism most characteristic of scientese, engineeringese, sociologese, computerese, and many of the other distressing forms of communication that plague us today: the **railway phrase**, in which all but the last of a string of nouns becomes a string of adjectives, to modify the one noun that really is a noun, which brings up the caboose: "factor analysis axis rotation procedures study initiation" will drive any right-thinking human being out of his (or, if you like, her) mind. And if you think it is an exaggeration - well, perhaps it is, but not by much.

There are times when the use of noun as adjective is inevitable: how else, for example, can you say "railway phrase" itself? Or is there a more graceful name that the British could have given to their *Town and Country Planning Act*? So bow to the inevitable and avoid the avoidable. If you see a string of

adjectival nouns approaching, shunt it aside with a mind-saving "of" or two.

c) Fear of "I." This fear has been instilled in you by stupid people, who tell you that you will sound like an egotist if you use it. So what if you do sound like an egotist: you are one, aren't you? Or are you sick in the head?

Honesty is still the best policy. If you say "this was done" instead of "I did this," then you legitimately prompt the question: "By whom?" (Sometimes "by whom" is obvious, sometimes it is not.) Worse, you are thrown into the passive voice, and good writing demands the active voice. Still worse, by using the passive voice participles start dangling all over the place. (Do you recognize a dangling or unattached participle when you see one? There is one right there staring you in the face, back in the last sentence outside the bracket. If you don't already see how silly that sentence is, let's turn it around, and you will: "Still worse, participles start dangling all over the place by using the passive voice." The participles aren't using the passive voice, you are; so don't. Use "I".) Incidentally, a dangler can be undangled by turning the participle into a gerund (and if you don't recognize the dangler right there you've got problems): to turn a participle into a gerund - or maybe a gerundive: the distinction beats me - simply put a "the" in front of it and an "of" after it: "a dangler can be undangled by **the** turning **of** the participle into a gerund" (or a gerundive, as the case may be; who cares?).

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