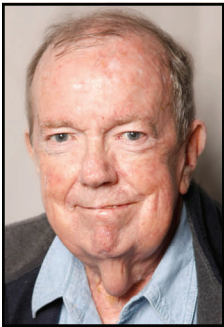


A message from President Dick Evans

Special thanks to the Eldorado, but now it's time to make plans for an historic meeting in Las Vegas

Thanks to the Eldorado Hotel/Casino in Reno, BWAA members and their guests enjoyed a fantastic breakfast on April 29 and were given a lot of fresh bowling news by six speakers.



Dick Evans

Gregg Carano, Vice President and General Manager of the 800-plus room hotel, came up with a menu that BWAA members won't soon forget. All of the credit for landing the Eldorado as our breakfast host goes to chairperson Joan Romeo. BWAA Vice President Jackie Wyckoff also played a paramount role in setting up the room and checking in guests. I was amazed that John McGinnes, Eldorado Director of Sales, gave about 90 minutes of his time to work with Joan, Jackie and myself to set up the room on the afternoon the prior to the gala breakfast.

So start making plans right now to attend the BWAA meeting in Reno next spring. Joan Romeo reports the Eldorado has agreed to host another breakfast, this time on Thursday so more BWAA mem-

bers will be able to attend. BWAA also will do everything in its power to arrange a writing seminar for anyone interested.

Right now, however, your attention should be focused on the BWAA Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 23 at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. It looms the most important meeting in BWAA history. Every writer should want to sit in on the historical meeting and then write stories.

I want to thank all the BWAA board members for a lot of hard work and letting their voices be heard on some controversial decisions. We may disagree on how we get there, but the only important and imperative thing is that we must all agree after the decision is made.

I also want to thank everyone who chaired our various committees, but I want to give a special thanks to George Wooten for the work he has done with the Kegel Bowler of the Month committee. It isn't easy to keep up with all the bowlers who are winning tournaments each month, send out the statistics to your committee members, count the votes and then write a story each month, but George got the job done in a timely and accurate manner. Unfortunately, George is changing jobs and moving to his native Ohio. So, thanks, George. We will miss your dedication and expertise.

I also would like to thank my fellow executive committee members - Nancy Chapman, Jackie Wyckoff, Fran Deken and Bill Vint - for their dedication.

I think everybody will agree that the BWAA lost a little of its heart and soul during the past year when Mike Hennessy and Bruce Pluckhahn died, and John Archibald suffered a severe stroke. We miss all of our members who have died and pray for those who are fighting cancer and other medical conditions.

See you in Las Vegas!

2009 BWAA Convention Schedule

Monday, June 22

11 a.m.— Council of BWAA Life Members meeting, Luxor (room tba)
1 p.m.— BWAA Board of Directors meeting, Luxor (room tba)
7 p.m.— Bowl Expo Welcome Reception (featuring Dale Earnhardt Jr. and 5th National Karaoke Finals), Mandalay Bay, South Pacific E

Tuesday, June 23

7-8 a.m.— Storm BWAA breakfast, Mandalay Bay, South Pacific C
9 a.m.-Noon — BWAA Annual Meeting, Mandalay Bay, South Pacific B
Noon—1 p.m.— Brunswick luncheon, Mandalay Bay, South Pacific C
1-2:30 p.m. — BWAA Annual Meeting, Mandalay Bay, South Pacific B
3-4:30 p.m. — BWAA/Bowl Expo Workshop: Getting to Know Your Friendly Neighborhood Bowling Writer, Mandalay Bay, Islander A
6:30 p.m. — Columbia 300/BPAA BWAA Awards Dinner, Luxor (tba)



Wednesday, June 24

8-10 a.m. — Bowl Expo general session (featuring Fred Thompson), Mandalay Bay, South Pacific E
10 a.m.-5 p.m. — International Bowl Expo Trade Show
5:45-7:15 p.m. — Optional Salute to Bowling event, Mandalay Bay, South Pacific E

Thursday, June 25

8:30-10 a.m. — Disney Institute special presentation, Mandalay Bay, Islander D-E
10 a.m.-4 p.m. — International Bowl Expo Trade Show
7-10 p.m. — Optional Club Xpo evening of entertainment, Mandalay Bay, South Pacific E

BWAA Annual Meeting promises to be a blockbuster!

BWAA is getting ready for its 2009 Annual Meeting at Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas - and it promises to be a gathering of historic consequences. Front-and-center on the meeting agenda will be the decision on a proposal from Strike Ten Entertainment to take over the administrative management of BWAA.

If you have not yet registered to attend the BWAA Convention and International Bowl Expo, please do so ASAP! Please note:

- **BWAA's \$25 registration fee entitles you to attend all of the official BWAA functions** (you do NOT have to pay the registration fee to attend the Annual Meeting), and it entitles you to apply for "complimentary" credentials to attend all International Bowl Expo events, including the Trade Show.

- **If you apply for Bowl Expo credentials as a BWAA member, you must attend the Annual Meeting.** If you don't attend the meeting, BPAA reserves the right to revoke your Bowl Expo credentials or charge you the normal Bowl Expo registration fee.

For the BWAA general membership, Tuesday is "BWAA Day" although there will be plenty more to see, listen to and write about during the annual gathering of "Who's Who in the World of Bowling." Tuesday's schedule for BWAA members includes a breakfast (sponsored by Storm Products) from 7-8 a.m., a Brunswick sponsored luncheon from noon-1 p.m., and the annual Columbia 300/BPAA/BWAA Awards Dinner at 6:30 p.m. In between, BWAA will conduct its annual business meeting from 8 a.m. until noon, and from 1 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.

- **The vote on the STE proposal (see separate item for more information) will be conducted at 11:45 a.m on Tuesday, June 23.**

- Columbia 300/BPAA/BWAA Dinner notes: Guys, wear a coat and tie. Ladies, wear your favorite cocktail dress. Hall of Famers, please wear your blazers. In addition to honor BWAA's top award winners of 2009 - Hall of Fame Award winner Bob Johnson and Meritorious Service Award winner Johnny Petraglia - BWAA will present its Bowler of the Year Awards to Norm Duke and Lynda Barnes. Host John Jowdy will present Columbia 300's annual Remo Picchiatti Humanitarian Award.

- Following Tuesday's business meeting, BWAA will conduct a workshop for proprietors attending Bowl Expo. The 3 p.m. session, called "Getting to Know Your Friendly Neighborhood Bowling Writer," will focus on how local and regional bowling publications can build and improve relationships with the bowling centers they serve.

- BWAA will again have a booth in the Bowl Expo Trade Show, where members will write news releases for attending proprietors to take home and try to place with their hometown newspapers or bowling publications. A few volunteers are needed to assist at the BWAA booth, proofreading news releases or visiting with convention attendees. If you can donate an hour or two of your time, please drop Jackie Wyckoff a note at wacknwolin@sbcglobal.net or call her at (408) 866-6598.

- If you have not yet booked a room, call Laura May at USBC Travel 1-817-385-8259. A limited number of rooms are still available at the Luxor for \$49 a night (Sunday through Thursday) or \$89 a night (Friday or Saturday).

Where to find everything you need to know about the Strike Ten Entertainment proposal

For BWAA members who want to know more about the Strike Ten Entertainment proposal to assume administrative management of BWAA:

- 1) The proposal, comments for and against the proposal, and the voting rules are posted on bowlingwriters.com in the "Members Only" section. Go to bowlingwriters.com and click on the Members Only tab on the left side of the home page to access all of the STE proposal information.

- 2) Each topic is listed in a red headline on the right side of the page, with a blue underlined link below each headline. Click on the blue underlined headline to access that topic.

- 3) If you would like to publicly state your own position on the proposal - for or against - e-mail your comments (250 words or less) to Kathy Watson at: kwatson@bowlingwriters.com. Put the words "I'm in favor" or "I'm opposed" (to the

Nominations for BWAA Board, Pezzano Scholarships due June 1

Nomination forms for candidates interested in serving two-year terms on the BWAA Board of Directors are due June 1, as are application forms for young bowler/scholars interested in a Chuck Pezzano Scholarship.

Both forms can be found on bowlingwriters.com.

The Board nomination form is in the About BWAA section, under the Officers and Directors tab at the top of the page. Send completed application forms to Nominating Committee chair Mary Lynly. E-mail: lynlymary@surewest.net.

The link to the Pezzano Scholarship application form is easily found by clicking on the Scholarships link on the left side of the home page. Send scholarship applications to Pezzano Scholarship Committee chair Joan Romeo. E-mail: jromeo@socal.rr.com.



Past President John Jowdy was surprised during the BWAA breakfast in Reno with a unique birthday cake, crafted by the Eldorado's extraordinary staff, in celebration of Jowdy's 89th birthday. Elaine Hagin also celebrated a "landmark" birthday.

send it along to: Helen Lesh, 2090 NW Excello Loop, Roseburg, OR 97470.

proposal) in the subject line of your e-mail. Kathy will post your comments in the appropriate section. You must identify yourself by name and hometown (or affiliation) in order for your comments to be posted.

BWAA fund-raisers in Reno raise more than \$750

A 50/50 raffle based on \$5 "registration fees" paid for the Eldorado-sponsored BWAA breakfast in Reno generated \$235 for the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame, and the traditional IBM/HF "raffle" organized by super volunteer Helen Lesh raised another \$525 for hall of fame.

Just for the record, Lesh - who recently was awarded the Oregon March of Dimes "White Rose Award" for her more than 50 years of volunteer service - has managed the IBM/HF raffle held in conjunction with WIBC and USBC conventions for 26 years. Over that span of time, the program has raised more than \$67,000 for the IBM/HF.

Lesh is already planning for next year's raffle, and she's looking for ideas on what item to raffle. One suggestion on the books is: flower vases. If you have an idea,

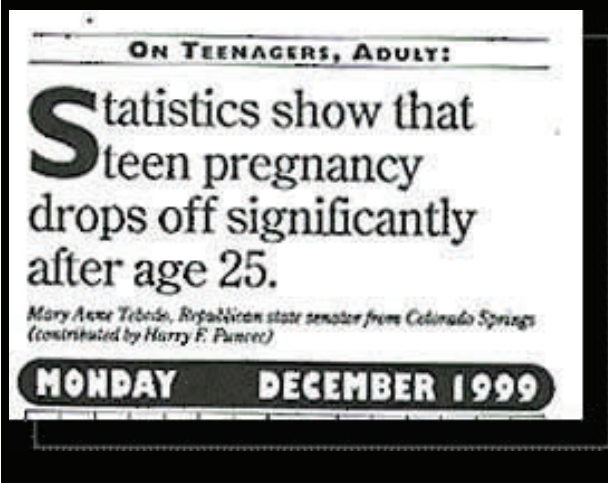


Helen Lesh's 2009 BWAA raffle to benefit the IBM/HF included music boxes donated by USBC and Canadian associations (and individual donors). Donations came from Arizona (2), California (2), Illinois, Michigan, Nevada (3), Maryland, Montana, Ohio, Oregon, New York, Texas (3), Georgia, British Columbia (3), Colorado (2), Florida and Wisconsin.

Is your publication or personal web site posted on bowlingwriters.com?

Did you know a benefit of membership is posting of a link on BWAA's official web site (bowlingwriters.com) to your publication or personal web site? If you own/operate/manage a web site, submit a link to the site via e-mail to: bwaa@wi.rr.com. When your membership is confirmed, your site will be posted under the "Links" section in its appropriate category. BWAA also provides links to web sites managed by its industry partners and regional bowling writer groups.

THE FINE ART OF HEADLINE WRITING



Membership news

- Glenda Millar, who has helped with BWAA Convention registration for years, has been inducted into the Houston Bowling Hall of Fame for meritorious service.
- Long-time BWAA member Tom Kouros of Barrington, Ill., was inducted into USBC's Hall of Fame for meritorious service in Reno, and he'll enter another on June 22 in Las Vegas when he's inducted into the Bowling Coaches Hall during International Bowl Expo's General Session.
- Also being honored during the Monday morning business session will be BWAA member Kent Lowe as recipient of the BPAA Media Award. Lowe has written about bowling for the Baton Rouge Advocate for nearly three decades and is being cited for his coverage of the 2008 Qubica/AMF International Family Tournament held in Baton Rouge, La. The BPAA Media Award is presented to a local, national and/or non-bowling industry media representative who, through either print or electronic media, made significant contributions to furthering the sport and business of bowling.

Need to get in touch with BWAA?

Executive Director Bill Vint, Cell: 414-339-0404, E-mail: bwaa@wi.rr.com, Mail: P.O. Box 977, East Troy, WI 53120.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT (Chris Beard, Chair)

The following proposed amendments to the BWAA bylaws were submitted to the Legislative Committee for consideration during the 2009 BWAA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas:

Amendment #1 (submitted January 2009)

EXISTING: Article IV - OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 3. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will include the President, Vice President, Executive Director, Chairman of the Council of Life Members and a Director selected by the Board. The committee shall be charged with the responsibility of acting for and on behalf of the BWAA when the association is not in session and business requires necessary action. All actions of the committee shall be reported to the Board of Directors at its next meeting.

Proposed Change: Remove this entire section.

Reason: *In this day and age it is not necessary to have an executive committee when we are able to communicate via e-mail, telephone and cell phone easily.*

Submitted by Jim Goodwin and Joan Taylor-Schliewenz

Amendment #2 (submitted May 15, 2009, to Legislative Committee)

EXISTING: ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors will consist of 12 Directors who will be elected by the membership by plurality vote, the Executive Director and the Council of Life Members representative.

Directors shall be elected by a stagger system.

Six Directors shall be elected in odd numbered years.

Six Directors shall be elected in even numbered years.

The term of office shall be August 1 through July 31.

The directors shall elect a President and Vice President for a term of one (1) year. Officers may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Proposed Change: Remove "The directors shall elect a President and Vice President for a term of one (1) year. Officers may not serve more than two consecutive terms." Replace with: "The BWAA President and Vice President will then be elected from the elected Board of Directors by the membership present at the annual meeting for a term of one (1) year. Officers may not serve more than two consecutive terms."

Reason: *The membership should have a right to elect its leaders. The present method of having the 14-member board elect these two positions diminishes the perception of fairness among the general membership.*

Submitted by Jim Goodwin and Joan Taylor-Schliewenz

The BWAA Legislative Committee recommends a "No" vote. Reason: The President and Vice President function in a capacity beyond that of a board member, such as running the meetings, appointing committee chairmen and acting in an executive capacity. The Board of Directors has worked directly together and is in a better position to know who would fulfill these requirements. The presidency should not be a popularity contest from among the membership.

Proposed Amendment #3 (submitted May 15, 2009, to Legislative Committee)

EXISTING: ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 12: The Board of Directors shall hold its meeting preceding the annual membership meeting at a time and place designated by the President. Additional meetings shall be held as required.

Proposed Change: Add: A BWAA board member must attend at least one full meeting per year.

Reason: *Board members are elected to represent the members and should be present to participate in the discussions and business of BWAA.*

Submitted by Jim Goodwin and Joan Taylor-Schliewenz

The BWAA Legislative Committee recommends a "YES" vote. Reason: Duties and responsibilities of the board should be defined in the bylaws.

Proposed Amendment #4 (submitted May 15, 2009, to Legislative Committee)

EXISTING: ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 5.

The President shall preside at all meetings; appoint committees, both standing and special; review the bank balance quarterly; authorize mail ballots to voting members if necessary; and perform such other duties as pertain to the office. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.

Proposed Change: Add: The President may call as many meetings as he or she wishes, but BWAA will only pay for his or her transportation and lodging to one official meeting per year.

Reason: *All BWAA board members have to pay their own expenses to all meetings. The president should not think of BWAA as a means of paying for trips to other organization meetings or conventions where no official presence is necessary.*

Submitted by Jim Goodwin & Joan Taylor-Schliewenz

The Legislative Committee recommends a "No" vote. Reason: BWAA should have one person as a representative of the organization at the USBC Convention and BPAA's Bowl Expo. Ideally it should be the President or Executive Director. Covering the travel expenses for this individual is not a "perk" of office but rather a necessary expense to keep BWAA involved and informed about what is happening within the industry.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, CONTINUED

Proposed Amendment #5 (submitted May 15, 2009, to Legislative Committee)

EXISTING: ARTICLE VII – AWARDS

Special awards and contest awards may be presented as approved by the Board of Directors. The criteria for awards shall be set forth in the procedures manual.

Proposed Change: Add: The names "Luby" and "Crowe" will be attached to the BWAA Hall of Fame Award and the BWAA Meritorious Service Award.

Reason: *The Luby family (Dave, Mort, and Mort Jr.) have been synonymous with bowling journalism since BWAA's founding in 1934 (even before) and Alberta Crowe was an incredible role model for what selfless service should be during her tenure as WIBC President. Putting these names on BWAA's highest honors would enhance their prestige, and help to preserve our rich traditions and history.*

Submitted by Jim Goodwin & Joan Taylor-Schliewenz

The Legislative Committee recommends a "No" vote. *Reason: While the contributions of these individuals are significant we do not believe a "BWAA Hall of Fame Award" is any less prestigious than a "Mort Luby Award" and the former is far more descriptive of the achievement of the individual receiving the award. The same principle holds true for the "BWAA Meritorious Service Award" compared to the "Alberta Crowe Award." The BWAA membership voted to remove names from all the awards in 2007.*

Proposed Amendment #6 (submitted May 16, 2009, to the Legislative Committee)

EXISTING: ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual meeting. Proposed amendments from BWAA members shall be submitted to the Executive Director 60 days before the annual meeting, however, the legislative committee shall have until 45 days before the meeting to submit amendments. All amendments shall be distributed to the members not less than 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

Amendments to the bylaws not distributed to the membership 30 days prior to the annual meeting may be considered at the annual meeting with the approval of two-thirds of the members present voting to allow the amendment to be considered. If approved for consideration, such amendments will require a 75% affirmative vote in order to be adopted.

Proposed Change: Add: BWAA members in good standing be allowed to vote via e-mail on issues having direct impact on the association as a whole.

Reason: *The BWAA needs to recognize that the vast majority of members do not attend the annual meeting for various reasons, illness, health issues, economy, etc. However, they should not be deprived of their voting rights because they cannot travel. (For example: voting on the STE proposal). Most of the association members have e-mail and voting on issues impacting the membership should go out to all members for consideration and vote. Under the current by-laws as few as 27 members can make decisions affecting the entire membership.*

Submitted by Don Wright

The BWAA legislative committee recommends a "NO" vote. *Reason: It would be impossible to determine what legislation constitutes an issue "having direct impact on the association as a whole." Every issue voted on by the board of directors or by the membership fits into this category in one manner or the other. This amendment would exclude that segment of the membership, without access to email, from voting rights. There is no provision for a postal mail vote in the proposal.*

While the bylaws provide that a quorum of 27 is required to transact business, we have 50 or more members in attendance at a BWAA membership meeting in each of the past 10 years. Proposed legislation is sent to members at least 30 days in advance of any meeting where a vote will be taken and all members make their own decisions about attending or not. In addition, BWAA provides for a comment forum on its web site to allow members to state their views on important issues so their voices can be heard.

Proposed Amendment #7 (Submitted May 18, 2009, by the Legislative Committee)

EXISTING: ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual meeting. Proposed amendments from BWAA members shall be submitted to the Executive Director 60 days before the annual meeting, however, the legislative committee shall have until 45 days before the meeting to submit amendments. All amendments shall be distributed to the members not less than 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

Amendments to the bylaws not distributed to the membership 30 days prior to the annual meeting may be considered at the annual meeting with the approval of two-thirds of the members present voting to allow the amendment to be considered. If approved for consideration, such amendments will require a 75% affirmative vote in order to be adopted.

Change to: These bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual meeting, **providing** amendments from BWAA members **have been** submitted to the Legislative Committee **and/or** the Executive Director at least 45 days before the annual meeting **and** distributed to the members not less than 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

Amendments to the bylaws not distributed to the membership 30 days prior to the annual meeting may be considered at the annual meeting with the approval of two-thirds of the members present voting to allow the amendment to be considered. If approved for consideration, such amendments will require a 75% affirmative vote in order to be adopted.

Reason: *As originally written, this bylaw is confusing at best, contradictory at worst.*

BWAA COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR 2009

AMATEUR BOWLERS OF THE YEAR (Mark Miller, Chair)

Derek Eoff, Arlington, Texas, and Lynda Barnes, Double Oak, Texas, were selected as BWAA's 2008 Amateur Male and Female Bowlers of the Year by the ABOY Committee. Barnes will receive her award at the BWAA awards banquet in Las Vegas. Eoff will not be able to attend, so his award was shipped to Texas for presentation at a USBC staff function.

ASSOCIATED PRESS RELATIONSHIP (Jason Overstreet, Acting Chair)

Terry Bigham, a veteran assistant sports editor with the Fort Worth Telegram before joining the USBC staff last fall, will represent the bowling news media along with USBC High Performance David Garber and standout competitor Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, at the annual Associated Press Sports Editors convention in Pittsburgh on June 26.

The general plan is to talk about the new International Bowling Campus training center, the WTBA Women's World Championships in Las Vegas and present the daily newspaper sports editors with idea and angles for high school and collegiate bowling coverage. The breakfast is being jointly funded by USBC and Strike Ten Entertainment, under the BWAA banner.

AUDIT COMMITTEE (Barb Spigner, Chair)

The audit committee met Feb. 9, 2009 and the books and records of the BWAA (for fiscal year 2008) were reviewed and approved as accurate and correct. New Executive Director Bill Vint was present as past Executive Director Steve James and Joann James explained a few questions from the committee members and all was in order.

The ending balance from 12/31/08 was \$16,142.25 (\$7,951.19 in checking and \$8,191.06 in our CD). That figure is up \$937.78 from the previous year (\$15,203.47 including \$7,429.06 in checking and \$7,774.41 in our CD). Steve explained that a modest increase in membership and interest on our CD accounted for the increase.

The SMART account for the Pezzano Scholarship Fund is in excellent shape with an unassigned balance of \$8,838.63 through Dec. 31, 2008. The fund also includes another \$4,858.74 in assigned funds (scholarships which have been awarded, but not yet redeemed) for a SMART account total of \$13,697.37.

A copy of the 2008 Financial Statement and an update from Jan. 1 through May 31, 2009, will be provided to convention attendees in Las Vegas.

BOWLERS OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE (Matt Cannizzaro, Co-Chair)

Norm Duke, Clermont, Fla., and Lynda Barnes, Double Oak, Texas, were elected Bowlers of the Year for 2008 by the membership. Both will attend the Columbia 300/BPAA BWAA Awards Dinner in Las Vegas to receive their awards.

BUDGET COMMITTEE (Nancy Chapman, Chair)

The 2009 budget was based on the same number of members as the 2008 budget. As of Dec. 1, 2008, we had 410 members which included 43 Life Members who do not pay dues.

A line item was added for Memorials. During the past year, we had two former director/member deaths. Flowers were sent, but BWAA policy does not provide any guidelines for this type of expense. We recommend some guidelines for this expense to be placed in policy.

RECOMMENDATION: BWAA donate \$100 to the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame in the name of any deceased member.

I also recommend that the convention registration fee of \$25 for BWAA board members be eliminated effective immediately. Reason: who do board members have to pay a fee to attend their own meetings? They already have paid their own way to get there.

NOTE: The BWAA Board considered the recommendation to eliminate convention registration fees for board members and rejected the recommendation.

BWAA WRITING AWARDS (Rory Gillespie, Chair)

BWAA's second annual writing contest for non-pro members resulted in a slight increase in entries this year. Three certificates were awarded in feature, editorial and event coverage categories. Results were announced during the BWAA breakfast in Reno, and in a news release sent to all members.

This is a competition intended to recognize and reward our "volunteer" members who write for association publications, web sites and other outlets without being paid. We're certain there are many, many more members who should enter their work, so all we can do is urge them to do so.

COLLEGIATE BOWLERS OF THE YEAR (Frank Barnhart, Chair)

BWAA's Collegiate Bowlers of the Year Committee held its annual conference call prior to the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships in Rockford, Ill., and selected Sandra Gongora of Wichita State University and Dan MacLelland of Saginaw Valley State as our 2009 Collegiate Bowlers of the Year. The award winners, along with the other candidates considered, were recognized prior to the ITC dinner in Rockford. BWAA members Steve Lawson and Karl Nickolai, along with Executive Director Bill Vint, made the presentations.

CRITIQUE COMMITTEE (Joan B. Taylor, Chair)

I was asked to take over this committee, formerly headed by the late Joe Lyou. I was not sure who should be on the committee. One name that was suggested was John Archibald. Unfortunately John is incapacitated with a stroke.

I received only one request to critique an article, this from a gentleman writing about a pro shop and inventory systems. I made a few grammatical changes for him and asked him questions about some of the terms he used to be sure his audience would understand

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the language. He thanked me and I let him know that this service is free and available any time.

I would like a few of our members to come forward to be on this committee, particularly those who are or were editors. I would also like for this committee to reach out to the general bowling public (and potential members) to apprise them of our service. Going beyond critiquing, it might be beneficial to advise them on the best venue(s) for distribution, and anything else we could do to help them write well and place their articles.

ETHICS COMMITTEE (Sam Vasta, Chair)

The ethics committee has received no complaints and therefore has nothing to report.

HALL OF FAME AWARD COMMITTEE (Hazel McLeary, Chair)

The BWAA Hall of Fame committee is made up of 15 individuals who have been past recipients of the BWAA Mort Luby award or the NWBW Alberta E Crowe award.

The 2008-09 participating members were: John Archibald (prior to suffering a stroke), Jim Dressel, Dick Evans, Matt Fiorito, Don Gates, Joe Gennaro, Steve James, John Jowdy, Pearl Keller, Mary Lynly, Chuck Pezzano, Bill Vint, Jim Wyckoff, Lyle Zikes and myself.

Committee action:

- Determined Henry Fankhauser should be removed from the list of candidates because he had received the NWBW Alberta E. Crowe Award and is considered member of BWAA Hall of Fame.
- Submitted the previous year's candidates to committee and board of directors and requested additional candidates be sent to chairman with resumes by January 18, 2009.
- Received one additional candidate.
- Requested updates of resumes from previous year candidates.
- Sent a preliminary ballot with all candidates to committee members.
- According to new policy used this year for the first time, committee members were asked to vote for up to six names. The two candidates receiving the most committee votes would advance to the final ballot for membership voting.
- Bob Johnson was elected as 2009 BWAA Hall of Fame Award recipient.

KEGEL BOWLER OF THE MONTH COMMITTEE (George Wooten, Chair)

The Kegel Bowler of the Month Committee faced a number of issues during the 2008-09 bowling season.

In previous years, the chairman sent out nominations, and the committee was required to vote for three players. One frequent problem occurred when there were additional nominations other than the ones sent by the chairman. In past years, committee members would send a mass email directly to the committee instead of forwarding their addition directly to the chairman. A system was since established to funnel all nominations through the chairman, with additional nominees to be sent directly from the chairman.

After the committee was reformed in June 2008, certain members challenged the nominating procedure. Some argued that teams should be eligible for the BOM award (Example: Team USA for winning gold medals in international competition, instead of nominating leading scorer of the team).

Another issue that arose was the voting process. Under current committee rules, members must vote for three players using a 5-3-1 point system (5 points for 1st place; 3 points for 2nd place; 1 point for 3rd place), or ballots are declared illegal. Two Committee members pushed for a system whereby they could vote for "up to three players" because they didn't feel three players deserved votes. Because the committee was unable to alter the voting procedure, they subsequently resigned from the committee. To address the voting issue, the committee recommends the voting procedure be changed in the future to allow committee members to vote for up to three candidates per month, instead of a mandatory vote for three players.

With the changes in the PBA Tour events, the committee had to decide when to nominate and vote for tournament winners. The PBA has decided to conduct up to seven tournaments within a five-week period, and show the results on a tape-delay basis months after the events are concluded. (The BWAA Board has addressed this issue and recommends that BOM consideration should be given when the competition actually takes place instead of after a tape-delayed telecast).

In another similar situation, the committee nominated a bowler based upon his performance in the USBC Championships Tournament, even though the tournament won't end until July and his eventual finishing position in the tournament was unknown at the time of voting.

Following the June 2009 vote, I will resign as chairman of the BOM committee. Unfortunately, I will be changing jobs at the end of May and will not be able to devote the amount of attention necessary to be a good chairman. However, I did enjoy the experience, and hope that the incoming chairman will consider me as a member of the committee.

Bowlers of the Month recognized since June 2008 are: Wayne Webb (June), Nick Morgan (July), Kim Terrell-Kearney (August), Josie Earnest (September), Norm Duke (October), Michelle Feldman (November), Parker Bohn III (December), Patrick Allen (January), John Nolen (February), Chris Barnes (March), Mike Scroggins (April). (May had not been determined at the time of the report).

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE (Bob Cosgrove, Chair)

The BWAA Meritorious Service Award Committee prepared a ballot consisting of five individuals to determine the 2009 winner. After consideration by the membership, Johnny Petraglia received the highest vote total.

To simplify and match the voting procedure established by the BWAA Hall of Fame Award Committee, it is recommended the BWAA Meritorious Service Award Committee adopt the method whereby it forwards only two candidates to the membership, with the winner determined by a simple majority vote. (In case of a tie, two awards will be presented.)

It also should be noted that, based upon action by the BWAA board and membership in Orlando in 2008, active BWAA members will no longer be eligible for the Meritorious Service Award, effective in 2010. A new award to recognize BWAA members for their services to the sport, other than their journalism skills, will be considered by the membership in 2009.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE (Kathy Watson, Co-Chair)

Since January, when Bill Vint took over as executive director following Steve James' retirement, BWAA has sent three newsletters (including this one). The re-designed newsletter is being converted to PDF format and posted on our web site (bowlingwriters.com) in the "Members Only" section, under the "Newsletter" tab. All previous newsletters are archived in that area. Hard copies of newsletters are mailed by surface mail to our members who don't have e-mail.

One of our biggest problems is that only about half of our members are opening their e-mails to read the newsletter (and other correspondence, which we send regularly). We use a bulk e-mail program called "Constant Contact" that provides us with reports on how many people view each e-mail. Typically, around 40% of our members open the e-mail (nearly 60% seem to open our newsletters, but then a smaller group take the next step to access the PDF document).

The point is, BWAA is doing the best job it has ever done to get information into the hands of our members, but we can't force you to read it! That part is up to you.

POLICY COMMITTEE (Joan Feinblum, Chair)

The committee had no activity to report.

SENIOR BOWLER OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE (Fran Deken, Chair)

I have been honored to have chaired this committee for the past two years but having invested a great deal of work, time and thought I have come to the conclusion that either we need to revamp this award or do away with it altogether.

For those who are not aware, here is what being chairman entails: selecting the committee, gathering data on possible candidates, sending out preliminary ballots to the committee, revising the ballot down to the chosen candidates, sending out ballots to the committee, the board of directors and all life members, and tabulating the returns. While gathering data on PBA Seniors is fairly simple, gathering data for the women is very time consuming and produces little information of value.

Of the total number of ballots sent out for the final vote, about 50% of the eligible voters responded. There were also committee and board members who did not respond. Board members who were re-contacted did respond. No one HAS to vote but surely those on the committee and the board should have some interest in the outcome.

I thought of suggesting that we go to a point system if we wish to keep the award but that also has its problems. The PBA point system would work for the men but you would have the same winner named as PBA Senior Player of the Year so it would be anticlimactic since they name their winner early in December. A point system is not really workable for the women as there are only two national senior events (Golden Ladies and Senior Queens) and getting information on non-senior events bowled in by senior ladies is very time consuming and difficult. I really don't want us to cease presenting the Senior Bowler of the Year award but we need to find better solutions for gathering and storing information.

I would like to thank my most excellent committee for all their work and they are: Jeff Richgels, Connie Marchione, Craig Mathews, Gene Kanak, Dan McDonough, George Wooten, John Weber, Jim Goodwin, Kathy Prange, Len Nicholson, Mary Jane Sporar, Matt Fiorito, Paul Kreins and Susie Minshew.

USBC CONVENTION (Joan Romeo substituting for Nancy Chapman)

I would like to extend special thanks to the Eldorado Hotel and Casino and in particular, John McGinnes, Rick Murdock and Gregg Carano. Their hospitality and support of the BWAA is unparalleled. I believe it was because of them our guest list read like a who's who of the industry. Jeff Bojé, John Berglund, Kevin Dornberger, Joe Kelley, Bill and Barbara Chrisman, Ron Wood, Keith Hamilton, Frank DeSocio, Elaine Hagin and Ellen Oppenheim, to name a few. Hall of Fame members other than BWAA's own included Norm Duke, Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, Wendy Macpherson, Robin Romeo and Virginia Norton.

Also, during the "trade show" portion of Convention Week, BWAA's booth (provided at no cost to BWAA by USBC) generated more than \$800 for the IBM/HF. The annual raffle organized by Helen Lesh – a music box event – resulted in \$525. The 50/50 raffle conducted as part of the Eldorado/BWAA breakfast resulted in \$235. And sale of PBA "50 Greatest Bowlers" books, produced by Luby Publishing, resulted in another donation for the IBM/HF. Luby's Keith Hamilton noted: "We are cutting a check to the IBM/HF for \$125 in the name of the BWAA. A special comment about the efforts of Jackie (Wyckoff) and Joan (Romeo) would be appropriate – they were awesome in handling virtually everything relating to this project."

BWAA also experimented with a "book signing" program, inviting some of our members who recently have authored books, to spend a couple of hours selling autographed copies if they wished to do so. John Jowdy and Vesma Grinfelds participated. BWAA member Roger Dalkin also sold his newly-published book, but had his own booth. The program seemed to be very well received and we are going to consider expanding this program at International Bowl Expo if it's feasible and our author-members are interested.

During the USBC Annual Meeting, BWAA members Debbie Haggerty (David Dahms Coach of the Year Award), Tom Clark (Joyce Deitch Trailblazer Award) and Jean Tondola-Smith (Helen Baker Outstanding Association Service Award) were honored by USBC.

WEB SITE COMMITTEE (Kathy Watson, Co-Chair)

Our web site (bowlingwriters.com) is a constant work in progress. While updates are planned for the future, the time demands in dealing with the Strike Ten Entertainment proposal have prevented our group for doing more to upgrade the web site.

It does remain, however, a BWAA member's best source of news and information about the organization. Our "business" items are posted under the "Members Only" section (bylaws, newsletters, a Publicity Guide section with lots of writing tips, and more). Our awards section provides a great resource about our history.

One section of the web site we'd like to improve is our "links" section, which provides all BWAA members with an opportunity to provide a link to their publication web sites, or their personal web sites. All you have to do is e-mail a link to: bwaa@wi.rr.com and we'll get it posted. We also have added the ability to pay membership dues, convention registration fees and make Pezzano Scholarship contributions as an online service through PayPal - a service more than 50 members have used successfully.