

CONNIE BROWN

NCAUSBCA DIRECTOR

How did you become a board member?

One of the members of the board asked me if I would come to the [2013 NCAUSBCA] Annual Meeting. I said, *Sure, I'll come and see what's going on.* So they gave me a copy of the [proposed amendments] for me to be familiar with, and I was able to participate and vote because I had read them and was aware of the issues.

By some chance, someone nominated me to be a delegate. I was really surprised because I didn't expect that. I got picked to be a delegate to the [USBC] convention in Reno for 2014, so I decided, *Okay, since I'm going to be representing as a delegate our organization, I better know what I'm talking about or at least be able to vote.* So I started going to the [NCAUSBCA] board meetings.

I guess the board members got so tired of seeing me there that they asked me if I would like to be a director. I didn't know what it involved, really, so I was able to talk to some of the directors and figured maybe I could help and also help in the direction and the vision that we as a board want to go. And so I thought it would be good for

me to do that as a director. So I put my name in the hat and was voted in and then reelected this past Annual Meeting.



What have you learned since joining the board?

As a bowler not a part of any bowling organization, you really don't know what happens behind the scenes; all you see are the end results. You know that your membership card is processed, you know that tournaments are set up and all of the score sheets and everything are in place, but you don't know how much work goes on behind the scenes.

I believe that what I really, really learned ... a couple things I didn't know was how much dedication and work that our board members and the associates and all the way down to the secretaries how much

work it takes to do that and how much dedication and how much people at all levels are willing to do in so far as time and resources just to make some of the things happen that a regular bowler may take for granted.

That is what I have—an inside track as to the amount of work that it takes.

Has anything surprised you since joining the board?

I've worked before on large teams of people, and people are people: We have the same vision, and that's something I really like and I respect. We have the same goal: We want to make bowling better – especially better for the next generation.

But I think sometimes we all have different ways and means of getting there, and so that's what I want us to work on. *Hey, let's listen to everyone's idea, let's throw it out there, let's think outside of the box.* But at the end, I believe as a team, we're going to get there. And so that is what I see. And that maybe was a little bit surprising that we had a lot of different means of getting there! But we're going to do it.

What surprised me the most, however, is the amount of work that (Association Manager) Ron McGregor does. I was on furlough for about a month, so during that time, I just called the office and said, "Hey, you guys need some help? I've got some time to do that."

And so when I went into the office and helped out, I did not realize how much work Ron did. He's absolutely fantastic; he's got a great staff of people that are supporting him—both volunteer and the working level. It's just surprised me how organized and how great he is.

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