

*2023 USBC Convention Report  
By Jane Andrews, Delegate*

*The 2023 USBC Convention kicked off at 9:00 a.m. at South Point Hotel Casino. Registration and exhibits were our first stops followed by a Delegates reception that evening.*

*The seminars started the next day with a motivational speaker who was simply dynamic. Her topic was "Moving from Blindness to Breakthrough" and being a part of something that is bigger than yourself. After this introduction, the seminars kicked off. The first days of convention consist of a series of seminars for the delegates to chose from. I attended the seminar on "Evaluating Reserves to Boost Services" which I found to be quite helpful in understanding how to best utilize the funds that the association has for the benefit of all its members. I am hopeful that the information I received will help the association in order to remain afloat due to any unexpected circumstances like the pandemic, which we experienced in 2020. There was an activity following these seminars for the delegates to participate in which included a trip to see the Queens or a movie. I chose the movie, which I enjoyed.*

*Day 2 continued with more seminars followed by a session to Meet the Candidates prior to the first Annual meeting session. This session covered BVL, SMART, BPAA, Strike 10 Entertainment, TNBA, PBA, BFTC, IBMA, IBMHOF, and Hall of Fame Inductions. That evening, there was the Hall of Fame Reception, Dinner, and Induction ceremony, which I did not attend.*

*Day 3 was the final session of the Annual Meeting. The morning consisted of National Youth Award Presentations, USBC National Recognition Awards, and the Star of Tomorrow Award recipients. The President presented his report discussing the membership, tournaments, bowling certified, Junior Gold, and more SMART information, followed by the Strategic Planning Report, the IBC Youth Development Report, and USBC Business Report. There was a collection for BVL in which the delegates contributed \$5,427.62.*

*The afternoon began with the Executive Director's report followed by the Nominating Committee Report. The final count of attendees was 698 Association delegates, 4 athlete delegates, 29 Hall of Fame Members, and 18 Board of Directors, which was voting strength of 749. This was followed by*

*the election of three of the five board members running who will be starting their term on August 1, 2023. There was voting on 9 legislative proposals, 5 that were rejected and 4 that were approved. The approved proposals included:*

- Authorizing the board to utilize mail, email, or teleconference for voting for State and Local Bylaws.*
- Allowing the board to adopt a requirement for the submission of qualifications for Board of Directors and Officers up to 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting where officer elections will be held for the Local Bylaws.*

*The meeting adjourned after the Town Hall, where there was discussion about Bowlero as a business owner, convention locations, the changing in the lineup for the Women's Championship tournament from 5 to 4 as well as repeated visits to Reno and locations on the West Coast.*

*The convention provided me with a wealth of knowledge not only about the current state of USBC but information on how bowling continues to grow, how we have the most SMART dollars used in History, the implementation of online league registration coming soon, membership values, and how the focus of the future is invested in bowling. There was also a discussion about String pins. It was also good to know that Parabowling was invited to Team USA trials. There was discussion about the lineup of the Open Tournament to remain at 5-man teams instead of the 4-man teams that were changed with the Women's tournament as they lost 20% participation as a result. Also, the awards versus recognition are now in the hands of the local association. There will also be a proposal for a dues increase in 2025 and putting 319c rerates into a database. All in all, I am looking forward to next year's convention to see what progress and improvement will be made as well as any new changes implemented by USBC.*

# 2023 USBC Convention Report

By Diane Garrett, Delegate

The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Convention was held at South Point Hotel on April 24-27, 2023, in Las Vegas, Nevada. We registered, visited the Exhibit Hall on the first day, and attended the Delegates' Welcome Reception. This year's theme, "Community is Key," resonated throughout the event. The messages and sessions emphasized the importance of providing governance and support to members, working with our partners--bowling centers, bowling pro shop proprietors, and working together to serve the bowling community.

Inspirational speaker Vera Jones kicked off the convention with a lesson on avoiding peripheral distractions, focusing on your goals, asking for help, believing that I can/We can accomplish our goals, and exceeding the vision.

## The Credential Report

Association Delegates	690
Athlete Delegates	3
Hall of Fame Members	29
Board of Directors	18
Total Voting	740

Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL) presented awards during the Delegates' Lunch. Of the top five state associations awarded, Virginia State USBC received an award and plaque for 5<sup>th</sup> place by raising \$41,868.00.

USBC President Melissa McDaniel and Executive Director Chad Murphy opened the Annual Meeting. USBC National awards were presented to various individuals, including the two USBC Youth Ambassadors of the Year: Emily Merten of Omaha, Nebraska and Kyle Neeley of Granville, Ohio.

The candidates selected to fill the three open positions on the Board of Directors were Glenda Beckett of Palmetto Bay, Florida, Brandon Bowman of Mukilteo, Washington, and Mike Cannington of Fort Myers, Florida. They will begin their three-year terms on August 1, 2023.

During the legislative session, delegates voted electronically on the proposals (listed below).

Below is the rejected Bylaws Proposal:

Bylaws Proposal No. NB 1 – Rejected (283 approve, 402 reject) USBC National Bylaws Article VI, Meetings Section A. Annual Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Allows for offsite voting at the USBC Annual Meeting</li></ul>
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Below is a list of the four approved Bylaws Proposals:

Bylaws Proposal No. SB 1 – Approved (508 approve, 177 reject) USBC State Bylaws Article VII, Meetings Section B. Board Meeting  Authorizes the board to utilize mail, email, or teleconference for voting.
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<p>Bylaws Proposal No. LB 1 – Approved (604 approve, 61 reject)  USBC Local Bylaws  Article V, Board of Directors – Management Section C. Election of Directors</p> <p>Allows the board to adopt a requirement for the submission of qualifications of up to 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting where director elections will be held.</p> <p>Note: Proposal amended to be effective immediately (587 approve, 84 reject)</p>
<p>Bylaws Proposal No. LB 2 – Approved (619 approve, 42 reject)  USBC Local Bylaws  Article VI, Officers Section B. Election</p> <p>Allows the board to adopt a requirement for the submission of qualifications of up to 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting where officer elections will be held.</p> <p>Note: Proposal amended to be effective immediately (614 approve, 54 reject)</p>
<p>Bylaws Proposal No. LB 3 – Approved (563 approve, 115 reject)  USBC Local Bylaws  Article VII, Meetings Section B. Board Meetings</p> <p>Authorizes the board to utilize mail, email or teleconference for voting.</p>

Below is a list of the four rejected Rules Proposals:

<p>Rules Proposal No. LR 1 – Rejected (17 approve, 660 reject)  USBC Playing Rules  Chapter 4, League Rules  Rule 108b. Averages – How Established</p> <p>Allows the player to utilize deliveries executed with either hand during the same game to establish an average.</p>
<p>Rules Proposal No. LR 2 – Rejected (47 approve, 626 reject)  USBC Playing Rules  Chapter 4, League Rules  Rule 119c. Forfeits – Procedure for Bowling</p> <p>In all forfeiture situations, the non-forfeiting team will receive all contested points.</p>
<p>Rules Proposal No. TR 1 – Rejected (75 approve, 592 reject)  USBC Playing Rules  Chapter 6, Tournament Rules  Rule 319a. Averages – Conditions that Apply</p> <p>Requires the use of composite averages for tournament entry unless the tournament rules state otherwise.</p>
<p>Rules Proposal No. TR 2 – Rejected (via voice vote)  USBC Playing Rules  Chapter 6, Tournament Rules  Rule 328. Changing Delivery</p> <p>Allows the player to utilize deliveries executed with either hand during all tournament competition.</p>

During the Business session, it was reported that membership is up by 4.4% for the 2022-2023 season. Membership is on track to increase despite the number of bowling centers decreasing and membership dues increasing. Additionally, USBC reports the Open Championships and

Women's Championships participation increased from last season. These positive trends reflect a rebound since the 2020 canceled tournaments.

Youth bowlers redeemed \$8.3 million in SMART (Scholarship Management and Account Reporting for Tenpins) Scholarships, which set a new record. In addition, there were nearly \$2 million in Pell Grant matches.

I attended the Bowl for the Cure Survivor Lunch as a guest of delegate Phyllis Bourque (NCAUSBCA). Phyllis was honored on stage with other survivors during the Annual Meeting.

The Technology and Marketing reports reflect what's new for the season. Technology accomplishments will introduce a new user interface to purchase USBC Youth memberships online starting in August 2023. In addition, the National Bowling Association (TNBA) and USBC continue to grow their partnership. TNBA will use USBC's online registration system for the TNBA Annual Championship Tournament.

Effective August 1, 2023, USBC will certify string pinsetters and string pin bowling as an independent equipment category and competition separate from free-fall machines. USBC conducted a thorough two-year research study on string pinsetters. As a result, the USBC Equipment Specifications Committee approved the final specifications to reduce the string length to a minimum limit of 54 inches allowing for improved scoring and split conversion rates compared to free-fall. Additional testing will determine whether string averages can be used the same as free fall or if a conversion average can be created.

Marketing rolled out the "Why I Certify" campaign, which asks USBC members to explain the importance of USBC certification and what bowling certification means to them. Bowlers are encouraged to go to [WhyICertify.com](https://www.usbc.org/WhyICertify.com) to tell their story and say what "bowling certified" means to them.

Community was defined as "A feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitude, interests, and goals." USBC stated that it promises to celebrate the past, be mindful of the present, and ensure bowling's future through thoughtful research, planning, and delivery. With the theme *Community is Key* in mind, Chad Murphy expressed his appreciation for having strong volunteer leadership. He thanked the thousands of association volunteers who dedicated countless hours supporting bowling.

# 2023 USBC Convention Report

By Michael Whitted, Delegate

As a first-time delegate, I found it to be a wonderful experience to learn more about USBC. The 2023 USBC Convention was held in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 24-27. Some of the highlights included “A Day in the Life,” USBC Equipment and Specs, and “How to Avoid Meetings That Suck.”

USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy introduced a new multi-faceted brand awareness campaign featuring current USBC certified bowlers. The campaign, titled “Why I Certify,” features USBC members talking about the importance of USBC certification and what bowling certified means to them. The campaign features its own website at [WhyICertify.com](https://www.whyicertify.com). The first day was highlighted by motivational speaker Vera Jones a communication coach. There was a welcome reception for delegates at the Grand Ballroom B for all convention activities.

Murphy and USBC Senior Director of Equipment Specifications Tom Frenzel delivered a presentation detailing the USBC’s most recent research on string pinsetters and announced USBC will certify string pinsetters and string pin bowling as an independent category of equipment and competition effective August 1, 2023. More information can be found at [BOWL.com/equipment-specifications/string-pinsetter-research](https://www.bowl.com/equipment-specifications/string-pinsetter-research).

## RESULTS OF 2023 USBC ANNUAL MEETING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### 2023 LEGISLATION

#### **Bylaws (two-third votes needed)**

##### **Bylaws Proposal No. NB 1 – Rejected (283 approve, 402 reject)**

USBC National Bylaws

Article VI, Meetings Section A. Annual Meeting

Allows for offsite voting at the USBC Annual Meeting

#### **Bylaws (two-third votes needed)**

##### **Bylaws Proposal No. SB 1 – Approved (508 approve, 177 reject)**

USBC State Bylaws

Article VII, Meetings Section B. Board Meeting

Authorizes the board to utilize mail, email or teleconference for voting.

#### **Bylaws (two-third votes needed)**

##### **Bylaws Proposal No. LB 1 – Approved (604 approve, 61 reject)**

USBC Local Bylaws

Article V, Board of Directors – Management Section C. Election of Directors

Allows the board to adopt a requirement for the submission of qualifications of up to 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting where director elections will be held.

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### **Bylaws Proposal No. LB 3 – Approved (563 approve, 115 reject)**

USBC Local Bylaws

Article VII, Meetings Section B. Board Meetings

Authorizes the board to utilize mail, email or teleconference for voting.

## **League Rules (majority needed)**

### **Rules Proposal No. LR 1 – Rejected (17 approve, 660 reject)**

USBC Playing Rules

Chapter 4, League Rules

Rule 108b. Averages – How Established

Allows the player to utilize deliveries executed with either hand during the same game to establish an average.

## **League Rules (majority needed)**

### **Rules Proposal No. LR 2 – Rejected (47 approve, 626 reject)**

USBC Playing Rules

Chapter 4, League Rules

Rule 119c. Forfeits – Procedure for Bowling

In all forfeiture situations, the non-forfeiting team will receive all contested points.

## **Tournament Rules (majority needed)**

### **Rules Proposal No. TR 1 – Rejected (75 approve, 592 reject)**

USBC Playing Rules

Chapter 6, Tournament Rules

Rule 319a. Averages – Conditions that Apply

Requires the use of composite averages for tournament entry unless the tournament rules state otherwise.

## **Tournament Rules (majority needed)**

### **Rules Proposal No. TR 2 – Rejected (via voice vote)**

USBC Playing Rules

Chapter 6, Tournament Rules

Rule 328. Changing Delivery

Allows the player to utilize deliveries executed with either hand during all tournament competition.