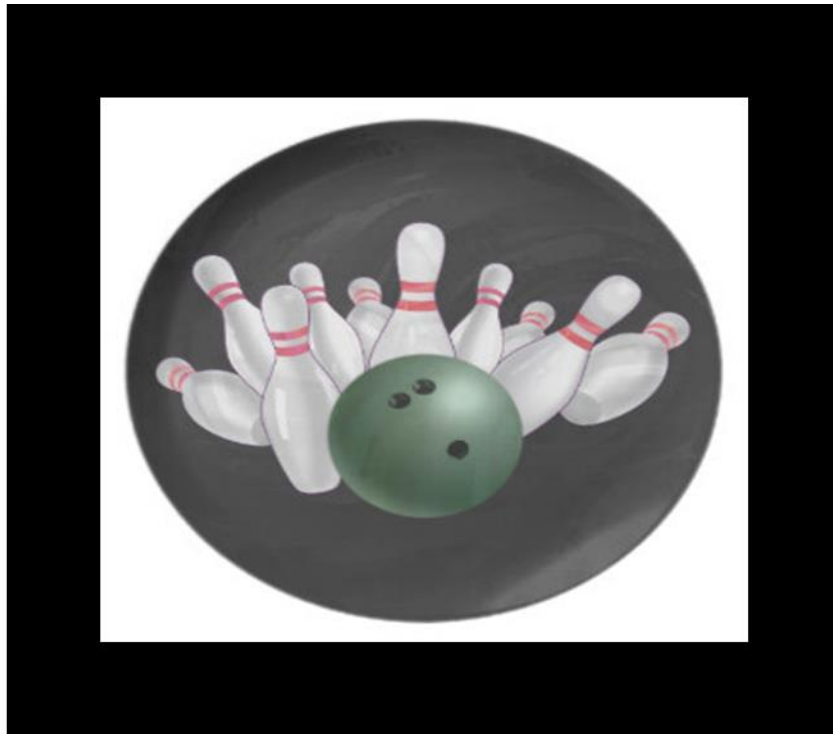


# The Blind Bowler

Official Publication of the  
American Blind Bowling Association

January, 2019



**Mario Diming, Editor**  
1333 W. 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60636  
773-474-8027



**72<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL ABBA TOURNAMENT  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
May 29- June 3, 2019**



**We are getting closer and closer to the  
72nd National Tournament that will be  
returning back to Pittsburgh. Hope  
everyone is getting excited.**

## **2018 – 2019 OFFICERS**

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## **Editor's Welcome**

First, I would like to start off wishing everyone a Happy New Year with beautiful moments, treasured memories and all the blessings a heart can desire.

To get everyone excited about the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual ABBA National Tournament I have arranged eleven fun facts about Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Hope you enjoy these and learn some interesting things about Pittsburgh.

## **11 FUN FACTS OF PITTSBURGH**

1. Pittsburgh is known as the “City of Bridges” because it has 446 bridges which is more than Venice, Italy or any other city in the world.
2. In 1905, Pittsburgh became home to the first Nickelodeon, or modern movie theater.
3. The stars in the Pittsburgh Steelers’ logo aren’t stars. They are hypocycloids. The logo was “borrowed” from U.S. Steel, which was based in the city.
4. Pittsburgh’s Beechview neighborhood is home to the steepest street in the United States (and possibly the world): Canton Avenue. It is as steep as 37 degrees.
5. While St. Louis is known as the starting point of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the explorers actually first met up in Pittsburgh before heading west on the Ohio River.
6. The Big Mac was invented in the Pittsburgh suburbs by Jim Delligatti, a local McDonald’s franchisee. It was first sold in 1967.
7. In 1903, the first World Series was held between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Boston Americans. Boston won the series five games to three.
8. Pittsburgh is home to the first commercial radio station in the world, KDKA. The station began by broadcasting presidential election results on November 2, 1920.

9. Another fact about Pittsburgh that few know is that from 1891 to 1911, Pittsburgh was officially spelled without its "h".
10. Forbes Field was the country's first concrete and steel baseball stadium when it opened on June 30, 1909.
11. The country's first gas station was opened in 1913 at Baum Boulevard and St. Clair Street in East Liberty.

**~Mario Diming, Editor~**

**From the Desk of the Secretary / Treasurer**

Leagues, MBBA & SBBA Secretaries, Active Life members, Officers, and Tournament Directors

We regret we have been unable to supply rails to some, yet we are still asking any league or members with used rails they are willing to donate or sell to please contact the Secretary as soon as possible.

A few reminders (especially for new secretaries)

- *Minutes should be maintained for all league meetings.*
- *A prize list should be approved by the league at least by the 5<sup>th</sup> week of the bowling season. It can be amended at a later date.*
- *The fiscal year for ABBA is August 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.*

*Leagues should review and update their by-laws or constitution on an annual basis per ABBA bylaws Article IV, Sec. 3.*

Policy Statement F-3, Financial Reports From Member Leagues, approved in November 2011: Leagues under ABBA's 501c3 status must submit a brief Fund Raising Guideline explaining how the proceeds will be used.

*This information should be recorded in the meeting minutes. The league's fund-raising guideline should be sent to the ABBA Secretary-Treasurer if the league plans to raise more than \$1,000 in a year. That amount does not include prize money.*

*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 501c3 status do not have to follow this procedure.*

Convention/Tournament, May 29 – June 3, 2019 – Hotel, Sheraton Pittsburgh, At Station Square. Reservations can be made now by calling :800-325-3535

Must identify yourself as a member of ABBA to receive Group rate – May \$105 subjected to a 14% tax, double/double or double king, rate will be honored (3) days before group arrival and (3) days after group departs.

Each guest should contact the hotel at least (30) days prior to your arrival and identify yourself as part of ABBA, provide your name, request type of room and request bed type, (king, double/double/queen, twin or suite).

Check in is at 3 pm and check out 12 noon. Anyone wishing special consideration for late checkout should inquire at the front desk on the day of departure. If a reservation must be cancelled, please notify the hotel by 3 pm the day prior to arrival in order to avoid being billed for the first night's stay.

When reservations are made, the hotel will require a deposit equal to the room rate and tax for the first night for each reservation. A deposit is refundable to you if the Hotel receives notice of your cancellation at least 48 hours prior to scheduled



arrival. Upon check-in each guest will be required to present a valid credit card upon check-in on which an amount of sufficient pre-authorization can be obtained to cover the room and tax charges for the length of the guest's stay, plus the anticipated use of the hotel's ancillary services.

Convention Schedule will be available in the next issue of the Blind Bowler.

Tournament Director, Sandy McDaniel, will list all information regarding bowling times and lanes.

### **Reminders**

Once again, hopefully, no one will contact the hotel regarding our schedule before notifying the Secretary or President and in some cases bringing it before the Board.

We have lost some leagues due to deaths or various things happening in the life of members, but on a more positive note, we have some new leagues forming. People across the country have/have asked to purchase rails, especially the VA facilities. Some wanted the procedure for ordering, we are going to try and make sure this is on our website.

1. State number of rails needed, include location, receiver – addresses & phone#
2. Will reply with total cost inclusive of shipping.
3. Send a check or money order made out to ABBA – 2829 Tall Oaks Ct. Apt.11, Auburn Hills, MI 48326 (we do not take credit cards)
4. Upon receipt of money, the rail manager will be contacted to ship rail/s, turnover time, approximately 7 days. Prices of rails are subject to change this season.

## **AWARDS EARNED THUS FAR THIS SEASON 2018/19**

### **PLUS 60/75 /100 over**

Shawn Bangsund – TM – average 73 – bowled – 134 – Plus 60 –  
Minneapolis Blind Bowlers

Gene Baroni – TM – average 71 – bowled 140 – Plus 60 –  
Delaware Valley Blind League

Joe Sjperling TM – average 84 – bowled 151 – Plus 60 –  
Baltimore Blind Bowlers

Jimmy Feldman SM – average 109 – bowled 201 – 75 over –  
Cincinnati Blind Bowling League

D. J. Hill SM – average 139 – bowled 224 – 75 over – Cincinnati  
Blind Bowling League

Annie Giddings SF – average 121 – bowled 199 – 75 over –  
Minneapolis Blind Bowlers

Steve Crawford TM – average 69 – bowled 151 – 75 over – Tulsa  
Strikers

Mike Osborne PM – average 114 – bowled 196 – 75 over –  
Cincinnati Blind Bowling League

Kenny Rich TM – average 88 – bowled 163 – 75 over – Baltimore  
Blind Bowlers

David Koo SM – average 146 – bowled 221 – 75 over – Cincinnati  
Blind Bowling League

David Bigelow PM – average 91 – bowled 188 – 75 over –  
Lansing 300

### **Bronze Medals**

Russ Webster SM – average 173 – bowled 254 – Bronze Medal –  
Tulsa Strikers

Bill Waverly SM – average 206 – bowled 255 – Bronze Medal –  
Philadelphia Area Blind Bowlers

### **Split Conversion Chevron**

Barb Marko PF – average 69 – picked up 8/10 – Lansing 300

Brian Martin TM – average 115 – picked up 4/6/10 – St. Louis Rail  
Rollers

**If you were still missed I will list you in the next issue. Please note: Regardless of the award being submitted, all information needs to be supplied, and although the award is for a Triplicate, I still need the average . Please supply all information on all forms, thank you.**

**FYI**

THE RECIPIENT OF THE WAYNE KEENEY AWARD LAST YEAR, DEVELLE BALDWIN, RECENTLY HAD ANOTHER GREAT EXPERIENCE I FELT WOULD INTEREST SOME. I ASKED HIM TO WRITE A SUMMARY OF WHAT TOOK PLACE.

DeVelle Baldwin attended The Statler Center for Hospitality from September 5, 2018 to November 7, 2018 for the Business Fundamentals and Telecommunications courses. This is a 9-week course with the end goal of gaining employment. The related classes include: Grammar and Writing, Oral Communications, Conflict Management, Business Mathematics, and Microsoft Office; which includes, Word, Outlook, and Excel. I was able to engage in a job fair with Ingram Micro; where I received a call-back for an interview. I was also fortunate enough to engage in externships; where I shadowed instructors and Statler graduates in a 211 call center located in the same building as the school. I also worked in class on the University of Buffalo contract; where I transferred real calls to various departments throughout the university.

A very well-kept secret was the award I was set to receive during graduation day. I received the prestigious Scibetta Award, which is given to the top student in each graduating class. The presenter of the award listed the qualifications for this award: near-perfect attendance, attending job fairs voluntarily, pleasant attitude, willingness to help others, and continuous improvement. Needless to say, I was totally surprised when my name was called and I was presented with a beautiful plaque and a \$500 check.

I totally enjoyed my experience at The Statler Center; The classes, fellow students, and the instructors. An added bonus was that I was able to avoid the huge snowstorms that Buffalo is notorious for. Now, let's see how long it takes for me to gain employment in this field. I am constantly practicing my computer navigation skills, my typing speed, which is at 42 words per minute, and also working on improving my interviewing skills. Keep me in your prayers for speedy employment and I'll keep you posted.

IF THIS IS SOMETHING YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED, EMAIL ME AND I WILL PUT YOU IN CONTACT WITH MR. BALDWIN.

I am available by phone, email or text (except Sundays/Holidays) (248) 410-2411, E-mail [rozellacampbell2826@gmail.com](mailto:rozellacampbell2826@gmail.com) (I check mail daily, except Sunday/Holidays).

**~Rozella Amerson Campbell, Secretary Treasurer  
December 2018~**

### **2019/2020 Proposed By-Law Change**

#### **Currently Reads- Q1**

##### **SECTION 2: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

At least one Board of Directors meeting shall be held in the city in which the next annual tournament is to take place. Additional meetings may be called by the President.

Proposed Change- Delete Article 9

##### **SECTION 2: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

At least one Board of Directors meeting shall be held in the city in which the next annual tournament is to take place. Additional meetings may be called by the President.

**~ Submitted By Fred Nickl, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President~**

## Midwest Blind Bowling Association

Hello to all members,

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New year. I hope everyone is bowling well and things are going good in your leagues.

Congratulations to all the winners in this year's 2018 Prize Week. If your name is not listed, it's because you were not listed in last year's ABBA average book or your games were not over for the category you were listed in.

Just a reminder, don't forget the tournament for 2019. The tournament will be held in Chicago IL. Sharon Williams who is heading up the Windy City group will be writing an article about the tournament. Entry forms have already been mailed out by the Tournament Director Jayne Leute.

| <b>Vis</b> | <b>Bowler</b>     | <b>Total</b> | <b>Pins<br/>over</b> | <b>Prize</b> | <b>PI</b> | <b>League</b>          |
|------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------|
| PF         | Patricia White    | 389          | 71                   | \$50.00      | 1st       | Greater<br>Cleveland   |
| PM         | Greg Scott        | 474          | 96                   | \$50.00      | 1st       | TopCat                 |
| SF         | D'Peaches Dinkins | 492          | 111                  | \$50.00      | 1st       | Greater<br>Cleveland   |
| SF         | Tara Burris       | 409          | 88                   | \$30.00      | 2nd       | Rock County<br>Railers |
| SF         | Kesha Lee         | 376          | 73                   | \$20.00      | 3rd       | Chicago<br>Tappers     |
| SF         | Sandra Anderson   | 455          | 71                   | \$15.00      | 4th       | Greater<br>Cleveland   |
| SF         | Sharon Williams   | 402          | 60                   | \$10.00      | 5th       | Chicago<br>Tappers     |
| SM         | Mario Diming      | 583          | 82                   | \$50.00      | 1st       | Chicago<br>Tappers     |

|    |                |     |    |         |     |                              |
|----|----------------|-----|----|---------|-----|------------------------------|
| SM | Brandon Morgan | 476 | 71 | \$30.00 | 2nd | Chicago<br>Tappers           |
| TM | Shawn Bangsund | 316 | 70 | \$50.00 | 1st | Minneapolis<br>Blind Bowlers |

**~Submitted by Thomas Lester, MBBA Secy/Treas.~**

## **62<sup>nd</sup> MIDWEST BLIND BOWLING ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT REPORT**

Hope everyone is excited about the Midwest Tournament in March. Don't forget the deadline date for booking your hotel rooms at Wyndham Gardens is February 12, 2019. The phone number is (847)-397-1500. The room rates are \$87.00 for a King Rooms plus 15% tax and \$95.00 for Double Rooms. When making reservations please specify how many people will be in your room so everyone will receive an complimentary breakfast buffet for each day. If you will be flying there are a few options that you can take. If your planning on taking a taxi from the airport please take the North Suburban's taxis company American, their phone number is (847)-673-1000 or you can take the 303 taxi company and their phone number is (847)-303-0303. You can also take Uber or Lyft from the airport to the hotel. The hotel doesn't have a shuttle bus that picks up at the airport. There will be a hospitality on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> after the meeting as well as a dance on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. We are working hard to make your tournament experience exciting.

**~Submitted by Sharon Williams, Secretary of Windy City  
Blind Bowlers~**

### **Public Relations Committee**

The Public Relations committee is developing some press releases that will be used in several cities to promote the sport of

blind bowling. We will also be working on promoting the National Tournament in Pittsburgh May 30-June 2, 2019.

If your league has a Facebook page with pictures or videos of your members bowling, please forward the link to myself or Robert Wright so we can be sure to link that site to the ABBA leagues listing. As they say a picture is worth 1000 words.

Last of all, Public Relations and the Fundraising Committee is hosting an Expo on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Sheraton at Station Square in Pittsburgh. We expect to have around 30 vendors that sell products, services and job opportunities for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. More details will be giving in the next blind bowler issue. We encourage you to make plans to participate in the Expo!

Thank you to all committee members for your hard work!!

**~Submitted by Tanya Wilson, Public Relations Chair~**

### **National Tournament Committee**

At the Mid-Year meeting in Pittsburgh this past November. A representative from the hotel drew the winning raffle ticket for the Pittsburgh Experience raffle. Congratulations to **Annie Giddings from Minneapolis** whose ticket was drawn.

All the proceeds of the raffle went to the National Tournament Fund to help support the Pittsburgh National Tournament. The total amount raised was \$2835.

Thank you all who purchased tickets.

### **Look out Pittsburgh "Here We Come !!!"**

You can now start making your room reservations for the 72nd ABBA National Tournament and Convention in Pittsburgh.

The Hotel is the Sheraton in Station Square. The address is 300 West Station Square Drive. Pittsburgh, PA. 15219. Phone number is (412) 261- 2000.

Room rate is \$105 per night plus 13% tax. This room rate is good for 3 days before and 3 days after the tournament. Tournament dates again are Wednesday May 29th through Monday June 3rd. Cut-off date for all reservations is April 29th 2019. Please remember to let the hotel know that you are with the blind bowlers when you make your reservation to get the \$105 room rate. Bowling squad times are Thursday night May 30th through Sunday June 2nd. The Convention will be held Sunday, night June 2nd at 8 pm. The Tournament is the weekend after Memorial Day. Pittsburgh is a big city. There is lots to see and lots to do. So you may want to come in a couple days earlier to have enough time to **enjoy** the whole Pittsburgh Experience. Why not just make it a **vacation** and take advantage of the extra room rate days. There will be a **10% discount** each way from Super Shuttle for those of you who plan on flying. You can call Super Shuttle @ 412-322-8507 to reserve your shuttle by using the code number which is X8RCT. After you make you plane reservation and pay in advance. If you plan to travel by Greyhound or Amtrak the hotel courtesy van will pick you up by calling 412-292-1829.

**Station Square** is a 52 acre riverfront complex with over 1.2 miles of Pittsburgh's most unique dining and entertainment just steps outside of the Sheraton Hotel. Which has plenty of restaurants and entertainment for you to choose from. Enjoy Sight-Seeing tours such as **Gateway Clipper Fleet** - viewing Pittsburgh by water up and down the Three rivers. **Just Ducky tours** is Pittsburgh's only adventure through the city by land and water in a vintage World War 11 amphibious vehicle. Which guarantees you a "**Quack in**" good time. **Pittsburgh inclines** - the cable powered inclines designed for transportation between Station Square to overlooking bluffs and view our city from above. And cannot forget to visit



the **Fountain at Bessemer Court**- A state of the art Water Liquid Firework Show features hundreds of multi colored water jets soaring 40 feet in the air choreographed to music which is located in the heart of Station Square.

**The City of Pittsburgh** is just across the river where you can enjoy a walk through the 36 acre Point State Park - At the tip of Pittsburgh's "Golden Triangle" which commemorates and preserves the historic heritage area during the French and Indian War. Where you can also see the 150 foot fountain at the tip of the point. Take a ride to the **Strip District** and eat at one of our famous restaurants.

"**Permanti Brothers**" and try our world famous sandwich. There are also vendors up and down the strip selling souvenirs for you to buy. You can also try your luck gambling at the **Rivers Casino** on the **North Shore** or take in a **Pittsburgh Pirate baseball game** at baseball's famous PNC Park. I think you are getting the idea. Visit the following websites to view more restaurants and sight-seeing at [stationsquare.com](http://stationsquare.com) and also [visitpittsburgh.com](http://visitpittsburgh.com).

Here is some additional Information for those of you wish to contact about tours and make group reservations in advance for your stay.

Gateway Clipper Fleet - phone 412-355-7980

website [gatewayclipperfleet@aol.com](mailto:gatewayclipperfleet@aol.com)

Just Ducky Tours - phone 412-402-3825

website [justduckytours@aol.com](mailto:justduckytours@aol.com).

I am still working with multiple venues to make your stay in Pittsburgh as enjoyable and memorable as possible. Looking forward to see you all there.

**~Mike Staab, ABBA Tournament Committee~**

## **CHINESE AUCTION – CALL JANICE AT 612-722-3041**

Please start thinking about what you will donate to the Chinese Auction in Pittsburgh! Janice Erkilla is anxious to hear from you so she can plan our next auction. Call her at 612-722-3041 or email at [ggeezlouis@yahoo.com](mailto:ggeezlouis@yahoo.com) – the sooner the better!

Your donations will help to once again make the auction a huge success. We hope to have approximately 25-30 items on display for you to try and win. Thank you in advance for your support!

## **TOURNAMENT SHIRTS IN PITTSBURGH**

Tournament shirts by Northwest Designs will again be available in Pittsburgh. You will have your choice of several colors and styles of shirts, and you will be able to personalize each one to your liking.

**~Linda Hoepner, ABBA Tournament Committee~**

## **Nominating Committee**

### **A letter from the Nominating Committee,**

Now is a time for change. Now is a time for difference. The only way we can make changes is to elect people who can make a difference. The best way for this to happen is to show up in Pittsburgh for the national convention in May of 2019.

This year we have many positions opening in the ABBA. Like I've always said, we never know who can do what until we ask. The positions that are opening are President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Secretary / Treasurer. If you feel you have the qualifications for any of these positions, please contact me and I will notify you of the details for each position.

Let's show up and make some changes to ABBA. We need your help to make a difference in the blind bowling community.

**~Robert McDonald, Chairperson Nominating Committee~**

## **Fundraising Committee**

The Fundraising Committee will be opening a candy store. The goal is to raise \$20,000 this bowling season. All league secretaries will be sent the link to place an order for Nuts, Dried Fruit and other candies. We ask all members to share this information on your social media outlets like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, so your friends and family may also use this site to order these great items. This is a great opportunity for us to raise some funds for our organization, especially as Christmas, Hanukkah, Valentine's Day, special events and birthdays, always make items like these great gifts.

Please go to the following website and check it out!

<https://americanblindbowling.terrilynncares.com/>

**~ Wilbert Turner, Chairperson Fundraiser Committee~**

## **CLOSING WORDS FROM EDITOR**

I really hope that everyone found the information shared in this issue very informative. If you have any questions or concerns about the information shared or the layout of the Blind Bowler please contact me so we can have discussions about this. The deadline for articles for the April edition will be March 15<sup>th</sup>. You can email your articles to me at Mario\_902010@sbcglobal.net or mail them to me at 1333 W. 59<sup>th</sup> Street Chicago, IL 60636. I can also be reached at 773-474-8027.



