

# NEW LA COUNTY ORGANIZATION MEETING JULY 18

In a historic vote, two long-standing associations recently voted unanimously “YES” to merge. North LA County USBC members voted on May 15, 2021, and Southern LA County USBC members voted on June 19, 2021, to both move forward as one organization starting with the 2021-22 season on August 1, 2021. North LA County USBC (NLAC USBC) initially merged in 2006 with the following associations: Los Angeles Bowling Association (LABA)

established 1935, San Fernando Women's Bowling Association (SFVWBA) established 1955, Santa Monica Women's Bowling Association (SMWBA) established 1947, Los Angeles Women's Bowling Association (LAWBA; one center) established 1925, and San Fernando Valley Youth Association (SFVYBA). Ventura County Youth Bowling Association (VCYBA) joined them in 2014, followed by Antelope Valley USBC (AVUSBC; 2 centers) in 2016.

Southern LA County USBC (SLAC USBC) also initially merged in 2006 with the following associations: Southeast District Bowling Association (SEDBA) established 1935, Los Angeles Women's Bowling Association (LAWBA) established 1925, Long Beach Bowling Association (LBBA) established 1945, Long Beach Women's Bowling Association (LBWBA) established 1946, and Southeast District Youth Bowling Association (SEDYBA) established

This is a momentous occasion and another huge shift to help keep bowling alive and productive in SoCal. Both associations have lost centers during the past few years, which automatically created losses in membership. Those losses are what sparked the many discussions between the two organizations to consider merging. The pandemic shutdown was the ultimate deciding factor that caused both associations to recognize this change was

imperative to hopefully improve the sport of bowling and its membership in the Los Angeles area.

The first meeting of the new organization is set for **Sunday, July 18 at 4pm**. It will be held at the new SLAC USBC office at 3673 Industry Ave., #102 in Lakewood, CA. The meeting will be held virtually – although we'll have food in Lakewood if you wish to attend in person! Anyone interested in becoming a director on

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*PBA Tour Finals Champion Anthony Simonsen*

start the roll-off. Troup struck. Simonsen spared and then filled the 10th with three strikes, forcing Troup to get two strikes and

a single pin to win. Troup struck on his first shot but left a 10 pin on the second shot, giving Simonsen his  
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# NEW LA COUNTY ORGANIZATION MEETING JULY 18

by Lynn Matsubara

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[illegible]





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# 2021 PWBA Tour Leaders After The Louisville Open

by Frank Weiler

The 2021 **PWBA** Tour season continues. After the LOUISVILLE OPEN eleven champions have been crowned. There have been many exciting highlights including **Liz Johnson** rolling a perfect 300 game during the BOWL-TV step ladder finals at the Lincoln Open. That perfecto earned Liz a \$10,000 bonus and helped place her second on this season's Earnings List.

**Julia Bond** and **Shannon O'Keefe** have been the most consistent players on Tour for the first eleven tournaments this season. Bond ranks first in Earnings, Points, Wins and Cashes. She ranks third in Average. That's in the Top Three on five of the seven PWBA Tour Leader Lists, excluding the Rookie of The Year Points List. O'Keefe ranks first in Average, Championship Round Appearances and Match Play Appearances. Bond and O'Keefe together rank first in all seven of the Tour Lists available to veteran players.

Our **CALIFORNIA** Tour players are doing very well. **Missy Parkin** and **Stephanie Zavala** both rank high on most PWBA Tour Leader Lists. Zavala is tied for first on the Wins List with two championships won this season. Parkin ranks third on the Points List. Parkin ranks fifth and Zavala sixth on the Earnings List.

The **TOP THREE** bowlers on each PWBA Tour Leader List follows:

EARNINGS		MATCH PLAY APPEARANCES	
Julia Bond	\$44,450	Shannon O'Keefe	10
Liz Johnson	35,725	Dasha Kovalova	7
Dasha Kovalova	34,525	Liz Johnson	
POINTS		CASHES	
Julia Bond.	84,075	Julia Bond	11
Shannon O'Keefe	80,850	Maria Jose Rodriguez	
Missy Parkin	75,625	Six Tied	10
AVERAGE		WINS	
Shannon O'Keefe	218.24	Julia Bond	2
Kelly Kulick	217.35	Dasha Kovalova	
Julia Bond	217.21	Stephanie Zavala	
CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND APPEARANCES		ROOKIE OF THE YEAR POINTS	
Shannon O'Keefe	4	Breanna Clemmer	48,825
Missy Parkin		Stephanie Zavala	45,900
Dasha Kovalova		Caitlyn Johnson	36,210

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by Carol Mancini  
E-mail: CarolMancini83@icloud.com

In case you forgot how to score a agme... lets give it a try. No prize. Maybe you might need help. Got paper and pencil? (print out score sheet)

Frame One - STRIKE  
Frame Two - 5 and 3  
Frame Three - 9 and Spare  
Frame Four - 2 and Spare  
Frame Five - 7 and Spare  
Frame Six - 4 and Spare  
Frame Seven - 5 and Spare  
Frame Eight - 8 and 1  
Frame Nine - STRIKE  
Frame Ten - 3 Strikes in tenth!  
A Turkey in the Tenth!

My total score was a \_\_\_\_!

Did you bowl your average?  
Then make your own \_\_\_\_ game!  
Thanks for playing.

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**Meeting** continued from page 1  
the new board or who would like to serve as a volunteer to help with the new organization should attend virtually or in-person. Only current 2020-21 SLAC or NLAC USBC members aged 14+ are eligible. This meeting is extremely important as we will be voting on the new name of the organization, new Officers & Directors, the structure of the Board, and many other items. Your voice is very important, and your input will help greatly to shape the new association.  
If you are interested in attending the meeting, please register your attendance online at [slacusbc.com](http://slacusbc.com). The deadline to register is July 11th. Please email us at [info@slacusbc.com](mailto:info@slacusbc.com) if you have any questions. Thank you to everyone who attended our annual meetings and voted. Your support is greatly appreciated, and it has made a difference!

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# IBMA ANNOUNCES 2020 MAJOR AWARD WINNERS

ARLINGTON, Texas — The International Bowling Media Association (IBMA) has elected winners in seven categories for its 2019 major awards. The winners will receive their awards during the BPAA Industry Awards Luncheon at The Galt House scheduled for July 22nd during International Bowl Expo.

## LUBY HALL OF FAME - LEN NICHOLSON

Len Nicholson's first area of expertise is the field of lane maintenance, including developing a thorough grasp of all the physical intricacies of the sport. He has parlayed that — with the help of the power of his personality — into a later-life career in the bowling media. The man behind the “Phantom Radio” show, Nicholson began producing the internet-based program on a weekly basis in 2002 at the urging of the late John Davis, founder of Kegel. Davis told him, “Len, people need to know what you know.” Nicholson's interview subjects include experts from all areas of the bowling business, along with many of the biggest names in PBA history.

## ALBERTA E. CROWE MERITORIOUS SERVICE - JOHN LaSPINA

An unrelenting force for charitable initiatives, longtime Maple Family Centers proprietor John LaSpina's work as Chairman of the Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL) has helped raise millions of dollars on behalf of military veterans in need. Those efforts culminated in November 2018 with the presentation of a \$1.1 million check to the Department of Veterans Affairs. LaSpina, whose mother lost vision in one eye after being struck by a baseball, also continues to be a tireless advocate for the Fight for Sight organization, for which he serves as a board member. His “Strike for Sight” bowling fundraiser each November raises thousands of dollars for vision research. LaSpina embodies what bowling has been about for a long time: using the sport's unique power as a charitable tool to help those who need it.

## HENNESSY AWARD OF MERIT - KEITH HAMILTON

The IBMA was being deemed as irrelevant by some industry partners before Keith Hamilton took the helm. His professionalism and industry contacts brought back new respect for the organization. Hamilton served as vice president and president of the IBMA for a total of six years. During his tenure as president, he created a sponsorship from the BBIA of \$20,000 to fund the Chuck Pezzano Scholarship to the tune of \$5,000 per year for a term of four years. He also created the Corporate Membership category and the Proprietor Support program, both of which helped fund the Pezzano Scholarship. Membership in IBMA grew approximately 8 percent during Hamilton's presidency through corporate memberships, while revenue increased more than 42 percent during that same time frame. Scholarship applications went from six in 2016 to more than 60 in 2019. IBMA Writing competition entries increased from 39 to more than 100 in that same time frame.

## MALE BOWLER OF THE YEAR & MALE BOWLER OF THE DECADE JASON BELMONTE

Jason Belmonte was the runaway winner for IBMA Male Bowler of the Year and Bowler of the Decade, known for being one of the first bowlers to gain media attention for using the two handed approach style to deliver his shot. He has won 25 PBA titles, making him one of only 11 players in history with at least 25 PBA Tour wins.[2] His PBA Tour victories include a record 13 major championships, four of these in the USBC Masters, which is also a record. He is one of two bowlers in PBA history to have won the Super Slam, winning all five PBA major titles (the other being Mike Aulby). He has been named PBA Player of the Year six times. Belmonte accumulated \$1 million (USD) in career PBA earnings faster than any player in history (131 tournaments), and surpassed the \$1.5 million mark PBA earnings during the 2019 season. Belmonte has 25 career 300 games in PBA Tour events through 2020, including the PBA's 21st nationally televised 300 in 2012.

## FEMALE BOWLER OF THE DECADE - LIZ JOHNSON

Since the rebirth of the PWBA in 2015, Johnson has won eleven more PWBA Tour titles, including five more majors, for a total of 25 PWBA titles. This includes 22 titles on the PWBA Tour and three more major titles she won during the Tour's hiatus, which have retroactively been counted as PWBA titles. She won four additional professional titles during the PWBA Tour's hiatus, becoming a member of the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) and the PBA Women's Series. Johnson was elected to the United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame in December 2014, and was officially inducted on April 29, 2015.[2] At the 2005 PBA Banquet Open, Johnson became the first woman to defeat a man in a televised PBA Tour event, winning the semifinal match over Wes Malott. On November 18, 2017, Johnson became the second female bowler (after Kelly Kulick who won the 2010 PBA Tournament of Champions) to win a national PBA Tour title, the third woman to defeat a man in a televised championship bowling match (the first was Lynda Barnes at the 2008 Clash of Champions, an event not hosted by the PBA Tour) and the first to win a non-major (standard) PBA Tour title.

## IBMA Mission Statement

To be bowling's source of excellence in the gathering and distribution of news and information through multiple media platforms and to encourage the pursuit of bowling media as a full or part-time profession.

## IBMA Vision Statement

IBMA is an organization that is beneficial to the industry as it disseminates information to a world-wide bowling media, encourages bowling media as a career choice for younger bowlers, and provides technology updates to membership in covering the sport. **The IBMA honors the past by embracing the future.**



2021 PBA50 CUP, PRESENTED BY SOUTH PLAINS LANES & LUBBOCK SPORTS AUTHORITY

# Chris Barnes Faces New Challenges As PBA50 Rookie

Chris Barnes is chasing a talented field of PBA50 rookies this season while also trying to sort out the different challenges the PBA50 Tour presents

by Jill Winters - FloBowling

Chris Barnes has been named Collegiate Bowler of the Year, PBA Rookie of the Year and PBA Player of Year. This year, he is trying to add another prestigious title to his decorated bowling career, PBA50 Rookie of the Year.

Through the first five tournaments on the schedule, he has competed in three, finishing in third, sixth and seventh. That's a solid start, but this year's rookie class also includes a few other players who have come out of the gate strong.

Tom Hess has bowled in all five tournaments and earned top-32 finishes all but once. Brad Angelo has had back-to-back second place finishes along with finishes of sixth, seventh and 76th. And southpaw Jason Couch is also still in the discussion being the only rookie with a win on the young season, but in his other two tournaments he finished 109th and 28th.

The PBA50 Rookie of the Year race will continue to play out when the PBA50 Tour resumes Monday with the PBA50 Cup in Lubbock, Texas, and from July 3-5 in Odessa, Texas. Every PBA50 Tour event is broadcast live from start to finish exclusively on FloBowling.

Being one of the highest rev rate players on the PBA50 Tour, Barnes feels like everything is a bit backwards compared to competing on the regular tour, where he is one of the middle-to-low rev rates players. He is trying to use that to his advantage where he can while also adapting to different patterns. It's a new playing field for him and he quickly noticed the learning curve. *"I am a rookie now, so it is my inexperience I have to overcome,"* the 51-year-old said. *"It is taking me a little longer to figure it out than I would like it to, but we will try to move that forward."*

In his first tournament of the season at the PBA50 Johnny Petraglia BVL Open in Clearwater, Florida, he earned the No. 3 seed in the stepladder finals. He easily defeated Dennis Rakauskas, 252-203, to face Michael Haugen Jr. Barnes was nearly perfect and Haugen was perfect as he beat Barnes, 300-289. Haugen then went on to lose to Couch, 278-260.



Barnes carried his positive momentum forward the following week to the 2021 Florida Blue Medicare PBA50 National Championship in The Villages, Florida. After three rounds of qualifying, he made his second cut, coming in 12th place. He averaged almost 230 while going 10-5 in match play. He had an outside shot of making it into the top five but finished 38 pins behind Walter Ray Williams Jr. for the final stepladder spot.

A trend he noticed during the first two tournaments was a lot of oil in the middle of the lane which forced players to stay close to the dry part of the lane. With his rev rate that made things a little tricky for him. Once he was able to get some speed with his 900 Global Zen bowling ball, he felt he matched up well with the conditions but by that point he was behind the eight ball and chasing the rest of the field.



*"Had I done that a couple of games earlier, I probably could've caught Walter,"* he said after match play. *"I was a little late to the party and that has been a common theme the first few weeks. I have got to be faster with moves."*

He does see a difference in the moves he would make on the regular tour versus the PBA50 and needs to change his mind set a little bit to match those up in a different way. There have been moves that haven't worked out consistently and those that have, so he is confident that he is close to putting the right combination together as he prepares for the rest of the season.

*"Pete, Norm, Walter and Haugen are seeing things they have seen before and they are making all of the right moves and shooting monster scores,"* he said. *"As the tournament goes on, they keep getting better. I am getting better, but I am just starting too far behind."* This is just a new challenge for Barnes, who has won 19 PBA Titles. It's also a chance for him to do things different from how he did when he first came out on tour in 1998. *"I am going after this tour in a much different way,"* he admits. *"I didn't enjoy the ride a lot the first time around. It's fun to win and it's fun to be in the hunt, but I went at it in a very workman like mode and was pretty tough on myself."*

Despite the success, as he looks back on his career now, there were times he wasn't having much fun, when he thinks he should have been having a great time. Clearly there is a significant difference between the two tours as the regular tour is filled with those who are trying to make a living while the PBA50 is mainly for those who have already made a living bowling or doing something else, and they just want to do what they love. Now it's about having more fun, enjoying the experience and getting to be competitive with some of the best bowlers in the world that are closer to his age.

*"The scoring conditions are a little softer, so the scores are higher,"* he said. *"I have to adjust my mentality that way a little quicker as well, but for the most part, it has been a lot of fun."*

Fans have been present at every PBA50 tournament so far, which was a welcoming site to Barnes and all bowlers on tour. For Barnes, the energy the fans bring into a bowling center matters to him. That feeling has been missed and he is excited that fans are now also coming back to the regular tour. *"Having them is 100 times more fun than what we have been doing, and I love it,"* he said. There will be a bit of an overlap in schedules between the two tours the rest of the year which will make it even more challenging for Barnes to be in the PBA50 Rookie of the Year conversation since "the regular tour is still going to take priority."

"To be honest, it is a bucket list thing at this point," he said about being named PBA50 Rookie of the Year. "There is a lot of talent, and I am going to have to win two or three times somewhere. So, I have a little work to do."



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# My Mom, My Mentor, My Friend

by Dave Williams

It has been difficult coming up with a subject to write about these past two weeks, as my Mom suffered a massive stroke last week. At the age of 96, she is still hanging on as I write these words, although the doctor has said that it's only a matter of days until she will pass along to be with the Lord.

I'm sure that my experiences with my Mom are not so different than all of you that read this bowling journal. From my earliest recollection, my Mom has always been there for me as a teacher, a confidant and a sounding board. No matter how many times I asked... "Why?" - she would stop what she was doing and take the time to answer my rhetorical questions until I was satisfied.

She was most likely a tomboy in school, participating on the high school field hockey team, but she never really talked about that part of her life. The first time that I witnessed her athletic prowess was at an early age while playing baseball with the neighborhood children. Some of the parents got involved and they asked my Mom to step up and swing the bat. On the first swing she hit it out of the park! I fell to the ground on my back as I watched the ball leave the yard - I had never seen a ball hit so far.

Another time I remember that for our summer vacation we went to see my sister and her husband John, who was stationed at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. I brought along my bowling ball all the way from California, since the thought of going without bowling for two weeks was completely for-



Maybelle (age 62) with Pierre, one of her three Standard Poodles (Pierre, Marcel and Maurice)



Maybelle Williams enjoying a cup of ice cream at McDonald's, at age 92

eign to me. When the opportunity arose, my Mom accompanied me to the local bowling establishment. After a lot of coaxing, I convinced her to join me in a game, where I thought that I would be showing off my talent. Once again, my Mom stepped to the approach and proceeded to roll a 144 game (my score was a good deal less!).

One trait of my Mom's that I have always tried to emulate is her ability to "turn the other cheek" when an evil or argumentative subject would come up. Often while chatting long distance over the phone, or when we were enjoying a brief get together on one of my vacations, I would simply say, "Let's talk about something else," and she would immediately drop whatever we were discussing and move on. What a remarkable characteristic!

Perhaps the most humorous moment that I can recall is the story of our eighteen cats. We lived on a farm of sorts, with more than an acre of land, where my parents grew their own vegetables and fruits

every year. My Dad used to say that my Mom was happiest whenever she was around small children and animals; so we had our share of animals on that small farm, including eighteen cats, before neutering became a household word.

One year I had a science project where I raised "Jerry" and "Lewis," two white rats, by feeding them different diets, and then comparing their performance in a Rat Maze that we constructed. At the completion of the science project, we added the rats to our collection of animals. Jerry, the wiser of the rats, escaped one day and we could not find him anywhere. We just assumed that he had gotten away and discontinued our search. Not long after that, my Mom was feeding our 18 cats on a pizza tray full of cat food and scraps. She looked outside and wondered why the cats were not eating, but just sitting contentedly around the tray. When she went out to investigate, she found the missing rat eating the cat food, while all the cats just sat and watched!

Something that I recollect to this day are two books that I received on my thirteenth birthday. My Dad (1923-2010) presented me with Webster's New World Dictionary. Inside the cover he wrote: "Hope you never run out of words!" My Mom gave me a King James Version of the Holy Bible - Giant Print Reference Edition. As my eyes have grown progressively worse with age, I understand now the wisdom that my Mom had in providing the giant print edition!

It's interesting how my Dad provided me with the "things of this earth," like the dictionary and a roof over my head when growing up; while my Mom gave me "spiritual support," in the form of the Bible and just being there when I needed someone. I'm at peace in my own skin, as the saying goes, because my parents were both great teachers, for which I feel very blessed.

Finally, I give you my Mom's favorite verse in the Bible that just about says it all:

For by grace are you saved through faith.  
And that not of yourselves:  
It is the gift of God:  
Not of works, lest any man should boast.

-Ephesians 2:8-9

**Condolences Dave, Our Hearts are heavy for you. Losing A Mother is One of Life's Most Difficult Tasks...**

## PBA continued from page 1

eighth career title.

"My double in the 10th was huge," said Simonsen. "Making him have to get up and double on a lane that didn't seem like any of us were super comfortable on. He made two really good shots, but the 10 pin is hard to knock over."

Simonsen and Troup made it to the championship match by winning their respective groups during yesterday's four-game qualifying block, then surviving the group stepladder finals earlier today.

Simonsen led Group 2 into the stepladder, then defeated Kris Prather in a roll-off in the Group 2 final match to advance to the championship against Troup.

Troup qualified as the second seed after four games of qualifying, then defeated Chris Via in a single game and Bill O'Neill in a roll-off to win the Group 1 stepladder and get to the championship match.

In the opening match of the Group 1 stepladder, Chris Via rolled the 32nd televised 300 game in a PBA Tour title event, knocking out two-time PBA Tour Finals champion EJ Tackett. Via, who joined Sean Rash and François Lavoie as the only players in PBA history to roll two televised perfect games in title events, also became the first player ever to bowl two televised perfect games in the same season, having rolled his first during the PBA Players Championship East Region Finals earlier this year. Via received a \$10,000 bonus for the feat.

### PBA TOUR FINALS RESULTS

Thunderbowl Lanes – Allen Park, Mich.

#### Saturday, June 26 – Group 1 Qualifying

1. Bill O'Neill, 1,062 (201, 235, 237, 239 plus 150 bonus pins)
2. Kyle Troup, 997 (258, 212, 214, 213 plus 100 bonus pins)
3. Chris Via, 869 (182, 183, 238, 206 plus 60 bonus pins)
4. EJ Tackett, 804 (151, 192, 220, 211 plus 30 bonus pins)

#### Saturday, June 26 – Group 2 Qualifying

1. Anthony Simonsen, 1,079 (289, 227, 249, 219 plus 95 bonus pins)
2. Kris Prather, 1,068 (234, 239, 227, 258 plus 110 bonus pins)
3. Jesper Svensson, 1,041 (231, 279, 203, 243 plus 85 bonus pins)
4. François Lavoie, 945 (215, 204, 260, 216 plus 50 bonus pins)

#### Sunday, June 27 – Group 1 Stepladder

- Match 1 – Chris Via def. EJ Tackett (earns \$3,000), 300-236  
Match 2 – Kyle Troup def. Chris Via (\$3,500 for finishing third in his group plus \$10,000 for bowling a perfect game), 253-220  
Match 3 (race to two points) – Kyle Troup def. Bill O'Neill (\$7,500), 2-1  
Game 1 – Troup def. O'Neill, 229-219  
Game 2 – O'Neill def. Troup, 257-235  
9th/10th-frame roll-off – Troup def. O'Neill, 50-49

#### Sunday, June 27 – Group 2 Stepladder

- Match 1 – François Lavoie def. Jesper Svensson (\$3,000), 259-211  
Match 2 – Kris Prather def. François Lavoie (\$3,500), 245-208  
Match 3 (race to two points) – Anthony Simonsen def. Kris Prather (\$7,500), 2-1  
Game 1 – Prather def. Simonsen, 231-208  
Game 2 – Simonsen def. Prather, 256-243  
9th/10th-frame roll-off – Simonsen def. Prather, 49-28

#### Sunday, June 27 – Championship Match (Race to Two Points)

- Anthony Simonsen (\$30,000) def. Kyle Troup (\$17,000), 2-1  
Game 1 – Troup def. Simonsen, 247-212  
Game 2 – Simonsen def. Troup, 279-202  
9th/10th-frame roll-off – Simonsen def. Troup, 50-49

# HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!


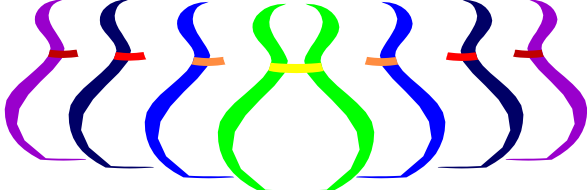
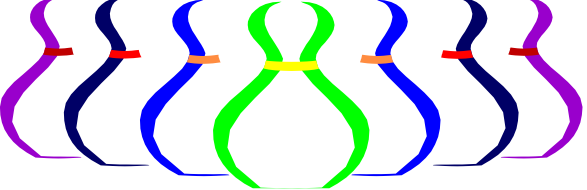


## Carols Corner continued from page 2

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