

2011 USBC Annual Meeting
Grapevine TX June 28-July 1
Delegate Report

Texas has a reputation for doing things on a “big” scale and this year’s annual meeting of the United States Bowling Congress lived up to that reputation.

Sessions were held in The Gaylord Texan hotel, a massive hotel built around a several story high glass-enclosed atrium complete with flowing stream, gardens and displays.

One of the biggest events of the convention was the televised finals of the U.S. Women’s Open from the floor of Cowboys Stadium, itself a model of Texas grandeur.

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to show off in big style the International Bowling Campus. The trip to the campus coincided with the opening of the “50 Years of Women’s Pro Bowling” exhibit at the International Museum and Hall of Fame.

In the business meeting, delegates voted down a proposed by-law amendment that would have required non-merged state and local associations to merge by Aug. 1, 2013. The proposal received 54 per cent of the vote, but fell well short of the needed two-thirds majority. From discussion, it appeared that those opposed were at least as much against being “forced” to merge as they were against the benefits of merging. The delegates did approve an amendment that requires candidate credentials to be filed with USBC 30 days (instead of 24 hours) in advance.

Executive Director Stu Upson generally was upbeat about the current state of USBC, but reported that entries in the Women’s Championship were down, probably due to increased participation by women in the Open and current economic conditions. In an effort to save the cost (\$1.4 million) of installing lanes for a national tournament, USBC and Reno have developed a plan whereby the Open and Women’s championships will be held concurrently in Reno in 2013 with Reno-Sparks installing the necessary extra lanes.

The convention needed a big closing for its big week and it got it with the induction of new members of the Hall of Fame. Long-time WIBC executive director Roseann Kuhn, a leader in the effort to create the USBC merger, was the first to be inducted. Others included Jeff Richgels, Cheryl Robinson, Wayne Webb, Carol Gianotti and Del Ballard, Jr. St. Louis native Nelson (Bo) Burton, Jr., served as master of ceremonies. Flora Mitchell of Springfield, a 1995 inductee, was introduced along with about 30 other Hall of Fame members.

Keith Sanders
President
MSUSBC Delegate