



California Bowling Writers

# InfoLink

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Winter 2017

## Bob Thomas Retires from National Bowling Stadium

By Jackie Wyckoff



Bob Thomas

Following a twenty-two year stint at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Bob Thomas has retired. A long-time supporter of the California Bowling Writers, Thomas plans to enjoy a few months of leisure and family time and his hobbies of singing with the Reno Philharmonic Chorus and his church choir before deciding on any future endeavors.

“Bob was always there for CBW with sponsorship of our InfoLink and other projects” said Joan Romeo, CBW Past President. “He always stepped up whenever we needed a meeting venue or needed help with a special project. We will miss him and wish him the best of luck with whatever the future may hold.”

Thomas was introduced to the bowling business by his dad and mom in the early 70's when they co-owned and operated a 12 lane bowling center in Blythe, California. After graduating from Northern Arizona University in 1983 with a BS in Business, Thomas moved to Tucson, working at Cactus Bowling Centers, honing his skills under Jack Cook. He quickly moved up the ranks working under Mike Kaufman who now oversees the Boyd Coast Bowling Centers. (*Cont. on pg 2*)

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## Phone Card Charity

**Our Phone Card Charity deadline is extended to December 31! We urge you to donate *something* in memory, in honor or just because to support CBW. Send donations to:  
Tina Martin, CBW Treasurer, 57 Shields Lane, Novato, CA 94947-3877**

Letter to CBW Treasurer Tina Martin.....

*Hi Tina,*

*So glad you gals are keeping this charity going. I think we are going to have troops over there for a long time. Really sad because of all the unrest around the world. Here is my donation and a little info for you. My husband was born in the '20's when phones were on the wall someplace if you were able to have one. His mother worked for the phone company in Arizona plugging the switchboard in the '30's.*

*And, a little FYI – Bill joined the Navy in WWII at the age of 16! There were no phones to call home to the folks then. He later got called back in the Korean War and I don't remember them talking about phone calls then either. Just letters. So, my point is, to even be able to call home, these cards are a luxury previous soldiers didn't have available to them. Again, letters are great but the human voice stays with you forever.*

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## In This Issue

Features, Calendar, President's Message, Phone Card donors, This 'N That

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**National Bowling Stadium**

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*A publication of the California Bowling  
Writers  
Mary Lynly and Nancy Chapman, Editors*



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## President's Perspective

*By Bette Addington*



***Merry Christmas and a Happy 2018 to YOU!***

Hard to believe the holidays are upon us but the bowling goes on! Hopefully you will have time to spend with bowling friends if your league has a Christmas potluck. You just never know who might drop by!

**Bette Addington**

Thanks to all who donated to the 2017 CBW Phone Card Drive for the Troops. Mary Lynly and Tina Martin have been busy keeping the line of communication open with the USO to get the phone cards through them this year and get them sent overseas for Valentine's Day. We appreciate getting feedback from anyone who receives these cards to let us know they got them so please forward any letters or emails you get to any of us to put on our website. (See front page.)

A lot has happened since our last InfoLink. Bob Thomas, synonymous with the National Bowling Stadium, retired from his position at the Stadium and will be missed. We wish him success in his future endeavors. He is President of the Bowling Centers of California so he will be at the forefront from a little different perspective.

The GEICO World Series of Bowling just wrapped up at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno and events are being televised now through January on Sundays on ESPN so be sure to catch these shows. (See schedule on page 6.)

Computer problems have delayed us being able to send news via the Email Connection but we're working on it. The Marjane Viat Writing contest will be coming up so look for a good angle for a story. Open up that line of communication and let us hear from you! Let's hear all the New Year's Resolutions!!

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### **Bob Thomas (Cont. from page 1)**

In 1989 Thomas moved to Las Vegas to work at the Showboat where he became more involved with tournament bowling. The prestigious events were all held at the Showboat and Thomas was able to learn how to conduct and promote tournaments with many different kinds of formats.

Thomas was hired to be the new bowling manager at the Reno Hilton in 1993 and moved his family to Reno to begin a new adventure. With his connections at the Showboat and his relationship with the PBA he was able to bring the PBA to Reno with Hilton Hotels sponsoring tournaments. Reno became his new hometown.

In 1996 Bob was hired to work at the National Bowling Stadium where he has spent 22 years bringing his bowling knowledge and experience to the greatest bowling venue in the world. Working with local Hotels/Casinos and the Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, business has grown through the years bringing tournaments and bowlers from all over the country to bowl in the "Taj Mahal of Tenpins", growing the number of tournaments and special events held at the NBS.

Thomas is currently serving as President of NCBC (Nor Cal Bowling Centers), the state organization for the Bowling Proprietors Association of America.

# Your Invisible Opponent

By **Steve Kloempken**, VP - Marketing,  
Storm Bowling Products



Hello to all and thanks to the California Bowling Writers for allowing me to contribute some technical advice to this publication. I am Steve Kloempken of Storm Products, Inc., and I would like to discuss one of the most crucial components of a bowler's game, lane conditions.

Oil patterns have long been one of the most controversial areas in our great sport. If bowler A scores well and bowler B struggles, many are quick to point out that the conditions favored bowler A's style of play more than his opponent's. Considering that these two players may not only differ in ball speeds and rev rates, but also the hands which they use to bowl, you have just stumbled on one of the touchiest topics even today on the PBA tour.

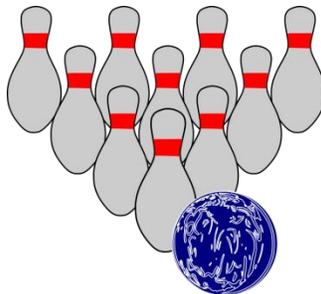
Is there really anything good that can be said about lane conditions? Actually, yes. With the development of the modern lane machines that can accurately distribute oil across each board individually, lane conditions have never been more precise or predictable. The PBA tour's system of using different patterns of varying length and shape has really helped improve the credibility of our sport. While these professional constructed patterns have greatly helped tournament officials conduct an unbiased event, they also confirm that different lane conditions do favor certain types of players. So, the question is this: what can you do to match up to the oil pattern that is selected for any particular tournament?

Before we can answer that question, we must first note that any given oil pattern will play differently depending on the lane surface. Several factors that one needs to consider are the age and hardness of the lane bed, material – synthetic or wood— and even the type of oil used in that center for the event. Depending on the lane surface and lane oil, any given condition can vary greatly from center to center.

The first thing a professional bowler looks at is the length of the oil pattern. This will determine how much hook you need to allow for on the backend. The length of the oil will help lead you to the proper break point; this understanding is crucial to understanding where to play the shot. The general rule is 'the longer the oil pattern, the deeper inside the break point.'

So, a 44' pattern would produce less backend hook than a 34' pattern, forcing you to move your feet and your target deeper inside. On certain occasions, you'll see a player like Norm Duke still able to play the outside shot without any 'head belly,' but you know that warning about professional stunt people-- do not try this at home! Make it easy on yourself. Play the longer oil patterns inside and shorter patterns outside. I guarantee you'll have more success.

If you have any more questions, feel free to contact me at [stevek@stormbowling.com](mailto:stevek@stormbowling.com). Thank you for your time and best wishes!



# Letter from the Editor



Mary Lynly

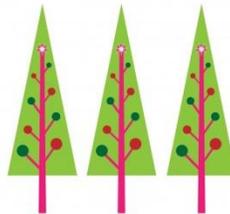
As the holidays approach, for many of us there are thoughts of touching base with loved ones, shopping (or deciding not to do it anymore), sending Christmas cards (or deciding not to do it anymore) or like me, so hard to do when so many people have touched our lives that we want to keep up with. Even if it's late – do it. I like hand written cards but if you need to do it via email – go for it. Just do it.

Then there is bowling, our favorite pastime. Even if you can't do it anymore – or do it well, go to watch once in a while anyway. After all, it has always been the people. Going through the many lists I have made over the years, leagues, boards and other groups and seeing the ones who are no longer with us give us pause to reflect on the good times and challenges, successes and failures. It was so much fun when everyone had skin in the game and raised their hand when asked to volunteer for a job. Not so easy anymore. It seems the focus has changed and is primarily on elite and youth bowlers. Many from the International scene are taking their place on the stage – names that are unfamiliar to us - and as it should be, the kids on the block who are breaking into the winner's circles.

We soon will be forced to merge our organizations and only time will see what affect this will have on our already declining membership. The oft asked question, "What do we get for our membership dollar?" This is asked only because you haven't been a part of building your organization – the meetings face to face and chairmanships for a variety of events that, when complete just make you feel good to have been a part. Structure seems to be gone. We used to have to pay if we did not attend our league session or get a sub, we knew the rules and were aware of new people coming into our league and we had a pot luck at Christmas or Thanksgiving and wished birthday people well. The Secretary was "God" and took good care of us getting awards in on time and making us aware of new rules of our organization and the bowling center. The Manager, or staff member greeted us in our league meetings and welcomed us. As noted bowling journalist Chuck Pezzano used to say, "Without membership – there is nothing."

I hope some of this is still true – After giving nearly 60 years of my life to bowling I would like to think we have made some progress in this time changing world. Thanks to all of those who still have some semblance of the importance of their job and take care of us. Special thanks to those people who went to their leagues and collected on behalf of our Charitable Endeavor – *Phone Cards for the Troops*. Special thanks to our Treasurer Tina Martin who write those wonderful thank you letters and President Bette Addington who keeps a keen eye out for what's happening in the bowling world and the rest of the board, each doing their part. . Re-read the letter on page one – we don't hear from everyone and getting the cards to our troops is becoming more difficult, but people do care.

Mary Lynly



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## California Bowling Writers 2017-2018 - Officers & Directors

Bette Addington – President, [baddington@addington.net](mailto:baddington@addington.net); Donna Dillard – Secretary, [dedillard@charter.net](mailto:dedillard@charter.net)

Tina Martin - Treasurer, [tijimart@aol.com](mailto:tijimart@aol.com)

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Irene Wilson – Dir., [Irene.Wilson@alumni.dominican.edu](mailto:Irene.Wilson@alumni.dominican.edu); Shirley Darr – [smdbowl@aol.com](mailto:smdbowl@aol.com)

LM: Mary Lynly, [lynlymary@surewest.net](mailto:lynlymary@surewest.net); Jackie Wyckoff, [wacknwolin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wacknwolin@sbcglobal.net)

Eloise Cottrell, [bowlingscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:bowlingscribe@yahoo.com); Joan Romero, [jromeotmt@icloud.com](mailto:jromeotmt@icloud.com)

## The Youth Advantage – did you know.....?

By Irene Wilson

When signing their children up for youth leagues in the fall and summer, most parents don't know that they have membership options. That's right, there is more than just the traditional membership option that comes with access to discounts from top brands and merchants on BenfitHub. USBC offers three upgrade options which you should know about.



Two of these membership upgrades are requirements for youth to be eligible to bowl in Junior Gold Championship qualifying events: U12 Junior Gold and U15/U20 Junior Gold. Junior Gold is a national tournament hosted in a different city in the United States every July, where thousands of youth bowlers and families gather to compete on sport patterns. Youth bowlers from all over the United States and U.S. territories travel to the chosen city for the chance to win scholarship money for their college education, to earn a spot on Junior Team USA, and to have the chance to bowl on television. In order to become one of the top male and female youth bowlers, these competitors must qualify for the national tournament at a qualifying event before May of the same year. The U12 Junior Gold membership upgrade is for youth bowlers who are 12 years old and younger; this costs \$10. The Under 15 and Under 20 divisions are \$30 each. This year the Junior Gold Championships will be held in Dallas, TX, close by to the International Training & Research Center and the International Bowling Hall of Fame Museum in Arlington, TX.

The newer upgrade option is Bowlopolis, a program designed for youth bowlers who are eight years of age and younger. With Bowlopolis, youth bowlers follow the story of Layne Kegler as Layne attempts to defeat the Evil Kingpin to rescue his father, save the earth, and win a trophy. Layne can only accomplish this by learning how to bowl step-by-step. As the story progresses, youth bowlers learn how to bowl alongside their new friend, Layne. This upgrade is offered for a small price of \$3.50 and Bowlopolis has become a hit in children birthday parties.

In addition to these membership packages, there are tournaments that don't require upgrades, such as PEPSI, the Youth Open, and the USA Bowling Tournament. Just four years old, USA Bowling has made a splash with hundreds of U12 and U15 teams across the country. The event consists of a series of regional events in which teams earn spots in the national tournament held during the week of the Junior Gold Championships. USA Bowling models other youth sports that have a team-based structure and aims to grow the sense of camaraderie and teamwork amongst youth bowlers. This program will surely grow in popularity as it welcomes beginners and advanced youth bowlers to be coached one-on-one by a Registered Volunteer, helps them to learn faster, and allows them compete as a team.

These items and events prove how USBC is dedicated to continually providing beginning and advanced bowlers youth bowlers with options that suit their wants and needs to grow into competitive bowlers.

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### Phone Card Donations.. Total as of Today 12.11.17..... \$1177.00

Bette Addington, Bakersfield...

In Memory of Robert Brown

Mary Lynly, Roseville...

In memory of Paul Lynly (US Navy), Jim Lynly,  
Arthur Azevedo (US Marines), Ray Davis (US Army),  
Jack Reynolds (US Air Force).

Tina & Jim Martin, Novato...in Honor of

Capt. Robert C Nordgren US Navy Retired

Janet Smith, Novato

Traveling Ladies Bowling League,

Donna Morales, San Jose

Donna Dillard, Pasadena

Birdcage Seniors League, Shirley Lyons, Fireside Lanes

Senior Survivors League, Shirley Lyons, Fireside Lanes

Lillian Oak, Tujunga

Irene Wilson, Pinole

Marijane Viat Holiday Tournament, Country Club Bowl,

San Rafael

Eloise Cottrell, Eureka

Hannah Fliegel, Corte Madera

Marilyn Dilliard, Eureka

Phyl Knoll, Hawthorne

# Raymond Lussier: The Game of Bowling is his true Calling

By Bette Addington



Born in Montreal, Canada, 28 years ago, Ray Lussier, recently relocated to the United States four years ago - three of them in the Bay area of California. This athletic young man has made quite an impact on the western region's bowling scene. We were introduced at the recent Don Glover Masters event in Bakersfield. This 6'1" guy sporting Canadian shirts quickly caught the eyes of many of the spectators because of his smooth delivery and string of strikes. Although his demeanor appears quiet and reserved, his accomplishments to date scream notoriety.

Lussier finished second at the Glover Masters event, but left an incredible impression on those who were watching him bowl. Here's some insight into this up-and-coming rising star.

He started bowling at a very young age since his Dad's family was huge into the sport, so he grew up bowling. He was a member of the Youth team for Canada from 2007-2009 and also an alternate on the Adult team for one year. His most notable bowling event as a youth was the 2008 World Youth Championship that took place in Orlando. He was 18 at the time (the age limit for youth was 23), so he was bowling the likes of Dom Barrett, John Szczerbinski and other known professionals. He ended up finishing in the mid-70's overall for the men, but also had the high game of the event (299)!

Besides bowling, his interest is also in golf where he has competed in some amateur tournaments, but that is nothing compared to his career as a Professional Gamer! Little did we know we had a celebrity in our midst! He was a professional Call of Duty player for 6 years (2008-2014) and traveled the world competing in big events as a job! He became known as "Rambo Ray." This led him into eventually being transferred into what he is now, a Multiplayer Designer at SledgeHammer Games. His most recent game, just out, is Call of Duty WW2 game. *(cont. on pg 7)*

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## Bowling Calendar – December - February

- December:
- 15 – Donation Deadline for 14<sup>th</sup> CBW Phone Card Drive, [calbowlingwriters.org](http://calbowlingwriters.org)
  - 17 – PBA Chameleon Championship, 10am, ESPN; PBA Shark Championship, 11am, ESPN
  - 18 – Deadline for PBA Tony Reyes Community Service Award, [pba.com](http://pba.com)
  - 24 – PBA Cheetah Championship, 10am, ESPN; PBA Scorpion Championship, 11am, ESPN
  - 26-30 – JBT (Jr. Bowlers Tour) Southwest 2017 Main Event, South Point, Las Vegas, [bowljbt.com](http://bowljbt.com)
  - 31 – PBA World Championship, 10am, ESPN
- January:
- 13-14 – 5<sup>th</sup> Tony Reyes Memorial Adult-Youth Tourn., 4<sup>th</sup> St. Bowl, San Jose
  - 15 – Deadline for CUSBC 2018 Award Applications for Annual State Awards, [calusbc.com](http://calusbc.com)
  - 20-21 – USA Bowling Pacific Southwest Regional Youth Qualifying, Cloverleaf Family Bowl, Fremont
  - 26-28 – CBT (Cal Bowlers Tour) Las Vegas Doubles, Gold Coast, Las Vegas, [cbtbowling.com](http://cbtbowling.com)
  - 26-28 – IGBO Women's Invitational Tourn. of So. CA, Kearney Mesa Bowl, San Diego
  - 27-28 – CCUSBC Women's Open Championships, Freeway Lanes, Selma, 559/323-9402
  - 28-4 – True Amateur Tour Nationals, The Orleans, Las Vegas, 1/844-321-8100
- February:
- 4 – Chris Paul PBA Celebrity Invitational, 11am, ESPN
  - 10-11 – USA Bowling Southwest Youth Regional, Suncoast Bowling Center, Las Vegas
  - 18 – Deadline for Pepsi Youth Qualifying paperwork/fees CUSBC, [calusbc.com](http://calusbc.com)
  - 19 – President's Day
  - 25 – CCUSBC Jr. Swiss Tournament, Freeway Lanes, Selma, 559/323-9402

# This 'N That



Ashley Dunn

(LEBANON, Ill., Jan. 14)—  
McKendree University  
freshman bowler [Ashley Dunn](#)  
(Palmdale, CA/Quartz Hill) has  
rolled her way onto the roster  
for Junior Team USA in 2016  
and now through her bowling  
accomplishments earned a trip  
to the White House.

**Rhino Page** of Orlando, FL *but – formerly of California*, won the coveted 2017 U.S. Open. From the time his mother pulled him off the lanes as a participant in the Team USA Qualifying in Vacaville, CA several years ago when his frustration got the better of him and his mom would have none of it. He has come a long way. Mary Lynly was Chairman of the event and tried to reason with mom saying his peers would discipline him but she would not be deterred. It's been a long haul for Rhino finally capturing the top prize and I would say Rhino is the perfect example of making it up the mountain.

**World Series of Bowling - WSOB IX** action continues on ESPN Sunday, Dec. 17 with the Chameleon Championship at 1 p.m. ET followed immediately by the Shark Championship at 2 p.m. **(Tape it now!)** **Robyn Willis**, long time Association Secretary of San Fernando Valley Association has passed away. Robyn retired when the association merged. Her husband plans a Celebration of Life in January. Will keep you informed.

**RENO, Nev.** - The five leading American players and the five top international players in PBA World Championship qualifying during the GEICO PBA World Series of Bowling IX presented by Eldorado Resorts Reno Properties will face off in the second USA vs. The World team competition on ESPN Sunday at 1 p.m. ET, kicking off ESPN's coverage of the 2017-18 Go Bowling! PBA Tour.

**WSOB IX** continues with back-to-back telecasts on ESPN of the Chameleon and Shark Championships Sunday, Dec. 17 beginning at 1 p.m. ET, followed by the Cheetah and Scorpion Championships Dec. 24 at 1 p.m., PBA World Championship Dec. 31 at 1 p.m. and wrapping up with World Bowling Tour Men's and Women's Finals presented by PBA Jan. 7 at 1 p.m.

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## **Raymond Lussier** (cont. from pg 6)

Ray's bowling career is growing as he just competed in the GEICO World Series of Bowling in Reno the first part of November and ended up placing 8<sup>th</sup> in one of the events, missing the show by one match (bowled Jason Belmonte). He said, "All the best bowlers in the world showed up to compete in what seems to be the biggest event of the year for them." He believes he finished 95<sup>th</sup> overall out of 195 bowlers for his first time to compete in this event which was four days of qualifying on all four patterns. His best pattern was the Scorpion where he shot +330 for 8 games and qualified 11<sup>th</sup> (top 16 made match play). He bowled Zeke Bayt in the round of 16 and beat him 3-1 in the best of 5 match, and then had to bowl Jason Belmonte in the round 8 to make the show. Ray added, "Belmonte is as good as he looks on TV and took me out 2-0."

Ray since bowled in the 37<sup>th</sup> Big Swiss tournament over Thanksgiving weekend at Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl where his team took 2<sup>nd</sup> place. His bowling arsenal of choice is Storm. He bowls at Bel Mateo Bowl in Belmont, CA. He has been throwing 95% Storm equipment since he started back bowling again just two years ago. Be on the lookout for Ray Lussier at the next big tournament in this region!

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## Outlets for Story & Article Publication

The *InfoLink* encourages and will accept stories of 200-500 words, relating to bowling. Articles should be focused on individual accomplishments, special events, community involvement, prose, etc. Because we are focusing on special articles by our writers, reporting of scores or association related events will not be accepted. Send your stories to: CBW Website, c/o Kathy Watson at [kwatson@royalancestry.com](mailto:kwatson@royalancestry.com) or to the InfoLink, c/o Mary Lynly, [lynlymary@surewest.net](mailto:lynlymary@surewest.net).

Also, included for your convenience, other California bowling publications who will accept stories and articles for publication:

- **BOWLING WORLD NEWSPAPER** ~ Donna Hazel, Editor ~ Website: [www.bowlingworld.com](http://www.bowlingworld.com)  
P.O. Box 111178, Campbell CA 95011-1178 ~ E-mail: [readit@bowlingworld.com](mailto:readit@bowlingworld.com)  
Office: 408-821-7332 ~ Fax: 408-366-0847 or 925-215-2242
- **CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS** ~ Carol Mancini, Editor ~ Website: [www.californiabowlingnews.com](http://www.californiabowlingnews.com)  
P.O. Box 4160, Downey, CA 90240 ~ E-mail: [news@californiabowlingnews.com](mailto:news@californiabowlingnews.com)  
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**California Bowling Writers**

575 Westgate Street, Pasadena, CA 91103

Membership Application

Open to Men, Women & Youth

Membership dues are \$20.00 (\$21 per Paypal) for August 1 through July 31

Membership Pins are \$3.00 each

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Association \_\_\_\_\_ W.B.A. or B.A. or USBC

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ (month/day ONLY)

Note: contact information is available to all members. Would you like to be excluded? **Yes No**

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