



GRUSBC Association President Vickie Rengers



Vickie Rengers has been President of the Greater Richmond USBC since the merger of the Men, Women, and Youth boards in August of 2010. As President, Vickie has many responsibilities primarily overseeing the operations of the association’s activities providing guidance and direction in helping the association meet its goals. Vickie is well known throughout the bowling community because she bowls on several local leagues throughout the year, participates in local, state, and out-of-state tournaments, and also serves as a Director on the VA State USBC board. She loves seeing long-time bowling friends as well as meeting new bowlers so if you see her out on the lanes, be sure and say HELLO!

“I am proud to lead an association for a sport I love and has been a big part of my life for so many years,” says Vickie Rengers. “Many of our association’s board members, including myself, bowl on various leagues throughout the city and are here to support you. I encourage you to reach out to any of us if you have a question or would like to offer suggestions. We thrive on active participation and support of our members,” adds Rengers.

“I hope you will enjoy reading our first publication of our new quarterly newsletter that we hope will give you a little insight on what the GRUSBC does to support you. We intend to provide information on current happenings in the association as well as provide any updates on the state and national levels. You can check out our publications on our Facebook page and website,” says Rengers. “On behalf of the GRUSBC, I welcome each of you to an exciting new season and look forward to seeing you out on the lanes! Let’s make this season one of the best yet, filled with strikes, spares, and plenty of high fives!”



USBC MEMBERSHIPS

USBC Membership Required for Leagues & Tournaments

A current USBC membership is required for any bowler who bowls in a USBC certified league or tournament. Memberships purchased last fall and during the 2024 summer season expired on 7/31/24. However, if you're currently bowling on a Summer League that ends after 7/31/24, your membership will expire upon completion of the league. New memberships must be purchased for the 2024 - 2025 season. For members bowling in the GRUSBC association, the membership fee is \$25.00*.

Bowlers who bowl in multiple leagues, a membership card must be filled out in each league, but payment is only required one time. The breakdown of the fees include:

- ◆ USBC National Dues \$15
- ◆ VA State USBC Dues \$1
- ◆ GRUSBC Local Dues \$9

At the USBC convention this year, it was announced that a national rate increase would not be requested until 2026, or 27, maybe 28. This pushes the date back to what was originally going to be proposed in 2025.

** If bowling in another VA association, total fees may differ depending on local dues. GRUSBC local dues are \$9.*

Welcome Board Members



The GRUSBC would like to welcome the new Directors whose terms began on 8/1/24. We are excited to have you part of the team!

- ◆ Stevie Atkins
- ◆ Kristin Rowlett
- ◆ Tammy Spivey
- ◆ Karen Harrison



Check out GRUSBC.com to see a list of all our board members!

Fall Leagues Forming

Fall leagues are now **forming!** Check out the bowling center websites for a list of available leagues and their start dates. Centers include:

- ◆ Bowlero Mechanicsville
- ◆ Bowlero West End
- ◆ Bowlero Richmond
- ◆ Bowl America Short Pump
- ◆ Bowl America Southwest

Trivia Questions

Answers on page #4

The **USBC Dry Towel Rule** says that bowling balls cannot be cleaned with any liquids during league play. Only a dry towel can be used to wipe off the ball. Do you know the answers to these trivia questions?

- 1) The dry towel rules says I cannot use any kind of liquid on my bowling balls during league play. When does league play officially begin?
- 2) True or false - I'm in game two of league play and ready to pull out a new ball that I'm using for the first time tonight. I can clean it with a liquid before I begin to use it.
- 3) True or false - The ball return has left scuff marks on my ball that I can't clean with a dry towel. I can use a liquid cleaner to wipe it off.



The United States Center For SafeSport is an American non-profit organization set to prevent the sexual abuse or sexual misconduct, emotional abuse, bullying and harassment of minors who participate in certified sporting events that includes certified bowling leagues. SafeSport training and completing the RVP (Registered Volunteer Program) background check are required for all members of the GRUSBC board and certified coaches involved in coaching our youth. Training and refresher training is required annually and essentially covers what it is, the signs to look for, and how to report it should you suspect it may be occurring.

How does this affect certified bowling leagues and tournaments?

Although minors can bowl in certified leagues if league rules permit it and under other various conditions, the law requires **all 18+ adult members** of a league that has minors participating, to be SafeSport certified prior to the season beginning. Additionally, the league officers must complete the required RVP background check at their own expense. Adult substitutes who bowl on leagues that contain minors, would also be required to be SafeSport certified prior to bowling. For this reason, leagues may adopt rules that prohibit minors from participating in the league until they turn 18 years of age. If you are a certified league that allows minors to participate, all adult members of the league must be SafeSport certified.

For tournaments that include both adult and youth, adult participants are not required to be SafeSport certified because the tournament is considered a 1-time event whereas a certified league bowls several weeks in a season.

CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

8/10/24: GRUSBC Secretary’s Workshop: 10:00am @ the VFW in Mechanicsville. League Officers pickup their league supplies for the new season.

9/28/24 - 9/29: VA State Jamboree: 9:00am @ Doubletree Hotel Kroger Center. Open to all certified members, but only specified association delegates can cast a vote on issues.

10/5/24 - 10/20/24: VA State Senior Tournament: In Lynhaven and Norfolk, VA.



2024 - 2025 GRUSBC TOURNAMENTS

- ◆ **700 Club:** Mar 21, 2025 @ Bowl America Southwest
- ◆ **800 Club:** Jan 19, 2025 @ Bowl America Southwest
- ◆ **Youth / Adult:** Nov 24, 2024 @ Bowlero West End
- ◆ **Youth / Adult:** Jan 31, 2025 @ Bowlero West End
- ◆ **Youth:** Feb 1-2, 2025 @ Bowl America Southwest & Bowlero Mechanicsville
- ◆ **Senior:** Feb 15-16, 22, 2025 @ Bowlero West End
- ◆ **Women’s:** Mar 22-23, 29-30, 2025 @ Bowl America Southwest
- ◆ **Open:** Mar 22-23, 29-30, 2025 @ Bowl America Southwest
- ◆ **BVL:** Nov 9, 2024 @ Bowlero West End



Featured Bowler: Rhonda Walker

Many know Rhonda Walker from the largest certified league in the city, Odds & Ends (a league started 35 years ago by her mother, LaVerne Pleasant). Rhonda has been the league's secretary for the last 7 years and thrives in the job because she's great with paperwork, communication, deadlines, and loves order. Additionally, she loves to be able to engage others in bowling and the community, celebrate their achievements, and encourage them to set achievable goals. Rhonda is also the Secretary for the local bowling group, The Messengers where they participate in local and state tournaments promoting the sport of bowling. Needless to say, Rhonda stays busy!

Rhonda got her bowling start in the Youth Program at Azalea Bowl 42 years ago. Her parents, Jerry and LaVerne Pleasant, introduced her and her siblings to the sport giving them something new to try. Since then, her entire immediate family are bowlers and currently participate in the league her mother started so many years ago. Her most memorable bowling moment was getting her first 700 series (715) during the 2019 Women's City tournament which she never thought achievable given the fact she only bowled once a week. What a great achievement!

Married to GRUSBC Hall of Famer, Andre M. Walker Sr., they are parents to four children and grandparents to seven. When Rhonda is not on the lanes, she enjoys one of her favorite past times, reading a good book. If you're a new league secretary, feel free to reach out to her, she would love to share some tips that make her a great Secretary.

CONTACT US

Greater Richmond USBC

If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, feel free to reach out to the various people within the GRUSBC.

General GRUSBC questions: Association Manager Raymond Clark at rcgrba@verizon.net.

GRUSBC President: Vickie Rengers at vickiebryant64@yahoo.com.

Newsletter Content: Bret Loeb at bratpk@gmail.com.

High Scores FB Recognition: Scores@grusbc.com.

Website: Kristin Rowlett at kristinrowlett@gmail.com.

Facebook: Mike Snead at mws300@verizon.net.

Trivia Questions Answered: *from page #2*

- 1) League play begins when **any bowler on the league** throws the first ball for score. At that point, no bowler on the league is permitted to use any liquid on any of their bowling balls, even if your team has not started yet.
- 2) FALSE - Once league play has begun, no bowling balls can be cleaned with any liquid and includes any ball you're using for the first time at any point during league play.
- 3) FALSE - However, you can present the issue to a league officer and if the officer **approves**, you may clean the ball with a liquid. The league officer will make the determination if the ball can or cannot be cleaned with a dry towel before approving your request. NOTE: If approved, the wet or damp cloth used to clean the affected ball cannot be used to wipe off any other bowling balls during league play.