

USBC

GREATER RICHMOND



Issue No. 9 | Summer 2026

Fall Leagues – Now Forming

The fall leagues are about ready to start up for the 2026-2027 season. Be sure you check out the center's websites to see which league you might be interested in. Or, watch for a flyer in the bowling center. If you're not sure about a league, find out when the league meeting is and attend! You can decide then if you want to join the league or not. You can bring your own team or join a team that is looking for a bowler.

Membership Cards

Memberships that were purchased last fall or during the 2026 summer season will expire on July 31st. Bowlers will need to purchase a new membership for the 2026-27 season. As a reminder, USBC requires a membership card be completed for each league a bowler bowls in, but payment is only required once.

USBC is encouraging bowlers to pay for their membership online. In fact, the new membership applications this year will feature a QR code allowing bowlers to scan it and pay online. Bowlers can also do so by going to Bowl.com and pay there. A membership card will still need to be completed, but your payment will already be taken care of.



The Greater Richmond USBC would like to congratulate **Clayton Washington** of Midlothian, VA for winning the 2026 U18 Boys Junior Gold Championship on Saturday, July 18, 2026. Clayton made the live telecast as the top seed and picked up a 10-pin in the 10th frame defeating Brett Biondo 245 – 234.

Clayton is the son of proud parents, James & Dawn Washington who run the Southwest Youth Bowling Club at Bowl America Southwest. With his dad (James) also being the center's general manager, Clayton spent a lot of years in the bowling alley perfecting his skills.

As a result of Clayton's Junior Gold win, he has secured a spot on Junior Team USA 2027.

Congratulations



The first night of bowling can be a little overwhelming, especially for the league secretary trying to ensure all the necessary paperwork gets completed properly.

The league secretary is responsible for ensuring all the administrative duties are completed correctly and in a timely manner, which include, but are not limited to: ensuring membership cards are completed correctly from every bowler, the league application is completed and turned in, rules are typed up for the bowlers, awards are turned in each week, prize funds are voted on, etc. In most leagues, the secretary is a paid position as they do all the required administrative work ensuring the league is correctly certified with USBC.

Secretaries are especially busy on the 1st night of bowling as most of the administrative work must be done correctly. Secretaries must turn in league paperwork to the local association within a stated time frame and ensuring everything is complete and ready is challenging, especially when they're trying to bowl as well.

In the next column, you'll find some helpful tips to ensure your first night of bowling goes smooth for yourself as well as your league secretary.

What can I do to help make the 1st night of bowling go as smooth as possible?

Here are some tips that you can follow to help yourself, your fellow bowlers, and your league officers make the 1st night run smoothly.

- ✓ **Attend the league meeting.** Your league secretary will provide you some instructions as to what to expect on the 1st night of bowling. If your team cannot be there, at least 1 representative from the team should attend. Secretaries find that many of the questions asked on the first night of bowling were covered during the meeting.
- ✓ **Complete your team's Roster during your league meeting.** Be ready with your team's information including all the bowler's names. If your secretary requests this be done, make sure it's complete and in the order the bowlers will bowl and turned in during the meeting. This will help your league secretary ensure every bowler's membership card is available for your team on the 1st night including any additional information applicable to your team. The secretary will also provide this information to the bowling center so your lanes will be ready for you on the first night of bowling. If done correctly, you should not have to enter bowlers into the scoring system on the 1st night.
- ✓ **Be Prepared & Arrive Early!** All bowlers will be required to complete a membership card on the first night, regardless if they completed a card in a different league or paid online. Arrive a little early so you can get this completed and out of the way.



1st Night Bowling Tips Continued....

- ✓ **Complete your Membership Card.** If you bowled on the league last year, your secretary will have pre-printed cards making it easy on the bowler to complete it. Bowlers should verify the preprinted information is correct and update anything that needs updating. Bowlers completing a blank card should ensure all information is completed legibly and correctly including a birthdate and the bowler's signature. USBC will not process cards without a birthdate.
- ✓ **Elect a Team Captain.** Your team captain is responsible to be sure all the money and membership cards are collected from the bowlers and turned in. Team Captains should double-check their bowler's membership cards to be sure they are completed with a birthdate and signed by the bowler.
- ✓ **Ensure the bowlers are on the monitors correctly with the correct lineup and handicaps.** Some secretaries will provide you each bowler's entering average and their handicap for your team. Make any corrections necessary and ensure it's corrected on the score sheet.
- ✓ **Fill out your team's payment envelope correctly.** It's important that your secretary (or treasurer) knows what each bowler pays each night. This helps them ensure there are no disputes later on who has paid what.

Special thanks to Odds-&-Ends league secretary, Rhonda Pleasant-Walker and Friday Night Mixed league secretary, Bret Loeb for their input in this article. Both would like to highlight that completing the league's roster during the meeting is the most important to ensuring a smooth 1st night!

First Timer's Club

Congrats to the following bowlers who had notable 1st time scores over the last few months.



Ken Schoemmell

4/30/26: Ken shot his first 300 game bowling on the Thursday Nite Mixed league at BA Southwest. Nice work Ken!



Sean Jenkins

5/7/26: While not a stranger to high scores, Sean bowled his first adult sanctioned 300 game and 806 series subbing on the Thursday Nite Mixed league at BA Southwest. Sean continues to impress!



Erica Schwartz

6/20 & 21/26: Bowling the VA State Youth tournament, Erica bowled her first 700 series. In fact, she bowled back-to-back 700's with a 758 in the team event and 728 in the singles event. Including her doubles finish (564), Erica finished with a scratch 2,050 series for 9 games. What an achievement! Erica is a beacon for our youth bowlers.



Chase Rudy

6/22/26: Chase, a rising star bowling in youth tournaments around the nation, bowled his highest series yet. While bowling the youth / adult league at Holiday, Chase finished with a 740 series. We'll be hearing a lot more about Chase as he continues his bowling journey! We can't wait to see what the future holds for Chase.



TNBA Membership



Some leagues will also sanction their league with The National Bowling Association (TNBA). If you sanction with the TNBA each year, ask your league secretary if they also sanction with TNBA.

If you've never sanctioned with the TNBA, you can do so in any league that also sanctions with TNBA or through their website: <https://tnbainc.org>. Certified bowlers can earn awards specific to TNBA and also bowl in TNBA tournaments. TNBA was organized in August 1939 in Detroit, MI.

TNBA President, Ronald Simms, Jr. is recognized by many of Richmond's local bowlers because he has bowled for many years in the Richmond area.



GRUSBC House Reps

Greater Richmond USBC President, Vickie Rengers, assigns house reps to each of the centers. The House Reps are the first point of contact for any questions from the bowlers, league officers, or the center employees. Typically, questions should be related to USBC rules clarifications or advice on certain situations. Unfortunately, GRUSBC does not have control over center operations and may not be able to assist but may be another voice in concerns. These would typically be questions relating to lineage costs, oil patterns, maintenance issues, etc.

House Reps are also a great resource to attend league meetings to help the league officers explain any USBC rules or regulations. House Reps will typically only attend a league's meeting if invited by the league officer.

Your House Reps are noted to the right.

Bowlero Mechanicsville House Reps:



Bret Loeb
(804) 339-7663



Ollie Morton
(804) 304-9511

Bowlero West End House Reps:



Andy Kubyako
(804) 356-7617



Ashley Payne
(804) 502-8110

Bowl America Southwest House Reps:

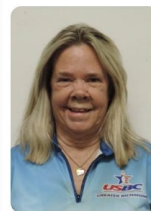


Kurtis Jackson
(804) 929-5291



Aaron Layne
(804) 929-3295

Bowl America Short Pump House Reps:



Patty Bach
(804) 301-1606



Karen Harrison
(804) 551-0845

Bowlero Richmond House Rep:



Margo Beck
(804) 519-7455



Upcoming Events

August 8, 2026: GRUSBC's Annual Secretary's Workshop. League officers are invited to attend this short meeting to pick up their fall league supplies and get some reminders about league requirements. The meeting is at the VFW in Mechanicsville and starts at 10:00am.

October 3 – 18, 2026: VA State USBC Senior Tournament. S&D – Lynchburg Lanes, T – Fort Hill Bowl. Entries close Sept. 5, 2026.

Membership Fees – Where do they go?

The annual membership fee in the GRUSBC is \$25.00. The fees break down as such:

- **\$15.00 National Dues - goes to USBC**
- **\$9.00 Local Dues - goes to GRUSBC**
- **\$1.00 State Dues - goes to VA State USBC**

Each of the dues are only required to be paid once per season. However, additional dues will be required if a bowler certifies in more than one state or local association in the same season. Those fees are determined by those entities. For example, if a bowler certifies in the Appomattox River USBC and pays their dues through that association, the bowler will be required to pay the \$9.00 local dues if they also certify in the Greater Richmond USBC. National and State dues would have already been paid through Appomattox.

Did you know that your national dues can get you discounts on things like car insurance, cell phones, travel and much more? Visit the [BenefitHub](#) under Member Rewards on bowl.com for a full list of benefits.



2026 – 2027 Tournaments



The GRUSBC tournaments have been established for the 2026-2027 season. Tournament forms will be available on our website later in the year.

Please note that some tournaments do not follow the same time frames as years past due to the State holding some of their tournaments at the same time.

Nov 7, 2026 BVL Tournament (Bowlero West End)

Nov 22, 2026 Youth/Adult (Bowlero West End)

Dec 5-6, 2026 Senior (Bowlero West End)

Jan 24, 2027 800 Club (Bowl America SW)

Jan 29, 2027 Youth/Adult (Bowlero West End)

Jan 30, 2027 Youth City S&D (Bowl America SW)

Jan 31, 2027 Youth City Team (Bowlero Richmond)

Feb 19, 2027 700 Club (Bowl America SW)

Feb 20-21, 27-28, 2027 Women's (Bowl Am. SW)

Feb 20-21, 27-28, 2027 City Open (Bowl Am. SW)

Contact Us



General Questions: GRUSBC@grusbc.com

Raymond Clark (Assoc. Mgr) rcgrba@verizon.net

Vickie Rengers (Pres) vickiebryant64@yahoo.com

Bret Loeb (Newsletter & FB) bratpk@gmail.com

Kristin Rowlett (Website) kristinrowlett@gmail.com

High Scores scores@grusbc.com