

Dear SASBA Members,

Well, another year is in the books. 2012 brought several changes to SASBA. Ebonite decided to end our 10 year relationship and Brunswick is now our ball sponsor. They have a great ball lineup and several SASBA titles have already been won using Big B equipment.

USBC threatened to drop our certifications if we did not stop having calcuttas. The board voted almost unanimously to decertify, which we did starting in October.

After 12 plus years, we begrudgingly closed the Southeast Region of SASBA. Together with Jamie, I started it in 1999 and Kathy and I built it up to where we were getting 60-70 entries in most tournaments. The last several years, though, entries declined and with this, host centers were getting harder and harder to find. Because there are still lots of good Senior bowlers in that region, we are adding at least three tournaments in 2013 that Southeast bowlers can get to. If we get good support in these tournaments, we will continue to go there. If not, then it doesn't make sense to go there. The added tournaments will be in Monticello, AR, Little Rock, AR and Tupelo, MS. The Tupelo tournament has \$5000 added by the Visitors and Convention Bureau of Tupelo. So, spread the word and hopefully, we'll get a big turnout.

We are also adding two Super Senior/Guest Doubles tournaments in Fort Worth. This is in response to countless requests for the return of this format and the gradual aging demographics of our group.

Overall, entries are picking up, especially in the member/guest doubles. One drawback of the normal M/G format is that not everyone gets to bowl two days. This year, we're going to try a little different format (in 3 tournaments) to see if our members like it. It will be M/G Doubles with Baker-style in qualifying and in the finals. 12 games on Saturday and 6 games on Sunday, then round robin match play in the finals. This format will be tried at Copperfield, Little Rock and Tupelo. All of the other member/guest doubles in 2013 will be the old traditional 8-games qualifying format.

Pat Currie completed his first year as President of the Board and has worked very hard for the benefit of SASBA. Thanks to Pat for his hard work. Thanks also to Gayle for continuing to help with the calcuttas and to Debbie Ellison, Helen Freehauf and especially Kathy Beavers for their diligence running the brackets. New Directors-at-Large Mike McHugh and Doug Barron were elected to the board for the next two years. Kathy King, Mark Estes, Marshall Medlin and CJ Johnson were also re-elected.

Noteworthy events during 2012:

1. Rick Minier won SS Bowler of the Year.
2. Joe Lecroy won Senior Bowler of the Year
3. Ken Johnson won Rookie of the Year
4. Les Burnham won Most Improved Bowler
5. Hank Jordan received the Lewis Ray Sportsmanship Award.
6. T.J. Johnson, Lecroy and Paul McCordic were all inducted into the SASBA Hall of Fame. Joe is the youngest ever...going in at the age of 55.

7. We had nine first-time champions...Johnson, Brian Clark, Joe Vito, Kirk Harper, A.C. Adam, Doc Daugherty, Ron Williams, Marshall Kulow and Dave Lundgren.
8. Super Seniors winning again were Bob McGregor, Les Burnham (twice), Doug Barron, Butch Calvert, Roger West, Tip Bullock, Dennis Francis (5 times), Mark Estes, Rick Minier and Jerry Beavers.
9. The Annual Christmas Team Tourney had \$22,250 added money.
10. SASBA officially entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century...having started a Facebook page
11. We had our first internet webcast live from the tournament (more to come in 2013).
12. Once again, new knees and hips, stents, lily awards were too numerous to mention.

We are still getting lots of new members, so we know you guys and gals have been doing a great job of recruiting. Keep up the good work. There is room for more. 2013 will bring new members, new champions, new host centers, new formats and more great memories for SASBA.

Regards,

Jim and Kathy King