

IGBO NEWSLETTER

by Daryl Carter, IGBO Vice President 1987-1991

Following is a brief outline of how the IGBO Newsletter operates.

Goals

To be the main communication tool of IGBO.

To be the main instrument of outreach for the organization on an international level.

To provide a forum for tournament reports, areas of discussion, articles of interest to us and our sport and to encourage and enlarge the knowledge of all members of what is going on in the gay bowling community.

To allow the Membership to speak to all. All a person has to do is write to us. The only consideration that has ever "bumped" an article is the requirement for advertising space. (This rarely happens). Historically, the vast majority of the articles have been written by a handful of people, but we encourage any IGBO member who has an idea for an article to contact the Publisher, Editor or any IGBO rep or Director to discuss the idea. We're looking for new story ideas that will provide interesting, useful – and, yes, even humorous – information to our members. The real success of the publication depends upon the grassroots "reporter."

To be financially independent.

To publish the best publication at the least cost to the membership.

To constantly improve the quality of the newspaper from an editorial, graphic and production standpoint.

Organization

The Newsletter has no official status in the Bylaws, although its guidelines are a part of Policies and Procedure. It exists as part of the office of the Vice President, who is responsible for the internal and external public relations of IGBO. The Newsletter does not exist as a committee.

The Vice President operates as the Publisher of the Newsletter.

The Editor and Assistant Editor are appointed by the Vice President on an annual basis. They should be people who understand the mechanics of publishing a newsletter and are willing and able to donate the vast chunks of volunteer hours needed to produce the Newsletter. Other positions are created and filled as the need arises.

The Newsletter mailing lists are maintained separately from IGBO's membership mailing list, as they are designed not only to reach the current dues paying members, league officers and others involved in gay sports, but those people we consider it important to reach. For example, after the 1990 Gay Games in Vancouver, we added Canadians from non-member cities plus interested individuals from New Zealand and Australia to the mailing list. These mailing lists are considered confidential and are maintained as such.

A gay media contact list was created following the '90 Gay Games, and the Newsletter was distributed to these contacts on a regular basis as IGBO sought to extend its outreach to the worldwide gay bowling community.

Advertising rates are set by the Publisher, in consultation with the Editor and advertising sales person annually. The most important objective is to charge the membership no more than absolutely necessary in order for the Newsletter to break even.

The regular distribution of the Newsletter is 2000 copies three times per year. Included on the distribution list are: All IGBO reps, alternates, associate members and Directors; member league officers whenever supplied; and individual league members when requested. In addition, we have a "bulk distribution" program where we supply bulk quantities of the Newsletter to individual leagues requesting them for distribution to their individual organizations. The bulk program is provided as a service to leagues at a minimum cost.

In 1990 the Newsletter initiated another distribution service for IGBO-affiliated tournaments. For a minimum cost, the Newsletter will include a copy of a tournament application. Tournaments supply printed copies of the applications to the Newsletter and they are inserted into the issue. This program ensures that the tournament application reaches up to 2,000 individual bowlers.

For further information, reference IGBO's Policies and Procedures or contact the IGBO Vice President.

CORPORATE AFFILIATIONS

As IGBO evolves, a program has been designed to affiliate IGBO with major corporations. The affiliations must mutually benefit both parties.

IGBO requires that interested corporations:

- Must offer the best advantage for IGBO;
- Must be wholly supportive of our sexual orientation or, at worst, neutral;
- Should not be involved in activities that are discriminatory in any way or detrimental to human rights.

In effect, their business ideals should be compatible with the preamble and ideals of IGBO.

In 1988 Continental Airlines was IGBO's first corporate sponsor. This agreement gave IGBO one free airline ticket for every 50 sold. The tickets earned by IGBO were used as fundraisers, often as the free airfare in IGBO's multi-city raffle.

In 1997, IGBO secured its second corporate sponsor – Coors Brewing Company of Golden, Colorado. A sponsorship of \$20,000 was given to IGBO. In return, Coors would be the office beer sponsor for the Annual and Mid-Year Tournaments held in 1998 in Cleveland and Los Angeles. The duration of the Coors agreement is one year. Each of the two IGBO tournaments in 1998 will be allotted \$5,000 of the Coors sponsorship to assist in fundraising efforts. The remainders of the sponsorship funds are intended to be used in IGBO's education and communication activities directed toward its membership.

Many questions were asked of Coors Brewing Company's past affiliations and political positions. At the IGBO Board and General Membership meetings in Nashville, the Coors marketing representative, who headed the company's outreach program to the gay and lesbian community, dispelled many members concerns. An explanation of Coors Brewing Company's open policy for hiring and promoting openly gay employees, as well as other favorable corporate policies, convinced the membership that a relationship with Coors was beneficial for the organization.

Not every corporate overture is appropriate, however. For example, IGBO was once approached by a major hotel chain which felt that our membership should be overjoyed to be able to say they were our host hotel. However, the company planned to provide no special benefits for our members – not even discounted room rates. After several months of frustrating negotiations, IGBO dropped the matter, as it was not advantageous to IGBO to be aligned with this particular corporation.

The corporate relationship always will be more than just a corporate business deal for an organization such as ours. By its very nature, IGBO must consider moral and human issues in all its dealings with the outside world.

In other words, if we are going to give, we must get – and on terms that suit both parties and not just one.

We are open to business agreements large or small. We are more than willing to talk to anyone who wishes to open talks. However, we must not compromise the basic principles that guide us.

Any IGBO member who has a recommendation regarding potential business alliances should contact any IGBO Director who should direct it to the President. We anticipate that this area will become of more interest and activity in the future.

IGBO FINANCES

- A. All IGBO Directors and committee members volunteer their time and receive NO financial compensation excluding reimbursement of authorized out-of-pockets expenses made on behalf of IGBO. This means that all volunteers pay for their own travel and living expenses when attending all IGBO tournaments and meetings. [It is customary for the host Tournament Committees to provide at least one comp hotel room for use by the President and/or Vice President.]
- B. IGBO maintains a checking account, generally in the home city of the Treasurer. The four Executive Officers are the signatories on the account. Two of four signatures are required on all checks.
- C. IGBO has the authority to negotiate and approve contracts between the organization and other parties, including the host Tournament Committees for an Annual IGBO event (Mid-Year/Annual). Contracts must be approved by three of the four Executive Officers and must be signed by the President.
- D. All motions/resolutions involving financial matters require the approval of two-thirds of the membership quorum. [*Bylaws, Article 6.3*]
- E. Annual dues are set by the membership. Current annual dues are set in Policies and Procedures, Article IV. All dues are payable in U.S. dollars. They are:

Voting Members (For leagues, dues are based on playing strength; tournament membership is a flat \$50.00/year, plus a \$.50/per participant submission withing 30 days of the tournament event):

Leagues:

<u>League Playing Strength</u>	<u>Dues</u>
1 through 25	\$ 50 US
26 through 50	\$ 75 US
51 through 100	\$100 US
101 through 150	\$125 US
151 through 200	\$150 US
201 through 250	\$175 US
251 and greater	\$200 US

Tournaments: Dues for Tournament members are a \$50.00 flat fee, and a \$0.50/bowling participant submission within 30 days following conclusion of the tournament event. Associate members pay \$25.00 per year, and Organization members pay \$250 per year.

Organization – \$250

Associate – \$25

- F. Payment of annual dues are required by October 15th of the fiscal year, which is established as July 1-June 30. Failure to pay the dues by October 15th is cause for revocation of membership as defined in Policies and Procedures, Article 6.3. Procedures for removing a non-paying member also are included in this article.
- G. Bowlers in the Annual and Mid-Year tournaments are required to pay a per bowler fee as established by the membership. The current fees are set in Policies and Procedures, Section IV. They are:

Annual Tournament – \$8 US

Mid-Year Tournament – \$5 US

In addition, bowlers at these events who are not members of an IGBO league, or who are not members of leagues up for membership are required to join as an Associate Member.

- H. The IGBO Treasurer is required to bill all members for their annual dues, maintain accurate records of all payments, issue receipts for payment and inform the President of delinquent members. The Treasurer also is required to work with the IGBO Secretary to confirm the dues status of all members in order to establish the quorum for the Mid-Year/Annual meetings. Members who have not paid are not in good standing and are not included in the quorum.
- I. The IGBO Treasurer is required to maintain accurate records of all invoices, receipt of payments, donations to IGBO and all other financial aspects of IGBO.
- J. The IGBO Treasurer is required to submit a quarterly financial report to the Board of Directors and up-to-date financial reports to the reps at the Mid-Year/Annual meetings. [The practice has become to submit monthly reports to the Board.]
- K. All financial records of IGBO are required to be audited twice a year by the Audit Committee.
- L. The IGBO Treasurer is required to audit the final books of the Annual/Mid-Year tournament events and to certify their accuracy to the Board of Directors and the membership.