

Dear SASBA members,

The Baton Rouge Annual Championship concluded my run as tournament director in the South Central (formerly Southeast) Region of SASBA. After the end of the year, Doug Hayes will be the new director of this region and Kathy and I will help Jamie Brooks run the SW region. I just wanted to take a minute and try to recap my thoughts about the last 9 years.

I started this venture in 1999 at Billy Hardwick's All Star Lanes in Memphis. In between Memphis and Baton Rouge, I ran 127 SASBA tournaments in 9 different states. Kathy and I got together in 2000 and since then, she has been there for every one of them. Needless to say, I could not have done it without her support and hard work, especially during my rehab from bypass surgery.

We have had tournaments of varying formats, held in palaces and dungeons, in Metropolis' and the middle of nowhere, dominated by righties and lefties and I have never been sorry that I was there or wished I was somewhere else.

It has been a blast! We've met the most wonderful friends and been able to see some of the greatest Senior bowlers on earth. The SASBA family has comforted us during hard times, thrilled us with great bowling performances, made us laugh and made us cry.

We only hope that you help and support Doug in the same way you have supported Kathy and I over the years. I especially want to thank some of the "regulars" who have bowled in most of these tournaments: Grady Creasie, Phil Ballard, Chuck Maher, Charlie Hufford, Pat Brownfield, Roger West, Sam Howell, Ben Edwards, Randy Summers, Don Wall, Leon Aragon, Mark Huckleberry, Ray Vescovo, J.R. Little, Fred Walton, Gary Waddell, Mike Mikkelsen, DeWayne Thompson, Gary Woodard, Bill Gillane, Rick Stine and Kenny Winstead. All of these bowlers bowled in at least 50 tournaments over the years and made our region a "tour".

Thanks also to all the wonderful wives, girlfriends and significant others who have accompanied their guys to our tournaments. We appreciate your tolerance and patience and support for our group.

I can't forget Mark Estes and C.J. Johnson, who have put up with my computer ignorance over the years and of course, I never could have kept going without the help, advice, encouragement and guidance of Peggy and Jamie Brooks.

So, here's to the future. I hope the next 9 years are as rewarding as the previous.

Respectfully,

Jim King