

Snyder, Wager-Walawender, Kaverman, Solimine Sr. Elected to NYS USBC Board of Directors

JUNE 3, 2019 – More than 120 delegates, representing 30 local associations, elected two new directors and got to meet the recently-appointed USBC Northeast regional manager at the 8th New York State USBC Annual Meeting on Saturday at DoubleTree by Hilton Syracuse in East Syracuse.

Randy Snyder of Apalachin (Southern Tier USBC) and Maresse Wager-Walawender of Canandaigua (Lake Ontario USBC) were elected as Adult Directors in a voice vote along with Robert Kaverman of Jamestown (Jamestown Area USBC), who will be continuing his service on the NYS USBC board.

In voting for the one open Youth Director position, Thomas Solimine Sr. of White Plains (Westchester County USBC) received 67 votes to outdistance Mimi Lucey (Rochester NY USBC) and Jayu Kulkarni (Long Island USBC), who garnered 33 and 24 votes, respectively.

Solimine, the longtime NYS Youth Committee chair, returns to the board after having to sit out a year due to term limits.

President Roger Buckman of Victor (Rochester NY USBC) and Sergeant-at-Arms Dennis O'Donnell of Auburn (Auburn USBC) were re-elected to their posts as they ran unopposed.

Delegates heard from John McCarthy of Louisville, Ky., who is completing his first season as the Northeast regional manager. McCarthy gave a 15-minute presentation on the bowling ball specification changes that will take place over the next couple years.

Effective Aug. 1, 2019, only a dry towel can be used to clean a bowling ball during competition, and effective Aug. 1, 2020, balance holes on balls will be eliminated, meaning that any hole in a ball must be used for gripping purposes and all holes must be used on every delivery.

Another change effective on Aug. 1, 2020 is that a bowling ball's oil absorption rate must be more than two minutes, 15 seconds for the ball to be approved.

President Buckman officiated, calling on committee members to give their reports and allowing time at the end of the meeting for affiliate associations – NYS 500, 600 and 700 clubs and NYS Bowling Writers – to address the delegates.

Highlights of the committee reports:

-- Pathways Committee chair Kaverman reported that \$24,000 was donated to the state's cancer hospitals, BVL and youth scholarships through tournament and other donations in 2017-18.

-- Youth Committee spokesman Mike Callan reported combined scholarships of more than \$60,000 from the Team, Pepsi, Adult-Junior and Youth Scholarship tournaments.

-- Youth Leaders President Amber Lupi announced this year's award winners (see photo above) and reported on their activities, including their work at the Youth Team tournament weekend in Syracuse in May.

-- YES Committee chair Kathy Leitgeb reported on the scholarships that were awarded to students at all grade levels, with Daniel Palmer of Niskayuna as the recipient of the \$4,000 Pat Zonneville Memorial Award for 2018-19.

-- Public Relations Committee chair Barry Vee reported that the NYS USBC Facebook page "likes" have increased significantly, and announced that the board of directors has approved a major upgrade of the NYS USBC website.

More than \$1,500 was raised for charity prior to the Annual Meeting, including donations from Fulton County Regional USBC (\$500), 700 Club (\$100) and Bowling Writers (\$150).

Bowling Writers President Lucille Daignault will be dissolving effective July 31, 2019, citing increased use of social media and digital communication, and thanked Patricia Fuller of Medina (Genesee Region USBC) for her 29 years of service as the organization's secretary.