


TNBA's Historical Journey



PHOTO	YEAR	EVENTS	Notes
	1920s	Major Bowling Establishment access for African Americans was primarily as Pin Setters or Janitors.	 However, these ladies, the members of the Pioneer Women's Team in 1920, was the Bethel AME Athletic Group League Champs in Chicago.
	1932-1938	Inter-City Matches/Starting Five Cities	Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit and Toledo
	1938	The first Black bowling tournament in the US was held at Ontario-St. Clair Recreation in Cleveland.	Chicago's Woodland Alcumes team won the Joe Louis Trophy and shared a \$25 cash prize.
	1939	FIRST ORGANIZATION MEETING FOR The National Negro Bowling Association (1st National Convention)	Detroit, Frogs Club August 20
	1939	WYNSTON BROWN, CLEVELAND	Organizer of the United Clubs Bowling league in 1931; the inter City match games and Helped Sponsor the First TNBA(NNBA) tournament. First President
	1940	VIOLA CROSSWHITE, CLEVELAND	Organizer of Ladies Progressive League in Cleveland OH; TNBA founder and instrumental in women bowling in the 2nd NNBA tournament in Cleveland 1940. Last Women to receive Joe Blue Award
	1940	FIRST CONVENTION CINCINNATI	First Officers: Wynston Brown President-Cleveland; Luscious Huntley, Vice President-Toledo; Richard Benton Secretary
	1940	Second Tournament, first time for women participation.	The Second Tournament set NNBA(TNBA) aside as the only major bowling organization that permitted men and women in the same venue.
	1941	J. ELMER REED, CLEVELAND	First Black owner of Bowling establishment (United Recreation). The facility was located in Cleveland. Organizer of the Brunswick Singles Classic Tournament(Reed-Hawthorne Classic). Strong advocate for UNCF, Sickle Cell Foundation and March of Dimes.
	1944	The NNBA Incorporated and changed their name to "The National Bowling Association, Inc." (TNBA).	The NNBA found themselves with many non-Black, non-White members (Latin, Asian, American Indian, etc.) who also could not join ABC or WIBC.
	1945	JOSEPH BLUE, CLEVELAND. The JOE BLUE AWARD for outstanding achievement and contribution to TNBA was donated by the Postal Alliance League in memory of Joseph L. Blue.	Eric deFreitas organized the first black bowling league in Brooklyn and chaired the Greater New York Committee for Fair Play in Bowling.
	1946	JACK MARSHALL, CHICAGO'S FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE JOE BLUE AWARD	He was an All American. Played in the Negro Baseball League and was drafted by Major League Baseball in the early 1940s. His ethnicity was not known until his arrival to baseball camp. He was not retained as a possible player in the MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL. He was also part owner of Bowling Center With Ted Page.
	1948	BILL RHODMAN became the first bowler to roll a 300 in an official TNBA sanctioned game.	Finished 12th in first ABC tournament Singles event WITH A 719 SRATCH SCORE in 1951. Possibly undisputed greatest African American bowler of his time. Four regional Classic tournaments held in his honor Annually.
	1950	SIDNEY CELESTINE, CHICAGO, coordinated the integration of African Americans with ABC and WIBC.	ABC and WIBC removed the non-Caucasian restrictive clauses from their constitutions.
	1951	ALLEN SUPERMARKET TEAM, DETROIT - First all Black Team to compete in an ABC Tournament in St. Paul, Minnesota.	Team members, Bill Rhodman, Lafayette Allen, George Williams, Maurice Kilgore, Len Griffin and C.W. Williams























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	1953	1953 TNBA Souvenir Yearbook. The Cleveland Courier named CHARLES BEDELL, STERLING SCOTT, BILL RHODMAN, MORRIS KILGORE AND LEVERT GRIFFIN to its all-star team as "the nations best" Black bowlers.	TNBA's 12 Annual Tournament was held in Toledo, OH.
	1956-1958	DEHART HUBBARD	Ninth President of the National Bowling Association. First African American to win Gold Medal in the Olympic. He won the long jump in 1924 Olympics in Paris, France.
	1958	CHARLES WILSON, CHICAGO	Succeeded in getting the NBA Convention in a Hotel for the first time. It was the Sheraton Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio.
	1959	TNBA Brunswick National Singles Classic, Director and originator J. ELMER REED	J. Wilbur Sims won the first four Classic events for men. Florence Richardson won the first event for women.
	1959	MARY L WILKES, CLEVELAND	The MARY L. WILKES AWARD was established in memory of this extraordinary contributor to the growth and survival of TNBA.
	1960	First Annual King and Queen Contests, JOSEPH THOMAS contest originator	William E. Doar Jr. First King and Kitty Bracey First Queen both from New York, Empire Senate
	1960	MARTHA BURTON, WASHINGTON DC-FIRST RECEIPT OF THE MARY L. WILKES AWARD	Prior to 1960, six Joe Blue Awards recipients were women: Mary L Wilkes; Geraldine Wells Bennet; Rosa Strothers; Rachel Ridley; Viola Crosswhite and Charlie Mae McIntosh
	1960	MARTIN KELLEY, CLEVELAND -DIRECTOR TNBA FOUNDATION. Initiated the Development Foundation Fund to " put TNBA on a SOUND financial basis with the ultimate goals of purchasing a permanent headquarters building..." Senates were assessed a certain amount over a three year period to get this fund established.	J. Wilbur Sims and Don Scott became the first Blacks to compete in Professional Bowling Association events.
	1961	SADIE DIXON became the first Black to compete in the Bowling Proprietors Association of America National All Star Tournament in San Bernardino, CA. <i>[Sadie Dixon (l) with Louise Fulton (r)]</i>	First Regional All Events Tournament. Eastern and Western Regional tournament implemented
	1964	LOUISE FULTON became the first Black to win a professional championship when she won the Professional Woman's Bowling Assn. Princeton (NJ) Open. <i>[Ms. Fulton at HoF Induction]</i>	First time Annual Tourny and Convention held in same city at same time. 1963 Royal Court: King John Pipkin, Queen Alice Wright, Prince Bill Merryweather & Princess Margaret Cohen
	1966	MARGARETTE UNCLES, WASHINGTON DC, First woman in TNBA to bowl a 300 Game.	1966 Royal Court: King Tony Fikes Queen Marietta Clark, Prince John Lowen & Princess Velma Clayton
	1970's	SONNY STEWART, GWBS started bowling in Wheelchair after injury during Military Tour. He bowled in more than 20 TNBA tournaments and was a delegate for numerous conventions. He was a lefty and averaged in the 160 over many years.	Sonny, and his Wife Helen managed a Youth Bowling Program. Some of his Accolades includes: National Wheelchair Champion in the 1960 and the 1970s. Won the Joe Blue Award in 1978. Played Basketball and was active in Archery. Sonny bowled in several Leagues as well!!!!
	1970	Mixed Team Event added. Chicago's WILLIAM H. (BILL) HALL, SR. was the first Black elected to ABC's Board of Directors.	1970 Royal Court: King Edward Hudson Queen Margaret Lee, Prince John Hudson & Princess Ruth Hood

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	1972-1978	JOSEPH KING, Director TNBA Field Representative Program	Under Mr. King's effort, TNBA had its greatest increase in membership from 6500 to over 23000 members in less than 4 years. TNBA's National Tournament was held in Atlanta, GA for the first time in the South in 1976.
	1972	First Rhodman Classic Scratch Tournament	First Rhodman Classic Tournament in honor of Bill Rhodman , Madison Square Garden. Lou Ballard of New York was organizer and Tournament Director
	1973	GEORGE WILSON - FORMER CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR STARTED THE BUILDING FUND.	THE BUILDING FUND WAS A SAVINGS INVESTMENT ACCOUNT THAT WAS ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING A TNBA HEADQUARTERS.
	1974	JUNIOR BOWLING PROGRAM, RUTH PAYNE, CINCINNATI- DIRECTOR	
	1976	First Tournament and Convention in Southern United States. The Mixed Doubles event was added.	The 37th Annual Convention and 35th Annual Championship Tournament was held in Atlanta GA 
	1978	J. ELMER REED Inducted in ABC Hall of Fame	Mr. Reed, was first African American inducted into the ABC Hall of Fame- Meritorious Service at it's Convention in St Louis, Mo.
	1980	Inaugural TNBA's Hall of Fame, MARTHA BURTON, DC Coordinator	Inaugural Inductees: Sidney Celestine; J. Wilbur Sims; Viola Crosswhite; Margarette Uncles and J. Elmer Reed
	1980	SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM INITIATED BY OWENS WASHINGTON, CHICAGO	TNBA's Junior Program/Scholarship Program, Inc. established.
	1980	JOAN McDuffie, CHICAGO, became the first female president of TNBA.	The 41st Annual Convention and 39th Annual Championship Tournament was held in Los Angeles, CA.
	1980	NANCY CLARK became TNBA's first female National Sergeant-At-Arms.	AUBREY HARRISON was the first male to bowl a 300 at a National Tournament. 
	1984	Inaugural Celebrity Bowl Event, RUTH PAYNE Coordinator	The 45th Annual Convention and 43rd Annual Championship Tournament was held in Louisville, KY.
	1989	GOSPEL FEST , New Orleans EMELDA GREENWOOD(New Orleans) and CAROLINE SIMMONS (Louisville) initiators, Valerie Martin, Director	 Emelda Greenwood &  Caroline Simmons
	1992-93	First appointment of TNBA representatives to ABC and WIBC's Boards of Directors	James "Jim" Alston was appointed to the Board of Directors of ABC in 1992 and Debbie Lewis was appointed to represent TNBA on the WIBC board in 1993. 
	1993	WILLIAM H. (BILL) HALL SR., SYDNEY CELESTINE, ERIC DEFREITAS AND LAFAYETTE ALLEN were inducted into the ABC Hall of Fame.	  








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	1995	CHERYL DANIELS became the first Black to win a BPAA US Open title.	The winningest Black woman professional bowler in history with more than \$500,000 entering 1997, Daniels also became the first Black to win 10 national professional titles. She was inducted into TNBA's Hall of Fame in 2004.
	1996	PERRY DANIELS was the first TNBA president to address both the ABC convention and WIBC convention.	Representing TNBA, Perry Daniels addressed the ABC convention in Salt Lake City, Utah and the WIBC convention in Buffalo New York.
	2000	First All Female TNBA Cabinet. CORNELL JACKSON, Washington DC President; ALESIA BRYANT, St. Louis, MO. Vice President; MARGARET S. LEE Secretary/Treasurer.	  
	2000	TNBA member THOMAS DECHULAS became the first Black to become President of the American Bowling Congress.	Dechulas was from Deer Park, New York. The 61st Annual Convention and 59th Annual Championship Tournament was held in Dallas TX.
	2004	LOIS WILSON Former Central Regional tournament director. Located and negotiated acquisition of Headquarters Property. JIM ALSTON Former National Tournament Director provided financial assistance in both in collaboration with the Development Foundation under LARRY PUMPHREY in completing the purchase of this Property.	  
	2005	TNBA relocates its national headquarters to their newly renovated building in Evendale, OH. Established Interim Board of Directors to govern TNBA.	It is a wonderful reality to have a Place where all of our members are welcome. It is the place where we all can call our own.
	2008	Historical 4-Day National Convention in Reno, NV. Sign first contract agreement with Hammer Brand Products.	 
	2009	Elected National President and Vice President from the same Senate.	 Both President Elect Dr. Michael Boykins and Vice President Elect Gregory Green were from the Jackson Mid-South Bowling Senate 
	2009	Hammer Brand Products creates "The Chalk" bowling Ball to support TNBA activities.	Other TNBA related balls from Hammer Brand Products include:  2010  2012  2013 THE SWAGGA THE RHYTHM THE CHALK
	2011	TNBA Held its first Bowlers Appreciation Picnic in Detroit MI	  
	2012	 HISTORY BRICK WALK 	History Brick Walk of Fame is one of the visible, tangible legacy features of the National Brick Campaign was initiated by Wayde Broughton. Junior TNBA members will design and develop the TNBA Shrine.

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	2012	Both TNBA's National King and National Queen were Senate Presidents	For the first time in TNBA's history, both the national King and Queen were senate presidents. King Rob McDaniel was president of the Inland Empire Senate in Moreno Valley, California and Queen Rosie Wade was president of the Rocket City Senate in Huntsville, Alabama.
	2013	TEAM TNBA	TEAM TNBA is comprised of the National Cabinet, Directors and Chairpersons. The 74th Annual Convention and 72nd Annual Championship Tournament were held in Louisville, KY.
	2015	TNBA bowler ADAM BARTA from Girard, Ohio, set a new Guinness World Record for the highest pinfall in an hour by an individual.	Adam Barta's 2,708 total hammered by 576 pins the previous record set in Queensland, Australia.
	2015	HAKIM EMMANUEL from Stoughton, Massachusetts made history by rolling three perfect games for a 900 pin series.	The 217 average right-hander became the first Black in the state of Massachusetts to bowl a 900 series, second in New England and the 27th bowler in the United States. What makes this so remarkable is that it was his first, second and third 300 games and it was rolled back to back to back.
	2016	DEBBIE R. LEWIS from Cincinnati, Ohio became the first female to hold TNBA's National Director of Tournaments.	 Debbie Lewis, who has held several operational and staff positions at TNBA's national level including Central Region Tournament Director, took over the NDOT position in October, 2016 replacing outgoing NDOT Luther Moses.
	2017	TNBA's National Championship Tournament and USBC's Open Championship Tournament was scheduled around the same time and same location -- Las Vegas, NV	This is the first year members are able to participate in both TNBA's National Championship Tournament and the USBC Open Championship Tournament at the same time!
	2017	Hammer creates the high performance RHODMAN bowling ball. This ball was created to promote TNBA's ongoing relationship with Hammer and to enhance the awareness of TNBA's history and the legacy of one of our icons.	

TNBA Championship Tournament Cities

1939 Cleveland, OH	1956 Orange, NJ	1973 Philadelphia, PA	1990 Milwaukee, WI	2007 Louisville, KY
1940 Cleveland, OH	1957 Cleveland, OH	1974 Indianapolis, IN	1991 Denver, CO	2008 Reno, NV
1941 Detroit, MI	1958 Chicago, IL	1975 Milwaukee, WI	1992 Buffalo, NY	2009 Fort Lauderdale, FL
1942 Indianapolis, IN	1959 Buffalo, NY	1976 Atlanta, GA	1993 San Jose, CA	2010 Los Angeles, CA
1943 War Years*	1960 Brooklyn, NY	1977 Detroit, MI	1994 Las Vegas, NV	2011 Detroit, MI
1944 War Years*	1961 Toledo, OH	1978 Louisville, KY	1995 Toledo, OH	2012 Indianapolis, IN
1945 War Years*	1962 Youngstown, OH	1979 Columbus, OH	1996 Reno, NV	2013 Louisville, KY
1946 Detroit, MI	1963 Edison, NJ	1980 Los Angeles, CA	1997 Oakbrook, IL	2014 Detroit, MI
1947 Cleveland, OH	1964 Chicago, IL	1981 Denver, CO	1998 Buffalo, NY	2015 Las Vegas, NV
1948 Chicago, IL	1965 Cincinnati, OH	1982 Niagara Falls, NY	1999 Reno, NV	2016 Dallas, TX
1949 Detroit, MI	1966 Hillside, NJ	1983 Chicago, IL	2000 Dallas, TX	2017 Las Vegas, NV
1950 Cleveland, OH	1967 Detroit, MI	1984 Louisville, KY	2001 Detroit, MI	2018 Detroit, MI
1951 Baltimore, MD	1968 Cleveland, OH	1985 Rosemont, IL	2002 Las Vegas, NV	2019 St. Petersburg FL
1952 Buffalo, NY	1969 Atlantic City, NJ	1986 Saint Louis, MO	2003 Fort Lauderdale, FL	
1953 Toledo, OH	1970 Buffalo, NY	1987 Las Vegas, NV	2004 Dallas, TX	
1954 Chicago, IL	1971 Los Angeles, CA	1988 Brunswick, NJ	2005 Detroit, MI	
1955 Detroit, MI	1972 Chicago, IL	1989 New Orleans, LA	2006 Oakbrook, IL	

Future Cities: 2020 Las Vegas, Nevada