

GCABA members OK \$3 dues increase for 2011-12 season

HAMMOND -- Members of the Greater Calumet Area USBC Bowling Association voted Monday to raise local dues from \$7 to \$10 beginning with the 2011-12 fall season. It is the group's first dues increase in six years.

The annual Council of Membership meeting of the association attracted more than 80 members, including league secretaries and presidents who also picked up league supplies.

The national governing body, the United States Bowling Congress, charges \$10 for its annual membership. GCABA members will pay \$17 this year and \$20 at the start of the 2011-12 season.

During a lengthy discussion period, Association President Mike Kozy reminded the members that the increase represented 8 cents per week. When the bid for a dues increase for the 2010-11 season came to a vote, it did not receive the 2/3 majority needed to pass.

Under new business, member Mose Bowling, past president of the Park Manor Mixed league at Olympia Lanes, proposed a \$3 dues increase for the 2011-12 season. That measure passed after another lengthy discussion with a 36-18 vote, exactly a 2/3 majority.

The GCABA board proposed the bylaw change to increase dues for the first time in six years in order to continue its programs for the association members. Almost 5,000 league bowlers are represented by the group.

Programs include maintaining an office and office hours, weekly visits to bowling centers, the annual association tournament, the annual Senior Singles Championships, an annual youth scholarship award, the printed average book and an up-to-date website, among other programs. For 24 years, the association has also hosted a Hall of Fame and Awards banquet with a nationally known guest speaker.

In other business, Association Manager John Blasko, of Whiting, officially retired. Blasko was elected as the Dist. 2 representative to the Indiana Bowling Association Board. He will remain a director with the GCABA. Replacing Blasko will be longtime GCABA 1st Vice President Chris Cole, of Crown Point. Cole, a recent Unilever retiree, will manage the association's business and be process sanctioning and awards.

Also on the agenda was the election of vice presidents. Incumbent vice president Joe Puchek, of Highland, won reelection and will be joined on the executive committee by Ed Wleklinski, also of Highland.



Local bowlers listen to Association Manager Chris Cole explain the need for a local dues increase Monday at Dynasty Banquets in Hammond.



GCABA Board Members Bob Haluska, of Merrillville, left, and Ed Hauser, of Lynwood, check in association members while Pat Scardina, right, of Hammond, signs in.