

Welcome to your Out! Bowling League Newsletter



THE GUTTER GAYZETTE

April 2026

Showing Up Matters More Than You Know

In a league like ours, it's easy to think that bowling night is just that—bowling. A few frames, some laughs, maybe a drink or two, and then back to the routine of everyday life. But what makes this community special goes far beyond the scoreboard.

What we're really doing when we show up is something much more meaningful: we're creating a space where people feel seen, welcomed, and not alone.

The truth is, you never fully know what someone else is carrying when they walk through those doors. It might be stress from work, challenges at home, loneliness, or something deeper they haven't shared with anyone. For some, this league might be the brightest part of their week—the one place where they can exhale, be themselves, and feel connected.

And here's the powerful part: sometimes, just your presence is enough to make a difference.

You don't have to have the perfect words or grand gestures. A smile, a quick "hey, how are you?", a cheer after a good roll, or even just being there consistently—these small moments add up. They remind people that they belong, that they matter, and that someone notices them.

Community isn't built in big, dramatic moments. It's built in the regular, everyday act of showing up for one another.

So if you ever find yourself debating whether to come out for league night, remember this: it's not just about you. Your presence might be the thing that lifts someone's spirits, gives them a sense of normalcy, or reminds them they're part of something bigger.

And at the same time, you might find that simply being there gives you more than you expected, too.

That's the magic of this league. We're not just teammates—we're a community. And every single person who walks through those doors helps make it stronger.

So keep showing up and being you. It matters more than you know.

They did WHAT? This past month, John Hagemann bowled a PERFECT GAME on March 21st! CONGRATS JOHN!

We're almost at the end of the season! After 8 weeks, where do you stand? Check out the league's official standings on our LeagueSecretary page: <https://www.leaguesecretary.com/bowling-centers/c/bowling-leagues/l/dashboard/143263>

Who are you bowling against? Check out this month's lane assignments:

		Lane										
Week		63-64	65-66	67-68	69-70	71-72	73-74	75-76	77-78	79-80	81-82	83-84
9	2-Apr	15-4	20-8	19-13	17-12	14-21	7-3	16-10	22-2	1-11	18-6	9-5
10	9-Apr	6-19	16-22	4-1	21-10	7-12	9-14	17-8	20-18	5-13	2-15	11-3
11	16-Apr	12-10	17-13	6-20	8-14	2-19	21-11	5-18	1-15	3-22	9-7	16-4
12	23-Apr	17-9	18-19	16-2	1-6	4-13	3-5	20-21	14-10	11-7	22-12	15-8

Remember: This is YOUR newsletter! We want to hear from you! What do you want to see more of? What can we include that's of interest to you? Drop us a line!

Events to remember – Our theme nights for April

Week 9 – April 2 is Easter Theme! Frilly bonnet? Bunny ears? Colorful eggs? What's your take?

Week 10 – April 9 our theme is "Come As You Are!" aka No Theme.

Week 11 – April 16 – is **Generational Dressing!** Dress to represent the decade in which you were born! (no, we aren't carding anyone!)

Week 12 – April 23 – We will be visited by our friends at Pride Squad! Find out all the exciting activities they are planning!

Week 13 – April 30 – Awards Party! Let's get together and celebrate our fabulous season!

Got ideas?

We're always looking for more fun things to do! Games, Themes, Events? Send them our way!

Community Events – As we move into the summer months, there are so many PRIDE events planned! Here's a great list from our friends at PFLAG of Tinley Park! There are always new events popping up! Which are your favorites?

Want to help to promote Out!Bowling for the upcoming seasons? Join us at Elmhurst, Lombard or Downers Grove!

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| April 25 Bond County PrideFest | June 7 Kankakee Pride Picnic | June 20 Elmhurst Family Pride Fest
*** |
| May 1-2 Leather Pride Weekend | June 12-14 Andersonville | June 20 Lake County Pridefest |
| May 16 Springfield PrideFest | Midsommarfest | June 20 Pride St Charles Festival |
| May 30 Waukegan Pride Festival | June 13 Dixon Pride | June 20-21 Chicago Pride Fest |
| June 5 Pride in Park Ridge | June 13 Michigan City Pride | June 27 Yorkville Pride |
| June 5 Rochelle Pride Night | June 13 Ottawa Family Pride | June 28 Chicago Pride Parade |
| June 5-6 Quad Cities Pride Festival | Festival | July 11 Belong Fox Valley Pride in
the Park |
| June 6 Downers Grove Pride *** | June 13-14 Woodstock Pride | September 12 Decatur Pride |
| June 6 Elgin Pride Parade | June 14 Aurora Pride Parade | September 12 Naperville Pride |
| June 6 Logan County Pride Fest | June 20 All My Relations Pride | September 19 Joliet Pride |
| June 6-7 NWI PrideFest | Event | |
| June 7 Buffalo Grove Pride | June 20 Des Plaines Community | |
| June 7 Lombard Pride *** | Pride Celebration | |

Notable Dates – Let’s celebrate our Out!Bowling Family birthdays or special dates!

April Babies

Steve Lehman 4/2	Mickey Kramarik-Boyle 4/19
Bart Connelly 4/6	Adam Smeets 4/26
Megan Nowicki 4/8	Mack Story 4/27
Luis Galvez 4/13	Alex Mackiewicz 4/29
Tom Canepa 4/14	Mel Simpson 4/29
Martin Johnson 4/16	

Stardust News – What’s happening at the alley?

Do you have kids? Need something to do this summer? Check out the “Kids Bowl Free All Summer” special.

Bowling tip of the month: Stop Throwing Chaos, Start Serving Pocket

Listen. We love a dramatic moment—but your bowling ball should not be one of them.

If you’re out here launching it straight at the head pin like it personally offended you... babe. We need to talk.


 Serve the pocket instead:

Righties → between the 1 & 3 pins

Lefties → between the 1 & 2 pins

That’s where the magic happens. That’s where strikes live. That’s where your score finally stops embarrassing you.

Hot tip: Pick a target on the lane (those little arrows? icons, honestly) and aim there instead of the pins. Precision is cute. Chaos is... for after the game.

And remember: You don’t need to throw harder, just shadier .

For the most up to date information, go to our socials!

Web: <https://outbowling.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/outbowlingleague>

Let’s hear from you! – What would you like to see in our monthly update? Know of any fun, LGBTQ friendly events? Any other league feedback? Email us!

See you on the lanes!