

Orlando, FL – Charlie and Farida Blom traveled from the Netherlands to attend International Bowl Expo, bowling's premier training and trade show here at the Orlando Convention Center.

The Bloms have operated a free standing pro shop for eight years.

Farida, who bowled with the Dutch national team for 14 years, recently retired as the coach of the Dutch under-18 girls team.

"I felt I should give back something to the sport which gave me so much," she explained.

Her teams earned 17 medals in international competition in the six years she served as coach. "We picked up three golds and two silvers in the past three seasons," Farida said.

The Bloms, who are spending two weeks in the United States, both attended United States Bowling Congress workshops while at Bowl Expo.

"I became a silver level coach and Charlie is now a bronze level coach," said Farida.

Bowling is growing in the Netherlands, according to the Bloms.

"We see more people coming into the bowling centers and joining leagues," said Charlie. "It is much like the United States but on a smaller scale."

Headquartered in Arlington, TX, the 76 year old Bowling Proprietors Association of America represents the business interests of bowling centers worldwide.