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Michigan State USBC

The Michigan State Annual Meeting was held on Saturday June 26th with the following association in attendance: Arbor Valley, Bay Area, Bronson, Clare County, Greater Grand Rapids, Greenville, Lansing, Lenawee County, Mason, Metro Detroit, Oscoda, Saginaw, Sheridan, Sturgis, Western Wayne County, Vestaburg/Edmore, West Michigan, Ogemaw County, and Mt. Pleasant.

Reports for several committees were presented, along with elections and discussions on upcoming tournaments and the on-line registration system. Special presentations were given via video from Mike Larsen with USBC and BVL, which was presented by Libbi Fletcher.

This was followed by the awards banquet for our state tournament winners/champions .

Save the Date: The Michigan State USBC annual workshop will be held **Saturday, August 7th in Clare.**

Details will be sent to each local association this coming week by email. Please watch for them.

This is the place to hear from USBC, pick up entries and forms for the coming season, learn about the new online reservation system and the award programs we provide to you.

Please come and enjoy a continental breakfast, a great lunch including a sundae bar, compliments of your state association. We will also pay round-trip mileage for one car.

Hall of Fame - 2021

The Hall of Fame Banquet was held on June 25, 2021 at Royal Scot Banquet Center. One of the things that this pandemic has taught us is how special it is to be together.

The best part was being able to not only honor this year's inductees, but also those from 2020. 2020 included: Jeff Austreng, Mark Moore, Robin Orlikoswski, Jan Matson, Gerald Held and the late Ruth Johnston.

All their pictures were in the October 2020 edition of the *10 Pin Topics*, and are on the website.

We also honored the inductees for 2021: Nicholas Wissinger, IV, James "Bo" Goergen, and John Ruggiero, Jr. (posthumously)

James "Bo" Goergen, a two-time Eagle recipient was born into a bowling family. The family owned and operated a 16 lane center in their hometown of Sioux City, Iowa, until 1986 when a sudden Midwestern storm came through the middle of the country. A lightning bolt hit the center and burned it to the ground. A year later, Bo's father bought Northern Lanes in Sanford, Michigan and the family continued on in the bowling business. Bo followed the family to Michigan in 1997, and in 2015, Bo and his brother Rick bought Northern Lanes from their father. Today, the brothers manage the center together.



In 2016, Bo became the Executive Director of the Bowling Centers Association of Michigan and holds that same position today. As a passionate advocate of bowling, Bo was elected to the USBC Board of Directors in 2019.

On the lanes, Bo has had found success at all levels. At the local level, since his move to Michigan he has won at least 17 local championships. He was the Michigan Majors Rookie of the Year in 1999. On the state level, Bo has won a state team title in 2019 and in 2013 was the Senior Masters Champion. In the USBC Open Championships, Bo has earned two Eagles in his 42 consecutive appearances. In 2009, he earned an Eagle in Singles rolling what is still a record—an 862. The following year, he and his team captured the Team All-Events title. Bo has a career high average of 243, 38 - 300 games, and 31 - 800 series to his credit. He was inducted into the Midland Hall of Fame in 2013.

At the present time, Bo bowls two or three PBA 50 events each year but he concentrates most of his bowling energy on his son Izaac and his budding bowling career.

Congratulations and welcome to the Michigan State USBC Hall of Fame, James "Bo" Goergen.

Nicholas Wissinger IV's bowling career started as a father and son bonding experience. Beginning in elementary school, Nick III would pick up Nick IV after school and they went bowling. Little did they know back then that the time shared bowling would introduce his son to his future. Nick IV would try other sports along the way however, he found a real affinity for the sport of bowling.



Following high school, Nick IV would pursue his bowling career on the road competing in tournaments and in all-star leagues. He would achieve a current total of 35 - 300 Games and 29 - 800 series, the latest of which was accomplished this March. Nick's highest recorded average to date is 244. In local championship tournaments in Metro Detroit, Nick has won a total of six team championships. At the state level, Nick holds a team title and two doubles titles. The doubles title in 2001 with Dave Ewald, is a tournament record of 1628, which still stands today. The crowning achievement in Nick's career thus far is the USBC Open Championship Title in Team All-Events. Nick holds his Eagle and his win with his teammates in team all-events in 2012 above his other titles.

Nick can still be found bowling (pre-pandemic) in Detroit area all-star leagues and local tournaments. He makes his living helping other bowlers at his pro shop, Wiz Bang inside Plaza Lanes in Plymouth. If you were to look him up at his pro shop, you would find another cherished bowling memento. On the wall, hangs a picture of the Carpathian League in Detroit. In that frame are three other Nicholas Wissingers, the picture features Nicholas Wissinger I, II and III. Nick loves this picture of his father, grandfather, and great-father and the family tradition it represents. Bowling has meant a lot to Nick through the years and provided him a living and lifestyle but a great day these days is spent a little differently. Today, a great day would be a day on the links, improving his game and spending time with his wife, Christine.

Congratulations, to Nicholas Wissinger IV on his induction to the Michigan State USBC Hall of Fame Class of 2021 for Superior Performance

John Ruggiero, Jr. is being inducted into the Michigan State Hall of Fame as a "Pioneer of Bowling" for Superior Performance. The native West Virginian was born on June 24, 1924 and died July 7, 2010. The following is a brief summary of John's accomplishments on the lanes.



John Ruggiero, Jr. joined the United States Air Force after his high school graduation. As an Air Force captain, he piloted B-25 Bombers and saw combat in various theatres during the war. Following his brave career in the Air Force, John returned home and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business from Fairmont State College in 1951. That same year he would embark on a bowling career as well.

John Ruggiero, Jr. would become a very accomplished bowler and would assume the role of bowling administrator as well.

- 1952 – Becomes secretary of Fairmont, WV Bowling Association
- 1953 – Becomes President Fairmont, WV Bowling Association
- 1954 – Becomes President (youngest at 30 years) West Virginia State Bowling Association
- 1955 – Moves to Detroit
- 1956 – Joins Detroit All-Star Classic
- 1961 – Becomes captain of Legendary Stroh's Team in All-Star Classic and is drafted 115th into National Bowling League and bowls for Detroit Thunderbirds
- 1963 – Becomes President of new Michigan Majors Bowling League
- 1970 – Retires from professional bowling
- 1973 – Becomes President of Great Detroit Bowling Association
- 1978 – Inducted into Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame
- 1981 – Becomes secretary of Detroit All-Star Classic (retires in 1987)
- 1987 – Inducted into Michigan Amateur Sports Hall of Fame
- 2002 – Bowls in 50th ABC National Championship in Billings, MT

Career High Average – 217, 300 Games – 18 , 800 Series – 1
Michigan State Bowling Association Titles – Team – 4 Doubles – 1

The Michigan State USBC welcomes John Ruggiero, Jr. posthumously into the Hall of Fame.

Also in attendance were **the following Hall of Famers**, and we thank them for attending.

- 2002: Alberta Kuhn/ 2003: Harry Sullins / 2005: Julie Oczepek, Sandra Nyland, Jim DeGraaf
- 2006: Robert Dunlap/ 2007- Dorothy Thompson/ 2008: William Land, Sharon Schildroth
- 2009: Dora Nettleman/ 2011: Mitch Jabczynski, Libbi Fletcher / 2013: Ted Hansen/ 2015: Joyce Allen
- 2016: Mark Martin, Merry DeBoer/ 2017: David Paul Lewis, Shirley Bowman/ 2018: Martie Boron/ 2019: Cheryle Secl-Cross

Michigan State USBC Director

Retiring is sometimes a bitter sweet moment, and this past weekend saying "goodbye" to Martie Boron as she is stepping down from the Board of Directors was indeed difficult.

She started serving on the Michigan State Women's Bowling Association board in 1996 and was elected to the MS USBC board in 2018 ... so that is 25 years of service to the state.

During her tenure on the state board she has been a member of the legislative, awards banquet, delegate reception and luncheon committees. Martie was the chair of the tournament rules committee. She has also been the acting "Sergeant at Arms" during past annual meetings. On the state level, Martie is most proud of the service and professionalism the association offers its members. On

the national level Martie had served on the teller committee during the WIBC days.

Martie: "We have shared much over the years, laughter, tears and while rooming together many a late night talking, and maybe a glass of wine or two...I will truly miss your insight, your helpfulness and most of all your Friendship. Please stay in touch and we do wish you a wonderful "next step" in your journey of life."

The Pres



This email is brought to you by the Michigan State USBC Board of Directors. We welcome your articles, comments, and suggestions for the "Ten Pin Topics"

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