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Michigan State USBC

With the holidays in the rear view mirror here are some of the latest news items from the state bowling scene. Again this month, it is an honor to recognize more of our local Hall of Fame inductees from around the state. What a privilege to be able to share some of these outstanding local association members who have given so much to this sport.

Just a heads up for state tournament bowlers.

We will not hold complete opening ceremonies again this year... however, we will acknowledge opening squads. Our tournament honorees - Martha (Martie) Boron and Donald Cole will be given recognition at the Michigan State USBC Awards Banquet.

Martie is a Michigan State USBC Hall of Fame member, director on the Michigan State Board for 25 years, a member of Western Wayne County Hall of Fame, and Past President and Director of the Tri-City WBA. For her tireless efforts she is being honored as the Women's Tournament honoree.

Donald was selected for his contributions to the Open state tournament. Don has been an active state tournament squad leader for the over 30 years. He has completed the paperwork and finances for 25 to 30 teams each of those years to bowl. He has also served as a league secretary for over 35 years.

As was the case last year there will be **no formal check-in process**. Bowlers can go directly to their lanes when they arrive at the center. *Alphabetically listings of bowlers will be posted at the entrances*. Only those captains with last minute changes will be needed in the tournament office. If at all possible, please make sub changes by the Tuesday prior to the weekend you bowl. Announcements start 20 minutes prior to the squad time. Hope to see you there!!

Final Frame

Richard Dodge, 67 of Port Huron passed away on December 24, 2021. Richard was elected to the Michigan State Bowling Association in 1996, and served as President in 2010. He was made

an honorary member in 2011, became chair of Fiance in 2014 and continued in the role until 2018. The State Tournament was dedicated to him in 2013. Richard also served on the transition/merger committee that worked for over a year to combine the men, women and youth into one association.

Surviving is his wife of nearly 44 years, Kathleen Dodge; daughter, Samantha Dubay (Dodge); son-in-law, Nathaniel Dubay; granddaughter, Elise Dubay; sister, Becky (Larry) Wise; brothers, David (Susan) Dodge and Jeff (Heidi) Dodge; nieces, Amy, Brittany, Nicole, and Lee; and nephews, David, Danny, and Ian.

To send a message of sympathy to the family, sign Richard's online guest book, or to share a favorite memory, please visit:

<https://obituaries.nationalcremation.com/obituaries>



National Recognition



National Team Recognition was presented to "The Bunnies" Team (Grand Rapids) for winning the High Actual game and series for a "Team of 1 man and 4 women" for the 2020/2021 Season. Pictured left to right: Don Nyenhuis, Lisa Doss, Clustelle Henry, Robin Orlikowski, and Sarah Pettenger. Congratulations !!!

Mt. Pleasant Hall of Fame



Joe Byrne, Sr.

Qualifications for the Mt. Pleasant Bowling Hall of Fame require "outstanding service and/or bowling accomplishments" and Joe has an abundance of both in leading to his induction as part of the 2021 Hall of Fame class.

With 43 years of sanctioned bowling – 32 of



Scott Campbell

With a combination of extreme bowling skills, years of experience and a keen knowledge of the sport, Scott Campbell joins the 2021 class of the Mt. Pleasant Bowling Hall of Fame while still racking up impressive stats and making contributions to the sport.

those in Mt. Pleasant – he has a long history of stepping up and helping the bowling community in a variety of ways. In addition, his prowess on the lanes is shown with averages of over 200 (high of 212) several years and high game of 299 and high series of 758.

From the time his older brother Dave recruited him onto a team in a Lansing Classic League in 1978, Joe has worked on improving his bowling and worked even harder on finding ways to support the sport. Also, he's served on the Board of Directors for the local bowling association since 1994, and held positions of Director, Vice President and Sergeant at Arms. More than once, when a secretary's position was in need, Joe stepped up.

Besides being a great supportive teammate, Joe has contributed to a long list of winning teams. Starting in Lansing, he was on teams that won his tough classic league five years in a row, 1982 – 86.

When he moved to Mt. Pleasant 32 years ago, he joined a local team and has been involved in helping the sport while also racking up a number of bowling accomplishments. In 1993 he was on the City Tournament Handicap Team champion and the Champion of Champions team and on a 1995 team that was 15th in the state.

Joe was 22 when his brother Dave returned from the Army and "Once Dave talked me into joining a bowling team, I was hooked." he admits. "I wanted to learn everything I could about how to bowl better and had a lot of people helping me over the years."

Besides numerous team championships, triplicates and other awards, Joe has three games with 11 strikes in-a-row. One of those resulted in a 299 game. He had 10 solid pocket carries and in the 11th, he pulled it a bit and it ran Brooklyn and carried. On the final ball, he went back to a pocket hit, but left one pin. Ironically, fellow 2021 Hall of Famer Scott Campbell was working that night and went back to the pinsetter, retrieved the pin and gave it to Joe. It serves as a reminder of how close to the 300 game he came, but Joe remains optimistic, saying, "I'm going to find a way to get that 300 game yet

Scott's parents bought Rich Lanes in Blissfield, Michigan in 1976 when he was only two years old. "I basically grew up in a bowling alley," Scott notes. When he came to Mt. Pleasant in 1993, he quickly emerged himself in the local bowling scene. He was on the 1993-94 Central Michigan University club bowling team and from 1993-95 he worked the bowling counter at Riverwood. Little did he know when he bowled in the Pepsi Family Doubles as a youth bowler with his father at Chippewa Lanes as a 12-year-old that the same center would be his home house from 1997 until it closed. His years of bowling tournament experience dates way back, including winning the 1986 Young American Bowling Alliance State Doubles Championship at 12. Scott also has plenty of recent success, bowling his seventh 300 game at the Michigan State Tournament earlier this year.

Scott had a career 792 high series in 1999 and his high average was 227 posted in the recent 2019-20 season over 51 games. He might be the top sub bowler in Mt. Pleasant with a three game average of 235 in 2011-12 and a six game average of 230 in 2013-14. You would have to go all the way back to 1999 to find the last time his average was less than 200-plus – and that year it was 199.

His 27 years of sanctioned bowling are part of his 39 total years as youth and adult. Always ready for more competition, he's been to 22 national tournaments in-a-row, 20 Northern State Tournaments, 27 city tournaments, 25 State tournaments and many bowling competitions.

Scott served as 2nd Vice President for two years and has been a USBC Board member for six years. He has served as a league secretary and managed tournaments. His list of honors is extensive and includes runner-up in All Events in the 2018 Northern State Tournament, six league championships, a triplicate in 1997, the team actual championship in 2019-20 and five different times he has had 11 strikes in-a-row...and he's still going strong.

Ilene Chapman

The Mt. Pleasant Bowling Hall of Fame recognized a long and distinguished bowling career by naming Ilene Chapman as a 2021 inductee and she continues to add to 50 plus years of sanctioned bowling in Mt. Pleasant leagues.

Ilene got an early start in the sport when her parents took the family to the local lanes and at one time all her siblings were in local leagues. "Bowling was 25 cents a game and shoes were 10 cents," she remembers. She continues to prove that age is no barrier to enjoying bowling and plans to "keep bowling as long as I can because it's a lot of fun. I love bowling and making friends."

If Mt. Pleasant bowling association gave a dependability award, Ilene would be a prime candidate. She rarely, if ever, misses a bowling opportunity and admits that "most years I didn't miss any nights."

She also keeps busy at lots of other activities including shuffleboard and playing cards and is a regular at sports or band activities of family -- that's a challenge considering she has six children, 11 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and 7 great, great grandchildren. She's been Veteran's of Foreign Wars Auxiliary President for four years and has volunteered for Special Olympics and consistently finds ways to help others. League bowling for Ilene started when relatives Lone Loomis and Tootie Loomis needed another team



member and said, "Let's get Ilene to bowl." Ilene remembers, "I have never bowled in a league in my life but really enjoyed it." Her athletic ability and competitive spirit led her to the most improved average three years in a row.

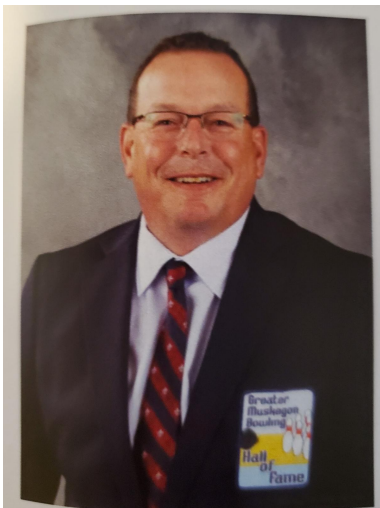
Every team Ilene bowled on could depend on her. In records going back to the year 2000, she had perfect attendance every year. She started on a late Monday night league, even though she had to be at work early the next morning. Her husband got into the sport when he took a phone call asking if he could fill in on Sunday night. He said yes, thinking it was one night. It turned out to be for the whole season, and he bowled in addition to farming 440 acres and working at Dow in Midland.

Statistically, Ilene has a highly respectable high average of 163 and rolled a high series of 631 in the 1990-91 season. Her high game was 239. She's been part of several team championships, several 600s and 200s and is an elite club by picking up a 7-10 split. She has bowled in Figgs Follies, Alley Breakers, Mixed Keglers, Belles and Beaus and Groovie Grannies after starting her sanctioned bowling in the 1968-69 season.

One recent game Ilene remembers came when she was bowling in an afternoon league and the local high school bowling team was watching and waiting to start their practice. Ilene finished up a 206 game and heard Riverwood Manager Terri Sommerville saying to the high schoolers. " that there's an example that you can keep on bowling well for a long time"

Ilene's family is a prime example that bowling is a great family sport. "I have six children who I used to take bowling on Sundays and all of them ended on bowling leagues for a number of years," she noted.

Greater Muskegon Bowling Hall of Fame

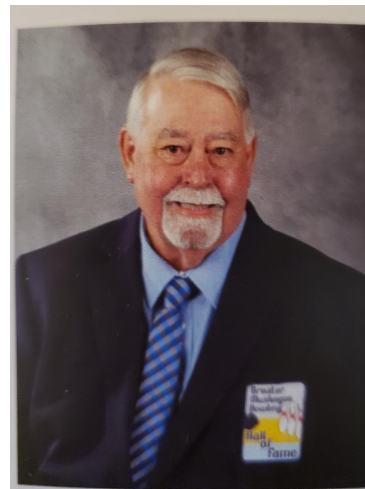


Chris Churchill

Chris has a personality to match his bowling release, just fun to be around to watch the carnage unfold.

Chris can remember going to the Michigan Bowling Center in the 1970s with his parents Jim and Bea as they bowled in the Moose league. It was during this time Chris, about age 9, got to know Kelly Campbell (Hall of Famer) and marveled at his striking ability and his trick shooting. Chris loved to watch the guys who hooked the ball like professional, Mark Roth. Years later while pin chasing at Northway Lanes (1983-1984) he would often come in early for his 9 pm league and sit and watch the "Red Triangle A" league. It was during this time another Hall of Famer, Bob Grambau, who also loved to hook the ball, approached Chris and started to work with him on his release. Chris also learned about bowling balls, patterns, and layouts from Jake Wabindato and Clyde McKentry.

Chris was gaining confidence and momentum as he started to enter tournaments and was achieving great success on the lanes, like winning the 20 game Marathon at Muskegon Lanes (he



Randy Ryefield

The category "Meritorious Service" fits Randy like a glove. Shortly after high school graduation, Randy began his time serving his community.

Most recently, when Covid hit, Randy volunteered a couple days a week at a local vaccination clinic until it closed. "Trying to ease the anxiety for those getting a shot, and then to see a smile from them as they were leaving was simply rewarding" he said.

As for his legacy in bowling, Randy said, he was a late bloomer to the sport of bowling as he was not a youth bowler, picking up the sport in his late teens. It was only when his daughter became old enough to join a league that his wife Jane (already a Hall of Fame member, and a former youth bowler) began working with the youth program at a local center. When Randy says "she began", he really meant "We" began without an option for him to say no. So, the story goes, they started working with the youth, and three years after helping with the program as a local board member, Randy was elected to the Michigan State

recalls bowling the last 4 games of that tournament with his thumb ripped open). He went on to win the Pincrest Singles tournament by beating friend George Vanderwest on the final day by 1 pin! At his first National event in Reno Chris shot a 647 series and then in Albuquerque he shot back to back 700s. In 2000-2001, Churchill bowled in numerous PBA Regionals and got invited to bowl in the Championship in Las Vegas where he finished 73rd out of 400! Chris joined the "Red Triangle A" league that he had spent so many years in the 80's watching with Bob DeCheney, Steve Danicek, Chris Durham, Phil Thompson and Al Beaten. This powerhouse team would go on to win numerous league and city awards. On Dec. 23rd, 1996, Chris would bowl his first of an incredible (27) twenty-seven 300 games, with one of his most memorable coming in front of his dad at Sherman Lanes. Chris finally broke the curse and had his first 800 in 2019 with games of 259-300-255 for 814.

Chris has a high average in a season of 239 and has averaged over 220 for several year (at least 8, but who's counting?).

Youth Board as a Director. He spent Twenty-eight years as a worker and ultimately became a board member at the local level along with twenty five years as a Director on the State Board. He then began helping Jane after she became Association Manager of the local Women's board along with being a Director on the State Women's board. They would travel together to meetings and conventions. They would work City and State tournaments together. Eventually, Randy got drafted to help with the Men's tournaments (local and state) where he gladly donned the "YELLOW" vest, sold tickets, kept score, and helped in any way he could. You walk into a tournament still today, and you most likely will be greeted with a smile from this man.

Randy feels the bowling industry has given so much more to him than he has given back. Whether it be working tournaments, going to conventions, attending workshops or meetings, he says he was given the opportunity to travel around Michigan and the country, visiting many different bowling centers along with seeing the sights of the area that he may have never been able to see. During these travels, he met so many coaches, parents, proprietors, and most importantly the youth bowlers. You can tell that each trip or tournament brought with it rewarding experiences.

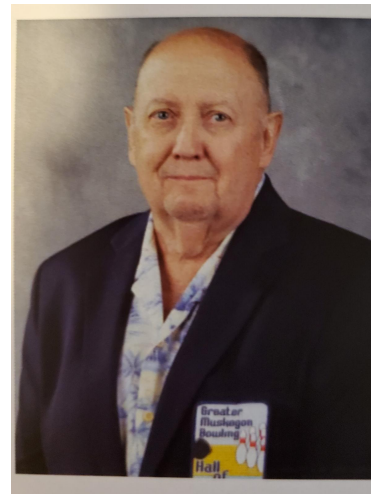
Dan Varboncouer

Dan started bowling in 1961 at the NK Bowling Center in downtown Muskegon (when games were 3 for \$1.00) he also practiced a lot at the Muskegon Eagles and was getting hooked on the sport. Five years later, in 1966 he joined his first league, at Sherman Bowling Center. When the league moved to Michigan Lanes he followed along. In 1968, he joined the Northway Commercial league. In his yearly years, he used to watch some of the pro bowlers like Early Anthony and some of Muskegon's top bowlers and practiced a lot to better himself, it paid off.

In 1977, Dan had shoulder problems and was told he would never bowl again, that however, wasn't in Dan's plan at all! His shoulder healed (somewhat) and he elected to continue to bowl. In 1994, Dan injured his right wrist at his place of work and was once again faced with a difficult decision. A decision that only a handful of bowlers must face, either quit bowling or bowl with the opposite hand. Dan didn't quit in 1977 so he was certainly not going to quit now! In his first season back as a left-hander, he had a composite average in 3 leagues of 149. In 1994, with bowling being more than just a leisure sport for him, Dan traveled to Traverse City with his doubles partner, Scott Manak and bowled in the Michigan-Ontario State Eagles Tournament. He commented that "Everything clicked with that left hand". He won the all events and placed third in the singles actual event and fourth in the doubles actual event. Even his doctor was amazed on what he accomplished. He bowled left-handed for three years and when his right hand was better, he switched back to his right hand.

One of Dan's highlights of bowling is having bowled the National Tournament for 43 consecutive years. He bowled with two other Hall of Famers, Dave Olinghouse and Mark Lange in Vegas in 2020 (the 3 of them have bowled in Nationals for a combined 130 years!) Dan's accomplishments weren't just on the lanes. He opened the "Bowlers Edge Pro Shop at the Eagles 25 years ago because he couldn't find anyone to drill a ball the way he wanted. He took the required courses for the International Bowling Pro Shop Instruction Association (ISPSIA) earning his Bronze and Silver coaching status and has helped many bowlers in the area not only with ball selection and layout, but with their skill on the lanes as well Dan recalls that he drilled a new hammer and went out to shoot in league and threw his highest series ever, a 768. Dan's high game was 297 (on the NW Commercial League), and he carried his highest average, a 199 in the Red Triangle league.

Dan also served on the Greater Muskegon Bowling Association for 11 years becoming President in 1988.



After being off the board for a while, he rejoined in 2018 as a Director on the newly formed "West Michigan USBC Board" and is currently serving as Vice President.

Entry blanks for tournaments

[Masters Tournament 2022](#)

[Senior Masters Tournament - 2022](#)

[2022 Open Tournament entry](#)

[2022 Women's State tournament entry](#)

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