

## Randy Tambourine - Meritorious Service

Decided to get into coaching to help youth bowlers – my son was getting into his bowling life, and I could see a need for coaching. I took the old CI (Coach Instructor) class from Dan Ottman in 1992. It was also in 1992 that I became familiar with the Cecil Ward Youth Travel League, as my son joined the league and I started assisting as a coach.



It was in 1993 that my love for the sport then took me in the administrative end, joining the local YABA as an area director (then adding the title of a state YABA/USBC director to my resume in 1995).

Understanding the need for more advanced knowledge, I then took the RCI (Registered Coach Instructor) training, again with Dan Ottman, in 1994. Then in the summer of 1994, my coaching days took a major jump. I received a call from Betty Heider, the current director of the Cecil Ward Youth Travel League, informing me that her husband, Bill, had suffered a heart attack and wanted me to step in as the director of the league, which I accepted without hesitation.

As youth bowling advanced, the USBC became a reality, from the old YABA days. With the onset of the USBC, a new training program was developed. With the new program, instructors were needed to train coaches in the program. I received a call from David Dahms, informing me that I had been recommended to him as a potential instructor. That recommendation came from non-other than Dan Ottman. I accepted the offer and underwent my training to take on the new position, as a J.O. Level 1 instructor, becoming certified in 1998.

During my tenure as a Level 1 instructor, I also advanced my own coaching, becoming a Bronze (1996), then Silver Level Coach (2002). (I am now considered an inactive coach)

Upon my certification, I was approached by the local Men's Association, the Greater Detroit Bowling Association, asking me to become a member of the association, so I could help promote youth bowling in association with the men.

Wanting to help coaching evolve, as it needed, I underwent training to take the next step to become a J.O. Master Instructor, achieving this certification in 2004. Despite the entire program going online in 2009, I was able to train and certify over 750 Level I and Level II coaches.

Then, along came 2011, when I received a frantic call from Rog. The gentleman running the Youth Masters tournament didn't like the fact that we now had to use points

to award to the bowlers and promptly quit as the tournament director. Knowing my concern for the youth, Rog asked if I could take over the tournament (He didn't ask me if I would, just could I). Of course, I jumped in, despite the fact the original director gave us NONE of the previous paperwork. Thank heaven for Karen, Ann and Natalie Pilecki, who had previously worked the tournament and really understood the operation. I was able to put everything together and pull it off. We have had some errors in the past, but have gotten thru them and continue to run, what we think, is one of the more prestigious youth tournaments in the state.

Once again, as the sport evolved, the individual state boards (men/women/youth) had to become one. My indecision as to whether to run for a position on the new board was quickly shattered when Karen (Hagen) approached me. Having worked together on the original youth board, she knew of my dedication to youth bowling and told me that she wanted me, and several others, to run for the new board, to make sure the youth were represented and not become an afterthought. My "kids" always came first in my life as a coach and director, and I wasn't about to bail on them now.

We all understand how simple being a director is what with only having 3 meetings a year (someone sure counts funny!) While my days as a Metro Detroit USBC director may be coming to an end soon (Shhhh...don't tell anyone), my dedication to the State continues, at least for now. I truly feel, as I see the children of my former travel league bowlers coming up thru the ranks, I feel a responsibility to them to make sure things continue in their best interest.

I am proud to say that I have received some recognition over the years, although this was and is never my motivation. I have received the following:

Michigan State YABA Youth Leaders Coach of the Year

Greater Detroit Bowling Association Old Timer (Howard W. McCullough) Award

Metro Detroit USBA Coach of the Year

(The ironic thing about the MDUSBC Coach of the Year Award was that Ann Block looked at me during one of our meetings and said, "Hey....you've never been Coach of the Year....I'm nominating you!"

Sad to say, our youth travel leagues have ceased to exist, but I still see the children of those league bowlers coming through the system, and I plan on being there for them.