

NOVEMBER 26, 2020

# CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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## Storm's Barbara and Bill Chrisman Elected to USBC Hall of Fame

by Matt Cannizzaro, USBC Communications

ARLINGTON, TX – The United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame will have at least two new members when the 2021 class is inducted, and it will mark the first time a husband and wife will be enshrined in the same year.

The USBC Hall of Fame Committee recently elected Bill and Barbara Chrisman of Pleasant View, Utah, in the Meritorious Service category. They will be the seventh husband and wife

overall to be inducted into the USBC Hall of Fame.

In addition to the Chrismans being elected, the USBC Hall of Fame Committee selected seven bowlers - five men and two women - for the Superior Performance ballot that will be distributed to a national panel of USBC Hall of Fame members, USBC Board members and veteran bowling writers.

Selected for the men's continued on page 6



## WALTER RAY WILLIAMS JR. WINS 10TH ANNUAL PBA60 WILSON & SONS PEST CONTROL SOUTH OPEN

GASTONIA, N.C. – PBA Hall of Famer Walter Ray Williams Jr. of Oxford, Fla. added to his record-breaking career winning his 118th PBA title at the 10th annual PBA60 Wilson & Sons Pest Control Super Senior South Open at George Pappas' Liberty Lanes on Sunday.

Williams, who compiled a 9-3 match play record defeated Jeff Bellinger of Columbia, S.C., in the best-of-five-game championship 227-234, 269-215, 290-245, 205-225, 237-234. Williams earned \$2,000 for first-place in the PBA60 event which was open to continued on page 5

## Drive Underway To Help Save California Bowling Centers

by David Yamauchi

California – The Southern California Junior Bowling Foundation was founded with the goal of growing and supporting youth bowling in Southern California. The group has found a new emergency goal- trying to raise funds to help bowling centers reopen in California.

Bowlers, including many prominent nationally recognized youth bowlers, have been unable to participate in the game they love due to the overbearing restrictions placed on bowling centers by the State of California. While other businesses have been permitted to open, bowling proprietors have seen their doors closed and lights off since mid-March. The frustration was escalated when bowling centers in 49 of 50 states were permitted to open while Californians lanes sat dormant in the dark.



Bowling is a big part of many people's daily lives. Seniors are suffering from missing their weekly exercise and social activity. Many junior bowlers are missing their opportunity to earn college scholarships due to their inability to practice. The SCJBF has

recognized that it has become essential to help open bowling centers immediately.

The SCJBF has started a Go Fund Me campaign to help raise money for the fight to open bowling centers in California. At a time when many proprietors are

struggling and centers are on the brink of closing forever, you can help with the fight.

We would appreciate any donation big or small to help with the cause. Log on to [www.gofundme.com/helpbowling](http://www.gofundme.com/helpbowling) and help today!

## LaPolla Still Going Strong At Age 78

by Dave Williams

When I interviewed Marcel Fournier a few weeks ago, the famous owner of Marcel's Olympic Bowl had indicated to me that he was encouraged by the comments of some of his friends regarding the actions being taken in regard to COVID-19, by BPAA Director Tony LaPolla in the state of New York.

LaPolla is a name that you don't run across every day, so my immediate remark was to ask Marcel if Tony was the same individual that had worked with AMF for many years. Marcel's

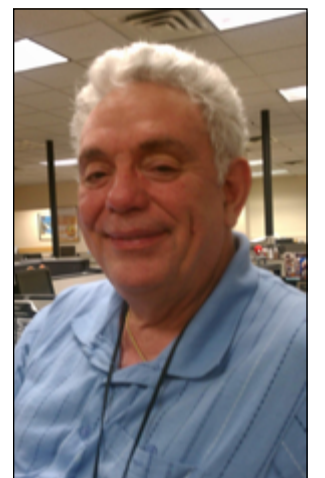
reply was that he believed that Tony had been with AMF in California for a few years. He also said that Tony owned a bowling center near Utica.

Bingo! That had to be the same Tony LaPolla that I knew at AMF because he often mentioned that he was from Utica. I did a word search on the computer, and sure enough an article with a photo popped up in regard to Tony LaPolla at Vista Lanes in Yorkville, a suburb of Utica.

A couple of phone calls later, and I was in touch

with Mr. LaPolla, a tremendous manager at AMF Bowling Centers that won the coveted Manager of the Year Award for three consecutive years while managing AMF Bristol Pike Lanes in Croydon, Pennsylvania.

Tony was so successful as a manager that Carl Barbour, the Director of Operations for AMF Bowling Centers at that time, promoted Tony to District Manager and he relocated to California where he was based at the newly acquired AMF Eagle Bowl in San



Tony LaPolla

Marcos.

I asked Tony, now 78 continued on page 7







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# The 2021 CA Pepsi Youth Championships Are Set But Will They Take Place?

The 2020 CA Pepsi Youth Championships were cancelled on March 11, 2020. The District Finals was originally scheduled for March 14-15 and March 21-22 at eight different centers. All of the qualifiers were set and we were ready to go. It was a heart breaking decision to cancel, but it was the right decision. The youth most affected were the 18 year olds that were going to ‘age out’ this year due to the lowering of the maximum age restriction going into affect for the 2020-21 season. We emailed Chad Murphy at USBC asking for a postponement on that change due to this unforeseen shutdown of the world. It was denied. Those youth that were looking for college recruitments would have to be creative in figuring out how to get noticed. Our Pepsi Championships that pays out \$50,000 in scholarship annually would not be an accomplishment for their resumes, unfortunately.

It is now November and our centers are STILL closed. We are hopeful that re-openings will be coming soon, so we have planned our 2021 Pepsi Championships. All eight of the District Finals hosting centers and the State Finals hosting center from 2020 have committed to hosting our event IF the centers are allowed to re-open by February 1st. That will be our cut-off date on whether or not we can run this tournament in 2021. Normally, this event has local league level qualifying in November and January, but we were able to get approval from nationals to skip that level and allow bowlers to sign up directly into the District Finals in March. The only caveat is that the youth must be entered in a California youth league for the 2020-21 season. The other minor change is in the upper division, due to the lowering of the youth age eligibility restriction to 18. The five age divisions are now: U8, U10, U12, U15 & U18.

Handicap and scratch scholarships will still be awarded to the U8 & U10 divisions at the District Finals in March (they will NOT move on to the State Finals in May) and the first place scratch finishers in the U12, U15 & U18 divisions at the District Finals will earn scholarships and will also be competing to qualify into the State Finals for additional scholarships and FREE berths into the 2021 USBC Junior Gold Championships in Indianapolis, IN (if they have not already qualified).

The Champions in the U8 and U10 divisions at the District Finals will also earn a single entry (\$80 value) into all four events of the California Youth State Championships to be held July 2022 at Forest Lanes in Lake Forest. Also new this year, the 6 division champions will receive a Strike 12 Creations jersey (California design) to wear at USBC Junior Gold!

We also have the new Pepsi Championships jersey for sale at [www.Strike12Creations.com](http://www.Strike12Creations.com). Each jersey sale will add additional scholarship dollars to the tournament scholarship fund as well!

We have been fortunate to have a special sponsor, [BowlersParadise.com](http://BowlersParadise.com), who has been supporting our tournament for 21 years! We also hold fundraising raffles at each District and State Finals site where the in-center pro shop has donated a bowling ball to raffle. Please help us to thank these companies for their awesome support. The hosting centers are listed on our website at [CalUSBC.com](http://CalUSBC.com).

And thank you to everyone that has been helping to fight for the centers to re-open. We are extremely hopeful that the centers will re-open soon. These kids need to get back on the lanes to start earning their scholarship money and improve their skills as they are our future ‘Best Bowlers of California’!

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PERFORM SMART







## by Aaron Smith

"After reviewing the decisions made by other organizations and discussing options with the USBC Collegiate Advisory Committee, we agreed to grant an additional

The 2021 Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships will be held May 2-8. The host city and venue for the ITC and ISC have not been finalized.



## by Bob Johnson

The donation was made in support of his 24-year-old brother, Zac, who lives with the disorder.

Noted DeLizzio: “Now more than ever, getting a donation like this is amazing. We are so touched and grateful to EJ and BowlerX for their support of our cause. This generous donation will help us continue to fund our work in research, education, advocacy and programs for families impacted by epilepsy.”

## The California Bowling Writers has adopted Operation Freedom Paws!

Operation Freedom Paws nonprofit organization was founded by "California Bowler and Veteran" Mary Cortani in 2010 that has provided service dogs and training support to veterans and others who suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome, complex PTSD, traumatic brain injury and other physical, neurological, psychological and mobility needs. According to experts, service dogs help empower people with disabilities to live quality lives.

Operation Freedom Paws carefully matches clients with their specially chosen four-legged companions, most of which come from rescue shelters. The partners then begin a 48-week program which trains the clients to train their own dogs. At the end of the program, they're certified together as service dog teams.

Make donations payable to CBW and mail to Treasurer Tina Martin, 57 Shields Lane, Novato, CA 94947-3877.

*"We are pleased to continue supporting Vets."*

**Donation deadline:  
December 31, 2020**







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## Operation Freedom Paws

Four Paws, Two Feet, One Team

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Thanks for supporting our veterans!

Join us in making a difference in the lives of those who have served in our armed forces.






thank you.

www.calbowlingwriters.org





# Carol's Corner

by Carol Mancini  
E-mail: [CarolMancini83@icloud.com](mailto:CarolMancini83@icloud.com)

Thanks for the response to my list of vanished bowling centers. So many I can picture in my head. Each center had its own personality. Usually, the result of the managers knowledge, desire and consent of owner. Some managers wore a bowling shirt, could fix a machine, clean a lane or wipe up a spill. My favorite was the guy who played a good game of pin ball, drink with the customers and manage a “quickie” in the back of the building!! I can name 3!!!

**Kona Lanes** was T.V. action city. **Grand Central** was home to 27 ten game midnight marathons. **Del Rio Lanes** hosted the “Hot Pots” every Saturday night. Blue Chip Bowling was everywhere. All of these (and hundreds more) were the ideas of managers who knew how to “Get er’ Done!!

My readers would love to hear about your favorite centers or managers. Write it and email to [news@californiabowlingnews.com](mailto:news@californiabowlingnews.com) and don't forget to sign it.

If you set up 10 plastic water bottles at the end of a hallway and roll a ball at them --- could you keep score? Remember X for a strike and / for a spare. If you had the wood and a big tree --- could you build a tree house? If your favorite bowling center was unlawfully opening --- would you go in and roll a few? Have you checked on any elderly neighbors or friends to see if they are okay? Here in Oregon, the fires are finally out, but thousands of people are without homes, cars, clothes, food, shelter, jobs, medicine or hope. My thanks go out to the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Veteran Association, Fire Fighters etc. Hang in there friends --- 2012 should and will be better!!

If the Covid takes over the world, will we care if there is baseball, football, basketball or bowling? The concerns should be food, oil, water, electricity and all the daily needs we take for granted! Bowling center owners have big decisions. Sell? Go Broke? Break the law? Pretend for a minute --- what would you do??? If you own ANY kind of a business the question is the same. ONLY FUNERAL HOMES HAVE INCREASED BUSINESS! So, wear your mask and read a book!!



**PBA60** continued from page 1  
bowlers aged 60 and above.

Bellinger earned \$1,000 for his second-place finish. The PBA South Region’s next tournament will be the PBA50 Mooresville Open in Mooresville, N.C., Nov. 27-29, 2020.

**PBA60 WILSON & SONS PEST CONTROL SUPER SENIOR SOUTH OPEN**  
George Pappas’ Liberty Lanes, Gastonia, N.C., Sunday **Championship (best of 5 games):**  
Walter Ray Williams Jr., Oxford, Fla. (\$2,000) def. Jeff Bellinger, Columbia, S.C. (\$1,000), 227-234, 269-215, 290-245, 205-225, 237-234.

**Semifinal Round (best of 5 games, losers earned \$800):**  
Williams Jr. def. Lee Brosius of Ashburn, Va., 248-178, 216-222, 215-214, 218-197.  
Bellinger def. Tom Baker, King, N.C., 190-243, 224-202, 222-193, 234-237, 225-212.

**Round of 8 (best of 5 games, losers eliminated and earned \$625 each):**  
Williams Jr. def. Christopher Keane, Cape Coral, Fla., 3-0.  
Bellinger def. Gregory Turner, Temple Hills, Md., 3-0.  
Brosius def. David Martin, Chesapeake, Va., 3-0.  
Baker def. Ken Shealy, Myrtle Beach, S.C., 3-0.

# BOWLING CALENDAR

## SPECIAL NOTICE: PLEASE CHECK WITH EACH EVENT IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE TO BE SURE THE CENTER IS OPEN FOR THE EVENT

### NOVEMBER

by Bette Addington

7-Dec. 14 – JAT Virtual Tournament, Westminster Lanes, [bowljat.org](http://bowljat.org), venmo: @daveyamo  
28 – SST Bowling Tourn., 9:30am, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, NV, Tisha Haynes  
29 – CBT Hndcp. No Tap Pop-Up Tourn., squads at 9/11/1/3, Sunset Station, Las Vegas, NV, 661/418-8007, [cbtbowling.com](http://cbtbowling.com)  
29 – PBA League All-Star Clash, 11:30am or 1:30pm, FOX  
30 – Donation deadline to CBW for OFP Charity Drive to be entered in basket drawing with a \$20 min. donation, [calbowlingwriters.org](http://calbowlingwriters.org)

### DECEMBER

4-6 – Elite Bowling Club Events, Bowlero Mesa Lanes, Mesa, AZ, 951/419-2751  
4 – Elite Bowling Club Doubles Event, 7pm, Bowlero Mesa Lanes, Mesa, AZ, 951/419-2751  
5 – Elite Bowling Club 2 squad 5 Gamer, 9am & 1pm, Bowlero Mesa Lanes, Mesa, AZ, 951/419-2751  
6 – Elite Bowling Club 1st Swiss (4-person teams), 9am, Bowlero Mesa Lanes, Mesa, AZ, 951/419-2751  
6 – Central Valley Masters Trios Tourn., 12 noon, Freeway Lanes, Selma (limited to 18 teams), RSVP Chris Gregory, Facebook Central Valley Masters, [centralvalleymasters.com](http://centralvalleymasters.com)  
13 – The Beast Eliminator #10, 10am, La Habra Bowl, La Habra, [tbebowling.com](http://tbebowling.com), [TheBeastHandicapEliminator@gmail.com](mailto:TheBeastHandicapEliminator@gmail.com)  
13 – HammerPins Open, 10am, Travis Bowl, Travis AFB, 707/631-1331, [hammerpins.net/Open](http://hammerpins.net/Open)  
19 – Victory Bowlers Holiday Classic, Mxd. Team & Doubles Shootout, 9am & 1:30pm, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 405/586-0871, [victorybowling900@gmail.com](mailto:victorybowling900@gmail.com)  
26 – Elite Bowling Club 2 squad 5 Gamer, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 951/419-2751  
27 – Elite Bowling Club 2 squad 5 Gamer, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 951/419-2751  
26-30 – 17th JBT Las Vegas Main Event, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, NV, [bowljbt.com](http://bowljbt.com)  
31 – Donation deadline for CA Bowling Writers 2020/17th annual Operation Freedom Paws Charity Drive, [www.calbowlingwriters.org](http://www.calbowlingwriters.org)

Calendar brought to you by California Bowling Writers ([www.calbowlingwriters.org](http://www.calbowlingwriters.org))  
Email your upcoming events for inclusion to [baddington@addington.net](mailto:baddington@addington.net)



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## California USBC Association

# NOVEMBER IS BVL MONTH

With the strong help of Local USBC Associations, California has been #1 in BVL donations in the US for decades. 2020 has been a difficult year with centers closed for months and loved ones affected by COVID-19. We still want to support BVL by collecting any donations individually for the 2020-21 season. If you would like to donate, please mail a check or money order to CUSBC, 55 Mitchell Blvd, #2, San Rafael, CA 94903. We will post all donations online showing the great support our state has. We THANK YOU and wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season. Please visit us at CalUSBC.com to see where our past donations have been used.

**USBC Hall of Fame** continued from page 1

national ballot are Dave Ferraro of Kingston, New York; Wes Malott of Pflugerville, Texas; Randy Pedersen of Orlando, Florida; Mike Scroggins of Amarillo, Texas; and Mark Williams of Beaumont, Texas.

Named to the women's national ballot are Sandra Jo Shiery of Coldwater, Michigan, and Tammy Turner of West Palm Beach, Florida.

Over more than three decades, the Chrismans have used their positions and success as co-founders of Storm Products, Inc., one of bowling's premier manufacturers, to have an immeasurable impact in the sport beyond just the production of balls, bags, shoes and accessories for Storm, Roto Grip and now 900 Global.

Together, the two have supported bowling, particularly women's bowling, through sponsorships of countless bowlers and bowling tournaments across the globe, including the USBC Senior Queens, National Golden Ladies Classic and the Professional Bowlers Association/Professional Women's Bowling Association Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles.

Storm Bowling also has sponsored numerous youth and other events, but supporting the tournaments for women has been a major part of Barbara's mission, as she always has been supportive of women's bowling as a competitor and a fan. She was the keynote speaker at the 2016 Singapore Women's International Coaching Symposium.

As a member of the USBC Board of Directors from 2005-2011, Barbara Chrisman served on the Financial Committee and Legal and Legislative Committee. She also helped establish the Diversity Committee.

Before the Storm brand came to be in 1991, along with the company's first bowling balls, Bill Chrisman's High Score Products was in its sixth year as a one-product company, producing U Clean/U Score Urethane Bowling Ball Cleaner.

Under his leadership, Storm has been a leading innovator, introducing such things as bowling balls with distinctive fragrances.

Individually, Bill Chrisman also has served the sport at the association level, spending time as a director on the Ogden (Utah) Bowling Association Board from 1981-1989. He was inducted into the association's hall of fame for superior performance in 1994 and was inducted into the Utah State USBC Hall of Fame in 2005 for meritorious service.

His efforts and determination earned him special recognition from USBC in 2014 - the Joyce Deitch Unity Award - given to individuals who have made important contributions to bowling as motivators, visionaries, leaders and innovators.

But, as much as bowling has benefitted from their individual dedication, the Chrismans likely will be remembered for their collective contributions and the role their company has played in the future of the sport.

As a team, the Chrismans have received numerous honors from the bowling industry, including the 2016 International Bowling Media Association Alberta E. Crowe Meritorious Service Award, 2014 Billiard and Bowling Institute of America's Industry Service Award in recognition of their contribution to the promotion of the sport, 2003 William Landgraf Memorial Award for Distinguished Service and the 2003 John Davis Award Memorial Award.

They also have made numerous charitable contributions, including donating to Susan G. Komen Bowl for the Cure, BPAA Hall of Fame Xtravaganza, International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame and Weber State University.

Along with the 2021 inductees, the six members of the 2020 USBC Hall of Fame Class also are awaiting their time in the spotlight.

The six bowlers were slated for induction in 2020, before COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the 2020 USBC Convention in Las Vegas, along with all supporting activities and events.

The 2020 class includes Marianne DiRupo of Succasunna, New Jersey, and Patrick Allen of Garfield, New Jersey, in the Superior Performance category, Patrick Healey Jr. (USBC Outstanding Performance), Bob Learn Jr. (Veterans) and Andrew Cain and Jim Zebehazy (both in Meritorious Service).

Complete details for both the 2020 and 2021 USBC Hall of Fame induction ceremonies will be forthcoming, based on recommendations and restrictions due to COVID-19.

Through 2019, there are 432 members of the USBC Hall of Fame - 223 in Superior Performance, 120 in Meritorious Service, 51 in Veterans, 22 in Pioneer and 16 in Outstanding USBC Performance. The USBC Hall of Fame was created in 2005 by merging the former American Bowling Congress and Women's International Bowling Congress Halls of Fame.



## Jason Belmonte Tops 2020 PBA Tour Earnings With Nearly \$300k

by Lucas Wiseman

For another year, Jason Belmonte has led the PBA Tour earnings after finishing with nearly \$300,000 in prize money for the 2020 season.

In total, four players eclipsed the \$200,000 barrier, while a total of seven players earned six figures during the coronavirus-shortened PBA Tour season.

Here's a list of the top 50 PBA earners for the 2020 season:

Rank	Name	Earnings
1	Jason Belmonte	\$293,050.00
2	Bill O'Neill	\$272,285.00
3	Anthony Simonsen	\$227,130.00
4	Kristopher Prather	\$223,285.00
5	EJ Tackett	\$149,250.00
6	Kyle Troup	\$135,300.00
7	Sean Rash	\$133,650.00
8	Jesper Svensson	\$88,650.00
9	Francois Lavoie	\$86,250.00
10	Brad Miller	\$71,835.00
11	Tommy Jones	\$61,700.00
12	Tom Smallwood	\$61,500.00
13	Darren Tang	\$60,280.00
14	Norm Duke	\$58,600.00
15	Wes Malott	\$58,500.00
16	Jakob Butturff	\$56,220.00
17	Marshall Kent	\$48,170.00
18	Chris Via	\$42,850.00
19	Dom Barrett	\$42,250.00
20	AJ Johnson	\$41,050.00
21	Chris Barnes	\$40,850.00
22	Nicholas Pate	\$40,450.00
23	Dick Allen	\$35,050.00
24	Kyle Sherman	\$33,895.00
25	Carsten Hansen	\$31,000.00
26	Ryan Ciminelli	\$30,700.00
27	BJ Moore	\$29,450.00
28	Shawn Maldonado	\$27,850.00
29	Tom Daugherty	\$27,755.00
30	Andrew Anderson	\$25,800.00
31	Patrick Girard	\$24,800.00
32	Martin Larsen	\$23,720.00
33	Mitch Hupe	\$21,630.00
34	Josh Blanchard	\$21,550.00
35	Osku Palermaa	\$20,450.00
36	Anthony Lavery-Spahr	\$20,055.00
37	Stuart Williams	\$19,850.00
38	Richard Teece	\$17,850.00
39	Ildemaro Ruiz	\$16,840.00
40	Thomas Larsen	\$15,050.00
41	Matthew McNiel	\$14,400.00
42	AJ Chapman	\$14,350.00
43	Christopher Sloan	\$14,300.00
44	Zacharay Wilkins	\$12,950.00
45	Arturo Quintero	\$12,345.00
46	Danielle McEwan	\$12,150.00
47	Jason Sterner	\$11,650.00
48	Brad Angelo	\$11,535.00
49	Matthew Ogle	\$11,000.00
50	Rhino Page	\$10,850.00



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AMF Leisureland Centers

### DID YOU KNOW?

—That Sandy Ulrich, Northwest Regional Supervisor for AMF recently rolled an even 800 series for 3 games? It was one of only 6 recorded during the 1985-86 season which puts Sandy in some exclusive company!

— That Barb Thorberg, one of the other seven, recorded her 802 three-game set at AMF Dick Weber Lanes in St. Louis, Mo? Barb averages over 220 at the famous Dick Weber center which was acquired by Leisureland in 1984.

— That Dave Williams, AMF's Director of Marketing, led all Long Island (New York) bowlers for the third consecutive year with a 226 average? Last year Dave recorded an all-time high average for the State of New York ... 235.

—That Rita Resak, Assistant Manager of AMF Valley Lanes in Newark, Ohio, finished eighth in this year's WIBC Queens tournament, good for \$750? (that beats going to see the Dodgers Rital)

— That AMF Leisureland Centers will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary on May 8th, 1987?

— That Ray Desrochers, Northeast Bowling Activities Representative, was recently named Bowler of the Year in Southeastern Massachusetts? During the year Ray recorded SIX 300's and cashed in 10 of the 13 PBA Regional events he entered.

— That April and Brenda Bowes really enjoyed their trip to Italy? As winners of the 1985 Roll for Gold employee contest, April and Brenda were able to see such exciting sites as the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Isle of Capri, Florence, Naples, Rome, etc.

— That Wesley Walker of the New York Jets was a recent guest at AMF East Meadow Bowl? Wesley was on hand for the annual Boy Scout Marathon event along with many of the New York Islanders ice hockey team.

— That AMF Altamonte Lanes in suburban Orlando, Florida, will be the site for the national finals of "Get Things Rolling"? If you don't already know, you could visit Mickey Mouse in Disney World for a price that's goofy (\$6.00) when you enter "Get Things Rolling"! All it takes is a \$6.00 investment and you may be one of 10 lucky winners!... ask your manager how to join this great league promotion.

— That AMF Cherry Hill Lanes is being featured in commercials on Connecticut Cable Television. Cherry Hill has been dubbed "the home of the Yuppies" by manager Bruce Brailford following the complete renovation and installation of AccuScore this summer.

—That AMF Cowtown Bowling Palace recently defeated AMF Cross Roads Bowl (South Australia) in the first International Challenge Match ever conducted with the use of AMF MagicScore and continuous telephone communication? High score of the day went to (who else?) the bowling center manager, Al Strauss, with a 702 three game series.

—That Forest Park Lanes is featuring Rojo the Clown and Henry the Hydrant during Super Bowlin' Saturday? The special guests will be holding two seminars ("Say No to Drugs" and "Learn Not to Burn") for Ft. Worth youngsters.

—That AMF Leisureland's President, Bruce Gobbi, participated in a sales blitz at AMF Heister Lanes in Reading, Pa., and one of his calls may bring in over 100 new league bowlers? That's called practicing what you preach!

—That we want to hear from you? If you have any noteworthy news, please write or call Grace Green or Dave Williams at: AMF, Jericho Turnpike, Westbury, N.Y., 11590 or (516) 333-6900.

### ROLL FOR GOLD '86 RESULTS

NATIONAL GRAND PRIZE WINNER	
Rudy Cano	+163
...AMF Triangle Lanes	
Arlene, Texas	
REGIONAL PRIZE WINNERS	
Roberto Gutierrez	+150
...AMF Post Bowl	
White Plains, N.Y.	
Don Hazzard	+140
...AMF Lang's Bowlarama	
Providence, R.I.	
Lloyd Browning	+132
AMF Cowtown Bowling Palace	
Ft. Worth, Texas	
John Rutledge	+132
...AMF Rockwood Lanes	
Portland, Oregon	
Mark Stuart	+118
...AMF Circle Lanes	
Bloomington, Illinois	
Betty Sottile	+107
...AMF Rocket Bowl	
Chattworth, Calif.	
EMPLOYEE PRIZE WINNER	
... Skip Kneuer	
AMF East Meadow Bowl	

### IN-CENTER FIRST PRIZE WINNERS

Center	Total Entries	First Prize Winner
AMF Bristol Pike Lanes, Craydon, Pa.	6,592	Linda Upok
AMF Post Bowl, White Plains, N.Y.	3,089	Roberto Gutierrez
AMF Circle Lanes, Bloomington, Ill.	1,881	Mark Stuart
AMF Lang's Bowlarama, Providence, R.I.	1,866	Don Hazzard
AMF Forest Lanes, Lyons, Ill.	1,037	Donna Drew
AMF Heister Lanes, Reading, Pa.	790	Frank Bryce
AMF Silver Lanes, E. Hartford, Ct.	753	Karla Belanger
AMF Saybrook Bowl, Old Saybrook, Ct.	724	Frank Stumpf
AMF Wallington Lanes, Wallington, N.J.	708	Kathy Koeneke
AMF Madison Lanes, Madison, Mo.	576	Gloria Russell
AMF Strickland Spares Lanes, Northbrook, Ill.	529	Joan Trider
AMF Cowtown Bowling Palace, Ft. Worth, Tex.	388	Lloyd Browning
AMF Rockwood Lanes, Portland, Ore.	386	John Rutledge
AMF Ramona Lanes, Hemet, Calif.	376	Bart Long
AMF Bowlero Lanes, Tacoma, Wash.	347	Charlene Sugars
AMF Valley Lanes, Newark, Ohio	287	Chuck Duggins
AMF Main Lanes, Columbus, Ohio	262	Pat Reed
AMF Triangle Lanes, Abilene, Tex.	275	Rudy Cano
AMF Cascade Lanes, Portland, Ore.	267	Hank Barnes
AMF Altamonte Lanes, Altamonte Spa., Fla.	233	Ben Lupo
AMF Rocket Bowl, Chatsworth, Calif.	216	Betty Sottile
AMF New College Park Bowl, Las Vegas, Nev.	198	Gerole Adon
AMF Bentley Lanes, Cherry Hill, N.J.	126	George Schmidt
AMF Pro 200 Lanes, Portland, Ore.	87	Peter Borsowski
AMF Dick Weber Lanes, St. Louis, Mo.	83	Gerry Hager
AMF Kissimmee Lanes, Kissimmee, Fla.	73	Bob Usual
AMF Heister Lanes, Reading, Pa.	73	Joan Kneuer
AMF Anderson Bowling Ctr., Anderson, S.C.	57	Barry Whooten
AMF Holiday Lanes, Vinport, Miss.	35	
AMF Deer Bowl, Greenville, S.C.	31	Ray Timmerman
AMF Forest Park Lanes, Ft. Worth, Tex.	10	Wayne Hoffman
AMF Cherry Hill Lanes, Branford, Ct.	5	
AMF Wonder Bowl, New Bedford, Ct.	0	

### WANT TO JOIN A LEAGUE?

Bob Stockdale, manager of AMF Wallington Lanes, poses with Connie Hyers (right) who has made the above phrase a way of life at Wallington. During our recently completed Roll for Gold program, Connie led all Leisureland employees with 593 sign-ups. Congratulations Connie!

In the special employee competition, a staff member received an entry in our contest for each 50 sign-ups they garnered for summer leagues. Although Connie led everyone with 12 entries, the eventual

winner was Skip Kneuer of AMF East Meadow Bowl (who had only one entry!). Skip will be receiving a trip for two to London, England as the Grand Prize winner in our employee contest. In all the promotion drew a total of 218 entries from throughout the United States, representing a total of 10,900 summer league sign-ups.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to all of those Leisureland staff members that made a contribution. You truly do make the difference!

### TO ALL OUR STAFF MEMBERS:

### TONY LA POLLA RECEIVES MANAGER-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD



**YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!**

In a recent presentation, Tony La Polla of AMF Bristol Pike Lanes received Leisureland's highest honor, the president's citation for 1985.

This honor is awarded to the manager and staff that make the most significant contribution to Leisureland's success in the areas of bowling lineage growth, cash profits and participation in national special events.

Bruce Gobbi, president of AMF Leisureland Centers, had this to say when presenting Tony's award: "We are most pleased with the job that's been done by Tony and his fine staff during the past year. Their efforts have made a significant contribution to the excellence that AMF is striving to achieve."

Shown in photo - (L to R) - Ray Boufford, Regional Supervisor; Bonnie Kozak, Assistant Manager; Tony La Polla, General Manager.

Tony LaPolla - Manager of the Year in 1986  
(Clipping from AMF Newsletter provided by Dave Williams)

## La Polla continued from page 1

years young, to give me an update on his career and where he had been since we last communicated. "Following the restructuring of AMF, my position as District Manager was eliminated, and I could not see a future managing only one center in an area of California that is quite expensive," commented LaPolla.

"Carl offered me a position as manager of AMF East Meadow Bowl on Long Island (New York) with a substantial increase in pay, but when I compared the cost of living it was no better than California," said Tony. As LaPolla looked around for an alternative, he was fortunate to make contact with Bruce Gobbi, former President of AMF Bowling Centers, who had connected with Bowling Corporation of America (BCA) following the shakeup at AMF.

"Bruce had an opening at Terrace Garden, a 56-lane bowling center in Rochester, New York, so I jumped at the chance to get back to my hometown area," uttered LaPolla. That was in 1991, but when AMF began courting BCA as a potential acquisition, Tony said that he began looking for another possible career outside of bowling.

"Eventually I hooked up with ACS Education Services, a government subsidized organization that specializes in student loans. I was there for 16 years before retiring around 2010," said LaPolla. "But I never stopped bowling, and still average closed to 200 at age 78." It should be noted that Tony's early bowling career (1965-1980) consisted of working with Dan Gallicchio in resurfacing lanes. "Gallicchio invented a circular machine to cut wooden lanes that's still being used today on wood surface lanes," added LaPolla.

While Tony continued bowling in the Utica area after his retirement, a group of investors from India had purchased Vista Lanes in Yorkville. Because they were not at all familiar with the game of bowling, many of the local patrons told them they should talk to Tony. After a lot of prodding, the owners convinced Tony to come out of retirement at the age of 71. He brought with him Toni, his youngest of three daughters, to assist him in the operation. After about three years, the investors asked Tony if he would be interested in leasing the operation from them. "I discussed the opportunity with my daughter and her husband, and we decided to give it a shot. We've been leasing the facility ever since."

"The COVID-19 virus has presented a difficult time for us," said Tony. "We applied for the Payroll Protection Program (PPP), and received a \$21,000 loan which kept us afloat until we were able to reopen at 50% capacity earlier this year. We currently have no 9:00 PM leagues, which works well for us because the state has mandated that all bars must close at 10:00 PM."

Tony mentioned that another feature of the new COVID-19 mandates in New York is that when you purchase an alcoholic beverage, you must also purchase a food item. "Our snack sales are through the roof," Tony said enthusiastically. "Our best seller is pepperoni and crackers, which is my personal favorite."

Perhaps we have discovered the secret to longevity and optimism in life... pepperoni and crackers!

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING – Thank GOD for Bowling

by Frank Weiler

"GIVE THANKS". "TAKE A KNEE" and Thank GOD for the sport of Bowling. We all have much to be thankful for. Bowling has much to be thankful for.

Thank you, Lord, for inspiring the Genius who invented the sport of Bowling.

Thank you, Lord, for giving our sport great past leaders like ROGER DALKIN, KEVIN DORNBERGER, JOHN FALZONE, ELAINE HAGIN, CHUCK PEZZANO, JOAN ROMEO and JOHN SOMMER JR. to name a few.

Thank you, Lord, for giving our sport great leaders like TOM CLARK, BOB & BARB CHRISMAN, FRANK DESOCIO, KEITH HAMILTON and CHAD MURPHY to name a few.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us great Bowling leaders in California like KATHY BRUEGEMAN, ANDRE EUBANKS, MIKE LUCAS, LYNN MATSUBARA, ROSIE PARKER, LARRY PEPPERS and LARRY WORRALL to name a few.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us great media leaders like JIM GOODWIN, BOB JOHNSON, FRENCHY LETOURNEAU, CAROL MANCINI, GIANMARC MANZIONE, and BILL VINT to name a few.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us great media leaders in California like BETTE ADDINGTON, DONNA DILLARD, DONNA HAZEL, MARY LYNLY, DEAN LOPEZ and TINA MARTIN to name a few.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us personable Professional Bowlers like LINDA BARNES, PARKER BOHN III, PAM BUCKNER, TONY REYES and KYLE TROUP to name a few.

Thank you, Lord, for all those many anonymous bowlers, employees, proprietors and volunteers who have made BOWLING the greatest sport in the world.

"GIVE THANKS". "TAKE A KNEE" and thank GOD for the sport of Bowling.



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