



HALL OF FAME AMBASSADOR AWARD

2023

MARK MEIER

The Hall of Fame "Ambassador" award was created to honor those individuals who best exemplify the sport of bowling through their dedication and service to the Iowa State USBC members and the game of American Tenpins. The recipient may or may not be a member of the Iowa State USBC.

Any Iowa State USBC association or member may nominate an individual for this award. Our recipient is a person who provides leadership, knowledge and cooperation in assisting the Iowa State USBC with its mission of serving the bowlers of Iowa.

Today, we honor a person who has provided invaluable service to the Iowa State USBC and its predecessors, especially the former women's association.

President Chris Birnbaum, would you please escort Mark Meier to the podium.

It was indeed a pleasure to witness the Board of Directors of the Iowa State USBC approve the Hall of Fame committee recommendation of Mark as the 2023 Ambassador inductee. It was a great honor to accept Mark's request to be his presenter at this induction ceremony.

Mark Meier started his service to bowling and the Iowa Women's Bowling Association as a photographer's assistant in 1974, as a freshman in high school, taking photos at the women's doubles & singles center, Maple Lanes in Waterloo while his father, Roger, took the team photos at the team center, Cadillac Lanes. Roger had been the official photographer for the IWBA since 1966.

Mark assisted yearly and soon became an important part of the women's tournament. He assumed ownership of the photography business in 2003 following the passing of his father and continued service to the IWBA, then the Iowa State USBC Women's Bowling Association, and now the Iowa State USBC.

Although Meier Studio is a business partner, many long lasting friendships have resulted in this 49 year relationship. During that time, Mark also served the men's association and a few local associations with photography service. He has even taken wedding photos for a few!

During the 12 years of women's tournament weekends, I had the pleasure of working, Mark and I shared

many memories of tournaments past and where we thought bowling was headed in the future.

Every year, we reminisced about Lo Borschuk, Virg Van Dierendonck, Karen Krula and my years as the Tournament Director along with the ladies who served as presidents during those years. Never a dark comment, always a lot of fun and laughter, and remembering some crazy event in whatever city we were in that year.

Mark and I also “trucked” during tournament weekends, as his primary employment was in the trucking industry and my previous employment was also in trucking. So, we trucked a lot of miles during those weekends of those 12 years.

Back in the day, as we say, the women’s tournament had various themes and Mark created a photo prop known as “The Board” for the ladies to stand behind, or in some cases, use a varying pose. Mark’s boards were always created to match the theme for the tournament, and included the city we were bowling in and the date. His photos are treasured by countless women across Iowa as a true memento of that unforgettable state tournament weekend!

New backdrops were added in recent years, along with “going digital”, a huge change with on-site delivery instead of waiting for the photos to arrive in a week or two in the mail. A true sign of the times!

Photography service was always included during the annual meeting weekend, and still is. Somehow, Mark manages to get a photo of everyone in attendance, get all the award winners, and many casual shots during the social events, and the meeting.

Memories, we all have them, and treasure them. I’m sure Mark has more than most, and hopefully he’ll share a favorite memory with this tonight.

Traveling from his home to the tournament site every weekend from 1974 through 2021 is a lot of miles, a lot of time, and a tremendous amount of dedication.

Please join us as we honor and thank Mark Meier for his dedication, his work, and his friendship, in service to the bowling tournaments and associations in Iowa.

Presented June 24, 2023

Chris Birnbaum, President