IOWA STATE

HALL OF FAME

2024

CHRIS BIRNBAUM

The Iowa State USBC Hall of Fame is the highest honor which we can bestow on deserving members. There are several categories that can be achieved on the path to Hall of Fame induction. It is my pleasure this evening to introduce our 2024 Male Meritorious Service Hall of Fame inductee, Chris Birnbaum.

Chris' early bowling experience came from going to bowling league with his dad! Back in that era, it was paper score pads and the bowlers kept their own score. Chris soon learned to keep score and eventually became the official scorekeeper for his dad's team and the opposing team using the overhead scoring of that time period.

In 1974 at Rose Bowl in Fort Dodge, Chris started his bowling career in the then AJBC junior leagues. He served as league secretary during his Junior and Senior youth league years. An early start!

Following high school, Chris moved to Mason City and attended business college and while there he started and managed a small intermural bowling league consisting of ten teams. He worked at Rose Bowl in Mason City too!

1981 brought his move back to Fort Dodge and he joined Dad's bowling team that he used to keep score for! Chris will tell you these are the most memorable nights of his bowling life. I hope tonight will be just as memorable as those early days were.

Being a team captain started in 1982 and has continued ever since for one or more teams. He served the Dodger Playboy League as president and then secretary from 1983 until 1995 when an illness stopped Chris' bowling for a year.

Following that long year off, Chris jumped back into service being elected president of the East End Eight League, and then took over the secretary position until knee surgery slowed him down. All the while he was still promoting bowling and fun tournament events for others.

1986 began his service to the Fort Dodge Bowling Assn. when he was elected as 5th Director. Chris was appointed president in 1990 after the president resigned.

Remaining active in the association was always important to Chris and he was called upon again to serve as president in 1994-95.

From 1996 to the merger in 2012, Chris served as the Hall of Fame Liaison.

Chris served on the merger committee and was eventually elected president in 2017, serving until 2021.

Service to the Iowa State Men's Bowling Association started in 2015 when he successfully ran and was elected a director to the organization. He served on all committees during his years of service.

The state merger committee was formed in 2017 for the purpose of bringing Iowa bowling from three separate associations into one; Chris served this committee and its historic work.

Chris was elected as the 1st Vice President of the newly merged Iowa State USBC in 2018 and served three years.

His assignments included the Hall of Fame, Finance, and Tournaments, along with being the chair of the 2019 Jamboree.

In 2021 he was elected as the Iowa State USBC President and is currently in his final year of office.

Chris has bowled over 35 Iowa State Open Tournaments, and now has one Mixed Tournament to his credit.

Since 2010 he's been a squad leader for four teams for the Open tournament and in recent years increased to six teams. He does all the work of lining up the bowlers, collecting the money, doing the paperwork, now the data entry, arranging the hotel accommodations and even sets up dinner reservations for this group each year!

He has attended over 35 Iowa conventions and Jamborees, along with two USBC conventions.

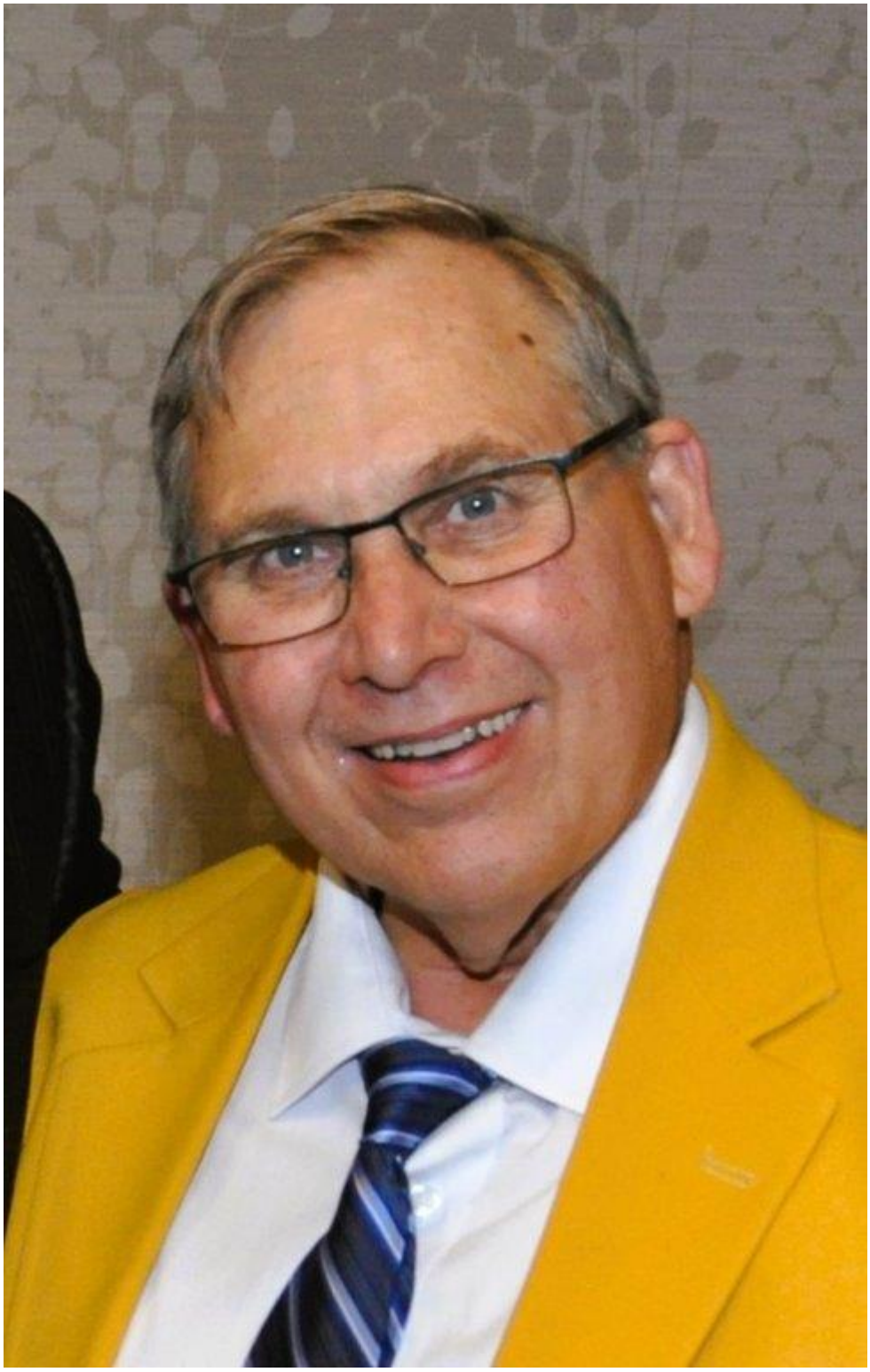
His highlights on the lanes include 2 300 games and 50+ 700 series which includes his high of 784.

He also has several local city tournament championships to his credit.

Some of his favorite times of service were assisting with the Open State Tournament in 1988 by working the late shift on Saturdays and all day on Sunday. Again, in 2003, he filled the position of Tournament Director at the Team center and worked every shift and coordinated scorekeepers.

The Fort Dodge WBA hosted their state events in 1995 and 2010 and Chris helped with both of them as needed and managed the brackets during the 2010 tournament.

Chris, a lifelong bowler, promoter of bowling at all levels, helps when and where needed whether it is/was paperwork or computer work or handling the money!

His long-time love of the sport, here in Iowa, and elsewhere, his dedication and service has brought us here tonight.

Please join me in celebrating the dedication and service of Chris Birnbaum as we induct him to the Iowa State USBC Class of 2024 Hall of Fame.