She was elected to the Iowa State YABA Director in 1997 – 2002, served on several committees as a chair person, on the Iowa State YABA Budget & Finance 1999, Tournament 2000, Budget & Finance again in 2001, Policies in 2002 and Iowa State USBC Scholarship in 2020.

Other committees she has served on include Iowa State YABA Policies in 1998 and Iowa State USBC Nominating committee in 2021 and the Iowa State USBC scholarship in 2021, 2022.

She has been the Iowa State YABA / Youth Tournament Director 2003 to present. Awards that she won include – Iowa State YABA Volunteer of the Year in 1993, has held the office for Iowa State YABA/YA Association Manager 2002-2019 and Iowa State USBC Coordinator 2019 to present. She also serves on Iowa Bowling Council since 2002 and has been serving as the Secretary / Treasurer since 2021.

She has also worked as a Tournament Staffer at Junior Gold and Youth Open in 2016 at Expo Bowl in Indianapolis, IN.

So, after reading off all her credentials for all the years that she has put into bowling isn't enough, just her sheer love of bowling should say it all. She wouldn't still be a part of everything that she does for bowling if she didn't enjoy it because we all know it is positively a "thankless job". Knowing that she took over the youth secretary/manager for DeWitt thinking her son Seth, had about 6 years to go before he graduated, has morphed into finishing her 32nd year not only with the Youth and Women, but now doing the merged DeWitt association manager position.

Jolene is probably the best advocate not only for bowling on the local level but on the state level as well. She is always helping associations advocate for their youth programs so the youth aren't shunted to the back burner by the adults. She is always available to receive phone calls on a Saturday morning from her FAVORITE PEST (me) on questions that I might have. I really think that is how I am listed in her caller id.

Her time spent helping this sport over the last 3 decades is innumerable. Hours spent behind the scenes and at the centers running tournaments. Hours helping teams from around the state get bowlers from other associations to fill

out teams and doubles partners so the youth can participate fully in a state event. Youth State is not like Open or Women, there are four shifts on each of a Saturday & Sunday. She is there for all those shifts every weekend answering questions, making changes, helping youth to get teammates/doubles partners when a kid doesn't show up (usually because of a broken bone, forgot they signed up or just didn't show up). I have personally witnessed this craziness at the Iowa State Youth Championship tournament and have been one of those people that she needed to work her magic in Cedar Rapids this year.
These weekends are long and exhausting, but she loves doing it even with the stress of trying to get the paperwork dealt with properly in WinLabs.

Please join us as we honor and thank Jolene Ketelsen for her dedication, service, friendship and her passion to the youth bowlers of Iowa.

Presented June 24, 2023

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Chris Birnbaum, President