

## *Hall of Fame Inductees - Class of 2020*

### **Robert Youker, Jr. – Superior Performance**



Robert (Bob) has been bowling for more than 30 years. His highest career accomplishment is winning an Eagle at the 1992 American Bowling Congress (ABC) National Tournament in Corpus Christi (Texas) in the singles event with an 801 series. Bob has participated in numerous leagues and tournaments during his storied career, including 29 ABC/USBC National Tournaments. His league awards include winning the 1993, 1994 and 1996 Lane 1 Doubles League and the 2002, 2004 and 2006 Marty Piraino Classic League. Bob held high average from 1994-96 in the Lane 1 league and in 2004 in the Piraino Classic. He was a perennial winner in Syracuse City Tournaments with team titles in 1992, 1999 and 2010, a doubles title in 2015, and a singles title in 1992. In the New York State Tournament, Bob won the doubles title in 1997 with Mike Daley and in 2008 with Pat Brick. In 1989, Bob finished third in the Bowlers Journal National Doubles Tournament. At one time, his Youker Construction team held the Syracuse Bowling Association's record for high series (3760) and high team game (1329). Bob has nineteen 800 series, including his high of 826. He bowled an 822 in the 2002 New York State Doubles Tournament. He also has forty-four 300 games, three of which were in The Post Standard Masters; eighteen 299 games, four 298s, five 11-in-a-row awards and two 30 clean-frame series at the National Tournament. After listing all of those accomplishments, Bob would tell you that he's most proud of his daughter Haley, who inherited his love and talent for bowling while being named the 2020 East Coast Conference Bowler of the Year and third-team All-American while competing for Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pa. Bob's mother, Patti Youker, is also a member of the Syracuse Women's Bowling Hall of Fame.

### **Lori Pientka – Superior Performance**



Lori has been active in the Central New York bowling community for 31 years. She has a career high series of 841, two 300 games, three 298 games and more than twenty 700 series. Lori has competed in numerous leagues over the years, including the Thunderbird Ladies Classic, Flamingo Ladies, John's Auto Care/Tabitha's Restaurant, Monday Nite Ladies, Thursday Nite T-Birdettes, Warm Morning Insulation, Friday Match Play, Greene & Reid Ladies, Thunderbird Friday Keglers and the Bethmann/Russell Financial League. She earned league high game awards in 1987, 1995, 1996, 2006 and 2019; league high series awards in 2017 and 2018; league high average awards in 2017, 2018 and 2019; and league championships in 1988, 1997, 2006 and 2017. In 1991 and 2008, Lori won most improved league bowler. Lori annually travels around the state with her fellow Syracuse women bowlers to participate in the New York State tournament and won a state mixed team title in 1999. In 2007, Lori won the prestigious New York State Queens Division 2 title, against a field of the top women bowlers in the state. She annually competes in The Post-Standard Women's Masters and the Syracuse Women's City Tournament, where she had high series in 2013 and won the team event in 2017 and 2019. In 1999, she was the high qualifier in the Women's Masters. Lori has participated in three national tournaments, placing 13th in doubles in 2011. Lori, who previously bowled in Connecticut and Georgia, is known and respected for her sportsmanship on and off the lanes.

## **William LoVine, Jr. – Superior Performance**



William, or Billy, as most people know him, has bowled for the past 38 years in numerous leagues as well as many local, state and national tournaments. This includes 30 Herald/Post-Standard Masters with an all-time high finish of seventh in 1989. Billy has bowled in 25 Van Wie Doubles Tournaments, nine ABC/USBC National Tournaments, four Hoinke Classics and three Lilac Scratch Challenges. He won multiple league titles in the Marty Piraino Fremont Classic as well as a title in the City League as part of the powerful Barbagallo's team at Syracuse Bowling Center. He has been on championship teams in the Greater Syracuse League, Bowl-Mor Thursday Night Men's, Thunderbird Wednesday Night Recreation and the MDS Painting Semi-Classic at Lakeview Recreation. Billy earned two league high average awards, and had season-high averages of 231 in 2008-09 and 227 in 2009-10 while compiling a career average of 210. Other career highlights include his high series of 843 (278-298-267) shot in the 1984 Pastime Masters while finishing third behind the eventual champion, Hall of Famer Nick Raphael. This stood as the Pastime Club record for many years until broken by Ray Burton with an 846 series. Billy won the 1986 Penguin Invitational at Pastime Club on games of 269-279-279 for an 827 series that was bowled on three pairs of lanes. In 1987, he finished second in an ABC Masters Qualifier tournament. In 1992 and 1993, Billy's teams won the Sam Soj dak 4-Man Team Challenge at B'ville Sports Bowl, including one with fellow 2020 Syracuse Hall of Fame inductee Mark Sabatine. Billy was a member of the 1998 Fremont All-Star team, along with Ted Melnyk, Andy Melnyk, Pete Moro Jr. and Dave Maxsween, that rolled a 3,411 set to win that year's City Tournament. Also in 1998, Billy won the New York State Scratch Singles title with an 823 series. In 1999, his team won the Flamingo Bowl Four-Man Christmas Tournament, beating a team led by PBA Hall of Famer Doug Kent. Billy has six 800 series, and 150 series of 700 or more, including a 797. He also has seven 300 games, including one in the 1991 US Open, as well as four 299s and two 298s.

## **Nick Moro – Superior Performance**



In 1969, Nick began bowling in the junior program at Lakeview Recreation in Liverpool. As a 10-year-old, Nick and his father, Syracuse Bowling Association Hall of Famer Ono Moro, went on to win the first of six Parent/Child Christmas Doubles Tournaments. As a junior bowler, he compiled multiple high average, high game and high series awards. As a 15-year-old, Nick rolled a 769 series, which was then a record for the local American Junior Bowling Association (AJBA). As an adult in the SBA in the 1976-77 season. Nick competed in the first of 41 Van Wie Doubles Tournaments, where he rolled a 298 game in qualifying. Later that season, he won a Kegler Bowling Club Title. Among Nick's career highlights are a third-place finish in the 1978 US Open Qualifier, 1979 Cream of the Crop runner-up, 1979 Syracuse Bowls team champion, 1980 Liverpool Volunteer Firemen's Tournament team champion, 2000 Champion of Champions runner-up, 2004 New York State team event runner-up, 2005 Thanksgiving Shoot Out champion at Thunderbird Lanes, 2013 New York State doubles runner-up, and 2018 Fulton Seniors Masters Champion. On March 1, 1992, Nick was the first bowler in SBA history to record consecutive 300s in a three-game series and in the 2013-14 season, he recorded the SBA's high average (238). During his 43-year USBC career, Nick has been a member of multiple team championships. He has seven 290 games, four 298 games, seven 299 games and twenty-seven 300 games as well as multiple 700 series, including a 797 and 798. He has rolled nineteen 800 series, including an 866, which still stands as Bowling Green's house record. He averaged 228 in the 2019-2020 season.

## **Mark Sabatine – Outstanding Veteran**



Most of you know Mark (fondly known as Sab) as the area's best "Lane Man." For 13 years, he prepped the lanes for the PBA's East Region. He spent eight years working on the PBA Tour and as a foul line judge on ESPN. Perhaps his top accomplishment was being awarded the United States Bowling Congress Lane-Man of the Year Award in 2018. Mark was also very competitive on the lanes during his career, with five 800 series, including an 841 at Sunset Bowl. He has more than two-hundred 700 series and forty-eight 300 games, two which he bowled with a rosin ball and the rest with a plastic or rubber ball. He also has ten 299 games, seven 298 games and three 11-in-a-row awards. In 1979, he won the singles, team and all-events titles in the Geneva City Tournament. That same year, his team (Dirty Nellies) won the Syracuse City League, with Mark's high average of 229 at Sunset Bowl. In 1983, he finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the singles event at the American Bowling Congress National Tournament. His career highlights include high average (231) at Roseland Bowl in 1985, as well as winning the 1987 scratch challenge sweeper, the 1988 Harry Rabb tournament, and the 1988 Oswego City Tournament all-events title. In 1994, he won the Sam Soj dak Team Challenge and in 1998 won the three-man team event at Expressway Lanes' Buzzsaw League. Other tournament accolades include winning the 1998 Syracuse Champion of Champions event as well as placing second in the Finger Lakes Masters that same year, the 1993 Super Bud Bowl and the 1996 Art Reynolds Tournament. Mark was a member of league championship teams in 1990 and 1991 in Rainbow Lanes' scratch doubles as well as in the Greater Syracuse League (GSL) in 1991, 1994 and 2019.

## **Elaine Stroman – Outstanding Veteran**



Elaine has been a member of the USBC and 600 Club for more than 40 years, as well as the TNBA (The National Bowling Association), 700 Club and WASA (Women's All-Star Association). Elaine currently serves as a director for the 600 Club and the CNY USBC Association, always willing to lend a hand. She has bowled in many leagues over the years, beginning with her mother and sister at Holiday Bowl. She then moved into the Erie Ladies Classic League, Florence Donovan Memorial, Bud Doubles, Independent Ladies, Saturday Night Mini Mixed, Petersen Classic and the Cool Kat Classic League, among others. Elaine was especially proud when her daughter, Jacqueline began bowling with her in leagues and tournaments. Elaine has traveled around the state with her fellow Syracuse women bowlers to participate in the New York State tournaments as well as the Lilac Tournament. Her high series is 755 and her high game is 297. Elaine has numerous league titles to her credit as well as individual league awards. She finished second in the prestigious Post-Standard Women's Masters in 2006 and was a member of the first-place team in the 1987 Lilac Tournament with Frieda Gates, Shanti Stroman, Vivian Green and Kitty Ashby. Elaine won the Syracuse 600 club Senior Singles title at Thunderbird Lanes in 2017, the 600 club Scotch Doubles with Martha Hudson at B'ville Sports Bowl in 2015 and the 2019 Women's Senior Tournament in her division.

## Joseph A, Gonzalski, Jr. – Meritorious Service



Joe's love and dedication to the sport of bowling was evident through his years of service to numerous leagues as well as serving as a Syracuse Bowling Association (SBA) board member. Joe was very proud to wear his red jacket as an association director from 1974 to 1977. He served on several committees as a director and never missed a board or association meeting. Joe served as secretary/treasurer of the Fremont Classic Men's League for 12 years. He also bowled in the Greater Syracuse League for 18 years and served as secretary/treasurer in that league. His highest average was a 178, and in 1955, Joe proudly became a member of the 700 club. He often sponsored teams to participate in the Petersen Classic in Chicago and always encouraged bowlers to enter the SBA City Tournament and the ABC National Tournament. Joe's love of bowling carried through to his family, especially his wife Helen; his daughters Linda and Cindy; and his sons Joseph III, Michael (Guido) and David, who are all well-respected current or past USBC members. Helen was faithful to the American Junior Bowlers Association (AJBA) for many years as a league organizer, secretary/ treasurer and as a mentor to her grandchildren who bowled in parent/child leagues with her. Joe's grandchildren and great-grandchildren also inherited his love for bowling and are competing in local USBC and AJBA leagues. When asked by his son-in-law, Brian Langdon, during one of their many bowling conversations, "Why do you do so much for the game of bowling?" Joe simply stated, "I want to serve the association and be elected to the SBA Hall of Fame someday." Sadly, Joe passed away in 1979 at the age of 46.