

Gerry Keslar

Lawrence-Greater Douglas County USBC Kansas State Hall of Fame Service - 2022

Bowling Industry History

- *Attended Brunswick Pinsetter School, Muskegon, MI (1976)*
- *Full time pinsetter mechanic for Hollywood Bowl in Lincoln, NE (1976-1981)*
- *Provided pinsetter service for Bowling Centers in Eastern, NE and Western, IA (1976-1981)*
- *Managed Seward Bowl in Seward, NE (1981-1984)*
- *Graduated from Brunswick Management School, Muskegon, MI*
- *Worked for Jayhawk Bowling Supply (1987-2020... with a small break in between)*
 - *Trained on lane care and lane resurfacing and Brunswick Equipment Installations*
 - *Factory trained in Century Lane Machine maintenance*
 - *Certified Trainer for IBPSIA (International Bowling Pro Shop Instructors Association)*
 - *2002 IBPSIA Light House Service Award Winner*
 - *Involved in the transition of merging IBPSIA with the BPAA to ensure the organization was able to grow and share the biggest stage of the industry at Bowl Expo. That partnership between the two organizations continues through today*
 - *Managed Jayhawk Pro Shop Division and developed new products for Pro Shops*
 - *Gerry and Jayhawk exported made in Kansas products to over 60 countries worldwide.*
 - *Gerry was instrumental in the development of the Tri-Oval and was very instrumental in Jayhawk's acquisition of the Cook Sphere and Bill Taylor product lines.*
 - *This eventually lead to the very popular Jayhawk Pro Shop training classes*
 - *Traveled all around the world teaching people how to drill bowling balls*
- *Product Manager for Ebonite International*
 - *Started their Pro Shop Powerhouse Division*
 - *Started their Capital Equipment Division, which included introducing their new line of automatic scoring*
- *Capital Equipment Specialist with Jayhawk Bowling Supply*
 - *Representing the Brunswick Corporation, where he over saw the remodeling, rebranding and building of nearly 100 centers in the Midwest. Selling big ticket Capital Sales requires a lot of time and though knowledge of all parts of the bowling industry.*
 - *Multiple winner of the prestigious Brunswick Ace Award for Sales Excellence*
- *Managed North Kansas City Pro Bowl which has 48 lanes*
 - *Owned and operated Bowlers Express Pro Shop inside NKC Pro Bowl*
- *Current part owner of Gage Bowl and West Ridge Lanes in Topeka, KS*

Boards

- *Served as Local Association for Lincoln, NE as the Secretary (1981-1984)*
- *Served on the Kansas Youth Board prior to the merger*
- *Served on the Kansas Men's Board prior to the merger*
- *Currently serving on KANSAS STATE USBC and is the current President*

Personal Bowling History

- *Bowled on the Professional Bowlers Tour from 1984-1986*
- *Numerous 300 games*
- *824 high series*
- *City & State Titles in Nebraska / Missouri / Kansas*
- *1999 Bowling Excellence, Hall of Fame, Lincoln, NE*
- *Un Paid Men's Bowling Coach @ Baker University*

Testimonials

For well over a decade, one of the important reasons the IBPSIA classes were able to take place was because of Gerry's commitment to IBPSIA and the willingness to assist in growing the education platform of the organization. Certainly one of the driving forces in the success of the IBPSIA education program...*Jerry Francomono Past President of the IBPSIA, and now current General Manager of Bowling Operations at Strike Zone Bowling Center and Texas Star Lanes in Las Vegas.*

Gerry has done all of these things and still has always found the time to give back to the game by coaching and mentoring our youth and collegiate players, as well as serve at many levels for the USBC. *"John Hardman – Owner of Jayhawk Bowling Supply"*

My husband Gerry is one of a kind. He can do anything in relationship to bowling, from building centers, to remodeling them, to drilling balls, to programing a lane machine. When I first met Gerry in 1986, he was bowing out on tour and on his spare time he was rebuilding all the pinsetters for Wayne Zahn in Tempe, AZ. I don't know anyone with more knowledge and passion for the sport of bowling, and I am so proud that he works side by side with me to help grow our sport...*"Cheryl Keslar, Head Bowling Coach at Baker University as well as a Kansas Hall of Fame member"*