

## Tom McMann: Hall of Fame Candidate for Meritorious Service

Tom McMann has been a cornerstone in the promotion and growth of the sport of bowling in the New England region for over four decades. His dedication to the sport, both as a proprietor and an organizer, has left a lasting legacy. Below are the highlights of his contributions and leadership roles within the bowling community.

### Bowling Proprietor and Organizer

- **Owner and Manager of 10 Pin Bowling Center** in Wilbraham since 1965, Tom has been involved in the day-to-day operations of one of the region's premier bowling centers, fostering community engagement and promoting the sport.
- **Charter Member and First President of the Greater Springfield Bowling Association (GSBA)** in 1959, Tom played a crucial role in establishing the foundation for organized bowling in the area.
- **Former President of the Connecticut Proprietors Association**, where his leadership further demonstrated his commitment to the growth and development of bowling on a larger scale.
- An active member of the **Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA)** for many years, where he contributed to discussions and initiatives that shaped the future of the sport nationwide.

### Tournament Promotion and Organization

- Tom was instrumental in **hosting the first Massachusetts State Tournament** in Agawam in 1960, bringing statewide attention to Western Massachusetts bowling.
- He was a key figure in the formation and promotion of major tournaments such as:
  - **Canada Dry Tournament**
  - **Valley Majors Tournament**
  - **Western Massachusetts Proprietors' Tournament** These tournaments attracted bowlers from all over the region, enhancing competitive play and raising the profile of bowling in the area.

### Leadership in League and Collegiate Bowling

- **Coach of the Western New England College (WNEC) Student Program**, where Tom's guidance helped shape student bowlers for many years.
- **Promoted League and Tournament Play** throughout New England since 1960, encouraging participation and competition among bowlers of all skill levels.
- Acted as **President and Treasurer for numerous leagues** between 1957 and the 1980s, managing and overseeing the successful operation of over 30 leagues.

- His role as a **volunteer coach for over 15 years** in the local community showcased his passion for nurturing young talent and ensuring the growth of the sport at the grassroots level.

### **Service and Contributions**

- Tom has been a **member of the Mass Tri-County Bowling Association (MTCBA)** for 41 years, along with being a member of the **American Bowling Congress (ABC)** for the same period, underlining his lifelong commitment to the sport.
- Throughout his career, Tom **helped organize travel leagues in the 1960s**, which provided bowlers the opportunity to compete in different regions, further expanding the sport's reach.
- His ability to **balance the responsibilities of managing a bowling center, organizing tournaments, and serving on various boards** is a testament to his commitment to the sport's promotion.

### **Conclusion**

Tom McMann's long list of contributions to the sport of bowling has earned him a well-deserved place in the Mass Tri-County Bowling Association Hall of Fame for Meritorious Service. His decades of service, leadership in bowling organizations, and efforts in promoting the sport at local, state, and national levels make him a worthy candidate for this recognition. Tom's unwavering passion for bowling has left an indelible mark on the sport and the community he served for over 40 years.