

Gerry Anderson

Meritorious Service



Gerry was born on September 3, 1947 in Jacksonville, NC. Her parents served in the Navy Hospital and Nurse Corps, and their family moved to Annapolis, MD when she was a young girl after spending some time in North and South Carolina, as well as Panama. Maryland is where her family made their home, and she grew up in the Arnold area. She graduated from Severna Park High School in 1965. She continued on to Towson University, where she earned both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Elementary Education. She began teaching in Severna Park in 1969 and would continue until she retired in 2011. She got married in 1982 and had two children shortly after, Colleen and LeRoy.

Gerry spent time at the bowling center even as a young girl. Her mother bowled in a league at a small center on the Annapolis Naval Station. Most bowling centers didn't have automatic pin setters or ball returns in the 1950s, so her father came along to assist with resetting pins and returning bowling balls by hand. This meant Gerry and her brother had to come along, too, and they would usually watch and play. As an adult, she bowled several leagues herself along with her husband and sometimes with other family members. When her children became interested in bowling and joined a youth program at Fairlanes Southdale (now AMF) in the mid 1980s, she began to volunteer with the program and eventually began coaching.

In the fall of 1993, she and Judy Martinsen helped to establish what would become a very successful youth program at Annapolis Bowl. Gerry coached, as well as shared many program director duties, with Judy over the next 20 years. During those 20 years, she also served as a director (and eventually the Association Manager) on the board for the Western Chesapeake Bay USBC Youth Association (WCBA) and was either a Tournament Director or volunteer for countless WCBA tournaments. In addition, she became a board member of Maryland State YABA (MDYABA) in the early 2000s.

When Meri Mallette retired from the Maryland State YABA after decades of service, she became part of a team with Judy Martinsen and Richard Bush that would be instrumental in continuing to provide the services and tournaments that the MDYABA provided. This included the State Tournament, state qualifiers for the National Pepsi Tournament, the 600 Club Tournament, and many others. In addition to these countless hours spent working on these local and state tournaments, she also served on the Board of Directors of the Severna Park Women's Bowling Association until they merged with the Baltimore Women's Bowling Association, and also served on the Maryland State Tenpin Council.

During her time serving on the MDYABA, she became a member of the youth committee that would work with the Maryland State men's and women's associations during the merger of the three organizations in 2005. When the new merged Maryland State USBCBA was formed, she was elected to the board of directors and later in 2009 served as 2nd Vice President until her passing in August 2013. During her time on the MD State Board, she always worked with others to ensure the youth bowlers of our state continued to receive quality service as they had before, and encouraged others to realize how important youth bowlers were to the growth of the sport.

Gerry spent many weekends for nearly 30 years driving many hours to take her children to tournaments or help with other tournaments and programs. This included cheering on her son's college bowling team at Saginaw Valley State University. She served the youth program at Annapolis Bowl up until hours before her death – asking her daughter to bring paperwork to the hospital so she could complete it and then asking her to deliver supplies to them so they could continue with their registration day that Saturday when she realized she would still be in the hospital. Even years after her children moved onto adult bowling programs, Gerry continued on with representing youth bowlers because she loved to see the excitement in children as they learned to love the sport and help it grow.