

John Vananzo

Meritorious Service



Born on April 4, 1962 in Baltimore MD, John is the son of Mary Margret Vananzo and the late Nicholas Vananzo. John graduated from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in 1980, where he played soccer, basketball and baseball. John is employed by the Maryland State Highway Administration as a Transportation Manager. He lives in Aberdeen with his wife Elly and their cat children, PJ, Cookie (also known as Cookie John Michael when she is bad), and Hailey.

John's interest in bowling began when his family would bowl duckpins together at the old Greenway Bowl lanes off of Moravia Road. Upon moving to Harford County in 1972, they would occasionally bowl ten pins at Fairlanes Edgewood. His interest in the sport grew and he joined his first adult league in 1981, the Rolling Kegs, on Sunday night at Edgewood.

He was first elected to the Cecil Harford Counties Bowling Association Board of Directors in 1992. John served as House Rep for two years and then was elected Vice President in 1994 serving in that capacity until 2003 when he was elected to serve as President, the position he held until 2010. John remained on the local board as Director until 2016. In 2005, John was elected Life Member of the Cecil Harford Counties Bowling Association. He was elected life member in 2007.

While on the local board, John served as Tournament Director for the Champion of Champion for 7 years. He also has filled in as Tournament Director for the Cecil Harford 700 Club and he has been the Assistant Tournament Director of the Walker Brothers Tournament since 2009.

In 2016 the Cecil Harford USBC Association merged with the Harford County USBC Women's Bowling Association. John was elected as 1st Vice President on the new merged board.

At the State level, John served as a delegate for 10 years and a director for 3 years. In 2004 John was appointed to the transition team to form the new Maryland State merged association under the new USBC guidelines. John was elected Executive Vice President in 2006.

In 2008 John was elected President of the MDUSBC Board, a position he still holds. While John has been President, the board has made many changes to the tournaments. John's theory is that if you are not looking to change and improve the tournaments, than you are not doing your job.

The MDUSBC board changed the Queens and Princess Tournament to a Ladies Singles Tournament. The tournament is a cancer awareness event, with all money raised at the tournament donated to a local cancer research center. The High Average invitational tournament now allows 3 girls and 3 boys to qualify from each association to the state finals. To increase participation in the Championship tournaments, John had discussions with the board to allow bowlers to be able to bowl another singles and doubles squad. There was concerns that some bowlers would be opposed to this change. John had recommended that we allow the bowlers to make the decision and a survey was offered at the tournament.

John has served as Tournament Director for the Women's Championship, Mixed, High Average Tournament, two Pepsi Regional Tournaments, and was co-Tournament Director for the Open Tournament. John was a member of the committee that established the Youth Star of Tomorrow Scholarship Award. John also enjoys coaching and helping youth bowlers and is a certified youth instructor. John established the MDUSBC Facebook page and he is in charge of the Mail Chimp email account.

John has enjoyed some success on the lanes. John is credited with thirty two (32) - 300 games, nine (9) - 299 games, three (3) - 298 games, one (1) - 297 game, and one (1) 296 game (he has a straight). He has twelve (12) 800 sets, with a high of 823. Below is a list of his Titles and Accomplishments:

Maryland State USBC Titles – 14 (4 open titles and one Senior)
Cecil Harford USBC Association Titles – 12 (5 Local Titles)
Cecil Harford USBCS 700 Clubs – 7 singles (2- Tournament of Champions) and 3 doubles. – Life Member
2013 & 2014 PA Senior All- Events Champion (50-54)
Award of Merit for High Average in the CHUSBC Association
2008/09 - 235 and 2009/10 - 227
2007 Dutchman Team Handicap Title
2012 Dutchman Team Scratch Title
High Average – 235
25 Consecutive National Tournaments

The Maryland State USBC Association is proud to induct John M. Vananzo to their Hall of Fame in the category of Meritorious Service.