

BPAA TO HONOR FRANK DESOCIO WITH VICTOR LERNER MEMORIAL MEDAL

ARLINGTON, Texas (January 24, 2025) – The Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) is proud to announce the recipients of the 2025 Bowling Industry Service Awards, the most prestigious awards presented by the association.

Frank DeSocio (Olathe, Kansas) has been selected as the 2025 BPAA Hall of Fame Inductee and recipient of the Victor Lerner Memorial Medal. The Lerner Medal is the highest honor awarded by the BPAA and recognizes an individual for a lifetime of service to the bowling industry. It represents the recipient's induction into BPAA's Hall of Fame, located at the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame in Arlington, Texas.

DeSocio owns two bowling centers in Kansas and has served as President of the Kansas Bowling Proprietors' Association and the Multi Unit Bowling Information Group (MUBIG). He was President of Strike Ten Entertainment for nine years before becoming Executive Director of the BPAA. DeSocio was recognized as Bowlers Journal International's Proprietor of the Decade in 2000 and received the BPAA President's Award for his leadership in re-positioning International Bowl Expo as the industry's premier event. In 2020, he was presented the John Davis Award for his contributions to the industry.

Richard "Ricky" Bourgeois (Baton Rouge, Louisiana) will receive the coveted V.A. Wapensky Award, named after BPAA's long-time executive director, "Chief" Wapensky. Bourgeois is being recognized for his lifetime support of bowling and endless promotion of the sport. In 2022, he celebrated 50 years with Malco and oversees two family entertainment centers with movie operations and one bowling entertainment center in the Baton Rouge area.

Larry Nowak (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina) is BPAA's 2025 Proprietor of the Year. He owns and operates Myrtle Beach Bowl, a traditional league-based center that shines with outstanding youth programs. Nowak makes his staff feel like family and generously gives his time to many community organizations. He serves on the local USBC Board, and hosts local and state tournaments and coaching clinics.

Mandy Haws (Sooner, Oklahoma) was selected by BPAA President Kevin Krauss for the President's Award for her years of exceptional service as Chair of the International Bowl Expo Committee.

Laurie Clower (Euless, Texas) was chosen for the Special Projects Award for her work re-designing and relocating the Legacy of Leadership and BPAA Hall of Fame displays at Bowling Headquarters.

Kevin Krauss, BPAA President and Awards Committee Chairman, said, "The Awards Committee is always happy to see the nominations for industry service awards and recognize people who are making the bowling industry better."

The Bowling Industry Service Awards will be presented at the Annual Awards Luncheon during International Bowl Expo 2025 at the Gaylord National in Washington, D.C. The Victor Lerner Medal presentation will take place during the general session on Tuesday, July 1.

About BPAA

Founded in 1932, the mission of the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) is to enhance the profitability of its members. Headquartered in Arlington, Texas, at the International Bowling Campus, the BPAA offers its more than 3,300 member centers group purchasing programs, business and educational seminars and legislative representation, and promotes bowling. For additional information, please visit www.bpaa.com or call 1-800-343-1329.