

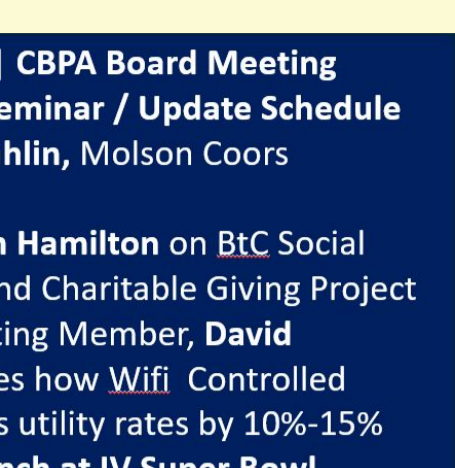
TABLE OF CONTENTS

- > Video Gaming Terminal Application Portal Now Open
- > All are invited to attend **Super Monday** --- Meetings and Seminars, March 23
- > Kyle Troup & Waveland Bowl Featured on WGN-TV and Facebook, respectively
- > Link to the *Darold and Dee Frewing Scholarship Application* (\$25,000)
- > The 63rd Annual Beat the Champs Tournament headed to Palos Lanes, March 15
- > Target Show Score Gifts Available for Your Bowlers
- > The 2026 QubicaAMF Pin Program Details Available Now
- > Social Media & Promotional Ideas for Month of March
- > Time to Register for the A2 Mechanic School
- > Hall of Fame Xtravaganza turns 15 ---- Send Your Bowlers Las Vegas
- > Michael Best Legislative Report provides "Bills of Interest" and Key Dates

VGT APPLICATION PORTAL NOW OPEN

Great News for Chicago-Area Bowling Centers

At 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, the **Video Gaming Terminal (VGT) Application Portal** officially opened for Chicago-area based centers and other entertainment facilities. It is important that centers select an operator as soon as possible so that your application can be submitted to the state, as it may take some time before VGTs are distributed and fully operational.



While this has not been confirmed, there are reports that the Chicago Mayor's Office may be exploring efforts to repeal the ordinance. Whether or not this proves accurate—and despite any potential obstacles that may still arise—this development represents very positive news for our Chicago-based members. To access a copy of the story published by Chicago Tribune Online, please [CLICK HERE](#).

ALL ARE INVITED TO SUPER MONDAY

Palos Lanes --- March 23, 2026

9:30 am – 10:15 am | CBPA Board Meeting
10:30 am – Noon | Seminar / Update Schedule

- Meet Katherine Dahlin, Molson Coors new ISBPA Contact
- Updates from Keith Hamilton on BtC Social Media Campaign and Charitable Giving Project
- New ISBPA Supporting Member, **David Ackerman**, discusses how Wifi Controlled Thermostats lowers utility rates by 10%-15%

Noon – 1:00 pm | Lunch at IV Super Bowl
1:05 pm – 4:00 pm | ISBPA Board Meeting

The **Illinois State Bowling Proprietors' Association** invites all members to join us for **Super Monday** — a full day of seminars, association updates, and board meetings.

The day begins at 9:30 a.m. with the **Chicagoland BPA** Board of Directors Meeting. Immediately following, members will participate in a series of updates and seminars, beginning with a meet and greet with the state's new **Molson Coors** representative, **Katherine Dahlin**, who replaces **Justin Smith** following his recent promotion within the organization. ISBPA Executive Director **Keith Hamilton** will then provide updates on key association initiatives, including:

- Beat the Champs Social Media Campaign
- Charitable Giving Calculation Project

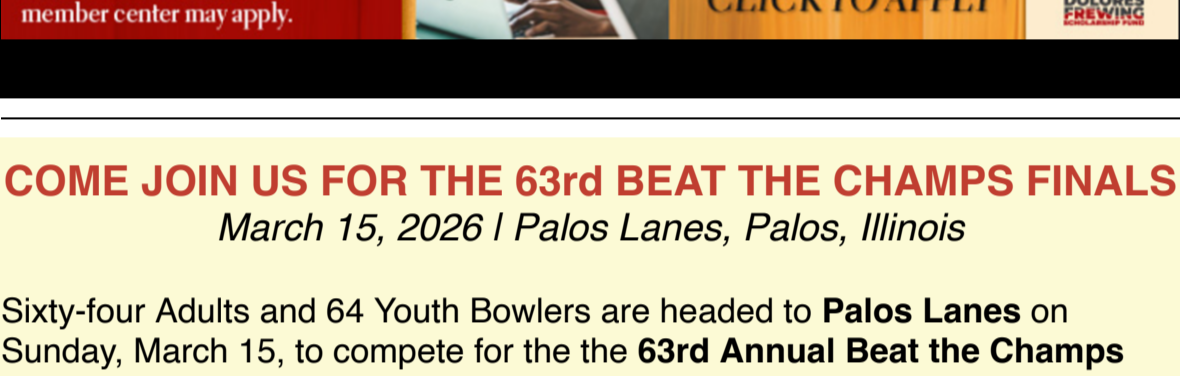
Our featured presenter will be ISBPA's newest Supporting Member, **David Ackerman** of **Energie Multipsport**, who will discuss the benefits of connecting facility thermostats to WiFi systems — a technology solution that can produce energy savings of 10%–15%. Lunch will be provided by our host, **IV Super Bowl**, followed by the ISBPA Board of Directors Meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. To ensure proper meal planning, if you haven't already done so, please confirm your attendance by clicking [RSVP](#).

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing everyone on March 23 at the **IV Super Bowl** in Peru, Illinois.

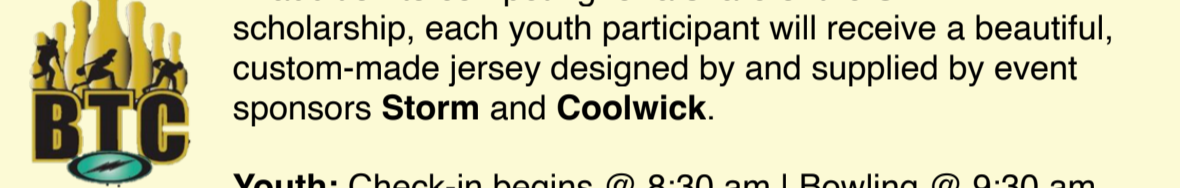
WAVELAND BOWL & PBA'S KYLE TROUP FEATURED ON WGN

The **Professional Bowlers Association's** recent media partnership with the national **CW Network** — which airs locally in Chicago on **WGN-TV** — generated special pre-tournament coverage of the event held Sunday, February 22, at the **International Bowling and Research Training Center** inside the **International Bowling Campus**, in Arlington, Texas.

This broadcast marked the first **PBA Players Championship** to air under the new network arrangement, and it delivered an exciting storyline. **Brandon Bonta**, competing in his first **PBA Players Championship**, rolled a perfect 300 game in the title match of the **PBA Players Championship** to defeat bowling's top-ranked player, **EJ Tackett**, on national television — a remarkable debut on the sport's biggest stage. Leading into the tournament broadcast, **WGN-TV's Morning Show** featured a live interview with PBA standout Kyle Troup, helping build anticipation for the event. During the segment, **WGN** Trending News anchor **Marcus Leshock** engaged viewers by sharing a video of his son, Oliver, and asking Troup to offer a few tips to improve his son's game — while also promoting the PBA and the upcoming broadcast.



Leshock continued spotlighting the sport beyond the studio, later posting on Facebook about a personal visit to the station's nearby neighbor **Waveland Bowl** with his son. The outing also included an appearance with **Ana Belaval** during her popular "Around Town" segment on WGN's morning news program, adding a heartfelt local connection to the national bowling spotlight. The Facebook post is included below. To view the interview with **Kyle Troup**, click on the image above.

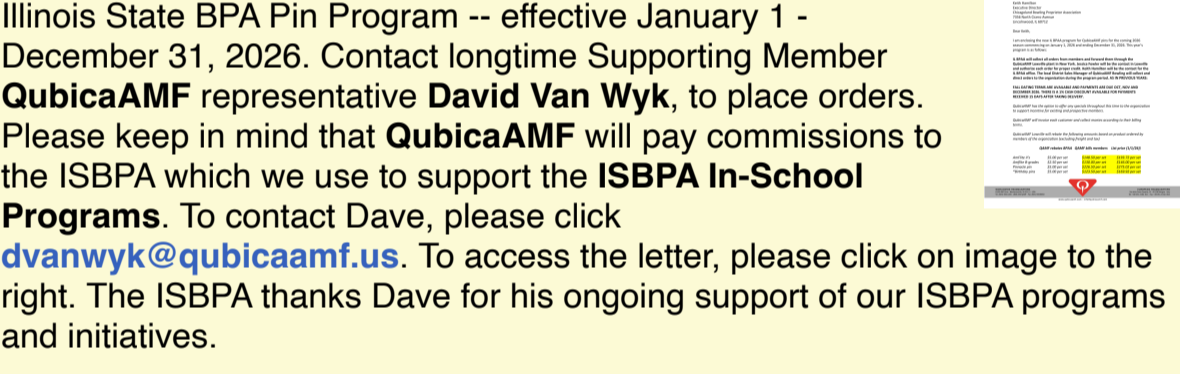


WHAT A MORNING! It was a special one for me on **WGN Morning News!**

Ana Belaval invited me and me to join her for her **Around Town** segment at Waveland Bowl. We are excited to have WGN and the CW as the home of the **Professional Bowlers Association (PBA)**. If you follow me here, you know **Oliver** is a bowler on his middle school team and we spend a LOT of time in bowling alleys.

I was very proud of him and how he composed himself on television. People ask me if I ever get nervous on TV ... I do not But when my kids are on ALL of that changes! And he also bowled a strike on his first throw on LIVE TV!

It was an awesome morning. Very thankful for these cool opportunities. Check out the PBA on Sunday afternoons at 3pm on WGN!



APRIL 17, 2026 DEADLINE APPLY NOW

High school seniors with a parent or grandparent who owns a BPAA member center may apply.

\$25,000 per scholarship awarded once a year
 For information on applications, go to: [BowlingMuseum.com](#)
[CLICK TO APPLY](#)

COME JOIN US FOR THE 63rd BEAT THE CHAMPS FINALS

March 15, 2026 | Palos Lanes, Palos, Illinois

Sixty-four Adults and 64 Youth Bowlers are headed to **Palos Lanes** on Sunday, March 15, to compete for the **63rd Annual Beat the Champs Contest Finals**. The Men's and Women's Champions will each receive \$10,000, while the youth bowlers will be competing for four separate divisional championships and a share of \$5,000 in SMART scholarships.

In addition to competing for a share of the SMART scholarship, each youth participant will receive a beautiful, custom-made jersey designed by and supplied by event sponsors **Storm** and **Coolwick**.

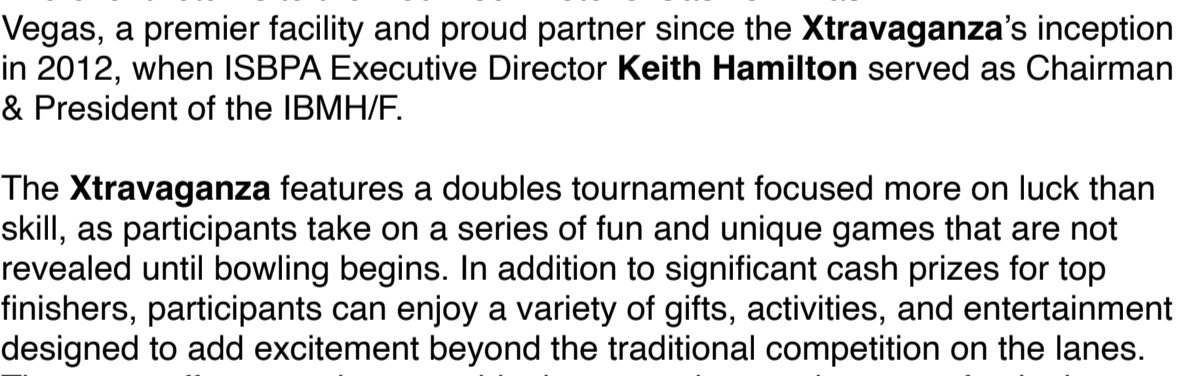
Youth: Check-in begins @ 8:30 am | Bowling @ 9:30 am
Adult: Check-in @ Noon | Bowling @ 1:00 pm

TARGET SCORE SHOW BOWLER GIFTS READY

As is the recent tradition of the Beat the Champs tournaments, Storm has created keepsake artist renderings of the four stars who competed in this year's Target Score Show, held on January 15 at Arena Lanes. Please feel free to share with any of your bowlers -- particularly those who Beat the Champs scores:

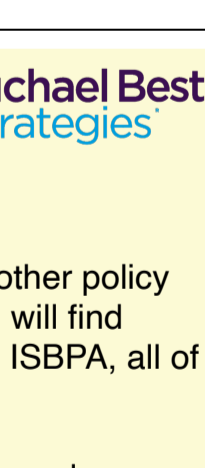
Pete Weber: 677 | Leanne Hulsenberg: 602 | Jos Weems: 759 | Anna Anthony: 650

Click on the Image(s) Below for Each Poster You Wish to Print

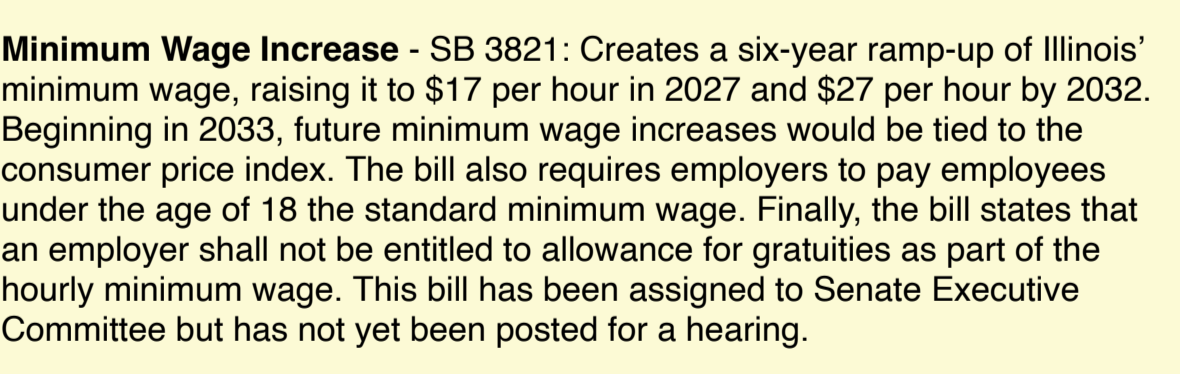


QUBICAAMF 2026 PIN PROGRAM

QubicaAMF has provided the details and pricing of the 2026 Illinois State BPA Pin Program -- effective January 1 - December 31, 2026. Contact long-time Supporting Member **QubicaAMF** representative **David Van Wyk**, to place orders. Please keep in mind that **QubicaAMF** will pay commissions to the ISBPA which we use to support the **ISBPA In-School Programs**. To contact Dave, please click dvanwyk@qubicaamf.us. To access the letter, please click on image to the right. The ISBPA thanks Dave for his ongoing support of our ISBPA programs and initiatives.



MARCH BRINGS SOCIAL MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

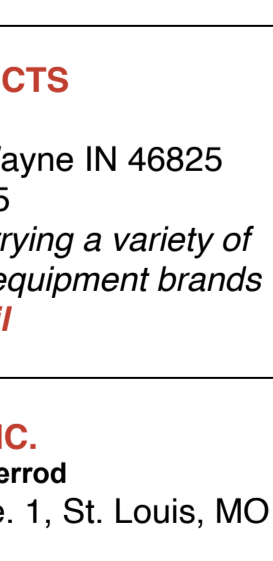


The month of March is always an exciting time --- Spring is in the air, Summer is just around the corner, and March is loaded with key days that lead to fun for your customers and enhanced profitability for your businesses. Compliments of BPAA, here a few reminders to gear up now to take advantage of the opportunities that the month provides.

- **Daylight Saving Time** (March 8): Remind bowlers there's still time to bowl — even with longer days.
- **International Women's Day** (March 8): Spotlight the women on your staff or the women in bowling.
- **St. Patrick's Day Fun** (March 17): Promote green-themed cosmic bowling, contests or "Lucky Strike" specials.
- **Spring Break Bowling**: Highlight weekday daytime specials for families and students on break.
- **League Playoffs**: Share league standings, championship nights and bowler shoutouts.
- **March Madness Tie-Ins** (March 17-April 4): Create fun bracket-style posts.
- **National Let's Laugh Day** (March 19): Share fun bloopers or lighthearted bowling moments.
- **First Day of Spring** (March 20): Celebrate the season with fresh visuals and spring specials.

When posting, keep these tips in mind:

- Post more frequently during spring break weeks.
- Use bright greens and spring colors to freshen your feed.
- Promote reservations and parties early — spring calendars fill fast.
- Repurpose strong posts across platforms to save time.



To access the graphics bank, register online by clicking [SOCIAL MEDIA BANK](#).

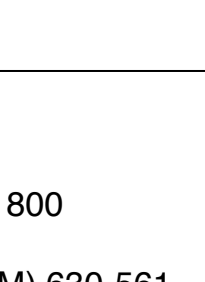
TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE BRUNSWICK A2 MECHANIC SCHOOL

As announced last month, **Don Carter Lanes, Rockford, Illinois, is hosting a four-day Brunswick A-2 Mechanic School** from June 15 - June 19. To register, please send a completed registration waiver (click on "[REGISTRATION WAIVER](#)" to copy and print the form) and send to ISBPA via email by [CLICKING HERE](#). Each ISBPA member center may register one mechanic. Space is limited to the first 12 who register. If there are spots remaining after May 15, we will contact the centers who have registered to see if they would like to register additional mechanics. The cost per mechanic is \$995, which includes four full days of instruction, a continental breakfast and lunch. **Classic Products** will be providing the education, led by instructor **William Pike**.

June 15 - June 19 | 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., each day
 Don Carter Lanes - 4007 E. State Street, Rockford, Ill. 61108
 Price is \$995 per mechanic - Only a few Spots Remain Open
 To access the agenda, click on >>>>> [SCHEDULE](#)

INT'L BOWLING MUSEUM & HALL OF FAME XTRAVAGANZA TURNS 15 / REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The **International Bowling Museum & Hall of Fame** will celebrate its **15th Annual Xtravaganza**—the museum's primary fundraiser—May 28–30, Thursday through Saturday, following Memorial Day.



The event returns to the Red Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, a premier facility and proud partner since the **Xtravaganza's** inception in 2012, when ISBPA Executive Director **Keith Hamilton** served as Chairman & President of the IBMH/F.

The **Xtravaganza** features a doubles tournament featuring more on luck than skill, as participants take on a series of fun and unique games that are not revealed until bowling begins. In addition to significant cash prizes for top finishers, participants can enjoy a variety of gifts, activities, and entertainment designed to add excitement beyond the traditional competition on the lanes. The event offers proprietors an ideal opportunity to enjoy some fun in the sun themselves—or to reward valued customers with a truly memorable experience.

To enter, please reach Kari Williams at kari@bowlingmuseum.com, or by calling 817-385-8230. To review the tournament details and to receive the packet of information, [CLICK HERE](#).

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Trevon Sylvester

Legislative Update Michael Best Strategies continues to monitor developments related to gaming, taxation, employment law and other policy areas that could affect bowling centers across Illinois. Below you will find previews of the most notable bills we are monitoring on behalf of ISBPA, all of which we oppose.

Tip Reporting Mandate - SB 3396: Beginning January 1, 2027, employers that collect tips electronically would be required to file quarterly reports with the Illinois Department of Labor containing information regarding collection and distribution of tips. Employers would also be required to include detailed information on pay stubs showing how those electronic gratuities are collected and distributed. This bill has been assigned to Senate Labor Committee but has not yet been posted for a hearing.

Minimum Wage Increase - SB 3821: Creates a six-year ramp-up of Illinois' minimum wage, raising it to \$17 per hour in 2027 and \$27 per hour by 2032. Beginning in 2033, future minimum wage increases would be tied to the consumer price index. The bill also requires employers to pay employees under the age of 18 the standard minimum wage. Finally, the bill states that an employer shall not be entitled to allowance for gratuities as part of the hourly minimum wage. This bill has been assigned to Senate Executive Committee but has not yet been posted for a hearing.

Internet Gaming - Since last month's legislative report, two new internet gaming bills have been filed — HB 4797 and SB 3723. These bills are identical to previous Internet Gaming legislation, except they would allocate 5% of tax revenue to municipalities and counties. Both measures would establish the Internet Gaming Act, legalizing and regulating online gambling in Illinois. Neither of these bills have been assigned to a committee at this time, but we fully anticipate that the proponents will make a push to move the bills this spring, especially given the state's grim budget outlook for Fiscal Year 2027.

ISBPA SUPPORTING MEMBERS | PRODUCTS & SERVICES

DIAMOND LEVEL

AVS COMPANIES
Keith Krail
 750 Morse Ave., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
 (847) 709-6213
 AVS offers a full range of consulting services for bowling center arcades including layout design, game selection, attraction consulting, installation, training, warranty and parts.
[Website Email](#)

Brunswick
Frank Marrese
 231-343-3235
frank.marrese@brunswickbowling.com
 Center Modernizations and Capital Equipment.
[Website Email](#)

CLASSIC
Steve Jaros
 4617 Industrial Road, Fort Wayne IN 46825
 (260) 484-2695
 Full line bowling distributor carrying a variety of bowling consumer and capital equipment brands
[Website Email](#)

intercard
Lynda Brotherton Sherrod
 1884 Lackland Hill Parkway, Ste. 1, St. Louis, MO 63146
 (800) 732-3770, (314) 275-8066
 Providing solutions to Cashless Redemption
[Website Email](#)

KEGEL
Chris Chartrand
 1951 Longleaf Blvd. Lake Wales, FL 33859
 (863) 734-0200
 Lane machines, supplies and oil pattern designs.
[Website](#)

KIDS BOWL FREE
Bruce Davis
 1950 San Marco Road, Marco Island FL 34145
 (800) 720-0410
 Bowling and marketing promotions.
[Website Email](#)

MOLSON COORS
Justin Smith
 250 S. Wacker Drive
 Chicago, IL. 60606
 618-530-6061
 Chain Sales Executive
 The official Beer of the Illinois State BPA
[Website Email](#)

QUBICAAMF
Dave Van Wyk
 8100 AMF Drive Mechanicsville, VA 23111
 (630) 309-2201
 Manufacturer of bowling equipment
[Website Email](#)

Satori Energy
Jim Orban
 300 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
 Chicago, IL 60606
 312-850-2300, (F) 312-264-6200, (M) 630-561-1537
 email: jorban@satorienergy.com
 Energy services supplier: ISBPA's Electrical "Power Pool".
[Website Email](#)



Schemm Bowling Inc.

SCHEMM BOWLING

Nate Bukoski

500 Interpane Lane, Deerfield WI 53531

(888) 724-2695

Parts, supplies, capital equipment, and services/support.

[Website](#) [Email](#)



STORM BOWLING

Gary Hulsenberg

165 S. 800 W. Brigham City, UT 84302

(435) 723-0403

Bowling Ball and Accessory Manufacturer

[Website](#) [Email](#)



WESTERN BOWLING PROPRIETORS INSURANCE

Cameron Linder

1865 Herndon Ave Ste K, Clovis, CA 93611

(800) 200-9998

The official Insurance carrier of the ISBPA.

[Website](#) [Email](#)



GOLD LEVEL



ACE MITCHELL BOWLERS MART

Dean Billings

3365 Cavalier Trail, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

(330) 920-6200, Mobile (330) 281-9136,

Office (800) 262-2695, Fax (330) 928-2132

Full line bowling distributor carrying a variety of bowling consumer and capital equipment brands

[Website](#) [Email](#)



Bob's Business, Inc.

BOBS' BUSINESS, INC.

Skip Wolfe

1949 Hidden Shores Dr., Dixon IL 61021

(815) 440-0681

Full line bowling distributor carrying a variety of bowling consumer and capital equipment brands

[Website](#) [Email](#)



DEXTER BOWLING

Paul Sylvia

100 Brickstone Square, St. 502, Andover, MD

01810

(888) 8DEXTER

[Website](#)

High Performance Shoes



eBOWL.BIZ

Carey Tosello

P.O. Box 730 Sisters, OR 97759

Phone: (541) 549-0999

Website and Social Media Facilitators, Designers and Consultants

[Email](#)



ENERGIE MULTISPORT

David Anderson

825 S Waukegan Road, Ste A8

Lake Forest IL 60045

(224) 501-6424

Smart HVAC, lighting, and energy procurement that saves bowling centers money—instantly.

[Website](#) [Email](#)



HORIZON

Matthew Murray

1960 Seneca Rd.

Eagan, MN 55122

(651) 256-1573

A member of the BPAA SMART BUY program, Horizon are experts in the design and/or implementation of your food service needs

[Website](#) [Email](#)



KR STRIKEFORCE

Felicia Watson

2020 Indian Boundary Drive, Melrose Park, IL

60160

(800) 297-8555

Bags, balls, rental shoes, pins and accessories.

[Website](#) [Email](#)



KR STRIKEFORCE

Robin Blum

2020 Indian Boundary Drive, Melrose Park, IL

60160

(800) 297-8555

Bags, balls, rental shoes, pins and accessories.

[Website](#) [Email](#)



OPEN PLAY MARKETING

Kevin Malick

PO BOX 891207

Tampa, FL 33689

(863) 602-4850

Customer creation marketing services

[Email](#)



PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS ASSOCIATION

Mike Sledz

206-332-9688, Option #1

msledz@pba.com

Director of Membership / PBA

[Website](#) [Email](#)



KR STRIKEFORCE

Mike Stout / Brad Handelman

2020 Indian Boundary Drive, Melrose Park, IL

60160

(800) 297-8555

Bags, balls, rental shoes, pins and accessories.

[Website](#) [Email](#)



TRANSWORLD BUSINESS ADVISORS

Aaron McMann

Business Broker

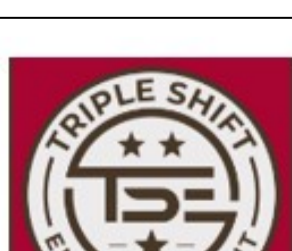
Transworld Business Advisors

130 W. Liberty, #200 Wheaton, IL, 60187

815.260.8412

Mergers, Acquisitions and Business Advisors

[Website](#) [Email](#)



TRIPLE SHIFT ENTERTAINMENT

Robby Spigner

563 Bielenberg Drive, Suite 115

Woodbury, MN 55125

(415) 604-4333

Mergers and Acquisitions of Bowling Centers

[Website](#) [Email](#)



US BOWLING

Gus Falgien

5480 Schaefer Ave, Chino, CA 91710

C: 818-613-5633

Full line supplier of bowling center capital equipment

[Website](#) [Email](#)



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7756 E. Greenway, Suite 2

Scottsdale, AZ 85260

(805) 233-7035

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