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ISBPA ANNUAL AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Awards to be Given during ISBPA Annual Meeting

The **Illinois State BPA** continues its tradition of recognizing key individuals who have played an important and lasting role serving the industry both within the State of Illinois and/or nationally, and include a pair from mainstream media.

LOUIE P. PETERSEN AWARD – Bill Brennan, Jr.

Arena Lanes proprietor, Bill Brennan Jr. has devoted much of his career to strengthening bowling in Illinois and serving his fellow proprietors. A former President of the Illinois State Bowling Proprietors' Association, Brennan provided especially important leadership during the COVID-19 crisis, helping guide centers through unprecedented shutdowns, reopening restrictions and government assistance programs.



PATRICK F. BOSCO AWARD OF MERIT – Mark Newman

Mark Newman is a true master craftsman whose skill, ingenuity and dedication have made a lasting impact on the Illinois bowling industry. Over a lifetime of service, Mark has mastered virtually every aspect of bowling center maintenance—from building and resurfacing wood lanes to installing modern synthetic systems and diagnosing and repairing today's pinsetting equipment.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD – Robert Daman

Robert “Bob” Daman has devoted his career to coaching, education and introducing young people to new opportunities. Over the past 20 years, Daman has helped expand bowling instruction from approximately 25 percent of Illinois schools to nearly two-thirds statewide, introducing thousands of students to the sport. For his decades long service, ISBPA President has selected Daman to receive the award.



AWARD OF GRATITUDE – Marcus Leshock and the WGN/TV Morning Show

Marcus Leshock is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and television host who joined WGN-TV in 2009 and has been a member of the WGN Morning News team since 2013. He anchors the popular “Trending News” segment and hosts the travel series and podcast “Coastin’ the Country.” Marcus, as well as the WGN Morning Show, is being honored because of the quality and volume of news coverage that they have provided to bowling throughout the past year.



AWARD OF GRATITUDE – Skip Wolfe

This award is presented as a way of saying “*thank you*” to an individual who has made meaningful contributions to bowling and/or the association. To that end, Skip Wolfe, through his role with Bobs’ Business, has been serving the needs of bowling center operators for decades. Skip is receiving the award in recognition of his longstanding, outstanding service to bowling proprietors, as well as the ISBPA.



AWARD OF RECOGNITION - Duane Dow

Duane Dow has been a pioneering voice for Chicagoland bowling for nearly four decades. The former television sportscaster, Duane brought professional-quality

television coverage directly into neighborhood bowling centers, treating everyday league bowlers with the same respect and attention traditionally reserved for professional athletes. Duane is receiving this award in recognition of his providing more than 35 years of promoting bowling.



FIFTY-YEARS IN MEMBERSHIP

The following centers will be recognized for being in Membership for 50 Years.



BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM FOR THE ISBPA ANNUAL MEETING

October 26-27, 2026 | Hotel Arista, Naperville, Illinois

Click anywhere on the image to book your hotel room online. To receive the group rate, please book by October 17.

To book via phone, call **630-579-4100**. Make certain to mention the ISBPA Annual Meeting to secure special convention rate. There is no cost to attend but we do ask that you RSVP to our executive director for planning purposes. Please click [RSVP](#) if you haven't already confirmed. To receive the Annual Meeting Convention Flyer, along with schedule, click [FLYER](#).



DOCUMENTARY CREW FILMING AT ANNUAL MEETING

The upcoming **ISBPA Annual General Membership Meeting**, featuring the association's annual **Awards Ceremony**, will have a little extra company this year.

In addition to the many proprietors and industry leaders expected to attend, longtime sports broadcaster and production guru **Duane Dow**, recipient of the

ISBPA Award of Recognition, will be accompanied by a film crew that will record the ceremony.

Dow, who is scheduled to attend and personally accept the award, will host his final telecast at **Wauconda Bowl** on November 3, just one week after the ISBPA meeting, bringing to a close a remarkable chapter in his broadcasting career.

And as one familiar media personality prepares to sign off, another will be joining the festivities. **Marcus Leshock** of WGN-TV's Morning News will also be in attendance to accept an ISBPA Award of Gratitude on behalf of his contributions to bowling and the industry.



With Dow, Leshock, a film crew, this year's award recipients and a strong gathering of proprietors and industry leaders all under one roof, the 2026 Awards Ceremony promises to be a memorable one — and should add a little extra fun to what is shaping up to be a terrific convention.

ISBPA MEMBER SPEAKS AT CHICAGO HEARING ON VIDEO GAMING

Lawn Bowl Proprietor speaks at Chicago City Council Committee Meeting

Lawn Bowl proprietor and Chicagoland USBC Hall of Famer **David Supanich** spoke at a press conference immediately preceding the September 9 Chicago City Council committee hearing addressing the ongoing controversy surrounding **Video Gaming Terminals** in the city.

Chicago authorized VGTs as part of its 2026 budget, a move opposed by **Mayor Brandon Johnson** and Bally's, operator of the city's casino. Supporters contend that video gaming can provide an important additional revenue stream for bars, restaurants and other entertainment businesses, while Bally's has argued that widespread VGTs could reduce casino revenue and undermine the economics of its \$1.7 billion permanent Chicago casino project.

Supanich spoke from a bowling proprietor's perspective, explaining the importance of VGT revenue to entertainment businesses and how the additional income can help determine whether some establishments are able to remain financially viable.

The hearing came amid increased scrutiny of Bally's finances and its decision to slow construction on portions of its River West casino and entertainment complex. Bally's said it was reassessing investment in non-gaming portions of the development because of the potential competitive impact of VGTs. We will keep you posted as this story evolves."



KEGEL MIDWEST COLLEGIATE CLASSIC SET

January 16 & 17, 2027 @ Stardust Bowl

The 2027 Kegel/ISBPA Midwest Collegiate Classic is set for January 16–17, 2027, at Stardust Bowl in Addison, Illinois.

The prestigious Tier 1 tournament enters 2027 with plenty of momentum after attracting 126 teams last year, an impressive 18% increase over the previous year. Through today, the 2027 event has already secured 120 teams with more than three months to go before registration closes.

In its inaugural year managing the event for the ISBPA, the H2M management team helped transform the Midwest Collegiate Classic from simply a tournament into more of an event, adding several new elements to enhance the experience for participating collegiate bowlers.

Among the additions was scholarship funding for the tournament's All-Tournament Teams, with each honoree receiving a \$400 scholarship award. With last year's growth and the continued opportunity to earn valuable Tier 1 points, another outstanding field is anticipated for the 2027 Kegel/ISBPA Midwest Collegiate Classic.

To receive the flyer, [CLICK FLYER](#).

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STAR DUST BOWL
37 E. Lorraine Ave.
Addison, IL 60101

Telephone: 630-833-1040
Manager: James Saffold
<http://stardust.bowlbowl.com>

NOMINATE YOUR BOWLERS FOR THE DEXTER HIGH-SCHOOL ALL-AMERICAN TEAMS

Each school year since 2005-2006, five male and five female High School members are selected annually for the **Dexter High School All-American Team**. Each student-athlete selected to the team receives a \$1,000

scholarship. Additionally, two of the ten athletes selected will receive the **Bud Clapsaddle Award**, being named the team captain, one for the female team and one for the male team. The recipient of the Bud Clapsaddle Team Captain Award will receive an additional \$500. Any USBC member that participates on a recognized interscholastic high school team (varsity or club classification) is eligible to apply.



Each selection to the **Dexter High School All-American Team** is based on bowling accomplishments, academic achievement, letters of recommendation, extra-curricular/community involvement.

Requirements for selection include:

- 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent)
 - A recommendation letter from a coach or athletic director
 - At least one additional letter of recommendation.
 - A resume outlining bowling accomplishments, academic achievements, and extracurricular/community involvement
 - An essay containing at least 500 words, answering a provided question
 - At least one photo (preferably a yearbook-style photo)
- All-American Team awards are presented at the Junior Gold Championships Opening Ceremony.

All information regarding the **Dexter All-American Team** can be found at <https://bowl.com/youth/high-school/dexter-usbc-all-american-team>. The deadline is April 15, 2027.

ISBPA SUPPORTING MEMBER PROGRAMS

DEXTER UNVEILS NEW YOUTH BOWLING PROGRAM

ISBPA Supporting Member, **Dexter Bowling**, is unveiling its upcoming program to purchase bowling shoes for the youth market. Attached is the information that you'll need, including ordering forms and the new catalog. For questions, send email to Elysia Current at currente@hbbrown.com.

Click on Forms

[Welcome Letter](#)

[Sample Ordering Form](#)

[Ordering Form](#)

[New Account Form](#)

SCHEMM OFFERING ISBPA MEMBERS 5% DISCOUNT

Discount on qualifying parts and supplies through October 31, 2026

Supporting Member **Schemm Bowling** is offering ISBPA member centers a **5% discount on qualifying parts and supplies**, including Kegel lane supplies and parts. Simply mention that you are an ISBPA member when placing your order.

Whether your equipment goes down, you need replacement parts, or you're looking for technical support, **Schemm Bowling** can assist with pinsetters, lane machines, parts and supplies. For assistance or to place an order, contact **Nathan Bukoski** at **608-764-1464** or via email at nate@schemm.com.



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CONTACT: **Nathan Bukoski**
608-764-1464 | nate@schemm.com

OPENPLAY MARKETING SPECIAL FOR ISBPA CONVENTION | NEW PROGRAM RELEASED

Gearing up for the ISBPA Annual Meeting and Trade Show, OpenPlay Marketing owner Kevin Malick will be providing **Three \$500 credit Vouchers** for the annual membership raffle.

In addition to his generous donation, Malick is promoting OpenPlay Marketing's new Get Acquainted Special, a results-based program where participating centers pay only for results at \$2.75 for each card redeemed. The program provides bowling centers an opportunity to attract new customers while tying marketing costs directly to actual redemptions.

To learn more about the Get Acquainted Special, feel free to contact Kevin Malick at 863-602-4850 or via email at bigk2u@yahoo.com.



**Need more people
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LEGISLATION UPDATE

by Trevon Sylvester of Michael Best Strategies

Several gaming-related issues are gaining momentum ahead of the fall veto session and could have implications for ISBPA members. Among them is the growing concern over a surge in burglaries targeting small businesses that operate video gaming terminals across Illinois, prompting discussions about the safety and security of licensed gaming establishments.

More than 500 burglaries were reported at bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues during the first half of 2026, already surpassing the 473 incidents recorded during all of 2025. No agreed upon solution has emerged, but the issue will likely garner bipartisan interest.

Another issue drawing significant attention is the ongoing debate over the implementation of video gaming terminals (VGTs) in the Chicago. Several legislators have expressed frustration with the City of Chicago's delayed rollout of licensing and permit approvals for video gaming terminals. Notably, State Sen. Willie Preston recently authored a **Chicago Tribune op-ed** criticizing Chicago's continued failure to implement video gaming terminals, arguing that the delay is denying bars, restaurants, and other hospitality businesses access to a significant source of supplemental revenue at a time when many are grappling with rising labor and operating costs.

Preston has indicated that he plans to introduce legislation during the fall veto session to force the City to establish a VGT licensing process. Under the proposal, municipalities that have authorized video gaming would be required to create a licensing framework within 60 days of an ordinance taking effect and act on applications within 30 days of receipt. If a municipality fails to meet those deadlines, licensing authority for VGTs would shift to the state for businesses that otherwise satisfy existing legal requirements. Preston said his proposal would also authorize cashless video gaming transactions as a way to reduce on-site cash and help address the recent surge in burglaries targeting licensed establishments. As of this writing, no legislation has been formally filed.



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