

## MICHIANA HISPANIC BOWLING LEAGUE

Date: Fall Season 2022-2023

To: Saint Joseph Valley United States Bowling Congress Association

Re: State of Indiana Bowling Hall of Fame

We, the undersigned are SJVUSBCA members in the Michiana Hispanic Bowling League. We respectfully request the nomination of our Secretary and founder, Roger Balderas to the State of Indiana Bowling Hall of Fame.

We as members are proud to claim that the MHBL is celebrating its fifteenth season as a sanctioned USBC league. Over one-hundred bowlers have taken part in our 3-person league throughout the years. A tribute to Roger because many past & present members would have never approached the game without his inspiration.

Roger is in his 47<sup>th</sup> season as an active member of the SJVUSBCA. He has participated as a player at every level of the game throughout the Michiana area. Moreover, he has served two stints as a member of the Executive Board of Directors; the South Bend Men's Association and combined South Bend/Mishawaka SJVUSBCA.

Roger has bowled in many elite leagues in his almost 50-year experience. But what sets him apart from others is he never forgot his cultural roots. In 1985 he founded and coordinated the Hispanic Singles Championship.

The Hispanic Singles Championship was a one-day event. In its prime years it drew participants from Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis and other area cities. The event had a USBC moral sanction and competed till 1999.

Prior to the beginning of the 2008 season, Roger coordinated an effort to start a Hispanic bowling league. Open to all genders, races and creeds. With a main focus to recruit Hispanic bowlers; skilled or not. Roger succeeded with his vision to formulate the league. As already mentioned, celebrating our fifteenth season.

A simple tally puts Roger's energies to promote, encourage and support the game of bowling at 30+ years just within the Hispanic community. Not counting the 40+ years Roger has held office in varied leagues as well.

In 2013 Roger Balderas was recognized by the SJVUSBCA for his Meritorious Service and inducted to the local Hall of Fame. Ten years later, his work continues. We as a group support that Roger be recognized for his Meritorious Service at a higher level. By way of induction to the Indiana Bowling Hall of Fame.

Roger's work to promote the game of bowling has gone above and beyond. This award is his due.

Thank you and sincerely,

Members of the Michiana Hispanic Bowling League

Page 2