



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BOWLING PROPRIETORS TO HONOR TOPEKA'S REX HANEY WITH TOP AWARD**

*Long-time Industry Vet To Receive Victor Lerner Memorial Medal and  
Induction Into BPAA Hall of Fame*

ARLINGTON, Texas – Bowling industry veteran Rex Haney, Topeka, Kan., has been selected to receive the Victor Lerner Memorial Medal which represents induction into the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) Hall of Fame. The BPAA made the announcement during their annual mid-winter Bowl Summit at the Meritage Resort in Napa, Calif.

The Victor Lerner Memorial Medal is named after the former BPAA president who served the association from 1966-1968. The medal is the highest honor in the bowling business and recognizes a lifetime of service to the game. Haney will be enshrined at the International Bowling Hall of Fame in its soon-to-be new location at the International Bowling Campus in Arlington, Texas.

Rex Haney started his 37-year bowling career as general manager of Meadow Lanes in Topeka between 1973-1976. He held the same position at Starlite Lanes in McPherson, Kan. from 1976-1981. He also served as general manager for a Topeka property management company for six years (1990-1996) before taking over as operator and general manager of the 40-lane Gage Center Bowl, the 24-lane Gage North Bowl, both in Topeka and the New Holiday Bowl, a 24-lane center in Salina from 1981 through 1996. Since 1996, Haney has owned both the Gage Center Bowl and Gage North Bowl and has served as president and CEO of ReKat Recreation, Inc. in Topeka. In 1995-1996, his Gage Center Bowl was chosen to host the Women's Bowling U.S. Open Tournament.

Haney has selflessly served bowling in a multitude of areas including, but not limited to, president of the BPAA (1998-2000) and vice president (1997-1998). He was national director (1986-2004) and regional vice president (1995-1997) and was vice chairman of Bowl Expo, the bowling industry's premier convention and trade show (1996-1997). He is currently the chairman of the BPAA Legislative Committee.

Among a long list of positions held, Haney served as national director of the American Bowling Congress (ABC) (2000-2004), board chairman for the Education Foundation (2000-2004), regional vice president (1996-1997) and is a past vice chairman of Bowl Expo Convention Committee.

Haney's list of accomplishments include signing the first agreement between the BPAA and Pepsi, laying the foundation for today's partnership between the two entities, making Pepsi the official soft drink of bowling. He has been instrumental in working with the BPAA executive director to bring food vendors into the International Bowl Expo, setting the stage for the current BPAA partnership with Sysco. Haney also appointed the first proprietor representatives to bowling's governing organization's national boards of directors (American Bowling Congress, Women's International Bowling Congress, etc.), an unprecedented occurrence.



On the state and regional level Rex Haney has served as president of the Kansas State Bowling Proprietors (1989-1990) and vice president, secretary and treasurer in the five years prior. He has also served on a number of Kansas state committees, including tournament chairman from 1979-1990. Haney has also been very active in the Kansas Young American Bowling Alliance (YABA) serving in various capacities on the Managing Board, chairing the Educational and Tournament Committees and is currently president of the Kansas USBC Youth Board.

Among his many awards are the 2006 BPAA President's Medal, and induction into the Topeka Hall of Fame (1997) and Kansas State Hall of Fame (2002). Haney received the Topeka Tommy Thompson award in 1998 and this June will be inducted into the Kansas Bowling Proprietors' Association Hall of Fame.

Rex Haney is a much sought-after speaker at state conventions and is a frequent seminar guest at bowling industry events like Bowl Expo. He is active in community affairs, serving a number of civic and philanthropic organizations in the Topeka area for over two decades. He founded a number of scholarships, both bowling and non-bowling related, awarded annually to deserving high school students. In 2007, Haney's business efforts were awarded the honor as the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year.

Rex Haney holds a B.A. in political science from Washburn University in Topeka.

**About the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America**

Headquartered in Arlington, TX, the BPAA was founded in 1932 to represent the business interests of bowling center owners worldwide. Its mission is to enhance the profitability of its member centers.

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