

Andrews, Hansen honorees of 2018 Ted Gruszkowski Jr. Youth Star Award

Andre Andrews and Joey Hansen are the 2018 recipients of the prestigious NCAUSBCA Ted Gruszkowski Jr. Youth Star Award, which is named in honor of the late association Hall of Fame member who was a strong supporter of area youth bowling. The announcement of this year's winners took place January 21 at Crofton Bowling Centre during the NCAUSBCA 49th Annual Youth Invitational Scratch Singles Tournament.

The award winners, honored for their bowling achievement and/or service to youth bowling, each were presented with a plaque and \$200 in scholarship funds, which will be administered through the USBC SMART program. In addition, their names appear on the plaque that contains the names of the 22 previous award recipients.

ANDRE ANDREWS • Washington, D.C.

Even though his dad, sisters, brothers, and aunt also grew up in a bowling environment, Andre Andrews's interest was not peaked until he was 11 years old. His first league was the Guys and Dolls, and he advanced all the way to the Teenpinners at AMF Capital Plaza.

Bowling didn't come naturally to Andre, since he had to make adaptations to bowl. He and his mother both realized that having his own equipment would help his game, and he became fully vested and interested in the sport and has been bowling ever since. Andre left Capital Plaza, joined the Silver Hill Strikers, and

he currently bowls at Potomac Lanes. His current book average is 146, with a high game of 200 at Capital Plaza and top series of 507 at Potomac Lanes.

Andre always has

enjoyed being a part of anything that has to do with bowling. He takes advantage of every opportunity to watch, compete, and he helps in any capacity he can. Andre has unselfishly given of his time to assist and support the activities of the NCAUSBCA, helping with 50/50 raffles at the Open, Women's, and Senior Championship tournaments, helping with Ways and Means, brackets, and even collecting score sheets at the Youth Invitational Scratch Singles Tournament.

He has attended the association's annual Hall of Fame Induction & Dinner Celebration along with his mother for at least 15 years and attends the annual association meetings for both youth and adults, both local and Virginia State. He has bowled in the Vern Burke, Adult/Youth, Youth City, and Youth Virginia State tournaments. He also has bowled in the Youth Sweepers and Youth/Adult Holiday Doubles. He is a member of the TNBA and bowls in their Eastern Regional Tournament. Andre has helped his aunt, Eugenia McDonald, with the D.C.'s Finest Tournament for the past eight years, verifying averages from other associations as well as collecting and distributing score sheets and helping with 50/50 and bowling ball raffles.

Not only does Andre participate in local bowling activities, he enjoys traveling and learning about bowling. He has attended at least five national conventions and today serves as a director for NCAUSBCA and also has been elected as a delegate to attend the USBC Convention.

When Andre was not bowling, he participated in robotics in high school and enjoyed being able to watch the competitions, continuing to support his high school annually. Andre was valedictorian of his middle school class and ranked fourth in high school. He now attends the University of the District of Columbia Community College, majoring in accounting.

Andre exemplifies all the qualities of service to the association and its youth programs. He has the determination and willingness to succeed in everything he does, striving to conquer and overcome any obstacles. Andre is determined to be the best he can be, no matter what it is, despite his limitations.

His ultimate goal was to achieve the 150 average needed to participate in the Youth Invitational Tournament, for which he successfully accomplished in 2018. His next goal is to implement a Junior Leaders Bowling Program.

All of the above qualities merit Andre Andrews the NCAUSBCA Ted Gruszkowski Jr. Youth Star Award.



Andre Andrews and Youth Invitational Tournament Manager Robin Hollyfield