

"Meritorious Service"



Laura Ann Thomas. born February 25, 1922 in New Jersey married Cecil-Harford Counties Bowling Association Hall of Fame member A. Robert Thomas in 1945 and raised four children (Roberta, Vicki, Pam and Robby) here in Harford County.

While watching her family grow, now including 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Laura fell in love with the sport of bowling and became really involved in 1960. Even more than loving the sport she had a real affection for the bowler and used her organizational skills and winning personality to keep the league member rewarded, enthused, involved and aware of the rules.

Many of Laura's accomplishments came through her work and volunteer hours at Bel Air Bowl. She worked beside her late husband Bob in the Bel Air Pro Shop, promoted and organized leagues and center tournaments and served as secretary for some of the largest leagues in the county.

Laura was at the organizational meeting in October, 1976 to form a youth program now known as the Cecil-Harford Young American Bowling Alliance and served on their first Board of Directors. Subsequent to her involvement with the youth and her son Robby's bowling endeavors she spent many Saturdays with the Bel Air Bowl youth league members as a coach.

A charter member of the Harford County Women's Bowling Association and the Maryland State Women's Bowling Association, Laura became a HCWBA Director in 1964 and continued to serve in that capacity until 1978. Fourteen years of service to this organization naturally includes committee work too numerous to list but two stand out from the others. In the 1964-65 season Laura directed the production of the "Pin Dust" publication while holding membership in the National Women Bowling Writers Association and in the 1969-70 season she was a member of the committee to form the Harford County Women's 600 Club.

In 1965, 1974 and 1975 Laura represented the Harford County Women's Bowling Association as a Delegate to the Maryland State Women's Bowling Association annual meeting. She also represented the Harford County Women at our National Conventions. The 50th Anniversary of the Women's International Bowling Congress Convention when she attended the Presidents Dinner stands out as a highlight.

Tournament bowling was a fun and exciting spin-off from league competition for the Thomas's. They often formed caravans or groups of travelers to attend tournaments like the Peterson Classic in Chicago as well as Local, State and National events.

Laura's local bowling accomplishments include 1972-73 Team Scratch winners under the team name of Harford Lanes. In the same tournament she and Marion Gasdia won Scratch Doubles. In 1981-82 she again took Scratch Doubles high with Nancy Imwold as her partner.

Above and beyond all that is described here, Laura's greatest accomplishment is her gift as mentor and example to all those who follow in her footsteps working for the good of the Harford County Women's Bowling Association member.

We are pleased and proud to induct Laura Ann Thomas into the Harford County Women's Association Hall of Fame.