

JERRY ROWLAND

Women's Service - 2012



Jerry has been a sanctioned bowler in Oklahoma City for over 40 years. She was an active Board member of the OCWBA during the 1980's and 1990's, serving on several committees and was a National Delegate to the WIBC Annual Convention 15 times. She was the "designated driver", loading up 6 or 7 ladies in her van and off they would go, partying all the way. She was very active on that Association and excelled on the Tournament Committee. When Jerry began bowling she encountered discrimination as minorities and blacks were only allowed to bowl at the YMCA Lanes but Jerry wanted to bowl Tournaments, entering one at Lincoln Lanes. When told she couldn't bowl, she called Wiley Bell, the Bowling Proprietor's Association President and was granted permission to bowl, although she was put on lanes one and two. She became a champion to eliminate such discrimination by working with proprietors and tournament officials. As a member of the Great Plains Bowling Association she helped organize the SAIOT Tournament held every 3 months in a different city such as OKC, Tulsa, Wichita, Kansas City. In OKC, she helped organize leagues for both women and mixed leagues, being instrumental encouraging black women to bowl and get involved in the Association. On the lanes she was fun to bowl with and has Tow 289 games to her credit. For her dedication to the sport of bowling and commitment to diversity in the sport, the Oklahoma City Hall of Fame is proud to induct Jerry Rowland into its Hall of Fame.