



Sonia Cook

2022 WHPA Hall of Fame Inductee

Sonia Cook's enthusiasm and passion for our sport rivals anyone and everyone!

She has been pitching competitively since 1978 and a sanctioned WHPA member shortly thereafter. Sonia's average has climbed as high as 45%, even boasting an over 60% game. Pitching well or struggling, many competitors look forward to pitching with (actually against) her. She is an accomplished champion pitching in leagues, as well as a couple tournament class and state class championships... but she really shines in promoting horseshoe pitching.

Sonia is a Marshfield club board member, league secretary, club officer, tournament co-director, and go-to person in many capacities. She was instrumental in creating the Rozellville Lions horseshoe courts and subsequent tournaments held there.

Sonia will promote horseshoes to any potential prospect that may have just the slightest interest. She will keep talking-promoting-explaining-offering help as long as needed to get her points across. She has helped in multiple events such as fund-raisers to upgrade the "pits", tournaments for Special Olympics, demonstration at Central WI Horse Expo, just to name a few. "Just ask Sonia" and you may have your ear talked off. Her family believes she "bleeds" horseshoes at times.

Sonia and her husband Mel have supported their three daughters Tava, Kiri, and Aleena, and two nieces who have claimed a combined 3 Jr Girls World Titles and Jr Girls State titles for 13 years. Their enthusiasm has spilled to grandchildren who are pitching competitively already earning both a Cadet Girl and Cadet Boy State Championship.

Sonia truly has a soft spot to help the national junior program. She has helped countless junior pitchers in multiple ways over all of those years that her girls competed in junior competition and hasn't lost that enthusiasm even though her girls have grown out of that division. She steps right in whenever she is needed. Her nickname to the Juniors is "Da Mama". Many of these junior pitchers can credit Sonia for getting them to join, improving their pitching, and enjoying the camaraderie associated with pitching horseshoes.

Sonia has been a delegate representing WI at the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association annual convention more than 17 times. She donates time where and whenever possible, including Eau Claire World Tournament (both times), state tournaments, and soliciting to bring the world tournament back to Wisconsin.

Sonia became WHPA 3rd Vice President (Junior Promotion/Scholarship Director) in 2004 and continues to hold this position today. Sonia's passion for promoting juniors made her a perfect fit to become just the fifth person since 1985 to take on this important role within the WHPA. Hall of Fame members Howard Voiles, Glenn Bogenschneider, Lorraine Sternberg, and Tom Steinke were the other four that preceded Sonia as Junior Scholarship directors. Fundraising is a very time-consuming task, especially when it includes collecting and distributing the prizes that go along with a raffle. Sonia has mastered this skill and has turned the annual junior fundraising raffle into an event that people are excited to donate prizes to and buy tickets to win something unique, as well as support juniors in Wisconsin. This activity has allowed the WHPA to continue to provide scholarships to our top juniors and Sonia's leadership is a major reason why this has been possible.

The WHPA Hall of Fame Committee congratulates Sonia Cook for her induction into the WHPA Hall of Fame.

