

**Minutes of the Illinois Swimming Officials' Association Regular Meeting
Saturday, February 23, 2019, New Trier High School**

Call to Order: 8:30 am. In attendance were President Steve Fedota, Vice-President Todd Gray, Secretary Jim Katula, Treasurer Fred Gafrick, Member-At-Large Mike Hutton along with approximately 25 members of the Association.

Remarks: Kraig Garber of the IHSA addressed the membership, reminding the members that the IHSA and ISOA, while working together for the sake of advancing officiating, are separate entities. Membership in the ISOA is an important part of trying to improve officiating. The ISOA provides educational benefits to the members. In addition, the IHSA is experiencing a shortage of officials in all sports, with more officials aging and retiring from doing it in all sports. It is important that member officials recruit, work to retain, and mentor new officials so that they develop the desire to remain in the avocation longer than the average of 3 years.

Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Tom McGowan, with second by Dennis Yard, to accept the meeting minutes from the November meeting as posted on the Association web site. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Chuck Ytzen, with a second by Skip Yates, to accept the Treasurer's report as posted on the Association web site. Motion carried.

Old Business: One flaw that is becoming evident is in the lack of consistency across the state. Steve Fedota addressed consistency across the state with rule enforcement among member officials. Much of this job falls in the hands of the clinicians. Members were reminded that they should use the rule book wording as much as possible when communicating with coaches and/or swimmers regarding disqualifications, etc. It was also noted that, regardless of the IHSA directive, some coaches were refusing to have a pre-meet coaches meeting.

It was mentioned by President Fedota that in addition to clinicians being responsible for this aspect, the Association also endorses a mentoring program. We are hopeful that the newsletter will assist with some consistency as well.

In addition to the newsletter, there are other alternative communication vehicles the Association has attempted to use and will try in the future. Among these are the web site chat room. In the entire time this chat room existed, it has seen 3 questions that were asked and answered. It was definitely an underused method for communication. Beginning with next season, the ISOA will begin a monthly conference call to open discussions about rules and their interpretations. Mike Hutton has agreed to chair these meeting as the IHSA Rules Interpreter to avoid misinformation. Other programs that already exist are the observer program, which in 10 years has seen 1 official ask to be observed. Also, it was noted that most assignors, when assigning meets to newer officials, try to match these officials with more seasoned officials that can help and answer questions along the way.

Treasurer Gafrick updated membership on the status of the Directory and printing costs. Currently, printing the directories is approximately 50% of the Association costs for the year. For this reason, the Association will be using an electronic version of the directory, with a possible phone app to follow. Also, DQ cards will continue to be printed, as a new supplier has been located.

New Business: Fred Gafrick has asked for 6 officials willing to donate their time and talents to the Special Olympics on March 7 at Metea Valley HS. Interested members are asked to talk to Fred for more information.

The Nominating Committee reported the following nominations for office in the Association.

President-Steve Fedota
Treasurer-Fred Gafrick
Member-At-Large-Mike Hutton, John Mulsoff

It was moved by Tom Strunk, with a second by Jim Williams, to accept the nominations as read. After the reading of candidates, John Mulsoff recused his nomination and conceded the election. It was moved by Tom Strunk, with a second by Tom McGowan, to elect the nominees by acclamation. Motion carried.

Vice-President Todd Gray and the Awards committee presented its awards.

Rookie of the Year-Susan Mariottini
Most Improved-Gerald Cassioppi
Official of the Year-Nancy Myer

Nancy Myer informed the membership of opportunities to watch diving in the area. March 9-10 is a meet at Northwestern University. April 6-7 is a meet hosted by Windy City Diving Club.

Adjournment: It was moved by Dennis Yard, with a second by Linda Barber, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Katula