

Minutes of the Illinois Swimming Officials' Association Meeting

Saturday, February 28, 2026

FMC Natatorium, Westmont, Illinois

Call to Order at 8:30am:

- President Patti Flesher called the meeting to order.
- Those in attendance included Vice-president Gwen VanSteen, Secretary Susan Mariottini, Treasurer Steve Fedota, Member-at-large Steve Robinson, and approximately 35 members of the Association.
- Patti asked for a moment of silence to think of officials who have recently passed away or are healing.

November 2025 Meeting Minutes:

- The minutes were posted on the ISOA website and were sent to all members along with the meeting announcement and agenda via email.
- Jim Katula moved that the minutes be approved as posted.
- Skip Yates seconded the motion.
- The motion was carried without discussion.

Treasurer's Report—Steve Fedota:

- Steve Fedota gave an update on our non-profit status.
- The current balance in our account is \$2331.74.
- Dues are **\$10** for 2025-26. Steve will send a form to the members for membership information. Dues can be paid by cash, check or Zelle. Dues can be paid today.
- If any member needs a nametag, see Steve F. to give him the necessary information.
- The "Store" is available today. See the box with a selection of items, and purchase through Steve.

President's Report—Patti Flesher:

- Patti expressed her appreciation to the membership for their support and patience during this time of transition. We are now on track.
- April 12 is the ISDA banquet. All members are invited. Be sure to look for the email and register if interested. This is when our Romsted-Drumm award is presented. The recipient, nominated by members and chosen by the Board, will be announced soon. It is ISDA's award for OUR people.
- The IHSA summer workshop and banquet is July 11-12 in Bloomington. There will be a swim/dive clinic for any interested officials. Janet Stern will receive the award for the Girls' Official of the Year at the banquet, and Mike Baughman will receive the Boys' Official of the Year award.
- Be sure to download the NEW Arbiter App!

Website Manager—Eric Langer:

- Eric said the old website is still online. He has applied to get help from Wordpress, an organization where students help build websites for non-profit organizations. If we are awarded their help, the new site should be up by the fall season.
- The website has (or will have) photos, information about schools, items for sale in the "Store," and a member log-in.

ISOA Annual Awards—Gwen VanSteen:

- We had several nominees this year. The following are this year's recipients:
 - Rookie of the Year: Steve Strelzyk
 - Most Improved: Skip Yates
 - Official of the Year: Lou Gantz
 - Romsted-Drumm Award: will be announced soon and presented at the ISDA banquet.

- IHSA Officials of the Year: Janet Stern and Mike Baughman

Officer Nominations—Patti Fletcher:

- **Vice-President:** the only nomination prior to the meeting was Gwen VanSteen. Patti opened the floor for nominations, but there were no others. Steve Fedota motioned to close the nominations for Vice-President. Dennis Yard seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
- It was announced that we can vote by quorum or electronically. Steve Fedota proposed that we vote by quorum. Steve Strelzyk made a motion to approve voting by quorum. Dennis seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Those in favor of Gwen VanSteen being re-elected as Vice-President voted “Aye.” Gwen was elected.
- **Secretary:** the only nomination prior to the meeting was Susan Mariottini. Patti opened the floor for nominations, but there were no others. Dennis Yard motioned to close the nominations for Secretary. Kevin Crom seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Again there was a vote by “Aye” to re-elect Susan as Secretary. Susan was elected.

IHSA Report—Kraig Garber, IHSA Assistant Executive Director:

- Kraig Garber addressed the membership. He thanked us for volunteering at this State meet.
- The awards presentations will be as they were for the girls’ meet. They will be under the scoreboard during each of the breaks instead of after each event.

New Business:

- Gwen VanSteen addressed the group to tell us what she has done to learn more about diving. She said that she asked the Mundelein coach if she and Steve Robinson could visit some diving practice sessions. They went to several practices during the first 3 weeks of the season. They got to see some brand new divers and the dramatic improvement in those first few weeks. She said that they also saw the bond between the divers and the coach, and that Gwen and Steve felt they got to know some of the divers and the divers got to know them. If this is something others may want to do, you must get approval, probably from the AD for security.
- Bruce Woerner suggested watching diving invitational meets.
- Donna O’Brien, an official who is also a diving coach, said that she runs “practice meets” for her divers the day before a meet. Their dives are judged. Donna invited us to visit these practices.
- April 17-19 there is a big age group diving meet at Northwestern University.
- There is a list of diving coaches for names and contact information.
- Nancy Myer mentioned the NFHS video under “Learning” on the website. There is a certificate you can print after viewing this.
- Kevin Crom recommends asking the diving coaches what they saw when there may be a judging discrepancy.
- Paul Baierdsdorf mentioned an old book, The Physics of Diving by Hobie. He said it points out things that are the opposite of what we might expect.
- Noreen Rodriguez won the pool for Friday’s ending time: 7:47pm. There were two swim-offs.

Adjournment at 9:20am:

- Dennis Yard made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Skip Yates seconded the motion.
- The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Mariottini
ISOA Secretary