

# IOA SPRING NEWSLETTER

January 2003

## *PRESIDENTS MESSAGE*

*By Gary Hamilton*

*Well its finally here, my last opportunity to speak to a great group of men and women who call themselves officials, referees, umpires and for sure dedicated to something they must love.*

*Two years ago I was elected to the position of PRESIDENT for the Indiana officials association and had many ideas and thoughts that I wanted to try and achieve to continue to grow and lead our members be come not only better officials but better persons. At times it has been difficult, at times it has been dishearten, at times a lot of work but as I sit here in January I can say I am grateful to have had this opportunity to put my mark on this association.*

*My board of directors has been supportive of most of my ideas and challenges. I want to thank them for there patience and understanding with the changes that have occurred during my term.*

*The sport consultants have done a wonderful job of conducting there respectful sport meetings and passing on knowledge of many years of experience.*

*The many committee members are to be thanked for there free time to insure that the IOA is not only the largest but finest collection of officials in this state. The IOA has had and will have many outstanding leaders to insure our position for many seasons to come.*

*I am sure that not all of you have not agreed with the many decisions and directions this PRESIDENT and his staff have lead you to, but I am positive that they were all made with the utmost care and consideration and that the outcomes will benefit the masses and not the few. As you are aware not everyone agrees with every call on the field or court you make but you listen and learn and move on to the next call with a clear mind. As I move on I too have listened and learned and move on knowing I have done my best and thank you for electing me 658 days ago.*

*In closing, lets all do our best to remember why we choose to leave work early, rush to the game, dress in unusual places, get yelled at by grandmas, complain about the check, get lost coming home, have a large cell phone bill, eat cold leftovers and get a charlie horse at 2 am. So we can do it again the next day!!*

*Sincerely,  
Gary Hamilton  
IOA PRESIDENT*

As another basketball season draws to an end, another baseball, softball and track season begins.

Sportsmanship Cards must be returned to me by March 1, 2003. Annual Dues of \$35.00 for May 1, 2003 thru April 30, 2004 can be mailed to me along with the Schedule Card. Please do not forget to fill out your card, front and back (check cannot be accepted without card). The Reservation Form for the Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet must be returned to me by March 18, 2003. Please fill out the Recognition Form if you have received your first IHSAA sectional tournament assignment or have advanced one tournament level since last year's banquet.

Plan to attend this years Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet on Monday 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at Primo Banquet Hall. (see map) Social time will begin at 5:30, with the buffet starting at 6:30 pm. The banquet is free to members and \$15. for each guest you bring. If you make reservations and do not attend you will be charged a fee of \$15. for your meal. (the association is charged for every reservation)

Larry Barnett, who became Major League Baseball's youngest umpire in history when he joined the American League staff at age 24 in 1967, will be the featured speaker. Barnett, a native of Prospect, Ohio, umpired in five All-Star Games and four World Series before retiring at the end of the 2000 season. Barnett is a very active volunteer in the Disabled American Veterans Celebrity Entertainment Program. He received the National Association of Sports Officials Gold Whistle Award in 1991 in recognition of his outstanding volunteer work and contributions to mankind off the field.

The banquet will continue to have an emphasis on recognizing numerous members.

We will continue to acknowledge members who have served 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years in the association with special awards. This year we even have a 40 year member.

The banquet will also represent our annual meeting. You will be given a ballot at the door for the election of officers. If you are not attending the banquet you may request an absentee ballot from Bob Klein at 889-9681. The absentee ballot must be returned to Mike Furnish, 6205 Hickorywood Drive, Speedway, IN 46224 by March 24<sup>th</sup>. The results will be announced at the conclusion of the banquet. We look forward to seeing everyone at the banquet.

Check out samples of the IOA Apparel at the banquet. You may place your orders then, so bring your checkbook and support your association.

The web site is working great. The calls for open dates have been greatly reduced. The web site will be down for the month of June. The reason for this is to make it more user friendly. More information will follow with your stationery and schedule books this summer.

The Annual IOA Golf Outing will be July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 at Hickory Stick. Plan your foursome now!

I hope everyone had a great year. I have enjoyed working with all of you. My (Bob Klein) new E-mail address is: [bkin3031@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bkin3031@sbcglobal.net)

#### **NOTES FROM BASEBALL CONSULTANT**

**BY DON NESTER**

Baseball Rules Interpretation Meeting will be March 5, 2003, at Lawrence Central H.S. beginning at 7:30 pm. This is a mandatory rules meeting, especially if you plan to apply for the tournament series. The Baseball Class for New Officials started January 16<sup>th</sup>. It is not too late to join these classes. These classes are for prospective baseball officials who are about to take the licensed National Federation High School (NFHS)/IHSAA baseball official's exam. Classes are for five consecutive weeks on Thursday nights. If you are interested or know a new baseball official seeking to get his or her license have them contact either Jim Fish 849-9594 or Don Nester 466-0092 for more information. In March and April we will have On-field Clinics at Speedway, Greenfield, Heritage Christian and Lutheran High Schools. Dates and times will be announced at our March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. For more information contact Bill Burgess 881-2992 or Jason McKeeman 326-8384.

#### **Indiana Boys Youth Lacrosse Officials Needed**

Boys' lacrosse is now being played as a Spring Sport in 16 high schools (Primary area is Indianapolis but also in Fort Wayne and South Bend) and 8 Junior Highs (Indianapolis). If you are interested in officiating this fast and exciting sport this spring or in the future please contact John McGrath at 317-575-9369 or at [jmclaxref@aol.com](mailto:jmclaxref@aol.com). Info on the sport of lacrosse is found at <http://www.uslacrosse.org>

**SAMPLE 2003/04 IOA OFFICER'S BALLOT**  
(not to be used as an absentee ballot)

Select only one (1) name under Vice-President and only three (3) names under At Large Board Members. Vote with an X. If you would like to vote for someone not presently on the ballot, you may do so by writing in his or her name under the appropriate office.

**Phil Vidito will assume leadership as President for 2003/04**

VICE -PRESIDENT (1)

AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS (vote for three only)

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Jim Disney \_\_\_\_\_

Mike Bohan \_\_\_\_\_

J.K. Wieder \_\_\_\_\_

Gary Hamilton \_\_\_\_\_

Steve Wyrick \_\_\_\_\_

Roger Holder \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Don Nester \_\_\_\_\_

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# RESERVATION FORM

## 77<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION BANQUET

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2003 AT PRIMO BANQUET HALL

SOCIAL TIME – 5:30 p.m.     DINNER – 6:30 p.m.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend (the cost of your meal is included in your annual dues)

I will bring a guest (enclosed is a check for \$15. for my guest's dinner)

NAME OF GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend

**You will be recognized at the banquet if you have received your first IHSAA sectional tournament, or have advanced one level since last year's banquet. Please list your accomplishments:**

1<sup>st</sup> sectional (list sport) \_\_\_\_\_

advancement to regional (list sport) \_\_\_\_\_

advancement to semi-state (list sport) \_\_\_\_\_

state final (list sport) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this reservation by March 18<sup>th</sup> to:**

(no late reservations will be accepted)

**BOB KLEIN**

**825 BAYSIDE DRIVE     GREENWOOD, IN 46143**