

Minutes of the Illinois Swimming Official's Association Meeting  
Saturday, February 25, 2023, FNC Natatorium, Westmont, IL

**Call to Order:** 8:30am. In attendance were President Steve Fedota, Vice-President Gwen VanSteen, Treasurer Fred Gafrick, Secretary Jim Katula, Member-At-Large Mike Hutton and approximately 26 members of the Association.

**Minutes:** It was moved (Dennis Yard) and seconded (A.C. Buehler) to accept the minutes as posted on the ISOA website. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Fred Gafrick read the report as posted on the ISOA website. Membership stands at 65 members. Previous balance was \$3087.70. Since then, the Association made \$91. We had expenses totaling \$302.75 related to awards, web site maintenance fees, banquet advertisement as a donation to ISDA. That makes our current balance \$2875.95. It was moved (Todd Gray) and seconded (Skip Yates) that the report be accepted. Motion carried.

**Remarks from Kraig Garber:** Kraig thanked all of the members for their commitment to becoming better officials by belonging to an association. Also recognized were Paul Beiersdorf and Nancy Myer, the Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving Officials of the Year for the IHSA.

**ISDA All State Banquet:** A representative from the ISDA invited all officials to the All-State Banquet to be held on April 16 at the Bolingbrook Country Club. It will be a brunch, and state champion and Olympian Olivia Smoliga will be the featured speaker.

**President's Report:**

1. Election of Officers: The nominating committee of Vice-President VanSteen, Skip Yates and Cari Kauffman presented the slate of nominations that were received for the office of President, Treasurer and Member-At-Large. Todd Gray and Skip Yates were nominated for President. Fred Gafrick was the lone nominee for Treasurer. Member-At-Large received nominations for Steve Fedota and Patti Flesher. At this time, nominations were sought from the floor. None were received. Nominations were closed, and the election is set to begin on Monday, February 27, extending until Sunday, March 4.
2. Awards Committee: The nomination committee of Fred Gafrick, Mike Fosco and Janet Stern presented awards to the following individuals:
  - Rookie of the Year: Eric Langer
  - Most Improved: Cari Kauffman
  - Official of the Year: Patti Flesher.
3. The Romsted-Drumm Award is given by the Association leadership to a deserving individual. This year's recipient is Glenn Gabriel. He will receive the award at the ISDA All-State Banquet in April.

**Old Business:**

1. School Directory: It was discussed that the school directory be converted into a Google doc so that the membership could all share the information. If members worked at a school that did not appear on the list, they were asked to contact a member of the committee so that it could be added. Also, requests for more information were made to the group.

**New Business:**

1. Official Recruitment: Many officials have registered as swim officials with the IHSA. There are currently around 160 swim officials in the state. The ISOA is the only association for swim officials in the state, and we only have 65 members. These new officials won't last long if they don't connect with someone that is knowledgeable about swimming and diving to help them learn the processes. Membership was urged to work to recruit and educate new officials.
2. Clinics: Officials clinics hopefully will soon return to in-person clinics. However, there is an issue with finding places to have the clinics. For security reasons, many schools are not as open to hosting as they once were. One previous host has requested \$1000 plus proof of insurance from the clinician before allowing the clinic to take place. Any ideas are welcome.
3. Officials should have received 2 survey invitations in the past couple of weeks. One is from the IHSA and one from the National Federation. Patti Flesher urged members to complete these surveys so that voices can be heard.

**Adjournment:** It was moved (Dennis Yard) and seconded (Mike Fosco) that the meeting be adjourned at 8:59 am. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Katula, Secretary