

Minutes of the Illinois Swimming Officials' Association Meeting  
Saturday, November 11, 2023, FNC Natatorium, Westmont, IL

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

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Gerry Cassioppi (second by Pat Chase) that the minutes be approved as posted on the ISOA web site. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Fred Gafrick read the Treasurer's Report as posted. Currently, the Association has 73 paid members. The account balance, from the last meeting, was \$2875.95. After sales of supplies and membership income of \$1228.00, and expenses of \$1010.35, our balance is \$3093.60. Pat Chase made a motion to accept the report, and AC Buehler seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Remarks from Kraig Garber:** Kraig thanked all the members for their commitment to becoming better officials by belonging to an association. He acknowledged that the meet could not happen without the services of the officials and the Association. Before Kraig departed, he was presented with an ISOA water bottle.

**President's Report:** President Todd Gray addressed the membership. He thanked the members for having been elected. He stated that he doesn't think it is possible to overcommunicate and he like to use email for this communication. Members were urged to trust the email account.

He is also going to work to bring relevance back to the Association. He wants to stress that all officials should belong to the Association and would like to offer improved benefits to make sure that can happen. He stated he will talk more about this during new business.

**Old Business:** There was no old business to discuss.

**New Business:**

1. **Election Committee**: An election committee was formed, including Steve Fedota, Pat Chase and Skip Yates. Their task is to deliver to the Board a slate of candidates for the positions of Vice-President and Secretary at the meeting in February.
2. **Awards Committee**: An awards committee was formed and will include Gwen VanSteen, Diane Ramoska, and Kathy Dueball. They are formed for the purpose of soliciting nominations for the following awards. Rookie of the Year, Most Improved, Official of the Year. The Romsted-Drumm Award is given by the Association leadership to a deserving individual. Members were urged to nominate deserving individuals. Qualifications are posted on the web site as are former winners of these awards.
3. **Official Recruitment**: The Board would like to create a membership committee in February aimed at increasing membership to the Association. Their role will be to determine a course of action to increase membership and to develop new ways that the Association can best utilize the membership dues that are collected each year. 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.
4. **Clinics**: The idea of a level 1 clinic to focus on diving was presented. Also suggested was a potentially online component to exam review which could include all members of the

- Association, not just the favorites of individual assignors.
5. Pat Chase was recognized as she has decided that the Girls State Swim Meet will be her last as an official. She is hanging up her whistle to forge a new path. The Association wishes her well in her future endeavors.
  6. President Todd Gray and the Board presented members present with an ISOA imprinted water bottle. Hopefully, this will be the first of many new benefits of membership to come soon.

**Adjournment:** It was moved (Pat Chase) and seconded (Skip Yates) that the meeting be adjourned at 8:52 am. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Katula, Secretary  
Illinois Swim Officials' Association