

Central Officials Association Hall of Fame

Jim Ahern-1986	Bibs Anderson-1979	Tom Balle-1998
Rich Bertoni-2003	Paul Biebel-1977	Dick Billish-1986
L.T. Bonner-2000	Ed Bronson-1976	Henry Bowman-1986
Ed Burke-1990	Charlie Chappetto-1997	Jim Copenhaver-2014
Emmette Curme-1987	Ed Curtin-1997	Les Dohr-1988
Ray Doran-1989	Kevin Donlan-1983	Bill Dooling-1985
Richard Driscoll-2010	Bob Fallon-1983	Jim Filson-2007
Glenn Fortin-1989	Joe Fruend-1978	Jerry Gibbons-2009
Ed Glancy-1980	John Griffin-2002	Don Hakes-1999
Ellie Hasan-1976	Ed Hassel-1994	George Heimos-1977
Bill Hellmer-2011	Leo Hennessy-1985	Rich Hoeh-1995
Nate Humphrey-1996	Tim Hutchinson-2007	Bud Kelly-1982
Jim Keogh-1995	Joe King-1981	John Kavanaugh-1994
Jessie B. Knighten-2008	Vern Krause-1984	Ray Kuzendorf-1980
Will Landreth-1989	John Langan-2004	Jim Lapetina-2005
Bill Laude-2011	Tom Laughran-1992	Darrel Leftwich - 2016
Bill LeMonnier-2009	Cal Lepore-1982	Burt Levinthal-1992
Ernie Lieberson-1976	Bob Long-1980	George Lux-1985
Jack Lyman - 2012	Ed Maloney-2004	Gil Marchman-1991
Ed Maracich-1992	Jerry Markbreit-1999	Jim McHugh-2014
Jim McKenna - 2012	Chuck McNellis-2016	Tony Michalek-2015
Tim Moriarty-1995	Paul Moseley-2014	Max Neiberg-1987
Tom Noble-1978	Rueben Norris-2000	Tom Paspalas-1986
Ed Peters-1983	Ray Piagentini-2010	Fred Pickert-2003
Stu Popp-1984	Harry Pritiken-1978	Tom Quinn-1998
Dan Real-2001	Rich Reels-2013	Ben Reilly-1988
Jim Righeimer-1991	Wally Righton-2001	Phil Robinson-1996
Bob Ryan-1979	Jim "Red" Ryan-2016	Tony Sacco-1989
Joe Sbalcherio-2000	Michael Sheahan-2007	Jim Sherlock-1997
Hynie Schultz-1977	Jim Scott-2002	Gene Sherry-1997
George Spehn-1971	Verl Sell-1996	Bob Stewart-1987
Don Strasser-1991	Don Tesmond-1988	Bob Udell-1979
Rich Weiler-1991	Art White-1984	Paul Whiteside-2001
Tom Wysocki-2006		

2017 Inductees:
Gregg Buchner & John Hodel

Central Officials Association Ellie Hasan Award Recipients

1968 Ed Bronson	1969 Sonny Weissman
1970 Mike Delany	1971 Bernie O'Brien
1972 Ernie Leiberson	1973 Joe King
1974 Ted Zayner	1975 Max Burnell
1976 Al Manasin	1977 Joe Tadelman
1978 Tony Mafia	1979 Spin Solario
1980 Pete Lynne	1981 Clem Naughton
1982 Bill Shay	1983 Bill Gleason
1984 No Recipient	1985 Dr. William Harden
1986 Frank Strocchia	1987 John Niemiera
1988 Jerry Markbreit	1989 Cal Lepore
1990 Bob Fallon	1991 Tom Noble
1992 Dan O'Brien	1993 Tom Mitchell
1994 Tom Winiecki	1995 Hon. Anne Burke
1996 Burt Levinthal	1997 Tom Quinn
1998 L.T. Bonner	1999 Don Robinson
2000 Todd Wernet	2001 Ray Piagentini
2002 Mike Sheahan	2003 Max Kurland
2004 Jim Keogh	2005 Gene Pingatore
2006 Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn	2007 Ray Doran
2008 Michael Curtin	2009 James Righeimer
2010 Richard G. Weiler	2011 Dave Parry
2012 Stan Honacki	2013 Bob Foster
2014 Jack Tumpane	2015 Don Hakes
2016 Tim Feigh	

2017 Recipient:
Jim McHugh

In 1967 the COA lost one of its most dedicated and passionate members with the passing of Ellie Hasan. Ellie was one of the founding members of the COA and was influential in shaping the organization we all enjoy today. Ellie had a very distinguished officiating career; twenty years as a Field Judge in the Big Ten Conference and as a basketball official in the Missouri Valley Conference, after many years of working at the high school level. Ellie traveled the world with the Harlem Globetrotters and had three audiences with the Pope.

Ellie was a very generous man who affected the officiating careers of many COA members. Ellie took great pride in helping new officials and gave much back to the association that helped him throughout his career. Ellie is credited with advancing the officiating careers of many of the COA's most accomplished officials. In recognition of his commitment to officiating and his dedication to our members, the COA, in 1968, created the Ellie Hasan Award. This award is given annually to an individual who has displayed the same traits as Ellie in assisting, developing, supporting and mentoring sports officials and dedicating their time and efforts to improving the COA and high school sports in the chicagoland area.



central officials association
INCORPORATED 1929



Annual Dinner
Friday, April 28, 2017

Turf Club
Hawthorne Race Course
Cicero, IL



Program

• **COCKTAILS**
6:30-7:30

• **DINNER**
7:30-8:30



• **ELLIE HASAN AWARD**

Jim McHugh presented by *Dave Wetzel*



• **COACHES AWARD**

Rich Zinanni presented by *Tim Owens*

• **HALL OF FAME INDUCTION**

Gregg Buchner presented by *Jeff Rutledge*

John Hodel presented by *John Scanlon*



GREGG BUCHNER has lived all his life in Aurora, Illinois. He is a product of both the East Aurora and West Aurora school systems, graduating from West Senior High School in 1970. He graduated from North Central College (Naperville, Illinois) in 1974 and became a registered high school football official in 1981. His spouse, Janet, married him in 1994, knowing full well he was a high school sports official. (That makes her something real special!)

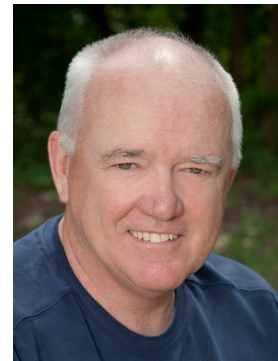
This fall will mark the 37th year that Gregg has focused on officiating high school football in Illinois. Gregg's first COA mentor and football officiating "Godfather" was COA Hall of Fame member Tom Balle. Gregg was the crew chief and "White Hat" of a football officiating crew for over twenty years, working State Finals with them in 2000 & 2003. He also worked a 2011 State Final as the "R" for Denny Doyle's all-COA officiating crew.

Gregg became one of the first IHSA Certified Football Clinicians; serving in that role from 1997 through 2015. During that time, he often worked with several other COA members, who also were/are IHSA Football Clinicians, in leading and/or giving presentations at clinics throughout northeastern, northwestern and central areas of the state.

Gregg helped to run the Inter-Athletic Council of Officials (IACO) annual football officials clinics for over 21 years, serving as Clinic Chair from 1991-1994. These clinics often drew more than 400 attendees. In the early days of the Internet, he set-up and ran IACO's first website. He also served as IACO's treasurer and sports clinics registrar for 18 years and vice-president for 2 years. From 2008-2011, Gregg worked with several COA members and others in putting together PowerPoint presentations for and teaching IACO new football officials training classes.

He has also given talks about officiating high school sports to various scouting and community organizations over the years. In recognition of his past body of work, Gregg was honored with the National Federation of High Schools "Illinois Football Official of the Year Award" for 2009.

JIM McHUGH is a 1971 graduate of Mt. Carmel High School. He graduated with a degree in Business Administration from Loras College in 1975, where he was a four year letterman in football. Jim began his officiating career in 1967 working the church league basketball games at Palmer Park. An IHSA official for over 35 years, he also officiated college football for over 30 years. During those years he worked the high school and collegiate levels as well as the Chicago Prep Bowl.



Jim has served as the NFL Timer for the Chicago Bears for the past 30 years. During that time he has worked several NFL playoff games including two AFC Championship games. He was hired in 2002 as a Timer on the Big Ten Staff and worked both the 2013 and 2016 Big Ten Championship games.

In 2005, Jim along with Frank Lenti, Tim LeFevour and Bill Helmer developed the Preseason Prep Bowl Chicago High School Kick-off Classic in Soldier Field. The purpose of this event is to allow student athletes and their families the opportunity to play and experience the historic Soldier Field. These games have also created an opportunity to honor great teams of the past, allowing current student athletes to see some of the legends that came before them. The Kick-off Classic has been touted by the media as one of the top events annually for high school sports not only in the Chicago land area but nationally as well.

Jim was inducted into the COA Hall of Fame in 2014, the Mt. Carmel Hall of Fame in 2009, the Chicago Catholic League Dan O'Brien Co-Man of the year in 2011 and received the Man in The Arena from Mt. Carmel High School in 2012.

Jim and his wife, Michelle, reside in Oak Forest, IL; they have four children, Jim - (Kelly), Tim - (Liz) Megan (Stu) and Mary . They are blessed with eleven grandchildren (Billy, Maggie, Timmy, Ella, Sean, Annie, Lorigan, Jimmy, Jane, Stuart and Nolan)



RICH ZINANNI Graduated from Bishop McNamara High School in 1965. 1969 graduate of Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, Masters in Communication Science from Governor State University.

The Head Football Coach at McNamara for 42 years. Started teaching as Business Teacher in 1970, Athletic Director for 25 years, Dean of Students for 8 years and Director of Development for 7 years. Retired from McNamara as Athletic Director in 2012 but still Head Football Coach.

Career Head Coaching record through the 2016 season 338 wins and 130 losses. Currently 3rd in the State of Illinois in total wins and 1st in the State with most wins at the same school.

Won 5 Illinois State Championships and 3 times State Runner Up. Made the IHSA Football Playoffs 35 out of 42 years. Has an overall playoff record of 62 wins and 29 losses.

Served on the IHSA Advisory Board twice. 1998 to 1992 and 2010 to 2014. Selected to the Illinois High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 1995 and was the featured speaker for the induction. Selected to the Chicago Catholic League Coaches Hall of Fame in May of 1998. Selected as the Midwest National Federation High School Coach of the Year in 1997. Won the Tony Lawless Award as the Coach of the Year in the Chicago Catholic League three times, 1995, 2010 and 2012. Coached in several High School All-Star Football games. Coached in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas in 2002. Coached the Illinois Shrine All-Star Game 6 times, Head Coach twice. Coached River Valley All-Star game 4 times, Head Coach once. Honored by the Chicago Bears on field at half-time of game as High School Coach of the week twice.



JOHN HODEL graduated from St. George High School in Evanston Illinois and Notre Dame University and began his officiating career in both basketball and football 44 years ago in 1973. At that time he joined the COA and was blessed by the instructions of becoming a good official.



In basketball John has worked IHSA Regionals (40 years) every year since 1978 including many sectionals and the IHSA Finals in 1989, 1990, and 1991. He also worked CPS Championship games in 1989 and 1991 and many important Catholic League contests. He was inducted into both the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association and Chicago Public League Coaches Association Hall of Fames. John began working college basketball in 1982, working many Division III games in the CCIW, Midwest Conference, CCAC and UAA. His career blossomed in 1993 when he became a Division I official for seven years working in conferences such as the Mid-Continent, Missouri Valley, Horizon and the Big Ten auxiliary staff. John worked several NCAA Division III playoff games over the period of ten years. He also worked the Illinois Junior College championship game many times culminating with the NJCAA Division I championship in Hutchinson Kansas in 2000 and 2001.

In football John is presently a crew chief for the CPS and assigns approximately 80 games a year. He has worked the state playoffs, the CPS championship game five times and the Prep Bowl in 1988 and 2005. He continues to work approximately 30 high school games a year and enjoys every minute of it.

John enjoyed serving on the COA Board of Directors and Basketball Committee for 23 years and his continued goal is to help the newer official develop their skills in officiating and refereeing sports contests. He still runs Summer Clinics for both Football & Basketball to help Refs better their Referee Skills.

He is married to his wife Nada and still resides in Chicago Illinois.



HISTORY OF THE CENTRAL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

The C.O.A. is a not-for-profit organization which trains and instructs football and basketball officials and interprets the rules of both sports in an effort to make such interpretations uniform. Our primary objective is to promote and encourage the avocation of sports officiating.

The Central Officials Association is one of the oldest and largest officiating groups in not only the State of Illinois but also the United States. The association was incorporated in 1929 and consists of two divisions; Basketball and Football. Today there are more than 425 active officials in the organization working all levels of each sport, from grammar school to NCAA Division I. There are also many professional officials in both football and basketball who began their careers as members of the Central Official Association.

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