

# 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
Gregg Buchner-2017	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 Freund-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
Jim Hodel-2017	Rich Hoeh-1995	Nate Humphrey-1996
Tim Hutchinson-2007	Bill Jones-2018	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	Bill Neketis - 2018	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 Spohn-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	

2019 Inductees:

**Pat Bayers • Tom Kleinschmidt • Pam Young**

# 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 Jim McHugh
2018 Frank Lenti	

2019 Recipient:  
**Gary Grohovena**

*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 26, 2019**

**Turf Club**  
**Hawthorne Race Course**  
**Cicero, IL**



# Program

• **COCKTAILS**  
6:30-7:30



• **DINNER**  
7:30-8:30

• **ELLIE HASAN AWARD**

**Gary Grohovena** *presented by Dave Wetzel*

• **HALL OF FAME INDUCTION**

**Pat Bayers** *presented by Tim Owens*

**Tom Kleinschmidt** *presented by Mike Luzzi*

**Pam Young** *presented by Mike Luzzi*



**TOM KLEINSCHMIDT** is a homegrown Chicagoan, raised in Logan Square and Bucktown. He is a graduate of Weber High School and afterward continued his love of basketball at Wright Junior College. Over his 50 years of officiating (1967-2017), Tom has run the court of many boys' grammar school, high school, Jr. College as well as Men's and Women's Division III basketball games. He held the office of President in the Athletic Official Association (AOA) in the early 1970s.

Tom officiated the IHSA Class AA Boys Basketball Tournaments in 1984, 1985 and 1986. He has been honored by being inducted into the Weber High School Hall of Fame, the Chicago Public League Officials Hall of Fame, and the

Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He has been recognized for his 50 years of officiating by the IHSA.

Tom and his wife Peggy have been married for 50 years. They have a daughter, Tracy, and two sons, Tom and David. Now that they have some extra time on their hands, they enjoy spending time with their four granddaughters and watching their sons coach high school basketball. If he's not courtside, Tom can be found fishing or golfing.



**PAT BAYERS** began his football career in 1970 playing football at St. Rita Grammar School. After graduation he went on to St. Rita High School where he played 1 year at the freshman level and 3 years at the varsity level. Pat was the starting linebacker on the 1978 state championship team along with fellow COA member John O'Neil. Upon graduating from St. Rita High School Pat received a 4 year scholarship to Western Illinois University where he was a 3 year starter and a 2 year All American. Pat holds 5 school records for tackles and an NCAA record for an 89 yard field goal try return for a touchdown. After college Pat was recruited to play professional football in Italy where he played for 2 years and coached for 1 year. Following his time in

Italy Pat returned to Chicago and to his alma mater, St. Rita High School, where he coached for 5 years and later at Elmhurst College for 1 year. In 1990 Pat joined the COA and began his officiating career in the Chicago Catholic League. Pat's collegiate career began in 1994 in the CCIW. After 6 years in the CCIW Pat was asked to join the Gateway Conference. In 2005 Pat was invited into the Big Ten where he officiated for 11 years. During his Big Ten years Pat officiated 3 Bowl games and 5 college playoff games.



**PAMELA YOUNG** graduated from Mercy High School where she played CYO volleyball, basketball, and ran track.

As a 1968 graduate of DePaul University, she majored in Physical Education, played basketball, volleyball, ran Track and was a 4 year cheerleader. She holds a Masters' Degree in Kinesiology from the University of Illinois.

She started her teaching career in 1972 at Carl Schurz High School, where she was one of 11 women coaching CPS basketball. Her track teams won city regional and sectional competitions, competing downstate 10 straight years. By 1981 she moved to Senn High School where she was AD, Department Chair, and teacher while coaching boys varsity volleyball, freshmen boys'

basketball, and freshmen girls' volleyball. She has always been a Bulldog and has taught and mentored thousands. Her accomplishments are phenomenal.

Pamela's illustrious officiating career began in 1974 when Title 9 was implemented. John Reed, a fellow teacher, referee and friend, convinced her to become a referee. At a MOA meeting she was told by L.T. Bonner there was nothing they could do for her. (She and L.T. laughed about that in later years, after he came to her to learn how to officiate volleyball.) Undaunted, she started officiating boys and mens' leagues in the Park District, Cabrini Green, and Marillac House with the help of Reuben Norris. She has officiated basketball for 45 years, track & field for 44 years and volleyball for 42 years.

She has officiated more CPS Girls City Basketball Championships and Super Sectionals than any other official, as well as being the only official to twice officiate City Championships in basketball & volleyball in the same year. She was the 2nd female to officiate IHSA girls' state basketball following Bertha Buchanan, and has done 3 state tournaments in basketball and 2 in volleyball.

She was in the first IHSA clinicians' class in 1999 and is a certified clinician in basketball and volleyball and is the first female certified trainer for basketball. She was also the first and only female basketball rules interpreter for the IHSA.

Pamela has been inducted into the Hall of Fames of FAAM, CPLBCA, No Books No Ball Foundation and the IBCA She became the first female to officiate the IBCA All-Star game in 2016.

She got her collegiate start when Ray Piagentini a fellow COA member and mentor, got her officiating in the North Star Conference. She has officiated NCAA division I, II, III and JUCO; in the Mid-Con, Skyway, GLVC, CCIW, and the National Women's' Basketball League where she earned assignment to the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut in 2002 to officiate in their first ever Championship Series.

She is one of a few women to officiate the Pro-Am, midnight basketball, and late-night basketball, under the grueling and intense tutelage, training and guidance, of Bill Jones and the Pro-Am training staff.

Pamela is an NFHS Volleyball Official of the year, NFHS Basketball Official of the year, and IADA Athletic Director of the year. The National Association of Professional Women, honored her as Woman of the Year for 2011-12. She is the recipient of the Blum-Kovler 1993 Excellence in Teaching Award.

She is an ASEP-American Sports Education Program Trainer for Coaches, and has been on the IHSA advisory board as an Athletic Director and Official, and is presently a trainer and was the only female interpreter for IHSA basketball.

Pamela was the first CPS assignor for girls' basketball having been schooled by Malcolm Hemphill, and Nathaniel Humphrey. She presently works for CPS with Elementary and High School programs as the Assignor for basketball and volleyball. She utilizes the elementary and freshmen programs as a training ground for new officials.

Taylor Bell interviewed her for the Sun-Times in 1993 where she is quoted as saying "we need to recruit ex-players and students to officiate, and we need training programs".

She is the co-director of the Nate Humphrey Officials Training Camp which has trained officials from Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, many of whom have officiated IHSA State Championships. Nathaniel, one of her mentors, recommended her for membership in the COA and the GLVC.

She is presently a 4th term President of the MOA, (Metropolitan Officials Association), which has the distinction of having over 50 officials who officiated multiple IHSA State Championships

in 5 sports, as well as collegiate and professional sports. She is a member of GCACOA, ZONI and a longtime member of the COA.

She has been on the cover of the NFHS Officials quarterly magazine and the IHSA officials' handbook.

Last summer, she was asked by Don Baumgart, to be a clinician at the Wisconsin Yearbook Basketball Officiating Camps.

She is a 2nd Dan Black Belt in Taekwondo.

Pamela thanks God and all of her mentors that she can still officiate, and is still asked to officiate, but she is most proud of the over 8000 students and adults she has taught, mentored, coached and trained. "Pass It On"



**GARY GROHOVENA** enters the 2019 IHSA football season celebrating his 33rd year as an official. In addition he has umpired baseball during the same time frame. Gary's very successful football officiating career includes state playoff assignments for 20 straight years. During that time he earned assignments to 3 state finals, 2a, 5a, 7a in 2004, 07 & 16 respectively. Unfortunately an injury caused him to miss the 2016 assignment. He has also earned 3 semi-final and 8 quarter final playoff assignments and he refereed the 2018 Catholic League Championship Game.

Gary has been an active member of the Central Officials Association for over 25 years. He holds the COA in high esteem, stating he has learned the most about the art & craft of officiating from COA training meetings, and mentoring from contacts made there. Gary is also a long standing member and current Football Division Chairman of the South Suburbs Officials Association.

As the IACO (Inter-Athletic Council of Officials) Recruitment Chairman for the last 8 years, Gary has worked tirelessly to recruit new prospects into sports officiating from the 8 country Chicagoland area. Working at College & High School job fairs, staffing IACO's recruitment booth at the IHSA state finals as well as other venues, working through the memberships of 16 IACO member associations and sending thousands of emails to attract new prospects to attend training classes in football, baseball & basketball, keeps him quite busy. His efforts also include the training and mentoring of younger as well as veteran officials.

Gary co-directs and oversees the IACO New Football Officials Training Class which has grown to 6 locations throughout the 8 county area. He has been the lead instructor at the Bremen class location for over 10 years. Every Thursday he works a freshman game with new officials from the class to help them take that next step from the classroom. Gary also moderates the annual IACO 201 Football Officials Class for experienced football crew members

He has been a popular repeat presenter at the annual IACO Football Clinic, as well as at COA meetings.

Gary was named IHSA Football Official of the Year in 2010. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the IOA (Illinois Officials Association) in baseball, was inducted into the Big K Officials Hall of Fame, and due to his many years of volunteer work and dedication to youth sports, the Tinley Park Bulldogs, where his daughter & three sons played, recently named a baseball field in his honor.

"I am humbled and appreciative of the significant honor of receiving the COA's Ellie Hasan Award. To be honored with Ellie and so many other recipients of his award, is quite fantastic. Thank you COA, I cherish this award!"

Gary resides in Tinley Park with his wife Kathy, who has been oh so patient and supportive with his passion for sports officiating. They raised 4 children, Sharon, Bryan, Kevin & Stephen and are blessed with 5 grandkids, Ashley, Ethan, Sophie, Gertie and Charlie.