



Annual Report



Marty Hickman
Executive Director

I am pleased to report that the Association is once again publishing an “*Annual Report*” to the membership. The report highlights some of the major events of the year and provides some important information for the upcoming school term. We think you will find the report beneficial as you plan for the upcoming year. As always, if the staff of the IHSA can be of service to you or your conference, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

As the Executive Director of IHSA, the writing of the “Annual Report” causes me to reflect on the importance of the work we all do together. As I talk to administrators, coaches, parents, fans, and students across Illinois, I continue to stress the reason why interscholastic athletic and activity programs are as important today as they were when the Association was founded in 1900. Simply put, interscholastic programs are in place to help develop better citizens for this great country. The IHSA’s mission states, “The IHSA serves member schools by providing leadership for equitable participation in interscholastic activities that enrich the educational experience.” Unfortunately, all too often the conversations regarding interscholastic programs focus on wins and losses, college scholarships, and opportunities to earn a living as a professional athlete. While these conversations at times make for interesting debate, they detract and overshadow the real purpose behind interscholastic programs in our schools—the enriching of the educational experience of high school students. Winning is nice—if given a choice, in most cases, I would pick winning over losing. College scholarships are wonderful, but rare. The goal of making a living playing professional basketball or the trumpet is laudable, but we know the odds are “lottery-like.” But what we can and should do every day is help young people become better citizens by teaching the value of teamwork, by stressing the importance of setting goals, and by helping students understand the benefits of being committed, dedicated and trustworthy.

Though the 2003-04 school year wasn’t without its challenges, it was a good year for the Association. Through participation in the programs sponsored by the IHSA, thousands of high school students in our member schools had the opportunity to grow and learn from many dedicated and committed educators, coaches, directors, and sponsors.

Your Board of Directors and your IHSA staff are both committed to providing opportunities for high school students that enrich their educational experience, and ultimately, their lives. We look forward to working with you to achieve that goal during the 2004-05 school term.

DETERMINATION

TEAMWORK

ACHIEVEMENT

CHALLENGES

GOALS

FRIENDSHIP

COURAGE

EXCELLENCE

PERSEVERANCE

LEADERSHIP

MOTIVATION

SPORTSMANSHIP

RON MCGRAW

NAMED ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ronald W. McGraw, former principal at Knoxville High School was named in January by the Board of Directors to be an assistant executive director of the IHSA. He joined the IHSA staff July 1, 2004.



A teacher, coach and administrator in Illinois schools since 1984, McGraw became the 27th person to serve on the IHSA administrative staff in the 104-year history of the organization. He joined the staff following the retirement of IHSA Assistant Executive Director Jim Flynn this summer.

Ron McGraw brings to our staff a fire and a deep commitment to serving young people, and a clear vision of the mission of our Association. His presence on our staff will help IHSA continue to provide strong, positive leadership for our member schools and the students who attend them.

McGraw graduated from Oneida (ROVA) High School in 1975, and was a member of the school's 1975 Football Playoff team. After earning an associate degree in architectural building construction from Morrison Institute of Technology in 1978, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Education and graduated with high honors from Western Illinois University in 1983, a Master's in Industrial Technology in 1984, and a Master's in Education Administration in 1992.

His career in education began in 1984 at Sherrard High School where he was an industrial arts teacher and coached wrestling and golf. He was on the staff at Sherrard until 1991 when he became assistant principal and athletic director at Monmouth (H.S.). In 1994, he became principal at Knoxville and was named the Illinois Principal's Association Western Region Principal of the Year for the 1997-98 school term.

McGraw has served the IHSA in many capacities. He previously served on the Golf Advisory Committee, was a selector for three of the All-State Academic Teams, and was elected twice to represent District 16 on the IHSA Legislative Commission. He was a member of the IHSA Board of Directors from 2001 until 2003.



SUSAN M. KNOBLAUCH

NAMED ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Susan M. Knoblauch of Washington was named in June by the Board of Directors to be an assistant executive director of the Illinois High School Association. She joined the staff August 1, 2004.



Ms. Knoblauch fills a new position authorized by the Board of Directors at its April 27 regular meeting. She becomes the 28th person in the 104-year history of IHSA to serve on its administrative staff and the 11th female to serve.

Susan Knoblauch has some unique talents that will add to the mix of our staff. She brings a deep commitment to serving young people, and a clear vision of the mission of our Association. Her presence on our staff will help IHSA continue to provide strong, positive leadership for our member schools and the students who attend them.

She comes to the staff from Lowpoint-Washburn High School where she was English department head, coached speech individual events and directed the school play. A high school teacher of English, speech, drama and broadcasting since 1987, Ms. Knoblauch also has coached cheerleading. From 1987-2002 she taught speech, broadcasting and drama and coached, individual events at Morton High School. She also directed school musicals at Morton. During the 2002-03 school term she was an English and speech teacher at Washington High School.

From 1998-2003, she was a part-time speech communication and drama instructor at Illinois Central College.

Ms. Knoblauch has served as manager and judged in speech regional and sectional competition. She has served on the State Speech Tournament Advisory Committee, and judged at the State Speech Tournament. She is an Illinois Speech and Theatre Association member and presenter, and a National Forensic League judge.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Communication-Teacher Education from Illinois State University in 1987. In 1997, she received a Master of Science in Communication from ISU.

While at Illinois State University, Susan was a member of the cheerleading squad. She has been cheerleader coach at both Morton and Washington.



COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING AND JOURNALISM STATE FINALS TO BE HELD IN 2005-06

I am pleased to report that the IHSA Board has approved state series competition in Competitive Cheerleading and Journalism, provided both activities meet the threshold of 10% of our schools entered in each event. The inaugural events will be held in 2005-06. We are in the process of appointing advisory committees to help with planning these events.

Both of these events promise to be exciting and challenging for students from IHSA member schools. Your Board of Directors continues to demonstrate that they are not only committed to offering quality interscholastic programs, but they are also committed to providing additional interscholastic opportunities when warranted.



PUBLIC/PRIVATE SCHOOL TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Public/Private School Task Force met on April 26, 2004. This is the third such task force established by the Board in the last decade. The Task Force reviewed previous efforts to address public/private school issues and formulated a plan to address current concerns. Three committees were established to examine the issues and obtain data for use in development of any proposals that may emerge. Each committee will provide a progress report to the IHSA Board of Directors at its August meeting. The Task Force is composed of 21 people representing public and private schools in each of the seven IHSA geographic Board of Directors divisions. Board member Joseph Schlender, principal at Hoffman Estates (Conant) is the chair. Other board members on the task force are Dr. James Quaid, principal of Oak Park (Fenwick), and Ron Conner, principal at Clinton. Assistant Executive Directors Dave Gannaway and Beth Sauser also serve.

The committees and their focus are:

General Issues—Study the boundary issues, transfer by-laws, and recruiting issues. In addition, the committee will react to the statement that Football should not drive the other sports. The committee also will examine the issue of enforcing the current by-laws. Dennis Litteken will chair this committee. Joe Schlender will be Board Liaison. Members of the committee are: Sue Franklin, Chicago (Young); Jan Welch, Richmond (R.-Burton); Don Sebestyen, New Lenox (Providence Catholic); Nicole Fairman, Kewanee (Wethersfield); Joe McDaniel, Decatur (St. Teresa); and Dennis Litteken, Breese (Mater Dei).

Multiplier/Other State Approaches—Study the how, why and rationale used in other states. Sarah Keene and Melver Scott will co-chair the committee. Ron Conner will be Board Liaison. Members of the committee are: Melver Scott, Chicago (Crane); Doug Domeracki, Grayslake (H.S.); Ross Cucio, Oak Lawn (Richards); Mike Papoccia, Sterling (Newman Central Catholic); Cindy Helmers, Bloomington (H.S.); Helen Dulle, Springfield (Sacred Heart-Griffin); Sara Keene, Columbia.

Classification—Study the impact and ramifications of potential changes in classification in all sports. Tim Feigh and Joe Schmidt will co-chair the committee. Jim Quaid will be Board Liaison. Members of the committee are: Joe Schmidt, Chicago (St. Patrick); Glenn Schwartzwalder, Aurora (Illinois Math and Science Academy); Tim Feigh, Darien (Hinsdale South); Don Billington, Genoa (G.-Kingston); Mike Clark, Normal (Community); Christine LaCroix, Aledo; Vicky King, Carbondale.

Members of the Task Force will be available to attend conference meetings to discuss the work of the Task Force. Contact Jan Wrigley at the IHSA to make arrangements for a Committee member to attend your conference meeting if you are interested in hearing a Task Force report.

FINANCIAL AID CRITERIA COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Financial Aid Criteria Committee met on April 26, 2004, to develop a plan to assure compliance by IHSA member private schools with Article 1.250 of the IHSA Constitution. At the June meeting, the Board approved the Committee's work establishing a reporting system that must be used by private schools with regard to need based and non-need based financial aid with no consideration for athletic performance, potential, or interest. The Financial Aid Form will be distributed to private schools this fall. The committee is chaired by Dr. James Quaid from Oak Park (Fenwick).

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

NEW CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAMS BY THE ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors' approval of foreign exchange student programs, for purposes of determining the residence eligibility for athletics of foreign exchange students in member schools, is required by Section 3.034.3 of the By-laws. In compliance with this provision, the Board of Directors has determined that only those exchange programs with "full listing" status in the 2004-05 CSIET Advisory List may be approved for the 2004-05 school term. Qualifying programs must submit the following documentation to the IHSA office for approval by the Executive Director:

1. An outline of the placement process for students, from initial contact to final placement.
2. A description of the process local or area representatives must follow in the placement of students.
3. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of all local or area representatives responsible for student placement.
4. Copies of any and all training materials provided to local or area representatives and documentation that all required training has been completed.
5. A description of the process used by the program to identify and secure local or area representatives.
6. A description of the process used by the program and local or area representatives to identify and secure host schools.
7. A description of the process used by the program and local or area representatives to identify and secure host families.



8. The procedures for follow-up with local or area representatives to ensure that the program's placement process has been followed.
9. The procedures for post-placement follow-up with the local or area representatives and the students placed by the program.

Following submission of the documentation described above, and any additional documentation and/or information deemed necessary, the Executive Director shall notify the program whether it has been approved. **Foreign exchange students may not be ruled eligible until the program they are utilizing has gained IHSA approval.**

For an up to date list of approved programs, schools can go on-line to the following website: www.ihsa.org/org/foreign.htm.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Now more than ever, issues are coming to the Association related to homeless students. Please note that if you have determined that a student is homeless, an eligibility ruling is needed from the IHSA prior to the student participating in interscholastic competition. We are working closely with our ISBE liaison to develop appropriate procedures for reviewing the eligibility of homeless students. While it may eventually be prudent for the membership to consider a by-law amendment that addresses homelessness, our current rules require a case-by-case review of students who have been identified as homeless by your district's homeless liaison.



HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS



Like you, we continue to get questions regarding home-schooled students participating at IHSA member schools. IHSA By-laws 3.011 and 4.011 address this issue. IHSA By-laws do not prohibit participation in interscholastic programs by home-schooled students nor do they mandate that member schools permit home-schooled students to participate. If your local school board determines they will permit interscholastic participation by home-schooled students, your policy must comply with IHSA By-laws 3.011 and 4.011.

Under the provisions of these by-laws, any student, including one who is home-schooled, must meet three specific requirements to be eligible for interscholastic participation:

1. The student must be enrolled at the member high school;
2. The student must be taking a minimum of twenty (20) credit hours of work (the equivalent of four full credit courses) at the member school or in a program approved by the member school;
3. The student must be granted credit by the member school for the work taken either at the member school or in a program it approved.

KEY CHANGES IN BY-LAWS FOR 2004-05 (EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004)

During the 2003-04 school term, fourteen proposals were submitted to the Legislative Commission for consideration. Of the fourteen, nine proposals were referred to the membership for a vote. The following are a few changes to note: Under **By-law 3.047**, in the case of a transfer student where a period of ineligibility has been imposed **or that would have been imposed** had the student remained at the school, the student will be ineligible. Under **By-law 3.106**, students must cease non-school practice and competition in a sport no later than **five days after** the date the school team engages in its first **practice or tryout** in that sport. **By-law 3.132** allows only bona fide students of a school to participate in a practice session for any interscholastic team sponsored by that school. **By-law 5.341** will allow scholastic bowl teams to practice and participate in one scholastic bowl tournament beginning the Sunday of Week No. 38 and ending the Monday of Week No. 8. **By-law 5.753** requires individuals who wish to participate on the school's competitive cheerleading team to be a rostered participant on the school's winter sideline cheerleading team. The complete text and the interpretations of all IHSA By-laws are available in the 2004-05 IHSA Handbook with Illustrations and at www.ihsa.org.

AUDIT REPORT

The IHSA has received its annual financial audit from the firm of Clifton Gunderson LLP. The audit stated in part, "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Illinois High School Association as of June 30, 2003 and 2002, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America." After a couple of very difficult years financially, the 2002-03 school term saw the Association's financial picture improve. According to the audit, the IHSA's net assets increased \$450,199 last year. While this news is positive and encouraging, the Board, Treasurer and staff remain committed to restoring the Association's reserves to a prudent level. A copy of the complete audit is available upon request to any IHSA member school.



Though the 2003-04 audit is yet to be completed, the Association expects an increase in net assets for this school term to be similar to 2002-03. We are pleased to announce that the final mortgage payment was made on the Association's office in Bloomington in May of 2004. Additional financial information will be distributed to the membership once the annual audit has been completed.

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

The administrative staff of the IHSA is available to attend conference meetings throughout the year. If you are interested in having an IHSA representative at your meeting, please contact Jan Wrigley at the IHSA Office.

IHSA REPRESENTATIVES INVOLVED IN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Members of the Association's administrative staff, persons from IHSA member schools, and other Illinois residents continue to play significant roles in national positions relative to interscholastic programs.

Marty Hickman, Executive Director
Chairperson of the National Federation Strategic Planning Committee

Anthony Holman, Assistant Executive Director
Member of the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee and NFHS Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Dave Gannaway, Assistant Executive Director
Member of the NFHS Football and Wrestling Rules Committees

Scott Johnson, Assistant Executive Director
Member of the NFHS Records Committee

Sue Hinrichsen, Assistant Executive Director
Member of the NFHS Volleyball Rules Committee

Steve Endsley, Executive Director of Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA)
Member of the NFHS Citizenship Committee

Lynn Gaziano, Arlington Heights (St. Viator) Athletic Director
Member of the NFHS Athletic Director Advisory Committee

Roger Amm, Ottawa (Twp.) Music Educator
Member of the NFHS Music Committee

Haig Nighohossian, Soccer Official
Member of the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee

IHSA



JOE NEWTON INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME



At the NFHS Summer Meeting held in San Diego, the 11-member 2004 class was inducted into the National High School Hall of Fame.

Legendary high school cross country coach Joe Newton from Elmhurst (York) was one of four coaches inducted into the Hall of Fame. Newton has won an amazing 23 Illinois High School Association state championships in boys cross country since he took the helm at Elmhurst York High School.

Joe joins nineteen other Illinois representatives who have been inducted into the NFHS Hall of Fame.

