

COLLINS RETIRES AS CIF-SAN FRANCISCO SECTION COMMISSIONER

Don Collins has worn many hats in his professional lifetime – so many that, now that he's retiring, he's going to need a large hat rack to hang them all up.

The longtime attorney is retiring as the California Interscholastic Federation, San Francisco Section commissioner, a post he has held since 2001. He was also a longtime track and field and basketball official.

For NASO, he's been a valued writer, authoring law-related columns for *Referee* magazine and *It's Official*. Collins has provided expertise for NASO's Member Information and Consultation Program. He's been a regular panelist at NASO Summits. And he served on the NASO board from 2011-14.

In recognition for his efforts, he was the 2016 Mel Narol Medallion recipient.

One might think someone with so much on his plate would happily walk away



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from all of that work and responsibility. But Collins says he's enjoyed the association with NASO and that will continue.

"The Summits and the State Days are just a great way to meet so many people, and learn so much," Collins said. "I really enjoy my annual breakfasts with the (attendees from New York) at the Summit, and I have had a great time meeting people at the State Officials Day prior to each Summit."

Four years on the NASO board gave Collins a new perspective on how the association ticks. "Being on the board was a great experience," he said. "You get to see exactly why the board members are excellent leaders in their field. Of course, all of this is a bit humbling. No matter who you are and what you've done you're going to meet a whole lot of people in officiating and at the Summit who've just done pretty awe-inspiring things."

Collins' introduction to NASO was as an official. "I became connected with NASO because NASO had the best educational resources. (There's) the magazine and sport-by-sport resources. Then, I realized slower than most (about) the insurance programs. Basically,

there are things you should do in a profession or an avocation, and I got connected with NASO because it's the place to be for officials."

NASO was fortunate to benefit from Collins' expertise, but he considers the relationship mutually beneficial. "I think that was part luck and part skill. The luck part was working on some projects with (fellow former board members) Bob Summers and Jim Jorgensen. They both had NASO ties; Jim was an original board member. I think my ties to Bob and Jim certainly helped me meet a lot of the members of the NASO staff and board."

When asked what Collins would tell fellow leaders to induce them to join forces with NASO, he said, "If you're in officiating, NASO is the place to be. The tools for association leaders are unmatched. The NASO approach is collegial. NASO supplements and complements NFHS, NCAA and a vast array of leagues. The insurance benefits and the organizational support tools are unmatched, and are probably the drivers for many. If you're serious about the business of officiating, this is where you go." ■

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