

Community Foundation. Ron also served on the St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation fundraising committee, the first healthcare charity in Hamilton to earn the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy's Ethical Fundraising License.

He donated thousands of Fox 40 Classic whistles used by search and rescue professionals when they were saving lives following the San Francisco earthquake, the Oklahoma City bombing, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami and Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma.

Foxcroft has received awards from B'Nai Brith Canada and the Burlington (Ontario) Rotary Club.

He was named Hamilton's Distinguished Citizen of the Year, received an honorary doctor of law

degree from McMaster University and had an award named for him by Sports Officials Canada. The award is presented annually to recognize excellence from an official in a professional sports environment, their contribution to the development of young officials and their example as a positive role model for officials by virtue of personal involvement at the community level.

He is an honorary colonel in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Canadian Army Reserve infantry battalion. After a member of his regiment was killed in a terrorist attack, Foxcroft met with Queen Elizabeth II and received her personal condolences.

Fox 40 received the Mel Narol Medallion Award in 2004, presented

to a group or individual for outstanding contributions to NASO.

Foxcroft is a former member of the NASO board of directors and currently serves as a special adviser to the board.

The Gold Whistle Award is presented annually by NASO. Those considered are individuals or groups that have made significant contributions to the betterment of officiating, exhibit a high degree of integrity and ethics and other qualities that are held in high regard by the industry. Candidates must have a consistent record of presenting officiating in a positive light as well as exhibiting a "service above self" attitude. Public service to officiating, having a motivating effect on others and/or strong community involvement are considered. □

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NASO MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of NASO is to:

- Serve members by providing benefits and services.
- Improve officiating performance through educational programs.
- Advocate opportunities for officials and engage in programs to recruit and retain officials.
- Create alliances with organizations that benefit from healthy officiating programs.
- Enhance the image of officials.

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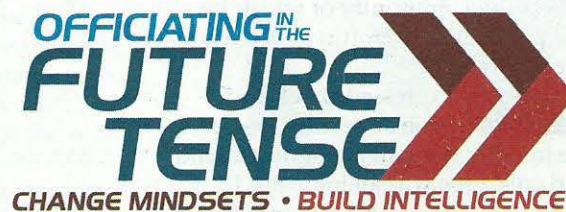
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Industry Leaders Highlight 2016 Summit Speaker Lineup

NASO has lined up a remarkable collection of industry leaders from all levels of officiating to speak during NASO's 2016 Sports Officiating Summit. "Officiating in the Future Tense:

Change Mindsets and Build Intelligence" will be held July 31-Aug. 2 in San Antonio. The Grand Hyatt San Antonio will be the host hotel and all events will be held there. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from some of the best and brightest in officiating in all levels and sports.

Opening the Summit will be the panel session "Officiating in the Present Tense." It will offer an inside look into where officiating is today compared to 20 years ago. With less room for error in view of technological scrutiny, officiating leaders have resorted to suspending officials, which begs the question: Are officials delivering on the



promise of a well-officiated game? The panel to answer that question consists of Bob Delaney, NBA vice president, referee development and performance; June Courteau, NCAA national coordinator of women's basketball officiating; and Julie Voeck, Professional Association of Volleyball Officials (PAVO) president and director of officials training programs.

Moving from the present to the future, following will be the session, "So, Where Is Officiating Headed?" Mark Uyl, Michigan High School Athletic Association assistant director and former NASO board chair, will be moderating the panel of Dean Blandino, NFL

vice president of officiating; Monty McCutchen, NBA referee; and Julian Tackett, executive director of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association. They will explore how officiating has to take a more proactive approach in supporting its officials. Officiating must overcome its old philosophy to bring a relative harmony for future officials.

“Break Down that Play,” will give attendees a complete breakdown of several noteworthy personal calls. Ron Foxcroft of Fox 40 International will moderate a panel consisting of NCAA women’s volleyball coordinator Joan Powell, ESPN college football analyst Dave Cutaita and more. Frame by frame, pixel by pixel, presenters will take the attendees on an unforgettable journey into their play, why the call was made or not and any ramifications that came from the play.

During Monday’s annual “Officiating Industry Luncheon,” attendees will get a chance to receive an update on the current state of officiating. NASO President Barry Mano and NFHS Executive Director Robert Gardner will share their experiences and takeaways from the past year. Theresia Wynns, NFHS director of sports and officials, will emcee this can’t-miss event.

Monday winds down with the session “Should Sports Officials Be Suspended?” Certain officiating shortcomings or errors are resulting in suspensions in some leagues, but many believe that suspensions shouldn’t be a management tool at all. It’s time for that issue to be discussed and debated by officiating leaders and officials. Debbie Williamson, coordinator of women’s basketball officials for the American Athletic and Big East conference, will be moderating this panel session that consists of Mike Fitch, executive director of the Texas Association of Sports Officials; Dave Coleman, vice president of officiating for the Pac-12 Conference; JD Collins, NCAA national coordinator of men’s

basketball officiating; and Scott Green, former NFL referee.

Monday will conclude with the annual sport-by-sport breakouts led by sporting officiating experts of various levels.

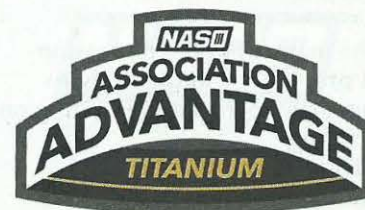
Tuesday kicks off with the session “The Commissioners Talk Officiating.” It will examine how commissioners view officials as part of their product. Are officials meeting the expectations? And how are officials being held accountable? Find out from the panel which includes Greg Sankey, commissioner of the Southeastern Conference; Val Ackerman, commissioner of the Big East Conference and more.

Stemming from the Publisher’s Memo titled, “We Dream,” new to the Summit this year comes the session, “Officiating: We Believe!” It will offer stories from officials on how officiating is the greatest, most worthy and fulfilling profession. It is sure to inspire attendees. The panel will consist of New Mexico Officials Association commissioner Dana Pappas; Jerry Markbreit, former NFL referee; Joe Crawford, NBA referee; Margaret Domka, PRO referee; and Marcy Weston, former NCAA national coordinator of women’s basketball officiating, among others.

Back by popular demand this year are attorneys Alan Goldberger and Don Collins along with Drew Smith, president of American Specialty Insurance, NASO’s insurance provider. They will headline “Lawsuit Liability ‘Live,’” a live interactive Q&A session involving everything you need to know about laws for sports officials. Then, during Tuesday’s lunch workshops, those three industry experts will again take questions on any subject related to sports officiating.

Tuesday sessions will wrap up with “The ‘It’ Factor With Mike Pereira.” Mike Pereira, rules analyst for Fox Sports and former NFL director of officiating, will moderate an all-star cast, featuring NFL referee Ed Hochuli and officials

SEE “SUMMIT SPEAKER” P. N4



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SUMMIT SPEAKER
(CONTINUED FROM P. N3)

in the major sports. The session will provide the audience with noteworthy personalities riffing on officiating.

The Summit will feature additional sessions and notable

speakers. The event concludes with the Celebrate Officiating Gala and the presentation of the 2016 NASO Gold Whistle Award to Ron Foxcroft.

Don't miss out on all of the great information and resources that will be shared from some

of the best in the industry! The Summit is always sure to be both informative and entertaining for those who attend. For more information on Summit registration for San Antonio, go to sportsofficiatingsummit.com or contact NASO at 800-733-6100. □

Recruiting Fairs

Officially Speaking With Sandra Walter



Sandra Walter is an assistant commissioner for the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA). NASO spoke with Walter about officiating

recruiting fairs that are being held in different parts of the state.

Where did the idea for these recruiting fairs come from?

Walter said the idea came from a school in the northern part of the state. "We've taken their basic format and tried to expand it to the whole state," she said.

How do the recruitment fairs work?

It's a collaborative effort involving the state association, a school providing a location and the officials association in that area. For two to three hours on a Saturday, people can come learn about what's involved with becoming an official in any of the fall, winter and spring sports, she said.

How do you decide where to hold these?

Through meetings with the leadership of officials associations and hearing from member schools, there's a pretty good sense of where more officials are needed, she said. "We have an understanding of where our deficits lie," she said. "It's sport-specific sometimes." Schools and officiating associations are asked if they'd like to participate. Then, the event is publicized in the local news media and on social media.

What happens at the fairs?

"We bring attendees all together first — anyone who is interested — and speak to them for a half an hour generally about what the IHSAA is all about," Walter said. "I have a document that walks them through the registration process." Next, the sessions break down into sports by season — so interested officials have an opportunity to find out about any of the different sports that might interest them. "In each classroom is a state level official who has been there and done that and can talk to those people about what is necessary, how to work through the licensing process initially," Walter said.

So attendees hear about officiating from an existing official?

"The best recruiter is still that veteran official," Walter said. "Our folks who are existing officials can identify those who would be best to follow them. That has proven the best recruiting tool."

What happens after the fair?

"We collect data on everybody in attendance, so we have that contact list," she said. "When we start to license for another eligibility year, we send those reminders out to those folks, hoping they have an interest." The fair coincides with other recruiting efforts, such as giving free licenses — scholarships — to some new officials. The local associations also typically give some free initial memberships, too. Getting new officials connected with mentors is also important.

What's your assessment of the success of the fairs?

"So far so good," Walter said, noting this was just the second year of the recruiting fair efforts. The database of officials will be watched to see if those who attend the recruiting fairs end up registering, but it's too soon to know if they've been a success.

What's next?

"Recruiting is one thing," Walter said. "Retention is quite another. Once we recruit them, we'll have to work twice as hard to keep them. And that comes with the mentor program, and keeping them engaged, and recruiting the right person." □

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