

Dec RASO Newsletter

Next RASO meeting is Tues Jan 8 @ 7:00 @ ISC

www.RasoWeb.org

Dec 4 1st Annual RASO Banquet

Congratulations to the following referees for receiving their respective "Awards of the Year".

- **Assignor's Award** – Jacquie Balestrieri
- **Retiring Referees** – Howard LaBrandt & Mel Freund
- **President's Award** – Dave Brandt
- **Most Improved Award** – Jeff Clausen
- **Young Female Referee** – Cory Wilson
- **Young Male Referee** – Nick Balestrieri
- **Female Referee** – Jacquie Balestrieri
- **Male Referee** – Ken Valentine
- **IHSA State Finals** – Gerry Hundt, Ron Scott, Chic Wowk, & Ben Boom
- **IHSA Super Sectional** – Ben Boom, Mark Marko, Dan Mitchell, Ron Scott, Harold Winne, Gerry Hundt,, Chic Wowk
- **IHSA Sectionals** – Dave Brandt, Ben Boom, Steve Johnson, Mike Love, Dan Mitchell, Ron Scott, John Sousa, Ken Valentine, Harold Winne, Gerry Hundt, Chic Wowk

Treasurer Report – n/a

Secretary Report – n/a

Old Business

- IHSA 3 year Clinic: Sat Dec 15, 9am – 1pm @ ISC, Cost = \$5.00,
- 2002 USSF Registration Procedure – see the RASO October newsletter for details

New Business

- RASO is sponsoring the sale of a RASO warmup. Boathouse Sports has been selected as our supplier. This high quality LIFE TIME GUARANTEE garmet will cost \$130.00. Deadline for ordering is Jan 15, 2002. Order form, with more details, on the RasoWeb Forms page.
- 2002 RASO Dues: Please pay promptly, form on the RasoWeb Forms page

2002 RASO Board Nominations

- Please contact G. Hundt @ 398-7849 with your interest or nominations
- Elections will be held at the Jan 8 RASO meeting

2002 USSF Clinics

- Entry Level: Feb 2-3, 2002 Rockford Holiday Inn (Refresh required on Sun only)
- Advanced Clinic: Feb 23-24, 2002
- Refresher: Saturday March 23, 2002
- Refresher: Sunday April 7, 2002

Attachments

- RASO Warmup Order Form
- 2002 RASO Dues Form

1st Annual RASO Banquet & Referee Awards Night (details)

The Rockford Area Soccer Officials organization (RASO) held their first annual award banquet and referee roast on December 4, 2001. The event, held at Sam's Ristorante on Riverside Boulevard, was put together to acknowledge those referees who have contributed significantly toward the success of soccer and this

organization in Rockford. Forty-four people attended the event, which included the referees and members of their families.

Following opening ceremonies and dinner, numerous referees were recognized for various achievements in the 2001 calendar year.

Opening the awards, president Harold Winne awarded Gerry Hundt, Ron Scott, and Wasyl "Chic" Wowk with medallions for their participation as IHSA State Final referee this year. Ron and Chic have been regulars at the State Final series, and special commendation was given to Gerry Hundt for being invited for his first time. Of the sixteen referees invited to State Finals, four were from Rockford, representing the highest percentage of referees from a single vicinity.

Following these awards, Ron Scott, IHSA and college assignor, recognized retiring referee Howard Labrant for his many years of service. Howard was involved heavily in the origins of soccer in Rockford. Howard organized and was the first coach of the Guilford Soccer Club. Howard was also instrumental in the beginnings of AYSO in Rockford. As was stated by referee John Sousa, Howard organized the first trip to Wisconsin to certify referees. As John stated, "we had to have SOMEONE to referee the games". Howard refereed many of these original games, and was one of the most successful coaches for both the Guilford High School Boys and Girls soccer programs. Howard retires after well over 20 years of service, and the Rockford area and the referees association is sincerely grateful for his efforts and assistance in advancing soccer in this area.

Although absent, retiring referee Mel Freund was also recognized for his many years of service. Mel, like Howard, was involved in high school, AYSO, and numerous other areas of soccer officiating. RASO has awarded both referees with plaques and an official commendation for their achievements.

Moving onto the major awards of the evening, Dave Brandt of Rockton, IL, was awarded the RASO President's Award. Dave has been instrumental in organizing numerous major tools for the advancement of referees in Rockford and in the State of Illinois. Dave's achievements for RASO has allowed referees access to a web site that allows them full access to all areas of refereeing, including national and international rules, and full communications with other referees in the world.

Jeff Clausen of Roscoe, IL, was recognized as RASO's most improved referee of the year. Jeff has worked with other referees in the area, and has consistently and steadily improved over a very short time. RASO gave thanks for his efforts and diligence in his quick growth.

Corey Wilson of Rockford, female young referee of the year and Nick Balestrieri of Byron, IL, male young referee of the year, were both recognized for their assistance and efforts in the recent seasons. Gerry Hundt, assignor for youth games here in Rockford, indicated that Corey and Nick represented our best young referees in the area through time, effort, professionalism, and responsibility to the games they have been assigned. They also represent the outstanding youth that the Rockford area offers.

Jackie Balestrieri, also of Byron, was awarded both the IHSA Assignor's Award and the Female Adult Referee of the year. Jackie has assisted with games of all types, and has shown through her acceptance of virtually any assignment that she is truly dedicated to helping with officiating at all levels.

Ken Valentine, of Loves Park, IL, was awarded the Male Referee of the Year Award. Ken began numerous years ago with AYSO officiating. When Mark Marko, another RASO referee, recognized a talent for officiating in Ken, Mark suggested that he would do well in other areas of soccer officiating. Ken has grown steadily through recent years especially, and his most recent achievement was his appointment by the IHSA to the Harlem AA Sectional Tournament in October. Numerous referees also spent time relating many stories and memories of officiating experiences with Ken, much to the enjoyment of the RASO audience.

RASO would like to take this opportunity to thank all of its members for their consistent efforts, and for all those who consistently support these efforts and achievements.