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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **PIAA CELEBRATES 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OFFICIALS CONVENTION**

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The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) recently concluded its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Officials Convention held at the Hilton Hotel, Harrisburg, PA on Friday, August 2 and Saturday, August 3, 2013.

This continuing education program has grown into the largest stand-alone interscholastic officiating convention in the country. Over 900 PIAA sports officials attended this year's convention encompassing 13 sports. The convention was culminated by a banquet on Saturday evening in which PIAA recognized over 90 active registered officials for 25/35 years of service.

Attendees had the opportunity to participate in sport specific training sessions to general officiating practice sessions. Keynote speakers such as Tom Stabile and Al Hynes of the NFL; shared techniques of football officiating and Joe Crawford, the longest serving NBA referee, shared his knowledge on how to become a better basketball official.

Also PIAA was honored to have Senator Sean Wiley present on why he has introduced legislation to protect all of us as sports' officials. In addition, PIAA was also proud to have guest speakers from other states share their knowledge of officiating. Mr. Dave Gannaway from Illinois addressed our attendees on how to become a better wrestling official and the convention concluded with Mr. Henry Zaborniak from Ohio on just what it means to wear the stripes during the closing general session.