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Gebhart Receives Section 2 Citation at NFHS Summer Meeting

Gebhart becomes the fifth from PA to be recognized.

MECHANICSBURG, PA – Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (PIAA) Chief Operating Officer **Pat Gebhart** has been recognized for his exceptional leadership and longstanding commitment to interscholastic athletics, earning national recognition for his service to the state association.

A respected leader in the Pennsylvania officiating community, Gebhart brought decades of experience in education-based athletics. Before joining the PIAA, he served as a captain with the Pennsylvania State Police. In addition to his career in law enforcement, Gebhart was a PIAA registered basketball official and an NCAA Basketball official, officiating across all three NCAA divisions. Gebhart was president of the York Chapter of PIAA Basketball Officials and has been a registered PIAA sports official since 1988. He also served on the York Chapter Executive Committee before being elected president.



In 2012, Gebhart officiated the PIAA Class 3A Boys Basketball Championship Game, his final state championship assignment before joining the PIAA as Assistant Executive Director.

At the PIAA, Gebhart oversees the Officials Department, which has experienced significant growth during his tenure, with more than 15,000 registered officials statewide. He also coordinates the annual PIAA Officials Convention and manages the assignment of officials for all PIAA inter-district championship competitions. Beyond his officiating responsibilities, Gebhart serves as the PIAA sport administrator for basketball and football.

One of Gebhart's most impactful initiatives has been the creation of the PIAA Junior Officials Program, providing individuals ages 16 and 17 the opportunity to officiate PIAA contests involving student-athletes in grades 7 through 9. The program has helped introduce a new generation of officials to the avocation while addressing the ongoing need for registered officials across the Commonwealth.

At the national level, he has served on the NFHS Summer Meeting Advisory Committee and has been a moderator and presenter at several national conferences. He has also

championed the PIAA Officials Appreciation Week, in the fall, winter and spring sports season, in Pennsylvania, promoting respect and recognition for the men and women who officiate interscholastic athletics. Which has since become a nationally recognized program through the NFHS and each of their 51 member associations.



The picture above is comprised of members from the PIAA Board of Directors and the PIAA Executive Staff at the NFHS Summer Meeting Luncheon in Salt Lake City, Utah June 28th, 2026.

The NFHS began honoring the State Association Citation Recipients in 1997. For the national release, please [click here](#).

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association

Beginning in Pittsburgh, on December 29, 1913, PIAA was given the privilege of serving its member schools and registered officials by establishing policies and adopting contest rules that emphasize the educational values of interscholastic athletics, promote safe and sportsmanlike competition, and provide uniform standards for all interscholastic levels of competition.