



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 30, 2026

31st Annual PIAA Officials' Convention

Since 1995, 2,499 officials have been honored

MECHANICSBURG, PA – The 31st Annual PIAA Officials Convention is set to take place August 7th and 8th, 2026 at the Hilton Harrisburg. The Officials' Convention was launched by former PIAA Executive Director Dr. Robert Lombardi in 1994. It started with only 75 officials in attendance and has grown to an average of more than 1,000 officials each year. This convention has become the largest interscholastic sports officials' convention in the country and continues to hold its place! This is a chance for officials to gain educational knowledge, review rule changes for the upcoming sports season(s), and participate in numerous sessions on a variety of topics related to all PIAA sponsored sports.

"The Officials Convention is about preparation, professionalism, continuous growth, and honoring those who have dedicated so much time to Pennsylvania student-athletes" said Mark E. Byers, PIAA Executive Director. "PIAA Officials continue to learn and help improve the student-athlete experience." Since the conference inception three decades ago, PIAA has honored 2,499 officials.

The annual conference will also host sports-specific sessions related to rules, mechanics and other nuances of being an official. Other topics will include communication of officials with coaches and how to maintain being a healthy official.

The opening night speaker will be Buck Showalter, former Major League Baseball (MLB) manager, managing five different MLB teams: New York Yankees, Arizona Diamondbacks, Texas Rangers, Baltimore Orioles and New York Mets. Showalter is a four-time Manager of the Year, 3-time American League (AL) and one-time National League (NL). He is the only manager to be awarded with four different teams in four different decades. The final general session speaker will be Ray Zepeda, University Interscholastic League of Texas Director of Athletics. Zepeda brings 30-years of experience working in high school athletics to the UIL.

This two-day convention caps off by recognizing PIAA Officials for their years of service to PIAA member schools and student-athletes in Pennsylvania. The culminating banquet on Saturday night will recognize 60 officials who have dedicated at least three decades of service.

"Our purpose is to serve, our mission is to achieve, and our goal is excellence."

2026 Officials' Convention Award Honorees

Beverly Owens-Gaither Meritorious Service Award

Leah Ann Williams, PIAA District 10

Chapter Recognition Award

Central Penn Chapter of PIAA Basketball Officials – District 3

Rick L. Stains, accepting the award for the chapter

Chapter Secretary of the Year Award

Lt. Col. Robert Karnes, PIAA District 11

Mario J. Donnangelo Distinguished Service Award

Martin G. Maurer, Jr., PIAA District 4

30-Year Official Awards

District 1: John W Campbell, Joseph T. Kelly, Sr, Joseph Lieberman, Scott E. Speaker, **District 2:** Bryan Finegan, Robert S. Jones, Robert Keyes, John D. Loomis, **District 3:** Galen R. Brenize, James Bruno, Keith D. Delong, Keith E. Doleman, Harry E. Flawd, III, Joe Gabriel, Von R. Jaymes, Myron L. Lebo, Edward D. Magalski, Michael L. Pursel, Scott N. Urich, Mark C. Wagner, **District 4:** Roger S. Orlandi, Barry G. Pidcoe, Timothy S. Wilcox, John R. Wolfe, **District 6:** Michael Baum, Dorothy Malone, David R. Martin, David L. Quay, Sr., Kevin R. Ransom, **District 7:** Nick Carusone, David B. Davison, Brian R. Green, Anthony C. Hladek, Dean S. Lauria, Dennis A. Lauria, Jerry N. Lavelle, David L. Lawrence, Michael A Printz, Paul S. Marovich, **District 9:** Gary J. Ball, Dave Glass, Roddy E. Hartle, Dr. Gary E. Malacarne, **District 10:** Erin K. Borowicz, John E. Gerber, Timothy F. Lavan, Joseph P. Lombardi, Nancy T. Mason, **District 11:** Gregory Geiger, John J. Keff, Frank J. Keglovitz, Dana N. Lewis-Eberz, Paul D. Prelovsky, **District 12:** Gerald Boligitz, Russell McCullough

The PIAA has over 15,000 registered sport officials across the state, but this still isn't enough. With the growing number of sports and student-athletes in Pennsylvania, there's always a need for more officials. If you or someone you know would like to become an official, visit [Become an Official](#). For a complete list of award recipients and conference information, please click [here](#).

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Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

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.