
COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



THE RECOGNITION EDITION



“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.”

-Pele-

The main purpose of the August 2020 edition of the Commissioner’s Corner is to honor and celebrate various achievements and recognitions our officials have received during the summer.

In the June 2020 edition, we recognized officials who had received 2019-2020 National Federation honors. In this month’s Corner, we will recognize 2020 NMOA Hall of Fame Inductees, 2020 NMOA Distinguished Service Award recipients, 2020 NMOA Service Pin recipients and individuals who won the recently held elections for the NMOA Executive Board. We will also provide you with important dates for the upcoming school year.

While we know that officials do not get into the avocation for the accolades, we always want to ensure that we take every opportunity we can to celebrate accomplishments and to express our appreciation to our membership. The 1,724 officials who comprise the New Mexico Officials Association are exceptional individuals who serve as guardians of fair play for the student-athletes in our state and we celebrate you every day.

Thank you for what you do! Here’s hoping that we all get back into action sooner than later.

Warmest regards,



2020 NMOA Hall of Fame Inductees



The individuals selected for induction into the NMOA Hall of Fame's Class of 2020 and recipients of the 2020 NMOA Distinguished Service Award will be recognized at next year's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Awards Banquet.

Rusty Davidson - The first inductee into the NMOA Hall of Fame Class of 2020 is Mr. Rusty Davidson of Grants. Rusty was an on-mat wrestling official with the NMOA for 29 years. He was an assignor, group leader, clinician, evaluator, mentor and trainer during his career and has continued to give back in those roles since retiring from the mat three years ago. Congratulations, Rusty, on being the 91st individual inducted into the NMOA Hall of Fame!

Don "DD" Romero - The second inductee into the NMOA Hall of Fame Class of 2020 is Mr. Don "DD" Romero of Albuquerque. Don was a four-sport official and member of the NMOA for 65 years. He was integral in the development of the first State Clinic, the assignor system, the Coach/Official "Steak Fry," and was a local group leader for football and basketball. Congratulations, Don, on being the 92nd individual inducted into the NMOA Hall of Fame!

2020 NMOA Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Pete Dunavant – Pete is a longtime swimming and diving official out of the South Region (Las Cruces). He has been the South region assignor and a member of the NMOA Executive Board meeting for countless years. He is an active mentor and trainer of swimming officials throughout the South region and is a leader in the sport of swimming and diving in New Mexico.

Lisa Romero - Lisa has been a basketball official since 1996 with the Albuquerque Basketball Officials Association. She has been an outstanding mentor for up and coming basketball officials in our state and has been active in the ABOA's Future Veterans Training. Lisa has truly been a trailblazer for basketball officiating through her contributions and tireless dedication to the Association.

Donny Sanchez - Donny has been a football, basketball and baseball official out of Albuquerque for over 20 years. He has excelled in providing hospitality for out-of-town officials, serving as a mentor, serving as a camp clinician and assisting the NMAA staff at numerous state events.

For full listings of the NMOA Hall of Fame members and Distinguished Service Award Recipients, follow the links below:

Hall of Fame:

<http://nmofficials.arbitersports.com/Groups/102895/Library/files/Updated%20Hall%20of%20Fame%20Members%20-%20July%202020.pdf>

Distinguished Service:

<http://nmofficials.arbitersports.com/Groups/102895/Library/files/Updated%20Distinguished%20Service%20Recipients%20-%20July%202020.pdf>



2020 NMOA Service Pin Recipients



10 Years

Paco Arguello, Santa Fe
 Doug Brewer, Roswell
 Jason Buchta, Albuquerque
 Claude Carroll, Albuquerque
 Don Chitty Jr, Farmington
 JD Cole, Albuquerque
 Brian Cooper, Albuquerque
 Scott Copley, Albuquerque
 Rachel Dennison, Gallup
 Geoff Freeze, Albuquerque
 Steve Huebner, Roswell
 Jaime Lopez, Roswell
 Oscar Mejia, Santa Fe
 Michael Ogas, Silver City
 Juan Payan, Albuquerque
 Adolph Perea, Albuquerque
 Thomas Scarbrough, Las Cruces
 Donovan Shushlachee, Gallup
 Angela Tarter, Albuquerque
 Dan Wilkinson Sr, Albuquerque

15 Years

Dale Lindley, Alamogordo
 Herman Lovato, Albuquerque
 Polito "Paul" Martinez, Santa Fe
 Eugene Rodriguez, Silver City
 Richard Salazar, Santa Fe
 Rick Sanchez, Las Cruces
 Gabriel Smart, Farmington
 Edgar Tohtsoni, Gallup
 Vicki Velez, Farmington
 Gina Yellowman, Farmington

20 Years

Rick Carbajal, Los Lunas
 Charles Devine, Las Cruces
 Sam Gomez, Gallup
 Larry Grant, Roswell
 Bobbie Holguin, Las Cruces
 Dean Hunt, Albuquerque
 Myra Mims, Albuquerque
 Steven Rosas, Albuquerque
 Julian Salazar, Albuquerque
 Mark Salazar, Santa Fe
 Norm Valdez, Los Lunas

25 Years

Mark Chavez, Albuquerque
 Benedicto Corrales, Santa Fe
 Michael Dan, Farmington
 Ricky DeHerrera, Santa Fe
 Gaeton Falance, Albuquerque
 Gary Gabriele, Raton
 Richard McDonald, Carlsbad
 Steven Rospopo, Albuquerque

30 or More Years

Steve Franco, Albuquerque (30)
 David Havlick, Albuquerque (30)
 Innette Mirabal, Santa Fe (30)

Sharon Bays, Farmington (32)
 Rusty Davidson, Grants (32)

Bob Armijo, Albuquerque (35)
 Steve Barela, Albuquerque (35)
 David Briseño, Clovis (35)
 Patrick Devine, Alamogordo (35)
 Victor Diaz, Silver City (35)
 Robert Nuñez, Las Cruces (35)

Vernon Martinez, Albuquerque (36)

Vance Lee, Sr., Lordsburg (39)

Dale Hunt, Albuquerque (40)
 Jerome Sandoval, Gallup (45)

All service pin recipients for this year have received their pins (10, 15, 20, 25 years) or certificates (30 or more years) via mail and these individuals have been recognized on the various NMOA social media outlets. Congratulations to all of these men and women and thank you for your years of service to the NMAA, the NMOA and the thousands of student-athletes who have been impacted through your work as an interscholastic official!



2020 NMOA Executive Board Election Results



The vacant positions for the 2020-2022 block of the Executive Board were as follows: President, Vice-President, Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Swimming & Diving and Track and Field. Officials were asked to vote via Survey Monkey between May 26 and June 3, 2020 for their representatives on the Board. The results are as follows:

PRESIDENT:

Jess Martinez, Albuquerque

SOCCER:

Bill Lindemann, Las Cruces

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Hector Martinez, Albuquerque

SWIMMING & DIVING:

Pete Dunavant, Las Cruces

BASEBALL:

Mike Rundell, Las Cruces

TRACK & FIELD:

Gary Schuster, Track & Field

BASKETBALL:

Stephen Parr, Carlsbad

The Executive Board Directory can be found at the following link:

<http://nmofficials.arbitersports.com/Groups/102895/Library/files/ebdir%2020-21.pdf>

The NMOA Sport Committee directory can be found at the link below:

[http://nmofficials.arbitersports.com/Groups/102895/Library/files/NMOA%20Sport%20Committees%202020-2021\(1\).pdf](http://nmofficials.arbitersports.com/Groups/102895/Library/files/NMOA%20Sport%20Committees%202020-2021(1).pdf)

Always keep in mind that the NMOA is membership-led! Take part in elections and processes that effect you (note that fewer than 18% of the officials in the state participated in this election).

Important Dates (August-December, 2020)

August 3, 2020 – Basketball, Spirit, Swimming & Diving, Wrestling Officials Q & A with Sally Marquez (Online)

August 17, 2020 – Baseball, Softball, Track & Field Officials Q & A with Sally Marquez (Online)

August 24, 2020 – Wrestling Officials Webinar #5 – Role & Performance of the Assistant Referee

August 24-27, 2020 – National Association of Sports Officials Virtual Summit

September 7, 2020 – NMAA Office Closed (Labor Day)

September 8, 2020 – Volleyball Officials' Registrations Due/Exams Open*

September 19, 2020 – 14th Annual Referee Educational Forum (Basketball Officials – Online)

September 28, 2020 – NMAA Volleyball District Clinic Online*

October 1, 2020 – Spirit Officials Registration Due/Exams Open*

October 17, 2020 – Spirit Coaches/Officials Clinic (Live)*

October 19-23, 2020 – Volleyball Coaches Appreciation Week*

October 26-30, 2020 – Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week*

October 28, 2020 – NMOA Executive Board Meeting (Zoom)

October 30, 2020 – Volleyball Officials Exam Closes*

November 16, 2020 – Spirit Officials Exam Closes*

November 25-27, 2020 – NMAA Office Closed (Thanksgiving Break)

December 15, 2020 – Basketball, Swimming & Diving Officials' Registration Due/Basketball Exams Open*

December 18-19, 2020 – NMOA Baseball & Softball State Clinic (Online)

December 21, 2020 – January 1, 2021 – NMAA Office Closed (Winter Break)

December 23, 2020 – NMOA Swimming & Diving Officials Clinic (Online)

December 23, 2020 – NMAA Basketball, Swimming & Diving District Clinics (Online)

*Subject to change