

30 Who Made a Difference

Over 30 years, countless individuals — including you, as NASO members — have influenced NASO. In recognition of NASO's 30 anniversary, the NASO staff narrowed the list of those that made a difference down to 30. The results are not scientific. But the impact of those that made the list is clear. NASO is the world's largest organization for officials at every level and all sports, and the leading source of officiating education, programs and services in part because of the impact the 30 have made.

The list of 30 is presented in alphabetical order. It includes mostly people, but there are organizations and businesses as well.

Since the list spans 30 years of impact, some of the individuals are no longer active with NASO. One has died and others have retired or moved on to other roles. Others are still active promoting NASO and advocating for officials. They, along with future officials and others associated with officiating, will lead NASO toward its next 30 years.



1. American Specialty.

American Specialty Insurance and Risk Services has been NASO's insurance provider since 1994. American Specialty has allowed NASO to increase its coverage benefits for members. With American Specialty, NASO's insurance includes a higher liability limit and general aggregate, errors and omissions coverage, a cardiac death benefit and optional game fee protection. NASO-ON has multiple optional offerings for its members as well.



2. Jim Bain. Jim Bain, former Big Ten basketball official, filed a lawsuit in 1984 to protect his name and image after Iowa fans John and Karen Gillespie —

upset with a call Bain made in the Big Ten championship game — developed and sold derogatory T shirts with his name and likeness. The fans countersued. NASO filed an amicus brief on his behalf, and Bain got a settlement. Bain's case was among the first of many in which NASO got involved on behalf of officials. Bain served on the NASO board from 1986-90, including a year as chair.



3. Ronnie Carter. Carter, former Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association executive director, was an NASO board member for four years from 2003-07. On the board, he encouraged NASO to get state association leaders more involved with the organization through the Summit. Since then, many associations throughout the country have shown support for officials and education through NASO. Carter received the Mel Narol Medallion Award in 2009 for his contributions to NASO.



4. Bill Carollo. Carollo, former NFL referee and coordinator of football officials for the Midwest Football Officials Alliance, which includes the Big Ten, Mid-

American and Missouri Valley conferences, has been instrumental in supporting NASO through outreach and promotion of the organization. He was president of the NFLRA when all NFL officials joined NASO. Recently 100 percent of the football officials from his college conferences joined the organization. Carollo was an NASO board member from 2005-09 and is still serving as treasurer.



5. Bob Delaney. Veteran NBA referee Delaney was the recipient of the 2003 NASO Gold Whistle Award. Delaney has served as the national co-chair of NASO's Blow the Whistle on Cancer campaign for the Jimmy V Foundation for years. A former National Basketball Referee Association (NBRA) board member, Delaney has served as a speaker at various Summits and is a high-profile NASO supporter.

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6. Dave Dodge. Dodge, president and CEO of Palmetto Hospital Trust, in Columbia, S.C., and retired NCAA Division I men's basketball official, served on the NASO board from 1993-97; As part of NASO's Strategic Development Committee in 1996, Dodge suggested NASO approach national sports organizations to work together for the common good. NASO took his advice, and the result is a number of alliances that NASO enjoys today. Dodge was the 2010 recipient of the Mel Narol Medallion Award.

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7. Reid Evans. Evans' relationship with NASO goes back to the early 1980s. His online assigning business — The Arbiter, now ArbiterSports — has been a longtime NASO Education Partner and Summit sponsor, paving the way for many other officiating-related businesses.

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8. Ron Foxcroft. Foxcroft, inventor and manufacturer of the Fox 40 whistle, has made immeasurable contributions to NASO's advancement through his service on the board. He was a board member from 1992-97 and again from 1999-03. He still serves as a special adviser. Foxcroft's Fox 40 International has been an industry partner and supporter of NASO as well. Fox 40 accepted the very first NASO Education Partner proposal, launching an important fundraising activity for the association. It also made an impact with its initial sponsorship of the NASO Gold Whistle Award banquet and the production of NASO's video, *You Have to Love It When They Boo!*

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9. Bill Gayler. Gayler was president of the California Basketball Officials Association (CBOA) when it first partnered with NASO in 2006. He played a major role in bringing the organizations together. CBOA, a parent organization of multiple local associations for basketball officials, signed a five-year agreement (which was recently renewed) with NASO, adding nearly 4,000 members to NASO. With the partnership, CBOA members receive NASO benefits and services as well as books and other publications customized. CBOA units are also enrolled in NASO-ON.

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10. Alan Goldberger.

Goldberger, author of *Sports Officiating: A Legal Guide*, is a sports law attorney and the foremost authority on legal issues affecting sports officials. As an NASO Member Information and Consultation Program (MICP) representative, Goldberger has supported the organization and its members for years. He has made an impact as a regular speaker at the NASO Summit and an NASO writer as well. Goldberger recently wrote an amicus brief on behalf of NASO, which was used to help a Texas high school football crew receive a large court award against an insurance company.



11. Jim Host. Former head of Host Communications (IMG Communications), one of the nation's leading sports marketing management

companies, Host was a consultant on forming NASO. He suggested having a prominent board of directors to represent the members was essential for the organization. As a result, NASO became member controlled, a Section 501(3) educational association. Host was instrumental in the early years of the organization and is still a supporter today.



12. Bob Kanaby. Under the leadership of Kanaby, NFHS executive director from 1993 through this past summer, the NFHS joined forces with NASO in 2002 to present the NASO Summits. Kanaby also supported Summits by serving as an annual speaker. The strong backing of Kanaby and the NFHS has been important to the growth and credibility of NASO.

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13. Bill Kolbe. Kolbe provided business and legal advice when NASO was founded in 1980. He continues to provide legal guidance and business acumen to the organization. His impact from the beginning has greatly enhanced the stature of NASO. For his contributions, he received the 2007 Mel Narol Medallion Award.

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14. Barry Mano. Mano is the founder and president of NASO and the founder and publisher of *Referee* magazine, an NASO benefit. A renowned public

speaker and a member of the Officiating Development Alliance (ODA), Mano has been a leading force behind NASO for 30 years. In consultation with several prominent leaders, Mano started the NASO to provide a national voice to officials. Under his leadership, NASO has thrived and improved the industry.



15. Jerry Markbreit. Markbreit is an assistant supervisor of NFL officiating and a retired NFL Super Bowl referee who has authored books and appeared in

movies, TV commercials and newspaper columns. Still one of the most recognizable officials, Markbreit has been one of NASO's most passionate supporters since its start. He is a frequent speaker at NASO Summits, has served on the NASO board from 1991-95 and received the 2007 NASO Gold Whistle Award.



16. Marriott Corporation. The Marriott Corporation has shown great support for NASO and officials over the years. Marriott teamed with NASO in 2006 to

provide all NASO members with the exclusive benefit of a VIP Card, which provides a discounted rate at Marriotts and affiliated hotels. Marriotts have been the site of many NASO Summits. The partnership has helped NASO increase its value to members.



17. Art McNally. McNally, NFL supervisor of officials from 1973-91, impacted NASO as the first recipient of the Gold Whistle Award — officiating's highest

honor — in 1988. He was selected for his officiating administration and his career in public education. McNally served on the NASO board from 1994-98. His support from the early days made a major difference.



18. Mel Narol. NASO's Medallion Award is named after the late Narol, officiating legal advocate and NASO leader. Narol was a member of the board from 1981-

86 and 1987-91. After his two terms, he was appointed special advisor and served in that capacity from 1991-2000. Narol was the foremost authority on legal issues affecting officials before his death in 2002. Narol authored articles for magazines and newspapers. He was instrumental in fulfilling NASO's role as an advocate for officials and penned model legislation for limiting liability and assault protection. Narol also co-authored NASO's bylaws.



19. National Basketball Referees Association. The

NBRA was the first professional association of officials to sign up 100 percent of its members to NASO in 1993.

The NBRA was a longtime supporter of NASO's Blow the Whistle on Cancer, which helps the V Foundation. Many of its members have served as board members and Summit panelists.



20. NFL Referees

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was the first professional association of officials to sponsor NASO initiatives. That alliance later led to the entire staff of NFL officials becoming NASO members in 2005. The NFLRA was a supporter of NASO's Blow the Whistle on Cancer initiative from its start. The group has been a longtime sponsor of the Summit and members have served on the board.



21. Violet Palmer. Palmer, an NBA referee and the first female official to officiate an NBA playoff game, was an NASO board member from 2005-09.

She served as a great ambassador for NASO's recruitment initiatives. As a top official in the industry, she is a positive spokesperson on behalf of the organization.



22. Mike Pereira. As the NFL vice president of officiating from 2001 through the 2009 season, Pereira was instrumental in the ODA, an important initiative

NASO started for industry leaders. Under Pereira's watch, the NFL and NFL officiating department regularly supported the Summit. Pereira served as a panelist for various Summits and provided educational access to NFL officials.



23. Joe Reed. Reed, a minor league umpire from 1958-60, was the first chair of the NASO board, elected to that post in January 1980. He served as

NASO chair two years and as a board member from 1980-85 and from 1991-95. His business acumen as the first chair propelled the organization forward and paved the way for the 24 chairs that followed.



24. Jack Roberts. Under the leadership of Roberts, Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) executive director, the MHSAA was among the first

state associations to become an NASO Educational Partner and provide NASO-ON to all its local associations. The MHSAA also showed support by adopting NASO's Covenant With Sports Officials, including the Covenant on its website and publications.



25. Ed Rush. Rush, former NBA director of officiating, received the Mel Narol Medallion Award in 2008 for his contributions to NASO. Rush served on the

NASO board from 1996-99, including one year as chair in 1999. He is also a former ODA member. Rush was instrumental in

bringing the NBA and NASO together to better serve officials, in and out of the NBA. His outreach led to NBA officials joining NASO and contributing to NASO Summits.



26. Jerry Seeman. Seeman, former NFL senior director of officiating, was the inaugural recipient of the NASO Medallion

(now the Mel Narol Medallion Award). He served on the NASO board from 2001-04, including one year as chair. While in his position at the NFL, Seeman worked with NASO to provide valuable insight into the NFL evaluation system and shared many of its philosophies so lower levels could apply the same principles. Seeman often spoke at NASO Summits and was an adviser to the association on educational matters.



27. Jim Tunney. An NFL official for 31 years, Tunney received the NASO Gold Whistle Award in 2002. He was selected for his charity work. Tunney was a member of the NASO board from 1987-91, including a year as chair. Tunney, who is now a professional speaker, gave the keynote address at the first annual NASO Convention in 1981. He was a great spokesperson for NASO early on and is still a supporter.



28. Patty Viverito. Viverito, senior associate commissioner of the Missouri Valley Conference and commissioner of the Missouri Valley Football

Conference and the Pioneer Football League, has made a major impact on NASO as a two-term member of the NASO board. Viverito served on the board from 1995-99 and again from 2007 to the present. She was the first woman to serve on the board, paving the way for several others. She is currently the chair of NASO's Strategic Development Committee, which will help to shape NASO's future.



29. Marcy Weston. Weston is the only person to receive the Mel Narol Medallion Award and the Gold Whistle Award for her impact on NASO and officiating.

As former NCAA national coordinator of women's basketball officiating, Weston advanced women's officiating and NASO. She served on the NASO board from 1999-03, including as chair in 2003. She was also involved with NASO's formation of the ODA.



30. Gary Whelchel. Whelchel, Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) commissioner of officials, has been a major supporter of NASO for years.

Under his leadership, AIA served as the host state association for the 2009 Summit and the Arizona Day preceding it. AIA raised the bar for that day, hosting more than 1,300 officials. AIA has been a longtime Educational Partner and Summit sponsor. Whelchel also impacted NASO as a board member and chair. □