



John Bellanti 1933–2004

John Bellanti, board 53 President for 10 years, Past President and Life Member of IAABO, died on February 7 after a lengthy illness.



John rose through the management ranks to become majority owner, president and chief executive officer of Battenfeld Grease & Oil Corp., America's largest independent wholesale manufacturer of lubricating greases and oils.

He was elected to the Western New York Sports Hall of Fame in 2000 for his contributions as owner of two professional indoor soccer teams and a career as one of the most respected basketball officials

in the Northeast.

He got interested in refereeing basketball in 1955, the year after he graduated from Canisius College with a degree in accounting. Between 1955 and 1986, he officiated more than 1,500 high school games, many NCAA tournament and NIT games. He also helped form the IAABO Official's School.

Surviving, is his wife Florence; three daughters, Debra Carpenter, Barbara, and Janice Kirk; a son, John A. Jr.; a sister, Janine Nicolaio; a brother, Frank; and four grandchildren.