

Thank you very much.

I will try to continue with the Doyle tradition and keep my message brief. Who would have ever thought 34 years ago, when I was worried if I would ever get a game assignment, that I am now the President of the most prestigious officials' organization in the world. God is good! None of this would be possible without the support and backing of my local Board 27, who for some unknown reason kept electing me to the office for 28 years and to them I will always be indebted and grateful to Massachusetts State Board 15 for their support and backing by endorsing me for the National Executive Board and through my election unto this Presidency. Everyone needs a godfather and a mentor and without George P. Sheehan, I would never be your President. Thank you Pete.

And last, but not least, I would like to thank my wife of 35 years, Patricia, our two daughters, Shannon and Alison, their main squeezes, John and Glen, and our two grandchildren, Katherine and Jack. Thank you for allowing me to be involved all these years in the great game of basketball. For the sacrifices you have made, the missed birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries, etc. Believe me, I would never be here today if it weren't for Patricia, the most understanding wife in the world.

During my tenure as President, I would like to initiate two programs. One—Special Olympics and Two—Recruitment of new officials. By Special Olympics, I mean volunteering on a local and state level to officiate the yearly tournaments that are held throughout the country. I am going to ask the IAABO office to work in conjunction with the people from Special Olympics by giving them the name and contacts of each local board so that they may begin to set up volunteers for their tournaments that are held in March of each year. This is a program that we initiated in Massachusetts and we found it to be very successful and gratifying. What we do and the majority of boards in Massachusetts is that every new official who passes the IAABO examination in November as part of their floor test, must volunteer to work the Special Olympics before being registered with IAABO. This has proven to be very successful, as we have had numerous officials,



both new and veterans who continually step forward to volunteer in this worthwhile program. I know that this is not going to be possible in all areas, however, with our strong presence on the Eastern Seaboard, I can see this turning into being a very successful and worthwhile endeavor.

I am going to ask the Chairman and members of the Membership Committee to present to the Executive Committee and Officers by our fall meeting, a bona fide plan as to how we can contact all the local high schools and colleges through their athletic departments, etc., in recruiting officials. I believe this is an untapped source of the development of new officials and as with any organization, a key factor to its success is to bring in new blood. I have discussed these two potential programs with Vice President Len Maida and First Vice President Henry Hailstock, and they are in full agreement that these programs should go forward.

I am looking forward to working with our Executive Director, Jacky Loube, the office staff and all the officers and executive members to continue to

deliver the IAABO message to the game of basketball.

In the words of my dear friend, Mike Hammond, "I will become yesterday's news and Len Maida will become everybody's next best friend as I will announce the Chairpersons and Assistant Chairpersons of the Standing Committees."

I would like to thank everyone who has served in their capacity over the past year. It is not a reflection on them if they are not reappointed and again I appreciate all the work that they have done.

Thanks.

*Pres. Jack Doyle & wife, Patricia*

