

I, Ernie Clark, respectfully seek your support and vote for re-election as your Commissioner.

I am pleased that so many members have volunteered to enter their names into nomination for a NHFOA leadership position. This includes my opponent. Bill and I have similar backgrounds. I do regret that I never served my country in military service, as he did. Otherwise, our lives are about family, kids, athletics and public service. (I am happy to provide my resume upon request.) As candidates for Commissioner of NHFOA our major difference is in NHFOA management philosophy. It is the responsibility of the commissioner to conduct the day to day NHFOA operation as directed by Council Policy and required by the NHFOA Constitution and Bylaws, and to be accountable to both the council and the membership. I strive to do that every day.

I completed my NHFOA apprenticeship in 1978. In 1992 I was elected to the then NHFOA Executive Board. In 1998 I started my first tour as commissioner. During that 11 year period there were considerable organizational advancements, the most important being the requirement of council members to be more active in policy development and the shift of authority and responsibility from the commissioner to the council. To do that I formed and chaired a committee for review and revision of the NHFOA Constitution and By-Laws, which had not had a complete review in over 20 years. The committee I selected was comprised of a cross section of NHFOA membership from every region of the state. A few years ago NHFOA again updated the constitution to the living document it is today. In 2006, prior to my 12th season as commissioner I stepped down to deal with a non NHFOA matter. When I resigned I recommended the council appoint Bill to complete the term. As a result, **anyone that has been a NHFOA member for 9-13 years has witnessed and experienced the difference between the two of us.** I returned in 2008 and went back onto the field, in 2009 I was again elected to the council and in 2010 won election as commissioner. I was re-elected to the current term in 2014.

Looking toward the immediate future I will continue to give 100% commitment to the ongoing improvement of NHFOA. I will offer members the opportunity to receive updates of all council and NHIAA football related activity and decisions. Specifically, I will ask the president to appoint three member council subcommittees. One subcommittee will be for the development of training alternatives while maintaining the benefit of

membership interaction, and a second committee for review of the varsity dress code to be sure it meets current business dress standards, while maintaining NHFOA traditional standards of good taste, respect and professionalism.

I will continue to seek council support for implementation of a transition period to allow adoption of 2" striped game shirt. I will submit proposals to the council for a second Referee School, a mentorship for officials aspiring to be NHFOA on field leaders in the White Hat, and an extended and accelerated apprentice program to begin this winter.

I will also pursue conversation and actual negotiation with the NHIAA for increased game fees and an adjustment to the travel fee schedule. The NHIAA must understand the greater commitment, time and travel required for football officials in comparison to all other sports. To start this process I will again organize an athletic director's informational session and invite athletic directors to meet with us and learn about NHFOA.

I have prepared a comprehensive membership survey that will be distributed via Survey Monkey following the December business meeting, should I be re-elected.

Association unity will be a top priority as we deal with the many issues facing all officiating organizations. NHFOA will not sit idle. NHFOA will continue to be New Hampshire's finest officiating organization and the organization that allows the greatest membership participation and decision making opportunity. How many sports organizations do you belong to that have private, independent, secure, electronic balloting available to all Regular Members in Good Standing, as in our NHFOA?

We have much work to do in these challenging times and I ask for your support and participation in the continued advancement of our avocation.

Respectfully,

Ernie