

Don Byron was born and raised in Philadelphia in the shadow of the old Connie Mack Stadium. He graduated from St. Columbus Grammar school, Roman Catholic High School and St. Joseph's University. In high school, Don played football, basketball and was captain of the bowling team. Don served in the Navy during the Korean War. He worked for Nabisco for nearly 40 years.

Don was an avid Boy Scout while growing up and was a member of the Order of the Arrow and an assistant Scout Master. When Don Jr. was old enough for Scouts, Don Sr. was ready to go back to scouting. It was through Scouts that Don met John Hunter. Together with Jim Hargadon, Carl Johnson, Jack Nash and Ed Solarz they formed the St. Luke's Soccer Club. After the death of John Hunter, the club was renamed Hunter Soccer Club in his honor. Don served the club as President or Vice President for 22 years. He served as President of Inter-County Soccer League. He was instrumental in bringing the first youth team from Brazil to play in tournaments in Philadelphia. Hunter teams also played in England.

In 1964, John Hunter encouraged Don to go into refereeing. He officiated in all the leagues in the Philadelphia area and, in 1967 when the first professional leagues started, Don was among the first USSF referees to be chosen to work those games. He refereed in the North American Soccer League for 11 years and he officiated many international games that included some of the world's greatest soccer players. After retiring from active officiating Don continued as a staff instructor for the professional league. In 1980, he was presented with the "Eddie Pearson Award", one of the highest honors of the US Soccer Referee Program, for his contributions to soccer refereeing in the United States. He was a National Referee Assessor and Instructor and was the Director of Referee Administration for the United States Soccer Federation.

In his later years, Don enjoyed nothing more than watching a good "match" on TV with his sons. "For the good of the game" was his motto.

After putting a halt to his amateur playing days in 1971, **Frank Giancroce** quickly became a licensed referee and worked up to a State Referee Level. During this time, Frank handled the lines in multiple North American League games for the Philadelphia pro teams. Later he would add state assessor and instructor titles to his resume. Soon after that, Frank was appointed to the State Youth Referee Administrator of Eastern Pennsylvania in 1986 and just two years later, the State Referee Administrator –a position he still holds today. In fact, Frank is one of the longest serving State Referee Administrators in the United States.

As an SRA, Frank has implemented programs for the recruitment, training and retention of referees as well as the upgrading of administration at all levels including statistical reporting. Due to these programs, Frank was able to more than double Eastern Pennsylvania's referee population from 600 to 1,400 in one year (1986-87).

Frank served as a member of the National Referee Board from 1993-1995 and was then reappointed in 2009. In 1997 he received the Robert Dunn Service Award and in 1998 he was appointed as the Region I Youth Referee Administrator – a position he still holds today. Frank was awarded the Region 1 Administrator Award in 2004, and he served as Referee Liaison in the 1994 and 1999 World Cups as well as coordinated facilities for referee training and physical testing in the 2003 World Cup.

Not only has Frank succeeded on the referee front, but he is also an accomplished coach. Frank has coached both high school and club soccer, and he possesses the highest level of State Coaching License, the D License.

Frank has been married for 45 years to his lovely wife Lucia. They have two children Marco and Gabriella, and five grandchildren—Marco, Simona, Luca, Gianna and Matteo.

Ralph Hofmann grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs with a natural love for the game of soccer. He had a long career of coaching both boys and girls youth teams in Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer for over 25 years, including teams in the United German Hungarians and Vereinigung Erzgebirge Clubs within the Inter-County Soccer League.

He ventured into high school soccer, where, for 28 years, he coached both boys and girls at Bensalem High School in the Suburban 1 League. In 1986 and 1987 he brought home the Suburban 1 Champion title for his girls team. He was nominated High School Coach of the Year three times, in 1986, 1987 and 1990.

Ralph held many roles as an administrator also. He was heavily involved for many years with the Inter-County Soccer League, and served as their President, Treasurer and Games Commissioner.

In 1996 the Philadelphia Old Timers recognized his hard work and he was inducted into their Hall of Fame. And in 2003, the Bensalem Soccer Club presented him with their Hall of Fame award.

Ralph still lives in the area with his wife Margo, and has three children—Debbie, Eric and Mark.

Helmut P. Schurer's career in soccer spanned seven decades beginning with youth soccer in his native country of Germany in the late 1920's.

His first foray into Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer was playing youth ball with Lighthouse Boys Club in the 1930's. Helmut was a 2nd and 3rd division player with the German Hungarians and with Crescent Arrows. He also played at Northeast high school from 1936-1939.

From 1955-1959 Schurer managed at the Vereinigung Erzgebirge. Between 1956 and 1961, he held various positions in the Philadelphia Soccer League including Treasurer, Vice-President and President.

Eastern Pennsylvania and its administrators have a strong history of involvement in the National Open and Amateur Cups. Schurer was the Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association Cup Chairman for the Open Cup from 1961-1971 and the Amateur Cup from 1961-1971. He was the EPSA 2nd Vice President from 1962-1969, Secretary from 1972-1974 and President from 1975-1978. He served US Soccer as well over the years as Region 1 Cup Commissioner, Region 1 Treasurer, Credentials Chair, and as EPSA's delegate to USSF.

Over the years, Helmut Schurer's involvement in Clubs and Leagues provided him opportunities for committee work, management of all-star teams, and the opportunity to serve as the President of The United Soccer League of Pennsylvania from 1980-1982. It was in that year that the Old Timer's Soccer Association named him, "Most Deserving Old Timer."

Len Weckel was born in Clinton, Massachusetts on October 30, 1944. His family moved to Philadelphia in 1949 and then to the Reading area in 1957. He attended Muhlenberg high school where he lettered in track. After graduating in 1962 he went on to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts earning a degree in chemical engineering. His professional career led him into environmental engineering and as a consultant in the environmental field. In semi-retirement he held the position of CEO of the Keystone Blood Bank and helped lead its merger with the Miller Blood Bank. He was also an officer for many years of the Reading Liederkrantz, a club in which he is still actively involved.

Len's family includes his wife Bryn of 25 years, three sons (Donald, Leonard Jr., and Michael) and six grandchildren (Kaitlyn, Jacob, Stephen, Charley, Matthew, and Dallas). Len and Bryn currently live in Blandon, PA.

His entry into soccer began as an elementary school soccer coach in Winchester, MA. In 1978 he moved back to Reading and helped develop the Wilson Youth Soccer Program, coaching three teams. In 1980 he became a US Soccer referee and continues to officiate games to this day. Len was an administrator of the Germania Youth Soccer program for three years during which time he also became involved with the Germania Adult Soccer program. This led to involvement with the Central Penn Soccer League that included teams from Allentown, Berks County and as far out as State College. Len became friends with Werner Kraheck and the two attended many EPSA meetings. In 1987 the Central Penn league split into two, and a new league - the Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Soccer League (EPASL) came into existence, with Len being the first Registrar under President Werner Kraheck. In 1989 Werner stepped down due to health reasons and Len became president, a position he still holds today. The EPASL grew from six teams that first year to forty-one in a short period of time.

As an Executive member of the EPSA, Len has held the positions of Recording Secretary, Registrar, 1st Vice President, and finally General Secretary, a position he has been in for the last twenty years. He has represented Eastern Pennsylvania at many USSF and Region 1 meetings over the years.

As a referee, in addition to being a leader within his own local referee chapter, Len was involved in the Eastern Pennsylvania State Referee program which included being an instructor, assessor and assignor, working closely with Frank Giancroce. His thirty six seasons of refereeing include thirty one as a PIAA referee and twenty five as an NCAA referee.