



**HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
(CIFSS)**



108th historical “tidbit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem

MARGIE GRAY GODFREY
“Trailblazer”

Margie Godfrey was the first female President of the CIF-SS Council and the 77th to hold that position since the inception the CIF-SS in 1913. Margie started her CIF-SS career in 1994 as the Coast Area Representative and the Treasurer of the Executive Committee. She became the President-Elect in 1996 and served at the President for the school year 1998 and 1999. She finished as the Past President 2000-2001.



Margie was born in Manhattan Beach, California and called Portuguese Bend her home. She graduated from California State University at Long Beach and spent the greater part of her career in Physical Education with the Long Beach Unified School District. She quickly moved into administration and served as the Principal of the Adult School, Principal at Long Beach Poly High School and Robert Millikan High School. She was director of Employee Relations for the Long Beach Unified District and became the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel in the Lucia Mar Unified School District (Arroyo Grande). Upon her retirement she moved to Rancho Mirage in 2005.

Rob Wigod, current Commissioner of the CIF-SS stated:

“I worked with her in the Long Beach Unified School District for many years before I came to work at the CIF-SS office and was fully aware of her passion, dedication and commitment to helping young people. She was a strong leader and advocate for gender equity and was very effective in promoting girls’ programs in the state.”

While president of the CIF-SS she headed the committee to find a new commissioner when Dean Crowley retired and was responsible for the hiring of Dr. Jim Staunton. She also served on the search committee that resulted in the hiring of Marie Ishida as the CIF Executive Director.

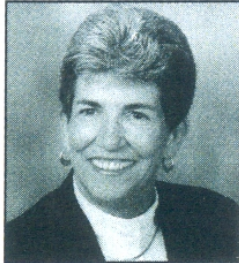
Margie helped create a standardized evaluation format of the commissioner’s position and implemented a new leadership category for the CIF-SS Council to insure more equitable representation by women. She also set standards for allocation of organizational reserves to member schools. Her smile, quick wit and devotion to her many friends was unsurpassed. Margie passed away on October 17, 2004.

Margie was the Senior Class President of Narbonne High School – 1960.



The Senior class Presidents for the year 1960 were Margie Gray, president of the "Lancers" Summer 1960 and Wilbur Fukasaki, president of the "Majestics" Winter 1960. Our congratulations go to both of these fine Seniors for successful Senior semesters.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



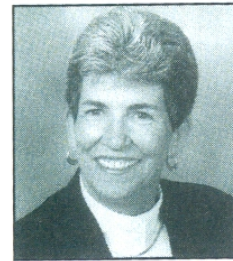
Who's in Charge Anyway?

**By Margie Godfrey, President
CIF-SS Executive Committee**

A few of you are old enough to remember the comic strip "Pogo". A famous line uttered by the character for whom the strip was named was, "We have met the enemy and it is us!" More than a few times during my years with the CIF-SS and as an administrator/supporter of high school athletics, those words have gone through my mind. It is easy to lose sight of the fact that the CIF-SS is "us". When we become angry or frustrated with a rule or action, we need to remember Pogo. We are the school level members of the organization ... that elect the representatives that attend the Council meetings ... that make the rules ... that govern high school athletics.

One of the things that has long impressed me about CIF is its governance structure which comes as close as is possible to truly representative democracy. The administrators and coaches who recognized the need for "governance by us" of high school athletics back during the early decades of this century were pretty darn smart. They knew that those trained, educated and able to oversee what would be best for the student-athletes of California were educators within the schools. From that vision and foresight evolved our present system of governance which provides a voice for every coach, athletic director and school administrator.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Opportunity to Influence

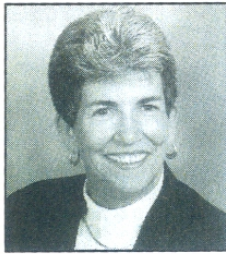
**By Margie Godfrey, President
CIF-SS Executive Committee**

It is amazing to realize that we are already more than halfway through the 1998-99 school year. Each of you is to be commended for your leadership, commitment and efforts to ensure quality athletic experiences for the student-athletes of the CIF Southern Section. I am impressed with the caliber of coaching and administration I have seen as I've attended various events this year. Despite the influence of behaviors tolerated or accepted in some professional sports and promulgated by television and the media, the vast majority of high school programs are models of sportsmanship and ethical behavior. That speaks volumes to the powerful influence exerted by those of us associated with those programs, especially coaches. Coaches are in a unique and immeasurably important position to influence those they teach. That is never more important than today.

Coming of age in the instant information age subjects our kids to all manner of conflicting influences. Impeachment proceedings in Washington, D.C.; the highest paid professional athletes in the history of professional sports striking to remain the highest paid (or maybe become higher paid); magazine television programs three nights out of five featuring true stories most of us could not imagine as fiction; and instant, world-wide knowledge of every sordid, sad or scandalous event occurring. No wonder some kids get confused!

A recent study reported in *Education Week* (November 18, 1998), found that it appears students between grades 9 and 11 are spending **more** time in sports and studying than watching TV as compared to what they did in 1981. That is good news and underscores my contention that coaches have a greater than ever opportunity and responsibility to influence their students. This opportunity is one of the great rewards for all the hours, sweat and tears expended in this art we call coaching.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



RELEAGUING TASK FORCE REPORT

**By Margie Godfrey, President
CIF-SS Executive Committee**

Last year, the annual survey the Southern Section office sends to all member schools indicated a fairly high degree of dissatisfaction with the releguing process. Of 516 responses, releguing was judged to need improvement by 22.29%, and only average satisfaction was indicated by 23.26%. As a result of this survey, a special task force was formed last summer. The task force has met six times and has identified the following as its purposes:

Facilitate the leaguing process (including are placement and releguing appeals) by grouping schools in such a way that the competitive experience is maximized for the greatest number of students.

Design a configuration for area placement that would permit a reasonable opportunity for schools to group themselves into leagues and/or conferences for competition.

Formulate a proposal to improve the releguing appeals process and procedure, probably giving more responsibility to the Executive Committee.

Develop a manual of suggested procedures for use by area releguing committees.

We believe strongly that releguing is the purview of the member schools. One of the strengths of the CIF is the philosophy that governance should remain with those closest to the student-athletes, i.e., principals and athletic administrators. With that in mind, the task force is deliberately proceeding slowly and with consideration of the potential effects of our recommendations on present governance structures. We don't want to "throw the baby out with the bath water."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



THE RIGHT CALL

**By Margie Godfrey, President
CIF-SS Executive Committee**

Making the "right" call is an important skill and certainly affects the outcome of the contest. The reaction of the fans, the morale of the participants, in fact, the entire competitive experience is influenced by the quality of the officiating and the kinds of "calls" made during the game. The Executive Committee, on your behalf, spent the better part of last spring attempting to make the "right call" in identifying the individual to lead our organization in the position of commissioner, replacing retiring Dean Crowley. It was a difficult "call" because there were several highly qualified and experienced people being considered. It was probably the hardest "call" this Executive Committee has ever had to make. Like the official in a contest, we made our best attempt and we believe James Staunton will serve the Southern Section well and will continue the traditions of excellence established by his predecessors.

As you embark on another school year, it is our hope that you will call upon us to assist you in making the "right call" in any way we can. The staff of the CIF Southern Section is a dedicated, talented, student-centered group of experienced individuals. They stand ready and willing to respond to the needs of our 515 member schools. You need never have to make a "call" alone...the professional staff of the organization is always there for you. Call on them before you make your call.



Southern Section

Academics • Integrity • Athletics

MARGIE GODFREY

PRESIDENT CIF SOUTHERN SECTION COUNCIL 1998-2000

FIRST FEMALE SECTION PRESIDENT

"TRAILBLAZER"