

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Roger Amm

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Sports Stories - IHSA* Oral History project

SIH-A-L-2017-074

Roger Amm, Ottawa Township High School's successful choral director, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois High School Association* Oral History project.

Date: Jul 29, 2017    Location: Ottawa, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:14 / 1.23 hrs.

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The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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# Abstract

## Roger Amm, Sports Stories-IHSA, SIH-A-L-2017-074

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Roger Amm was born in Pontiac, Illinois on October 8, 1957. Living on a farm, Roger started his education in a small country school (Owego) prior to graduating from Pontiac Township High School in 1975. While in high school, he participated in chorus, the men's glee club, student government, musicals, and madrigals. Roger earned a BME (music education) from Illinois State University in 1980 and participated in several University vocal groups. Following graduation, Roger was hired at Wheaton North High School. In the fall of 1981 he joined the faculty of Ottawa Township High School and taught there for the next thirty-two years. (In 1990, Roger earned a Masters in Music from Northern Illinois University.) Roger was involved in many music organizations over the years, including being the IMEA (Illinois Music Educators Association) District 2 Choral Chair and IMEA District 2 Jazz Chair and IMEA All-State Choral Organizational Chair for two years. Roger was the Illinois Educator of the Year in 2013.

This interview covers the experiences of a successful high school choral director involved with 18 IHSA Music Sweepstakes first place awards. Roger discussed the yearly activities of the choral program, described the Music Sweepstakes and its solo/ensemble and organizational components, preparation for the contest and contest day judging. He also discussed a music director's responsibilities when hosting an IHSA Music Contest, which includes hiring judges, facility preparation, developing student performance schedules, renting pianos, budgeting, providing food service, and keeping track of scores. Amm talked about the importance of developing a strong feeder program, especially in a school like Ottawa Township where students come from ten different schools. Roger reminisced about the IMEA Fall All State Festival and his final retirement concert.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Illinois High School Association Music Sweepstake; Ottawa Township High School; solo, ensemble and the organizational component of IHSA Music Sweepstake; hosting a music sweepstake competition; IHSA Music Advisory Committee; Illinois Music Educators Association;

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