

Irene Niemotka, 2011 Hall of Fame Inductee, Administrator

Irene Niemotka retired from US Youth Soccer as director of membership and business operations at the end of 2010 ending a memorable and influential 19-year career with the national office.

As a key contribution to the organization to which she dedicated so much time, Niemotka was instrumental in creating an accounting system to link the four regional offices with the national office in order to facilitate safe and corresponding audit trails. She continually guided US Youth Soccer in a fiscally responsible direction.

With the national office, Niemotka served as the national office leadership position managing operations any time that the executive director position was not filled. She contributed greatly to the growth of the Workshop including managing registration and the exhibitor process. Niemotka was involved in many firsts from the national office including the launch of the US Youth Soccer website, the creation and development of the association's marketing materials and the strategic integration of the marketing and coaching departments, in addition to the involvement of Snickers as the title sponsor of the US Youth Soccer National Championships in 1993. In 1998, she was instrumental in the development of the national office's IT system. She assisted the board in creating the US Youth Soccer Foundation and supported its growth.

Her hard work, honesty, intelligence, attention to detail and gritty Chicago attitude left a lasting impression with the organization. Niemotka managed all human resource activities and kept up with the office changes as the staff grew from four employees to nearly 20.

In addition to her service as a leader in US Youth Soccer, Niemotka is very active as an advocate for children and adults with intellectual disabilities both within the school system and Special Olympics. She currently serves as vice president of the Community for Permanent Supported Housing, a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to help develop safe and affordable housing for adults with intellectual disabilities. She also volunteers with Meals on Wheels.

