



July 18, 2022
Inaugural DAANJ Golf Outing
a Tremendous Success

Fall 2022
Newsletter

Completing 71 Years of Excellence While Serving New Jersey Schools



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Executive Director's Message

I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable vacation with family and friends and had an opportunity to recharge their batteries for another school year.

The Board of Trustees was very busy during the summer months planning events the for the school year.

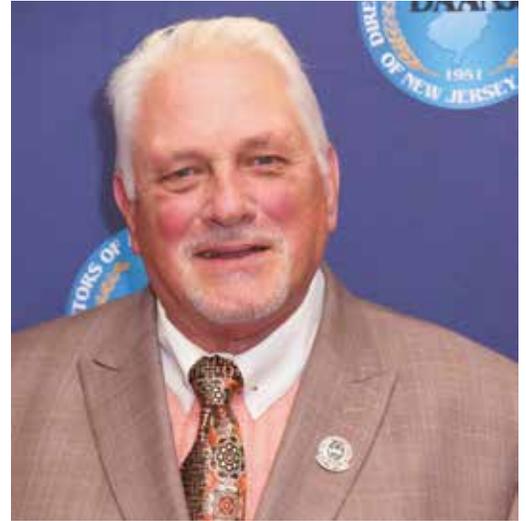
Dave Ryden and the committee planned, organized, and implemented our first annual golf outing, which was held at Bella Vista Country Club in Marlboro, NJ in July. Over 80 golfers participated along with several corporate sponsors. It was very successful with approximately \$10,000 in profit, which will be used for scholarships and programs. Sponsors provided gifts for each participant as well as monetary support. The 2nd Annual golf outing is scheduled to be held at Bella Vista on July 17, 2023, please spread the word to members, friends, and retirees, so plans can be made for even greater participation. More to follow in future newsletters.

In August the DAANJ hosted our annual inexperienced/new Directors of Athletics workshop at the NJSIAA Office attended by over thirty persons. Topics included an update on our March workshop, registration/conference/ NIAAA registrations, coaching evaluations, Principal/Superintendent/ BOE relationships, dealing with difficult coaches/parents, time management, leadership training courses, and our mentoring program. At the conclusion of the workshop, we offered leadership course 501, which is the flagship course of the NIAAA and is needed for certification. John Fraraccio, Memorial High School, our workshop chairperson for the annual DAANJ workshop in March

has been very busy scheduling a very comprehensive program with relative issues and speakers dealing with current trends in education and athletics. Should you care to be involved as a speaker on a particular topic or a moderator/panelist please contact John.

I hope you have an opportunity to attend the NEDC/NIAAA workshop in December at the Gaylord Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, Dave Frazier, Director of Athletics at Rutherford High School, is receiving a Distinguished Service Award at the annual banquet on Tuesday night December 13, 2022, and Section 1 has a candidate running for the Board of Directors of the NIAAA and will be asking for our support. If you have never been to a national workshop you should plan to attend one where several courses are being offered as well as the CAA exam. Great opportunity to meet other directors from across the country and renew previous acquaintances as well as share common problems and issues with contemporaries.

I am pleased to announce that through the efforts and negotiations with the Golden Nugget and our attorney, we were able to reach a settlement for canceling our agreement to return for the 2023 workshop. We heard the concerns of our members and the request to return to the boardwalk for our March workshop. We heard you and were able to negotiate a contract for three years with the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. I am sure you will be pleased with the staff, rooms, and facilities along with the excitement of a new venue. Our committee met with the hotel staff, viewed the facility, and found it



BOB HOPEK
DAANJ Executive Director

to be very conducive for our meetings and other activities. Registration information will be available shortly.

In August Dave Suiter and I met with Colleen Maguire to discuss including our membership dues along with your school dues to the NJSIAA. New Jersey is a dual membership state and this would give us 100% membership with the NIAAA. I will keep you posted on the decision. (Most schools pay for your membership to the DAANJ anyway and it would make bookkeeping so much smoother).

Finally, I would like to wish each of you a very successful and rewarding school year. Should you have concerns, issues, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact your area representative, as they are your voice on the board. I am always available for any ideas, suggestions, or ways to improve our services to all. Please don't hesitate to contact me with anything. Thank you for all you do for so many and for supporting the DAANJ. Best wishes for a very exciting school year.

Assistant Executive Director's Message

Greetings friends and colleagues. The global pandemic impacted education-based athletics significantly over the past two years. Fall 2022 has seen a return to a sense of normalcy for most of our programs, but some of the impacts remain. As each of you navigate the changed (and changing) landscape of Athletic Administration you are encouraged to reach out to the DAANJ leadership and your fellow DAANJ members for any assistance you may need.

Here is some news and updates from the **DAANJ** and the **NIAAA**.

Annual Workshop

Planning for Workshop 2023 (March 14-17) is well underway! Our President Elect John Fraraccio has put together an excellent program with some slight changes in format and one BIG change. As you have heard we will moving our conference location to the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on the Boardwalk this year! Look for the registration link to be published mid-November

Membership/Event Registration Platform

Our transition to AMP-Final Forms as our online registration and membership system has helped us streamline our membership/event registration process. We are excited about many of the options that are now available to us through our association with AMP-Final Forms. Please be sure to “whitelist” <https://daanj.finalforms-amp.com> to insure that communications do not end up in your spam/junk folder.

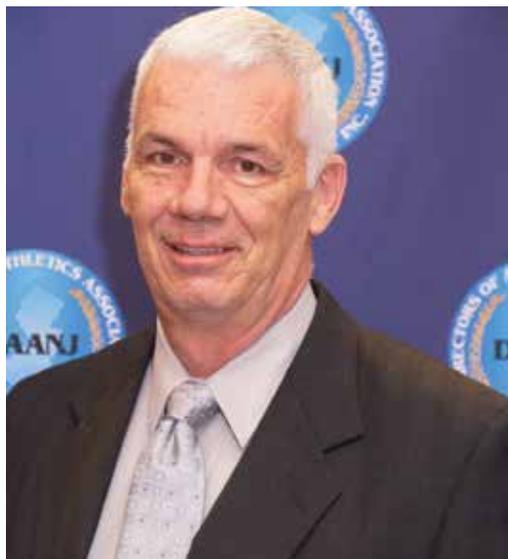
NIAAA National Conference

It's not too late to register for the **53rd Annual National ADs Conference** in Nashville.

Schedules, costs and registration materials can be found at adconference.org

Future dates and locations

2023	Orlando, FL	Marriott World Center	Dec 16-19
2024	Austin, TX	JW. Marriott/Austin Marriott	Dec 13-17
2025	Tampa, FL	Tampa Convention Center	Dec 12-16



DAVE SUITER

DAANJ Assistant Executive Director

Professional Development/Certification

Over the summer Sean Dowling and I reviewed the NIAAA transcripts of our DAANJ membership and discovered that MANY of you are only a course or two away from being eligible to sit for the CAA Exam or to begin work on your CMAA project.

Target courses (LTC 503, LTI 510 as well as other 600 and 700 level course will be offered between now and the state workshop, with the hope that we will be giving the CAA exam to a packed house in Atlantic City! We have set a modest goal of 23 new certifications this school year (“23 in ’23”), but would like to blow that goal out of the water!! Keep your eyes open for announcements regarding LTI offering as they are scheduled. Sean Dowling and I are available to assist with your certification questions. Please reach out to Sean Dowling (seandowlingcmaa@gmail.com) or myself (david.suiter.cmaa@gmail.com) with any certification questions you may have.

NIAAA/Section One Notes

We are pleased to announce that DAANJ member Sean Dowling will be joining the NIAAA Board of Directors in December, 2024 as the Section One representative.

Mark your calendars- June 25th – 28th - the 2023 Summer Institute. This year’s Institute is moving to a new location on Cape Cod. The new location, registration and course info will be shared as soon as it is released.

Social Media

For timely news and updates follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook – all at [@ADsofDAANJ](https://twitter.com/ADsofDAANJ)



President's Message

Welcome back to the 2022-23 school year. I hope that you all had a wonderful, relaxing and healthy summer. I want to wish all of you and your athletic programs the best of luck and health this school year. Let me get right down to it. WE ARE GOING BACK TO THE BOARDWALK!!!! Yes, that is right, the 2023 DAANJ Convention will be held March 13—17, 2023 at the HARD ROCK HOTEL and CASINO on the Boardwalk. I want to personally thank our Executive Director, Bob Hopek and our Legal Counsel, Joe Novak for their efforts in making this happen. They spent a great amount of time in negotiations with the Hard Rock in order to make this happen. I am truly appreciative of their efforts.

Our president-elect, John Fraraccio, is busy putting together our program agenda for March 2023. We are all looking forward to the LTC's, the professional development and the camaraderie at the Hard Rock. If you would like to be a part of the 2023 DAANJ Convention as a moderator or if you know of a vendor that may want to purchase a booth, please reach out to John.

Over the summer, the DAANJ hosted our first annual golf outing. The event was held at Bella Vista Country Club in Marlboro and it was a huge success. The weather was beautiful, the food delicious and the people were awesome. We raised money to be used for our DAANJ scholarships. I want to thank our past president, Dave Ryden, for his hard work in putting this golf outing together from beginning to end. We look forward to an even bigger and better event next summer.

I am proud and grateful to serve as your President for the next two years. Please feel free to reach out to me or to any of our Board of Trustee Members if there is anything that the DAANJ can do for you. I wish all of you a happy and healthy 2022/23 school year.

Yours in sports,

- Carl



CARL BUFFALINO

DAANJ President

President Elect's Message

Hello everyone, this is John Fraraccio President Elect of the DAANJ. It appears though these days we use the term the “New Normal” in every aspect of our daily lives. In the world of high school athletics, things change minute by minute. How we handle these sudden changes as an Athletic Administrator is the difference between success and failure. “Navigating the New Normal” is the title of the 2023 DAANJ Conference.

Not all change is negative. For example, the 2023 DAANJ Conference will be in a new home. We will be back on the boardwalk at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, March 13-17th, 2023. The Hard Rock is the premier spot on the boardwalk, with “modern accommodations, world-class entertainment, delicious dining, and enjoyable casino gaming”. The Hard Rock has 150,000 square feet of meeting and event space, there are a variety of “event venues available to amplify our program and are designed from intimate board meetings to large-scale event spaces”.

This year we will be offering 3 LTC classes, some very impressive professional development sessions and general sessions on various topics. The conference program was developed with input and recommendations from our membership. It was my goal to listen to the needs of the group and program accordingly.

As always, we will have an impressive number of vendors present at the conference for 3 days. It is our hope that the larger vendor area will allow us to have more vendors. We encourage all attendees to visit our vendor area and see what each vendor has to offer.

If you have a topic that you would like to present at a future conference, please email me at jfraraccio@wnyschools.net. We are always looking for AD's to serve as moderators for the different speakers, again, please email me if you would like to serve in that capacity.

I want to thank all of you and wish you all a safe and successful fall and winter season.



John Fraraccio

DAANJ President-Elect

*Thank you,
John*

Message from the NJSIAA Assistant Director

Derryk Sellers is entering his second year on the staff at NJSIAA. This fall he is in charge of Boys Soccer, Gymnastics, and Girls Volleyball. All the deadlines to enter the tournaments are coming up soon. Soccer and Volleyball will be seeded in late October and the Gymnastics finals will be the weekend on November 12. Derryk is also responsible for all clinics. There will be a Bowling clinic and a Golf clinic in October. The numbers for both clinics have grown since last year coming out of the pandemic. There will also be volleyball and wrestling clinics in 2023. Here's to another great year for New Jersey high school athletics.



Derryk Sellers
NJSIAA Assistant Director

IN MEMORIAM

THOSE WE LOST IN FALL 2022

WALTER
"MOE" GAISOR

Walter 'Moe' Gaisor, age 93, passed away on August 25, 2022. Moe was the President of the DAANJ in 1982 and 1983 and a lifelong contributor to our organization. Moe received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Rutgers University, he also honorably served in the United States Marine Corp. Moe began his teaching, coaching and administrative career at Carteret High School in 1953. He became the Athletic Director, Head Football and Track Coach, retiring after 40 years of dedication to the Carteret community. Moe was a true family man as well as a Carteret legend who will be deeply missed.

Moe was predeceased by his wife, Isabel Gaisor; his daughter, Dianne Gaisor and his brother, Fred Gaisor. Surviving are his daughter, Cynthia Colonna and her husband Frank, son, Gary Gaisor; granddaughters, Allison Addotta and her husband Michael, Tara McDonnald and her husband Jason; six great grandchildren, Christian and Kaylee Addotta, Molly, Madelyn, Sophie and Vincent MacDonald along with his siter, Sally Ann Little with many nieces and nephews.



***Congratulations
David Frazier
Rutherford HS***

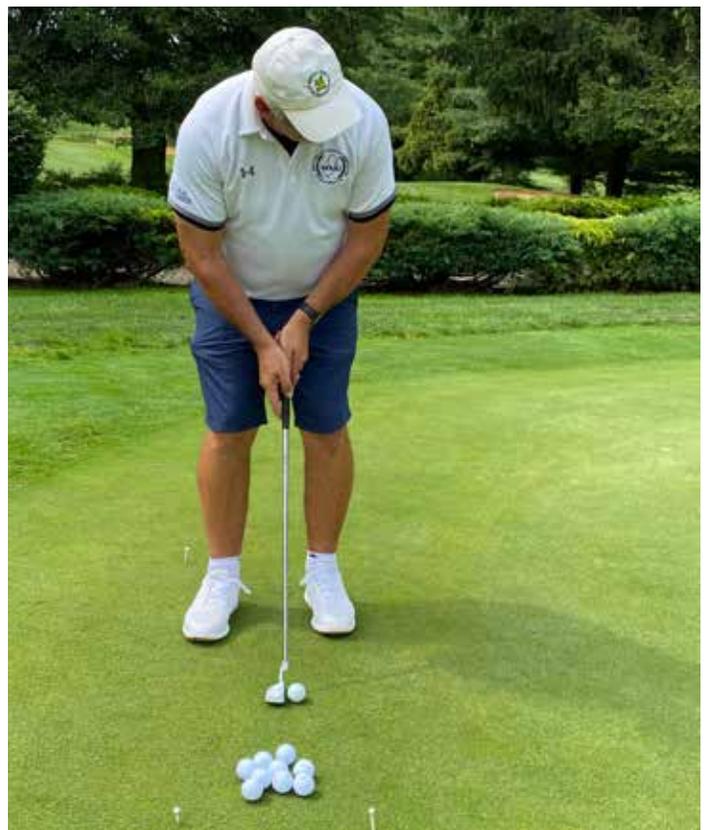
***NIAAA Bruce D Whitehead
Distinguished Service Award
2022 Recipient***



1st Annual DAANJ Golf Tournament

On Monday, July 18, 2022 more than 80 DAANJ members and friends participated in our 1st Annual Golf Tournament at the beautiful Bella Vista Country Club in Marlboro, NJ. This highly successful event was the enthusiastic idea of Past President, Dave Ryden. Dave did an outstanding job organizing all phases of the outing. Thanks Dave, for a job well done!

We are all looking forward to our “2nd Annual Golf Tournament in the Summer of 2023. Stay tuned for further information during the coming year.





DAANJ Awards for the 2023 Workshop

The DAANJ will host our annual Workshop in March of 2023, from the 13th to the 17th. We will again be hosting our Awards Banquet bestowing the following Honors on a host of well deserving Athletic Directors and personnel.

You will find applications for each of the following Awards on the DAANJ website.

If you wish to nominate a deserving person for any of the Awards, go to [DAANJ.org](https://www.daanj.org), click on 'AWARDS' on the Top Line. Now select the Award you will be nominating and then make a hard copy of the application. Fill it out and mail it to the Board of Trustee member indicated below.

Athletic Director of the Year

Bob Hopek
1913 Maple Ave.
Easton, PA 18040

Lifetime Achievement Award

Rich Shello, Athletic Director
Ridge HS
268 South Finley Ave.
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Retiree Award

Bob Grace
20 Morning Glory Ct.
Brick, NJ 08724

Hall of Fame

Ted D'Alessio
16 Morningside Road
Ocean City, NJ 08226

Administrative Assistant Award

Joe Piro, Athletic Director
Nutley HS
300 Franklin Ave.
Nutley, NJ 07110

"Sonny" Santorine Scholarship Awards

Mike Gatley, Athletic Director
Mainland Reg. HS
1301 Oak Ave.
Linwood, NJ 08221

Dave Salberg Sectional Award of Merit

Dave Frazier, Athletic Director
Rutherford HS
56 Elliott Place
Rutherford, NJ 07070

Neil Rosa Program of Excellence

Rob Haraka, Athletic Director
Morris Hills HS
520 West Main Street
Rockaway, NJ 07866

Frank Baldochino Essay Scholarship Awards

Darryl Jones, Athletic Director
Walkkill Valley Reg. HS
10 Grumm Road
Hamburg, NJ 07419

Bob Hopek Professional Development Award

John Fraraccio, Athletic Director
Memorial HS
5501 Park Ave.
West New York, NJ

Professional Service Award

Ted D'Alessio
16 Morningside Road
Ocean City, NJ 08226



Directors of Athletic Association of New Jersey, Inc.

Official Application for Director of Athletics of the Year

PURPOSE:

To give recognition to the secondary school Directors of Athletics who exemplify the highest standard of their profession and who, through their influence on the lives of young people under their direction, have made significant contributions to their school and community.

CRITERIA:

The candidate shall be a Director of Athletics who is recognized in his/her community as an educational leader and who maintains Athletics as an integral part of the total educational program. *Must have served in the position of Director of Athletics for at least ten years and be a paid Association member.

PROCESS:

Each nominee's nomination is thoroughly reviewed by a selection committee comprised of the following:

- 1) Current DAANJ President (unless a candidate)
- 2) Two active Directors of Athletics
- 3) Two retired Directors of Athletics of the Year
- 4) Current Executive Director
- 5) Committee Chairperson

All Nominations are rated on a scale of 1-4. The candidate with the highest point total will be selected as the AD of the Year. The chairperson only votes in case of a tie. Candidates are selected on their completed resume and letters of recommendations.

OFFICIAL APPLICATION INFORMATION:

- 1) Candidate's name, address and contact number
- 2) Educational background
- 3) Present position, place and location of employment and years of service. *
- 4) Name, title and address of immediate supervisor
- 5) Brief career summary, stating positions, locations and length of service
- 6) Professional affiliations and activities
- 7) Honors and awards received.
- 8) Services to the community.
- 9) Significant achievements in the Field of Athletic Administration
- 10) Attach letters of recommendation (limited to 5 letters)

All Nominations can be mailed or emailed not later than Friday, November 4, 2022.

Send/email to:

Mr. Robert Hopek
1913 Maple Ave, Easton, PA 18040
(908) 319-0307

Or email to minnesotahopek1@yahoo.com
or email/share to minnesotahopek1@gmail.com

Selection will be made by an awards committee and presented to the Director of Athletics Board of Trustees for approval. ***Must have served in the position of Director of Athletics for at least ten years and be a paid Association member.**

Candidate's Name: _____

Contact information including email: _____

Educational Background: _____

Undergraduate Degree(s): _____

Graduate Degree(s): _____

Certification(s): _____

Employment/School Name: _____

Address/Email: _____

Years of Service and confirmation of paid association fees: _____

Immediate Administrator/Supervisor's Name: _____

Title: _____

Address/Email: _____

Contact information: _____

Former Positions Held: _____

Professional affiliations & activities (e.g., membership in professional organizations, positions held, etc.): _____

Honors & Awards Received: _____

Service to the Community: _____

Significant achievements in the field of Athletic Administration: _____

Please attach/include letter of recommendations limited to no more than five letters.

No letters will be accepted from employees of the NJSIAA.

Benefits Provided NIAAA Members

The national professional organization dedicated solely to services, assistance and development for the providers of secondary school "Education Based Athletics" programs.

Professional

Advanced & North Central Accreditation

NIAAA is the first association accredited by North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.

Leadership Training Institute

Educational curriculum of courses taught at national and state conferences, institutes, online and webinars. Students can earn CEUs, through a master's degree while working with affiliate universities.

Certification Program

Four levels of professional certification including Registered, Middle School, Certified and Certified Master Athletic Administrator.

National Athletic Directors Conference

Annual Conference hosted in cooperation with the NFHS offering educational, service, information, leadership and networking opportunities.

Hall of Fame

Induction and recognition of individuals that have strongly impacted the profession of athletic administration at the national level.

Code of Ethics and Professional Standards

Clarifies our mission and principles.

Awards Program

Recognition levels for athletic administrators at both state and national levels.

Interscholastic Athletic Administration Magazine

Professional journal providing high school and middle school leadership practical assistance from athletic administrators in the field, research based study, NIAAA member information, and best practices.

Media Materials

Digital and print materials available to assist the professional.

Professional Outreach Program

Conducted in cooperation with state athletic administrator associations as outreach to targeted demographic areas through the NIAAA Endowment. Offering of LTI (501-502), 503 online, one year NIAAA membership, with 10 percent of participants receiving registration and lodging scholarship to the national conference.

Public Service Announcements

Promoting the benefits of education-based athletic programs to students, educational leaders and community members.

Digital Promo Campaigns

Sharing program, recognitions, information with athletic administrators, principals and superintendents.

Direct Benefits to Members & State Associations

- \$2,000,000 liability insurance.
- IAA is a quarterly magazine provided to members in both hard copy and digital flip page form.
- \$2,500 Life Insurance Policy.
- Membership kit for first-time registrants.
- National Network – Assistance available in cases of traveling emergencies and annual initiative cause.
- Continued cutting edge development through NIAAA Strategic Plan.
- AD Insider – Electronic newsletter offered 24 times annually at no cost.
- Numerous educational print, video and digital materials.
- Research on timely topics and member survey results.
- Direct communication to members through social medias.
- Public service announcements.
- Advocate working with congressional offices & U.S. departments in Washington D.C.
- State AD Association benefit of lodging for Professional Development State Coordinator Meetings.
- No cost booklet *A Profile of Athletic Administration* created as information directed at superintendents, principals and school boards.
- Providing purpose of position and description of how AD position should be structured and supported.
- Royalty to state AD Association for percentage of NIAAA online & webinar LTI courses taken by state members.
- Agreement with NFHSLearn provides royalty to states.

Cost Reductions

- Lower registration cost for National Conference
- Reduced fee for LTI courses.
- Reduced cost for all certification applications.
- Discounted rates offered on Mutual of Omaha Long Term Health Care.
- Discounted application fee for quality program award process
- Reduced cost for online LTI Courses.
- Reduced fee for LTI Webinars.

Opportunities

- NIAAA Committee Membership – 14 committees in addition to periodic Ad Hoc committees.
- IAA – Opportunity to submit articles for publication.
- Student Scholarship/Essay Program – Open to students in schools where the Athletic Director is an NIAAA member. Female and male recipients at State, Section (\$1,500) and National levels (\$2,500).
- NIAAA Endowment – Opportunity to contribute. Portion of funds utilized for professional growth outreach initiatives and state grants.
- Quality Program Award – Option after having taken LTC 799 to participate in a process of athletic program assessment offering Exemplary Program recognition.
- Invited Assessment Program – Opportunity to have team of professionals evaluate each facet of a school or district athletic program.
- Participation in National Conference workshops, section meetings, networking, and forums.
- Opportunity for retired members to remain involved.

Benefits at www.niaaa.org

- Dedicated to NIAAA information and program offerings.
- Member Services – Online opportunity through NIAAA database to view and update personal profile, find members, order materials or initiate/renew NIAAA membership. Opportunity to post a resume, open dates, job openings.
- Registration and information regarding the annual National Conference, lodging, travel and area interests.
- NIAAA apparel through the online logo shop.
- Preferred Vendors – Online site for preferred product and services with company links.
- *The Role of the Principal in Interscholastic Athletics* – Free 12 minute video through link on the NIAAA Web site. Produced in cooperation with the NASSP and NFHS.
- Calendar of scheduled professional development events for both state and national athletic administrator associations.
- State Leadership Directory – Listing of key contact individuals within states.
- Archived IAA magazine for research and reference.
- NIAAA forms and applications in fillable PDF format.
- Digital publications and survey information.
- Links to key educational, professional and sponsor affiliations.



National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association

9100 Keystone Crossing, Suite 650, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240; Phone: 317-587-1450; www.niaaa.org

NIAAA 3-2018

NIAAA Mentoring Committee Quarterly Newsletter

Mentor Committee Purpose Statement:

The Mentor Committee seeks to assist in providing tools for the novice and experienced athletic administrator alike and can serve as an important agent of sustainability for the honorable position of an Athletic Administrator.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT for AD's

Begin planning to attend the National Athletic Director's Conference (NADC), which will be held in Nashville, TN at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, December 9-13, 2022.

<https://www.adconference.org/>

The conference provides opportunities to network, [engage in LTC courses](#), and [hear from athletic administrators](#) from around the world as they share their best practices with attendees.

AD TIP OF THE MONTH:

Work from a position of strength by identifying those items that must be accomplished each month to ensure your programs continue to thrive.

The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association shares a [Monthly AD Checklist](#) for AD's to help keep them moving forward.

NFHS Highlight: [Support Coaches and Officials](#)

Please take time to review the message, linked above, from NFHS CEO Karissa Neihoff.

New AD Early Year Reminders:

- **Set realistic expectations**
- **Initiate regular contact with mentor**
- **Communicate concerns early on and often**
- **Be honest with the mentor**
- **Welcome the mentor's feedback and concern**
- **Build a solid relationship**
- **Find a variety of methods to achieve objectives**
- **Assist in problem solving**
- **Follow through on commitments**
- **Discuss successes and failures**

2022-2023 NIAAA Mentor Committee

Section 1	Geri Witalec-Krupa , CMAA	Vice Chair
Section 1	Peter Cofran , CAA	
Section 2	Tim Leach , CAA	
Section 2	Steve Robinson	
Section 3	Steve Gertz , CAA	
Section 4	Brian Mancuso ,	
Section 5	Jen Brooks , CMAA	
Section 6	Paige Hershey , CMAA	
Section 7	Trevor Wilson , CMAA	
Section 8	Jeff Lowell , CAA	Chair
Section 8	Tim Sam , CMAA	

Quarterly Literature Spotlight for Athletic Directors:

[Athletic Fundraising & Development for Athletic Directors & Coaches: Effective Fundraising Strategies](#)

- Scott Garvis, CMAA

NIAAA Mentoring Committee Quarterly Newsletter

For athletic directors on the go....the NYSAAA has started their own YouTube channel, dedicated to providing athletic administrators with important and relevant information.

Check out the channel by choosing the link below.

[NYSAAA, Inc](#)



Educational Athletics in the News:

Name, Image, and Likeness. NIL is something that AD's will need to understand moving forward. From SBLive: [St. John Bosco football players offered NIL deal](#)

From Channel 9 News in Denver, Colorado: [Referee shortage impacting Colorado high school sports schedule](#)

AD Best Practices: As your year gets started, remember that others have paved the way for you. State mentor programs have been working to gather artifacts to assist athletic directors, whether new or experienced. By accessing the links provided below, you will be able to gather documents and other tools designed to save you time and spark ideas about how you can best serve your athletes, coaches, and community.

[Arizona:](#)

[New Jersey](#)

[New York](#)

[Oregon](#)

[Virginia](#)

[Washington](#)

[Wisconsin](#)

There is great information available to athletic administrators, designed to assist new and veterans alike. Please take some time to check out the links, and gather resources designed to save you time.

The DAANJ
has an
active role
in Social
Media.



@ADsofDAANJ

A Blast from the Past

2011 Board of Trustees at the Trump Plaza Workshop



DAANJ Member Benefits

Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey is a professional organization of High School Directors of Athletics and is dedicated to athletes, sportsmanship, and assisting members in their leadership role.

Here are some of the ways DAANJ serves its members:

- Association Influence
- Awards and Recognition
- Insurance Coverage
- Public Relations
- Retiree Membership
- Professional Development
- Workshop in conjunction with NJSIAA
- Newsletter Publications
- Scholarship Fund for Student Athletes
- Professional Membership on State level
- State Convention/Workshop
- Mentoring/New AD Workshop

NIAAA Member Benefits

- Interscholastic Athletic Administration, a quarterly professional journal written by and for athletic administrators
- \$1,000,000 student injury and property damage liability insurance while performing the duties of an athletic administrator
- \$2500 term life insurance
- Ability to purchase Long Term Health Care at discount rates, as well as discounts on Cancer Insurance and Accident Insurance
- Opportunities to serve on the national committees
- Support, communication and informational materials regarding key issues, through interpretation, best practices, research, explanation and education
- Opportunity to nominate students from your school for the NIAAA Scholarship annually
- Opportunity for national recognition through the NIAAA Awards Program



REMEMBER WHEN

BY BOB GRACE

Our Executive Director Emeritus, Mr. Frank Baldachino, has put together an impressive compilation of the chronology and history of the Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey. Below you will find a synopsis of four randomly selected years in the sixty year history of our association. In future editions of our Newsletter we will continue to bring you information on several more years in our long and storied history.

1957

George Gerhardt of Snyder High School was the President of the DAANJ. There was no Annual Workshop yet, the initial Workshop was held in 1960. We had not yet begun to honor the “Athletic Director of the Year”. Annual dues were \$1. The Treasurers Report totaled \$37.56 in assets. We’ve come a long way, Baby!

1970

John Ragone of New Brunswick High School was the President of the DAANJ. The Annual Workshop was a two day format held at the Hotel Traymore in Atlantic City, from March 3rd to 4th. There was no Keynote Speaker, only Panel Discussions. The first “Athletic Director of the Year” would not be named until 1974. There were 6 Exhibitors present at the Workshop. We did not honor Retirees until 1971.

1982

Walter ‘Moe’ Gaisor of Carteret High School was the President of the DAANJ. The Annual Workshop was a four day format held at Tamiment Country Club in the Poconos, from March 17th to 20th. The Theme of the Workshop

was “From & To, How to Cope”. Our Keynote Speaker was Dr. Fredrick Price, from the New Jersey Department of Education. Dr. Price’s topic was “Legal Parameters and Procedures in Athletic Certification”. Jay Dakelman of Highland Park High School was honored as the “Athletic Director of the Year”. Jay was also selected as the National Athletic Director of the Year. There were 10 Retirees honored in 1982. There were 16 Exhibitors present at the Workshop.

1991

Bob Hopek of North Hunterdon Regional High School was the President of DAANJ. The Annual Workshop was a four day format held in Trump Plaza in Atlantic City from March 18th to 21st. The Theme of the Workshop was “Interscholastic Athletics, We can Make a Difference”. Our Keynote Speaker was Philip Schembra, CEO/President of Schembra Enterprises. Mr. Schembra’s topic was “Committed to the Achievement of Excellence”. Joseph Walsh of Seton Hall Prep School was honored as the “Athletic Director of the Year”. There were 10 Retirees honored in 1991. There were 33 Exhibitors present at the Workshop.

Meet your DAANJ Board of Trustees



John Fraraccio Memorial High School, NY

What is your educational background? (Schools/degrees)?

Foundation for Educational Administration, Inc.

Marygrove College - Master in the Art of Teaching

Slippery Rock University - BS Physical Education

What sports/activities did you participate in high school and/or college?

Football and Baseball, Perth Amboy HS

What schools and positions have you worked in?

The Wardlaw-Hartridge School, 1994-1999, Health and Physical Education Teacher, Coached Football, Basketball and Baseball

Elizabeth High School- 2000-2005, Health and Physical Education Teacher, Coached Football, Basketball and Baseball

West New York, Board of Education 2005-2022, District Supervisor of Health and Physical Education, Assistant Football Coach and Head Swimming Coach, Memorial High School

Do you have duties in addition to the Athletic Director role?

I sure do. My official Title is District Supervisor of Health and Physical Education and Substance Abuse Counselors, Supervisor MHS Business Dept. and Athletic Director at Memorial HS. Other Positions Held are as follows:

President Elect DAANJ

First Vice President Super Football Conference

*Future editions will continue to introduce members of our BOT

Treasure Hudson County Interscholastic Athletic League

NJSIAA Executive Board Member

Who are some of your most valued role models and or colleagues?

This is a tough question because there are so many people I value, I don't want to miss anyone. Let me start by saying that I love my profession and I think I am one of the luckiest people around because I get to do what I do and get paid for it. As a Coach and Educator, my high school football coach, Mike Cilento is the person I have always tried to model myself after and without his guidance, I would not be the person I am today. In my career, I have worked with some amazing coaches and AD's and have taken something from each of them. Legendary Basketball Coach Bill Kuchar gave me my start as a young coach. Benny Candelino from Elizabeth was instrumental in my development as a coach and a teacher. Dave Curtin and Don Dayon were both coaches I worked with that gave me the freedom that allowed me to grow as a Coach. The Athletic Director "fraternity" is the group that I can say still has a positive influence on me on a daily basis. Mike Pierson from Bayonne and Rich Hansen from St. Peter's helped me "cut my teeth" as a new AD in Hudson County. Denis Nelson and Dave Frazier are two people I have tried to emulate as a professional. Derek England and Steve Jenkins are my "Moral compasses". Joe Piro taught me how to have "vision" as an AD. My Hudson County AD's keep me grounded and have taught me the value of working together. Jerry Maietta for being my "sounding board" when I need to vent. Bob Hopek, Dr. D and the rest of DAANJ BOT's for their professionalism and commitment to profession. Last but not least the, "North Jersey Crew of AD's" for their support and friendship. If I missed anyone I am sorry, I can go on for days about the people I value.

What's your most memorable moment in Interscholastic Activities?

I have so many great memories it is hard to come up with one. If I had to pick one was beating Orange in the North 2 Group 2 Football Semifinal. We scored with a little over a minute to go in the game to reach Giants Stadium, we unfortunately lost in the championship, but it was an amazing experience.

How would you describe the athletic climate in your school/community?

Memorial HS and the Town of West New York are special places. There is a tremendous amount of school pride and civic pride. The respect for tradition is what makes Memorial Athletics what it is. We use the saying "built on the shoulders of people that came before you" which is something we try to honor always.

What part of your job is unique compared to other AD's?

I think the relationship I have with my coaches, is what makes my job unique. At Memorial we are truly a Family

What are some of your spare time interests?

AD's have "spare time"? Most of my spare time is spent being as active as I can. I try to find time every day to exercise. I love to compete, so I have started doing road races of various distances and sprint triathlons. I am not very good but I love the personal challenges. I raise money for various Alzheimer's Organizations while competing in these races which I feel is the best way to give back and honor my Dad who passed away from Alzheimer's. I also work on the Food Truck (Spankys Gourmet Grub) with my guy Joe Piro, who by the way makes the best cheese steak in New Jersey.

Association of New Jersey, Inc.
DAANJ
1951
Directors of Athletics



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