



**2023 Director of Athletics of the year  
David Frazier - Rutherford High School**

# Spring 2023 Newsletter

**Completing 72 Years of Excellence While Serving New Jersey Schools**



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# Executive Director's Message

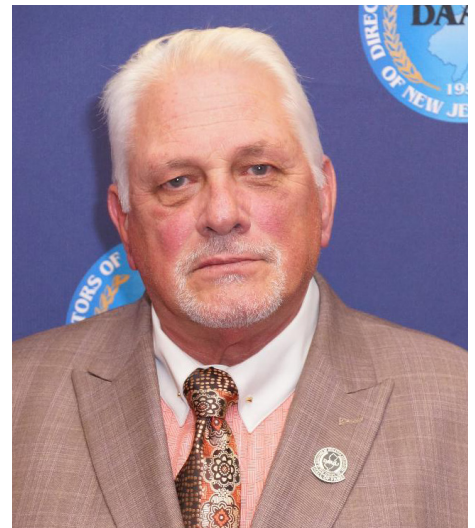
I hope everyone had an opportunity to recharge their batteries after a long winter season and is looking forward to a relaxing spring season along with good weather! On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank each member of the association for their attendance at the recent DAANJ Workshop at the Hard Rock Hotel. This was our first year at this venue and I think everyone was pleased with the accommodations and facility as well as the hotel staff. Bright, clean and active with several restaurants and lounges open with daily entertainment! We will be returning in 2024.

John Fraraccio did an outstanding job planning the workshop and scheduling relevant current topics and speakers. Dave Suiter did another fine job dealing with registration and Billy Vacca sold out the exhibition area. Many thanks to our retirees who assisted at various events throughout the workshop. Congratulations to all our award recipients especially our AD of the Year, Dave Frazier. Overall I think this year's workshop was a huge success. Plans are underway for the 2024 workshop and I encourage anyone interested in presenting or moderating in 2024 to forward your interest to John Fraraccio. The success of our workshop depends upon the involvement of our membership and their input. Please forward any

suggestions, concerns, issues, or recommendations to John and I so that we can continue to meet the needs of our members.

The Section 1 meeting will be held in Rhode Island on May 8. Dave Suiter, Sean Dowling, and I will be attending and representing New Jersey and promoting Mr. Suiter as a candidate for the Frank Kovalski Professional Development Award. Mr. Dowling will be the Section 1 President of the NIAAA and serve on the Board of Directors in December during the annual convention in Orlando.

I hope to see many New Jersey administrators in attendance. The NIAAA releases registration in September and I encourage you to register early if you plan to attend. This site sells out quickly so don't delay! December 16-19, 2023. I would also like to encourage you to become involved by serving as a member of an NIAAA committee. The committee meetings are held during the NADC. Committee membership applications can be found on the NIAAA website or by contacting your county representative. There are several committees to choose from; awards, certification, mentoring, credentials, and coaches' education to name a few. I would also like to encourage you to continue to enroll in the many leadership training courses offered nationally as well as locally. Dave Suiter and Sean Dowling are



**BOB HOPEK**  
DAANJ Executive Director

co-chairs of our leadership training programs and will offer courses required to lead to certification. We are constantly looking for instructors to teach and become part of our state faculty.

Thank you for your continued support of the DAANJ. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your county representative with any concerns you have as they are your voice on the Board of Trustees. I look forward to working with each of you moving forward to continue to make our association one of the most respected in the nation. Be well, stay safe, and keep in touch.

Yours in sports

Bob Hopek

DAANJ Executive Director



# Assistant Executive Director's Message

Greeting colleagues,

What a great week we had in Atlantic City!!! It was nice to be back on the boardwalk and having a venue that was bright and vibrant!! Kudos to John Fraraccio for an excellent program. Congratulations again to all of our colleagues and student athletes who were honored at our Awards Banquet Thursday night. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's workshop – pre-workshop events on March 11, and regular program March 12-15.

Four of our members earned their Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) designation at our March workshop, which keeps us moving towards our goal to have 23 new certifications in '23. Unfortunately, there will be no Section 1 Summer Institute this year, but don't worry! - stay tuned for information concerning summer CAA "boot camp" and other course offerings for those members who are one or two course short of reaching their certification goals.

Bob Hopek , Sean Dowling and I will be attending the Section 1 meeting in Rhode Island at the beginning of

May. Many exciting changes have happened since our last Section 1 meeting. A new Executive Director, Phil Rison has replaced Mike Blackburn, and two new Associate Directors (Becky Moran and Rich Barton) have been appointed to the leadership team. Additionally, Sean Dowling (Monroe HS) will begin to represent NJ and Section 1 on the NIAAA Board at the conclusion of the 2023 National Athletic Directors Conference (NADC).

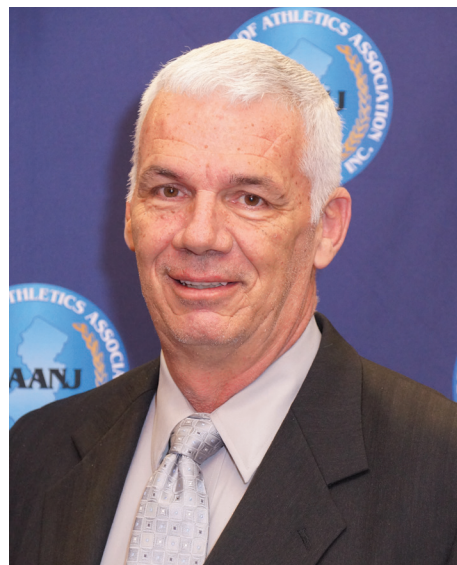
If you have never been to the National Athletic Director's Conference (NADC), I encourage you to do so. Once you have been to one, you will keep going back!!! This year's NADC will be in Orlando at the Marriott World Center, December 15 – 19. Information is available at <https://www.adconference.org>

Future NADC Sites and Dates:

December 13-17, 2024  
- Austin Convention Center -  
Austin, Texas

December 12-16, 2025 -  
Tampa Convention Center  
- Tampa, Florida

Dave Suiter  
Assistant Executive Director



**DAVE SUITER**

DAANJ Assistant Executive Director



# President's Message

WOW!! What a great week at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino for our annual DAANJ Workshop. Those of you in attendance know that it was one of the best workshops that we have had and those of you that were not able to go, make sure that you start planning ahead so that you do not miss our 2024 Workshop. I believe what made the 2023 workshop such a huge success was a combination of an outstanding program provided by our Program Coordinator, Mr. John Fraraccio, Memorial HS Athletic Director and being back on the Boardwalk at the beautiful Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.

I want to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to our entire DAANJ Board of Trustees for all of their efforts and supports to help put on our amazing conference. Once again, great job by our President Elect and Program Coordinator, Mr. John Fraraccio for putting together an outstanding program. Our Executive Director, Mr. Bob Hopek was instrumental in getting us back to the Boardwalk and to the Hard Rock. We would not have been there if it were not for Bob and our Legal Counsel, Mr. Joseph Novak. Thank you. Thank you as well to Dr. Ted D'Alessio for coordinating the wonderful banquet on Thursday night to honor our award winners. Thank you to Bill Vacca for coordinating all of our vendors and thank you to our vendors for participating in our conference. Finally, a special thank you to our Assistant Executive Director, Dave Suiter for his work with the entire registration process.

I want to Congratulate our DAANJ Athletic Director of the Year, Mr. Dave Frazier, Rutherford HS Athletic Director, as well as our SAM Award winners, our Administrative Assistants of the Year and all of our Award winners. I also want to encourage all of you moving forward to take a few minutes and nominate your Administrative Assistant or an Athletic Director from your League or Conference for these outstanding awards.

I am proud to be serving as your DAANJ President for the next year. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any other Board of Trustee member if there is anything the DAANJ can do for you. We can help set up and coordinate an LTI course in your league or conference or provide many other educational resources to help guide you.

Please check out our website at [www.daanj.org](http://www.daanj.org). You will find pictures from our past conference, you can review and download the various workshop sessions from our conference, see an archive of our past award winners and much more including information on next year's National Athletic Directors Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Also, I encourage you to join us in our second annual DAANJ Golf Outing



## CARL BUFFALINO

### DAANJ President

on Monday, July 17, 2023 at the beautiful Bella Vista Country Club in Marlboro, NJ. Information was provided to you at the Conference and can also be found on our website. It will also be sent out via email. Sign up with your own foursome or as an individual. Either way it is a great day of golf, food, prizes and camaraderie. The money that we raise at this event goes right back into our scholarship fund to provide scholarships to your student athletes.

I want to wish all of your athletic teams a successful and healthy Spring Season. Before we know it the end of the school year will be upon us. I hope that you take that time to relax and recharge your batteries. Spend some time with your family and friends doing the things that you enjoy.

- Carl

# President Elect's Message

Hello everyone. I hope you all enjoyed our time at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and are ready for the spring season.

I would like to thank everyone that helped me plan and run this year's program. During Dave Frazier's speech as AD of the Year, he referenced how special the brotherhood and sisterhood of AD's is. I cannot agree more, the amount of offer of help I received was amazing and much appreciated.

The planning for next years conference has already started. The survey results and the many conservations and recommendations will help me assess this year and begin to create next year's program. From the comments I have received, it was evident that our membership sessions led by current and retired New Jersey Athletic Directors were very well received. Another recommendation by many is that we need more discussion and roundtable type sessions on current issues and best practices. I have already been contacted by several AD's and I am really excited about what we have planned. As I reflect on format, rooms, topics, etc., decisions will be made to improve our conference and meet the needs of our membership.

Just as I did last year, I will be offering the \$100 chip to winning conference name submission. The BOT's will have a tough decision, I have received some great submissions already.

The DAANJ Awards Banquet will be on Thursday March 14th, 2024. We will be honoring a new slate of award winners. Please check the website and be on the lookout for emails and notices for nominations for awards such as Administrative Assistant, SAM Award, and Athletic Director of the Year.

This year our vendor area was "sold out". I want to thank Billy Vacca for soliciting and managing vendors and sponsors. We have already made plans to add space for more vendors. If you have any "leads" for possible vendors or sponsors, please direct them to Billy.

Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual DAANJ Golf Tournament will be held on Monday July 17th at the Bella



**John Fraraccio**

DAANJ President-Elect

Vista Country Club in Marlboro.  
Contact Dave Ryden for more info.

The spring season is the "home stretch" and with the new calendar, it is definitely a sprint. Good luck and let's end this year on a positive note and enjoy the summer. As we do often in North Jersey, I contacted Denis Nelson for the DAANJ Countdown. As of April 4th, 340 days to see each other at the Hard Rock.

*Thank you,  
John*

# Message from the NJSIAA Chief Compliance Officer

On January 18th, the NJSIAA Executive Committee voted to allow new transfer and recruiting rules to move forward in its approval process. The rules were submitted to the Executive Committee by its Advisory Committee in November and moved forward for feedback from athletic directors, leagues, and conferences throughout the State. Final versions of the rules will be voted on by full membership later this spring.

The NJSIAA Transfer Committee, made up of principals and superintendents, was tasked with examining all aspects of its current, much maligned, transfer and recruiting rules. The committee gathered data related to transfers, examined its current rules and practices, gained input from ADs, coaches associations, its Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, the Commissioner of Education, leagues and conferences and its Executive Committee. The NJSIAA has concluded its yearlong initiative by proposing new transfer and recruiting rules that it believes truly provides a level playing field for all student-athletes across all NJSIAA-member schools.

The proposals remove the need for a bona fide change of address and no longer relies on varsity participation status when determining a student-athletes eligibility. The new rules would grant student-athletes one penalty-free transfer during the first 6 semesters of their high school career, provided that the transfer occurs prior to the start of the season. Student-athletes who transfer a second time (and any subsequent transfers), will be subject to the 30-day sit (or ½ the number of max. contests) for all NJSIAA sanctioned sports which the student-athlete participated in during the previous 12 months. Seniors who are transferring for the first time will be subject to a lesser penalty. The recruiting rule will focus on recruiting of high school athletes, not athletes from grades K-8. Penalties would stiffen and focus on the coaches and schools, not students, who are in violation of contacting and recruiting athletes from other high schools.



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**Paul Popadiuk**  
NJSIAA Chief  
Compliance Officer



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DAANJ Golf Tournament



*The Directors of Athletic Association of New Jersey invites you to participate in our  
**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT.***

To be held at:

Bella Vista Country Club, Marlboro, NJ

Date: Monday, July 17, 2023

Start: Shotgun Start, 9:00 AM (Scramble)

Registration starts: 7:30am

Continental Breakfast: 8:00am

Lunch to follow

*Raffle and Auction Items*

*Longest Drive*

*Closest to the Pin*

*Hole 10, On the Green gets you 5 free Auction Tickets*

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CIRCLE:

Single Golfer, \$200

Foursome, \$800

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Golfer 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Golfer 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit all information that applies. Golfers' names can be added prior to the event.

Entries due by July 4, 2023. Please send all payments to:

DAANJ Golf Outing, C/O Dave Ryden, 6 Andrew Street, Howell, NJ 07731

Checks Payable to "DAANJ"

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DAANJ Golf Tournament



*The Directors of Athletic Association of New Jersey invites you to be a sponsor our  
**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT.***

To be held at:

Bella Vista Country Club, Marlboro, NJ

Date: Monday, July 17, 2023

(Please Check your sponsorship level)

- Breakfast Sponsor (sign) - \$300
- Lunch Sponsor (sign) - \$500
- Hole Sponsor (Sign at Hole) - \$150
- Cart Sponsor (Flyers in Cart) - \$500

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## Sponsor Registration

Name (How Sign Should Read) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please email logo's to: [dryden@frhsd.com](mailto:dryden@frhsd.com)

**ANY QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO:**

**Dave Ryden, (732) 763-1033, [dryden@frhsd.com](mailto:dryden@frhsd.com)**

**Sponsorships must be submitted by June 30, 2023**

Please send all payments to:

DAANJ Golf Outing, C/O Dave Ryden, 6 Andrew Street, Howell, NJ 07731

Checks Payable to "DAANJ"

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DAANJ Golf Tournament



*The Directors of Athletic Association of New Jersey invites you to be a sponsor our  
2nd ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT.*

## **Titanium Sponsor - \$3,500**

Recognition as a Premier sponsor of the DAANJ Outing/Auction  
One foursome for golf  
Your logo on gift, prize or another negotiated sponsor opportunity  
Sole Hole Sponsorship (may display product/literature/have reps at the hole)  
Sign will be displayed in banquet hall for lunch/auction.  
Significant sponsor notice on looped PowerPoint presentation at lunch/auction  
Literature included in registration packets

## **Gold Sponsor - \$2,250**

One foursome for golf  
Sole Hole Sponsorship (may display product/literature/have reps at the hole)  
Designated special sponsor for one of the special functions of the outing  
Significant sponsor notice on looped PowerPoint presentation at lunch/auction.  
Literature included in registration packet.

## **Silver Sponsor - \$1,500**

One foursome for golf  
Signage on one Tee box or Green  
Designated sponsor of one of the Awards  
Sponsor notice on looped PowerPoint presentation at lunch/auction.  
Literature included in registration packet

## **Bronze Sponsor - \$1000**

One twosome for golf  
Signage on one hole  
Literature included in registration packet

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Sponsor Registration

**Sponsorships must be submitted by June 30, 2023**

Name (How Sign Should Read) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Level \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please email logo's to: [dryden@frhsd.com](mailto:dryden@frhsd.com)

Please send all payments to:

DAANJ Golf Outing, C/O Dave Ryden, 6 Andrew Street, Howell, NJ 07731

Checks Payable to "DAANJ"



# Do I need to submit a standardized test score to the NCAA?

As of January 2023, standardized test scores are **not required** for **all** student-athletes who initially enroll full time on or after August 1, 2023. During the 2023 NCAA Convention, Divisions I and II adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores for these students. The vote was based on the recommendation from the Standardized Test Score Task Force, a specialized group charged with reviewing initial-eligibility requirements as part of the NCAA's eight-point plan to advance racial equality.

Among other requirements, college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school are still required to have a 2.3 (DI)/2.2 (DII) grade point average in 16 NCAA-approved core-course units and provide proof of high school graduation. Division-specific information on initial-eligibility requirements is available here:

- Division I. [http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility\\_center/Student\\_Resources/DI\\_ReqsFactSheet.pdf](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Student_Resources/DI_ReqsFactSheet.pdf)
- Division II. [http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility\\_center/Student\\_Resources/DII\\_ReqsFactSheet.pdf](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Student_Resources/DII_ReqsFactSheet.pdf)
- Division III: Student-athletes planning to attend a Division III school are not required to have an academic certification from the Eligibility Center but may be required to have an amateurism certification. [http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility\\_center/Student\\_Resources/DIII\\_Amat.pdf](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Student_Resources/DIII_Amat.pdf)

Students should also check with the NCAA school they plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements. Please contact NCAA Customer Service at 877-262-1492 with questions.

# 62nd Annual DAANJ Award Winners

At our Dinner, March 16, 2023 Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Atlantic City

## Administrative Assistant Awards

Amy Tabakman – Pequannock HS

Adrienne Manfre – Perth Amboy HS

Sue Wankel – Rumson Fair Haven HS

Lori Paton – Central Reg. HS

## SAM Recipients

John Fraraccio – Memorial West NY HS

Anthony Minelli – West Essex HS

Richard Carroll – Middletown Twp. HS

Chuck Donohue – Southern Regional HS

## Hall of Fame Recipients

Mike Fanizzi – Hillsborough HS

Joe Galliera – Kingsway HS

Joe Schramm – Cherokee HS

## Retirees

Tom Fisher – Phillipsburg HS

Tom Stark – Keansburg HS

Tom Kaechele – Northern Valley Old Tappan HS

(posthumous)

## Lifetime Achievement Award

Bob Grace – Point Pleasant Beach HS

## Professional Development Award

Joe Trentacosta – West Milford HS

## Baldachino Scholarship

Kyle Moreno – Morris Hills HS

Michael Giovacco – Bergen Catholic HS

## Santorine Scholarship

Emily Haraka – Bloomfield HS

Caedon Jones – Kittatinny HS

## Director of Athletics of the Year

Dave Frazier – Rutherford HS



# DAANJ 62nd Annual Workshop

“High School Athletics Today - Navigating the New Normal”





# DAANJ 62nd Annual Workshop

“High School Athletics Today - Navigating the New Normal”



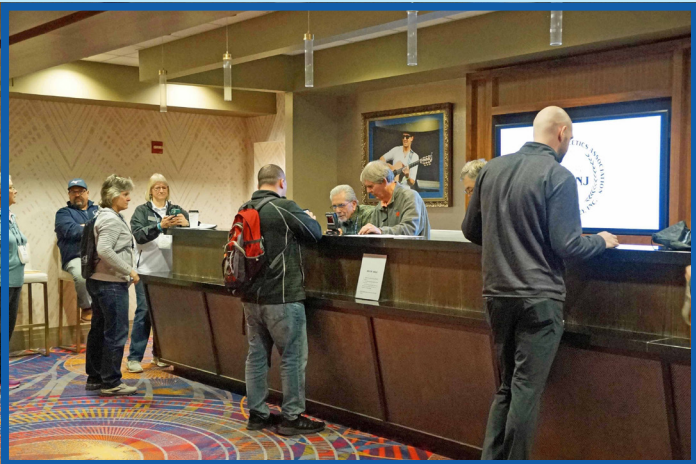






# DAANJ 62nd Annual Workshop

“High School Athletics Today - Navigating the New Normal”









# DAANJ 62nd Annual Workshop

“High School Athletics Today - Navigating the New Normal”



## 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



**SnapRaise is a preferred partner of the DAANJ**





# 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 seventy one 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.

## 1960

Virgil Sasso of Fair Lawn High School was the President of the DAANJ. The annual Workshop was a one day outing held at Fairlawn High School. The one day format included speakers on various topics.

## 1972

Richard Lansing of Point Pleasant Boro High School was the President of DAANJ. The annual Workshop was a two day format , held at the Colony Motel in Atlantic City on March 21st & 22nd. There was no Keynote Speaker in 1972, only group discussions on some of the following topics; “Managing an Athletic Program”, “Role of the Director of Athletics in the Negotiating Process”, Accountability in Athletic Supervision”, and “Current Concerns at Athletic Contests”. Seven Retirees were honored in 1972 and there were 12 Exhibitors at the Workshop.

## 1978

Bob Feeney of Shore Regional High School was the President of DANJ. The annual Workshop had just moved to the Tamiment Country Club, in the Poconos, and was designed as a 3 day

format, from March 20th to 22nd. The Theme of the Workshop was “Preparing for the 80’s”. Rev. Angelo Palermo, Principal, Bishop Eustace High School was the Keynote Speaker, his topic, ‘Preparing for the 80’s’. Five Retirees were honored at the Awards Banquet, along with “Athletic Director of the Year”, Ben Maggio of Plainfield High School. There were 18 Exhibitors at the Workshop.

## 1989

George Maier of Haddon Township High School was the President of DAANJ. The annual Workshop was a four day format, held at Trump Plaza from March 20th to 23rd. Donny Conn, LosAngeles, California was the Keynote Speaker, his topic, ‘We are the Best Business, You and I’. Seventeen Retirees were honored in 1989 at the Awards Banquet. Robert Hopek of North Hunterdon Reg. High School was honored as the “Athletic Director of the Year”. There were 37 Exhibitors at the Workshop.



# A BLAST FROM THE PAST



## **A Blast from the Past - 2008 Inaugural Hall of Fame Class**

Ron San Fillipo, Derry Michael, Steve Timko, Bob Hopek, Frank Baldachino, Tony Gedaka

Post Humous selections: Anthony Bocchieri, Jay Dakelman, Robert Feeney, Joe Porcaro, Dave Salberg,  
Virgil Sasso

# Meet your DAANJ Board of Trustees



## Joe Novak, ESQ. DAANJ Legal Counsel

The DAANJ has been very fortunate to have Attorney Joe Novak to serve as a member of our Board of Trustees as well as legal counsel for our organization. Joe, commonly referred to as “the Judge” by DAANJ Board of Trustee members, has served our organization pro bono since 1985.

Joe has a long career of exemplary legal practice and service to the community. His resume demonstrates that Joe is a man of integrity and honesty with a strong moral compass in all situations, whether professionally or in his private life. That is, Joe has established himself as an attorney, Judge, Hunterdon County Bar President and Trustee of the New Jersey State Bar Association, coach, and father along with his service to the DAANJ. He has received many honors and awards both in the legal and community at large.

A list of Joe’s professional activities and awards would take pages to list. He has countless number of appointments and positions from the New Jersey Supreme Court and New Jersey State Bar Association to the local County level. He has served as Municipal Attorney and Judge in several New Jersey communities.

Joe’s community involvement outside of the legal profession has also been impressive. He has freely given of his time and expertise in many organizations, many of his activities centering around youth basketball in the Hunterdon County area.

\*Future editions will continue to  
introduce members of our BOT

Outstanding efforts and service to Interscholastic athletics has resulted in the following Interscholastic Awards:

2019 – Professional Meritorious Service Award from the DAANJ

2011 – Distinguished Service Award NIAAA

2002 – Service Award from the DAANJ

Not to be forgotten is Joe's professional service in nullifying the contract with the Golden Nugget and entering into our present contract with the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for our annual DAANJ Conference.

Joe was born in Bethlehem, Pa. and resides in Williams Twp. Pa. Joe and his wife Judith Novak, ESQ. form the Law Firm of Novak & Novak, LLC. The Novak's have six children, Dr. Joseph S. Novak, Jr.-OB-GYN; Judge Douglas L. Novak, J. F. C.; Jeffrey S. Novak – Senior Engineering Consultant; Attorney Jeremy T. M. Novak – Gulf County Counsel; Sarah E. Novak – Elementary teacher at the Newman School in New Orleans; and Matthew A. Novak – Senior Marketing Analyst.

## **NIAAA Certification Requirements for the CAA and CMAA Designation**

The DAANJ has set a goal for 2023 to have a minimum of 23 new CAA Certification for our New Jersey Athletic Administrators. For our members who have not yet started on the road to NIAAA Certification we have laid out the requirements for both the CAA and CMAA

### **CAA & CMAA Certification Requirements**

#### **CAA**

##### **Requirements:**

- Bachelor's Degree or higher from an accredited institution
- Two (2) or more years of experience as an athletic administrator
- Employed or retired from a school, school district or state athletic administration association, or state athletic/activities association in such capacity that the administration of interscholastic athletics is (was) among one's job responsibilities
- Completion of NIAAA Leadership Training Courses 501, 502, 503, 504 and 506. College and University course work will not be accepted unless the curriculum incorporates the entire content of the required Leadership Training Course
- Obtain the verifying signature of a principal, superintendent or state athletic administrators association executive director
- Read and abide by the NIAAA Code of Ethical and Professional Standards
- Candidate must provide copy of course completion certificates before taking the CAA exam, or submit an NIAAA transcript available through the membership portal
- Approval of Personal Data Form (PDF)
- Successfully complete the CAA Exam

#### **CMAA**

##### **Requirements:**

- Bachelor's Degree or higher from an accredited institution
- Have attained CAA designation
- Approval of Personal Data Form (PDF)
- Employed or retired from a school, school district, state athletic administrator association or state athletic/activities association in such capacity that the administration of interscholastic athletics is (was) among one's job responsibilities
- All requirements and PDF credits earned since CAA designation, except for leadership training courses
- Submission of supporting documentation



- Completion of NIAAA Leadership Training Courses 501, 502, 503, 504, 506, 508, and 510. College and university course work will not be accepted unless the curriculum incorporates the entire content of the required Leadership Training Course
- Completion of minimum of five (5) LTI electives ( one course each from 600 and 700 categories and three courses from any level (500, 600, 700, 900)
- Completion of a graduate level written project or oral presentation
- Obtain the verifying signature of a principal, superintendent or state athletic administrators association staff
- Read and abide by the NIAAA Code of Ethical and Professional Standards
- Candidate must provide copy of course completion certificates with PDF or submit an NIAAA transcript available through the membership portal

# IN MEMORIAM

## THOSE WE LOST IN FALL & WINTER OF 2022

CHARLES  
"CHUCK"  
M. EARLING

Charles M. "Chuck" Earling passed away on December 30, 2022 at the age of 75. He is survived by his wife, Margaret and children; Charles III, Jennifer, Ashley, Kyle and Kevin and the late Chad.

Chuck was a longtime Administrator in the Washington Twp. School District. He was an outstanding Athletic Director, Principal and eventually Superintendent of Schools. He was an outstanding mentor to athletic administrators throughout South Jersey. He was known for his compassionate spirit and his sense of humor and loyalty.

He was a stalwart member of the DAANJ, being selected the 'New Jersey Athletic Director of the Year' in 1997 and inducted into the 'Hall of Fame' in 2022.

STEVEN P.  
GAZDEK

Steve Gazdek passed away on February 27, 2023 at the age of 63. Steve was a graduate of Trenton State College. He worked for 26 years for the Hamilton Twp. Board of Education before retiring in 2021 as the Athletic Director at Steinert High School. He coached Football for over 30 years at Trenton State College, Hamilton West High School and the Jackson AYF. He received the 'Contribution to Amateur Football Award' by the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation. In 2019 Steve was inducted into the TCNJ Health and Exercise Science Wall of Fame.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Kathryn Gazdek, children, Kimberly Kinder and husband Christopher and Steven Dane Gazdek; his siblings Robert Gazdek and Ruthanne Picos and husband Andres.

# IN MEMORIAM

THOSE WE LOST IN FALL & WINTER OF 2022

## FRANK J. CAPRARO

Frank Capraro passed away on September 12, 2022. He was 94 years old. He was a lifelong resident of Woodbridge Township. Frank was a Veteran serving in Japan in the Army of Occupation. He earned his bachelor's and master's Degrees from Rutgers University. Frank was a three sport athlete at Woodbridge High school and also played Football at Rutgers.

Frank became a teacher, coach and then an administrator in the Woodbridge school district for 40 years, he also taught and coached at Trenton Central High School and was the Athletic Director at J. P. Stevens High School. He was involved in education for 60 years, retiring at the age of 81.

He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Rosemarie Borbone Capraro; his sisters Rose Tamburello and Lucille Wells; his brothers Dr. Vincent Capraro and John Capraro. He is survived by his daughter Patricia Capraro and husband Ken Zrinski; his son James Capraro and his wife Sharon; his sister Dr. Dolores Gioffre; his grandchildren Frank, Chad and Sarah; and many nieces and nephews.

## GEORGE RAO

The former Athletic Director at Brick Memorial High School passed away on November 9, 2022 following a brief illness. George was 85 years old. Surviving George are his wife of 62 years, Virginia "Ginger" Rao and two sons, Christopher Rao and his wife Kimberly and Anthony Rao and his wife Marie, and three Grandchildren.

George attended Davis & Elkins College on a Football Scholarship. After graduating he taught at Randolph-Henry High School in Virginia for four years. He moved to Lakewood (NJ) High School where he coached football, basketball and track and was inducted into the Lakewood Sports Hall of Fame.

He then moved onto the 'new' Brick Memorial High School where he became the first Athletic Director and Assistant Principal. George was a well-respected athletic administrator in the Shore Conference.



# The DAANJ has an active role in Social Media.



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