

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



NEWS RELEASE

Phoenix to host 48th annual National Athletic Directors Conference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 29, 2017) — The Phoenix (Arizona) Convention Center is slated to host more than 2,000 athletic administrators, spouses, guests and exhibitors who will converge on the “Valley of the Sun” December 8-12 for the 48th annual National Athletic Directors Conference (NADC).

The country’s largest meeting of high school athletic directors is co-sponsored by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) of Indianapolis.

The first-ever NADC in Phoenix begins Friday, December 8, with several NIAAA committee meetings. The full conference begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 9, with registration in the lower-level Exhibit Hall. The Opening General Session begins at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday.

John Croyle, the founder of Big Oak Ranch, Inc., serves as the opening session’s keynote speaker. Croyle is a highly regarded professional speaker, and a former all-American football player under coach Paul “Bear” Bryant at the University of Alabama.

The Closing General Session at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, features keynote speaker Anthony Robles. Robles, a former member of the Arizona State University wrestling team, captured the 2011 NCAA individual wrestling championship in the 125-pound weight class despite being born with only one leg. His college wrestling career concluded with more than 100 victories and being recognized

as a three-time all-American. Robles also was the recipient of the Jimmy V Award of Perseverance at the ESPYs in 2011.

Workshop sessions for this year's NADC get underway at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 10. Key topics for the 40 workshops include citizenship, hazing/bullying, multi-sport participation, issues with parents, social media, transgender policies, Title IX compliance and safety for afterschool activities.

In addition to networking opportunities, NIAAA Leadership Training Institute (LTI) courses will provide professional development opportunities for attendees. The first session of LTI classes begins at 10:30 a.m. on December 9, and the final session takes place at 11 a.m. on December 11.

Eight athletic directors will be recognized with NFHS Citations for their contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels. The Citation recipients will receive their awards Monday, December 11, during the Conference Luncheon.

NFHS Citation recipients include **Marc Haught**, CMAA, executive director, Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association; **Michael Krueger**, CMAA, district athletic director, Aurora (Colorado) Public Schools; **Wendy Malich**, CAA, district athletic director, Franklin Pierce School District, Tacoma, Washington; **Jon Payne**, CMAA, assistant principal/director of athletics, Reading (Ohio) High School; **Colin Roy**, CAA, athletic director, Hall-Dale High School, Farmingdale, Maine; **Jamie Sheetz**, CMAA, athletic director, Park City (Utah) High School; **Jeffrey Sitz**, CMAA, director of athletics, Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and **Myles Wilson**, CAA, district athletic administrator for athletic facilities and operations, Spartanburg (South Carolina) School District.

The NIAAA will present its Distinguished Service Awards to 11 athletic administrators during the Conference Banquet on December 12. This year's winners include **Steve Bridge**, CMAA, former athletic director, Elma (Washington) School District; **Andy Chiles**, CMAA, athletic director, Lake Nona High School, Orlando, Florida; **Brent Cook**, CMAA, assistant principal for activities/athletics, Dubuque (Iowa) Senior High School; **Lane Green**, CMAA, district director of athletics and activities, Blue Valley School District, Overland Park, Kansas; **Lawrence Johnson**, CAA, retired athletic director, Alamogordo (New Mexico) High School; **Everett Kelepolo**, CMAA, principal, Springville (Utah) High School; **Mike McGurk**, CMAA, activities director/assistant principal, Lee's Summit (Missouri) North High School; **D. Scott Morris**, CAA, director of student activities, Fluvanna County High School, Palmyra, Virginia; **Paul Pendleton**, assistant principal, Tennessee High School, Bristol, Tennessee; **Trish Witkin**, director of

athletics, Glastonbury (Connecticut) High School; and **Steve Young**, director of athletics, New Rochelle (New York) City School District.

Other athletic directors who will receive NIAAA awards during Tuesday's banquet are **Darryl Nance**, CMAA, athletic administrator, Greenville (South Carolina) County Schools, Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award; **Rick Johnson**, CAA, retired athletic administrator, Peoria Unified School District, Glendale, Arizona, Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence; and **Lee Green, J.D.**, attorney and professor emeritus, Baker University, Overland Park, Kansas, Award of Merit.

The banquet and conference conclude with the induction of six athletic directors into the NIAAA Hall of Fame. Those being recognized this year include **Ron Belinko**, CMAA, retired athletic administrator, Baltimore County (Maryland) Public Schools; **John Evers**, CMAA, retired director of athletics, Newburgh (Indiana) Castle High School; **Sandy Hadaway**, CMAA, retired athletic administrator, Salem (Virginia) High School; **Marc Hunter**, CMAA, retired director of athletics, Jordan High School, Sandy, Utah, and current executive director of the Utah Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association; **Larry Munksgaard**, CAA, retired athletic director, Lincoln (Nebraska) Southeast High School; and **John Van Fleet**, retired athletic administrator, Morris, Illinois.

About the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA)

The NIAAA is the professional organization for interscholastic athletic administrators. The association is accredited by AdvancED and North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. Based in Indianapolis, Indiana, the NIAAA promotes and enhances the profession of athletic administration for high school and middle school athletic administrators. Since 1977, the NIAAA has served those who lead education-based athletic programs in the nation's schools. With current individual membership of nearly 11,000, the NIAAA consists of members from athletic administrator associations in the 50 states, and the District of Columbia, as well as over 40 international countries. Through its 48-course curriculum, and four levels of certification, the NIAAA is the national leader in providing professional development for athletic administrators, directors, coordinators, and supervisors, as well as those serving in assistant principal/athletic director, or activity/athletic director combined roles that lead school-based sports programs. While providing best-practices and serving as a resource for safe and plentiful participation opportunities for student-athletes, the NIAAA places further focus on member benefits, standards, communication, outreach, and recognition, while emphasizing the exchange of ideas among athletic administrators throughout the nation and the world. NIAAA champions the profession of athletic administration through education opportunities, advocating ethics, developing leaders and fostering community. The NIAAA, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, is a full and equal partner with the NFHS. For more information, visit the NIAAA website at www.niaaa.org.

About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the

high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.8 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org.

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