



## NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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### 2011 NIAAA Hall of Fame Class Selected

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 21, 2011) — Twelve high school athletic directors will be inducted into the third Hall of Fame class of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) December 13 in Indianapolis, Indiana, during banquet festivities at the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual National Athletic Directors Conference co-sponsored by the NIAAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

This year's conference will be held December 9-13 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

The 2011 NIAAA Hall of Fame class includes **Fred Balsamo**, CMAA, Wallingford, Connecticut; **Robert Buckanavage**, Yardley, Pennsylvania; **Priscilla Dillow**, CMAA, Plainfield, Indiana; **Thomas E. Frederick**, (deceased), NFHS staff; **Alan Mallanda**, CMAA, Lake Luzerne, New York; **Herb Meyer**, CAA, Oceanside, California; **Bruce Miller**, Ed.D., Las Vegas, Nevada; ; **Arthur Newcomer**, Ed.D., CAA, Overland Park, Kansas; **John Olson**,

CMAA, Ph.D., Madison, Wisconsin; **James Omps**, CAA, Winchester, Virginia; **Martin Ryan**, CMAA, Wells, Maine; and **Barbara Twardus**, CAA, Seattle, Washington.

Following are biographical sketches of the twelve members of the 2011 NIAAA Hall of Fame class:

### **Fred Balsamo, CMAA, Connecticut**

Fred Balsamo has served as executive director of the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD) since 2006 after 28 years as director of athletics in two Connecticut public school systems. His contributions at the local, state and national levels are second to none.

Before devoting full-time duties to the CAAD, Balsamo was director of athletics and student activities for the Middletown (Connecticut) Public Schools from 1979 to 1996, and director of athletics for the East Haven (Connecticut) Public Schools from 1996 to 2007. Before moving into administration, Balsamo was a teacher and coach at Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Middletown.

In both the Middletown and East Haven school districts, Balsamo rebuilt all aspects of the programs. Under his philosophy of “it’s all about the kids,” student-athlete participation tripled, and he moved the program from a dysfunctional level to a position of prominence within the state.

At the state level, Balsamo has devoted more than 30 years of service to the CAAD, the Connecticut High School Coaches Association and the Connecticut Association of Schools/Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CAS/CIAC).

Before assuming the CAAD executive director position in 2006, Balsamo was president-elect (1986–1987) and president (1988–1989). He continues to serve as

CAAD state conference chairperson and state faculty chairperson for the coaching education program. Within the CAS/CIAC, Balsamo has served as coaching certification instructor since 1989. He developed the state's first curriculum to meet the State Department of Education's requirement for coaching certification.

At the national level, Balsamo was president of the NIAAA in 1990. During his presidency, the CAA test was implemented at the local level and term limits were established for committees. During his time in the NIAAA, he was a member of the Board of Directors and Publications Committee and chairman of the Fundraising Ad Hoc Committee. He has served on the Leadership Training National Faculty since 1996.

Balsamo, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Southern Connecticut State University, has received Distinguished Service Awards from four different associations, including the NIAAA in 1996. Other honors include the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 1991 and the NFHS Citation in 1991.

### **Robert Buckanavage, Pennsylvania**

Robert "Bob" Buckanavage has been executive director of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA) since his retirement from the Pennsbury (Pennsylvania) School District in 1998. Buckanavage served in the Pennsbury School District for 29 years, including 23 years as director of athletics.

After graduating from Temple (Pennsylvania) University in 1963, Buckanavage began his career as a teacher and coach in the Riverside (Pennsylvania) School District for six years before moving to Pennsbury in 1969.

Buckanavage's accomplishments as PSADA executive director have been remarkable. He launched the organization's Web site in 2001, facilitated the first

strategic plan in 2002, developed a partnership with the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society in 2003 and established the first delegate assembly in 2007.

Buckanavage also established the Pennsylvania Alliance in Sport Committee in 2006 and launched the PSADA Foundation in 2010 with a goal of raising \$250,000 to benefit student-athletes, coaches and athletic administrators in perpetuity. In addition, he has secured corporate sponsorships for the PSADA totaling \$1.3 million since 1991. Prior to becoming executive director, he was PSADA president and served on the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Board of Control. He published the first PSADA newsletter in 1982 and has been editor since 1989.

As the first official executive director of a state athletic directors association, Buckanavage was instrumental in the formation of the National Executive Directors Council (NEDC). He was elected to a two-year term as NEDC chairman in 2010.

A member of the NIAAA for 30 years, Buckanavage served as a state delegate and presented Leadership Training Courses from 1999 to 2003. He was also a representative on the National Federation Interscholastic Coaches Education Program Review Committee (NFICEP) as well as a contributor to the "Student Activities: An Integral Part of Education" presentation created by the NFHS and NIAAA in 1995.

The list of publications and presentations created and given by Buckanavage is expansive. From 1980 to 2001, Buckanavage contributed to 16 publications for the PSADA, NFICEP and Pennsylvania Department of Education. He was the editor for half of those works, including PSADA's "A Guide to Evaluating Coaches" in May 2001. He has also given 13 presentations for the PSADA Conference since 1982, with his most recent one, "Dealing with Challenging Personalities," coming in March 2003. Buckanavage has also given presentations for the National Athletic Directors Conference, the

Pennsylvania School Boards Association Conference and for state associations in North Carolina, Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey.

Among his awards, Buckanavage received the PSADA Distinguished Service Award in 1989, the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 1991 and the NFHS Citation in 2000. He was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Pennsbury School District Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

### **Priscilla Dillow, CMAA, Indiana**

Priscilla Dillow retired as the athletic director and assistant principal at Indianapolis (Indiana) Ben Davis High School in 2002 following an impressive 34-year career as a teacher, coach and athletic director.

In addition to her 34 years as athletic director, Dillow experienced great success as a coach at Ben Davis. During her 15-year career as the varsity volleyball coach, Dillow compiled a 329–89 record and led her team to a state championship in 1979. She also coached two state runner-up teams in 1972 and 1978. Dillow also coached varsity tennis (1974–76), gymnastics (1968–73), softball, basketball, track and field hockey at various times.

Among her accomplishments at Ben Davis, Dillow organized and implemented girls sports programs and led a \$90 million, five-year renovation project for school facilities. She hosted numerous Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) events, and Ben Davis teams won 20 state championships during her tenure.

Despite retiring from school duties in 2002, Dillow has stayed active as executive director of the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (IIAAA) since 2007 and as the secretary for the National Executive Directors Council since 2010. Dillow served on the IIAAA Board of Directors for 12 years and was the first female to

be elected president in 1993–94. She also was vice president, district director, advisory member and Leadership Training Course instructor. Dillow served two terms on the IHSAA Board of Directors and was the first female to serve in that capacity in 1995.

Dillow has been associated with the NIAAA for 32 years. She served as chair of the Endowment Committee from 2002 to 2005 and was on the Hall of Fame Committee from 1997 to 2000. She has also served as a member of the organization's Professional Development Committee (1991–96), Strategic Plan Committee (2001) and Blue Ribbon Panel (1989). In addition, Dillow was a speaker and moderator at the National Athletic Directors Conference in 1985, 1992 and 2008.

Dillow has received 20 different awards and recognitions since 1984, including an NFHS Citation in 1995, NIAAA State Award of Merit in 1999, NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2003 and an Indiana Women of Achievement of Award from Ball State (Indiana) University this year. She has also been named to three halls of fame as well as the Ben Davis High School Alumni Wall of Fame.

Dillow, who graduated from Ben Davis, received her bachelor's degree from Ball State University and her master's from Indiana University. She served as a teacher and coach at Jay County Schools from 1965 to 1967 before moving on to Ben Davis in 1968.

### **Thomas E. Frederick Jr., Missouri**

The late Tom Frederick was the pioneer of the high school athletic administration profession in the United States during his 22 years on the NFHS administrative staff.

After joining the NFHS in 1967, Frederick started the National Conference of High School Directors of Athletics in 1971, the Interscholastic Athletic Administration

(IAA) magazine in 1974 and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) in 1977.

Frederick began his career as a coach at Waterloo (Wisconsin) High School in 1948. In 1950, Frederick moved on to Barrington (Illinois) High School, where he served as athletic director and coach for football and track. As football coach at Barrington, he compiled an 81–20–4 record in 13 seasons and won six conference titles. He also coached four undefeated teams and was instrumental in the founding of the school's Quarterback Club.

At the state level, Frederick had a four-year tenure as assistant executive secretary of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) from 1963 to 1967. During his time with the IHSA, he assigned officials for state basketball tournaments and managed the wrestling and track state tournaments. He was also the editor of the state athletic magazine.

Frederick joined the NFHS staff in 1967 as director of the film program. He was named assistant director in 1975 and associate director in 1977 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1989. He passed away on October 10, 1990.

Frederick organized the first National Athletic Directors Conference in St. Louis in 1971 with 250 athletic directors in attendance. The final conference organized by Frederick in 1989 drew more than 1,500 athletic administrators and more than 300 exhibitors.

During the mid-1970s, Frederick began crafting the framework for what would become the NIAAA. The organization was officially formed in 1977, and the first NIAAA officers were elected in 1978. Following the creation of the NIAAA, Frederick conducted the first national survey of athletic directors and published the results in the IAA

magazine. He led the NIAAA until his retirement in 1989, and the NIAAA established the Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence in 1988.

In his early years with the NFHS, Frederick was the director of film program and was responsible for the sports of football and track and field.

Frederick, who graduated from West Allis (Wisconsin) High School and the University of Wisconsin, received the NIAAA Award of Merit in 1980 and an Award of Excellence from the Virginia State High School Athletic Directors Association in 1989. He was inducted into the Illinois Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1981 and the National High School Hall of Fame in 1994.

### **Alan Mallanda, CMAA, New York**

Alan Mallanda retired in 2003 after 36 years as a teacher, coach, official and athletic administrator in four New York school districts. The final 20 years of his career were spent in the Corning–Painted Post Area (New York) School District.

Although he is retired from school duties, Mallanda is still active in athletic administration. He is currently serving as the executive director of the New York State Athletic Administrators Association (NYSAAA), a position he has held since 2000.

After serving as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and athletic director in three smaller New York school districts for 16 years, Mallanda became director of athletics in the Corning–Painted Post Area School District in 1983. He administered a physical education and athletics program for two high schools, two middle schools and nine elementary schools involving 5,800 students, 32 full-time staff and 125 coaches.

At the national level, Mallanda was a charter member of the NIAAA in 1977 and has since served as president (1993), chair of the Professional Development Committee (1989) and state delegate (1981–2000). Mallanda was a member of the NIAAA Board of



Directors from 1990 to 1994, a member of the first NIAAA Strategic Planning Committee and a conference workshop speaker on four separate occasions. He has been a member of the Leadership Training Institute's National Faculty since 1996, and he currently holds a position on the NIAAA's Accreditation Committee.

Mallanda was instrumental in co-authoring three national publications of the NFHS/NIAAA—"A Guide for College-Bound Student-Athletes and Their Parents," "A Profile for Athletic Administrators in the Nineties" and "Fund Raising Guidelines."

Mallanda is also a member of the National Executive Directors Council. He was one of the original eight individuals on the Organizing Committee and has been the Program Committee chair. He began a two-year term as vice chair to the Executive Board this year.

Mallanda has had a profound impact on athletic administration at the state level as well. Prior to serving as executive director for the NYSAAA for 11 years, he held the positions of president (1986), secretary (1983-1985), Professional Development chair (1981-83) and Finance Committee chair (1988-1999). He has also been the organization's newsletter editor and publisher since 2003 and delivered presentations at seven different NYSAAA Conferences between 1983 and 1998.

Mallanda, who received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from State University of New York, Cortland, is a member of the New York State Coaches Association's 100-win club in baseball. He has coached teams in baseball (10 years), football (eight years), gymnastics (eight years) and basketball (two years) and is also a certified New York State basketball official.

The honors bestowed upon Mallanda include the NFHS Citation in 1987, NIAAA State Award of Merit (1991) and NIAAA Award of Merit (2001). In 2011, Mallanda was

inducted into the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Section 4 Hall of Fame.

### **Herb Meyer, CAA, California**

Herb Meyer retired as director of athletics at Oceanside (California) El Camino High School in 2005, ending a prolific 34-year career in athletic administration at two high schools that involved establishing an athletics program at El Camino.

After serving as director of athletics at Oceanside High School from 1970 to 1975, Meyer played a large role in the opening of El Camino High School in 1976. He established the school's athletic program and served as the director of athletics until his retirement in 2005. Meyer also helped organize the San Diego County Athletic Directors Association in 1980 and was the organization's first president.

Meyer also served as head football coach at El Camino (1976–2003) and Oceanside (California) High School (1959–75). Between the two schools, he compiled 338 victories and won a combined 10 California Interscholastic Federation (CIF)–San Diego Section titles. He was the first coach in California history to exceed 300 victories, and he was the winningest coach in California history when he retired in 2003.

At the state level, Meyer has been a member of the CSADA since 1973. He was the president of the organization from 1982 to 1984, served on the Board of Directors from 1975 to 2006 and was the organization's NIAAA liaison from 1994 to 2006. Meyer has been a member of the California Coaches Association (CCA) since 1970 and was San Diego Section coordinator from 1998 to 2003. In addition, Meyer has been a member of the Southern California Interscholastic Football Coaches Association (SCIFCA) since 1961, has served on the Board of Directors since 1962 and was president in 1976. In addition, Meyer was a member of the San Diego Section of the CIF

Council from 1990 to 2005. He also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the High School Sports Association of San Diego and was president in 1997–98.

Nationally, Meyer has been a member of the NIAAA since 1978. He served on the organization's Board of Directors from 1985 to 1987 and was on the Certification Committee from 1987 to 1990. During his time on the Certification Committee, Meyer worked to validate the Certified Athletic Administrator exam. He would eventually administer the exam at the California State Athletic Directors Association (CSADA) Conference from 1995 to 2006.

Meyer has been a member of the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) since 1962 and was chair of the AFCA High School Committee in 1993–94. Since 1974, he has also been a member of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame.

Meyer, who earned his bachelor's degree from Pomona (California) College and his master's from Redlands (California) Community College, has received numerous awards and honors for his work as an athletic administrator and coach. He has been elected to six halls of fame, including the CCA's Hall of Fame and the National High School Hall of Fame. He was named the State Athletic Director of the Year by four associations in 1982 and has also received the NIAAA's Distinguished Service Award (1992), State Award of Merit (1992) and Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence (2002). Meyer has also received an NFHS Citation (1995), the State CIF Distinguished Service Award (1995), the CSADA Bob Troppman Lifetime Achievement Award (2006) and the CSADA Meritorious Award for Outstanding Service to the CSADA (2007).

**Dr. Bruce Miller, Nevada**

As the founding father of sports in the Clark County School District (CCSD) in greater Las Vegas, Nevada, Dr. Bruce Miller helped create, develop and structure many of the policies and procedures in place today.

From 1976 to 1992, Miller served as director of athletics and activities for the Clark County Schools – the fifth-largest school district in the United States. He concluded his career in education as the district’s assistant director of adult education from 1995 to 2000.

With a dedication to improving interscholastic athletics in southern Nevada, Miller began his career in education in the CCSD in 1958 as a teacher at J.D. Smith Junior High School in North Las Vegas. From 1960 to 1976, Miller worked as a teacher, coach, counselor and principal at four schools, including Western High School in Las Vegas.

Miller is a former president of the Nevada Athletic Directors Association and he served on the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association’s Board of Control. He also was president of both the Nevada Association of Secondary Schools Principals and the Nevada State Association for Secondary School Curriculum Development.

Miller was one of the first members of the NIAAA Athletic Directors Advisory Committee. Miller attended and presented at more than 12 National Athletic Directors Conferences, wrote several articles for IAA Magazine and developed a medical assistance program in which all student injuries were covered by the district medical plan for minimal cost.

Among his other accomplishments, Miller was honored with an NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 1981 and an NFHS Citation in 1984.

Miller’s early involvement included work as a football, basketball, baseball and softball official for the Southern Nevada Officials Association. He also worked as a

coach, volunteering as an assistant for the Las Vegas (Nevada) Rancho High School football and baseball teams from 1958 to 1960. Miller served as a member of the NFHS Football Rules Committee from 1984 to 1992.

A three-sport athlete in football, basketball and baseball at Pender High School in Pender, Nebraska, Miller earned his bachelor's degree from Wayne (Nebraska) State College, where he played football in 1955, and his master's degree in school administration from the University of Nevada, Reno. Miller, a Korean War veteran, achieved his doctorate degree in education from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

#### **Dr. Arthur Newcomer, CAA, Kansas**

Dr. Art Newcomer, CAA, was one of the greatest contributors to the athletic administration profession at the local, state and national levels. From serving as the first athletic director at Shawnee Mission East High School (Prairie Village, Kansas), to forming his state's athletic administrators association to his assistance with starting the NIAAA, Newcomer was the ultimate starter and creator.

When Newcomer was appointed as the first athletic director at Shawnee Mission East High School in 1965, only six varsity sport programs existed. During the next 30 years, however, Newcomer developed an athletic program that grew to 22 boys and girls sports. He started an all-sports booster club at East in 1968, which remains today as one of the strongest and most copied booster clubs in the greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

At the state level, Newcomer served on a committee of seven athletic directors that met in May 1969 in Wichita, Kansas, to form the Kansas Secondary School Athletic Directors Association (KSSADA). As a founding member of the KSSADA, now known as the Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (KIAAA), Newcomer has

actively served on its Board of Directors since 1969. He was president of the KIAAA from 1972 to 1974.

In 1977, Newcomer was again a founding father as he served on the organizing committee for the NIAAA. After the 1978–79 school year, Newcomer was appointed secretary/treasurer and remained on the NIAAA Board of Directors in that capacity for the next 15 years until his retirement in 1995. He also helped establish the NIAAA Endowment Committee and served as its first chair from 2000 to 2003.

Since his retirement – in addition to directing the NIAAA Endowment Golf Tournament from 2000 to 2006 – Newcomer has served as the director of numerous charitable golf tournaments including the University of Kansas Gale Sayers Golf Tournament, the Bethany College Alumni Golf Tournament and the Merlin Gish Golf Tournament, with proceeds going for scholarships for Sunflower League athletes.

Newcomer was named the KIAAA Athletic Director of the Year in 1977–78. Other honors include the NFHS Citation in 1978, the NIAAA State Award of Merit and the National Council of Secondary School Athletic Directors Athletic Director of the Year in 1990, the NIAAA Award of Merit in 1994, the Shawnee Mission Secondary Administrator of the Year in 1994–95, the University of Kansas Alumni Award in 2000 and the University of Kansas Hero Award in 2002. Also, Newcomer was inducted into the Bethany College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996 and the Kansas State High School Activities Association Hall of Fame in 1997.

Newcomer earned his bachelor's degree from Bethany (Kansas) College in 1955 and his master's from Fort Hays (Kansas) State University in 1959. He acquired his doctorate in education from the University of Kansas in 1975.

**Dr. John Olson, CMAA, Madison, Wisconsin**

Dr. John Olson, CMAA, has dedicated his life to education-based athletics, and his leadership and service to student-athletes and administrators have been felt at the local, state and national levels.

Olson began his career in interscholastic athletics in 1959, serving as a high school science teacher and junior high coach in the Madison (Wisconsin) School District. In 1963, Olson became a head football coach and by 1974 he was an assistant principal. After an eight-year stint as an undergraduate and graduate instructor at the University of Wisconsin, Olson returned to the Madison schools in 1987 as assistant superintendent, district athletics director and district security coordinator for 15 years until retiring in 2002.

While at Madison, Olson was the first administrator to develop a Title IX compliance framework, a coaches manual and a parent-athlete manual, all of which served as templates for other schools in the area.

At the state level, Olson was an active member of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association for 30 years, serving as a conference presenter and writer on numerous occasions. Olson also worked with the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association as a tournament manager for basketball, soccer and ice hockey.

A member of the NIAAA since 1984, Olson has served the organization in many capacities. He was part of a core group of members who created the first CAA exam. Following the administration of the first CAA examination, he performed validity and reliability studies that led to the creation of the NIAAA Certification Program and to the national recognition of the Certification Program by a national accreditation organization.

As a member of the NIAAA Publications Committee, he authored numerous articles for the IAA magazine and he helped align the committee's article review

standards with those of academic peer-referenced journals. However, it is in his role as NIAAA curriculum director where he has left his deep and lasting thumbprint on athletic administrators.

The NIAAA Leadership Training Institute has become an internationally recognized professional development program in large part because of Olson's efforts. During the 20 years he served as the curriculum director, he authored 15 LTI courses, and edited and contributed to the entire 30-plus course curriculum. He initiated college and university partnerships that led to the establishment of 10 certificate and master's degree-granting programs using the NIAAA LTI materials.

Olson, who has had a local playing field in Madison named after him, has been inducted into the Madison Wisconsin Sports Hall of Fame, the Wisconsin High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame, the National Secondary School Administrators Hall of Fame, the National High School Coaches Hall of Fame and the National High School Hall of Fame.

Along with his hall of fame honors, Olson has been awarded the NIAAA State Award of Merit, the NIAAA Award of Merit, the NIAAA Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award and the NFHS Citation.

Olson studied at the University of Wisconsin, where he achieved his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees. He was a member of the crew team at Wisconsin, and was a member of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association National Championship crew in 1959.

### **James Omps, CAA, Virginia**

James Omps' deep roots in Virginia interscholastic athletics began in 1957 as a teacher and coach at his alma mater – John Handley High School in Winchester,



Virginia. Omps, CAA, began his administrative career in 1967 as the director of athletics at John Handley. He quickly became involved in leadership opportunities at the district level, and in 1968–69, served his first term of many as chair of the Northwestern Athletic Director's Council (NWADC). Subsequently, he would serve as the NWADC secretary on six occasions between 1969 and 1995.

During his 28-year administrative tenure at John Handley, Omps directed district, regional and state events in cross country, girls volleyball, wrestling, boys basketball, girls gymnastics, golf, girls tennis, boys tennis, forensics and theatre festival. He also directed state championships in football, wrestling, boys tennis, girls tennis, and track and field. Omps has served as a referee, starter and appeals committee almost 50 years in track and field.

Omps served two years as the fourth president of the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (VIAAA) from 1979 to 1981. In 1980, Omps spearheaded the development of the VIAAA Policies–Operations and Procedures Manual, which is still in use today, and moved the state conference to a rotating regional site, increasing attendance significantly. Also, Omps served on the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Executive Committee from 1983 to 1988.

Attending his first National Athletic Directors Conference in 1974, Omps has attended 24 in his career. He is a charter member of the NIAAA and served a term on the Membership/Services Committee, including a year as chair in 1988–89. Omps participated on the Blue Ribbon Panel at the 1986 National Conference.

Among his numerous awards, Omps received the Virginia Athletic Director of the Year Award in 1977–78, the NFHS Citation in 1980, Region II Athletic Director of the Year in both 1980–81 and 1987–88, the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 1988,

the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 1990, the VHSL Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994 and the NIAAA Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence in 1995.

Omps, who earned his CAA in 1989, has been inducted into several halls of fame, including the Shepherd University Hall of Fame in 1991, the John Handley Hall of Fame in 1992, and the VHSL Hall of Fame in 1996. In April 2010, Handley named its gymnasium in honor of Omps.

Omps was a basketball player and track and field athlete during his high school days at Handley, and set the school long jump record in 1953. He continued his athletic career at Shepherd (West Virginia) University, where he started as a freshman in basketball and lettered every year. He earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education from Shepherd, and then received his master's degree in secondary administration from the University of Virginia.

### **Marty Ryan, CMAA, Maine**

Marty Ryan, CMAA, completed an outstanding 29-year career as an athletic administrator in 2009 and now devotes full-time duties to his position of executive director of the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA).

Ryan began his career in education as a business teacher at Narragansett Regional High School in Baldwinville, Massachusetts in 1969. He also coached football, basketball and baseball.

In 1980, Ryan became athletic director at Wells (Maine) High School, and then director of student activities in 1987. During his tenure, Ryan was an active member of the Principals Advisory Committee, and served as a consultant for renovation and construction of additions to Wells. In addition, Ryan designed a new athletic complex

to accommodate fields for track, softball, baseball, football practice and soccer game/practice field.

In 2001, Ryan accepted the director of athletics position at Kennebunk (Maine) High School. He designed and instituted a plan for renovations and remodeling of Veterans Field at Kennebunk, as well as assisted in the organization and design of athletic fields for Kennebunk Middle School. Ryan added volleyball, freshman boys and girls soccer, freshman field hockey, junior varsity boys and girls swimming and middle school cheering teams to the Kennebunk athletic curriculum.

Ryan has been an MIAAA member since 1980, and is currently serving as the MIAAA executive director and on the Executive Board. He has been a member of the NIAAA since 1982, where he was a representative to the National Conference from 1985 to 1999. Ryan is the state liaison for Maine, a position he has held since 1994.

Ryan's contributions to the NIAAA are extensive. He served on the Board of Directors and was president in 2001. He served on the NIAAA Awards Committee and Strategic Plan Committee, and has been on the Leadership Training National Faculty. Ryan also has assisted the NFHS by serving on the NFHS Citizenship Committee and Strategic Plan Committee. He currently is a member of the NFHS Wrestling Rules Committee.

Ryan, who has served on the National Executive Directors Council since 2001, has been recognized with multiple honors including MIAAA Athletic Director of the Year in 1987, NIAAA State Award of Merit in 1994, NFHS Citation in 1995, NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 1997 and National Council of Secondary School Athletic Directors National Athletic Director of the Year in 2005. Ryan was inducted into the Wells High School Hall of Fame in 2005 and the Narragansett Regional Hall of Fame in 2007.

Ryan received his bachelor's degree from the American International (Massachusetts) College. Ryan also took graduate courses at the University of Southern Maine, Clark (Massachusetts) University, the University of Massachusetts and Fitchburg State (Massachusetts) College.

### **Barbara Twardus, CAA, Washington**

For someone whose initial goal was to teach at the high school level, Barb Twardus became one of the top female athletic administrators in the nation. Twardus retired in 1999 to conclude a 31-year career as a teacher, coach and administrator for the Seattle Public Schools, where she became the first female director of the Seattle School District athletic program.

Twardus coached volleyball and basketball in the early days of girls interscholastic athletic programs in Washington. She also served as dean of students for two years and as assistant district coordinator of athletics for nine years before being named the first female coordinator of athletics of the Seattle Public Schools, a position she held for 14 years. At the outset of her tenure as coordinator of athletics, Twardus implemented a comprehensive safety program that drew national attention. Twardus provided direction and assistance to individual schools and school districts in the majority of states.

At the state level, Twardus was active in the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA), where she served on its executive board for 10 years, including a term as president in 1986-87, and the Washington Secondary Schools Athletic Administrators Association (WSSAAA), where she served on its executive board and as president in 1978. In 1999, Twardus was inducted into the WSSAAA Hall of Fame and

received the Gareth Giles Award, given by the WIAA in recognition of distinguished service to the youth of Washington.

During her 23 years in athletic administration, Twardus devoted 19 years to providing leadership at the national level. She was the first female president of the NIAAA in 1985. She also served on the NFHS Athletic Directors Advisory Committee. She was the first chairperson of the NIAAA Political Action and Resolutions Committee and was called back from NIAAA retirement to head the Diversity Committee and develop goals and a mission statement for that organization. In fact, Twardus was invited by the NFHS to serve on the original organizing committee that formed the NIAAA in 1977.

Twardus received the NFHS Citation in 1978 for her outstanding contributions to interscholastic athletics. Other honors include the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 1988 and the NIAAA Award of Merit in 1990. She was among the original class to earn Certified Athletic Administrator status.

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*Biographical profiles for this press release were written by Shane Monaghan, a fall intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications and Events Departments, and Colin Likas, a fall intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department and a sophomore at Butler (Indiana) University.*

#### **About the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA)**

The NIAAA is the largest national organization for high school athletic administrators with more than 8,500 individual members. The NIAAA consists of athletic director organizations in the 50 states plus the District of Columbia and provides an efficient system for exchange of ideas between the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and state athletic administrators organizations as

well as individual athletic administrators. The NIAAA, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, strives to preserve the educational nature of interscholastic athletics and the place of these programs in the curricula of schools. The NIAAA is a full and equal partner with the NFHS.

### **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 7.6 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 Web site at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

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