

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE  
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**



**NEWS RELEASE**

**New NFHS Officers, Board Members Elected**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Bruce Howard**

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (July 11, 2011) — **Rick Wulkow**, executive director of the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), is the new president of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) for 2011–12. Wulkow, the 52<sup>nd</sup> president of the NFHS, began his one-year term July 5 following the NFHS Summer Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Kevin Charles**, executive director of the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA), was elected by the NFHS Board of Directors to the position of president-elect for the upcoming year.

In addition, three new NFHS Board of Directors members were approved for four-year terms. All Board of Directors members were approved by the NFHS National Council. **Tom Mezzanotte**, executive director of the Rhode Island Interscholastic

League (RIIL), Section 1; **Lance Taylor**, executive director of the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA), Section 6; and **Linda Henrie**, superintendent of the Mesquite (Texas) Independent School District (MISD), at large, Sections 2 and 6, will begin their terms this year.

Wulkow, who has served on the NFHS Board of Directors for three years, was named IHSAA executive director in 2005 after 25 years as assistant executive director. Prior to joining the IHSAA, Wulkow was a teacher and football, track and baseball coach at Radcliffe (Iowa) High School (1967–70) and Denison (Iowa) High School (1970–75), where he also was athletic director. He then was an assistant football coach at the University of South Dakota for two years before returning to the high school level as principal at Paullina (Iowa) High School (1977–78) and Jefferson (Iowa) High School (1978–80).

Wulkow, a highly respected basketball official for almost 30 years, was a member of the NFHS Strategic Planning Committee and a former chairperson of the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee. As an official, he worked 11 postseason collegiate tournaments, including five with the NCAA. He was interim commissioner and supervisor of officials for the Iowa Intercollegiate Conference and also served as an observer of football and basketball officials for the Big 12 Conference, as well as an officials scout for the National Football League. A longtime member of the National

Association of Sports Officials (NASO), Wulkow was selected president of the NASO Board of Directors for 2010–11.

Wulkow received his bachelor's degree from Buena Vista (Iowa) University and his master's degree in school administration from the University of South Dakota.

Charles joined the DIAA in 2004 as coordinator of officials and was named executive director in 2005. He previously was employed by the Delaware Division of Public Health for 25 years before his retirement in 2004.

A longtime member of the Delaware Wrestling Officials Association (DWOA), Charles was a wrestling official for 31 years and served on the DWOA Board of Directors for more than 25 years. In addition, he served 17 years as an officials assignor and worked seven years as the DIAA state wrestling rules interpreter. He chaired the DIAA State Wrestling Committee for five years and was the DIAA State Wrestling Tournament Director for five years for both dual and individual tournaments.

A graduate of Dover (Delaware) High School, Charles has a bachelor of science degree in biology from the University of Delaware and a master of science degree in athletic administration from Delaware State University.

Mezzanotte was named executive director of the RIIL in 2004, after serving more than 30 years in the Providence (Rhode Island) School Department. He has held administrative positions at various high schools and middle schools in Rhode Island,

including assistant principal of Mount Pleasant High School and head principal at S.W. Bridgham Middle School and Providence Classical High School. In addition, he served in central administration as the executive director of student support services for the Providence School District.

Mezzanotte's involvement in high school athletics started in 1972, when he coached varsity football at Johnston (Rhode Island) High School as well as varsity girls volleyball at Providence Central High School.

Mezzanotte had extensive involvement with the RIIL prior to joining the staff. He was a member of the RIIL Principals' Committee on Athletics for 10 years and served terms as chairman and director of football.

Mezzanotte previously served on the Rhode Island Association of School Principals Executive Board. He has received many awards, including the 2011 Rhode Island Athletic Trainers Association Service Award and the 2008 United States Scholar-Athlete "Power of Good Award."

Mezzanotte received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Providence (Rhode Island) College.

Taylor was named executive director of the AAA in 2006, after seven years as the organization's associate executive director (2000-03), deputy executive director

(2003–05) and executive director–elect (2005–06). Prior to joining the AAA in 2000, he was a teacher, coach and principal at three Arkansas schools for 13 years.

After graduating from Arkansas State University (ASU) in 1987, Taylor began his career as a teacher and coach at Hot Springs (Arkansas) Cutter Morning Star High School (1988–93) and Greenwood (Arkansas) High School (1993–98). He then served two one–year stints as a high school principal at Greenwood High School and Batesville (Arkansas) High School.

Taylor’s involvement on NFHS committees has been extensive. In only 11 years on the AAA staff, he has held positions on the Football Rules Committee, Soccer Rules Committee, Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, Citizenship Committee and Strategic Planning Committee. He currently serves on the NFHS Appeal Board.

A certified principal and superintendent and Arkansas native, Taylor received his master’s degree in secondary administration from ASU in 1992.

Superintendent of the MISD since 2005, Henrie has more than 40 years of experience in secondary education. She has worked in the Mesquite ISD since 1967, where she started as a business teacher at Mesquite High School 44 years ago. Henrie has served the MISD in a variety of administrative positions, including assistant superintendent for instructional services and deputy superintendent.

Henrie was president of the Texas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development from 2003 to 2005 and holds numerous current leadership positions with the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL). She is chair of the UIL Legislative Council, and UIL District Chair for 2010–11. She has been a member of the UIL Legislative Council since 2004. Henrie also is treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors for Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas.

A respected figure in the MISD community, Henrie was nominated for both the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) Administrator of the Year and the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Awards. In 2001, she was named one of the 100 Heroes of MISD.

Henrie received her undergraduate degree from Stephen F. Austin (Texas) University and her master's degree from the University of North Texas. She received her mid-management certification from Texas Woman's University, and was awarded her doctorate in educational administration from Texas A&M University–Commerce.

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*This press release was written by Eamonn Reynolds, a summer intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department and a rising senior at Ohio University.*

**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 fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine 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; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; 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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