

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**



NEWS RELEASE

TSSAA to Co-Host 93rd Annual NFHS Summer Meeting

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (June 27, 2012) — The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) and two of its member schools will play key roles in the 93rd annual National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Summer Meeting beginning July 7 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville.

About 15 students from Springfield (Tennessee) High School will lead the “We Are High School[®]” Student Program July 8 during the Opening General Session. Under the direction of Lisa Whitworth, choral director, Springfield students will be involved in various musical and speaking performances.

Bernard Childress, TSSAA executive director, will open the session, which also will include a special celebration of the 40th anniversary of Title IX and presentation of

the National High School Spirit of Sport Award to Jacob Goldberg of Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

In addition, Pearl-Cohn High School in Nashville will host the Samaritan's Feet Community Service Event on July 10. Attendees at the NFHS Summer Meeting will be volunteering their services for three hours to distribute shoes to those in need. More than 560 students from Pearl-Cohn High School and surrounding middle schools have signed up to receive shoes. The volunteers will be involved in measuring guests' feet to ensure proper size, washing guests' feet, retrieving proper shoes sizes and organizing the shoe store.

The vision of Samaritan's Feet and its president Manny Ohonme is to give away 10 million pairs of shoes to needy children in 10 years.

The NFHS is the national leadership organization for high school athletic and performing arts activities and its membership is composed of the TSSAA and state high school associations in the other 49 states plus the District of Columbia. About 800 individuals are expected to attend the Summer Meeting, including staff members and board members from the 51 member associations.

Discussion of several key issues affecting high school sports and performing arts highlight this year's agenda, along with the 30th annual induction ceremony of the National High School Hall of Fame.

Among the topics that will be discussed at the 44 workshops are video streaming of state tournaments, summer participation, apps for mobile phones, virtual schools, crowd control, social networking, emergency plan for catastrophic injuries and legal issues.

Twelve individuals will be inducted into the 2012 National High School Hall of Fame class, including longtime volleyball coach **Catherine Neely** of Chattanooga East Ridge High School, basketball stars **Kevin Johnson** of California and **Fred Hoiberg** of Iowa, former Heisman Trophy winner **Pat Sullivan** of Alabama, and former executive director of the NFHS, **Bob Kanaby**.

In addition to Johnson, Hoiberg and Sullivan, the other former high school athlete in this year's Hall of Fame class is **Tracy Hill**, the top scorer in Colorado girls basketball history from Ridgway High School.

Besides Neely, other high school coaches slated for induction this year include **Ronald Bradley**, who won more than 1,000 basketball games at eight Georgia high schools during a 49-year career; **Rod Harman**, who completed his 54th season as a head swimming coach in Oregon this past year at the age of 84; and **Larry Luitjens**, the winningest basketball coach in South Dakota history from Custer High School.

Truman Owens, a multi-sport official for 50 years from Clinton, South Carolina, who is still active in football at the age of 80, and **Robert "Bob" White**, one of the top

high school soccer officials in the nation from Caribou, Maine, are this year's honorees in the Officials category.

Rounding out the 2012 class is **Jan Heiteen**, speech coach at Downers Grove (Illinois) South High School since 1980 who has led her teams to 16 Illinois High School Association state speech championships.

Merril Hoge, ESPN football analyst, will speak at the Closing General Session on Wednesday, July 11. Hoge, a former running back with the Pittsburgh Steelers and Chicago Bears, will deliver an inspiring message about his fight with cancer.

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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.

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