

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE  
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



## NEWS RELEASE

### New NFHS Officers, Board Members Elected

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bruce Howard

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (July 9, 2013) — **Harold Slemmer, Ed.D.**, executive director of the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA), is the new president of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) for 2013-14. Slemmer, the 54<sup>th</sup> president of the NFHS, began his one-year term June 28 following the NFHS Summer Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

**Tom Mezzanotte**, executive director of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL), was elected by the NFHS Board of Directors to the position of president-elect for the upcoming year.

In addition, the following individuals were approved by the NFHS National Council for four-year terms on the NFHS Board of Directors: **Gary Ray**, executive director of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC), Section 2; **Gary Musselman**, executive director of the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA), Section 5; and **Toni Hill**, superintendent of the Bloomfield (Missouri) School District, at large, Sections 5 and 8.

Slemmer was named executive director of the AIA in 1999 after nine years as inaugural principal of the award-winning Mountain Pointe High School in Phoenix. Under Slemmer's leadership, Mountain Pointe received numerous awards, including A+ Schools Recognition semifinalist three times.

Slemmer has been recognized as a leader in curriculum development, high school administration and instruction at the high school and university levels. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Arizonan Award in 2001 and the North Central Accreditation Association's Circle of Excellence. In 2002, in response to his efforts in character development, Slemmer was appointed to the Arizona Governor's Commission on Character Education.

Slemmer has made presentations in 20 states on educational and ethics training programs and policies, including AIA's "Pursuing Victory with Honor" initiative. At the national level, he served on the National Presence Subcommittee of the 2002-2005 NFHS Strategic Planning Committee.

An NCAA Division I athlete at Arizona State University, Slemmer played football for Frank Kush while working toward his bachelor's degree in 1975. He also received his master's (1976) and doctorate of education (1986) degrees from Arizona State.

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

Ray joined the WVSSAC staff in 2001 as assistant executive director and was appointed the association's executive director in 2007. A graduate of Winfield (West Virginia) High School, Ray earned his bachelor's degree from Glenville (West Virginia) State College and received his master's degree from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies.

Ray served as assistant football coach and track coach at Oak Hill (West Virginia) Collins High School, which later became Oak Hill High School, until 1976. After a short stint at Buffalo (West Virginia) Putnam High School, he returned to Oak Hill in 1978 to become the athletic director and assistant principal. Ray was then promoted to principal in 1995 and to director of schools in Fayette County in 1997.

Prior to joining the WVSSAC, Ray was involved with the West Virginia State Coaches Association and the West Virginia Athletic Directors Association (WVADA), including service as vice president and president of the WVADA.

A former member of the WVSSAC Board of Directors, Ray served on various WVSSAC committees, including the TARGET Committee and the Sportsmanship Committee. On the national level, he was a member of the NFHS National Records Committee.

Musselman joined the KSHSAA staff in 1988 as assistant executive director, a position he held until being promoted to executive director in 1996. A graduate of Ness City (Kansas) High School, Musselman earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education from Kansas State University in 1974 and his master's in secondary school administration from Wichita State University in 1987.

Musselman began his teaching and coaching career in 1974 at Independence (Kansas) Junior High School. He then held teaching and coaching positions at Andover (Kansas) Junior-Senior High School, Beloit (Kansas) Junior-Senior High School and Halstead (Kansas) High School. Prior to joining the KSHSAA staff, Musselman was the principal at LaCrosse (Kansas) High School.

Musselman has served on numerous NFHS committees, including the Football Rules Committee, the Citizenship/Equity Committee and the Marketing Committee. Musselman served three terms as chair of the NFHS TARGET Committee (1992-95), which was involved with drug education/prevention programs. He was a member of three different NFHS Strategic Planning Committees, and he has been involved with other national organizations, including the National Association of Secondary School Principals and United School Administrators.

Hill recently completed her first year as superintendent of schools for Bloomfield (Missouri) R-XIV School District after holding the same position at Portageville (Missouri) School District for the previous six years. Hill earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Southeast Missouri State University, where she also earned a specialist degree in educational administration.

Hill began her teaching career for the Hayti (Missouri) R-II School District in 1996. A year later she joined the Bloomfield staff as a math and science teacher. She was a middle school principal in 1999-2000 and a high school principal for six years before beginning her service as a superintendent in 2006.

At the state level, Hill has been a member of the Missouri State High School Activities Association Board of Directors since 2007. In addition, Hill has coached volleyball at various levels throughout her career in education.

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*This press release was prepared by Jason Haddix, a 2013 spring/summer intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. He is a senior at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis studying journalism and medical imaging.*

### **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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