

Robert Conklin - Colorado
1977 – 1979 (Two Year Term)
1st NIAAA President

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) has a proud, distinguished history. On December 15, 1976, an informational meeting was held with the National Federation Executive Committee and selected athletic directors from around the United States. Robert Conklin, Athletic Director of the Denver Public Schools, served as chairman. The Executive Committee approved the concept of the NIAAA.

On February 6, 1977, eleven athletic administrators were invited to the Federation headquarters in Elgin, Illinois to develop the organization. The organizing committee became the "Constitution Committee." Robert Conklin was elected chairman of the committee.

During the February and July meetings in 1977, this committee selected the name of the organization, drew up a constitution, developed a statement of purpose, selected an association logo, developed an election procedure, and formed a nominating committee for their first annual meeting in Omaha, Nebraska on December 14, 1977.

The election of the first officers of the NIAAA was conducted in Omaha, Nebraska. This election differed from subsequent elections in three ways:

1. All individual members of NIAAA were permitted to vote, rather than just the delegates to the Representative Assembly.
2. The membership elected three officers: a secretary-treasurer, a presidentelect, and a president.
3. Candidates for office were selected by the Constitution Committee.

Robert Conklin was elected to serve as the first president of the NIAAA. He would serve a two-year term as president and a two-year term as past president.

During his presidency (1977 - 1979), Robert Conklin presided over the refinement of the Constitution and By-Laws of the NIAAA. Recommended changes were submitted to the NIAAA Executive Board for their approval. Amendments were then presented to the Delegate Assembly for ratification. That process was followed at the first annual meeting of the NIAAA in Louisville, Kentucky in December, 1978 and the second annual meeting in Dallas, Texas in December, 1979.

Robert Conklin noted that there would be no way to acknowledge properly the commitment and contributions of the Executive Board, all members of Standing Committees and the National Federation Staff in having a vision and making the dream come true.