

Richard Bechard, CMAA – Kansas
2012
Conference Site: San Antonio, Texas
33rd NIAAA President

Richard Bechard, CMAA served as the NIAAA 33rd President in 2012. Bechard was a successful At-Large Candidate from Region B at the Grapevine, Texas National Conference in 2009 and was the first NIAAA President from the State of Kansas.

Richard had extensive involvement with the NIAAA prior to his tenure on the board and term as President. He was co-chair of the sports turf committee. He was a member of the LTI Nation Faculty and was involved in course revisions. Bechard also did workshop presentations at five different national conferences. He was also instrumental in the development of a student scholarship program in Kansas which model is now used for the NIAAA student scholarship.

During Bechard's term as President the NIAAA operating budget surpassed 1.6 million dollars. The Registered Middle School Athletic Administrator certification level was established. To better serve the membership a new NIAAA website was launched. The writing of interscholastic athletic administrator textbook with Human Kinetics took place with the majority of authors coming from the NIAAA membership. An advocate was contracted with to represent and keep the NIAAA in the forefront with issues that impact our membership in Washington D.C. This initiative was found to be very beneficial and open many new doors for the NIAAA. During Bechard's presidency two Certification Program coordinator contract positions were established. The LTI curriculum expanded to 37 courses. The CAA exam now is being conducted internationally. In cooperation with NFHS the NIAAA launched national Public Service Announcement campaign emphasizing the importance of education based sports programs.

2012 marked the 35th year since the NIAAA established itself as a professional organization for those who lead education based athletic programs in our nation's schools. With 8,697 members the NIAAA continues to be an organization supported by leaders in the field, volunteers nationwide, and those who desire to grow and develop as a professional each day.