

Frank Kovaleski, CAA
Anderson, Indiana
National Director of the NIAAA
1989-2005

Frank Kovaleski retired in 2005 after 16 years with the NFHS and NIAAA. A longtime Indiana high school athletic director and coach before joining the NFHS, Kovaleski expanded opportunities for high school athletic directors during his tenure as national director of the NIAAA.

Most significant among those opportunities was the creation of the NIAAA Leadership Training Program (now Leadership Training Institute) in 1996 and expansion of the NIAAA Certification Program in 1999. The Leadership Training Institute has expanded to a current offering of 40 courses, and more than 35,000 courses have been completed by athletic administrators at the state, regional and national conferences since the program's inception 19 years ago. In 1999, two additional levels – Registered Athletic Administrator (RAA) and the Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA) – were added to the certification program.

In 2003, through Kovaleski's efforts, the NIAAA formed an arrangement with Ohio University to offer a master's degree in athletic administration through online courses. He also was responsible for starting the NIAAA Endowment in 1994. Kovaleski also played a significant role in the success of the National Athletics Conference.

Prior to devoting full-time duties to the NIAAA and the national conference in 2002, Kovaleski made significant contributions to the NFHS as the organization's meeting planner and rules editor in track and field.

Kovaleski brought a rich background in athletic administration to the NFHS in 1989, having served as a high school athletic director since 1965 in three different Indiana high schools.

Kovaleski had been involved with the NIAAA for a number of years prior to joining the NFHS staff. He served terms on the NFHS/NIAAA Athletic Directors Advisory Committee, the NIAAA Resolutions Committee and the NIAAA Professional Development Committee. At the state level, he was president of the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association in 1979-80. He also was a part of the group that developed content for the first edition of "A Guide for College-Bound Student-Athletes and Their Parents."

Among his honors, Kovaleski was Indiana high school athletic director of the year in 1981, and he received the NFHS Citation in 1987, the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2008 and the NIAAA Award of Merit in 2009. When he retired in 2005, the NIAAA created the Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award, which is presented annually to an athletic director. Frank was inducted into the NIAAA Hall of Fame in 2015.

Frank Kovaleski and his wife resided in Anderson, IN.