

Joel Eskelsen, CAA - Wyoming
2004
Conference Site: New Orleans, LA
25th NIAAA President

Joel M. Eskelsen was the second President to come from Section 8 and the first Wyoming person to serve on the NIAAA Board of Directors and then selected President after his second year on the Board.

During his term, preliminary planning was accomplished for the NIAAA's Second Strategic Plan. The appointment of committee chairs and committees culminated in an October meeting where these committees developed the strategies that will guide the NIAAA through the year 2010.

Leadership Training continued to be at the for-front for Professional Development for NIAAA members as well as non-members. Three new courses were developed in 2004 and implemented at the New Orleans Conference.

Fiscally, the NIAAA strengthened its position during 2004 with both the Endowment Fund and Reserve Fund nearing their original goals. Highlighting the year was an agreement met with Clear Defense who committed \$500,000.00 to the NIAAA in the name of Mildred Hurt Jennings. With this agreement, the NIAAA's Mildred Hurt Jennings Endowment Fund was established and it will be able to provide leadership and professional development for athletic administrators for years to come.

With the sudden resignation of National Director Frank Kovaleski, the second half of the year proved to be very challenging. Due to outstanding work and dedication of the NIAAA Board and selected NIAAA members, Bruce Whitehead was selected to replace Kovaleski as the new NIAAA Executive Director. It was a first for the NIAAA and the process proved to be very successful.

As disheartening as Frank Kovaleski's retirement was, an uplifting farewell highlighted the 2004 New Orleans Conference and brought many athletic administrators together to show their appreciation. In what may have been the largest attended NIAAA Annual Meeting, all said their farewells and it was a wonderful conclusion to Joel Eskelsen's term as NIAAA President.