

**Dennis (Denny) E. Fries – New York
2005
Conference Site: Orlando, FL
26th NIAAA President**

Denny was selected to join the NIAAA Board of Directors from Section 1 and became the third President from the State of New York., behind Dave Martens (1984-5th) and Alan Mallanda (1993-14th).

There were many changes during this President's term. Three people left the Board of Directors in advance of their expected end of term, and we had a two new positions added to the NIAAA: Executive Director and Associate Executive Director. Bruce Whitehead started his first year as our NIAAA Executive Director and had an insurmountable task of filling Frank Kovalski's recently vacated leadership position. But as we all knew, Bruce rose to the occasion and we continue to grow and set new goals for our organization. With Bruce Whitehead in his role, and Mike Blackburn as our new and very able Associate Director, and with Larry Munksgaard drafting toward the President's role, along with Certification and Program Coordinator Fran Flannery, and Patti Conrad added as our new Office Manager, the leadership of the NIAAA was going to be strong for years to come.

A defining change in direction in 2005 was when President Fries, along with Executive Director Bruce Whitehead and President Elect Larry Munksgaard began work on defining the depth and breath of the NFHS/NIAAA partnership. As the NIAAA had grown in membership, office personal, and services offered, it had become apparent that the NIAAA had outgrown its ability to stay in the current office space. It was also felt that we should have a stronger presence and publication rights in the IAA magazine; as well as to do our fair share in helping with all aspects of the National conference. The NFHS listened intently and as an immediate result, we saw an editorial page for our Executive Director and President in the 'IAA' Magazine, and also the first dual recognition in the conference logos and other branding opportunities. It was this type of strong partnership that we were seeking and the NFHS wants to maintain. As a result of these conversations and negotiations, in four years or less the 'IAA' would become 100% the responsibility of the NIAAA and in the same time frame the NIAAA would have an equal sharing of all work, income, and expenses in the National conference.

Under the leadership of Don Bales, we developed and adopted our 2nd Second Strategic Plan. Along with LTP chairperson Jim Teff, we developed a reasonable and focused review and growth process of all LTP programs. In fact, in 2005, we added three new classes to the curriculum, and reviewed and updated several others and had others on the drawing board.

And then hurricane Katerina hit the gulf coast decimating many communities. There were many suggestions on how the NIAAA membership could help with a relief effort. With Executive Director Whitehead's support, President Fries called "National Emergency Network" chairperson and past president Dave Martens to take the lead in identifying and offering suggestions for ways to help the AD's and schools in the areas ravaged by Katerina. He only asked, "how soon do you need this done?" Dave organized and directed a very successful effort that led to tons of cloth products (uniforms) being shipped to schools in need.

Other committee chairs in 2005 included: Awards (Marc Hunter); Certification (Steve Berseth); Credentials (Marty O'Hern); Publications (Tim Graham); Endowment (Allen Huestis); Hall of Fame under the leadership of Bill Mayo; Sports Turf (Ray Ebersol); and the retired members group (Les Wright).

In another area the 2005 board formed three working sub-committees: Personnel/Office, Endowment, Sponsorships.

President Fries did much traveling in his term on the board, going to Indy 5 times; the Vermont, New York State, and Massachusetts/Rhode Island state conferences; the Section 1 meeting in New Jersey; and the Section 7 meeting in Kauai, Hawaii.

Much was done during President Fries' term and much was left to do. It was an exciting time on the Board of Directors.