

Arthur (Sam) T. Rasmussen
2009
Conference Site: Grapevine, TX.
30th NIAAA President

Arthur (Sam) T. Rasmussen was selected from Section IV to the NIAAA Board of Directors in 2006 and became the second President from the state of Indiana.

The Board of Directors continue to empower our members to better address the needs of our student-athletes and communities, by providing resources to develop and to enhance leadership skills and to offer opportunities for professional growth. Providing quality opportunities, service and support to keep members at the forefront is the on-going goal of the Board. Each of us actively engages in exciting initiatives:

- The Association embarked on the “Third Strategic Plan” that systematically will provide direction and vision. A Plan that will develop the strategies upon which we will continue to build the future of the NIAAA. As an instrument, the Plan will serve to empower each of us to make a difference through collaborative thinking, robust discussion, expression of ideas, and the generation of intelligent steps necessary to take the Association to new heights through 2016.
- Provided a team of highly experienced athletic administrators to conduct the first school district interscholastic athletic program assessment and provided written reports on findings for school districts that request such service, in DeKalb County Schools.
- The professional development continues to expand with the Leadership Training Program developing (LTC 630) Contest Management and (LTC 627) Weight Room Facility and Performance Enhancing Substances for Completion in 2010. Along with offering three professional webinar Leadership Training Courses. As well as providing three new staff in-service programs in the areas of legal issues, time management and organizational techniques, and challenging personalities. The increase in the university leadership training affiliation with colleges and universities offering leadership training courses for re-certification credit and masters degree programs specific to Interscholastic Athletic Administration continues to blossom. The Board approved and encouraged a six year LTP course review planning schedule.
- The Professional Outreach Program intended to reach urban, rural and middle schools gave the opportunity to receive LTP classes or attend state or national conferences was received by the states of Louisiana(23 Athletic Administrators), Maine (10), and the city of Philadelphia (18).
- Started partnership to promote the NFHS Coaches Certification Program. A program designed to deliver the highest quality professional development for coaches at an affordable cost.
- Took ownership of the Exemplary Athletic Recognition Program after partnering with the National Association for Sports and Physical Education and proceed as the sole administrator using the Leadership Training Course “Excellence in Interscholastic Athletic Programs (LTC 799), school districts can self-assess their programs by a process that offers recognition at the “Meritorious”, “Distinguished”, or “Exemplary” levels.

- Worked with colleagues in Alberta Canada to write a Canadian version of LTP courses that led to Canada's first Leadership Training courses.
- Taught to fifty high schools and middle schools in Banff, Alberta. In attendance were athletic directors from British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario.
- Explored and initiated the process for the NIAAA for the certification process by the North Central Accreditation (Advance ED).
- Several publications were created: Media Guide, printing of the 13th edition of "A Guide for College-Bound Student-Athletes and Their Parents", NIAAA Promo DVD. IAA magazine and the creation of a new PDF form for certification. As well as instituted a new marketing philosophy (tri-fold pamphlet) of seeking only corporate partners who fit within the NIAAA philosophy of placing safety and welfare of students first.
- Safe zone was endorsed as a program to provide a safer environment for athletic events through online ticket purchasing.

Facing the challenging state of the economy, the Board continues to be the good steward by being accountable, responsive, practical, frugal, and empathetic towards the members. This transparency was evident in:

- President Rasmussen attended six of the eight section meetings, five state conferences, the NEDC Summer Summit, and numerous trips to Indianapolis for the Association's business.
- Reviewed and developed a new performance development plan and accountability review for an administrative (Executive and Associate) evaluation process.
- Worked to increase membership (8,186) for the first time going over 8,000 members while setting a goal of 10,000 in 2010.
- Proposed and passed two by-law changes to assure leadership and growth. 1. Article IV Section 1-B-2 related to the qualification for candidates submitted by states for NIAAA Board seats. 2. Affiliate Organization's Language to accept Alberta IAAA as an affiliate Organizational member.
- Endowment reached a record high of \$620,788.21 in April of 2009-2010.

The fruition, after many years of planning, came to be. The first inaugural NIAAA Hall of Fame Class, comprised of twelve retired athletic administrators, were recognized for our heritage and legacy of athletic administrators' contributions.

No one would question that the past year was extraordinary by any standards. The Board of Directors was humbled and gratified by the achievements of the Association. Its success is demonstrated in the initiative, generosity and service displayed by members. Yet, there is still much to be done. Growth of the NIAAA remains a "work in progress". Successful organizations never stand still.