

Trish Witkin, CMAA – Connecticut

2015

Conference Site: Orlando, FL

36th NIAAA President

Trish Witkin, CMAA was selected by the state of Connecticut in 2012 to serve as the Section 1 Representative to the NIAAA Board of Directors. In 2015, Trish became the 36th President of the NIAAA, the second to serve in that capacity from Connecticut.

Prior to her tenure on the Board and term as President, Trish served the NIAAA as a delegate and was a statewide Leadership Training Instructor. She was active at the league and state level, serving on numerous committees and representing athletic administrators during significant legislative changes.

During her term as President, the Board of Directors promoted the value and benefit of NIAAA membership and saw record membership when we reached 9,626 members at the close of the fiscal year. By the close of the 2015, membership surpassed the 10, 000 mark, reaching 10,127 at the time of the National Conference in Orlando. Thirty eight states were recognized for their membership status and growth at the conference.

Through careful study and thoughtful discussion, the fourth Strategic Plan was adopted. The North Central Accreditation Association sent a visiting team to the national conference and the Accreditation Committee delivered an outstanding self-assessment.

Several initiatives were approved by the Board of Directors including on-line testing for the CAA exam and making LTI certificates available to participants on-line. For the first time, the voting for the at-large election was done electronically. Additionally, for the first time, the awards programs were streamed live to allow those who could not be in attendance to see their family, friends and colleagues honored.

The scholarship essay program was revised to include the “Athletes for a Better World” and incorporated the Coach Wooden Citizen Cup, adding another layer of recognition for the national recipients. With the help of our advocate, a guide was created to assist states with the process of connecting with their local legislature

The Board of Directors approved a plan to bring a mentoring program to the membership using the webinar format. Member services were enhanced when surplus dollars were used to provide LTI manuals to states, two registrations to the national conference for each state and a CAA study guide video was created.

The year 2015 was not only a successful year for the NIAAA, but a year of significant change with the announcement that Executive Director Bruce Whitehead would retire at the end of fiscal year 2016, after leading and growing the NIAAA for nearly 11 years. Associate Executive Director Mike Blackburn was named Bruce’s replacement and the process for selection of his replacement began.