

IAAA
NEWSLETTER

January 2025

IAAA News



IDAHO ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

IAAA NEWS



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Visit www.bigteams.com for more information.





President's Message

Tyler Johnson, CAA ♦ Bonneville High School ♦ IAAA President

The National Athletic Directors Conference was held last month in Austin, Texas. It was a great conference that concluded with a closing session by Stephen Mackay, the founder of 2Words Character Development. The basis of his presentation were the six pillars of a championship character:

1. TOUGH People Win.
2. INTEGRITY Over Everything.
3. GROWTH Follows Belief.
4. EXCELLENCE Everywhere.
5. RELENTLESS Effort.
6. SERVICE Before Self.

As we find ourselves at the midpoint of the current school year, I encourage all of you to reflect on the first half of the school year to determine what things you did well and what you could have done differently. Then formulate some ideas of what you can do better to finish out the school year to best help your coaches and the student-athletes in your programs. Ponder on Stephen Mackay's Six Pillars of a Championship Character as you think of those ideas of how you can improve your athletic department. Remember that change within your athletic department starts with you!

I look forward to seeing you at the 2025 IAAA Conference in April, where we will provide multiple opportunities to help you improve both yourself as an athletic director and your programs as we strive to provide the best experience possible for our student-athletes.

Tyler Johnson, CAA
Bonneville High School
IAAA President
johnsont@d93.k12.id.us

Announcement

Ted Reynolds will complete his six years as the AD Representative on the IHSAA Board this June. We'd like to thank Ted for the fine job he has done representing the Athletic Directors of Idaho on the IHSAA Board of Directors.

The IAAA Executive Board would like to announce Jeremy Burgess, CAA, as the new AD Representative on the IHSAA Board beginning this fall. Jeremy is the AD at Payette High School and is currently the District 3 small school representative on the IAAA Board.

Congratulations Jeremy!





Executive Director's Message

Tracy Leinen, CMAA ♦ IAAA Executive Director

Welcome back to the second semester of the school year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and got some much needed rest and relaxation. Also, hope you were able to spend quality time with your families and friends. The IAAA board is getting prepared for the January board meeting, which will be held in Boise on January 21.

In addition, many of the board members just got back from the fantastic conference in Austin, Texas, which was the NADC conference. Tol Gropp did a fantastic job of being the President of the NIAAA. In his closing remarks, he rocked it like no other President has ever done. Very proud of you Tol!!! I know that everyone who walked away from this conference is proud of what you have done and we all learned to SMILE. Which stands for Serve–Mentor-Inspire-Love-Encourage. We had over 30 Idaho Athletic Directors in attendance at this conference.

The board will be finalizing all the speakers and agendas for the State IAAA conference, which will be held at the Riverside Hotel in Boise on April 6-8. Please mark your calendars as this will be an event you will not want to miss. A few reminders are that you must be an IAAA member to attend this conference and that membership will give you NIAAA membership as well until November 1, 2025. Please know that the best time to renew your membership is with your IHSAA dues as it can be done on one check to the IHSAA office. Most schools are willing to pay this when they pay the State IHSAA dues for sports, music and catastrophic insurance (it is listed on the form).

The IAAA received three banners at the national conference, which is the first time that has ever happened. It was all because of the membership increasing in Idaho. We received a banner for over 100% membership, largest increase ever in membership, and a record year. Here is a big “THANK YOU” to everyone who made this possible.

Hope to see you all at the State AD's conference and more information on that will be emailed to you all!

Tracy Leinen, CMAA
IAAA Executive Director
tracy.leinen@boiseschools.org

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New IAAA Board Member Spotlight

Zach Dong ♦ Kimberly High School ♦ District 4 Rep

Zach Dong is a dedicated educator and athletic director with 17 years of experience in education. He began his career at Filer High School where he spent the first 10 years of his career. He started as a Physical Education Teacher and eventually took on the role of Dean of Students. After serving as Dean of Students, he transitioned into the role of Athletic Director, where he spent the last two years of his tenure. His career then led him to Pendleton High School in Pendleton, Oregon, where he spent four years teaching Physical Education and serving as Head Basketball Coach. Currently he is in his third year as the Athletic Director at Kimberly High School. He is married to his wife, Jessica, and together they have four children: Addie, a freshman; Aubrey, a 6th grader; Titus, a 4th grader; and Paxton, a 1st grader. Zach enjoys spending time with his family, lifting weights and playing basketball. Zach is the new District 4 Representative on the IAAA Board.



Important Dates



2025 IAAA State Conference

April 6-8, 2025
The Riverside Hotel
Boise, ID



IHSAA January Board Meeting

April 9, 2025
IHSAA Office
Boise, ID



DAKTRONICS

Visit [Daktronics](#) for more information.

Congratulations Ted Reynolds on being awarded the NFHS Citation Award!

2024 NFHS NATIONAL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS CITATION AWARDS



New AD Spotlight

Nick Birch ♦ Idaho Falls High School

Number of years in education: 7th year in education, 1st year as AD.

Family: Wife - Janna. Three Daughters, ages 13, 10 & 5.

What you've coached and/or are currently coaching:

Coached high school baseball for 6 years.

Why did you decide to become an athletic administrator?

Being able to work with student-athletes and coaches every day is a perfect fit for me. It's been a chance to be part of growth both on and off the field.

I'm passionate about creating a positive environment where they can thrive. As a graduate of IFHS, this role feels like the perfect way to combine my love for Tiger athletics and my commitment to helping students succeed.

What are you most enjoying about the job thus far?

I've enjoyed being part of the process to create what is, hopefully, lasting change in the culture of IFHS. It's been exciting to work with a team of passionate colleagues toward the vision and mission we've set and to see the progress we're making.





Check out the New Athletic Director Resource Page on the IHSAA website

<https://idhsaa.org/athletic-directors>



Download the Officials Toolkit



New AD Spotlight

Kristan Young ♦ Murtaugh High School

Number of years in education: 20th year in education, 1st year as AD.

Family: Husband - Ken. Three Boys - Josh (28), Austin (26) & Lucas (24).

What you've coached and/or are currently coaching:

Coached volleyball for 15 years, basketball for 9 years & track for 12 years.

Why did you decide to become an athletic administrator?

I decided to become an athletic director because it was the next transition for me in my career. I have been around athletics my entire life. I enjoy being a part of athletics, the athletes, and the coaches. My goal is to make the coaches life easier so they can just coach and the athletes to have fun while participating in an activity they chose to be a part of. Overall, I really enjoy sports and being a part of them.

What are you most enjoying about the job thus far?

What I enjoy about my current position is the support from community members, administration, and school board. The atmosphere in Murtaugh is like no other school I have worked at.



NIAAA Student Scholarship is Due January 31, 2025

I want to make you aware that effective September 1, 2024 and going forward, the student scholarship application will be handled through the NIAAA FinalForms awards platform. All NIAAA members working in a school setting will have access to nominate eligible student athletes from their school. One male and one female can be nominated from your school. On your member page of FinalForms, you will see an awards tab that will lead to this application.

Scholarship Minimum Requirements:

- Applicant must be a senior in high school
- Applicant must have achieved at least one of the following: (a) minimum of B+ average; (b) ranked in the top 25% of class; (c) ACT score of 24 or an SAT score of 1100 (Math and Reading)
- Applicant must have participated in two sports for at least two years in each sport
- Applicant must have earned at least one varsity letter in each of the two sports
- Applicant must complete the nomination form assigned to them by their AD.
- Applicant must have a letter of recommendation from the high school athletic administrator/director
- Athletic administrator/director must be an NIAAA member and a member of their respective state athletic administrator association
- The principal or athletic administrator/director must sign the application to ensure that the academic information submitted is accurate
- All nominations must be completed by an athletic director on the Amp Awards portal.
Application deadline is January 31, 2025

It is important that you start this process right away as we begin the holiday season. Once you nominate your students you can give each nominee access to co-edit the form. This will help ensure that the information is correct. Be sure to proof it before submitting it.

Here is the link to FinalForms. It gives you detailed instructions on how to create a nomination for the Student Scholarship:

<https://docs.google.com/document/u/2/d/1G5qzHH28ug0xnbWnfsbGyHlvTtlnlINTSMFFYOWVHXE/pub>

Thank you for submitting deserving student athletes for this scholarship.

Shelly Heath NIAAA Liaison

Shelly.heath@boiseschools.org

A PROFILE OF **ATHLETIC** ADMINISTRATION

A Guide for Superintendents, Principals,
and Boards of Education



[**CLICK HERE FOR FREE AD RESOURCES**](#)

Idaho Athletic Administrators Association

College Scholarship Application

To promote the organization's goals and to encourage post high school education for children/grandchildren of I.A.A.A. members, the Idaho Athletic Administrators Association will award two \$500.00 scholarships to selected graduating high school senior children /grandchildren of current I.A.A.A. members.

Complete the enclosed application, attach the required documents, and mail the packet by *March 1st, 2025 to:*

**I.A.A.A. Scholarship Coordinator
Beth Holt
5033 Sarah Ct.
Fruitland, Idaho 83619**

Or by email: bethholt3770@gmail.com

**[Click here for the 2025 IAAA
Scholarship Application](#)**

Links

Idaho Athletic Administrators Association



NIAAA



IHSAA





<https://capedcu.com/>

Congratulations Tol Gropp on a successful term as the 2024 NIAAA President!



Benefits Provided NIAAA Members

The national professional organization dedicated solely to services, assistance and development for the providers of secondary school "Education Based Athletics" programs.

Professional

North Central Accreditation

NIAAA is the first association accredited by North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.

Leadership Training Institute

Educational curriculum of 38 courses taught at national and state conferences, institutes, online and NIAAA webinars. Students can earn CEUs, through a master's degree while working with select universities.

Certification Program

Four levels of professional certification including Registered, Middle School, Certified and Certified Master Athletic Administrator.

National Athletic Directors Conference

Annual Conference hosted in cooperation with the NFHS offering educational, service, information, leadership and networking opportunities.

Hall of Fame

Induction and recognition of individuals that have strongly impacted the profession of athletic administration.

Code of Ethics and Professional Standards

Clarifies our mission and principles.

Interscholastic Athletic Administration Magazine

Professional journal providing high school and middle school leadership practical assistance from athletic administrators in the field, research based study, NIAAA member information, varied columns and best practices.

Awards Program

Recognition levels for athletic administrators at both state and national levels.

Media Materials

Digital and print materials available to assist the professional.

Professional Outreach Program

Conducted in cooperation with state athletic administrator associations as outreach to targeted demographic areas through the NIAAA Endowment. Offering of LTI (501-502), RAA Certification, one year NIAAA membership, with 10 percent of participants receiving registration and lodging scholarship to the national conference.

Public Service Announcements

Promoting the benefits of education based athletic programs to students, educational leaders and community members.

Direct Benefits to Members & State Associations

- \$2,000,000 liability insurance.
- IAA is a quarterly magazine provided to members in both hard copy and electronic flip page form.
- \$2,500 Life Insurance.
- Membership kit for first-time registrants.
- A Profile of Athletic Administration – 32 page booklet available at no cost, providing purpose of position and description of how AD position should be structured and supported.
- National Emergency Network – Assistance available in cases of traveling emergencies.
- Continued cutting edge development through 4th NIAAA Strategic Plan.
- eNews – Electronic newsletter offered 10 times annually at no cost.
- Numerous educational print, video and digital materials.
- Research on timely topics and member survey results.
- Direct communication to members through social media – Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, Instagram, LinkedIn.
- Budget surplus provision as a Member Benefit.
- State AD Association benefit of lodging for Professional Development State Coordinator Meetings.
- No cost booklet *A Profile of Athletic Administration* created as information directed at superintendents, principals and school boards.
- Application for reduced track installation.
- Reimbursement to state AD Association for percentage of online LTI courses taken by state members.

Cost Reductions

- Lower registration cost for National Conference, reduced fee for LTI courses and certification.
- Reduced premiums on AFLAC cancer and accident insurance.
- Reduced cost for certification applications.
- Discounted rates offered on Mutual of Omaha Long Term Health Care. Added inclusion in Tuition Rewards and Care Options Assistance.

Opportunities

- NIAAA Committee Membership – 13 committees in addition to periodic Ad Hoc committees.
- Field Renovation Program – Members may apply for consideration to have an outdoor field renovated by members of the Sports Turf Committee.
- IAA – Opportunity to submit articles for publication.
- Student Scholarship/Essay Program – Open to students in schools where the Athletic Director is an NIAAA member. Female and male recipients at State, Section (\$1,500) and National levels (\$2,000).
- NIAAA Endowment – Opportunity to contribute. Portion of funds utilized for professional growth outreach initiatives and state grants.
- In-Service Program – Offering selected LTI courses adapted in 90 minute or 4 hour presentations. Available to school or district staff. Topics include 14 legal duties, time management and interpersonal relationships.
- Quality Program Award – Option after having taken LTC 799 to participate in a process of athletic program assessment offering Exemplary Program recognition.
- Invited Assessment Program – Opportunity to have team of professionals evaluate each facet of a school or district athletic program.
- Participation in National Conference, workshops and section meetings.
- Opportunity for retired members to remain involved.

Benefits at www.niaaa.org

- Dedicated to NIAAA information and program offerings.
- Member Services – Online opportunity through NIAAA database to view and update personal account, find members, order materials or initiate/renew NIAAA membership. Opportunity to post a resume, open dates, job openings.
- Registration and information regarding the annual National Conference, lodging, travel and area places of interest.
- NIAAA apparel through the online logo shop.
- Preferred Vendors – Online site for preferred product and services with company links.
- *The Role of the Principal in Interscholastic Athletics* – Free 12 minute video through link on the NIAAA Web site. Produced in cooperation with the NASSP and NFHS.
- Calendar of scheduled professional development events for both state and national athletic administrator associations.
- State Leadership Directory – Listing of key contact individuals within states.
- Archived IAA magazine for research and reference.
- NIAAA forms and applications in fillable PDF format.
- Digital publications and survey information.
- Links to key educational, professional and sponsor affiliations.



National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
9100 Keystone Crossing, Suite 660, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240; Phone: 317-587-1450; www.niaaa.org

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