

Don Bales, Jr., CMAA - Indiana
1998
Conference Site: Las Vegas, NV
19th NIAAA President

Don Bales, Jr., CMAA, was the first President from Indiana. His presidency followed a long line of presidents who were selected from Section IV.

The NIAAA was at a period of time when the leadership of many of its committees, Past Presidents, and its membership was highly charged with vision and a "great sense of enthusiasm for professional development." As a result of the positive energy and the changing status of the athletic administrators environment, preparation for identifying leadership and empowering this same leadership were components that were instrumental in developing the goals of Mr. Bales' presidency.

In a cooperative endeavor with the NFHS, the NIAAA was to complete the Risk Management Videos. A great resource for the athletic administrator, the videos became an educational tool to inform student athletes, parents, coaches, officials, and administrators of the risks of which they should be aware in the athletic environment.

The Leadership Training program was exceeding the initial involvement and interest that had been projected. States and their athletic administrators were craving the information needed to educate and inform them of the practices in their every day responsibilities. In 1998, three more Leadership Training Courses were developed and presented at the National Conference, LTC 503, LTC 510, and LTC 511.

The leadership of the NIAAA has had a tremendous influence on many people, touched the dreams of many student athletes, and played a role in the vision of many organizations and, as a result of this, there was a feeling that there were national leaders who were worthy of national recognition. An Ad Hoc Committee was appointed to formulate the process, establish the criteria, and identify the individuals who would be worthy of nomination to the NFHS Sports Hall of Fame.

Another goal revolved around the effective use of modern technology and efficient methods of communicating activities within the NIAAA. The concept of developing an NIAAA web site had been established. The assignment was the task of the NIAAA Communications and Resolutions Committee.

The leadership of the NIAAA was growing in such a way that its influence within the organization and within the school community was having a greater impact on the future lives of people. The NIAAA realized that every day all of us should do all we can, where we are, with what we have. Helping others to reach out to their school communities with good information as well as excellent practices was and will be evident in the future vision of the NIAAA.