

WISCONSIN ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



Volume 2/ Issue 4 December 2021



The bellies are full and possibly the freezers too. It is always a busy few weeks after the conference. The start of Winter Sports, Deer Hunting Season, and the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Just like it is great to see extended family at Thanksgiving, it was indeed awesome and valuable to see so many of you at the 55th WADA Conference in Wisconsin Dells just a few short weeks ago. As we were discussing session attendance or the record turnout at the Bowling Party, it reinforced the need our organization and members desire to meet in person for a great professional development experience. For those who were unable to attend, we look forward to seeing you at conference meetings, the Spring Caucus, and the WIAA Annual Meeting in April.

The conference was filled with excitement, camaraderie, and professional growth. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to our keynotes, vendors, presenters, presidors, and everyone who helped be a part of a great conference. This letter is accompanied by our conference survey for both attendees and those members who were not able to join us. We ask that you take the time to complete this survey to provide feedback to the board in evaluation of the 55th Conference and in planning for the 56th in November of 2022.

One item we were asked to explore with the Kalahari was to see if there was flexibility in the dates of the conference each fall. We were able to express our member concerns and received feedback that led us to conclude it would not be feasible for our members and our organization to change dates or weeks in the calendar at this time. The Kalahari Convention Staff is aware of our desire to have this ongoing conversation and we will look to keep it on our agenda as we meet with them in the future.

The Wisconsin WADA Delegation will depart for Denver, CO next week to attend the National Athletic Directors Conference. I, for one, look forward to the ideas gained for our organization and for our schools. This is a great opportunity if you are able to find the time and support from your administration or Booster Club to help you attend our national conference.

As we return from Denver and finish up school prior to break, we will come to the end of the 2021 calendar year. 2021 was different, challenging, and rewarding both professionally and personally. My only hope is you were able to realize the successes you have had, because often we are not able to experience our own "High Five" moments.

I wish you a blessed and safe Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Respectfully,

WADA
ASSISTANT
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

OPENING

DEADLINE TO
APPLY IS
DECEMBER
17TH.

JOB POSTING



From the Desk of the Executive Director:

First and foremost I hope everyone had a terrific Thanksgiving holiday and I hope you all had a safe start to the start of the Christmas shopping season!!

I want to begin by recognizing our membership.....in spite of the COVID pandemic, yesterday I received notice of another membership commendation for WADA, our ninth in the last twelve years from the NIAAA! This is true testament to our membership and the value that you place on becoming and remaining members of one of the nation's longest standing professional athletic administration associations! Having said that it is not too late to still join WADA. The dues for the 2021-22 membership year are \$160 and you can mail a check payable to WADA to our PO Box in Monroe. The long list of membership benefits are listed on our website.

I want to extend some a thank you to the following groups/individuals for their contributions to yet another outstanding WADA Conference. Conducting anything during this COVID pandemic has been a challenge as all of us know. I want to thank the Kalahari Resort for hosting the conference. The room preparation, meals, and overall coordination couldn't have been better. Thank you to our Retire AD's for their continuing membership and the work that they do at the conference to insure that everything visible and behind the scenes runs smoothly and efficiently! Thank you to the WIAA staff for their contribution and the educational benefit that they provide to all of us that makes our day-to-day jobs that much easier. Thank you to Linzi and DuWayne Gronning for their continuing work to make our awards events the best in the country. Thank you to Melissa Gehring and her entire LTI staff for the outstanding work in the preparation and instruction of the classes to our membership. Thank you to Eric Nee and Deb Harbort for their coordination of the Admin Assistant portion of the conference...this special agenda/attendance is growing each year!

A special thank you to all of our corporate partners for their over and above contribution to WADA. Special recognition to:

rSchool Today for their administration of the online registration site and the classes that they offer to Admin Assistants and our membership.

Royal Publishing for their complimentary printing of our conference programs and sponsorship of LTI dinners.

Healy Awards for the many, many awards that we present at the conference.

Lastly, thank you to the Officer's and Board for all the time spent putting together one of the best conferences in the country.

Keep watching the WADA website for information/announcements throughout the year.

On behalf of myself and the Board, I want to wish everyone a blessed Christmas holiday season. Stay safe and may your winter seasons all be a success!

Smitty

Greg Smith, Executive Director

2021-2022 WADA Board Members

President

Nathan DeLany, CMAA
Marshfield

President-Elect

Shawn Groshek, RAA
Amherst

Vice President

Jeremy Schlitz, CAA
Madison Metropolitan

Past President

Todd Sobrisky, CMAA
Retired

Vice President-Elect

Information Coordinator
Eric Plitzuweit, CAA
Burlington

Recruitment and Network

Representative
Jamie Sims, CAA
Middleton

Executive Director

Greg Smith, CMAA

District Representative

District 1

Mary Schradle-Mau, CAA
Turtle Lake

District 2

Heidi Gerndt
Suring

District 3

Jim Langkamp, CAA
Baraboo

District 4

Tim Flood, CAA
Green Bay Public

District 5

Brittany Spencer Grant, CMAA
New Glarus

District 6

Melissa Gehring, CMAA
Beaver Dam

District 7

Michelle Guyant-Hollaway, CAA
Wauwatosa East

Those who serve

State LTI Coordinator
Melissa Gehring, CMAA
Beaver Dam

Assistant LTI Coordinator
Jeff Dorschner, CMAA
Jeff Beran, CAA

WIAA Liaison
Tom Shafranski, CAA

Retired Liaison
Mark Kryka, CAA

Conference Vendor Coordinator
James Sekel, CAA
DC Everest

Gender Representatives
Brian Smith, CAA
Jeff Dorschner, CMAA
Cora Dillon, CAA
Jenny Badow, CAA
Eric Nee, CAA
Michael LeBouton
Trent Lower, CAA

Scholarship Committee
Heidi Gerndt- Chair
D1
Jeff Dorschner
Ken Clinton
Jenny Badow
Mike Foley
Michael LeBouton
Jordan Napoli

Golf Outing Chair
Bryan Yager, CAA
Reedsburg

Awards Presentations
Linzi Gronning, CMAA
DeSoto
Dwayne Gronning

2019-2023 Strategic Plan Chairs
Josh Boyer
Greg Lucas
Kyle LeMieux

Congratulations to all high school administrators on a highly successful start to the 2021-22 school year and a very exciting and safe WIAA fall sport season. Somehow, through all the hurdles that were thrown at all of us, we were once again able to navigate these challenges and provide education-based athletics for student-athletes throughout our Wisconsin high schools.



Following this success, especially during this holiday time of year, a good opportunity presents itself for Athletic Administrators to interact and provide beneficial information to their school boards or governing bodies. This is done in an effort to demonstrate the value and importance education-based athletics plays in the overall education of students. Working with your school boards also contributes to the overall understanding that local school boards have in making sure that athletics remain a vital part of high schools throughout the State. It also sets up an Athletic Administrator for positive discussions with their school board during the remainder of the year, especially if more difficult topics and issues develop.

A school board meeting can be a new and different playing field for Athletic Administrators. It is important to realize and understand that school board members can ultimately make better decisions when Athletic Directors and Coaches know the lay of the land. One simple example is to update your local school board regarding participation numbers from the fall sports season. In addition, ensuring school boards that all students have an equal chance to enjoy the benefits of extracurricular activities as this is a goal shared by school boards and proponents of high school athletics.

John Ashley, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, advises Athletic Administrators to utilize the following ideas:

- Work with your district administrator if you believe an item needs to be on the agenda for a school board meeting.
- Don't assume your school board already understands the issues at play.
- It's OK when you don't have an answer – say you'll research it and get back to the board.
- Be sure to give your board the opportunity to acknowledge and honor participating students.

Communicating legislative issues to school boards is another way Athletic Administrators can work together to advance shared goals. Promulgating a policy on issues like sportsmanship, school codes or coaches reviews with your school board can also be very beneficial. The development or updating of policies and procedures is always a helpful tool for Athletic Administrators to assist school board members with an improved understanding of actual operations of the Athletic Department.

Developing a relationship with your School Board will go a long way to allow Athletic Administrators communication opportunities as the year progresses that allow for key issues to be thoroughly reviewed. When you understand the role of School Boards in athletics and you can speak their language, you'll have a clearer understanding of where your essential work fits in the school district's overall vision.

Wishing one and all a very Happy Holiday Season!

Tom Shafranski, CAA
WIAA Assistant Director
WADA Liaison