

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE  
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**



**NEWS RELEASE**

**NFHS Awards Citations to Eight Athletic Directors**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 28, 2007) — The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) will award NFHS Citations to eight high school athletic directors December 18 in Nashville, Tennessee, at the 38<sup>th</sup> annual National Conference of High School Directors of Athletics.

NFHS Citations are presented annually to outstanding athletic directors in recognition of contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels. State associations nominate athletic directors for NFHS Citations, and the NFHS Board of Directors approves recipients.

This year's award winners are **Steve Berseth**, CMAA, director of student activities at Brookings (South Dakota) High School; **Cliff Hill**, CAA, district director of athletics of the Campbell County (Wyoming) School District; **Richard Kemper Jr.**, CMAA, executive director of the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association; **James Murphy**, CAA, athletic administrator, George Stevens Academy, Blue Hill, Maine; **Daniel Ninestine**, CAA, athletic director, Port St. Lucie (Florida) High School; **Sam Rasmussen**, CAA, director of athletics, Valparaiso (Indiana) High School; **Annette Scogin**, CMAA, athletic

director, Springdale (Arkansas) Public Schools; and **Kendra Tomsic**, CAA, athletic director, Rowland Hall–St. Mark’s School, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Citations will be presented at the conference banquet at 6:30 p.m. December 18.

Following are biographical sketches on this year’s NFHS Citation recipients:

Having devoted his entire 36-year educational career as a teacher, counselor, coach and administrator to the Brookings (South Dakota) School District, **Steve Berseth**, CMAA, has distinguished himself as a longtime leader in the high school athletic administration profession.

For the past 16 years, Berseth has served as director of student activities at Brookings High School, with primary responsibilities for interscholastic athletics, fine arts activities, student organizations, school district calendar and community use of facilities. As a result of community partnerships, he also has served as liaison to the Brookings City Recreation Department, the South Dakota State University Athletic Department and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Since 1994, Berseth has been a member of the South Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (SDIAAA) Executive Committee. He has served the SDIAAA as president, NIAAA delegate, certification coordinator and state coordinator of the NIAAA Leadership Training Program since its inception.

Currently a member of the South Dakota High School Coaches Association Board of Directors, Berseth also was a member of the South Dakota High School Activities

Association Board of Directors from 1997 to 2002, serving as vice chairperson or chairperson for three years.

Berseth has distinguished himself in various capacities within the NIAAA. From 1999 to 2005, he was a member of the Certification Committee, serving as chairperson for three years. During his tenure, the RAA and CMAA levels of certification were developed and the NIAAA Certification Program received full registration from the National Certification Commission. In 1999, Berseth was appointed to the Leadership Training Program National Faculty, and also was a member of the Programs Committee for the first NIAAA Strategic Plan.

Since 1981, **Cliff Hill**, CAA, has served the Campbell County (Wyoming) School District in exemplary style.

Beginning as a physical education and health instructor and coach in the sports of football, wrestling and track, Hill advanced to associate principal/activities director in 1993. Six years later, he became an elementary school principal, and the following year, he was named district director of athletics, the position he still holds today.

Hill has been highly involved in leadership roles at the local level, where he served as secretary/treasurer and president of the Northeast District Junior High/Middle School Conference during the 1990s. He has been secretary/treasurer of the Wyoming High School Activities Association (WHSAA) Northeast District Athletic

Administrators Association since 2000, and he currently serves on the Campbell County Parks and Recreation Department Recreation Center/Sports Facility Committee that is planning a new \$50 million facility.

At the statewide level, Hill has been highly involved with the WHSAA, where he has been a member of both the Executive Council and the Board of Directors, and served as president. Within the Wyoming Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (WIAAA), Hill served two terms on the Board of Directors and currently is the organization's secretary.

A leader in the area of professional development, Hill was a WIAAA NFICEP/ASEP certified instructor from 1998 to 2004, and was a WIAAA Leadership Training Course (LTC) instructor at Wyoming Coaches Association state clinics in 2004 and 2005.

An NIAAA lifetime member, Hill received the 2004 State Award of Merit, has attended nine national conferences and has completed 24 LTC courses. He also has attended two National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Summer Meetings, as well as two NFHS Sections 7 and 8 meetings.

After graduating from Emory and Henry (Virginia) College in 1963, **Richard Kemper** went to work at St. Christopher's School in Richmond, Virginia, where he spent the next 43 years before retiring in 2006. He remains active today as executive director of the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association.

Prior to assuming the St. Christopher's athletic director position in 1990, Kemper was head of physical education for grades K-7, assistant director of athletics, and director of the school's "Summer Experience," a summer camp for children. Kemper also was an accomplished coach at St. Christopher's, leading the football team to back-to-back Prep League football championships in 1990 and 1991, and coaching the basketball team to its first Prep League basketball tournament championship in 1988. He was named Metro Football Coach of the Year three times (1981, 1988 and 1990) by the Touchdown Club of Richmond.

Kemper is an active member of the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (VIAAA), and currently serves on its Board of Directors. In 2004-05, Kemper was VIAAA president-elect before assuming the VIAAA presidency in 2005-06. He also served as the organization's professional development chairman from 2001 to 2004.

At the national level, Kemper currently serves on the NIAAA Certification Committee and was the committee's vice chair in 2006. He also served as the Virginia coordinator of the NIAAA Leadership Training Program from 1997 to 2004, and participated in the first NIAAA Leadership Training Program seminar in 1996.

Kemper has been honored on several occasions for his outstanding career. In 1999, he received the NIAAA State Award of Merit, and earned an NIAAA Distinguished

Service Award in 2005. In 1998, the VIAAA named Kemper “Athletic Director of the Year.”

**James Murphy** has certainly found a profession and a school to his liking as he has been the athletic administrator of George Stevens Academy in Blue Hill, Maine, since 1984. Murphy began teaching and coaching at the school in 1974, working more than 30 years at the same school.

While at George Stevens, Murphy has coached baseball, basketball and golf, and continues to teach accounting and business math. He also helped develop and raise funds for the school’s only outdoor athletic facility for soccer and baseball, and is currently designing a new softball facility to open this spring.

Thanks to Murphy’s emphasis on good sportsmanship, George Stevens has won Maine Principals’ Association (MPA) Sportsmanship Banners on five occasions. He also has placed a strong emphasis on academics. Since 1995, the average academic percentage of George Stevens student-athletes is 86.2.

Murphy’s service to the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) is extensive. He was selected to serve a term on the MIAAA Executive Committee in 1995, which included a stint as the organization’s president in 1998–99. He also currently serves as the MIAAA associate executive director. Within the state association, Murphy is chair of the MPA Baseball Committee and is a member of the

MPA Basketball Committee.

Among his many honors, Murphy was named MIAAA Athletic Administrator of the Year in 2006, received the NIAAA State Award of Merit for Maine in 2001 and earned the MIAAA Special Achievement Award in 1998. Murphy is also an approved CAA test administrator and a certified athletic trainer.

**Daniel Ninestine** is the athletic director of Port St. Lucie (Florida) High School, a position he has held since 1995. Ninestine began his career in education while still a student at St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida, as he served as athletic director of Miami Gesu Elementary School from 1979 to 1981.

After graduating from St. Thomas in 1982, Ninestine was a physical education teacher and coach at Miami Belen Jesuit Preparatory School. His quick ascent in the athletic administration profession continued in 1984 when, at age 23, Ninestine was named athletic director and head boys basketball coach at Indian River Academy in Vero Beach, Florida. At the time, he was the youngest athletic director and boys basketball coach in Florida.

At the state level, Ninestine has served on the Florida Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (FIAAA) Board of Directors since 1997, including a term as FIAAA president in 2002–03. He also was the FIAAA state conference chairman in 2001 and 2002. In 2003, he was named FIAAA Athletic Director of the Year and received the

NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2006. He also is a member of the Florida teaching staff for the NIAAA Leadership Training Program.

In addition to his career in athletic administration, Ninestine is an accomplished official with more than 30 years experience in several sports. He has umpired spring training games for the New York Mets and Los Angeles Dodgers, and officiated games in football, baseball, softball and basketball for the Florida High School Athletic Association.

As director of athletics of Valparaiso (Indiana) High School, **Sam Rasmussen** has had an impact on interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels for more than 20 years.

While at Valparaiso, Rasmussen has chaired several conference committees, including the sports of swimming and diving, and basketball, and currently serves as chair of the Duneland Athletic Conference. He has served the school system as a team leader for the design and development of new athletic facilities, and as its public relations liaison to the city of Valparaiso. In addition, he has established a school hall of fame and implemented a student and parent athletic advisory council.

Rasmussen's involvement at the state level is extensive. He served as Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (IIAAA) president in 2004-05, after terms as second vice president and first vice president the previous two years. In

addition, Rasmussen was chair of the IIAAA Professional Development Committee for nine years and developed the IIAAA Scholarship Program.

Also at the state level, Rasmussen has been the tournament director for more than 500 Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) sectional, regional and semi-state tournaments in 20 sports. He was also a member of the IHSAA Football Realignment Committee and helped institute a new athletic directors workshop in conjunction with the IHSAA.

Rasmussen's impact at the national level includes actively serving on the NIAAA Board of Directors and as a member of the NIAAA Delegate Assembly from 1999 to 2005. He has served as a CAA test administrator since 1998 and is a state instructor for the NIAAA Leadership Training Program.

With a number of firsts to her credit, Springdale (Arkansas) Public Schools Athletic Director **Annette Scogin** has compiled an impressive career benefitting numerous students in Arkansas, while serving as a leader for female athletic directors in the state.

Scogin was the first woman to be elected vice president (2002-04) and president (2004-06) of the Arkansas High School Athletic Administrators Association (AHSAAA). She also served as AHSAAA secretary from 2000 to 2002 and as master of ceremonies for the first AHSAAA Hall of Fame Banquet in 2006.

She is a current member of the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) Hall of Fame Committee and the Budget Committee, and was the first athletic director in the state to earn the Certified Master Athletic Administrator designation.

At the national level, Scogin currently serves as a member of the NIAAA National Faculty (the first elected from Arkansas) and the NIAAA Endowment Committee, and is the Arkansas representative to the NIAAA Delegate Assembly. She has also presented and moderated at three national conferences, and was an LTC instructor at the conference from 2002 to 2005.

Scogin is very active in her community, volunteering her time for a number of causes, including Habitat for Humanity, Northwest Arkansas Race for the Cure, the Real Deal on the Hill Basketball Tournament and the Southeastern Conference women's basketball tournament. She also served on the board of the Arkansas Children's Fitness Committee, and currently is a board member of the Kendrick Foundation.

As the athletic director at Rowland Hall–St. Mark's School in Salt Lake City, Utah, **Kendra Tomsic** is helping student–athletes excel in interscholastic athletics, even though her high school experience did not include athletic participation before the implementation of Title IX.

Tomsic certainly knows how to excel in athletics, however. As a standout athlete at the College of Eastern Utah, Tomsic was named all–conference in volleyball and

softball, and was a member of the gymnastics and swimming teams. She was named the school's Outstanding Female Athlete in 1975 and was inducted into its athletic hall of fame in 1996.

After graduating in 1977 as valedictorian of the College of Education from Utah State University, Tomsic began her career in education in 1981 as a teacher and coach at Grand County School District in Moab, Utah. In 1987, she was named athletic director of Grand High School and led its volleyball team to a state championship that same year. Later, she coached the softball team to back-to-back state titles in 1990 and 1991.

In 1992, Tomsic was named athletic director at Rowland Hall-St. Mark's and continued her coaching career, earning the NFHS Utah State Volleyball Coach of the Year award in 2003. She was also named athletic director of the year in 2004 by the Utah High School Activities Association.

Tomsic is very active in the Utah Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (UIAAA). She was the first woman to serve as UIAAA president in 2004-05 after being chosen president-elect in 2003-04. She has also served on the UIAAA Awards Selection Committee, the UIAAA Scholarship Selection Committee and the UIAAA Basketball Hall of Fame Game Committee.

Active in community service, Tomsic is the co-founder of the statewide fundraiser “Swing for Life,” which has raised more than \$185,000 for breast cancer research at the Huntsman Cancer Foundation.

### **About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 18,500 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

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