

NEWSLETTER

January 2012

The RIIAAA Executive Board would like to thank its members for all its dedication to athletics in the state of Rhode Island. Through your effort, student-athletes are able to attain higher goals and enrich their lives through sport.

We would also like to make you aware of our efforts to find better avenues to communicate with you. Our duty is to represent you and your needs to the best of our ability. Should you have an issue or idea that you feel our membership needs to be aware of please contact one of us. You are also encouraged to attend any Executive Board meeting to voice a concern or just see what we do once a month at the RIIL at RIC.

The following important information, which has come out of discussions from our recent meeting, is to help keep you aware of current issues or concerns in Rhode Island athletics.

1. Congratulations to Michael Traficante (Chair- Cranston) and Bob Murray (Tiverton) as representatives to the RIIL Hall of Fame Committee.
2. Realignment for fall 2012-2014 were accepted: Football, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Soccer, Tennis, and Volleyball.
3. Welcome new teams: Westerly to Boys' Lacrosse and Burrillville/North Smithfield Co-Op in Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse spring 2012.
4. Competition Cheer State Tournaments will now be run by the United Cheer Association (UCA). This association will be responsible for officials, mats, spotters, risers, DJ, and any other incidentals of a State Competition Cheer Event.
5. Hockey will be meeting to discussion realignment, especially in Division I with the withdrawal of Moses Brown. Also, the 15 minute period debate continues in Division III and Girls' Hockey in the form of a survey. Results have not been released to date.
6. The RIIAAA Awards Banquet is set for April 3, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza, Warwick. Deadline for placing Advertisement is February 9, 2012.
7. The RIIAAA State Conference is set for March 20-22, 2012 Hyannis, MA. Bob Palazzo will present a workshop on "*Establishing An Accountable Coaches' Association*".
8. The RIIL *Student of the Month Program* needs your support. Take the time to nominate at least one male and one female monthly for your school.
9. There are changes to the RIIAAA Constitution/By-Laws that needs to be voted on by the General Membership meeting on March 20, 2012. The membership needs to approve three representatives that will be presented to the Principals' Committee on Athletics. Of the three, the PCOA will choose one member to sit on the PCOA as a voting member.
10. The Presidents of the Coaches' Associations met as one to discuss Coaches Associations – A Non-Profit Organization. Bob Palazzo and Mike Traficante will meet again with the group. It was agreed by the group that the Past President of the RIIAAA Executive Board would chair this group.
11. The RIIAAA has a genuine need for coaches to be allowed off season contact with their student-athletes. The RIIAAA is pursuing a proposal on off season conditioning.
12. The East Coast Indoor Track & Field Invitational held in Providence in December was a success. The event was attended by 64 schools representing 16 states. Kudos to Bob Palazzo (Classical) and the Providence Career Technical School on hosting this soon to be annual event.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Beth Penkala (Mt.Hope) at penkalab@bw.k12.ri.us