

*Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association*

**NEWSLETTER**

*February 2014*

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 on the RIC campus.

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.

*Today I received the gift of a bracelet. I consider it to be very special, because it was given to me to help honor the memory of George Nasuti.*

*George and I were professional friends. We had much in common as we worked within our school community to advance the athletic programs within our school community. Often our paths would cross because we worked in the same city. And I must say, that in many ways hospitality helped define who he was as an athletic administrator. When I needed a field and he had one available, he offered it to me.*

*When I needed a cross country course to run on, he offered to share what he had. When my track team practiced alongside his team, he was fine with our sharing equipment.*

*George would never call me by my first name. He always addressed me as Mr. Lawrence, and when I chastised him and told him to call me by my first name, he would shrug and smile and say that was his way to show respect.*

*He would often say, "Give Respect, Get Respect."*

*He certainly lived that motto.*

*He was a very special person.*

*He was a friend.*

*He will be missed.*

*Richard Lawrence CMAA  
Director of Athletics  
Mount Saint Charles Academy*

1. Take the time to give a moment of silence for your colleague George Nasuti, Athletic Director (posthumously), Woonsocket High School. George was the epitome of an Athletic Administrator and will certainly be missed by all.
2. Athletic Directors are asked to reach out to Carnell Henderson at Woonsocket HS, interim Athletic Director, to offer any support to him as he is preparing the spring sports schedule. Carnell can be reached at 401-767-4700 x704 or by email at [chenderson@woonsocketschools.com](mailto:chenderson@woonsocketschools.com)
3. The RIIAAA Executive Board has voted to send a charitable donation in the amount of \$1000 in the memory of George Nasuti to: The George Nasuti Scholarship Fund, Blackstone River Federal Credit Union, 10 Monument Square, Woonsocket, RI 02895. The Board also voted to amend the name of **the RIIAAA School of the Year Award** to ***The George Nasuti School of the Year Award effective 2014. The recipient school will also receive \$500 (as RIIAAA funds allow) to be used by their athletic department.***
4. Athletic Directors serving as either Director or Co-Director of a sport committee are reminded to send meeting report(s) to Bob Palazzo [Robert.Palazzo@ppsd.org](mailto:Robert.Palazzo@ppsd.org) as soon as possible. In order for Jeff Maidment and Mike Traficante to best serve you at Principals' Committee on Athletics meetings, Bob would need to pass on sport committee resolutions to the RIIAAA Executive Board for discussion in advance of the PCOA meetings.
5. Sport Committee Reports:
  - a. **Outdoor Track:** Facilities are the major concern in outdoor track. Division/Class meets will have a minimum standard per event that must be met to qualify for these events. There is still a four (4) athlete per event maximum participation.
  - b. **Swim:** Based on the current placement of dual performance meets, a concern was brought forth that boys and girls should be placed in appropriate divisions based on the realignment process. Some teams are penalized participating in divisions higher than they belong because of the dual event schedule.
  - c. **Girls' Lacrosse:** An allowance of just six (6) games a day by the girls' lacrosse officials has placed a hurdle on sports scheduling. This issue has been brought to the attention of the RIIIL.
  - d. **Softball:** South Kingstown will be running an Injury Fund Softball Tournament, Saturday March 29, 2014 starting at 8:00 am at the Mt. Pleasant Fields. There will be a 3 game minimum for all teams that participate, cost will \$50.00, checks made out to SKHS. Contact Terry Lynch at [tlynch@skschools.net](mailto:tlynch@skschools.net) asap.

6. Congratulations to Terry Lynch, South Kingstown for being selected as the RIIAAA Athletic Director of the Year and to Greg Kortick, West Warwick for West Warwick High School being selected the first George Nasuti School of the Year. A list of all recipients can be found at [www.riaaa.org](http://www.riaaa.org) . This year's **Awards Banquet is being held at The Crowne Plaza, Thursday, April 3, 2014.**
7. **The MASSADA/RIIAAA State Conference** schedule and registration has been sent to membership. The deadline for registration is March 1, 2014.
8. In conjunction with the RIIAAA, the Crowne Plaza, Warwick will be the site for the **NIAAA Section 1** meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2015.
9. The NIAAA – RIIAAA will pay registration fees for the NIAAA Conference to any first time attendee. This year's NIAAA Conference is December 2014 in Maryland.

*Any questions or concerns, please contact Beth Penkala at:*  
[\*bethpenkala5@gmail.com\*](mailto:bethpenkala5@gmail.com)