# 2015-2016 RIIAAA Award Nominees

## Sister Charlene Tedeschi Distinguished Service Award

Candidate should be someone other than a RIIAAA member who has contributed to Rhode Island athletics in their local community or on a statewide level. Candidate should be nominated for his/her promotion and assistance with the improvement of high school athletics through his/her involvement in youth and/or recreational programs. Candidate should display dedication, compassion and care towards youth, characteristics that Sister Charlene Tedeschi exhibited during her tenure as Director of Athletics at Bay View Academy.

#### Nominees:

Sharon Lombardo – Warren

* Life-long youth advocate and supporter of athletics in Warren
* Former High school Cheer and Softball coach as well as Director of Recreation in the town of Warren
* She could be seen on the sidelines of pop warner and high school football as an ever present figure
* Long time wrestling mom, and truly dedicated parent to athletics
* She looked out for her own children but truly included all children in the towns of Bristol and Warren in her athletic family. Sharon recently lost her battle with cancer.

Chuck Vermette – Proponent of East Providence Youth Athletics and Retired EP Teacher & Administrator

* Involved with youth sports for more than 50 years
* Organized local recreation flag football and basketball leagues within East Providence for many years
* Officiated at many levels (youth to high school) for football, basketball, baseball, & softball
* Serves as an official assignor for EP middle school basketball, baseball, & softball
* Umpires baseball & softball for the EP Umpires USSSA organization

## Male Coach of the Year

Candidate must be a male coach of either a boys or girls team in a Rhode Island high school program. Candidate should be an exceptional coach who is viewed as a quality role model and leader of student athletes. This coach need not be a successful coach in terms of championships and wins, but more importantly, in terms of character development of athletes, sportsmanship, ethics, integrity, and professionalism. Candidate should also possess attributes such as a solid work ethic, knowledge of the game, and have a positive impact on the future direction of their athletes. This candidate does not have to be a head coach.

#### Nominees:

Thomas Seaver – Mt. St. Charles Baseball Head Coach

* MSC Baseball Head Coach for the past 23 years, totaling 36 years as a coach within the program
* 2015 Division II State Champions
* Won 300th Game on May 13, 2015
* Qualified for DII Playoffs in 15 seasons
* Division Champions in 5 seasons
* Reached the DII State Semi-Finals 8 times
* Reached the State Finals 5 times
* DII State Champions 3 times (2009, 2012, & 2015)
* Two time Woonsocket Call Baseball Coach of the Year

Eric Aaronian – Moses Brown Soccer Head Coach

* 2015 undefeated regular season.  Lost in Finals to MSC in 2OT
* Team very active in school leadership and community service
* Teams have won 6 consecutive Sportsmanship Awards from Coaches associations & officials associations,
* Coaches Association Coach of the year 2015
* Nominated for the Regional Coach of the Year award for the National Soccer Coaches Association 2015
* MB Goalie one of 4 RI players to be selected to the 2015 All-New England Team

John George – East Greenwich Football Head Coach

* Qualified for the playoffs 3 out of 6 years
* Reached the Super Bowl in each of those 3 years
* Won Super Bowl 2015, Loss 2014, Loss 2012
* 2015 Division III Champions and Super Bowl Champions, Undefeated Season
* 2015 RI Football Officials Dick Reynolds Sportsmanship Award
* 2015 Gatorade Player of the Year Nick Andreozzi
* Overall regular season record:  31-18
* Division III Coach of the Year 2015, 2012
* 2013 Wendy’s High School Heisman National Winner Andrew Miner
* 2013/2014 USA Today Army National Guard Inspiration Award Andrew Miner

Bruce Brawley – Westerly Lacrosse Head Coach

* First 3 years records: 2012 – 1-12, 2013 – 6-6, 2014 – 7-6
* Spring 2015 Season:
  + 16-0, Division 3 Champion
  + D3 coach of the year
* Attended the 2014-15 National US Lacrosse Conference
* 2015 Implemented:
  + Off season fitness training was implemented
  + Make-over to practice structure
  + Concentrated on skill development
  + Film study of all games was implemented of both our team and opponenents
  + Better coordination of film study to game plans and practice plans
  + Organized pasta dinners with parents before every game
* Worked with his Assistant Coaches tirelessly to change many aspects of a new program to make it work as a long standing program
* Openly encourages and celebrates teamwork rather than individual successes.

## School of the Year

School should be recognized for the following three seasons: Winter 2013-2014, Spring 2014 and Fall 2014. School should be respected for success and quality of athletic programs in its entirety. School should demonstrate exemplary conduct, decorum, and sportsmanship at all events in as well as out of school. Areas to be highlighted should be: drug/alcohol awareness programs, individual and/or team involvement community service, recognition in the area of sportsmanship, booster club contributions, coaches attending professional seminars and clinics etc…School must also be a member of the RIIAAA. Nomination of your school can be supported by articles, videos, and or letters from local people associated with your programs.

#### Nominees:

East Greenwich High School

* Winter 2014/2015
  + Boys Basketball  15-2 reg. season  D2 Quarter Finalists, State Open Qualifier
  + Girls Basketball  17-1 reg. season  D2 Quarter Finalists, State Open Qualifier
  + B Swim    6-1 reg. season D2 State Runner Up
  + G Swim   7-1  reg. season D2 State Runner Up
  + B Hockey  13-5 reg. season D2 Semi-Finalist
  + Wrestling   15-2 reg. Season  Individual State Champion Ebed Jarrell
  + Girls Indoor Track  9-0  Sullivan Divisional Winner
* Spring 2015
  + Baseball   11-7 reg. season  D1 State Playoff Qualifier, 1st Team All-Stater  Nolan Cooney
  + B Lax      5-7 reg. season (1st season in D1), State Semi-Finalist, Community Clean up
  + B Volleyball  9-5 reg. season  State Qualifier
  + B Tennis  9-5 reg. season  D1 State qualifier, Singles Champion Zach Johnson
  + Golf  12-2 reg. season  Team qualified for state playoffs
  + Boys Track     Class C Champions
  + Girls Track     Class C runner up
* Fall 2015
  + Football   8-0 reg. season, DIII State Champs, DIII Coach of The Year, Gatorade Player Of the Year, Dick Reynolds Sportsmanship Award, 2 players 1st Team All-Staters
    - Football team supported a young man that was raising funds for a wheelchair van and made him an honorary captain of the team
  + FH        14-3-1 reg. season  D1 State Semi-Finalist, 3 players 1st Team All-Staters
  + G Tennis  13-0 reg. season  D 1 Finalist, Singles State Champion, Doubles State Finalist
  + G Volleyball  14-2 reg. season  D2 state Semi-Finalists
    - Girls Volleyball did a fundraiser for a boy in need with cancer
  + G Soccer     D1 State Quarter Finalist
  + B Soccer     D1  Playoff Qualifier
  + B XC          Class C State Champs, 3rd in State Open
  + G XC          Class C State Champs
  + Unified Volleyball    D1 State Champs

Mt. Hope High School

* Softball State Champions 2015
* 2014-2015 Division Titles in Gymnastics, Wrestling, Girls Lacrosse, Girls Softball, & Girls Soccer
* Graduating Valedictorian & Salutatorian 2015 both 3 Sport Athletes
* 8/10 top ranked students in 2015 were athletes.
* 92 Pro FM Team of the week- FALL SPORTS MHHS 2015
* 3 Golden Dozen Football Eligible Nominations 2015
* 6 Academic All-Division football 2015
* RI Heisman Winner 2015- Jake Ramos, Mt. Hope
* 5 Academic All-State Soccer 2015
* 2 All- League Selections in Girls Lacrosse
* 2nd year of Student-Athlete Advisory Committee @ MHHS
* 2nd year Academic All-Star Team named for MHHS

## Female Coach of the Year

Candidate must be a female coach of either a boys or girls team in a Rhode Island high school program. Candidate should be an exceptional coach who is viewed as a quality role model and leader of student athletes. This coach need not be a successful coach in terms of championships and wins, but more importantly, in terms of character development of athletes, sportsmanship, ethics, integrity, and professionalism. Candidate should also possess attributes such as a solid work ethic, knowledge of the game, and have a positive impact on the future direction of their athletes. This candidate does not have to be a head coach.

#### Nominees:

Michelle Tebbets – Chariho Lacrosse Head Coach

* 7 year head coach of the program since its inception
* Back-to-Back State Champions in 2014 & 2015
* Her positive work ethic and enthusiasm set the standard for her team
* Also the Assistant Coach for the Field Hockey Team

Bobbie Simon – East Providence Competition Cheerleading Head Coach

* 2015 Competition Cheer State Champions
* Developed team over the past 3 seasons to compete at the state level
* Coed Cheer team earned the most points at the state meet
* Extremely organized, prepared, & dedicated to cheerleading and her team

Carol Beaudette – Bay View Cross Country Head Coach

* 2015 Class B Champions
* 2015 qualifier for the New England Championships (first BVA team since 2006)
* Established a “Goal Setting Day” for athlete’s team and personal goals
* Spent hours reviewing results and times to establish the most effective daily workouts
* Earned the Trust of every student-athlete and fostered their belief in the team and teammates
* Overcame significant adversity this season to capture the Class B Championship

Kerri Ferreira – Mt. Hope Soccer & Lacrosse Head Coach

* Involved in soccer and lacrosse at Mt Hope for over 13 years
* Current Head Coach of both Soccer and Lacrosse programs
* Spring of 2015: Girls Lacrosse State Runner Up & Division Champions
* Fall of 2015: Girls soccer record: 12-3-1 season, lost in the Semi-finals 3-2 to Cumberland.
* Runs a year round conditioning program open to all female athletes regardless of sport
* Instills the values of hard work, dedication and sportsmanship and conveys the mission of the athletics program and the value of becoming true student-athletes achieving in the classroom and on the athletic field
* Sets a great example and is a true leader for the students of Mt. Hope.

## School Administrator of the Year

The candidate shall be an administrator in a RIIAAA member school district. The award is designed to honor an administrator other than an athletic director who has demonstrated concern and support of high school athletics. The candidate should be visible at athletic events and serve as an advocate of the importance of athletics in an educational setting.

#### Nominees:

Dr. Michael Barnes – Superintendent of the Foster-Glocester Regional School District (Ponaganset HS)

* Developed STEM Academy and "Pathways" for all electives leading to industry certifications and/or college credit
* Voted 2013 Superintendent of the Year
* Sets aside funds for large athletic-related capital projects (field house (2008), new track (2013), weight room (2014) tennis courts (2015)
* Has helped increase the athletic budget yearly to expand programs & offerings
* Helped to grow Ponaganset athletic department by adding 7 teams within the past 6 years).
  + Boys & Girls Lacrosse
  + High School & Middle School Unified Basketball
  + High School Unified Volleyball
  + Middle School Wrestling
  + Middle School Baseball & Softball
* Supports & Hosts RIIL XC Championship Meets.
* Fosters a strong relationship with community and community leaders (Town Councils).

Mrs. Kim Mercer – Superintendent of East Providence School District

* Strong supporter of athletics in East Providence
* Increased funding for athletics in every year as Superintendent
* Brought middle school athletics back to East Providence
* Reintroduced Golf Team to EPHS
* Proponent of increasing coaching stipends after big cut by the budget commission

Mr. Donald Rebello – Principal of Mt. Hope High School

* Strong advocate for educational based athletics
* Current President of the Rhode Island Association of School Principals; which oversee and regulate both the Rhode Island Interscholastic League and its Principals’ Committee on Athletics
* He often looks for input on issues and has championed causes on behalf of the RIAAA
* Former football coach in nearby Somerset, Massachusetts he understands both sides of the fence in regards to rules and regulations
* Mr. Rebello helped start our VASSA program is a supporter of our Student –Athlete Advisory Committee and captains meetings

## Athletic Director of the Year

The candidate shall be an athletic administrator who is recognized in the community as an educational leader and one who maintains athletics as an integral part of the total educational process. He/she shall administer an exemplary athletic program, making full use of school and community resources and involving as many students as possible. He/she shall have achievements in the following areas:

1.) Attends state and/or national Conferences.

2.) Involved in state association and/or interscholastic league committees.

3.) Involved in RIIL activities and programs that promote wellness, sportsmanship and leadership.

4.) Taking Leadership Training Courses that promote professional development.

5.) Having achieved or striving for RAA, CAA or CMAA status.

#### Nominees:

Bobby Palazzo – Classical HS Athletic Director

* 16th year serving Classical as Athletic Director
* Member of the RIIAAA Executive Board for 13 yrs
* RIIAAA LTI Coordinator
* CMAA status
* AD Member of two Sport Committees: Indoor & Outdoor Track & Field
* Has Coached 3 seasons each year for 22 years
* President of the Track Coaches Association
  + Brought three separate coaches associations (XC, Indoor Track, & Outdoor Track) together under one coaches association
  + Organizes & implements several state-level indoor track meets at the PCTA facility

Ken Rix – Warwick Veterans HS Athletic Director

* 12th year as Athletic Director
* Educational leader at W.Vets as an English Teacher and Director of Athletics
* Developed the educational Athletic Academy at W.Vets, which translates lessons learned in the classroom to those learned on the athletic fields. Ken’s Athletic Academy was later adopted school-wide as the Leadership Academy.
* Instrumental in adding Boys & Girls Lacrosse teams as well as the Unified Basketball program at W.Vets
* Lead a committee to add Middle School Sports city wide, which has been adopted for next school year. This is the first time Warwick will offer MS sports.
* Ken has served on the following RIIL Sport Committees: Baseball, Softball, Competition Cheerleading
* Member of the RIIAAA Realignment Committee
* Attained CAA status and has attended several State Conferences over the years
* Organizes several soccer tournaments each year: “Hurricane Invitational” & Boys Warwick City Cup”
* Established the annual “Letterman’s Night” to honor W.Vets student-athletes
* Ken has promoted W.Vets student-athletes who have earned the following awards: Gatorade Player of the Year, Providence Journal Honor Roll Girl of the Year, and Old Spice Player of the Year.

Tom Marcello – Ponaganset HS/MS Athletic Director

* 9th year as Athletic Director
* Chairman of the RIIAAA realignment committee
* Member of the following sport committee’s – Football, Cross Country, & Baseball
* Member of the RIIAAA Executive Board since 2011
* Attended 2014 NIAAA National Conference in Maryland
* President-Elect of the RIIAAA Executive Board
* Annually hosts the RI Class and State XC championships for boys and girls and works with his coaching staff and entire community to be sure the events are run properly and safely

## NIAAA Award of Merit

Candidate must be a current athletic administrator. He/She should have a history of contributions to state athletic programs and may have attended state, Section 1 and national conferences representing his/her state and school. Candidate should be involved in professional development through the Leadership Training Program having achieved or striving for CAA and/or CMAA status. Preferably candidate should involve themselves in state and national association committees.

#### Nominees:

Paul Alianiello – Bishop Hendricken Director of Athletics

* 30 years serving as Athletic Director
* Former President of the RIIAAA
* Former member of the RIIAAA Executive Board
* Serves as an AD on the Outdoor Track & Field Sport Committee
* Has attended numerous national & state conferences including 2015 NIIAAA Conference

Terry Lynch – South Kingstown Director of Athletics

* Member of the RIIAAA Executive Board
* Member of two RIIL Sport Committees
  + Ice Hockey (boys & girls)
  + Baseball
* Attended 2015 NIAAA National Conference in Orlando

## Media Award

Candidate must be a member of the print or news media at either the local, state or regional level. Candidate must possess exemplary contributions to High School Sports through his/her promotion and publicizing of athletic events.

#### Nominees:

Richard Dionne – East Bay Newspapers

* Rich has been a great advocate for all Eastbay Athletic programs
* Always ready with his camera he displays our young athletes throughout the local paper
* Last year with the loss of a writer, Rich stepped up and is often the point person for athletic related stories
* Rich is always ready to provide positive community outreach and support for our programs.

Yianni Kourakis – WPRI 12 and Fox Providence Sports Director

* Anchors the sports for Eyewitness News at 6:00pm, 6:30 pm, and 11:00pm
* Hosts and produces the Sports Wrap nightly at 10:45 on Fox Providence.
* Since joining the Eyewitness News team in Sept. 2013, Yianni has covered the Patriots’ Super Bowl win following the 2014 season, as well as the Red Sox World Series win in 2013. On both occasions, Yianni hosted live post-game shows from the field after the championship. He also followed PC basketball in the NCAA Tournament, the Friars Hockey Championship team, and hosted Inside Rhode Island Basketball with Dan Hurley.
* During the fall, Yianni hosts the Patriots Wrap on Sunday nights and co-hosts the Friday Night High School Football Wrap with Mark Dondero.
* Yianni is a Rhode Island native and graduate of South Kingstown High School. Prior to returning to the Ocean State, Yianni was a Sports Anchor/Reporter at WRIC-TV in Richmond, VA where he was named Associated Press Sportscaster of the Year in Virginia in 2012 and 2013. Yianni also worked at WBOC-TV in Salisbury, MD and the Mid-Atlantic Sports Network. He is a proud graduate of the University of Maryland.