

GENERAL INFORMATION

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GENERAL INFORMATION

ABOUT ASAA

Contact Information

Alaska School Activities Association
4048 Laurel Street, Suite 203
Phone: (907) 563-3723
Fax: (907) 561-0720 or (907) 563-3739
Email: contactus@asaa.org
Website: <http://www.asaa.org>

Member of the National Federation of State High School Associations since 1956

Mission

(Revised April 2017)

Strengthen student wellness, academic and social development by advocating equitable participation and fostering healthy competition for ALL Alaska students. #winforlife

Vision

To ensure ALL students have the opportunity to participate in co-curricular activities to develop positive life skills. #winforlife

Services

ASAA is responsible for sanctioning 36 activities ranging from fall, winter and spring sports, to music, art, drama, debate, language and student government. ASAA sets competitive seasons, sponsors state competitions, regulates sports officials and provides eligibility criteria for students. Specifically, ASAA does the following:

- Provides awards, in each state competition, and an academic champion.
- Sponsors the Alaska Association of Student Governments (AASG).
- Tests and certifies officials in various sports.
- Trains and certifies coaches in various sports and trains music adjudicators.
- Enforces standard rules and regulations associated with each competition.
- Supplies rule books and audio-visual training materials.
- Sanctions out-of-state travel for interscholastic competition.
- Promotes sportsmanship and a cooperative spirit among member schools, coaches, student athletes and communities.
- Works to prevent exploitation of student athletes by special interest groups.
- Manages a current website (<http://asaa.org>) which provides information and services to all its member schools and administrators as well as coaches and officials associations.

History of ASAA

(Condensed Version • Revised June 2014)

ASAA's roots predate statehood. In the early 1950s, school leaders in the Territory of Alaska recognized the need to separate the high school basketball program from the local town business leagues. William Zahradnicek of Palmer, and W.W. Lahnum and Gordon Guffey of Anchorage, joined forces to organize the Western Alaska High School Activities Association with a mandate to ensure the necessary educational leadership. Sterling Sears of Juneau and Les Wingard and J.E. Danielson of Ketchikan were moving ahead at the same time to form the Southeast Alaska Activities Association.

In 1956, the Territorial Department of Education Superintendents Advisory Commission determined the need for an organization that could establish common rules and regulations to guide the activities of the two associations. In the Fall of 1957, the commission approved the Constitution and Bylaws of the Alaska High School Activities Association (ASAA). Officers representing the two divisions were elected. The first Board of Control consisted of William Zahradnicek, Palmer, as Chairman, J.E. Danielson, Ketchikan, Secretary-Treasurer; and members George McMillan, Juneau, Joe Montgomery, Anchorage, and Sterling Sears, Juneau.

This informal arrangement worked very well until the early 1970s, when the State Legislature added a section to the Educational Statutes placing the Association under the Department of Education. School populations and the number of participating schools were increasing. After many meetings, the two original associations became five distinct Regions based on school size and geographic location. One year later, in 1976, Regions increased to six. The new Board of Control consisted of one member from each Region, a representative of the Association of Alaska School Boards, and a representative of the Superintendents Association. In 1978, the board added a representative of the Alaska Association of Student Governments.

Due to the increasing number of schools participating in boys and girls basketball, the need for additional statewide culminating events became evident. This required the formation of a classification system that spanned all of the Regions. This task fell to a committee composed of representatives from all six Regions. It was known as the "Black and Blue" Ribbon Study Commission because of the difficulties faced in satisfying the needs of each Region. In June 1981, the Board of Control adopted the Commission's recommendation to establish four classifications based on school enrollment with some overlap in the two smallest classes due to geographic location. The first statewide event for the smaller classes was an invitational basketball tournament held in Anchorage in 1983-84.

In 1986, the Department of Education eliminated funding for ASAA. The Board of Control voted to incorporate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, beginning July 1, 1987. Because of ongoing jurisdictional issues between the Association and the State of Alaska, both entities sought a legal resolution. This resulted in the 1995 repeal of the Legislative Statute that had placed ASAA under the Department of Education.

In 2007, in order to ensure consistent tobacco, alcohol and controlled substances policies by member schools and districts, the Board of Directors adopted the "Play for Keeps-Win for Life" program for all student participants.

In 2011, the Alaska Legislature passed House Bill 15, (amended in 2012 under Senate Bill 119), that sets standards for concussion awareness, education, treatment and return to participation protocols. ASAA developed recommended policies and procedures to assist in the implementation of the law.

In 2013, the Alaska Legislature passed Senate Bill 41 that addressed interscholastic participation by "alternative education program students." ASAA developed bylaws and policies to assist schools, students and families in the implementation of the statute.

Executive Directors

1957-1960 J.E. Danielson, Ketchikan

1960-1965	Joe Montgomery, Anchorage
1965-1971	Les Wells, Anchorage
1971-1975	Rick Arndt, Anchorage
1976-1976	Ed Frandsen, Wasilla
1977-1981	Les Wells, Anchorage
1981-1993	Ed Nash, Anchorage
1993-2014	Gary Matthews, Anchorage
2014-present	Billy Strickland, Anchorage

Staff

Billy Strickland – Executive Director

Email: billy@asaa.org

Billy is responsible for ASAA operations, staff, finances, eligibility, waivers, and ASAA board relations. He is Alaska's representative on the National Federation Council, and currently serves on the NFHS Foundation Committee. He is also the ASAA representative on the Alaska Endowment for Youth Activities Program.

Rus Schreckenghost (Shreck) – Associate Director

Email: schreck@asaa.org

Schreck is responsible for officials and coaches certification, state championship officials selection and ejections. He also coordinates Cross Country, Swim & Dive, Mix Six/2A Volleyball, Hockey, Nordic Ski, Track & Field and Baseball.

Isaiah Vreeman – Associate Director

Email: isaiah@asaa.org

Isaiah develops all championship budgets, coordinates media relations, and manages ASAA365.com. He monitors and solicits championship bids and produces all state champion programs. Isaiah also coordinates Football, Wrestling and Basketball.

Sandi Wagner – Associate Director

Email: sandi@asaa.org

Sandi is responsible for historical data, Alaska High School Hall of Fame, awards and serves on the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. She is the NIAAA Liaison and also coordinates Tennis, 3A/4A Volleyball, Cheer, DDF, Soccer and Softball.

Brian Hosken – Director of Student Services

Email: brian@asaa.org

Brian is responsible for the Play for Keeps Program, grant writing and administrating. He also serves as a liaison between ASAA and other state agencies.

Deanna Montagna – Director of Office Operations

Email: deanna@asaa.org

Deanna manages office operations, assists Associate Directors and works with the Executive Director in communication to schools. Deanna provides support for the School Activities Reporting System (SARS) and is also responsible for All State Art Competition and World Language Declamation Competition. She is the secretary for the ASAA Board of Directors meetings and is charged with maintaining the minutes.

Brad Potter – Director of Technology

Email: brad@asaa.org

Brad is responsible for the design, development and content management of all ASAA websites, social media accounts, photography, digital media assets and related technology. He is also responsible for the IT management of computer systems, mobile communications, network infrastructure and provides technical assistance and training for the staff.

Doug Stewart – Director of Marketing and Development

Email: doug@asaa.org

Doug is the main contact for all marketing and funding initiatives. He works closely with ASAA sponsors to match their interests with the needs of ASAA. Doug is also responsible for the planning of all special events, such as the Alaska High School Hall of Fame ceremony.

Kari McFeron – Administrative Assistant

Email: kari@asaa.org

Kari is part-time receptionist and helps with front office duties.

Cam Bohman – Music Coordinator

Email: cambohman@msn.com

Cam organizes and administers the All-State Music Festival held in November and the State Solo and Ensemble Music Festival held in May. Her responsibilities involve overseeing the adjudication process, the student selection procedure, the daily festival activities, the culminating performances and any appeal actions for each of the two state music festivals with the high school music directors, adjudicators, conductors, accompanists, students and parents.

Denise Greene Wilkinson – Student Government Director

Email: dgwk12@gmail.com

Denise coordinates all the student government business including the fall and spring AASG Conferences. She also schedules and attends many AASG executive meetings and monitors their budget.

Jeanie Farley - Chief Financial Officer

Email: jeanie@asaa.org

Jeanie is responsible for all accounting-related activities including processing of all accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll. She is responsible for preparing the annual operating budget as well and in house finance reports. Annually she assists the auditors with preparation of our financial statements.

Board of Directors

The Alaska School Activities Association is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board includes voting members from each of the six regions, as well as from the Alaska Association of School Boards and the Alaska Association of School Administrators. A student representative from the Alaska Association of Student Governments also sits on the board as an advisory, non-voting member.

Region 1

Ed Lester, Principal

Newhalen High School
900 Schoolhouse Lane
Iliamna, AK 99606
Phone: 907-571-1211 / Fax: 907-751-1466
Email: elester@lpsd.com

Region 2

Steve Klaich, Activities Director

Nikolaevsk High School
P.O. Box 5129
Nikolaevsk, AK 99556
Phone: 907-235-8972 / Fax: 907-235-3617
Email: sklaich@kpbsd.k12.ak.us
Region 2 Email: stevek@asaa-regionii.com

Region 3

Dale Ewart, Activities Director

Palmer High School
1170 West Bogard Road
Palmer, AK 99645
Phone: 907-746-8424 / Fax: 907-746-8484
Email: edward.ewart@matsuk12.us

Region 4

Megan Hatswell, Principal

Chugiak High School
16525 S Birchwood Loop Road
Anchorage, AK 99567
Phone: 907-742-3050 / Fax: 907-742-3148
Email: hatswell_megan@asdk12.org

Region 5

Andrew Friske, Residential Principal/AD

Mt. Edgecumbe High School
1330 Seward Avenue
Sitka, AK 99835
Phone: 907-966-3228 / Fax: 907-966-2642
Email: andrewf@mehs.us

Region 6

Steve Zanazzo, Activities Director

FB North Star Borough Schools
901 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: 907-456-7794 / Fax: 907-452-6735
Email: steven.zanazzo@k12northstar.org

Alaska Association of School Administrators

Dave Herbert, Superintendent

St. Mary's
PO Box 9
St. Mary's, AK 99658
Phone: 907-438-2411
Email: dherbert@smcsd.us

Alaska Association of School Boards

Clarence Daniel

P.O. Box 305
Bethel, AK 99559
Phone:
Email: clarence_daniel@lksd.org

Alaska Association of Student Governments

TBA

School:
Phone:

Member Schools

ASAA maintains a list of member schools online at: <http://asaa.org/resources/member-schools/>

ALASKA EDUCATION REGULATIONS

The State of Alaska education regulations that govern interscholastic activities are contained in:

4aac 06.115 interscholastic Activities

(a) The purpose of 4AAC 06.115 is to provide a procedure that enables school districts to promote and govern interscholastic activities effectively, economically, and fairly, while keeping those activities in their proper perspective educationally.

(b) A school or school district may join and, to the extent authorized by its budget, may pay dues to the Alaska School Activities Association, Inc., or any other voluntary, nonprofit association whose purpose is to administer and promote interscholastic activities in Alaska so long as the association

(1) makes applications and membership available to all public and private schools and school districts in the state;

(2) is governed by the board that is elected from the association membership and that fairly represents all regions of the state that participate in the organization and whose membership may also include appointed representatives of other education organizations;

(3) adopts a constitution and bylaws setting out its philosophy, purpose, rules and procedures, including a fair procedure for challenging interpretation or application of a rule;

(4) operates in compliance with state and federal law; and

(5) administers interscholastic activities in a manner that:

(A) encourages high standards of citizenship and complements the academic programs of schools;

(B) Is consistent with and advances the state's education policy set out at AS 14.03.015;and

(C) recognizes that the organization and governance of interscholastic activities is a public purpose that is best met through the cooperation and association of interested schools and school districts.

(c) The state board considers a decision of an association described in (b) of this section made when applying association bylaws to a particular person or school, to be an adjudicatory, administrative decision. Under existing case law, when a board performs an administrative function and makes an adjudicatory decision that affects an individual, the final decision is appealable to the superior court under Part VI of the Rules of Appellate Procedure.

(d) In this section, "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.250 (Eff. 6/26/94, Register 130)

Authority:

AS 14.03.015

AS 14.07.020

AS 14.07.060

