

10 Reasons to Attend the NYSAAA Annual AD's Conference in March 2022

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Everyone needs to be proactive, not reactive when it comes to dealing with their respective programs. The Annual NYSAAA Athletic Directors' conference gives many innovative ideas and strategies for making your programs the best they can be. Don't leave great accomplishment to chance. Get to the NYSAAA Conference this coming March, and remember, "It's what you learn after you know it all, that counts!" (John Wooden)

1. **The Professional Development Experience:** Attendees will have the opportunity to register for one or two Leadership Training Courses. These courses will satisfy national certification requirements for RAA, RMSAA, CAA or CMAA. Attendees can also sit for the CAA Test on Thursday with a preparatory workshop the day before.
2. **Discounts, Discounts & Discounts:** For the sixth year, the NYSAAA will offer a conference registration discount to those registering that have a **CAA** or **CMAA** Certification. (**CAA \$10, CMAA \$15 discount**). In addition, all paid **members and retired members** receive special discounts on registration. **Early bird** discounts are also available to those registering before March 1st. Discounts are also given for **Leadership Training Courses**. Those taking two classes will receive a \$10 discount for each course taken. Those from schools in Nassau BOCES should identify themselves on LTI registration courses for it to be paid by Nassau BOCES as part of our LTI contract with them (limited numbers-first come first serve). **REMEMBER, ALL REGISTRATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP, CONFERENCE AND LTI COURSES MUST BE DONE ONLINE AT OUR FAMILY ID SITE.**
3. **The Variety of Topics:** Four (3) powerful keynote and general session speakers from all parts of the country; seven (6) Leadership Training Courses to choose from; Sixteen (16) different Workshop Breakout Sessions: opportunities to meet personally with many service and product representatives which serve our schools. Attendees will find a wide array of professional topics to meet every need.
4. **The Saratoga Experience:** With downtown Saratoga Springs at our doorstep, the food and amenities that the Saratoga Hilton and the city has to offer, you can be assured we've thought of everything. You'll appreciate the ideal environment for being inspired, educated and energized when you return to your school.
5. **The Networking:** Join hundreds of your professional colleagues and athletic leaders from around the state. They say if you want to become a great craftsman, associate with great craftsmen. If spending time with those who are adding value to their athletic programs in New York and making a difference with coaches, student-athletes and their communities is your goal, then this conference is the place to be! Learning from your associates in the business of athletic administration can be the most valuable experience offered, whether in professional workshops or in social gatherings.

6. **The Roy O'Neill Awards Banquet:** The NYSAAA believes in the importance of recognizing and honoring the efforts and contributions of individual members and their dedicated service and leadership to education-based athletics. Make plans to join your colleagues and guests at the annual awards banquet on Thursday evening where the NYSAAA recognizes outstanding athletic administrators from each Chapter across the state and presents special awards to five other individuals throughout the state. The meal is outstanding and the program is streamlined to provide everyone a worthwhile experience. **ONLY THOSE INDICATING THEIR ATTENDANCE WILL ACCESS TO GET INTO THE DINNER. NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED WITHOUT A HAVING SIGNED UP.** We hope to be doing everything electronically this year.
7. **The Dave Martens Hall of Fame & Awards Luncheon:** The NYSAAA will recognize a number of its current members who contribute to the association at the local level and not necessarily the state and national level. Before lunch, the annual "Apple Appreciation Awards" will be given to athletic administrators at the grass roots level, chosen by the Executive Director. Also, the eighth class of the NYSAAA Hall of Fame will bring in three new members to the hall. In addition, we will be adding four more names on to our third year NYSAAA Wall of Fame. The annual Alan Mallanda Hall of Fame Ceremony, after lunch, is done efficiently, and with class. It's an opportunity to recognize those individuals who have contributed so much to athletics in New York State, as well as to the association and its membership. **ONLY THOSE INDICATING THEIR ATTENDANCE WHEN REGISTERING WILL BE ADMITTED INTO THE DINNER. NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED WITHOUT HAVING REGISTERED.**
8. **The Exhibit Hall Festival:** A two-hour opening festival with food and beverage, and an opportunity to talk with over 100 exhibitors as well as fellow athletic administrators. Many prizes and gifts for all, including a unique festival gift from the NYSAAA. In addition, a special conference gift will be given out in the Exhibit Hall on both Wednesday & Thursday which has been donated by our sponsors, BSN, ADPRO and G&G Fitness. **THE BREAKFAST** is back on Friday morning before the Annual Meeting. There will be a number of raffles and prizes, including the annual Chapter Door Prizes (unique gifts from each Chapter).
9. **Benefits for New Athletic Administrators and First Timers:** An opportunity for first time attendees and new athletic administrators to attend an orientation reception and meeting on Wednesday morning, and for doing so, receive a voucher to take a FREE "500" level LTI course (a \$135 value). **Retirees attending** will also have an opportunity to meet at a special reception on Wednesday morning to renew old acquaintances and plan activities.
10. **An Opportunity To Get Involved:** Chapter Representatives, Committee Chairs & Representative Board Meeting, Annual NYSAAA Meeting, and other various professional meetings give our membership an opportunity to get involved in improving and strengthening the levels of Education Based Athletics throughout the state. As Bruce Whitehead put it so well, "this may be the final frontier for teaching the core values our country was founded on."

Call on a new AD in your league or chapter and encourage them to come to the conference. Introduce them to the "NYSAAA Experience". I hope to see record attendance this year as we embark on our 35th Annual Conference for Athletic Administrators, and remember, if you have to pay your own way, it's completely tax deductible. But, more than that, it's worth every penny in what you get back.