THE NEW YORK STATE ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION has been a national leader in total membership in the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association for 20 of the last 25 years. Last year, in 2018-19 Ohio surpassed New York in total NIAAA membership with 699. New York was second with 694, breaking its previous record of 686 set in 2010-11. Michigan was third with 613 members, and Indiana fourth with 604, both breaking 600 for the first time. National membership has now grown to a new high of almost 13,000 members.

New York garnered several commendations from the NIAAA for membership, the others being a 18.4% growth in membership over the past year, and a new record for the state of 89.2% of its total AD’s joining NIAAA as of June 30, 2019. New York State AAA looks forward to the challenge of regaining the crown this year, (2019-20) and the numbers look promising. Member states such as California and Texas are “up and comers” with the potential of many more schools than New York, and are growing each year, but the Midwest states, who organized much earlier, continue to grow closer.

Dual membership, that is, membership in both national and state AD associations, is a more recent phenomenon that started in the 90’s and has continued to grow over recent years. New York was one of the first states to embrace dual membership and provide numerous national membership benefits to all of it’s NY members. Many other states, not only have more schools and potential AD members than New York, but have also partnered their state AD membership with their state association membership, thus having 100% membership and higher (by adding in middle schools with high schools).

The Midwest states have had AD associations much longer than other states throughout the country. Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, who have been organized much longer than New York, and also have a greater number of potential AD’s in their state. New York State AAA only became a state organization in 1981 and quickly grew in membership to become the leading membership state around 1994, when records were first kept. Many states had state AD associations long before New York and long before
the NIAAA became an organization. For years, these state AD associations were entities under the umbrella of the National Federation, the long time parent organization of the NIAAA. The National Federation conducted national conferences long before the NIAAA was formed in 1978. It was Tom Frederick, Assistant Director of the NFHS, who had the foresight to bring together a group of athletic administrators from across the country to form the NIAAA in 1978. In 1980 a group of AD’s from New York attended their first national conference in Atlanta, GA and were so taken by everything they saw, that they came back and formed the NYSAAA, and the rest is history.

The NYSAAA looks forward to continued growth and hopes that someday it, too, will have 100% state membership. New York continues to be a leader throughout the nation as an association and is proud of its members who have made significant contributions nationally over the last 38 years.