



New York State Athletic Administrators Association

2023 NYSAAA HALL OF FAME ALAN MALLANDA INDUCTION CEREMONY NINTH CLASS OF INDUCTEES

The NYSAAA Hall of Fame is organized as a means of recognizing outstanding Athletic Interscholastic Administrators for their contributions and achievements within and to the NYSAAA and NIAAA at local, state and national levels. Its purpose is to:

1. Promote the vocation of athletic administration.
2. Preserve the heritage of the association and the profession of interscholastic athletic administration.

This recognition is the highest honor an interscholastic athletic administrator can receive from the NYSAAA for his/her contributions and accomplishments at the local, state and national level. Further, this honor sets a standard for New York athletic administrators to emulate.

This year the New York State Athletic Administrators will induct four athletic administrators into their ninth class of inductees. The biographies that follow of these individuals will attest to the high standards required for this ultimate recognition by the association. Selection is made using a three-level process, including a screening committee, a rating committee and the Executive Board of the NYSAAA.

CLASS OF 2023

**The following four individuals (listed alphabetically) have been selected for induction into
The ninth class of the NYSAAA Hall of Fame on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 (12 Noon)
at the Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs, NY
The NYSAAA "Alan Mallanda" Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
is held annually as part of the "David Martens" Awards Luncheon
Below, is the school district and section of each inductee.**



**Patrick M Burke
Lockport High School
Chapter 6**

Patrick Burke graduated from SUNY Brockport in 1980 with a BS in Physical Education and later received his MS in Educational Administration from Niagara University (1988). Pat has had 38 years in the educational environment through various positions as a physical education teacher, coach and athletic director. For the first 12 years, he worked at Barker and then Medina schools, both in the Niagara-Orleans League, where he led the athletic programs before moving back to his home town of Lockport in the Niagara Frontier League (NFL) and Section VI, where he has spent his 20- year career before retiring in 2015. While there, Lockport's programs excelled and were recognized almost every year with the Supremacy Award by the league.

Pat has been involved in many activities both in his league, section, and state. He held various leadership roles in the NFL, including several terms as president. He also served on the NYSPHSAA Section VI Athletic Council for decades. At all positions, Pat represented his constituents well and was a tireless worker.

Patrick served the NYSAAA as well over his career. He was Chapter 6 Awards Chair for many years. He also was state conference planner serving four presidents, including Bill Ross, Jim Trampert, and two terms for Brett Banker. He was the lead person on the 2020 state AD conference that was cancelled due to Covid, having planned one of, what was expected to be the most successful weeks of programs and activities ever. He stayed on to assist the next year in 2021 with the first-ever virtual conference.

Patrick Burke has received much recognition over his career. In 2004 he received the Donald Burns Key Person Award from the NFL. In 2005, he was inducted into the Western New York Baseball Hall of Fame, and in 2014 Lockport High School honored him with their Distinguished Alumni Award. He received the NYSAAA Apple Appreciation Award in 2005 and was recognized for his contributions as a conference planning chair four times. Pat was also recognized in 2005 with the NYSAAA Chapter 6 Athletic Administrator Award.

Patrick continues to lead in the field of athletics as the Coordinator of the Coaching Education Program for the local BOCES, and as the Executive Director of the Niagara Frontier League.



**Eileen Kilcullen, CAA
Malone, NY
Chapter 10**

Having graduated from Lindon High School in Schenectady, NY in 1983, Eileen went on to attend SUNY Cortland where she graduated in 1987 with a BSE in Physical Education, and later at SUNY Brockport where she received her MSE in Educational Administration in 1990. She went on to teach and coach at Canaseraga CSD, spending the last four years as Director of PE and Athletics.

Eileen moved on to Malone Central School District in 1994 and spent 26 years there as Director of PE and Athletics. While there, she also served as the Section X Boys Swim Chairperson, Mixed Competition Chairperson, and was a member of the Section X Sportsmanship Committee. Eileen served as the NYSPHSAA Section X President in 2014-2016. Kilcullen also served on the NYSPHSAA Strategic Planning Committee as well as the NYS AHPERD Council of Administrators Northern Zone, where she was recognized as the NZ Director of the Year. In 2019, Malone High School named their sports facility as the Eileen Kilcullen Sports Facility in recognition of her outstanding leadership in her field.

Ms. Kilcullen has been a member of the NYSAAA for over 20 years, where she served Chapter 10 as their Chapter Representative on the state Representative Board. She received the NYSAAA Chapter 10 Athletic Administrator Award in 2004, the NYSAAA Apple Appreciation Award in 2013, and in 2018 was awarded the Otis Sennett Award of Excellence by the association. She was also recognized in 2018 with the North Country Women of Distinction Award.



Ben Nelson
Bainbridge, NY
Chapter 4

Ben Nelson is one of the most highly respected administrators in New York State and has made significant contributions as an administrator and a high school coach in Section IV. A five-sport letterman in baseball, track, volleyball, and football, he graduated from Bainbridge-Guilford HS in 1957. He continued his Basketball career playing at Trinity Pawling College, Colgate and Louisiana University. He also spent a year at Hanover, Germany as a player-coach for a Division II team as well.

After his playing career, Ben first began contributing to youth and high school athletics during the summers at Camp Dudley, where he's been a coach or administrator for over six decades, and a multi-sport coach at Oxford Academy, where he was also a math teacher. At Oxford, he led the boys' varsity basketball team, cross country team, and track & field team to several Class C Sectional Championships and Pioneer League Championships. He then achieved the same feat with the varsity girls' team.

His success in administration began in 1988 when he took over as Athletic Director after Al Doyle left to become the NYSPHSAA's first Executive Director. Then in 1998, he ascended to the NYSPHSAA Section IV Executive Director position, overseeing the operations of the section. Upon his retirement in 2021, Ben had been the longest serving Section Executive Director in New York State and has made so many contributions to the sports programs he served in the section and state.

In 2014, Ben was elected to the Section IV Hall of Fame and the Basketball Coaches Association of New York (BCANY) Hall of Fame. He also served on the organization's Board since its inception (60 years) and was also their Executive Director. He's also been a recipient of the Camp Dudley Man of the Year Award and the Southern Tier Basketball Officials Dedication Award. Mr. Nelson's defining moment as the Executive Director of Section IV was in 2017 when he brought the NYSPHSAA Boys' Basketball Championships to the Broome County Arena for 3 years, after being in Glens Falls for many years prior since its inception. In 2018, Ben was inducted into the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame.

Mr. Nelson has been a charter member of the NIAAA and NYSAAA, as well as a lifetime member of both associations. He received the NYSAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2007 and was awarded the NYSAAA Apple Award in 2009. In 2016 Ben received the Otis Sennett Award of Excellence for his outstanding service, leadership, and contributions.



Dr. Jim Wright, CMAA
South Huntington Union Free School District
Chapter 11

Jim has been a member of the NIAAA and NYSAAA for 20 years. He earned his Bachelor's, Master's Degree, and Administrative Certification from C.W. Post where he was the Pioneers Defensive Line Coach for nine years and Head Softball Coach for four years. He completed the Doctoral program in Educational Administration and Technology at Dowling College in 2011. In Section XI, Jim is a past Conference 1 president and served on seeding, finance, and policy committees while chairing girls Cross Country, Fencing, and Softball. He is now the NYSPHSAA chair for Softball and represented the NYSAAA on two NYSPHSAA Strategic Plans.

Jim has been a leader in professional development both in New York State and nationally. He has created a comprehensive seven-course program for health and physical education directors (PEHPC) and created a program for aspiring and new Athletic Administrators (AAMPD). Jim earned the NYSAAA Dr. John Foley Award for Professional Development from the NYSAAA in 2013 and again this year in 2023. Jim has been New York's delegate to the NIAAA Delegate Assembly four times. He is an NIAAA national faculty member for LTC 707 and has presented various workshops on technology, social media, mentoring coaches, and concussion management locally and nationally.

Jim represented Section I as a member of the NIAAA's fifth strategic planning committee and sits on the NIAAA Resolutions Committee. As the Associate Executive Director of the NYSAAA, Jim works with the National Executive Directors Council (NEDC) and coordinates the Aspiring AD, Mentoring, and Professional Development (AAMPD) programs for the NYSAAA. He is also a past president of the NYSAAA and contributes as a Leadership Training instructor, offering courses on sports law, personnel evaluations, and emergency event management. He has previously been the Chapter 11 representative of the NYSAAA Board and continues to serve as a member of several committees.

Jim's additional accolades include the NYS AHPERD Physical Education Director of the Year in 2011, the NYS Council of Administrators Physical Education Director of the Year in 2013, and the Suffolk Zone and NYSCOA Amazing Person Award. He was the Section XI Wrestling Coaches Administrator of the year twice (2013, 2017) and received the NYSAAA Chapter 11 Athletic Administrator Award in 2013. Additionally, that year he received the NYSCOA Elis B. Champlin Award in Physical Education, their highest award. In 2019, he was awarded the NIAAA State Award of Merit for New York, and that same year, Jim received the Bruce D. Whitehead Distinguished Service Award from the NIAAA.

Jim's family includes his wife, Isabella, and daughters, Sabina and Christina.