

THSADA NEWSLETTER

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July 2013

Texas High School Athletic Directors Association Executive Director's Report *Rusty Dowling, Executive Director, THSADA*

I would like to welcome all athletic administrators to the 81st annual Texas High School Coaches Association Convention and Coaching School and the 5th edition of our THSADA Newsletter. I hope everyone has taken the opportunity for a little time away from the job to relax and recharge. This will be the first time that athletic administrators from around the state have come together since a very successful THSADA State Conference in San Angelo.

The State Conference was very well attended and there were a lot of positive comments about the structure and agenda for the conference. The speakers all did an excellent job as the focus of professional development was well-received by the members. The THSADA sincerely appreciates the support that both our Exhibitors and Sponsors provide and their participation in this past State Conference.

This past school year had its share of interesting developments, among those were the Texas State Legislative Sessions, NIAAA National Conference in San Antonio, THSADA State Conference in San Angelo, numerous AD positions that were available, along with the normal day-to-day challenges that awaited each and every day.

I would like to remind all THSADA members of some of the key items on our agenda at this year's Coaching School.

PBK Sports-THSADA Hall of Honor Banquet. Sunday, July 28th, 7:00 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Worthington Hotel. Inductees are:

- Bob Dubey – Richardson ISD
- Karen Funk – North East ISD
- Willa Gipson – Birdville ISD

THSADA General Session. Monday, July 29th, 8:30 a.m. at the Fort Worth Convention Center Room 203.

This year's General Session will be highlighted with a presentation by Mr. Chris Del Conte – Director of Athletics at Texas Christian University. Also included in the General Session are introductions of our THSADA Sponsors, address from President Karen Funk, presentation of proposed slate of officers, presentation of newly selected Regional Directors, and address by new President.

The THSADA will also present a Professional Development Session after the General Session. These sessions will be held in Room 203 and the schedule is as follows:

10:30 AM–11:25 AM: *UIL Compliance Procedures* – Debbie Decker, Katy ISD

1:00 PM–1:55 PM: *Successful Leadership and Championship Team Building for Adults* – Stan Laing, Northside ISD

2:00 PM–2:55 PM: *How to Become an Athletic Director in the State of Texas* – Keith Kilgore, Retired (Fort Bend ISD)
– Joe Barnett, Retired (Irving ISD)
– Gil Garza, San Antonio ISD

Tuesday will feature a new THSADA Board of Directors meeting, a State Conference meeting followed by various THSADA committee meetings.

The THSADA Board of Directors concluded a lengthy meeting this past May where a number of initiatives were discussed,

approved and will be presented at the General Session. The discussions regarding THSADA business this past year have been significant, comprehensive and conducive to the vision and direction of the THSADA. Membership and sponsorships are at an all-time high which will allow the THSADA the opportunities to continue to expand on our awards program, professional development at Coaching School and the State Conference, retired AD involvement, expanded State Conference agenda and website with newsletter features. Karen Funk did a presentation at the summer TGCA State Conference on "How to Become an Athletic Administrator in the State of Texas". The THSADA is also maintaining a collaborative alignment with the UIL as well as other state associations. Creating a consistent presence and profile around the state on behalf of athletic administrators has been one of the priority components of the THSADA Strategic Plan. The THSADA eNews is sent to THSADA members and presents news on a weekly basis to our members.

Registration for the 2013-2014 year will begin on November 1st and be available both on-line and mail-in forms. Reminder that most of our deadlines for THSADA awards are December 1st.

The THSADA would like to encourage its members to visit the web site at www.thsada.com to stay abreast of all THSADA events and news.

The THSADA remains committed to providing its members with the resources that will support them in their duties as athletic administrators. ★



TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

President's Remarks *Karen Funk, President, THSADA*

"I We are about to start the 2013-14 year with fall sports kicking up in less than two weeks. I hope you are well rested and your vacation was enjoyable as it is time to tackle another year of changes. The Legislature and UIL Council have given all of us a few changes to implement into this new school year as well as a few dollars back in our district's budgets. Be sure to check the UIL website for all updates.

Our association had a few changes this past year as well. For the first time ever, Regional Athletic Administrators of the Year were recognized and presented with awards from Daktronics at the THSADA State Conference banquet in San Angelo. Congratulations to our recipients: Region 1-2-4- Jim Slaughter-San Angelo ISD, Region 3&6- John Crawford, Coppell ISD, Region 5- Marmion Dambrino, Houston ISD, Region 7- Richard Thompson, Sharyland ISD, and Region 8- Tommy Cox, Austin ISD. Our THSADA State Conference was a booming success out in West Texas with terrific presentations made by THSADA members and next year's should be even better at the Omni in Houston.

Our website has undergone major changes and updates over the past year and will continue to be tweaked so that it becomes a valuable tool for every active and retired AD. This has been the biggest year ever for membership numbers in the THSADA history and we believe that the new website has contributed to that factor under the steady hand of

our administrative assistant Kathy Mathis.

Rusty Dowling and I will have completed our year together tonight with Rusty as Executive Director and myself as President. - I want to thank him for making my job easier with his leadership and insight. The new board will take over on Tuesday, July 30th and begin to move down new paths and continue to goal set for our association. This has been a wonderful year to be the President of THSADA. We hosted the NIAAA convention in San Antonio, traveled to San Angelo for State Conference, worked with the UIL in Austin and set up THSADA business meetings here in Fort Worth. I have been overwhelmed at the generosity of all of our members and the desire to see our Association grow and flourish. It has been my pleasure to serve our community of Athletic Directors across the state and to represent all schools, both public and private from 1A to 5A in various matters throughout the year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and represent the Texas High School Athletic Director's Association. ★



Award Recognitions PBK Sports-THSADA Hall of Honor Banquet 2013



The THSADA would like to congratulate these athletic administrators on their recognition at the annual PBK Sports-THSADA Hall of Honor Banquet.

Retired AD's

- Bruce Bell – Spring ISD
- Joe Barnett – Irving ISD
- Willa Gipson – Birdville ISD
- MeLynn Hunt – Lubbock ISD
- Jim Loerwald – Round Rock ISD
- Gary Briley – Lake Travis ISD
- Bill Cox – Ennis ISD
- Jerry Sutterfield – Highland Park ISD
- Larry Peil – Cy Fair ISD
- Dave Harrison – Lubbock ISD

Outgoing Regional Directors

- Kenny Humphreys – Region 5
- Todd Vesely – Region 1-2-4
- Dwayne Weirich – Region 7

Hall of Honor Inductees

- Willa Gipson – Birdville ISD
- Bob Dubey – Richardson ISD
- Karen Funk – North East ISD

PBK Sports – THSADA Athletic Director of the Year

- Karen Funk – North East ISD ★



Getting to Know: Karen Funk



Karen Funk attended Coppell High School as a freshman but moved to Irving and graduated from Nimitz in 1975. The transition from a class B school to a 5A was quite a change. She played volleyball, basketball and ran track at Coppell then played the only sport offered at Nimitz- volleyball for the next three years. After graduation, Karen attended the University of Texas at Arlington and graduated in December of 1979. She earned her Master's Degree and Mid-Management Degree from Texas A&M in Kingsville in 1996.

Karen began coaching in January of 1980 at Lee Middle School in Grand Prairie and coached the volleyball, basketball and track teams for two years. She moved to Highlands High School in San Antonio in 1981 and became head volleyball coach. During her five years at Highlands, her teams won two district championships and advanced to the regional finals one year and regional quarterfinals the next year.

Her next stop was Madison High School in San Antonio as the head volleyball coach. Making that move in 1986, Karen stayed for 14 years where she led her team to the playoffs seven times including the semifinals of the state tournament in 1988 and regional finals in 1989. Karen was named as San Antonio Express-News Coach of the Year in 1988. During her tenure at Madison, she served as the Vice-Chairman and Chairman for the Texas Girls Coaches Association volleyball committee, and as the TGCA Region 7 Director from 1991-1995.

After 22 years of coaching, Karen moved to the NEISD athletic office in 2000 as an Assistant Athletic Director and in 2011 became the Director of Girl's Sports. Since joining the staff at Blossom Athletic Center, she has earned her Certified Athletic Administrator certificate, co-hosted the NIAAA national convention once and worked as the hospitality chairman in 2012. Karen has been a member of the hosting state conference committee twice and worked for THSADA as the secretary from Spring of 2006-2010. She then served as the Region 8 Director, and vice-president. In 2012 Karen became the organization's president, and will serve next year as the past president.

Karen has been married to Brian Funk for 6 years and inherited a beautiful family with the ceremony. Three great boys came with the "I Do's", Garret-26 a physician's assistant, Taylor-24 a chef in San Diego and Zachary-17 soon to be a graduating senior. ★

On the Move ...AD Job Changes

Russ Reeves

From Assistant AD in Denton ISD to Athletic Director in Rockwall ISD

Chris Feris

From Assistant AD in Plano ISD to Athletic Director in Birdville ISD

Bernard Mulvaney

From Head Football Coach at Aldine MacArthur to Athletic Director in Goose Creek ISD

Pam Lea

From Athletic Director in New Caney ISD to Athletic Director in Cleburne ISD

Johanna Denson

From Athletic Director in Waco ISD to Athletic Director in Plugerville ISD

Dwayne Weirich

From Athletic Director in Pflugerville ISD to Athletic Director in Round Rock ISD

Johnny Ringo

From Head Football Coach/Campus Athletic Coordinator in Plano ISD to Athletic Director in Highland Park ISD ★

Getting to Know: Bob Dubey



Bob Dubey has dedicated his professional career of 36 years to the Richardson School District. He graduated from Richardson High School and later

attended Southern Arkansas University on a football scholarship. He began his teaching and coaching career at West Junior High and later moved to Richardson High where he was the defensive coordinator and head baseball coach. Bob eventually became the Area Coordinator and Head Football Coach at Berkner High School. After 23 years serving the district at various teaching and coaching positions, Bob became the RISD Director of Athletics, a position he has served for the past 13 years. Over the course of his career Bob has earned many honors such as RISD Health Teacher of the Year, University of Texas "Texas Excellence Award" for outstanding high school teachers, District 9-5A Coach of the Year, Metroplex Coach of the Year, and NFL/Dallas Cowboys Coach of the Week.

During his time as an athletic administrator Bob has worked tirelessly to make Richardson one of the most

respected districts in the state. His focus is to provide opportunities for success for student athletes across the district. Due to his outstanding leadership Bob has also served various roles for THSADA such as the Region III Director, Awards Committee Chair, Vice President and President of our state association. He was named the THSADA/ PBK Athletic Director of the year in 2012, NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas Athletic Director of the Year in 2012, and received the NIAAA State Award of Merit.

Bob and Tammy, his wife of 39 years, have two wonderful children, Allen and Jaime, and one precious granddaughter Alexys.

The Texas High School Athletic Directors Association is proud to welcome Bob Dubey into the prestigious Hall of Honor. ★

Getting to Know: Willa Gipson



Willa Gipson began her teaching and coaching career at Haltom High School in the Birdville School District in 1983.

After teaching five years, she was given the opportunity to serve Birdville as the Assistant Director of Athletics. Aspiring to become an athletic director someday, her Superintendent, Bob Griggs, told her she needed to get some building experience. Following his advice, Willa served Richland High School as Assistant Principal from 1994-96. With the retirement of Carlos Berry in 1996, Ms. Gipson was named Director of Athletics for the Birdville School District, a position she has held for the last 17 years. Her entire 30 year career was spent in Birdville ISD, a district very dear to her heart. Willa recently retired on May 1.

Ms. Gipson has been very active in her state's association enjoying the camaraderie with her colleagues, particularly in Regions 3 and 6. She served Region 3 as its Regional Director for two years. At the national level, she served on the National Federation of

High Schools Citizenship's Committee that met in Indiana for two years.

Willa has two children, Whitney a 2012 TCU graduate and a son, Wesley who is a junior at Dallas Baptist University. She attributes much of her success to the loving support of her mother Alice Johnson and her high school coach Marti Powell.

"The Texas High School Athletic Directors' Association is the envy of the country. I cannot think of a better organization to be associated with that significantly impacts young lives". ★



Whataburger Group Dining Program

Whataburger’s commitment to professional and youth sports dates all the way back to 1950 when the very first restaurant opened in Corpus Christi. Whataburger’s founder, Harmon Dobson, supported local Little League teams, and more than 62 years later, Whataburger continues to play an active role in youth, high school and college level sports.

The Whataburger Group Dining Program is just one way Whataburger aims to make it easier for coaches and teachers to focus on their teams. When traveling to away games, competitions and events, coaches and teachers can use the program to call ahead with the number of people in their group and their approximate time of arrival at their closest Whataburger restaurant. From there, the Whataburger crew will be on hand and ready to feed the team, provide the excellent service customers have come to expect from Whataburger, and have the team back on the road in no time.

“Our team has used the Whataburger Group Dining Program for many Friday away games,” said San Benito High School Athletic Trainer Khefren Savannah. “Whataburger has always worked with our needs, budget and coaching staff. They’ve always been courteous, and the food is hot and ready when we need it.”

When they participate in the Group Dining Program, coaches and teachers can pay for meals with their Group Dining Card instead of using cash. Athletic directors and coaches will then receive an invoice from the Whataburger manager to take back to their billing department. In addition, Whataburger offers group discounts and the group leader always eats free. Additional benefits of the program include one free meal for every 10 purchased, and for groups of 20 or more, two people eat free.

For more information about the program and to fill out the online application, please visit Whataburger.com and look under the “Group Dining” tab on the Community page. Whataburger is committed to great service, and the Group Dining program is just one way for Whataburger to help coaches and teachers concentrate on bringing home the “W”.

Family-owned Whataburger has proudly served its famous burgers since 1950 and continues to deliver fresh, made-to-order meals every day with extraordinary customer service. Headquartered in San Antonio, Whataburger has successfully expanded from a single burger stand in 1950 to a thriving family of restaurants across 10 states today, all of which welcome Group Dining Program participants. ★





Here's

HOW IT WORKS!

FILL OUT THE ONLINE APPLICATION AT

WWW.WHATABURGER.COM

Once we process it, we'll send you your Group Dining ID Cards in the mail. Each card will have your Group ID number and also a toll-free number (888-2FINDWB) you can call to find out where the nearest Whataburger is. That'll be handy on the road. All you do is call the Whataburger, tell them how many are coming, when you think you'll be getting there—and that's it. When you reach the Whataburger, just show the manager your Group Dining Card, place your order and you'll get an invoice to give your billing department.

It's as easy as that!

WHATABURGER