



To: NCHSAA Board of Directors  
From: Joe Poletti, president  
Date: April 2018

“Seasons come and seasons go. This is true of athletics during the school year, athletics over many years, and certainly of our personal and professional journeys.” That’s how I began the fall letter.

Now that the third season of another year in our very involved careers is drawing down, what’s left?

Seasons leave us with stories. We have one of the rare professions that allows us to interact with many people on many levels daily. Because of those interactions, we are left with countless stories (if only we could remember half of them).

After one of this year’s state championship basketball games, a victor came forward for his medal. He was sobbing uncontrollably. Commissioner Tucker looked up and met the young man’s eyes.

She said, “Why are you crying? You just won a state championship.”

“You don’t know my story,” came his reply.

True we don’t know his story, but we have had countless encounters with students and families from all walks of life. We have used high school athletics as a tool to help students realize unseen potential, or discover the value of teamwork, effort and determination. We have seen involved students realize glowing potential . . . and we have seen the flame in too many others fade well before their times. We have cheered, sneered, laughed, encouraged, consoled and cried in response to stories connected to high school athletics.

This year, the NCHSAA inducted eight legends into the Hall of Fame. Most had been associated with high school athletics for over 40 years. They had stories and were not reticent to share them. Those stories had universal truths that resonated with the 300+ members of the audience, most of whom had roles in those stories. Those stories left no doubt as to the number of lives that we touch and the richness we add to the tapestry of society.

The Association has its own stories. We all received a copy of “Playing Before an Overflow Crowd” (Brayboy and Barton). If you have yet to leaf through it, I highly commend it to you. It chronicles some rich history that could easily be forgotten. Take note especially of how the current form of the Association is actually a consolidation of four state associations that were in some part active until the late 1960’s.

The story of the Association has always been one of inclusion. That is unlikely to change. Therefore, as the educational landscape around us continues its unprecedented transformation, we have to work harder and smarter not only to remain inclusive but also to remain fair in competition.

Words are inadequate to express my gratitude and kinship to you. Being a part of this board and ultimately leading this board are precious chapters in the story of my life. Like the Association, this board’s diversity continues to be its strength. Our common cause continues to bind us. Unfortunately, by today’s standards, this has almost become counter-cultural.

But it’s our story, and I’m sticking to it!

Best always to all. Godspeed, Incoming President George.



To: NCHSAA Board of Directors  
From: Pepper Hines  
Date: April 2018

We are gearing up for our Spring Board of Directors' meeting and we look forward to having you with us in Chapel Hill.

Please review all of the information. If necessary, download and print if you need a copy for the meeting (feel free to bring your laptop and plug-in to follow along.) For your comfort, please bring either a sweater or jacket.

It is very important that you contact me if you have a conflict now that you have returned your housing/dinner form (which I emailed earlier). To avoid being charged, we must submit changes to room and dinner totals one week in advance. Deadline is April 25<sup>th</sup> for such notifications.

As always, during your free time, we invite you to enjoy some of the surrounding attractions:

- University Mall (Estes Drive, Chapel Hill),
- Downtown Chapel Hill (great specialty shops)
- The Streets at Southpoint (I-40 off at Fayetteville Road, Durham)
- Eastgate Shopping Center (15-501 N to Ephesus Church Road, Chapel Hill)

If there is anything we can do to make your time with us beneficial as well as enjoyable, please let us know.

Thank you for all you do for the student-athletes of North Carolina!