



# Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 6 | Issue 11  
May 2022



## Title IX 50th Anniversary



Title IX of the Civil Rights Act was signed into law by President Nixon on June 23rd, 1972. As we embark on the 50th year anniversary, PIAA would like to recognize those individuals who paved the way and those who continue advocating today for female student-athletes. These individuals have worked tirelessly to provide opportunities to millions of females across the commonwealth.



### BARBARA DZURICKO

*Athletic Director Hickory HS (2001-2019)*

"Title IX opened doors for me so that I could open doors for other females."



### AMY SCHEUNEMAN

*WPIAL Executive Director (2020-Present)*

First female Executive Director of the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (PIAA District 7).



### SHEILA MURPHY

*Neshaminy HS Principal (Athletics) (1993-2007)*

Sheila Murphy has been a leader, a pioneer, and a champion of women's athletics for nearly 60 years.



### AUDREY HALL

*Registered HS Official since 1971*

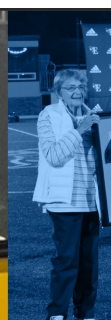
Pioneer for female officials and was also a girls' basketball coach for 32 years, winning a PIAA Girls' Basketball Championship in 1991.



### BETSY WILSON

*District 11 Cmte. Member & PIAA Board Member*

Known as the First Lady of District 11 Athletics. She was the first female ever elected to vote on the PIAA Board in 1981.



### GWEN ARMITAGE

*First Female Athletic Director in Pennsylvania History*

Armitage opened doors in athletics for many females, not only as the first PA athletic director but also as a girls' basketball and softball coach at Emmaus HS.





## SUE BUTZ-STAVIN

*Emmaus Field Hockey Coach (1976 – Present)*

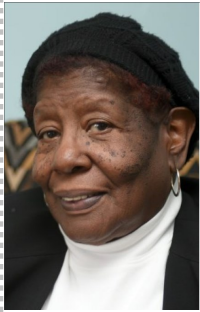
First High School Field Hockey Coach to reach 1,000 victories. Has won 13 state championships, 35 District 11 championships (32 in a row), and 38 conference crowns.



## MELISSA MERTZ

*PIAA Executive Staff (1998-Present)*

First Female Executive Staff Member of the PIAA. Has served as the National Rules Committee Chair for both Field Hockey and Swimming and Diving.



## LURLINE JONES

*District 12 "Mother" of Title IX*

Lurline Jones is known for advocating to establish a City League Basketball Championship for girls. Jones had a 33-year basketball coaching career at University City HS where she won 647 games and 12 city championships.



## KAREN ARNOLD

*PIAA District 8 Chair (2019-Present)*

First female PIAA District Chair as well as first female athletic director for the Pittsburgh Public Schools.



## LINDA KREISER

*Lower Dauphin Field Hockey Coach (1978-Present)*

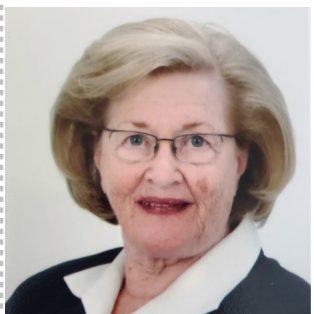
Has led Lower Dauphin field hockey to PIAA 3A championships in 1993, 1998, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2013. She has amassed over 800 wins in her 44 years as the head field hockey coach.



## LAURYN WILLIAMS

*First American Woman to medal at the Summer and Winter Olympics*

Lauryn Williams was a track and field athlete at Rochester HS (1998-2001) and is well known for her come from behind victory during the 2001 PIAA State Track and Field Championships in the 4x100.



## JEANNE HOWLEY

*Registered PIAA Official since 1975*

Howley has worked tirelessly for the PIAA on behalf of the swimming community by promoting the sport for PA athletes.



## DR. BRIDGET O'CONNELL

*Superintendent of Palisades School District (2011-Present)*

Dr. O'Connell was a 1991 graduate of Easton HS where she earned 12 letters, four each of them in cross country and track. She went on to Lehigh University where she was a captain and scholar athlete for the women's track team. She was recently named the 2022 PA Superintendent of the Year.



## ANNETTE BARBINI

*Wilkes-Barre School District Teacher and Athletic Administrator (1962-1997)*

Barbini was the first female member of the PIAA District 2 Committee as well as becoming the area's first female athletic director. She was a PIAA Official since 1971 and officiated field hockey, basketball, volleyball and track, sports she also coached.

NFHS High School Today Magazine is also celebrating 50 years of Title IX this month. Click [here](#) to view the magazine online. The magazine features an article by PIAA Board of Directors Member Peg Pennepacker on The Beginning of Title IX—the Bernice Sandler Story (p. 18). The magazine also features Holly Farnese, Executive Director of PASADA (p. 43) in an article of female athletic directors' retracing steps of Title IX's 50 years.

