



Oregon School Activities Association
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OSAA Executive Director Tom Welter announces retirement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Feb. 9, 2016) – Tom Welter has announced that he'll retire as executive director of the Oregon School Activities Association effective July 31.

He began his OSAA career in 1995 as an assistant executive director and was promoted to his current position in 2001 when he succeeded Wes Ediger.

Among his accomplishments during his 15 years leading the association are establishing the OSAA Foundation and the Oregon Athletic Officials Association and transitioning the OSAA from four to six classifications.

Welter, 67, currently serves as president of the board of directors for the National Federation of State High School Associations. His four-year term on the NFHS board concludes in July.

Among several NFHS committees Welter has served are sanctioning (1995-98), football rules (1995-2004) and strategic planning (2008). In addition to presiding over the NFHS Summer Meeting, he has made presentations at the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Conference and at NFHS summer and legal meetings.

Born and raised in Stayton, Welter attended Regis High School and Oregon State University, graduating with a B.S. in mathematics in 1971. His first teaching job was in South Australia, where he taught math and science.

Welter returned to the United States in 1974 and started teaching math and coaching football, basketball and baseball at Central Catholic High School in Portland. He completed his M.S. in mathematics education at OSU in '75 and remained on staff at Central Catholic for 20 years, serving as the school's athletic director for 18 years and vice principal / dean of students for 15 years.

President of the Oregon Athletic Directors Association (OADA) in 1990-91, Welter was selected OADA Athletic Director of the Year in '93 and received the OADA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.

Other honors include: NIAAA State Award of Merit (1993), NIAAA Distinguished Service Award (1996), Central Catholic High School Hall of Fame (2005) and Oregon Athletic Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award (2010).

A resident of Portland, Welter and his wife, Chris, a retired elementary physical education teacher, have three grown children and three grandchildren.

(Tom Welter can be reached for comment at 503-682-6722 ext. 230 / tomw@osaa.org)