

54th Annual Meeting
May 11, 2006
Saint Clements Castle, Portland

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
By Donald W. Gates

I stand before you today concluding not only my tenure as your Board of Directors President—but also 41 years of service as an educator and administrator who has been involved with CAS since 1975.

As I reflect back to the mid to late 70's when the CAS office was located on Pinewood Hill off of Whitney Avenue, I have such fond memories of my volunteerism working with John Daly, the late Tony Panciera, Judy Sylvester (Mike's long tenured secretary) and a couple of other employees.

What a trip it was during tournament time when we had to do division pairings by hand. No computers, no technology, just a committee of volunteers duking it out in a very small room to organize and formalize a girls' basketball tournament that would create a great competitive event for participating schools.

In those days if you smiled at John Daly you were appointed to some kind of standing or "ad hoc" committee—that meant not only volunteering many hours above and beyond the call of duty, but always experiencing great camaraderie among good friends. In addition to working on the CIAC committee I became the program committee chairman—a position I carried for 15 years. Back in those days we ran two-day conferences that addressed professional development needs of our colleagues. We didn't have much money so it was not uncommon to see Don Gates banging on doors for

donations, door prizes and even convincing conference centers to not charge for the use of facilities. In fact, I always conned a free room out of the hotels and usually all my expenses were paid along with Dick Nable who assisted me for many years while pulling off this annual event.

In the 80's and 90's other involvement with CAS included serving on the CIAC eligibility committee, citation committee, nominating committee, CAS Board of Directors, Region I representative to the NHS Scholarship and Principals' leadership committees, serving as chairman for the Century III scholarship and Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Committees plus many others.....I could go on and on.

My intention is not to bring focus to my engagements with CAS but to point to the need of how important it is for our membership to engage in ownership of our governing body. Our success as an association is primarily the direct result of your volunteerism and as I am about to step up to my next phase of my life, retirement, it is my hope that each of you will go an extra, extra mile to promote our association and to engage administrators to volunteer to support our association. In your respective roles, as you interact with others, do a little recruitment because we need our membership to step up to the plate to get the job done. I would be remiss if I did not commend Mike Savage, our executive director along with Mike Buckley, Earl Bidwell, Regina Birdsell, Dennis Carrithers, Bob Carroll, Paul Hoey, Tony Mosa, Karen Packtor, Ann Malafronte, George Hall, and Matt Fischer—our professional colleagues who provide exemplary services to our organization. They in turn could not do the great work that they do were it not for their support staff, secretaries, business support people, and other office workers. As your President, these past two years have been so rewarding. Connecting to all levels of

services—elementary, middle and high school, observing on-going operations at the CAS office, attending programs recognizing outstanding students, athletes, principals, governor’s scholars, unified sports programs, athletic events, gifted students representing the arts, attending sessions with state legislators, and endorsing the UCONN UCAP program represent such growth of our organization.

Let me express my gratitude to you for entrusting me to lead our Board of Directors. I have attempted to engage each of you in the decision making process as well as to enhance communications in an attempt to market our organization and all of the positive strengths of our association. My years of service to CAS have been rewarding and enjoyable I hope to continue to keep my finger in the pie as I work with the State National Honor Society Association. Of course I am always willing to provide consultant services to Mike—sometimes he needs help! Thanks again.