

COAHPERD History - Sketch

Compiled by Diane Speer

Revised, Dec. 2005

Early History The early history of COAHPERD is sketchy at best, but the archives contain a copy of a constitution for a Colorado Association for Health and Physical Education dated 1933. However, COAHPERD has a list of past-presidents (origin unknown) that lists past-presidents from 1931. The 1933 constitution lists dues of \$1.00 and a yearly statewide meeting “when and where it is deemed possible by the Executive Committee”. Divisional (south, west, and east) meetings shall be held annually at the Colorado Education Association meeting.

A history of COAHPERD printed in 1976 implies that a professional association did not exist in 1952. The above mention list of past-presidents notes presidents for every year from 1933 to 2002 except for 1938-39 and 1942-43.

Modern Era Information from the 50’s and 60’s is also sketchy (the archives contain un-researched materials from this era), but there is evidence that COAHPERD was in continuous operation since 1952.

Some highlights from 1952 to present:

1979- The “D” for dance is added to the Association title

1979- President Hal McKain proclaims 1979 the 25th Anniversary of COAHPERD (indicating 1954 starting date for COAHPERD)

1980-dues are \$10- professional and \$3.50- students

1984-“new” logo designed for COAHPERD

1985-dues are \$20- professional and \$7- students

1986-“adapted PE” added to Executive Board

1994-dues are \$40 -professional \$10- students

1997-“new” logo designed for CAPHERD (projected headed by Ann Turnacliff)

2002-“retired” added to membership options (\$20)

2003- CAHPERD changed to COAHPERD

2004-dues are \$60- professional and \$10- students

COAHPERD History- Advocacy

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Providing information about our profession and keeping our message in the forefront of the public and decision makers has been part of COAHPERD for decades. From the early 1970s there are records of “proclamations” from the governor’s office supporting “Physical Education and Sports Week”. From the mid 1970s there are records of a “Public Affairs Commission” to monitor state level decision making. From the mid 1970s there are records of Legislative Fitness Days, some in conjunction with the Jump Rope For Heart program.

In the 1973(?), AAHPERD began the PEPI (Physical Education Public Information) program, with each state having a PEPI coordinator. This program of information and advocacy continued until the early 1990s.

Under the leadership of President Marjorie Corso COAHPERD began a Legislative Action Committee in 1991. That year COAHPERD hired a paid lobbyist, and has continued the position since then. The 1993 Colorado Legislature passed a resolution supporting “quality, daily physical education”. Also that year the state legislature began efforts to establish state standards for certain subject areas (originally physical education/health was not on the list of subjects). COAHPERD, with the aid of our lobbyist, was instrumental in getting the legislature to include “physical education” as a subject for which state standards would be developed. Later, the Colorado Department of Education turned to COAHPERD for assistance in building the standards writing team for physical education. COAHPERD continued to aid the process of revision and adoption of the state standards in physical education.

In the mid 1990s COAHPERD again held legislative events (breakfast and demonstrations) every other year, in conjunction with the American Heart Association. The legislative event was also designed to bring student majors and other professionals to the Capitol to visit with legislators.

In 1975, Governor Richard Lamm established the Governor’s Council for Physical Fitness. COAHPERD has had varied collaborations with the Council since its inception. The 1990s and early 2000s had a run of several continuous years of collaboration with the council through the Shape Up Across Colorado program. COAHPERD also has had a long running collaboration with the American Heart Association through the Hoops For Heart Program.

In the early part of 2000s COAHPERD established more collaboration with COPAN and the Colorado Department of Education.

During the 2005 legislative session COAHPERD helps craft and pass legislation that would recognize the outstanding physical education programs in Colorado. This legislation passes both houses and is veto by then Governor Owens in June, 2005

COAHPERD History- Awards & Recognition

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The earliest known constitution of a HPERD professional organization in Colorado (dated 1933) makes no mention of awards of recognition for members of the association/ profession. When a professional organization appears to reestablish in the early 1950's there are no record of awards and recognition as part of their function.

It is not until the late 1960's and early 1970's that the COAHPERD archives have any record of awards and recognition as one of the functions of the association. At that time four awards were given: the Honor Award (with criteria almost identical to the current award), the Recognition Award (for outstanding contributions to the profession and COAHPERD from someone outside of COAHPERD), the President's Award (for the outstanding teacher in the association), and the Student Award (for outstanding contribution to the profession and COAHPERD by a student). In 1978 there were three "honor" award winners, and the student award recipient was from the physical education program at DU!

In 1979 Carolyn Cody (UNC) proposed additions to the COAHPERD awards. The additions were "health service award" and "recreation service award". Further action by the 1979 Board made the following changes: "teacher" award became "service award"; the "honor awards" were changed to include 1. Recognition Award 2. Honor Award, and 3. Student Award. The "service award" included 1. Physical education, 2. Recreation, and 3. Health.

There are no records to indicate when these changes occurred, but by 1985 COAHPERD was presenting eight awards: 1. Honor Award, 2. Recognition Award, 3. Service Award, 4. Student Honor Award, 5. Business/ Industry Award, 6. Elementary Teacher, 7. Secondary Teacher, and 8. Higher Education Teacher (new in 1985). In 1986 & 87 COAHPERD gave an "appreciation" award. In 1988 a middle school teacher was added, and in 1989 a dance educator, "adapted" educator, outdoor educator, and young professional awards were added.

In the early 1990s (1992?) COAHPERD began recognizing "administrators" who support COAHPERD members and quality programs. In 1992 an outstanding health educator award was begun. In 1996 an "outstanding young student" award was begun by then president Laura DeGhetaldi to recognize non-major K-12 students who impact our profession. Laura also began the Presidential Citations that are selected by the president of COAHPERD. In 2000 the COAHPERD Board approved the addition of an exemplary service award for service to COAHPERD.

In the early 1990's it appears that nominees were being "shifted" fro the award they were nominated for to other awards so that all categories of awards would be filled each year (including those that received no nominations). In some cases people received awards fro which they were not nominated and/ or not qualified. In the mid 1990's the COAHPERD Board recommended to the awards committee that if no nominations, or unqualified nominations were submitted for an award (as deemed by the committee) then that award would not be given that year.

In 1997 president Anne Turnacliff reorganized the committees of the COAHPERD Board. The "awards" function of COAHPERD was placed under the Advocacy Committee to strengthen the idea that recognition of the best in our profession can and should be used as an outlet to promote quality programs and practices.

Although there have been a confusing array of names and name changes, it appears that the history of recognition in COAHPERD has been to keep expanding the scope of the awards, improve the qualifications of the nominees and refine the selection process. The awards presentation has become a focal point of each yearly convention that sets other business aside to honor the award winners, their families, colleagues, and friends.

COAHPERD History- Conventions

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Early “statewide meetings” were held in conjunction with the Colorado Education Association (CEA) state meetings (statewide meetings of professionals by subject area). The arrangement seems to have continued from 1952-54 until the early/ mid 1970s.

Conventions were held in high schools and on college campuses until about 1980 when the conventions began to be held at hotel sites. With the exception of 1982 the COAHPERD conventions have been held at hotel sites. From 1980 until 1987 the conventions were in the Denver area (Holiday Inn- Northglenn).

Beginning in 1988 (Vail) conventions were moved to other major metro areas until 1995(1989- Colo. Springs, 1992- Silver Creek, 1993- Ft. Collins, 1994- Grand Junction.) From 1995 to 2001 the COAHPERD conventions were held at the Holiday Inn Southeast.

Early statewide meetings were one day in length. Some time in the 1970s conventions began at 5:00pm on a Thursday evening and all day on Friday. By 1984 the conventions were two full days (Thursday and Friday). In 1995 the format of the conventions moved to the Thursday pre-convention workshop(s) (begun by Mary Lou Meyers (Miller)) with breakout sessions all day on Friday and half to two thirds of Saturday. The 2000 convention began two full days of breakout sessions (Fri. and Sat.)

Board minutes indicate that the 1983 convention was “the first to make a profit”. For at least the past 15 years the convention was a major source of income for COAHPERD. In the late 1980s and early 1990s an effort was made to “rotate” the conventions between a Denver metro site one year and another city the next year. For the most part the conventions outside the Denver metro area just broke even financially. In 1995 a decision was made to keep the convention in the Denver metro area and bring workshops to the other areas of the state (see COAHPERD History- workshops).

The 2002 convention attendance of 460 is a new record. The 2002- 2004 conventions are held in Aurora (Holiday Inn DIA) and attendance hovers near 500 in 2003& 04.

In 2005 COAHPERD moves to a mountain location (first time since 1992) and shortens the convention to one and one-half days (Fri. & Sat.) to accommodate the co-hosting of CDAHPERD convention in Broomfield in March, 2006.

COAHPERD History- Publications/Communication

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A “newsletter” has been part of COAHPERD publications since the modern era of COAHPERD (see The Beginning of CAHPER by Glenn Stenson). From the beginning our newsletter was called the “The CAHPER Communicator”, and was published twice a year.

In 1974 there is a reference to the “Communicator” newsletter, and a “journal” is born (first edition October, 1974) published twice a year. The Journal is formatted much like a newsletter (editor’s message, president’s message, articles about skills and activities, dates and events). (Early issues of the Communicator are not in the archives.)

In 1977 a third issue of the Journal is approved (fall, winter, and spring). The Journal continued until the early 1990s when several factors lead to stopping the publication (lack of editor, lack of articles). The Board chose to focus on four yearly expanded issues of the Communicator. In 1994 the publication and distribution of the communicator shifts to Grand Junction (Julie Coleman & Viki Simmons).

In 1996 COAHPERD is one of the first state associations to provide the new, and customized for each state, Physical Activity Today (PAT) (research summary published by AAHPERD) to members. The PAT is mailed with the Communicator.

In 1995 President Joe Quatrochi begins the first COAHPERD web page. It is housed on his website until 1998. In 2001 the website gets an “easy” and identifiable address ([www. COAHPERD.org](http://www.COAHPERD.org)) and, in the 2000’s becomes the central clearing house for timely and important information.

In 2000 the COAHPERD Journal is reborn with the help of Steve Murray in Grand Junction. The Journal is focused on Colorado based research, book reviews and scholarly discussions of issues. From 2000- 2002 one issue is published.

In 2004 the COAHPERD Board approves combining the newsletter and journal into a publication called a “journal”.

In 2005 the COAHPERD Board approves funding for the development of electronic conferencing.

COAHPERD History- Workshops

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Professional Development opportunities (other than convention offered by COAHPERD appear to be an integral part of the association since at least the 1970's. In the 1970's the Executive Board was divided into "divisions" and each division was responsible for "preparing" two workshops. In 1978 "seed money" was given to the "district" chairpersons (COAHPERD was divided into nine geographical areas by counties- developed by Bev Peterson in 1974 and each district chairperson was responsible for presenting two workshops in their area. Minutes of Board meetings and remarks from Presidents seem to indicate that this system did not always result in the quantity of workshops desired.

President Chris Conboy, in 1984 mentions a "Caravan of Presentations" (in addition to workshops) as though it had been part of COAHPERD prior to that year. (Note-Interview Chris for more information)

Through the late 1980s and early in the 1990's there are indications that the Executive Board was responsible for presenting a "winter" and "spring/summer" workshop in addition to the convention.

In 1995 COAHPERD began to offer "preconvention workshop(s)" as part of the convention package. The preconvention workshop(s) were the responsibility of the president-elect. Some years there was a single focus workshop, other years a choice of 2 or 3 workshops. (See COAHPERD History – Conventions)

In 1997-98 President Turnacliff developed the 4 corners workshop idea with financial resources to bring workshops to areas outside the Denver metro area. This followed up on the decision to keep the convention in the Denver metro area for financial reasons. (See COAHPERD History- Conventions)

In 2000-2001 for the first time four "4Corner" workshops were held in one year in four different areas of the State. In subsequent years one to three workshops were held in 2003 the name "4 Corners" is changed to "Outreach" workshops.