

Commissioner Julian Tackett

Topic

Attendance on Behalf of KHSAA

Attendance for KHSAA

**Meeting_Session
Attended**

NFHS Winter Meeting of State Associations

**Takeaways to help
Board and Staff**

Legislative Influence on state associations is much more prevalent in other states, and in fact, Kentucky should be viewed as a model for its partnership with the General Assembly. While many states face issues and conflicts, that has not been the case in Kentucky due to the years of building strong relationships.

This allows the KHSAA to be in a very good position to understand the needs of the General Assembly, and equally important, the Association to reassure the General Assembly of its good works

General Commentary

The agenda for this three-day meeting is quite full, and while there is time after the business day to potentially enjoy the area you're in, most of the view during normal work hours is from the inside of a meeting room.

This year's Meeting, which began on a Sunday, was highlighted by information from the NFHS regarding ongoing issues related to legislative involvement and changing national political perspectives on issues that many states face.

The meeting also presented three opportunities for the directors of the different associations (Executive directors and commissioners) to discuss issues affecting their states and allow for ongoing feedback, advice, and potential mentoring on those topics.

Significant professional and personal development opportunities at this meeting were there regarding opportunities to strengthen relationships with legislators, opportunities to educate legislators who may not all be familiar with athletics and some of whom may not be familiar with secondary education on a daily basis.

This is also an opportunity for a group called the National Council, comprising one representative from each state, to provide the federation with input on business-related issues, as we are an active member of the NFHS.

Additional sessions included a very rich session on collaborating with legal counsel. This is an area that may not significantly impact the KHSAA, as we made the decision to hire internal counsel several years ago. However, in many cases, states are facing a tremendous increase in appeals and, consequently, higher legal costs due to their reliance on outside counsel.

Some of that we have been able to mitigate.

We were able to participate in a panel segment regarding the use of artificial intelligence, as we have been at the forefront of that compared to most states.

While this report doesn't intend to give a comprehensive review

of the three days of meetings, nor does it detail the seven hours spent in one airport due to typical winter-time travel issues, it is vital that whoever is the commissioner of the KHSAA continue to participate in this meeting and be able to bring that knowledge and understanding back to the board and the staff.