

# 1920s

Presidents:

J. Sharman, A. Hotchkiss, N. Almon,  
M. Sellers, E. Dorgan

The association was founded in Mobile when Dr. Jackson R. Sharman organized coaches and Physical Education teachers to form a section within the Alabama Education Association. Meetings were held during AEA annual gatherings.

Dr. Sharman urged each person to accept the responsibility for every child and not just the gifted athlete. He called attention to the unsound educational practices being followed by many coaches in their efforts to produce winning athletic teams.

1920

1925

1929

Miss Edythe Saylor of Alabama College distributed material from the National Amateur Athletic Association. The program included: "Possibilities in Development of Elementary School Program" and "What the Physical and Health Education Program for the Junior and Senior High Schools Must do to Justify Itself".

# 1930s

Presidents:

E. Dorgan, A. Hotchkiss, C. Palmer, A. Moss crop,  
H. Flowers, E. Saxman, C. Farmer, F. McWhorter,  
M. Sellers, H Barnes

The Executive Committee decided upon newsletters for the association.

At the annual meeting at the Tutwiler Hotel in Birmingham, Dr. Douglas, Cannon of the State Board of Health, spoke on "Education without Health is Useless".

The association saw great advances. The 3 newsletters were mimeographed and full membership went to 129.

Adopted the second constitution under the new name of Alabama Association for Health and Physical Education.

1930

Membership of the association rose to 72 members and marked the first year of real concern about the statewide program of physical education.

1939

The Executive Committee met to discuss a letter from the Alabama High School Athletic Association which offered a joint meeting and would pay a portion of the speakers fees. Plans had been made to show sport films at the conference, but the films never arrived. Instead, Miss Mary Coleman of Women's College of the University of North Carolina spoke on "The Forward March of Physical Education".

# 1940s

Presidents:

M. Sellers, H. Barnes, K. Mills, E. Saylor, W. Battle,  
J. Land, L. Temerson, M. McCall, G. Myrick, H. Flowers

Dues for membership went from .50 to \$1.00 and the association year will run from June 1 to June 1.

ASAHPER organized the state into 15 associations to help promote better programs of health and physical education. The Physical Fitness Institutes were held throughout Alabama.

Total membership included 216 students and 69 professional members.

Southern District met in Birmingham and an emphasis was placed on sessions for elementary, secondary and college groups.

1940

1949

This year marked the third time Mr. Huber Flowers, from Florence State, served as President.

The association considered changing of the name again to add "Recreation" at the end to stay in line with the National Association. President Sellers wanted the proper authorities that created the ASAHPER and AHSAA Handbook to contain more information about ASAHPER. The handbook contained primarily athletic information.

The AEA decided that the association would cancel all its plans for the remainder due to men gone into military service and travel had become difficult.

# 1950s

Presidents:

H. Flowers, E. Lewis, W. Baughman, H. Donahoo,  
J. Goodman, V. Lapp, L. Turner, B. Dabbs, B. Finger,  
J. Sharman, M. Walton

Colleges and secondary schools reported problems of substitutions. The Executive Committee wrote in the next newsletter, "Participation in musical organizations, driver education or military training should not be permitted to serve as a substitute for instruction in physical education, since the specific objectives and the techniques differ widely."

The first ever Honor Award was presented to Mrs. Jessie Garrison Mahling.

The State Association Physical Fitness Test was developed. Several cities and counties were tested and the scores indicated that Alabama school children compared favorably with the norms established in other states.

1950

1959

Membership rose to an all-time high of 425 members, 209 professional and 216 students.

A resolution was passed stating: "ASAHPER appreciates the State Department on bringing attention of school administrators of state law, regulations of the state Board of Education and the state course of study which seeks to assure that physical education be included as a integral part of the total school curriculum."

This time frame was considered the most productive in the history of the association. A mid-winter conference, separate from AEA was held and the first newsletter was published and sent to Superintendents.

# 1960s

Presidents:

M. Walton, C. Newdome, A. Nazaretian, W. Clipson,  
N. McCall, C. Palmer, M. Robinson, C. Moore, M. Collins,  
G. Stopp, H. Connor

A big surge for membership was enjoyed by the association.

The President's Challenge program began under President Lyndon B. Johnson as the Presidential Physical Fitness Award. The program evolved from concerns about American youth's physical fitness compared to European counterparts.

1960

President Kennedy published the article "The Soft American" in Sports Illustrated where he stressed the importance of physical fitness as part of national strength and identity. He began reshaping the President's Council on Youth Fitness, renaming it the President's Council on Physical Fitness and expanding its mission.

1969

The first ever Alabama Outdoor Education Workshop was held at Camp Grandview.

# 1970s

Presidents:

A. Dragoin, M. Blalock, K. Blackenship, A. Willoughby,  
B. Legg, J. Meyer, G. Akers, M. Wright,  
M. Wilder, J. Moore

Checking balance was \$3,181.47 and Savings Account was \$2,866.02 for a total of \$6,047.49 balance. ASAHPER was a healthy organization at this time.

Jump Rope for Heart (a joint project with AHA and AAHPERD) became an established fund raiser in local schools to benefit heart research. A revenue sharing model provided funding to the state HPERD associations.

Willis J. Baughman Award was established for Outstanding Majors' Club in member colleges and universities in Alabama.

1970

1979

ASAHPER was still a part of the AEA meetings. The balance of money in the ASAHPER account was \$1,968.56. A Physical Education Curriculum Guide was developed and used for the first time.

Olympic Gold Medalist Jesse Owens spoke at the ASAHPER Annual Luncheon.

Professionally produced PSAs were approved to air the first week in February announcing National Physical Education and Sports Week in conjunction with National Physical Education Week.

# 1980s

Presidents:

J. Moore, D. Green, J. Roberston, G. Hanson, J. Garside,  
R. Akers, J. Tally, W. Tishler, J. Brown,  
C. Gibbons, D. Dunaway

Executive Director: Angie Nazaretian (1985-1990)

Wayne Teague, Superintendent of Alabama, rolled out "Plan for Excellence" and intends to cut physical education from 3 required years to 1 year. ASAHPERD begins actively advocating and lobbying for the health of the children of Alabama.

The Board of Directors urged the State Superintendent and Board of Education to establish separate 7th–12th grade certifications for health education and physical education.

1980

1989

Dance was incorporated into the name of the organization following the national organization of AAHPERD. The state association would now be ASAHPERD.

The Executive Board voted to fund an Executive Director.

Mabel C. Robinson Memorial Lecture established for each fall conference.

The 54th Annual Southern District Conference was held in Birmingham and hosted by ASAHPERD.

Governor Guy Hunt signed a proclamation to make May, 1989, Physical Fitness and Sports Month.

# 1990s

## Presidents:

D. Dunaway, J. Reynolds, D. Hester, T. Henderson,  
W. Gilmore, T. Ford, Jr., R. Litaker, G. Roswal,  
D. Burke, P. Floyd, B. Fox

Executive Directors: Angie Nazaretian (1985-1990)

Jennifer Brown (1990-1991)

Donna Dunaway (1991-2001)

District Representatives were added to the Board of Directors to ensure representation from across the state.

Membership grew to 1354.

The ASAPERD Fall Conference moved from Samford University to the Wynfrey Regency Hotel in Hoover.

Roots to Wings Foundation was created.

1990

1999

ASAPERD retained a lobbyist to represent its interests before the state legislature, ensuring HPERD voices were heard in policy decisions.

Grassroot local associations sprang up from ASAPERD through District Representatives. MACOSSA – Madison County, EACAPEA – East Central, MCPEC – Birmingham, and several more across the state.

The ALSDE Physical Education Task Force recommended capping weekly teacher contacts at 1,000, funding certified PE teachers in all schools, and ensuring aides serve in supportive, not substitute, roles.



# 2000s

Presidents:

B. Fox, T. Conkle, C. Chesnutt, T. Leo, W. Hey,  
S. Sims, E. Pharez, B. Eaves, C. Dacus

Executive Directors: Donna Dunaway (1991-2001)  
Donna Hester (2002-present)

Senate Bill 49, sponsored by Sen. Smitherman, requiring 30 daily minutes of Physical education for all K-12 students. It made it out of the Education Committee but not the Senate.

ASAPHERD urged the AL Dept. of Ed. and State Board to revise waiver policies. Backed by 35 state senators, this effort was supported by partners including the AL Dept. of Public Health, American Heart Association, American Lung Association of AL, Alabama Sports Festival, Alabama State University, and Jefferson County Dept. of Health.

ASAPHERD opposed HB 446, brought forth by 22 Alabama Representatives, which granted waivers from the LIFE course for students in Band, JROTC, Athletics, and Cheerleading.

2000

2009

The Carol M. White PEP Grant was established to provide grants to LEA's to improve Physical Education for K-12 students with curriculum development, equipment and professional development. Seven school systems or board of education entities, received the grant in Alabama.

Rep. Mitchell urged the State Board of Education to strengthen Health and Physical Education offerings in response to rising diabetes and childhood obesity. An Exercise Subcommittee was formed to create implementation guidelines for exercise and nutrition at the SDE.

Childhood Obesity Joint Interim Committee was created.

Gov. Riley, per SDE's recommendation, vetoed bills to cut class sizes and to require K-8 Physical Education without exemptions.

# 2010s

## Presidents:

C. Dacus, S. Huff, R. Gold, R. Evans, T. Coates,  
A. Jackson, L. Prior, G. Mabrey, E. Reilly,  
G. Aaron-Brush, P. Edwards

Executive Director: Donna Hester (2002-present)

Schools and school systems formed or revitalized Wellness Committees as required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act.

ASAPERD advanced its digital presence by embracing emerging technologies and social media platforms, engaging its first Social-Digital Media Manager to strengthen outreach, member engagement, and organizational visibility.

SHAPE America and AHA dissolved Joint Projects (Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart) ending revenue sharing with state HPERD associations.

2010

2019

First Lady Obama launched the "Let's Move!" initiative.

ASAPERD intensified its advocacy efforts with ALSDE, Alabama Legislature, and CLAS to elevate the importance of quality health and physical education programs across Alabama. Advocacy Day, partnering with AHA, was held.

Future Professional Leadership Development Workshop inaugural Shrimp Boil.

# 2020s

Presidents:

P. Edwards, D. Lane, C. Reeves,  
C. O'Brien, J. Giangrosso, J. Thompson  
Executive Director: Donna Hester (2002-present)

COVID pandemic saw teachers pivot to virtual instruction, online activities, and creative home-based lessons.

The Spring Conference was cancelled due to COVID.

ASAHPERD 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

2020

2025

2029

ASAHPERD transitioned to a January-December operating calendar.

Because of COVID, the Fall Conference (2020) and the Spring Conference (2021) were held virtually online.