Those two words may be short in stature, but they have big meaning at the OHSAA. As I enter my second year as the Executive Director, I am incredibly proud that those two words begin the OHSAA’s new mission statement, which reads:

To serve our member schools and enrich interscholastic opportunities for students.

The process of developing that mission statement occurred this past summer when our strategic plan committee began doing its work, as instructed by the OHSAA Board of Directors. For those of you who have been through a mission statement development exercise, you know that it’s a process of identifying the most fundamental ideals of your association, company, school, etc., and putting those into one sentence.

As we spent those hours identifying our most important elements and crafting our new mission statement, I was pleased that everyone in the room acknowledged that “service” must be at the heart of what we do. While our staff has a wide array of responsibilities and duties that touch many different stakeholders, in the end, our efforts must all point back to those two simple words: to serve.

We also identified that “member schools” must be at the top of the pyramid of who we serve. It is our member schools who have the direct, daily interaction with students, coaches, administrators, officials, parents, fans and many other groups who are a part of interscholastic sports.

All those groups, with service and support from the OHSAA, work toward the goal of creating positive, strengthening and memorable opportunities for students that teach life lessons that remain long after their playing days are done. Developing well-rounded citizens and future leaders is at the heart of extracurricular activities. Every team wants to win, but success in school sports cannot be defined simply by what the scoreboard says at the end of the game.

To serve. That’s our mission.

Jerry Snodgrass
Executive Director, OHSAA