

## The Beginning

*On September 24, 1917, Mr. Emil Rath, then Dean of the Normal College of the American Gymnastics Union at Indianapolis (later became the Department of Physical Education at IUPUI), sent a letter to the directors of physical education in the public schools of Indiana. The content of the letter is as follows:*

September 24, 1917

To the Directors of Physical Education:

A number of requests have come to me during the past year from different instructors of physical education, suggesting the organization of an association of physical educators which shall include all those engaged in the work in the state of Indiana.

Its object would be to bring those engaged in the work into closer and more frequent touch with each other, to learn of the progress in the profession along theoretical and practical lines by means of papers and practical work presented, so that thus mutually profiting we may return to our work with deeper insight and greater enthusiasm. It is contemplated to later make the association a part of the Indiana State Teachers' Federation.

Do you not think it essential for every live instructor in the state to be a member of this organization? If so, come to the first meeting which will be held Saturday, September 29, 1917, at 2:30 P.M., in Lecture Room 1 (upstairs) of the Normal College, N.A.G.U. (east wing of the German House, 415 E. Michigan Street).

An effort will be made to present an interesting program.

Trusting that you will be present and assist in organizing the Indiana Physical Educators' Association, I beg to remain.

Very Truly Yours,

Emil Rath"

Normal College of the North American Gymnastics Union, Alumni Bulletin 1:2, October, 1917.

*Emil Rath was the first President of the Indiana Physical Educators' Association (IPEA), which now is the Indiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Sport (IAHPERD). He served as president from 1917 to 1920 and was followed by W.A. Ocker 1921-22.*