

WSATA Newsletter

January 2012
Issue



Special points of interest:

- Honors and Awards Applications due by **FEBRUARY 1st**
- Biographies for the candidates for Vice President and Region II Representative

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

I hope the start of the New Year is treating you well and you were able to spend some much deserved time with friends and family over the holidays. Before we get going with 2012 I would like to thank our members for all that you do to promote our profession and champion the efforts to care for those that rely on our expertise and services as health care professionals. I appreciate all of the questions and feedback that I have received regarding the numerous issues that WSATA is involved with and I am more convinced than ever that the servant leadership and passion that our members have will lead us to great things in 2012 and beyond.

Our Committee Chairs have been hard at work tackling several issues on behalf of the membership many of which will be topics of discussion at the WSATA State Meeting at the NATA District 10 Meeting in Bellevue. We are having productive discussions among committee members and moving forward with several issues on behalf of the membership. Please plan to attend this part of the program as we will discuss reimbursement, our practice act and other related issues. We will also recognize our Excellence in Service and Physician Award recipients.

A couple of years ago I committed to being the Local Committee Chair for this year's District 10 Meeting in Bellevue. I have been fortunate to work with your colleagues Mike Dillon, Jason Durocher and Jennifer Stueckle on the committee and we have a great meeting planned with a schedule full of local professionals and a variety of topics. Be sure to attend the opening presentation of the General Session program on Friday, March 30th as a panel will present the NATA's Position Statement on Sudden Death in Sport followed by a Concussion Management Update presentation led by Dr. Stan Herring. We also have some great workshops planned as well.

Thank you all for what you do to represent our great profession. See you in Bellevue!

Respectfully,
Craig Bennett

TABLE RAFFLE DURING THE DISTRICT CONVENTION

We are looking for athletic related donations from individuals or schools in the state of Washington for a table raffle. Items can include athletic gear, memorabilia, or other ideas such as a basket. Please contact a Board of Director if you are interested.

Craig Bennett—cabennett@pugetsound.edu

Kasee Hildenbrand—khildenbrand@wsu.edu

Jolene Fisher—jolenefisher@whitworth.edu

Katy Pietz—katy_butler@wsu.edu

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HONORS & AWARDS COMMITTEE— Chair Gen Ludwig

Hello Everyone,

I hope this finds you doing well in the New Year. With February just around the corner, I want to make sure you all have the opportunity to nominate your colleagues for the WSATA State Awards. This year we will be offering two awards: the Excellence in Service Award and the Physician Award. Please submit your nominations with the appropriate supporting materials by February 1, 2012. Supporting documents for the nomination and application materials can be found at www.wsata.net, by clicking on the Honors and Awards link. Materials should be submitted via email, fax, or regular mail.

Best,
Gen Ludwig MS, ATC
Assistant Athletic Trainer
Pacific Lutheran University
12180 Park Avenue S.
Tacoma, WA 98447
ludwigge@plu.edu
(O)253-535-7358
(F)253-535-7584

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ELECTIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENT & REGION II REP

Below is a bio on the two candidates for Vice President, Andrew Little and Rick O'Leary. Elections will occur early in February via the NWATA website. More specific information will follow.



Andrew Little MS, ATC, AT/L

Andrew grew from humble roots in Morton, WA. He began his Athletic Training journey at Eastern Washington University earning a Bachelor's degree focusing in Athletic Training. His path continued on to California where he helped to make a difference at both the big and small collegiate levels. There he completed a Master's degree in Kinesiology at San Jose State University. As a young professional, Andrew promoted a hands-on clinical educational experience for the SJSU future Athletic Trainers as an Approved Clinical Instructor. Andrew has served as a mentor to many of the locally grown and freshly minted certified athletic trainers. Andrew moved back home to Washington in 2008, accepting a position with Seattle Children's Hospital working within the Seattle Public School District and throughout the greater Puget Sound region.

Upon returning to Washington State, Andrew served on the Public Relations Committee assisting the chair to ensure that Certified Athletic Trainers, as a brand, were appropriately represented. He took an active role in promotion of the Lystedt Law and education of the medical community. Andrew continues to assist Secondary Schools across the state to integrate the requirements of the Lystedt Law. Andrew has been a presenter at the NWATA and WSATA Annual Meetings and Clinical Symposia and functioned as a key advisor to previous WSATA board members on the sports concussion topic. It is his intention to procure the Vice Presidential role and continue to build upon the great strides already taken by the previous members of the Executive Board. Andrew plans to take an active role in the representation of the athletic training body as a whole for the state of Washington.



Rick O'Leary MS, ATC, AT/L

Rick O'Leary has been the Athletic Trainer at Bishop Blanchet High School in Seattle for the past 10 years. A native of Seattle, Rick earned his BA from Carroll College (Helena, MT) and his MS from Montana State University (Bozeman, MT). While at Blanchet, Rick has been at the forefront of improving care for the student-athletes. Under Rick's leadership, BBHS was one of the first high schools in the Pacific Northwest to use computerized neurocognitive testing. Over the years, Rick secured funding for defibrillators for his school and hosted the first high school cardiac screening event in the state. In 2008, Rick was asked to serve as the District 10 representative to the NATA's Secondary Schools Athletic Trainers Committee, a position he continues to serve through June 2012. Rick has presented locally and nationally on a variety of topics and looks forward to continuing to give back to the Athletic Training profession.

REGION II REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE

CHRIS POTVIN MS, ATC, AT/L

Chris was born in Minnesota, raised in Nebraska, and later moved to Las Vegas, Nevada. Chris graduated from California Lutheran University in 1996 with a B.S. degree in Athletic Training. He also played football and Track at CLU. He became a Certified Athletic Trainer in June of 1998. He later returned to Las Vegas to obtain a M.S. in Kinesiology at UNLV with an emphasis in Sports Injury Management.



In his career, Chris has worked in a wide variety of settings from High School to Professional sports both in the field and in a clinical setting. Including 3 years in the Arena Football League, 2 years in semi-pro basketball and as a volunteer with the San Diego Padres.

In June of 2007 Chris moved to beautiful Olympia, Washington to start work with Olympia Physical Therapy. Locally, Chris has been the trainer for the North Thurston School District where he helped implement the ImPact program for concussion management. He has led training seminars for coaches on sports related topics. Since being appointed the clinical director for the Northwest Sports Medicine Center in 2011, Chris has cared for injured athletes in a clinical setting and organized continuing education seminars.

When not working, Chris enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters. He also enjoys the outdoor opportunities that Washington has to offer such as hiking / climbing, kayaking, and the beach.

REIMBURSEMENT COMMITTEE—Chair Keith Eggleston

There has been a significant increase in the number of inquiries to the Reimbursement Committee regarding clinical care that includes billing for reimbursement for care rendered directly by an athletic trainer. We hope that this trend continues throughout 2012 and encourage anyone who is actively pursuing reimbursement to contact the Committee.

Members throughout the State are actively pursuing plans for reimbursement for their services, and are doing so from a variety of employment settings. For those ATs who are in clinical settings, please keep in contact with the Reimbursement Committee about your activities, efforts, and questions. Specifically, we ask that ATs keep in contact with us before reaching out to a payer. By contacting us beforehand, we can provide the AT about any information pertaining to that payer and what we know about their requirements, and the WSATA benefits by knowing who is seeking payment and what the results of their efforts have been. We are still working with payers but have not had any WA companies yet formally recognize ATs for billing purposes.

The Committee is developing a specific focus for the next several years, and hopes to have this plan finalized in about a month. This will help provide a direction and goals towards specific payer relationships.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the AT Reimbursement Committee, we'd like to hear from you. We welcome additional interest and participation on this committee, and are specifically seeking AT members who are in settings where reimbursement could potentially occur, such as medical offices, therapy clinics, or similar practices (though any WA AT who is interested in our reimbursement issues should feel free to contact a member on the committee).

Important: The Reimbursement Committee needs to identify any WA Athletic Trainers working in a chiropractic office. If you, or an AT you know, is working in a chiropractic setting, please have that individual contact Keith Eggleston about some chiropractic-athletic training reimbursement opportunities.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE—Chair Dana Gunter

AT Advisory Board

The AT Advisory Board met on December 12, 2011. WSATA President, Craig Bennett and I attended.

The vacancy for the Public Member has been filled by Maya Mendoza-Exstrom. All seats on the AT Advisory Board are now full. Terms for all the current Licensed Athletic Trainer members expire on June 30th 2012. The Public Member term will expire on June 30th 2015.

Topics the Board heard:

As of December 1, 2011 there were 485 Athletic Trainer licenses issued by the Department of Health (DOH).

Unlicensed Practice Program: There was a full agenda including a presentation from Don Painter, Chief Investigator who provided information on the Unlicensed Practice program. Mr. Painter explained the process the Department goes through in following up a complaint. This process involves background research of the suspected violator, discussions with complainants and, site visits as appropriate. Violations may include using the title of Athletic Trainer without a license in our state or, an actual violation of our practice act. We are being encouraged to report violators to the DOH. Reporting violators is a protection of the public as well as our profession. You can go directly to the Athletic Training Licensure site at the Department of Health website to file a report. Using the URL below, follow the instructions under “File a Complaint” on the left side of the page. The Department encourages multiple complaints to be filed on a single violator to alert them to the serious nature of the complaint.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/Professions/Athletic/default.htm>

Budget: In addition, the Board was given a presentation by the Executive Director, Blake Maresh on the budget process that is used by all state agencies. Some highlights included how the fiscal budget is appropriated to state agencies; revenue for the athletic trainer program comes from 4 primary sources: application fees, renewal fees, fines and, cost recovery. Statutory considerations specific to the Athletic Training program were also mentioned and included the following information, the DOH Secretary sets the fees and prepares the budget for health care professions in our state, all proceeds from licensing and renewal support the Athletic Training program and, all health professions must be self-sufficient.

BOC Certification for Athletic Training: Also on the agenda was the BOC Conference held in Omaha this past July. The National Practitioners Database for Discipline Reporting was discussed as a resource for states to use prior to issuing a health care license in their states.

RCW 18.250.010: The committee discussed the term “athletic training” as defined in our statute under RCW18.250.010. In summary, it is noted that though the competency areas of AT (recognition, evaluation, assessment, immediate care, treatment, rehabilitation and reconditioning of athletic injuries) are defined in our statute, there remains some interpretation and grey area in the following: with regard to treatment, rehabilitation and reconditioning discussion revolved around how we establish guidelines and, what guidelines we should or must establish with our licensed health care provider.

For the full meeting minutes you can go to the URL below. There you will find information on the AT Advisory Board, past meeting agenda and minutes.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/Professions/Athletic/boardinfo.htm>



For information about continuing education opportunities, current events and issues related to athletic training around the country follow the Washington State Athletic Trainers' Association page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @wsata.



GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Capitol Hill Day 2012

The annual Athletic Training Capitol Hill Day is Friday, February 24, 2012. The federal bills below are what the NATA has chosen to support this session.

H.R.2785—Athletic Trainers' Equal Access to Medicare Act of 2011

H.R.469—Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act of 2011

H.R.2649—PHIT Act of 2011 (Introduced in House - IH)

H.R. 2649 — IH

H.R.1057—FIT Kids Act (Introduced in House - IH)

S.392—Promoting Health as Youth Skills In Classrooms And Life Act

S.576—FIT Kids Act (Introduced in Senate - IS)

Even if you are not able to attend this year, you can still help by writing or calling your members of the Senate and Congress to let them know you support any or all of these efforts. Go to the NATA website and find the Legislative Alert Center under Government Affairs/federal or use the URL below:

<http://capwiz.com/nata/home/>

The featured alert is HR 2785 Athletic Trainers' Equal Access to Medicare Act of 2011. Here you can find out who your congress men and women are and follow scripting for your letter.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE—Chair Jen Carrol

We are well into winter sports and I hope that everyone's season is going smoothly. With basketball season upon us again, it brings back the issues that arise with athletes that need to wear a padded shooting sleeve. Please be aware that your athletes need a doctors note and approval from the WIAA of that note in order to play in a game with that shooting sleeve on. Also, this is the time of wrestling season that we start to see more skin disorders show up, please make sure that you are checking your athletes or that you have a plan in place to handle skin issues.

Coming soon from the Secondary Schools Committee, you will be receiving a survey by email. We have heard that this fall was a rough one for head injuries. We would like to help provide every Athletic Trainer in the state with some data as to what injuries are like state wide.

The NATA has released a new position statement on Preventing Sudden Death in Sports. Please take the time to read it and become familiar with it and how it may impact you in the Secondary Schools Setting. http://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/JAT%2047_1%20CASA%20FINALFINAL_11-16%20with%20in%20press%20watermark.pdf

See you all in Bellevue at the District meeting!

**Washington State
Athletic Trainers'
Association**

President - Craig Bennett
Vice President—Kasee Hildenbrand
Treasurer—Jolene Fisher
Secretary—Katy Pietz

CONTINUE TO LOOK ON
www.wsata.net FOR MORE
INFORMATION REGARDING CEUs,

DJO Global is one of WSATA's title sponsors as they have been a significant contributor to the continuing education efforts for our members. Please utilize the following DJO representatives for your sports medicine needs:

Anne Taylor, MS, ATC, CSCS, NASM-PES
Senior Territory Manager (NW Washington)
Mobile: 425-691-7307
Anne.taylor@djoglobal.com

Todd Elstrom
Territory Manager (SW Washington)
Mobile: 206-234-6182
Todd.elstrom@djoglobal.com

Todd McGann
Territory Manager (Eastern Washington)
Mobile: 509-413-9846
Todd.Mcgann@djoglobal.com



PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE—Chair Denton Norwood



The Public Relations Committee is always looking for information regarding ATs who have been recognized in their communities. Please forward any information to Denton Norwood at Dnorwood98@aol.com.

It is time to gear up for National Athletic Training Month 2012! If you or your organization put on an event or are recognized, please submit a brief summary to Denton Norwood to be submitted to the NATA News.