

August 16th, 2010



WSABE



Washington State Athletic Trainers By Email

Message from President Mike Obergottsberger

Dear WSATA Members:

I want to thank all of you who attended the state meeting this year; you made it a great success for our association. I'm still waiting for the numbers to come back from Craig Bennett and Jolene Fisher, but from the people I talked to who attended, it sounded like everything went well and is a great start to make this a yearly event. The importance of your attendance goes beyond having another meeting next year; it goes towards our efforts towards future legislation and association needs. Without the money and support coming in from events like this, we would not be able to function as a professional organization, and we would not be able to set future goals to protect our work settings and professional title. So again, I want to thank all of you for attending the state meeting, and for supporting our state association.

Some of you may have noticed my absence at the District and State meetings this year; due to health concerns, I have been unable to attend any meetings since February. Since 1990, I have been suffering from a back injury I suffered while serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. During a mission in rough weather, I herniated three discs in my back, and tore soft tissue around the lumbar region of my spine responsible for stabilizing the discs. As I chronologically matured over the years, my discs have slowly given up supporting my spine, so much so, that I was losing control and feeling of my L lower extremity. After pursuing advice from some of the best doctors in the country, I was told that I could either fuse my L3 to S1 vertebrae, or I could take narcotics and deal with the pain. Seeing this as unacceptable, my wife and I began doing some research. Long story short, we found a surgery being done everywhere else in the world but the United States, called Artificial Disc Replacement Surgery. Seeing this as a much better option to fusion surgery, I decided to travel to Germany to have my L3 to S1 discs replaced. Even though my American doctor friends and advisors told me that this surgery was no good, and that it wouldn't help me with my problems, all my symptoms were gone following surgery. I have had some Chronic Regional Pain like symptoms since my surgery, this was due to a numb area of my L lower leg/foot starting to wake up. This pain was intense, and it kept me from attending the state meeting, but besides that, I am getting better and stronger every day.

Inside this issue:

<i>Message from the President cont.</i>	2
<i>WSATA Annual Meeting</i>	2
<i>Public Relations Committee</i>	3
<i>Fundraising Committee Report</i>	3
<i>Governments Affairs Committee Report</i>	3
<i>Reimbursement committee</i>	4
<i>Meet your BOD!</i>	5
<i>WSATA Business Meeting Minutes— July ,2010</i>	6
<i>Meet your Region Reps!</i>	7
<i>Team 7:15</i>	8



Message from the President cont.

Due to the above problems, I have had to focus my life on healing and getting better. In doing so, I have had to ask for, and have been approved by the WSATA BOD's, a short term Emergency Leave of Absence from some of my duties as WSATA President. Kasee Hildenbrand, WSATA VP, will be taking over some of the more important duties of the association through the end of August, and then I will come back and assume my role as president as of September 1st. I am continuing to monitor e-mails on a daily basis, and I am continuing to work on projects that were started before my surgery, so I am not completely out of the system. Following my return, Kasee and I will be working more closely on projects until March, 2011. Thanks to the quality of the individuals representing the WSATA BOD's and Committees, you will not see any delay or efficiency in taking care of association business.

I would like to take this time to thank all of those who have stepped up for me in my absence, and for all of you who have offered assistance while I am recovering from my ordeal. It is reassuring to know that we have great people representing our association, and that I have friends in those positions that I know that I can ask for help when I need it. Thank you for your work, and your continued support of WSATA.

We have numerous projects that we are currently working on, or are preparing to start in the very near future, so our association will continue to be very busy over the next eight months leading in to the District meeting. Katy Pietz and I will continue to send you WSABE's to make sure you are up- to- date on projects that we are currently working on, changes that have occurred within the association, or projects that we need assistance with. Until then, please feel free to contact Kasee or myself if you have any questions and/or concerns.

Respectively submitted,

Mike Obergottsberger, ATC, AT/L

WSATA President

WSATA Annual Symposium Meeting and Symposium

The Washington State Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium presented by MultiCare Orthopedics and Sports Medicine returned to Tacoma on July 23rd and 24th. More than 60 certified athletic trainers attended the meeting which was held at the Courtyard Marriott Downtown. The Functional Assessment Workshop on Friday morning kicked off the meeting as 40 certified athletic trainers and other allied health care professionals actively participated in classroom and lab settings as they practiced functional assessment principles. The General Session followed on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday and was highlighted by several physicians, certified athletic trainers and other health care professionals that presented on various topics including PRP therapy, performance nutrition and related sports psychology, concussion management, PPE updates and athletic pubalgia to name a few.

Friday's program included the Exhibitor Social sponsored by Alert Services, Inc. The Saturday morning Continental Breakfast was sponsored by Henry Schein and gave attendees an opportunity to meet with the vendors that showed tremendous support for WSATA and the meeting. The WSATA Leadership Lunch was sponsored by Pacific Medical, Inc. and included guest speaker Russ Richardson the NATA District 10 Director.

Thank you to everyone that attended the meeting. We hope that the WSATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium will continue to grow and provide our members with an affordable continuing education opportunity at the same time bring members together to participate in the service and leadership of WSATA. We hope to see more members at the meeting in 2011!



Public Relations Committee Report— Chair Denton Norwood

This committee is looking for more volunteers to help out, those who are interested please contact Denton Norwood at dnoorwood98@aol.com

Fundraising Committee Report—OPEN

This committee is currently looking for a chair, it has been vacated by Craig Bennett. Please contact a BOD if you are interested in helping this committee as either a chair or member.

Governmental Affairs Committee Report—Chair Dana Gunter

The GAC committee continues to work closely with the secondary schools AT committee (Jennifer Carrol) and our lobbyist, Charlie Brown as well as our Region II (Andy Goss) and III (Jennifer Ratcliff) Representatives on the question of clearing a high school athlete for return to play after a concussion. The question of whether AT/Ls are qualified to make this decision was raised by a risk management pool responsible for insuring many of our Washington schools. We are currently working to educate these risk managers with information about our education and BOC certification credentials so that they understand ATs licensed in the state of Washington are qualified to make this decision as one of 5 licensed health care providers listed in the concussion management criteria created by the WIAA for school districts in our state.

The first meeting of the Athletic Training Advisory Committee was Monday August 9th, 2010 in Tumwater, WA. . The advisory committee is made up of 5 members: 4 licensed ATs and one member at large. The Department of Health is the governing body in charge of this advisory committee and they have sent notice out that the member-at-large position is still vacant. If you know of anyone interested in this position, please contact myself, Dana Gunter: danagunter@comcast.net or, Jennifer Santiago at Dept. of Health: jennifer.santiago@doh.wa.gov<<mailto:jennifer.santiago@doh.wa.gov>>

Here is the information to access the qualifications for the at large member:

www.doh.wa.gov

click onto Topics A-Z (at the top left of the home page)

then scroll down the A's and click onto *Athletic Trainer*

then choose *Advisory Committee* (on the far right of page)

Many of you already know that because of the efforts of our Lobbyist, Charlie Brown, this Athletic Training Advisory Committee remains intact. During the 2010 legislative session, bills were brought to both the House and the Senate to eliminate a very long list of boards and commissions. The AT Advisory committee was on this elimination list but thanks to Charlie, Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles (Seattle) and Senator Linda Evans-Parlette (Wenatchee) we were able to keep our Committee. One benefit of having this Advisory Committee is that it helps to provide credibility to our license. If either of these Senators represents your District, please find the time to send a short thank you for their support of our profession. This small gesture may make a difference for any future legislative goals for WSATA.

Finally, WSATA is in the process of interviewing attorneys to represent our interest in legislative and legal issues. We need someone who knows what we do, where we work and understands our needs. If you know of anyone you think would be a good match for us please contact myself, danagunter@comcast.net or, another board member.

Athletic Training Advisory Committee Meeting Re-cap

The first Athletic Training Advisory Committee Meeting with the Department of Health occurred this past Monday, August 9th. The meeting included various members of the DOH reviewing ethics, policies & rules, customer service policies, disciplinary policies, & legal "language".

During the meeting, the committee elected a Chair and Vice-Chair. Chair of the committee will be Chris Franklin and Vice will be Jeff Kawaguchi .

The topics discussed during the meeting include:

- 2010 Legislation
- Credential Requirements
- Definitions of RCW 18.250.010—past legislation definition

Reimbursement Committee Report—Chair Keith Eggleston

Here is a quick update of what we are working on for the rest of 2010 and into 2011. We'd like your help, feedback, and questions as we move forward on these items.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY.

I just kind of like this term as a place to start with our update. It is a way of looking at things and doing things that allows us all to collectively benefit from the work that each of us is doing or has done. Basically in Reimbursement we need to have a collective group of information that can be shared with each other as needed. This would mean having information organized and available in a way that could quickly and effectively be given to a WSATA Member or to the Leadership, as well as allow us to avoid pitfalls or errors that others have already navigated before us and to avoid doing the same work twice.

For instance, if a Member is in a clinic where s/he is given the green light to pursue reimbursement for services rendered, we need to get to a point where we can help the Member to ensure that s/he doesn't go about it in a way that is full of errors and could potentially cause the insurer to question reimbursement of athletic trainers as a whole. The Member would benefit by having information about the status of reimbursement in a way that would also help them better perform their job and be successful. Many questions need to be known about reimbursement—does the payer credential ATs? Do they reimburse for anything? Do they reimburse for some codes and not others? What are the criteria for submission of claims? Etc.

Basically, we need to be operating as a group and benefit from the work of each other. To do this, we are working on an insurance database and hard copy of information so that we have a track record of where we've been and what we know.

Action items for Committee:

- Create a database of payer information and reimbursement (more about this below);
- Collect/organize hard information of information that we come across;
- Have a regular Committee conference call to keep us communicating regularly and focused;
- Address & update the members at each meeting, conference, and WSABE;

Maintain the confidentiality of collected information as deemed necessary. The method of this is still TBD...and I appreciate any thoughts on the subject.

Action items for Members:

- Share reimbursement information (including specifics) to the Committee—your status, successes, failures, contacts you have attempted, procedures you have discovered, etc;
- Read reimbursement information that comes across your desk;

Support A Team legislative efforts by submitting information to your representatives;

INSURANCE DATABASE PROJECT

We officially have the initial phase of an insurance database. It is pretty much bare bones and only has some names and categories, but hey, at least it exists! Right now I need information to input and categories/topics that need to be tracked.

Action items for Members:

- Please send the Committee any insurance/payers with whom you hope to have us establish relationships or reimburse for services (names of payers)

If you currently get reimbursed from a payer *AS AN ATHLETIC TRAINER (not under a different license)*, please let me know. I will ask to keep track of you as a point of contact and will ask for some basic information.

WHO IS ON THIS COMMITTEE?

The current Members of this Committee are: Marty Matney; Dena Halle; Abba Delker; Andrew Goss; Bonnie Smith; Jennifer Ratcliff; Chris Tucker; Mark Pierce; and Keith Eggleston

Please direct information, questions, or comments to:

Keith Eggleston, AT/L, ATC, CSCS

WSATA - Reimbursement Committee Chairperson

505 E Third Avenue

Spokane, WA 99202

Office: (509) 342-3856

Cell: (509) 868-2608

Email: keggleston@rockwoodclinic.com

Secondary Schools Committee Report—Chair Jen Carrol

We met with Washington Schools Risk Management Pool in the middle of July. This is the group that had said that Athletic Trainers were not qualified to evaluate concussions. We had a good meeting with them. They did apologize for that statement being made, but they feel that a doctor's note must be included as part of the return to play process following a concussion. This does not mean that if the athlete is still symptomatic that they must be returned to play. The Risk Pool felt that we were qualified to take an athlete through a gradual return to play process and determine return to the playing field. We left them with a copy of the NATA Role Delineation Study to read to better understand our qualifications and education. They have agreed to send a Risk bulletin to their member schools addressing questions concerning issues that we send to them for clarification for the schools. If you have issues that you would like addressed please let me know. Also, as fall sports begin if there are issues that arise concerning practice as an athletic trainer and concussions please contact us so that we can assist you.

A letter is being sent to the Washington Officials Association and their member officials to help explain the role of the Athletic Trainer on the sideline. Please help in educating the officials as to our role when you introduce yourself to them prior to games.

Does your school/school district have:

- A written Concussion Management Policy
- A written Concussion Management Protocol
- A written Concussion Management Return to Play Procedure
- Written EAP's for all of your Athletic facilities
- A written Heat Illness Protocol and Procedure
- Written Medical Procedures for your Coaches

If you and your school do not have any of the above, now would be a great time to begin the planning and putting these documents into writing. If you need examples of any documents please contact Jen Carrol, she has some to share.

Meet WSATA's Executive Board



President: Mike Obergottsberger
mikeo@wsata.com -
360.319.1939 (cell)
360.734.2277 (work)



Vice President: Kasee Hildenbrand
khildenbrand@wsata.com
(509) 335-8834



Treasurer: Jolene Fisher
jfisher@wsata.com - (509)777-3247

Secretary: Katy Pietz
kpietz@wsata.com—(509) 335-6230



WSATA Business Meeting Minutes—July 24th, 2010

I. Call to order – at 3:01pm by Kasee Hildenbrand

II. Announcements

Mike's medical situation update and interim president role of Kasee Hildenbrand

ImPact workshop – July 29th at Tacoma General Hospital

III. Thank you to Craig Bennett, Stana Landon, Lisa Kenney for putting on a great program!

IV. Officer and Committee Reports

Reimbursement Task Force – Keith Eggleston

Institutional spreadsheet – working on creating a spreadsheet in order to have resources available for new employees as to reimbursement efforts in WA state

Wanting to create spreadsheet for what insurance companies pay for specific services of ATs

Wanting to create a resources of payment costs for ATs working in various setting for coverage of events - may show to WIAA as minimum cost structure of an AT covering an athletic event

Looking in to what high schools pay for AT service – change in amount of payment over the last few years?

Educational component of reimbursement models

Governmental Affairs Committee – Dana Gunter

Working with secondary school on RTP criteria and issues with Risk Management group in WA state

Licensure update – not going back to Olympia in 2011 and evaluate issues/concerns now to look bringing this to the legislature at 2012

Looking to question as to provider/practitioner and needing to bring that to the legislature or just an adjustment of WAC terminology

Dana asked any concerns/issues from employers to be brought to her

Looking for legal counsel to consult for these matters

Public Relations Committee – Denton Norwood

Denton has taken over this committee

Secondary School Athletic Training Committee – Jen Carrol

Updates on meeting with Washington State Schools Insurance Pool on July 21st including Dana Gunter, Andy Goss and Charlie Brown - questions on return to play with concussion management by a risk management insurance company

Presentation on concussions on webinar by risk management insurance company will include both a physician and athletic trainer

Jen is working on creating a statement to be communicated to the officials in their fall newsletter to explain the role of the AT in the management of concussions

Committee has been charged with being a statewide sponsor of the National Athletic Secondary Schools Healthcare Conference– LSU designed a web program for education - planning on setting up sites around the state to host this conference. Associated with this conference is CEUs.

Jen is asking for questions from us in relation to concussions (issues with coaches/parents) that should be asked to the risk management insurance pool

Washington Vocational Sports Medicine Association – Patrick Olsen

It was communicated to the association that Patrick Olsen was named the president of this association in their April meeting.

Fundraising Committee – open

Craig has resigned from the Fundraising committee role and will take over the newly formed Continuing Education Committee

Continuing Education Committee - Craig Bennett

Looking at moving this conference to earlier in the year and creating smaller meetings throughout the year – can also be used for fundraising opportunities

Emergencies in Sports Medicine conference may be created each fall to practice EAP, communicate P&P for medical staff in a 1 day conference

Finance Report – Jolene Fisher

Balance in Checking: \$12,589.76

Balance in Savings: \$12,302.20

V. Old Business

Licensure update

Encourage new AT hires in the state to participate in licensure

Web Site

Looking for an AT to assist in monthly updates on our website for a small reimbursement – please contact Katy Pietz with names of those who may be interested

VI. New Business

Awards

Continue to nominate our fellow colleagues and ATs in the state and recognize our hard work and efforts

Legal counsel sought

State Meeting next year

Looking for auction coordinator for next year's state meeting

Will reopen logo contest

Adjournment – at 4:02 pm by Kasee Hildenbrand

Meet your Representatives



Region I Representative:
Bonnie L. Smith, M.Ed., ATC, PTA
Center of Excellence - Allied Health,
Interim Director - YVCC Faculty
WCC-YVCC Physical Therapy Assistant
Program Advisor
bsmith@wsata.com - (509)574-6863

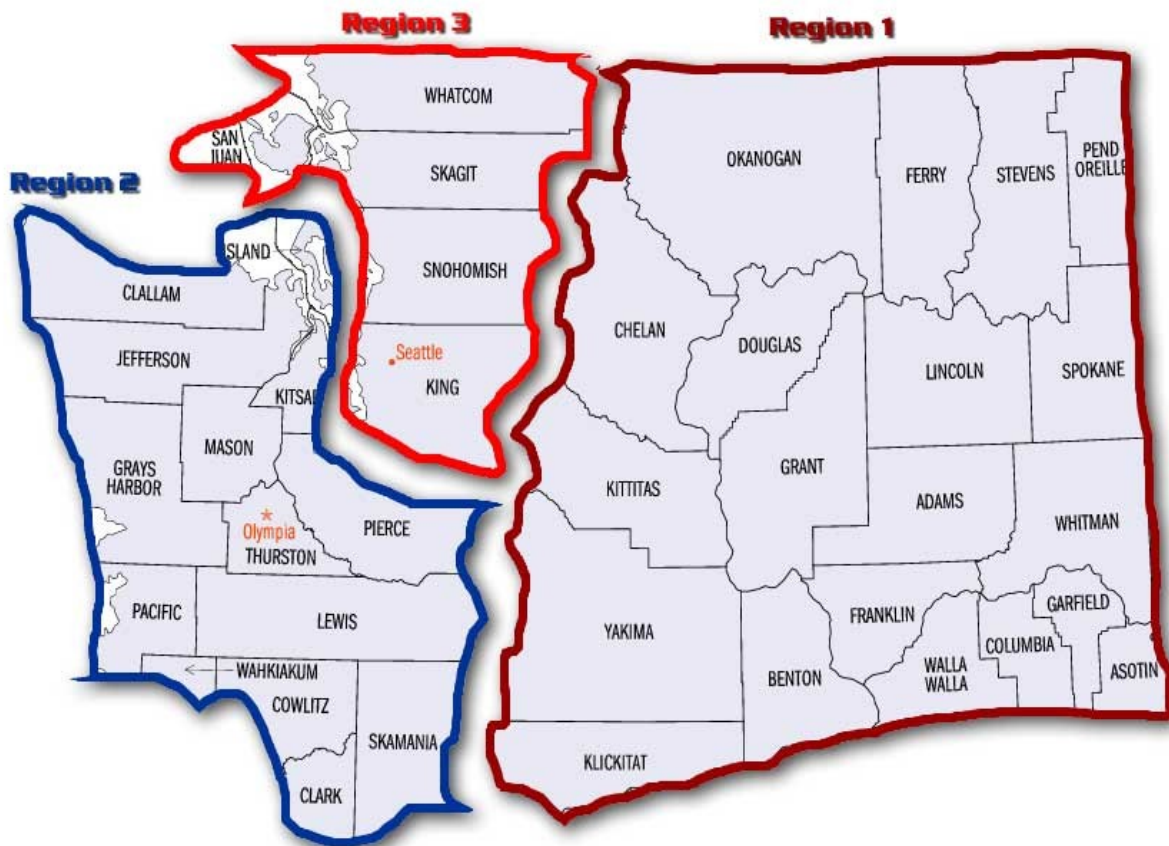


Region II Representative: Andy
Goss, ATC agoss@wsata.com -
(360)414-2735



Region III Representative: Jen-
nifer Ratcliff
jratcliff@wsata.com

Region Map



WSATA

BAC M-4
Pullman WA 99164

Mike Obergottsberger, President
Phone: 360-734-2277
Fax: 360-734-3006
E-mail: mikeo@wsata.com

We're on the Web
www.wsata.com



"Team 7:15" Sports Concussion Summit and Dinner

On July 30th, a dinner was held in Tukwila sponsored by "Team 7:15". Dirk Knutsen founded this group, which is designed to educate and bring together traumatically injured your athletes following a head injury. A few WSATA members were in attendance, including Jen Carrol, Craig Bennett and Dana Gunter.

Dirk is a football" dad from Oregon, Portland area who feels grateful that his son who suffered a concussion and was Impact tested before returning to competition. He is grateful for having an ATC on his HS team. Then he got introduced to other families who suffered severe concussion impact and/or lost a child to second impact. He has worked for the past couple years on getting this organization together to spread the word on concussion, second impact and sports.

The "Team 7:15" organization is a great resource to utilize for families needing a support group to help thrm through a struggle to get healthy. Please continue to support this group by offering our medical expertise and assist in getting accurate information in their messages to the community.