



WSABE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear WSATA Members:

The holiday season has come and gone, the Winter Solstice has passed us by, and the days are getting longer. This can only mean one thing: that once again we are preparing to attend the District Meeting. I can't believe that three years have passed since I assumed the position of WSATA President; it seems just like yesterday that my term began. It's been an honor and a privilege to represent the WSATA, and it's been exciting to watch the association grow while working with the tremendous individuals that have volunteered to assist the association. I have met some wonderful people over the last three years; some that I will forever call friends and mentors. If it wasn't for the colleagues that have worked with me over the past three years, I don't think that I would have enjoyed my title and position as much as I have.

During the past three years, we've seen some exciting things happen within our association, and I am proud to say that I was part of this exciting time for WSATA. When I took office, it was both mine and the Board of Directors goal to build a strong base for the WSATA, a base of committees and volunteers to make our association as efficient and helpful as possible. We achieved this goal with great effect! We have some outstanding people that have volunteered with the WSATA, and they have put in a considerable amount of hours to perform their duties as outlined by the WSATA BOD's.

WEBSITE Update

We are working on updating our website, it will be changed to www.wsata.net Be sure to check our new location in the next few weeks as we are working to make it "live"!

January 24, 2011

Special points of interest:

- Message from the President
- Website Updates
- Committee Reports—
WCTSMA, Public Relations,
Governmental Affairs, Secondary Schools, Reimbursement Task Force

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT continued

Some of the major events that we have achieved and dealt with since 2007 are: the Lystedt Law and how it affected the secondary school setting, reintroducing the State Meeting, developing a strong working relationship with the WIAA, continued efforts to maintain and develop a working web site (something that has been a nemesis for me and the rest of the BOD's since 2007), the Reimbursement Committee have succeeded in getting very close to having some of the larger private insurance companies recognize ATs under clinic licenses (versus being under a PT's license), and along with the Governmental Affairs Committee Chair (Dana Gunter) and myself, we have a strong commitment to monitoring affairs within our state that may have an effect on our profession.

The Executive BOD's and myself have been having monthly conference calls to not only discuss current issues, but to plan and implement future goals for our association. Some of the things that we would like to focus our efforts on are:

- Promoting jobs throughout the state. One of the stronger areas for this is the clinical and/or secondary school settings, and in cooperation with the SSATC and the WCTSMA, we will pursue this with great effort
- Working on job security for current positions held by ATs. This effort is initially going to focus on two things, but will not be limited to:
 - Educating school districts (again in cooperation with the WCTSMA and the SSATC), on the benefits of utilizing ATs
 - Emphasizing the benefits of ATs within the clinical setting, and at the same time, asking ATs and clinic owners/supervisors to refuse to call ATs - "Aides".
- Reaching out to the other states within our district, and work closer with the NATA and the NWATA. There are a lot of projects that we as an association could be working on around the nation, to bring the deserving respect to WSATA and its members. One example would be to assist in the national efforts to get every state in the union to have a law like the Lystedt Law.
- Continue to push for recognition of ATs in the clinical settings as adjunct therapists, and to get the private insurance companies to recognize our positions as anything other than Aides. Primarily, we need to show the private insurance companies that we can assist in decreasing overall health care costs by utilizing our professional skills as adjunct therapists within the clinical setting.
- And last but not least, continue the efforts on educating people within our own state on what and who we are as professionals. This can range from athletes, to parents, to professional organizations, etc. This will be a united effort from not only our committees, but from you the member as well.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT continued

I know that this message is getting long, but please bear with me as I finish up with the current issues that we are continuing and currently working on:

NWATA Elections: Please make sure you take the time to access the NWATA web site, and vote on the positions of District Director and Treasurer.

Membership: Membership has many, many benefits; but the most important benefit to remember, is that it's one of the only ways that the WSATA receives money to function as an association. This fact is also relevant to the NWATA and NATA. I ask you to please make sure that you have enrolled for your membership, and utilize the various benefits that will assist you as a professional AT.

NWATA District Meeting: I want to emphasize how important it is for you to attend the District Meeting. It's one of the very few times that you can talk in person with members of the NWATA and WSATA BOD's, and Committee members, and express your ideas and concerns. It's also a great time to meet and socialize with your colleagues. So please remember to sign up for the meeting on the NWATA web site, and I am excited to see all of you this year.

Web Site: Kasee Hildenbrand (WSATA Vice President) has worked very hard on learning how to design and control a working web site for our association. It will be up and running very soon, and when it is, we will send out a mass e-mailing to inform you. We will also announce this message at the District meeting.

Awards: Don't forget to nominate the individuals that you think deserve the Excellence in Service Award, and the Physicians Award. The nomination forms are on our web site, and if you have any trouble accessing the forms, please contact Katy Pietz (WSATA Secretary).

WSATA State Meeting: After a successful and entertaining 2010 State Meeting (thank you Craig Bennett for all your hard work and commitment), we've decided to continue the effort, and we will be having another state meeting this year. The time and date are still being considered, so when we commit to a place and date we will let you know as soon as possible.

Elections: The Region 1 Representative and President position is up for re-election this year, so if you know of someone who wants to commit to the requirements of the positions, then please send in your nomination as soon as possible. We are setting a date of February 11th as the last day to accept applications, so please do not wait to get them in. If you need to talk with the current Region 1 Rep, or myself, to find out what the positions require in regards to work load, time commitment, etc., please feel free to contact us at any time. Please forward all nominations to Jolene Fisher, WSATA Treasurer and Elections Chair.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT continued

I thank you for taking the time to read my long winded message; I appreciate your consideration and time to stay involved with our association. I would like to take the time to extend another invitation to all of you who would like to volunteer for a position within the association, provide input on current issues, or give us advice on future projects. Any and all help from our members would be much appreciated, and it will help us continue to grow as a professional health care association. I wish all of you good health and good fortune, and I hope to see all of you at the District Meeting. I would also like to take the time to thank all of you who have helped me during the last three years as President, and for teaching me how to become a better leader.

Respectively submitted,
Mike Obergottsberger, ATC, AT/L
WSATA President



HOPE TO SEE YOU IN EUGENE, OR, March 25-27th!!



WCTSMA Report- Chair Patrick Olsen polsen@nkschools.org

The spring symposium/competition for the Washington Career and Technical Sports Medicine Association (WCTSMA) is fast approaching. This year the competition will be held at the Spokane Convention Center April 29-30th. The testing has expanded to include an anatomy/physiology test, a medical terminology test, a resume and interview exam, and the written and oral sports medicine exam that has traditionally taken place. We will need written test proctors on Friday and Saturday and twenty (20) oral test proctors (ATC's are the preferred evaluators for this section of testing) on Saturday morning and afternoon. If you are interested in helping to proctor tests please call or send an email to me. Typically, we test around 800 students on 40+ teams that travel from California, Texas, Arizona, Idaho and Washington secondary schools. Please feel free to get involved with the youth that will help to form our medical professions in the future.



**CONGRATS to the
EWU Eagles for
their National
Championship!!**

Public Relations Committee Report- Chair Denton Norwood Dnorwood98@aol.com

At this time the Public Relations Committee is being restructured/redirected by the BOD. The goal of this is to have the PR Committee to act as a "communication hub" for membership. This will be in addition to the already established goals of increasing the public awareness of ATs in the state of Washington.

One new aspect will be the start of a quarterly "Athletic Trainer Spotlight" that will be distributed in the WSABE and posted on the website. Suggestions on Washington Athletic Trainers to be spotlighted would be greatly appreciated. Suggestions can be emailed to Denton at Dnorwood98@aol.com.



Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) Report— Chair Dana Gunter danagunter@comcast.net

Federal notes:

With the adjourning of the 61st Congress the NATA saw 3 bills die; the ATEAM, HR 1137 Equal Access to Medicare Act of 2009 is no longer active. We are awaiting new information from the NATA national office and BOD on future federal legislation.

The two federal concussion bills introduced in the fall of 2010 have also died with the 61st Congress. Those were: ConTACT, (HR 1347) Concussion Treatment and Care Tools Act of 2010 and HR 6172 Protecting Student Athletes from Concussion Act of 2010. Both were introduced in the wake of the 1st NATA Youth Safety Summit held in January 2010. I will keep you posted on any newly introduced Federal bills related to youth safety and concussion. Stay tuned.

Washington State notes:

This fall, the NFL announced it would be championing for youth sports safety by setting a goal of helping to create concussion laws in 10 new states in 2011. More recently the NFL and the NATA have partnered on the issue of youth sports safety and will be working together to create safer play for youth athletes. Our very own concussion law, the Lystedt Law was the first legislation for youth sports concussion in the country. The Lystedt Law is now being used as a model across the country as states pursue their own youth safety legislation. Watch for this important issue throughout the year.

The GAC and the Secondary Schools AT Committees are continuing to monitor any concerns surrounding the AT/L and return to play evaluation after suspected concussion. The secondary schools risk management pool insurance carrier that questioned our qualifications last fall seems to be satisfied that we are qualified “licensed health care provider[s] trained in the evaluation and management of a concussion”.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue please contact myself or someone on the WSATA Executive Board.

GAC Committee Report CONTINUED

The Athletic Training Advisory Committee


The Department of Health is still seeking to fill the vacant public member seat on the AT Advisory Committee. This fifth member must be appointed from the public at large, and have an interest in the rights of consumers of health services. All members are appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Health. Each member of the committee must be a resident of Washington State.

Public member representatives may not:

- Have been a credentialed health professional during the previous two years.
- Be a member of any other health care licensing board or commission.
- Have a fiduciary obligation to a facility rendering health care services.
- Have a financial interest in the rendering of health services.

If someone you know is interested in applying for appointment, please have them complete the application which can be obtained from www.doh.wa.gov/nsqa/BCC.htm

In addition, they will need to submit a current resume and three letters of recommendation. Your thoughtful consideration of this request is appreciated. If you have any questions about serving on the Committee, please feel free to contact Jennifer Santiago at Jennifer.Santiago@doh.wa.gov or at 360.236.4893.



Secondary Schools Athletic Training Committee (SSATC) - Chair Jen Carrol

carrolj@monroe.wednet.edu

It always amazes me how fast each sports season seems to fly by and the winter season is no exception. In the past few weeks a new rule for basketball has come to light in regards to elbow sleeves.

“Players who are wearing a compression sleeve on their elbow, padded or unpadded, are required to have a signed physician's statement at the table, stating the requirement for the sleeve. Officials should verify the presence of the statement at the table once the wearing of the sleeve is identified.” WIAA

We have talked with the WIAA about this rule and having an athletic trainer write the letter of medical necessity, but for now they will only accept a Physician's note. Each school can write to the WIAA to appeal for their Athletic Trainer to be able to write that letter, if you and your schools administration choose to do so. The best friend we have in changing how this particular rule is handled here in our state is the referees. We both have the same mission.....athlete safety. Find an official that you know well and have a good relationship with and start a conversation with them about this rule. Get their take on it. You might be surprised to hear what they have to say! Find out how you can work with them on making this as easy as possible for all of us. To make changes it is going to take all of us talking with different officials in state, there is power in numbers and voices. In Nebraska, when a similar rule went into place they went to having standard note from their team physicians that they could just fill in an athlete's name on , or just having a blanket note for the whole team. Eventually, the rule was changed because of the Athletic Trainers and the referees. We are talking with the WIAA and the WOA about this and other issues that have come from state tournaments to work toward improving working relationships for all of us.

If other issues arise that our committee can help with please feel free to contact us! We happy to help in any way that we can.

Reimbursement Task Force Report - Chair Keith Eggleston

keggleston@rockwoodclinic.com

Even though there is not a lot to report for this committee at this time, considerable amount of effort and hours have been put in towards Athletic Trainer recognition with private insurance companies. We as a committee, have been focusing our efforts on getting the insurance companies to recognize the services provided by AT's within the clinical setting, to be under the clinic's license, not the physical therapist's license. This would assist us in eliminating the classification of AT's as Aides, and place us under the more appropriate title of Adjunct Therapist. This is a tedious and frustrating process, and will take a considerable amount of time to accomplish. When any progress is made, we will forward that information on to all the members.

Another project that we are working on now that we are licensed health care providers, is to get Labor and Industries to recognize AT's as a health care professional that are allowed to work on patients within the rehab setting. Again, this will be a long process, but one that shows good promise. We will continue to keep you updated as well.

A request is being sent out by the WSATA President, to have anyone who is dual credentialed, PT/ AT/L, that would like to provide some advice, opinions, etc., on the above information, to contact him as soon as possible. We are looking for people to help us understand and define what the current role of the AT should be in the rehab and clinic settings. Any and all input will help, so please take the time to send us information that will assist us with our future goals and projects.



wsata

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Pullman, WA 99164-1602



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NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

Nominations for WSATA President and Region 1 Representative are due by FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11th to Jolene Fisher—

jolenefisher@whitworth.edu



AWARDS NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Please take the time to nominate your peers for the Excellence in Service award and Hall of Fame entrance. Also, the Physician award to nominate physicians in our state that support athletic trainers and our profession. These nominations are due February 1st. Nomination forms are available at www.wsata.com and are attached to the WSABE.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

2011 Mat Classic the State Wrestling Championships
Feb 18th & 19th at the Tacoma Dome

Contact information: Tim Manson, M.D. His e-mail:

wrestle@doctormanson.com

Phone office: (509) 921-7755, cell (509) 710-0237

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