

WSATA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WSATA Members and Colleagues,
I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the accelerated pace of the fall season. For those that spend their days and nights out in the elements of the Great Pacific Northwest hopefully the change in the weather puts the brakes on enough to enjoy a little more sunshine before we have to layer up and break out the hand warmers.

Thank you to everyone that attended this year's WSATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium hosted by the University of Washington. A special thanks to Pat Jenkins, Rob Scheidegger and Mike Dillon for their time and effort helping us obtain a great facility in the Don James Center and assisting with securing presenters for the program. We also appreciate our title sponsors DJO Global and Seattle Children's Sports Medicine for their support and attendance at the meeting. Thanks to our other sponsors Cardiac Science, Henry Schein, Mueller Sports Medicine and Top Pot Doughnuts supporting the event as well. It was great to see more than 70 athletic trainers in attendance at the meeting and participating in the program. The revenue generated from the meeting will provide us with resources to continue our legislative support. With the NWATA meeting in Bellevue in late March we are planning on having the 2012 WSATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium on the east side so keep an eye out as we begin planning for next year's event.

As I reflect on the first few months of holding this position the thing that stands out the most is the passion and dedication our volunteers have for the issues that directly affect all of our members in all of the settings we work in.

There are several issues that the WSATA BOD and Committees are working on including Athletic Trainers' ability to treat L&I patients, direct billing and reimbursement of services provided by an Athletic Trainer, and addressing reports of violations of our practice act.

While we have committees in place to address these issues we need input and support from those of you directly affected by them. Your experience and insight can be valuable to our committees as we navigate and develop successful plans that will benefit our profession. Working through these matters and obtaining successful outcomes will be another step toward validating the quality and value of the medical services Athletic Trainers provide. Please contact myself, our BOD or the appropriate Committee Chair if you would like to help us move forward as we address these issues.

Continue to support each other and be great representatives of the profession we all are dedicated to. Let our PR Committee know when a colleague should be recognized for outstanding service, send an email to an Athletic Director to appreciate the efforts of a fellow Athletic Trainer or just send a quick note to a colleague telling them you appreciate their professionalism. These things go a long way and can make a difference on the days when we feel overwhelmed and exhausted – and we all have been there. Have a great fall and remember to follow our Facebook page for regular articles and news related to sports medicine from across the country.

Respectfully,
Craig

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
UNIVERSITY OF
WASHINGTON**

**ATHLETIC TRAINING
FOR THEIR HARD
WORK IN HOSTING
THE 2011 WSATA
STATE SYMPOSIUM**



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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE—DANA GUNTER

Athletic Trainer Advisory Committee position opening in the Department of Health:

Do you know someone who could represent the general population of health consumers as well as athletic trainers in the state of Washington? Do you know a retired ATC, RN, MD? They must be at least two years retired or not have had a license in the state for two years minimum; they must be a Washington State resident. They must care about the future of health care. Read on and find out how they can get involved and make health care safe and effective for all:

The Department of Health is 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 you or someone you know is interested in applying for appointment, please complete the application which can be obtained from the following link [here](#). In addition, please 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 [here](#) or at 360.236.4893.

Please go to the following link for additional information on this Advisory Committee: www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/professions/Athletic/licensure.htm

This is a Washington State Department of Health Advisory Board. The Board may meet once per year. An application can be obtained from the following link:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/documents/BCCSecApptApp.pdf>

You may contact Jennifer Santiago at the Washington State Department of Health jennifer.santiago@doh.wa.gov

Your thoughtful consideration of this request is appreciated. If you have any questions about serving on the Committee, please feel free to contact me, Dana Gunter, Government Affairs

Chairperson at danagunter@comcast.net

PLEASE SEND THE
PUBLIC
RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ANY
ARTICLES WHICH
SPOTLIGHT YOUR
FELLOW ATHLETIC
TRAINERS IN THE
STATE!



GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CONTINUED

On the NATA Federal level.....

The **ATEAM** bill was reintroduced on August 2nd, 2011.

The following is the NATA press release:

The Athletic Trainer's Equal Access to Medicare Act of 2011 (**HR 2785**) was introduced by Representative Edolphus "Ed" Towns (D-NY).

The Act will ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have better access to quality health care provided by state licensed or certified athletic trainers.

Prior to a 2004 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rule, athletic trainers were successfully providing these physical medicine and rehabilitation services to patients of all ages. The rule was implemented in 2005 and does not apply to private insurance policies. With the passage of the ATEAM Act, physicians, clinics and hospitals will be able to meet the requisite Medicare standards for reimbursement.

"NATA and its members believe that Medicare beneficiaries deserve the same access to athletic trainers that the general population has," said NATA President Marjorie J. Albohm, MS, ATC.

"America's senior citizens have earned the right to receive care by whomever they, along with their physician, deem appropriate. Having more qualified health care professionals to do the job during these times of tight labor markets will only benefit the patient and the health care system."

"I am proud to be leading this effort in the House of Representatives to ensure equal access to quality treatment options for patients," said Rep. Towns. "As athletes of all skill-levels age into the Medicare system, it is important that the services of athletic trainers are included in the treatment options available to patients. I hope that my colleagues will join me in working to pass this important piece of legislation."

National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) – Health Care for Life & Sport

Athletic trainers are health care professionals who specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and sport-related illnesses. They prevent and treat chronic musculoskeletal injuries from sports, physical and occupational activity, and provide immediate care for acute injuries. Athletic trainers offer a continuum of care that is unparalleled in health care. The National Athletic Trainers' Association represents and supports 34,000 members of the athletic training profession. Visit www.nata.org

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DATE ON
HAPPENINGS
WITHIN THE
ASSOCIATION!



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REIMBURSEMENT COMMITTEE—KEITH EGGLESTON

WA Activities:

Billing efforts continue to grow in WA state, east/west north and south, but we are still talking about a handful of ATs in our state, and quite often it is in conjunction with a physician or other healthcare provider. As of this point in time, I do not know of any payers/insurers in WA that credential ATs as providers, nor do I know of payers that are regularly reimbursing for our services. There has been some success with personal injury plans at one clinic in western WA.

I'd like to ask for 3 things from our membership:

- share success stories with me (making sure to phrase things in a way that I can pass on)
- email me specific questions about payer-related issues or information needed so I can help you get the information you need.

Remain vigilant and educated on overall healthcare issues, both statewide and nationally.

ATs typically fall into one of 2 groups when it comes to reimbursement. One group largely believes reimbursement efforts are absolutely essential to our existence and future growth, and the other that largely believes that our AT existence has been built upon working in situations (high schools, colleges, pro sports, etc) where we have thrived at least in part due to the fact that we do NOT have to follow the rules/headaches/processes/etc of insurance billing.

Whether you are on the reimbursement bandwagon or not, I think you should care about reimbursement efforts for at least 3 reasons. First, one of our roles, even in those settings that do not have any goal of reimbursement, is to advocate for our athletes/patients who must follow rules for healthcare as a citizen of this country. Healthcare has progressed to a point where I feel that an AT who is not knowledgeable of the system can be hampered in their athlete/patient care.

Second, you will be more able to relate to your team physician and those others in healthcare that you run across if you can better understand their challenges.

Third, you will eventually be a patient yourself, and understanding what you are in for can save you or a family member's life.

Although I may not have made the best argument, I am hoping that there is no reason for any AT in the state of Washington to not be at least interested or involved in reimbursement issues, whether it's in your community, as a member of WSATA, or on a national level.



REIMBURSEMENT COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Terms you might want to know:

I'd like to address a term or 2 in each newsletter that can be helpful for ATs to understand what's going on in our continuing healthcare evolution.

CREDENTIALING. We all have at least 2 credentials to our name if we are ATs in WA state—national ATC credential, and the AT/L licensing credential. But when it comes to insurance billing, there are several other meanings to this term, and it's good for us to make sure we know in which way the term is meant when dealing with payers. In the sense most relevant to us, payers often have a type of application system (referred to as 'being credentialed by a payer') that essentially means that the payer recognizes you and will accept the bills you submit to them. Doesn't mean you are going to get paid, but it typically means you have a far better chance of getting paid if you follow the billing/coding rules and are credentialed. So, if you want Aetna or Premera to pay for your services as an AT, the first step is typically to try to get 'credentialed' by them as a provider of AT services. As you can imagine, if it was easy we'd all be credentialed...(it's not easy). There are a few other things that play into this, such as facility credentialing and so forth, but the takeaway point here is to understand that our "credential" is not what payers are typically wondering about.

METRICS. As ATs, we know we need to track what we do in a variety of ways, from inventorying supplies to logging training room visits. In a nutshell, metrics is a term that refers to quantifying the 'stuff' we do in a way that allows us to track, measure, and assess by using regular codes, terms, or numbers. Why is it important? It takes the subjectivity out of what we do. Parents, doctors, athletes, coaches, and administrators have a far better understanding of numbers and correlated values than they do of "I'm very busy so I need more help or more supplies". Metrics visually explains the value of what you do as an AT in a way that almost anyone can understand, and with a heavy demand on healthcare providers in all other settings to track everything, we should try to follow their lead and seek metric-driven approaches in our daily routine.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE—Jen Carrol

Fall sports are well under way and I hope that everyone's teams are doing well! If you are a new grad or a new Athletic Trainer to Washington, that is just starting out in the high school setting and are looking for some additional support, please contact me. We have a new mentorship program set up to help provide a long practicing AT from our state as a resource to help answer questions you might have as you are getting started.

If you are practicing as an Athletic Trainer in a high school in the Spokane area, please email Devan Baker at bakerdevan@gmail.com. We need your name and school that you are working at. This information is for an Athletic Trainer saturation project for the National Secondary Schools Committee. We are trying to accurately represent the number of athletic trainers providing coverage in our high schools. Thanks in advance for your help!



CEU OPPORTUNITY

The Northwest Sports Medicine Center is hosting a great CEU opportunity with a workshop titled **Functional Movement Transformation**. This 2-day workshop will define, discuss, and utilize the principles, strategies, and techniques of Applied Functional Science. The participant will learn the intricacies of human functional biomechanics and muscle function through the application of Chain Reaction™ biomechanics. Building on these truths, assessment and treatment techniques will be demonstrated for commonly seen clinical diagnoses. The participant's understanding of human movement will also include the discussion and identification of transformational zones common to most human function. By the end of this workshop, the participant will have thousands of treatment options and exercises, as well as suggestions for documentation, to use in the clinic immediately.

The course brochure, which contains the course schedule and other information can be found on the Northwest Sports Medicine Center website at www.olympiapt.com.

ELECTION INFORMATION

We are looking for nomination s for Vice President and Region II Representative, please send your nominations to Jolene Fisher by December 1st. Online voting will take place in the beginning of January, more information to follow. The nomination form is found on the website and on the attached page.

CONTINUE TO
LOOK ON
WWW.WSATA.NET
FOR MORE
IFOMRATION IN
THE FUTURE
REGARDING
CEUS

**WSATA RECEIVED THE NATA BASIC
LEGISLATIVE GRANT OF \$2,000 – THANKS
TO DANA GUNTER AND CRAIG BENNETT
FOR THEIR WORK IN GAINING ASSISTANCE
ON OUR LEGISLATIVE FEES.**

Washington State Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Directors Nomination Form

The Election Committee is now accepting nominations for the following WSATA Board of Directors positions:

Vice President

Region Two Representative (Region Two: Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston and Wahkiakum counties.)

Each position holds a three (3) year term of service beginning March 2012 and ending March 2015.

Section 2. Elections. Board of Director Elections will follow the guidelines as described in the articles of incorporation, and will occur either during the WSATA Business Meeting held in conjunction with the NWATA/District 10 Annual Meeting and Business Meeting or State Business Meeting and/or utilizing an on-line election process. The on-line election process will be available for the membership to vote for a 2 week period prior to the WSATA Business Meeting and closed on the date of the WSATA Business Meeting, as the elected official would be announced during the WSATA Business Meeting. *R: 3/11*

Section 3. Qualifications.

Certified and Student-Certified members in good standing in the NATA may be elected to positions on the Board of Directors.

Nomination Form Guidelines

- Download this form
 - Write-in candidates full name and BOC Certification number on lines provided
 - Only one (1) candidate per position may be nominated
 - Give a brief written description of why this individual is being nominated
- Return nominations to the Election Committee Chair by electronic mail or US postal service mail. All Nomination forms must be received and/or post-marked by **Dec 1 2011**

Jolene Fisher, MS, ATC, AT/L
WSATA Election Committee Chair
15222 E 20th Ave
Spokane Valley, WA 99037
jolenefisher@whitworth.edu

Nominating WSATA Member Information:

Name _____
Contact information _____
BOC Cert. Number (if applicable) _____

Positions for Nomination:

WSATA Vice President _____
Nominee BOC Certification Number _____
Reason for Nomination _____

WSATA Region Two Representative _____
Nominee BOC Certification Number _____
Reason for Nomination _____

Please attach additional pages if necessary

**CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN ECKEL AT
WHITMAN COLLEGE**

**THE WINNER OF THE AED RAFFLE FROM
CARDIAC SCIENCE AT THE WSATA ANNUAL
MEETING AND CLINICAL SYMPOSIUM**



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