



AUGUST 2025

District Director– L. Ray Davis, Jr, MSS, LAT, ATC

Dear Fellow Members, thank you for your membership in the NATA! Below are updates I want to bring to your attention.

- We have a NEW Executive Director! Mollie Pillman will be joining the NATA in early September.
- The NATA BOD will be meeting soon to finalize our new District By-Law votes. More information to come soon!
- Please remember to log into NATA EducATe to follow up with your On Demand availability. There are over 150 virtual opportunities that you have full access too.
- If you attended the 76th NATA Annual Symposium in Orlando, you should have received a certificate of 15 CEU's. Please remember to log in & complete the program assessment as well as access your additional 5 On Demand CEU opportunities in EducATe. This will close on October 31st.
- Applications for NATA volunteer positions are open; check GATher for positions of interests to you and your colleagues.
- Honors & Awards season is in full swing. Feel free to nominate! Deadline is Sept 15th.
- Register Today! For the new Secondary School Mental Health Preparedness Microcredential course in NATA EducATe.
- Please remember to read your monthly NATA Range of Motion you received via email. You will see many updates and ongoing topics of conversation that may be unique to you.
- The BOC has posted their 2 pathways of earning CEU's beginning in 2026. I encourage you to go to their website and review how this may impact your future!
- The Foundation & NATAPAC will always be happy to accept your donations. I encourage you to donate!
- Congratulations to All MAATA/NATA 2025 Award winners!
- Feel free to contact me via email maatad3dir@gmail.com or follow me on my social media accounts; X, @rdavis_atc and LinkedIn

I wish you a Happy & Safe Fall! As always, thank you for your support in my Leadership as your District 3 Director.

L. Ray Davis, Jr

District President– Matt Gage, PhD, LAT, ATC, CES

Dear MAATA Members, as summer winds down and we prepare for the Fall, I want to take a moment to celebrate the accomplishments of our association and share exciting updates for the year ahead.

Highlights From the Past Year

Thanks to the dedication of our members and leadership teams, MAATA has made significant strides this past year:

- Budgeted \$6,000 to support state advocacy efforts and \$3,000 for educational initiatives, reinforcing our commitment to professional growth and legislative engagement.
- Revised the MAATA Constitution & Bylaws, ensuring our governance reflects current needs and future goals.
- Provided FREE registration for 2 students from every MAATA Athletic Training Program to attend the 2025 MAATA Annual Meeting & Clinical Symposium.
- Offered Young Professionals a reduced registration fee to encourage participation and networking at the Annual Meeting.
- Supported travel for District 3 committee chairs and NATA representatives to attend MAATA or NATA meetings, strengthening our regional and national collaboration.
- Transferred banking operations from Wells Fargo to Edward Jones, aligning our financial practices to support future initiatives.

2025 Annual Meeting & Clinical Symposium Success

This year's Annual Meeting marked a major milestone — our first increase in attendance since the COVID-19 pandemic. This success is a direct result of the outstanding leadership and hard work of:

- Scott Cook, Ashley Thrasher, Claire Adkinson, Emily Hildebrand, Tom Campbell, Renee Cork, John Knaul, and the MAATA Education Committee

Thank you for your tireless efforts and dedication to the MAATA Annual Meeting & Clinical Symposium.

Committee Updates & Opportunities

Thank you to everyone who applied for the vacant leadership positions on the MAATA Education Committee, Free Communication Chair, Exhibit Coordinator, and Registration Coordinator. Interviews will occur this week, and appointments will be finalized by September 1 to begin planning for the 2026 Annual Symposium, which will be held at the Novant Conference Center in Winston-Salem, NC, on May 1–3.

We are currently seeking applicants for the MAATA Secretary Position. If you're passionate about serving and shaping the future of our organization, I encourage you to apply!

Goals for 2025–2026

- Fill all vacant MAATA committee positions
- Enhance committee communication, engagement, and leadership opportunities
- Combine the MAATA Constitution & Bylaws into a single governing document
- Creating a Council on Practice Advancement (COPA) Task Force to determine how the MAATA can better serve members employed in COPA settings
- Develop a comprehensive Policy & Procedure Manual for MAATA

2025 Virtual Business Meeting

- The annual MAATA Business Meeting will be separated from the clinical symposium this year.
- Plan to attend the 2025 Virtual Business Meeting later this Fall. The date and time will be announced in a future E-Blast or Newsletter.

Thank you for your continued commitment to your patients, your communities, and our profession. The MAATA is here to support you — please don't hesitate to reach out and let me know how the MAATA can better serve you.

Have a blessed Fall,

Matt Gage, D3MAATAPresident@gmail.com

District Vice-President – Ashley Thrasher, EdD, LAT, ATC, CSCS

Happy August! August is a time of new beginnings—new academic year, new sports season, and for many newly credentialed athletic trainers, they begin new jobs. It's also my first official e-blast as the newish vice president, after taking over for Scott Cook in May. Thank you to Scott for your service in this role!

As part of the new announcements, we are exploring new and streamlined options for registration for MAATA 2026. We also have a new location! Please make plans to join us May 1-3 at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center in Winston Salem, NC. We will also be welcoming new members on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. Interviews are underway and new members will be announced soon.

As we look forward to our next annual meeting, consider submitting an abstract to present. Submissions will be opening soon. We're looking for lectures, laboratory sessions, student sessions, and free communications. Watch your emails and social media for submission information!

District Secretary – Erin Cash, PhD, LAT, ATC

Hello District 3, I hope each of you were able to get at least a little bit of summer relaxation and you are doing well!

Please reach out to me at D3sectry@gmail.com if you have any questions about the open MAATA Secretary position. I look forward to mentoring the Secretary-Elect to ensure they feel confident in their role by the NATA Symposium in June 2026!

THE PASSWORD FOR THE MEMBERS (LOCKED) SECTION OF THE MAATA WEBSITE FOUND [HERE](#) IS NOW D3MAATA!

District Treasurer – Mat Lyden, MS, ATC

From the Treasurer's Desk - Hello, athletic trainers & friends. For those in the traditional and/or academic settings, welcome back to another year and hoping the school year is off to a healthy start. As for all other settings, I hope you found some time to enjoy a summer trip, get quality time with family, or a little of both.

I am just beginning the several month process of preparing our annual 2026 budget for the district. It is with great pleasure that I let you all know our conversion of district funds to Edward Jones, under the direction of financial advisor Zach Wimmer, has proven to be fruitful thus far. We are hopeful to finish the year with investment earnings that our district has not been afforded in the past. Fingers crossed for continued healthy markets...

The Financial Advisory Committee will convene at the end of this month as we begin prepping for FY26. We will be meeting and planning our 2026 revenues and expenses which will be approved by our District Council in November. Please feel free to contact me anytime if there is any assistance I can provide for you or your organization.

Thank you and Warmest Regards,
Mat

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Election Committee – Katie Walsh Flanagan, EdD, LAT, ATC

Call for Nominations! Due Friday, August 29

The MAATA is seeking qualified nominations for the MAATA elected office of **MAATA District Secretary**. Current Secretary, Erin Cash, will be finishing her term in June 2026.

The newly elected Officer will shadow the current Officer beginning in October and will assume the District Secretary role in June at the Annual NATA Symposium in Philadelphia.

NOTE: Election into this role also puts the person in the NATA District Secretary-Treasurer (DST) National Committee

Eligibility to run for MAATA Office

Eligibility to run for MAATA Office can be found in our Constitution (Articles 7 & 8) and Duties are found in the By- Laws (Section 3.4.) (To access MAATA Constitution please refer to – www.maata.org under “Member’s Only tab – password “**D3MAATA!**” for the full Constitution and By Laws)

To Self-Nominate:

Submit the following on ONE email to Past Director Flanagan at:

KatieWFlanaganAT@gmail.com by **Friday, September 25, 2025** (incomplete or late applications will not be considered)

1. A short letter applying for the position of MAATA Secretary containing your Service to the profession
2. A biographical sketch
3. A professional photo
4. Current resume (the Election Committee will use your resume to determine eligibility (see Constitution, above, including certification, licensure, service)
 1. Note each item required for eligibility must be clearly indicated on the resume sent to the Past Director - Sections 7 (Election of Officers) and Section 8 (Qualifications for Office).
5. Signed ***District III Consent of Obligation*** (the role of Secretary has its own form - found in Member’s Only section of webpage)

Timeline

The timeline for electing the **MAATA Secretary** is as follows:

- a. Deadline to apply: **Friday, August 29, 2025**
- b. Election committee created (approval needed by District Council); and candidates vetted
- c. Approved Candidate bio and photos on MAATA website (after vetting complete)
 - Election: **Saturday - Saturday, September 6 - 20**
 - Election results certified **Sunday - Wednesday, September 21 - 24***
 - Eblast announcing winner: **Friday, September 26***

***Note – may differ slightly if a run-off is needed**

- The newly elected Volunteer will shadow the current officer beginning in November and will take office at the end of the NATA Annual Meeting in June 2026.

Honors & Awards Committee – Bob Casmus, MS, LAT, ATC

The MAATA Honors and Awards are officially open now and the committee is accepting nominations currently. The hard deadline for nominations is November 1st, 2025. Please consider nominating your fellow athletic trainers for MAATA Honors & Awards. All of us know at least one individual who is worthy of such recognition.

The advocacy forms and/or letters of recommendation and the candidate profile/application information must be received by November 30th, 2025, to be considered for the award to which a nomination was made. Incomplete files will not be considered for the awards process. All MAATA Honors & Awards Information including eligibility can be found [HERE](#).

The MAATA Service Award honors individuals who have done service at the local, state and district levels. The MAATA MDAT award recognizes individuals primarily for their service at the district and national levels. The MAATA Hall of Fame is focused on those individuals who have or had a lifetime of service and impact on the state, district, and the national levels.

Research and Grant Committee – Bonnie Van Lunen, PhD, ATC, FNATA, FNAP

We hope that this message finds everyone healthy and well! As a reminder the MAATA Grants are **due on October 1, 2025** and you will have the opportunity to request up to \$5,000 for your proposal. We hope to have additional funds to award pending the influx of support we could receive through the MAATA Campaign for Research.

Our format for submissions will be changing for this coming year, and we will be adopting components that the NATA Foundation Professional Research Grant Program follows (the National Institutes of Health R03 application format). Please look for the specific requirements soon on our website.

Thinking about how you can support your district and the researchers who are exploring important areas within athletic training? Please consider making a donation to the new MAATA Campaign for Research initiative ([MAATA Campaign for Research | maata](#)). The goal of this funding campaign is to increase the research funding for the members of District III in order for our membership to pursue projects that require larger amounts of funding. This campaign will be instrumental in supporting our membership and those who lead the way through the discovery, integration and application of scholarship within the discipline.

This fund will allow our team to add support to the \$5,000 annual amount that is already allotted for grant funding and will open up new doors for specialized calls throughout the year. Hope to see many of you around the district!

Scholarship Committee – Sara Pittelkau, MA, LAT, ATC

The Scholarship Committee has put together [this document](#) on scholarship opportunities and their minimum requirements along with a brief outline of what a complete application entails. Scholarships will open between January 1 and January 15, 2026. Program Directors, please share with your students (especially the first year students). Please contact Sara Pittelkau, MAATA Scholarship Committee Chair, at maata.scholarships@gmail.com with any questions.

Social Media & Young Professionals' Committee – Kassy Mosley, MS, LAT, ATC

Young Professional Committee

Be sure to check out our social media accounts, IG and X: @maata_ypc for the latest information on all things happening with our committee!!

We have committee openings for our Virginia state representative, District of Columbia Representative Member at Large Representatives (2). These positions are a one year, twice renewable term. Candidates should be:

- Within 0-12 years of certification
- Able to attend monthly video conference calls
- Collaborate with other members to create YPC events at the annual district symposium.
- State representative: serve as liaison between the district and state YPC

Interested applicants should email an updated resume and letter of interest to d3sectry@gmail.com by **September 15th**. Please reach out to Chair, Kassy Mosley at mosleyk18@ecu.edu with any questions regarding the position.

Social Media Committee

Be sure to follow us on our District social media handles for the latest up to date information on happenings, events and volunteer openings throughout the district! **Instagram:** d3athletictrainers **X:** @D3_MAATA **Facebook:** Mid Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association

NATA Connection & Engagement Committee – Jennifer Johnson, MS, ATC

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and found some time to relax and recharge! We're excited to announce upcoming opportunities for connection and learning through the CEC.

Upcoming Events:

- **Meet & Greet: "Conversations That Matter"**
Date: September 17, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM CST
Join us to hear what the NATA is doing for you and discover how you can become more actively involved. We encourage all students to participate—this is a great chance to ask questions and get inspired!
- **Meet & Greet: "Where Do You Get Your Information?"**
Date: October 15, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM CST

Designed for practicing athletic trainers, this session will explore credible sources of information and best practices. The link will be available on Gather and posted across all CEC social media platforms.

Stay tuned in October for our membership renewal contest! Participate for a chance to win exciting prizes and celebrate your commitment to our profession. Wishing everyone a fantastic fall season!

NATA Foundation – Pete Kotz, MS, LAT, ATC, WFR

I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Peter Kotz, and I will be the District 3 representative to the NATA Research and Education Foundation board of director. I had the opportunity to join the board this past June in Orlando and have already learned so much about the foundation and how much it does for us as professions. It is my hope that I can do half as good a job as my predecessor, Marty Baker. I look forward to this new role and to passing along information from the board to the district membership as well as continuing the great work the foundation does for the profession.

NATA Governmental Affairs Committee – Zachery Richards, MS, LAT, ATC

D3 GAC has just welcomed its new chair Zach Richards as of the 2025 NATA meeting in Orlando. Zach and his team have spent time getting to know each other, connect and think of ways to communicate what is happening federally and at the state level with each other. The district also started a grant process for government affairs work that Ed Strapp worked hard on created alongside new chair Zach Richards. Each state should have been notified by now what they were awarded, and the GA team looks forward to this hopefully continuing in the future. We look forward to connecting with each state and its GA team to work collaboratively on future GA initiatives. For any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to Zach Richards @ zrichards@lexington1.net!

NATA Honors & Awards – Nancy Burke, MS, AT Ret

NATA Honors and Awards 2026 Cycle is Open!

The 2026 National H&A Cycle is open for nominations August 1st, 2025 - September 15th, 2025. Applicants have until October 1st to turn in all their materials.

PLEASE NOMINATE WORTHY CANDIDATES! To do that, go to the Honors and Awards section of NATA.org. Here is the link: [Honors and Awards | NATA](#).

The National Athletic Trainers' Association Honors and Awards exists to recognize the very best of our profession.

The NATA is launching a new website this year! If one has applied for an award between 2022-2025 and would like to obtain a previous copy of your application, please submit the request to

engage@nata.org indicating the year and award you applied for. Requests may take up to 2 weeks to process.

There are a variety of awards bestowed each year to worthy members of NATA, each with their own unique requirements, application, review processes, timelines and recognition efforts. These awards include: Hall of Fame (HOF), Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer (MDAT), Athletic Trainer Service Award (ATSA), Eve Becker-Doyle Leadership Award, Fellows and the Gail Weldon Award of Excellence, Jack Weakley Award of Distinction and Honorary Membership. The Tim Kerin Award has a separate application process.

Many awards require that a candidate complete an application or submit supporting materials (advocate letters, completing the online profile, etc.). We recommend you allow ample time to complete these materials by submitting your nominations early.

Note that the nominator is responsible for assisting the nominee with completion of profiles as well as ensuring timely receipt of the advocate letters.

NATA Political Action Committee – Steve Cole, MEd, LAT, ATC

In June the NATAPAC contribution committee, of which I am a member, approved contributions to 34 members of Congress, 6 from within District 3, (listed below) up to \$2,500 each. As in the past when we sprinkle 60+ smaller dollar checks, we are utilizing a bigger check to targeted legislators.

The "why" these individuals were primarily based on the following:

1. Willingness to help with NATA efforts, especially H2F, NIL, etc;
2. They actually met with us;
3. They sit on key committees and/or hold leadership positions to further our legislative agenda;
 - Ted Budd R-NC
 - Don Davis D-NC
 - Pat Harrigan R-NC
 - Tim Scott R-SC
 - Tim Kaine D-VA
 - Rob Wittman R-VA

As a result, in this change in our strategy for contributions to members of congress it critical that we INCREASE donations from NATA members. During 2023-24 less than 3% of NATA members donated to the NATAPAC for a total of \$129,475. Currently, the NATAPAC is projected to make contributions totally \$85,000 this year to 34 members of Congress. In 2024, District 3 was 8th of the 11 Districts for member donations, totaling just \$3,750.50 from just 76 members.

We need greater members support for the NATAPAC. Please consider what is best for US and consider a recurring donation to the NATAPAC by visiting the web site at [Contribute to](#)

[NATAPAC | NATA](#) . Remember - this process is about our professional advancement - "WE, NOT ME."

NATAPAC Sweepstakes Coming: **September 8-29**. Please consider participating!

SCATA – Will Christman, MS, LAT, ATC

The SCATA 2025 Annual Symposium was held July 9-11th at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in downtown Columbia. We had 400 certified attendees, 54 student attendees and over 60 vendors attend this year's symposium. We had 19 registrations for the SCATA golf tournament, 88 people attended the pre-con event "The Athletic Trainer on Trial: A Mock Trial Experience", hosted two great social events, offered 13 CEUs and completed two community service projects. The SCATA Executive Council would like to thank all of the hard work and dedication that went into putting on another successful event.

The 2025 Honors, Awards, and Scholarship recipients were celebrated during the awards luncheon on June 10th in Columbia



Fred Hoover Award of Excellence:

- Dr. Jim Berry, LAT, ATC
- Craig Clark, LAT, ATC
- Walt Gainey, AT-R
- Sheila Gordon, LAT, ATC
- Sheila Romano, LAT, ATC



Founders Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer:

- Jane Steinberg, LAT, ATC
- George Wham, LAT, ATC

SCATA Service Award:

- Donna Bullock, LAT, ATC
- Amy Fraley Hand, LAT, ATC
- Jason Keesee, LAT, ATC
- Zach Richards, LAT, ATC
- Mike Smith, AT-R
- Shawn Zink, LAT, ATC

Lewis Post-Professional Scholar:

- Rachel Dipeolu LAT, ATC - University of Southwest Carolina

Lew Professional Scholar:

- Hannah Arnett - University of South Carolina

Hannah Sobeski Memorial Scholarship:

- George "Samuel" Wham III - River Bluff High School

VATA – VATA – Michael Kotelnicki EdS, ATC, LAT

As summer winds down, we want to share some important updates on the work happening behind the scenes to advance our profession in the Commonwealth. While the past few months brought less direct membership activity, they were busy with key administrative changes and strategic planning.

New Lobbyist to Champion Our Legislative Goals

We are pleased to welcome **Debra Rodman** as the new VATA lobbyist, following the retirement of **Becky Bowers-Lanier**. Debra brings exceptional experience as a former Virginia House of Delegates representative, with leadership roles in Medicaid and public education initiatives, and a proven ability to work across party lines. While we are deeply grateful to Becky for her years of tireless advocacy for athletic trainers, her personal recommendation of Debra gives us great confidence in our future legislative efforts.

Launching a New Member Platform

We are adopting **Star Chapter**, a dynamic new online platform introduced to us by our colleagues in South Carolina. This upgraded system will enhance connectivity, streamline communications, and give our website a fresh, engaging look. We anticipate going live soon—stay tuned!

Legislative Push for Dry Needling

Our initiative to add dry needling to Virginia's athletic training scope of practice hit a temporary roadblock. However, with Debra on board, we are pivoting and preparing to introduce a bill in January. We remain committed and optimistic about moving this important measure forward through the legislative process.

A More Interactive 2025 VATA Clinical Symposium

This January, our Clinical Symposium will break away from “just lecture” sessions. Every proposal will incorporate **town halls, round tables, labs, or audience interaction**. We listened to your feedback and are designing an experience that fosters collaboration, networking, and shared learning across all areas of practice.

As we begin the academic year, we wish our members in the traditional setting a safe and productive season, and those in alternative settings continued success as you showcase your invaluable expertise to patients and clients.

Keep them Safe!