



DISTRICT III
NEWSLETTER
Fall 2025

MAATA

MID ATLANTIC ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

L. Ray Davis, Jr., MSS, LAT, ATC



Hello Fellow ATs -

Once again, another Fall season has arrived, I hope you are able to enjoy the cooler weather in your area. *Thank you all for your continued membership in the NATA! Below are updates I want to bring to your attention.*

- Please remember our membership season has arrived as well. Don't forget to renew!
- Please log into NATA GATher for positions of interests to you and/or your colleagues. There are several positions open that are not D3 related.
- Recently the following NATA D3 Committee positions were filled. Please join me in congratulating them on their selection:
 - Student Leadership, Casey Pauley
 - Secondary Schools AT, Mike Rice
 - Connection Engagement, Eric Rogers
- ***As a reminder All NATA D3 committees should meet monthly, please contact me if you are a state rep and have not heard from your D3 representative recently.***
- ***New for 2026, I will be hosting a quarterly townhall, via zoom, for all NATA D3 committee representatives to share their updates to our members. The first one is planned in early February following NATA JCM. More information is coming soon!!!!***
- The NATA EducATe platform currently has new updates for the end of 2025. Please log in and see what On-Demand courses are available. As a reminder these courses are part of your NATA membership dues. Don't forget this new [CEU opportunity](#).
 - **The NATA–BOC Microcredential Series empowers athletic trainers with specialized, evidence-based education backed by credentialing rigor. It is a strategic partnership and joint initiative between the NATA and the BOC—designed to set a new standard in continuing professional development.**
- Remember to access the NATA Beat (governmental affairs) quarterly newsletter and you can follow social media updates on X @mynatabeat
- Don't forget your BOC Maintenance fee & current CEU's are due February 2, 2026. Follow on social media for updates on X @BOCATC
Another benefit is the [NATA-Cast](#) (podcast) check it out!
- Like before, we encourage your students to become NATA Members NOW for 2026. This will allow students an additional few months through the end of 2025 for free.
- NATA 2025 On Demand is available until Oct 31st.
- Save the Dates...
 - 77th NATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo | June 29 - July 2, 2026, | Philadelphia
 - 78th NATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo | June 21-24, 2027, | New Orleans

- Follow NATA & various committees on social media.
 - X, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn & Vimeo

As always, I thank you for your support in my Leadership as your District 3 Director.

I am honored to serve you! Enjoy your cool fall season.

Ray Davis Jr, MSS, LAT, ATC

Maatad3dir@gmail.com

X; @rdavis_atc

LinkedIn; <https://www.linkedin.com>



FROM THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Matt Gage, PhD, LAT, ATC, CES



Mark Your Calendars: MAATA Virtual Business Meeting & CEU Event – December 7th.

The Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association is pleased to announce our upcoming **Virtual Business Meeting and Free Continuing Education Event**, scheduled for **Sunday, December 7th, from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM.**

This annual event offers a valuable opportunity for members to stay engaged with MAATA initiatives and earn a continuing education unit. **Members who attend the business meeting will also gain access to the virtual CEU session**, making it a convenient and enriching evening for all.

Continuing Education Speaker Announcement Coming Soon!

We're finalizing details with our featured speaker for the CEU event and will share the announcement in **November**. Stay tuned for an exciting presentation that supports your professional development.

I look forward to seeing many of you in attendance at the virtual business meeting. Your participation helps shape the future of our association and profession.

Let me know how the MAATA can better serve you.

District III Council

Ray Davis, Jr., MSS, LAT, ATC, District Director
maatad3dir@gmail.com

Matt Gage, District President
d3maatapresident@gmail.com

Ashley B. Thrasher, District Vice President
maatameetingplanner@gmail.com

Erin Cash, District Secretary
d3sectry@gmail.com

Mat Lyden, District Treasurer
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FROM THE DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

Ashley B. Thrasher, EdD, LAT, ATC, CSCS

Happy Fall! The Annual Symposium Planning committee is in full swing getting ready for May! We welcomed multiple new members to this group across various roles. Please welcome:

- Education Co-Chairs: Kim Pritchard (VA) and Kevin King (NC)
- Free Communications Chair: Renae Bomar (SC)
- Vendor Co-Chairs: Tyler MacDonnell (NC) and Jason Doctor (VA)
- Registration Coordinator: Tom Monagan (VA)
- Student Senate Faculty Advisors: Erin Moore (VA) and Emily Meyerl (NC)

We are glad to have Renee Cork (VA) continuing her role as Annual Meeting Site Coordinator and Social Chair!

We are so excited to have this group together to plan an exciting symposium in May. Registration and educational schedule will be open later this Fall. Please plan to join us May 1-3, 2026, at Novant Health Complex in Winston-Salem, NC!

Call for proposals is open until November 15! We are accepting proposals for lectures, interactive lectures, learning labs, and pre- or post-symposium workshops. (**More information, next page.**)

[Click here to submit a proposal](#)

Or paste this link into your browser: <https://forms.gle/CzKmcKPfKmZyXmLeA>

If you have any comments or questions, please reach out to Ashley Thrasher at maatameetingplanner@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you in May in Winston-Salem!

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT FOR MAATA 2026!

Platform/Lecture

55 minutes, 1-2 speakers
Lecture format
All topics are welcome!

Interactive Lecture

55 minutes, 1-2 speakers
Lecture with breakouts and participant discussion
All topics are welcome!

Learning Labs

Short Learning Lab: 1 hour, 1-2 speakers
Long Learning Lab: 2 hours, 1 hour lecture, 1 hour lab, 1-2 speakers
Attendees strongly desire learning labs!

Pre/Post Symposium Workshops

4-8 hours before or after the symposium.
Includes advanced training or certification

TO SUBMIT

Proposals should be formatted following the NATA Guidelines: <https://www.nata.org/call-proposal>

Submit here: <https://forms.gle/QxvAlv5AWxXvrTyPZ>

Submission Deadline: November 15, 2025





FROM THE DISTRICT SECRETARY

Erin Cash, PhD, LAT, ATC

Hello District 3 and Happy Fall! I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and staying healthy! I wanted to first congratulate Amy Fraley on being elected as the next District Secretary. I'm looking forward to working with Amy during this transition and I know she will continue to do amazing things at the District level!

I would also like to remind everyone of their NATA membership renewals. A membership with NATA is a one-stop shop. Paying your dues pays for all three levels: NATA, District, and State! Membership provides access to member benefits in professional growth, support, advocacy and connection. These member benefits not only provide valuable advantages to you as an Athletic Trainer, but they are also an investment in the future of our profession.

Value of Membership:

Fighting for Your Future

- *Your Voice Matters:* The NATA is tirelessly advocating for athletic trainers at both the state and federal levels, ensuring you have the right to practice and be recognized as essential health care providers. [NATA has your back every day.](#)

Advance Your Career

- *A Springboard to New Opportunities:* Meet peers and industry conduits to further your professional trajectory. Receive exclusive registration discounts for the [NATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo](#) and various virtual events focused on settings-based learning.

Access Critical Resources

- *Tailored Tools for You:* Visit the exclusive [NATA Member Resource Library](#) and utilize the latest in research and best practices to keep you informed and leading the way.

Access Critical Resources

- **Renewal deadline:** December 31, 2025 – uninterrupted access requires members to renew or set up a payment plan. More information can be found [HERE](#).
- **Recruitment incentive:** Join in October and get the rest of 2025 free.
- **Member perks and contests:** ExpertVoice \$500 shopping spree, Perry Weather free membership drawing, CEC and DST contests.

NATA has options in place to assist members who may be going through an economic hardship. Contact Member Services at membership@nata.org or 972-532-8897 to discuss how they can help. Learn more about the value of NATA membership [HERE](#).

As a reminder, we are recognizing our D3 members on Milestone years of NATA memberships in our Newsletters! We will recognize those in each state who are in a **milestone year in 2025 according to the NATA database**. Please join me in congratulating our members in their respective state below and be on the lookout for first time NATA member recognition in the Spring Newsletter. We are better together - thank you for supporting our profession at the national, district, and state levels!

If there's anything I can do for you, please don't hesitate to contact me at d3sectry@gmail.com.

FROM THE DISTRICT TREASURER

Mat Lyden, MS, ATC

Dear Members,

As the leaves turn and the fall season settles in, I'd like to take a moment to update you on the financial health and initiatives of NATA district 3.



We've had a productive fiscal year, with slightly larger membership renewals and successful fundraising efforts through our annual meeting and new investment strategies. Our current budget remains on the plus side of the balance sheet, and we've allocated funds toward professional development opportunities, student scholarships & support initiatives, research education grants, support for district events, athletic training advocacy efforts, and a host of other operational needs. A detailed financial report will be presented at the District 3 Business Meeting coming up in December. Hope to see many of you at this virtual event.

The Financial Advisory Committee has been convening and in the process of drafting our FY26 operational budget. I want to thank the following reps serving on this committee; Jarrett Friday (NC Treasurer), Laura Wamsley (WV Treasurer), Maegan Daniels (VA Treasurer), and Ashley Thrasher (District VP). I greatly appreciate their time and recommendations on allocation of funding to support our membership. Our goal is to have a final draft budget to present for approval by the District Council in November

In closing, I want to thank you for your support and involvement. Whether you're a long-time member or new to the organization, ALL of your contributions help us thrive. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or ideas. Wishing you a successful and healthy finish to the fall season!

Warmest regards,

Mat Lyden, MAATA Treasurer

FROM THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Kevin King, MA, LAT, ATC

Kim Pritchard, PhD, LAT, ATC, NREMT

Call for Proposals: 2026 MAATA Clinical Symposium

The MAATA Education Committee is now accepting presentation proposals for the **2026 MAATA Clinical Symposium** at the Novant Complex in Winston-Salem, NC. Submissions are open through **November 15, 2025**, and should be [submitted online](#). We invite members to share their expertise by proposing **traditional lectures, interactive sessions, learning labs, or advanced training workshops** that advance clinical practice, research, and professional development in athletic training.



As we begin planning for 2026, we're also excited to welcome our new Education Program Co-Chairs, who will help lead this year's review and selection process. **Meet the new co-chairs and learn more about what they bring to the committee in their bios on the following page.**

Kevin King, ATC, LAT

Co-Chair, MAATA Education Program

Kevin King is a nationally recognized sports medicine professional with over two decades of experience delivering high-level care in elite athletic environments. He currently serves as the Senior Manager, Venue Medical Operations on behalf of LA28-USOPP. This role provides pivotal support within game logistics and services, working with internal teams and external partners to ensure the delivery of medical services across all game venues.

He also serves in an advisory role with a regional hospital system, mentoring athletic trainers and leading the development of a post-professional athletic training residency program.

In addition, he provides medical coverage for the USA Basketball 3x3, USA National, and Junior National Flag Football Teams. He serves as an instructor with Sports Medicine Concepts, providing emergency preparedness training for medical teams across the NFL, NBA, WNBA, and MLB.

Most recently, King completed his 12th season with the Carolina Panthers, including five seasons as Head Athletic Trainer through 2024. In the leadership role, he directed all facets of athlete health and safety, overseeing a staff of full-time athletic trainers and seasonal interns. His team focused on injury mitigation, rehabilitation, and performance optimization for the entire Carolina Panthers roster and staff.

King's NFL journey began in 1998 as a summer intern with the New York Giants, followed by two seasons with the Cleveland Browns (2003–2004). He also gained extensive collegiate experience, serving as an assistant athletic trainer at NC State University (2004–2007) and as a staff athletic trainer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2007–2013).

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training and Sports Medicine from East Carolina University and earned his Master's degree from the University of Connecticut.

King's professional contributions have earned him several honors, including induction into the North Carolina Athletic Training Hall of Fame in 2023. He was previously named North Carolina's Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer (Bill Griffin Award) in 2019 and College Athletic Trainer of the Year in 2013.

A dedicated advocate for the profession, King has served in various leadership and committee roles with the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association (MAATA), North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association (NCATA), and the Professional Football Athletic Trainers' Society (PFATS).

Kim Pritchard, PhD, LAT, ATC, NREMT

Co-Chair, MAATA Education Program

Kim Pritchard is an Associate Professor of Athletic Training at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, where she teaches courses in evidence-based practice, psychosocial intervention, and emergency care. She has been an active volunteer leader in both the Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association (VATA) and the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association (MAATA) for more than a decade. Kim previously chaired the VATA Annual Meeting Planning Committee (2013–2017) and later served as the association's Educational Program Compliance Coordinator, ensuring continuing education programs met BOC standards. Within MAATA, she led the Education Program Committee from 2017–2021 and is excited to return as Co-Chair.

A passionate educator and lifelong learner, Kim looks forward to reconnecting with colleagues and helping create engaging, evidence-informed professional development opportunities that support athletic trainers across District 3.



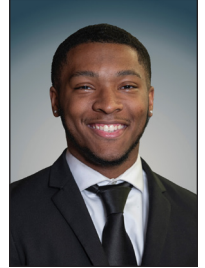
ETHNIC DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LaJoy Paige, MS, LAT, ATC

We would like to welcome LaJoy Paige as the new MAATA Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee (EDAC) chair.

MAATA EDAC is seeking representatives for the following states: West Virginia. Please email d3edacrep@gmail.com if you're interested in getting involved.

Please welcome our new South Carolina EDAC state representative, **Adara Ragsdale**, pictured right. We would also like to welcome our new MAATA EDAC student member, **Chris Gresham**, pictured below right



Thank You to Our Outgoing MAATA EDAC Committee Chair

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Xavion Santiago**, our outgoing EDAC Committee Chair, for her exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to fostering equity, diversity, and cultural awareness within our community.

Your vision, compassion, and dedication have made a lasting impact — paving the way for continued growth and inclusion. Thank you for leading with purpose, care, and courage. We celebrate your contributions and wish you continued success in all that lies ahead!



HONORS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bob Casmus, MS, LAT, ATC

The MAATA Honors and Awards is currently open, and the committee is still accepting nominations. The hard deadline for nominations is November 1st, 2025. All supporting materials for the nomination must be in by 11/30/25. The November 30th deadline includes all advocacy forms and/or letters of recommendation and the candidate profile/application information. Please consider recognizing a deserving fellow athletic trainer for one of the MAATA Honors & Awards. 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 at the state, district, and the national levels. I urge everyone to submit nominations for the MAATA Honors & Awards. All information including the criteria for each award can be found on the MAATA website under DIII Honors and Awards, [HERE](#).



MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS & HISTORICAL COMMISSION COMMITTEES

Randy Meador, MS, ATC

Although we don't want this committee to be busy, it is important to honor our departed athletic training colleagues. If you are aware of a deceased colleague, please forward their information to your state representative. We are also looking for a representative on this committee from the District of Columbia. Please contact the District of Columbia President if you are interested.

The following individuals are the current members of the District III/MAATA Memorial Resolutions Committee (part of the Historical Commission:)

- District of Columbia – TBA
- Maryland - Samuel Thompson, Jr. – samthomp@lifebridgehealth.org
- North Carolina – Randy Pridgen – rplatatc@gmail.com
- South Carolina – James Berry – drjimberry@gmail.com
- Virginia – Sherry Summers – sherrysummers57@gmail.com
- West Virginia – Randall Meador – randy.meador@mail.wvu.edu



RESEARCH & GRANTS COMMITTEE

Bonnie Van Luen, PhD, ATC, FNATA, FNAP

Dear District III Members,

I hope this message finds you well. As the Chair of the District III Research and Grants Committee, I am reaching out on behalf of the Committee to ask for your support in an exciting and vital initiative to advance our district's research capabilities.

Research plays a critical role in innovation and enhancing our collective knowledge. By funding research projects, we can support groundbreaking studies, encourage academic growth, and foster a culture of discovery within District III.

We Invite Your Support

As you know we have launched a fundraising campaign and need your support. Contributions of any size are welcome and will make a difference. However, we are also seeking individuals to commit to becoming an **Annual Champion**. By pledging \$500 per year for the next five years, you can solidify your legacy and have a lasting impact on our research endeavors. Annual Champions are crucial to ensuring sustainable growth and support for our future projects.

I am committing my support to this campaign and will donate the first \$500, and I invite you to join me in becoming an Annual Champion in the \$500 for 5-years campaign. Together, we can lead this initiative and drive meaningful change.

How to Contribute

Your generosity can help transform ideas into reality. To submit your pledge, please visit the [MAATA Campaign for Research](#) website, where you can easily contribute online.

Reaching Out

Over the next few weeks, individual emails will be sent to many of our District III members, outlining how you can participate and support the campaign. Please keep an eye on your inbox, and don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or for further information.

We are incredibly grateful for any support you can provide, whether it's a one-time donation or a commitment to our Annual Champion pledge. Together, we can drive innovative research and strengthen our district's contributions to the broader community.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful difference. Your support is invaluable, and we are excited to see the impact we can achieve together.

Together we lift those around us to do great things,
Bonnie Van Lunen
Chair, District III Research and Grant Committee



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Sara Pittelkau, MA, LAT, ATC

The Scholarship Committee will be hosting a "Town Hall" meeting on Wednesday, November 5th at 8:00pm (EST) for any/all students within MAATA to answer any questions related to scholarships ahead of the 2026 application cycle opening.

MAATA Scholarship Town Hall Meeting Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rmuohp.zoom.us/j/98162784969?pwd=CH2jPzZSaZYBHgaJsqZjzpvdmW7iJa.1>

Meeting ID: 981 6278 4969

Passcode: 749810

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,98162784969# US (Chicago)

+16469313860,,98162784969# US

Join instructions

https://rmuohp.zoom.us/meetings/98162784969/invitations?signature=iQSVmU8IHP6_vBOR6iSVjCKiAOsqEa03i6Q7l64EzA8

When: Wednesday Nov 5, 2025, 8:00pm – 9:30pm (Eastern Time - New York)

Location: <https://rmuohp.zoom.us/j/98162784969?pwd=CH2jPzZSaZYBHgaJsqZjzpvdmW7iJa.1>

STUDENT SENATE COMMITTEE

Emily Meyerl MS, LAT, ATC

Erin M. Moore, PhD, LAT, ATC, CSCS

The Student Senate would like to thank the 14 students from four different states who applied for the first-year student senator position. Additionally, we thank the state presidents and current senators for their assistance with the interviews, which will conclude in the next two weeks. Decisions on the new student senators will be made by the end of the month. We can't wait to welcome new members and begin planning for the year ahead!



We want to welcome back our Second-Year Senators who have begun their new roles!

- **President:** Tatum Hubbard, North Carolina
- **Vice President:** Alaina Lustine, Virginia
- **Service Chair:** Keilani Rebollo, Maryland
- **Public Relations Chair:** Kendal Madar, West Virginia
- **Events Chair:** Alaina Lustine, Virginia
- **Young Professions Liaison:** Justin May, South Carolina

Additionally, we are excited to welcome Dr. Erin Moore as the new Senior Faculty Advisor and Education Program Chair, along with Emily Meyerl as the new Junior Faculty Advisor. Dr. Moore, a faculty member at the University of Virginia, and Emily, a teacher at William Amos Hough High School in Charlotte, NC. Their term began this August, and they are excited to continue the great work that the Student Senate has accomplished for many years.

Finally, we would like to express our deep appreciation to Dr. Emily Hildebrand for her ten years of dedicated service as the MAATA Student Senate Senior Faculty Advisor and Education Program Chair. Her leadership and commitment have grown this committee into what it is today, and her legacy will continue with it! She has developed the Student Senate and the Student Educational Program to great heights, and we can't wait to build on what she has accomplished!

SOCIAL MEDIA & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' COMMITTEES

Kassy Mosley, MS, LAT, ATC



Young Professional Committee

Nominations are now open for the MAATA Distinguished Young Professionals Award. Completion of application materials including online form and resume must be submitted by November 30th for consideration. For more information and for the nomination form please go [HERE](#) and click on the PDF for the MAATA Distinguished Young Professionals Award.

The NATA CAC national distinguished award is now open for athletic trainers who are within 7-12 years of certification. For more information and for nominating forms go [HERE](#).

The NATA EPC early professional excellence award is now open for athletic trainers who are within their first 6 years of certification. For more information and for nominating forms go [HERE](#).

YPs!! Want a chance to shadow a district 3 committee or chat with a chair? The YPC's newest initiative may be for you! Fill out [THIS FORM](#) by December 1st for a chance to shadow one of the participating district committees this spring and see what volunteer work entails at the district level.

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. Please reach out to Chair, Kassy Mosley at mosleyk18@ecu.edu with any questions regarding the positions.

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

Hi Everyone! I hope everyone is having a great fall and enjoying all things pumpkin spice!

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!!! The Connection & Engagement Committee is sponsoring a membership renewal contest. The contest is open to all current NATA members, including student members who renew their membership and remain in good standing.

Contest Dates:

October 27 - December 29 (10 weeks of prize drawings!)

How to Enter:

- Post on Gather and tag #NATA_CEC.
- Each post earns one entry into the weekly drawing.
- Only posts on Gather are eligible

Prizes:

- Each week, the CEC will draw one winner from the pool of entries submitted the previous week(s).
- Amazon gift card awarded to each weekly winner.
- Members may only win once during the contest period.
- Participants who do not win will remain eligible for future weekly drawings, so you only need to submit one entry.

Deadlines & Notifications:

- Weekly entry deadline: Sundays at 11:59 PM CDT
- Winners will be:
 - Notified via email
 - Announced on Gather and NATA/CEC social media

Watch for more information on our next Meet & Greet

"Communication - Your Guide to NATA EducATE Learning Anytime, Anywhere."

Check us out on all social media platforms!!

NATA CONVENTION PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Gina Palermo ATC

Thank you to everyone who joined us in Orlando for the NATA 2025 Clinical Symposia & AT Expo—whether you attended, presented, or volunteered, your contributions helped make this year's convention a valuable experience for learning and connection.

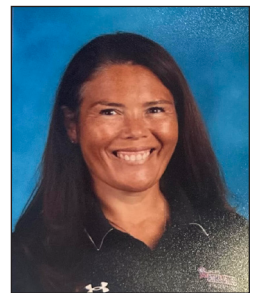
If you weren't able to attend in person, there's still time to register for **NATA 2025 On-Demand** and access select educational content, including poster presentations from the NATA Research & Education Foundation Free Communications Program. The registration deadline is **October 31, 2025**. To earn CEUs, sessions must be viewed in full and assessments completed at the end.

Access your sessions from the [My Dashboard](#) page or from the [on-demand event page](#).

NATA 2026 Looking ahead, the CPC is actively finalizing programming for the **NATA 2026 Clinical Symposia & AT Expo**, scheduled for **June 29–July 2 in Philadelphia, PA**. The two featured themes for next year's meeting are **Sleep** and **Entrepreneurship**. The convention website will launch in early 2026 with full details on registration, programming, housing, and events.

Moderators always welcome! We're always looking for moderators! If you're interested in serving as a moderator in Philadelphia, please reach out to me at ginarpalermo@gmail.com.

If you have any questions about Convention Programming, I'd be happy to connect. Thank you for the opportunity to represent **District III** on this committee.





NATA COUNCIL ON PRACTICE ADVANCEMENT (COPA)

Andy Carter, MS, LAT, ATC

First, a word on the evolution of COPA... A few years ago, when I worked in the college setting, my admittedly uninformed view of COPA was that it was like the Island of Misfit Toys from the old Rudolf the Reindeer animated movie we all grew up watching at Christmastime. To me, COPA was the group that represented all the ATs who worked in settings or with populations that were a little different—outside of the “norm” of our high school, college, and professional athletes.

To be fair, the family tree of COPA as a group includes the Clinical/Industrial/Corporate Committee from the late 1980's, the Council on Employment from the 1990's, and the Clinical & Emerging Practice in AT Committee from the early 2000's which all worked on issues for ATs in those settings. However, COPA also has roots in the business of athletic training with the Reimbursement Advisory Group in the 90's and the Committee on Revenue founded in 2004.

Today, the Council on Practice Advancement still represents those ATs who are on the frontier, forging ahead into new areas of practice. We have panels that work on issues for settings that a few years ago were considered “emerging” but are now established and growing areas of AT practice: Armed Forces, Occupational, Performing Arts, Physician Practice, Public Safety, and Rehabilitation Clinic. We also have panels that address challenges related to business—defining value, start up, measuring outcomes—and employment: Analytics and Outcomes, Community Outreach, Entrepreneurship, and Health Care Administration.

True to our roots, COPA tackles issues with our settings through tools and resources that help ATs transition into these areas of practice. The Rehabilitation Clinic Panel will soon release an interactive tool to help ATs more effectively document their care in a clinic environment. COPA leaders are at the forefront of advocacy—the Armed Forces Panel, led by District 3's own Brandi Anderson, helped to lobby the Federal Government to overturn the decision to eliminate ATs from the Army. We also lead from the front on health and safety—COPA Public Safety and the Public Safety Athletic Trainers' Society partnered to create and deliver a Timely Topic Webinar entitled [The AT and Advancing Safety Protocols in Public Safety Academies](#) in response to an Associated Press report of deaths in police academy recruits. In the areas of business and employment, our panels create resources, tools, and content to help ATs across the profession. The Community Outreach Panel will publish the results of their PRN/Per Diem Salary survey in the Nov/Dec issue of NATA News to empower ATs with the information they need to negotiate for better per diem rates. The Analytics and Outcomes Panel is working on a project to show ATs how they can capture data with their EMR to show their value and worth. The Entrepreneurship Panel is working with Community Outreach on a resource on when to form an LLC for your per diem work.

True to our name, the Council on Practice Advancement is really working to advance the entire profession—we're much, much more than the Island of Misfit Toys. We provide perspective to government affairs work to make sure all ATs can practice at the top of their scope and with all populations. We work to make sure all ATs are represented and have a voice within the NATA. We try to bring awareness to students and faculty on the wide variety of settings and employment models in which ATs practice. We share our successes in areas such as work-life balance, retention, and demonstrating value so that others may improve their own positions. In these ways, we're leveraging the fact that despite our unique settings, we're all ATs and can support and learn from each other.

We are a large council with over 40 positions. If you'd like to get involved, please take a look at the Gather portal for open positions in our council or within one of our panels. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas about the work of one of our committees, please shoot me an email at andyatc@gmail.com. As you can see, the work of our council is very diverse in terms of setting. I'll work to get you connected with the COPA member best suited to address your concern or answer your question.



NATA FOUNDATION

Pete Kotz, MS, LAT, ATC, WFR

I hope this message finds you well and that you've successfully navigated the busy fall season.

As I step into my new role, I recognize the tremendous legacy left by Marty Baker. His dedication and leadership over the past few years have set a high standard, and I'm truly honored to continue building on the momentum he created.

One of the core missions of the NATA Research & Education Foundation is to support the next generation of athletic trainers through scholarships and research opportunities. Last year alone, the Foundation awarded **2,107 scholarships**, totaling **\$4.35 million**. Additionally, it provided approximately **\$5.65 million** in **416 research grants** and offered a platform to **9,313 researchers** through the Free Communications Program at the NATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo in Orlando, Florida.

These efforts exemplify the Foundation's strong and ongoing commitment to advancing our profession through education, research, and innovation.

To learn more about the Foundation's [scholarship programs](#), [research grants](#) and [Free Communications program](#), please visit the [NATA Education & Research Foundation](#) website.

Key dates for the 2026 scholarship award cycle are as follows:

- **Applications Open:** November 15, 2025
- **Application Deadline:** January 15, 2026
- **Award Announcement:** Spring 2026 (timeline may vary based on application volume)

Other Foundation News:

The [2025 Foundation Silent Auction](#) kicked off October 13 and runs until November 14, 2025. Visit the auction site at [natafndn2025.givesmart.com](#) to see the items and bid online.



If the online silent auction is not for you, please visit the NATA Research & Education Foundation [here](#) for more ways you can support the future of your profession. Consider becoming a "[Circle of Champions](#)" member. No amount is too small, and this is a way to give what is affordable to you and spread over the year should you wish.



Become an NATA Foundation Ambassador

Are you passionate about advancing the athletic training profession? Consider becoming an **NATA Foundation Ambassador** — a volunteer advocate who helps share the Foundation's mission and inspire support for research, education, and the future of athletic training.

The goal is to have ambassadors representing **every state within District 3**, and there is **no cap** on the number of ambassadors per state. These roles offer a meaningful way to make a lasting impact while connecting with like-minded professionals. If you're interested in stepping into a leadership role and helping promote the vital work of the NATA Foundation, we'd love to have you on board. For more information or to get involved, please [click here](#), or visit the [NATA Foundation](#) website for other ways to get involved.

Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation and its mission. Together, we are shaping the future of the athletic training profession.



NATA GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Zachery Richards, MS, LAT, ATC

Dear D3 Athletic Trainers!

I hope this newsletter finds you having a happy and healthy Fall thus far!

Over the last couple of months, the MAATA Government Affairs Committee has moved through the transition of Chair from Ed Strapp to Zach Richards. We'd like to thank Ed for his service to the athletic training profession and especially the Government Affairs Committee! Thank you Ed!

Since the transition, the committee has met twice to get to know each other as well as give important updates on the happenings in the district and nationally. Over 16,000 emails were sent to legislators on behalf of athletic trainers fighting to keep AT's in the H2F program. Our voices did not go unheard, and legislators within our district played roles in the reversal of the removal of ATs from H2F. Please continue to follow along with the updates from the NATA Government Affairs team on X via (@mynatabeat) or by signing up for the My NATA Beat newsletter that comes out via the NATA email system.

We'd also like to thank District leadership for helping out with Advocacy funds by starting a D3 Advocacy Grant program. From this grant program \$6,000 was distributed based on need to three different states that submitted applications within the district. I encourage each state to submit applications when the grant comes around again in 2026. Our leadership has shown us how important advocacy for our profession is, and they look to continue to support this initiative.

At our last GAC meeting, we hosted Steve Cole who spoke to the committee on the importance of the NATA PAC and what the NATA PAC does for our profession. I'd encourage every member to learn more about the NATA PAC and how it benefits every athletic trainer, and if you have the funds available, I'd encourage you to donate to the PAC **if** you are an NATA member. To put things in perspective, D3 is the 8th out of 11 districts in terms of donations to the NATA PAC. Furthermore, compared to similar professions (PT, OT, Nurses, and Chiro's) we raise well over \$100,000 less than our counterparts. If you'd like to learn more about the NATA PAC you can reach out to Steve Cole (D3 Board Member on the PAC) myself (Zach Richards) or you can log in to the NATA and read more about it!

I look forward to the opportunity to serve in this role as the committee chair of D3 GAC. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or just want to ask questions about advocacy, please don't hesitate to reach out! I can be best reached at zrichards@lexington1.net or my cell (413-652-9746).



FROM OUR STATES



PENNY LYNCH, MS, ATC
PRESIDENT

Congratulations to the DCATA members on milestone years of membership to the NATA!

15 Years of Membership

Beth Hagler, MS, LAT, ATC
Mark Isenstadt, MS, ATC
Thomas McKnight, MS, LAT, ATC

25 Years of Membership

Mariko Kobanawa, ATC, PES
Valentin Porter, LAT, ATC
Jaime C. Walls, MA, ATC

40 Years of Membership

Beverly Westerman EdD, ATC

Retired Members

42-Theresa Pugh AT Ret
47-Nathaniel Ehrlich AT Ret



RACHEL MOORE, MED, LAT, ATC
PRESIDENT

Happy Fall from Maryland Athletic Trainers! Things here in Maryland are in full swing as we move through this exciting season. Following our successful Business Meeting and Symposium this past June, where we saw record-breaking attendance, and our fantastic PAC Fundraiser in July, MATA continues to grow and thrive thanks to the hard work and dedication of our members.

We are thrilled to announce that our Education and Research Committee has partnered with the District of Columbia Athletic Trainers' Association to host a Joint Symposium on January 24th in Hyattsville, MD. This collaboration is an exciting opportunity to connect, learn, and grow together as professionals. We are currently accepting Call for Proposals—submissions are due by November 28th.

Our committees have also been hard at work this fall:

- **COPA Committee** – Developing an informative panel featuring Maryland professionals to highlight and advance various aspects of our profession.
- **DEI Committee** – Creating an Implicit Bias Training presentation that members can access to help meet licensure renewal requirements.

- **Governmental Affairs Committee** – Closely monitoring legislative activity and preparing for **Advocacy Day in January** (date TBD).
- **Young Professionals Committee** – Developing licensure guidance resources to support new professionals as they begin their careers in Maryland.
- **Secondary Schools Committee** – Continuing efforts to provide valuable information and strengthen connections among our secondary school athletic trainers.

As we look ahead, we're also planning an Awards Event to celebrate our outstanding members and their achievements, as well as more in-person socials and networking opportunities to bring our community together. If you have any questions or inquiries, please check out our website and submit them there.

Let's keep the momentum going as we move toward another successful year!

Congratulations to the MATA members on milestone years of membership to the NATA!

15 Years of Membership

Kimberly Battaglia, MS, LAT, ATC
 Jared Braverman, LAT, ATC
 Sarah Lagaz, MS, LAT, ATC
 Michelle McGehee, MS, LAT, ATC
 Lindsay Nance, LAT, ATC
 Kathleen Olenek, MS, LAT, ATC, NASM-PES
 Lauren Pacinelli, PhD, LAT, ATC
 Carolyn Thomas, MS, ATC
 Conor Trainor, MS, LAT, ATC
 Donita Valentine, DAT, LAT, ATC

25 Years of Membership

Tiffany Kenworthy, MEd, ATC
 Jennifer S. Miller, MS, ATC, CSCS
 William Tyner Jr, BS, LAT, ATC
 Elizabeth Vaught, MS, LAT, ATC
 Stefanie Wainwright, MEd, ATC
 Meghan Wilkinson, LAT, ATC, CSCS
 Heather Worthy Wilson, ATC

40 Years of Membership

Stacey Slayback, BSN, RN, ATC
 Brian P. Smith, MS, LAT, ATC

Retired Members

25-Patrick Altekruise AT Ret
 50-Neil MacDonald AT Ret
 51-Sandra Worth AT Ret
 53-John Bielawski AT Ret
 53- Charles Huffman AT Ret
 53-Ira Silverstein AT Ret
 58-William Tessendorf AT Ret
 59-David Ambrose AT Ret
 60-Raymond Chronister AT Ret



NINA WALKER, MA, LAT, ATC
PRESIDENT



The NCATA is proud to announce **Dr. Nancy D. Groh**, EdD, CHSE, LAT, ATC, (pictured left) as the newly elected President-Elect of the association. A long-time leader and dedicated advocate for athletic training in North Carolina, Dr. Groh brings decades of experience in education, service, and professional development to this role. She will officially assume office as NCATA President during the Annual Symposium in March.

The NCATA is also pleased to announce that **Courtney Phelps**, MA, LAT, ATC, has assumed the role of Secretary of the association. Courtney brings strong organizational skills and dedication to service. **Taryn Strickland**, MA, LAT, ATC, will assume the role of Vice President of the association this March. She will step into this position as Dr. Nancy Groh transitions to serve as NCATA President. Taryn's experience, leadership, and passion for advancing the profession will make her an excellent addition to the Executive Board.

Keep an eye out for an announcement about our NCATA Spring Symposium in Wrightsville Beach, NC March 6th-8th. We are currently looking for abstracts for the conference. Share your knowledge with the members of the NCATA!! [MORE INFO HERE](#)

Congratulations to the NCATA members on milestone years of membership to the NATA!

15 years of Membership

Katherine Adrian, MPH, ATC
Megan Babnik, LAT, ATC, PES
Shelby Baez, PhD, ATC
Andrew Bass, MS, LAT, ATC
Sarah Bell, MA, LAT, ATC
Eric Bornholdt, MS, LAT, ATC
Lindsey Braddock, MS, LAT, ATC
Pamela W. Brown, MS, LAT, ATC
Casey Camargo, BA, LAT, ATC
Lucas Carson, MS, LAT, ATC
Christine Castillo, DAT, ATC, CSCS
Lindsey Davis, MHA, LAT, ATC
Jason Farmer, LAT, ATC
Amanda Fitterer, MPH, LAT, ATC
Megan Gibson, MS, LAT, ATC
T'Keyah Hargrave, MS, LAT, ATC
Corbin Henault, MEd, ATC
Kelsey Henry, MS, LAT, ATC
Jorge Islas, MS, LAT, ATC
Mikaela Joseph, MS, LAT, ATC
Aaron Karkow, ATC
Alessa Lennon, EdD, LAT, ATC
David Minberg, LAT, ATC, NREMT
Katherine Moos, MA, LAT, ATC
Franklin Pace, MS, ATC, CSCS, NASM-PES

Nicholas Potter, PT, ATC, CSCS
Kaitlin Ricklefs, MS, LAT, ATC
Brent Roark, ATC, ITAT
Rebecca Jones, DAT, LAT, ATC
Tara Siesel, LAT, ATC
Taryn Strickland, MA, LAT, ATC
Heriberto Zamora Jr, MS, LAT, ATC

25 years of Membership

Christopher Bartlett, MA, LAT, ATC
David Bazett-Jones, PhD, ATC, CSCS
Melissa Burgemeister, DPT, PT, ATC
Jacob DePew, MS, LAT, ATC
Steven Honbarger, LAT, ATC, CSCS
Timothy Kelly, MEd, ATC
Jessica Klerlein, MHA, LAT, ATC
Stacy Kuhn, MS, LAT, ATC
Brianna Morith, MSS, LAT, ATC
Kelly Ottie, LAT, ATC
Julia Porter, MA, LAT, ATC
Katherine Prescott, LAT, ATC
Johna Register-Mihalik, PhD, LAT, ATC
Danielle Ross, MA, LAT, ATC
Joanna Schneider, MS, ATC
Lindsey Schroeder, EdD, LAT, ATC

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Gregg Schroeder, MEd, ATC
 Lexie Smith, LAT, ATC, EMT
 Melissa Snyder, PhD, LAT, ATC
 Kathryn Taylor, MA, LAT, ATC
 James Wheeler, MS, LAT, ATC, NASM-PES

40 years of Membership

Theodore Hirschfeld, MS, ATC, OTC
 Christopher Wolfe, MS, LAT, ATC

50+ years of Membership

50-Wayne Cannon, LAT, PT, ATC
 51-Anthony Sutton, ATC
 54-James Rehbock, LAT, ATC, PA
 56-Martin Baker LAT, ATC

Retired Members

25-Jay McCloy AT Ret
 40-William Heisel, Jr. AT Ret
 40-Carl Huff, Jr. AT Ret
 40-Mary Luxton AT Ret
 40-Brenda Starnier AT Ret

40-Teddy Worrell AT Ret
 50-Gail Chmielenski AT Ret
 50-Jamie Moul AT Ret
 50-Sherry Sutton AT Ret
 51-David Colt AT Ret
 51-Frank Harper AT Ret
 51-Terry Kofler AT Ret
 51-William Prentice Jr, AT Ret
 51-Paul Turbedsky AT Ret
 51-William Via AT Ret
 52-John Levitt AT Ret
 52-Greg Ott AT Ret
 52-James Strickland AT Ret
 53-Keith Luxton AT Ret
 53-Kirby Patterson AT Ret
 54-David Engelhardt AT Ret
 54-Martin Erb AT Ret
 54-Daniel Hooker PhD, AT Ret
 54-Clairbeth Lehn AT Ret
 54-Mark Pfeil AT Ret
 55-Paul Grace AT Ret
 59-Ronald Kanoy AT Ret



WILL CHRISTMAN, MS, LAT, ATC
 PRESIDENT

**Congratulations to the SCATA members on milestone years
 of membership to the NATA!**

15 years of Membership

Christen Anderson, MA, LAT, ATC, SCAT
 Diane Boyce, MS, SCAT, ATC
 Michael Brown, ATC
 Katrina Chandler, LAT, ATC
 Joshua Cohick, SCAT, ATC, NASM-PES
 Pearl Gray, MA, LAT, ATC
 Michelle Grieswell, MPH, SCAT, ATC
 Jill Hancock, MA, LAT, ATC
 Kristina Medinger, DAT, LAT, ATC
 Randal Morris, MS, SCAT, ATC
 Jared Muth, MS, ATC
 James Rosemeyer, MS, ATC
 Uriah Snoberger, MS, LAT, ATC
 Logan Speicher, MA, LAT, ATC, NASM-CES, DNI
 Clarissa Wilburn

25 years of Membership

Shawn Arnett, ATC
 Emily Coonradt, PTA, ATC
 Megan Furnish, MS, ATC
 John Handley, ATC
 Mark Mencebo, MHS, LAT, ATC
 Vanessa Rettinger, PhD, ATC, NSCA-CPT
 Jeremy Searson, PhD, LAT, ATC
 Melissa Smith, MS, LAT, ATC

40 years of Membership

James Berry, EdD, LAT, ATC
 Eric English, SCAT, ATC
 Mack Harvey, MAT, ATC
 Leo McMillen, ATC
 Eugene Pfaff, BS, LAT, ATC
 Chris Wagner, ATC
 Guy Walker, ATC

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Lisa White, ATC
John Zink, MS, SCAT, ATC

50+ years of Membership

51-Danny Poole, Jr. MEd, LAT, ATC
52-Gerard Scibilia MS, DPT, ATC
53-Rod Walters, II DAT, SCAT, ATC
54-Andy Clawson MS, SCAT, ATC

Retired Members

40-David Barnes AT Ret
40-Edward Doherty AT Ret
40-Thomas Szczepanski AT Ret
50-Angelo Rosato AT Ret
51-Robert Spertzel AT Ret
51-John Sullivan AT Ret
52-Dennis P. Brogna AT Ret
52-Paul Lasinski AT Ret
53-Marjorie Albohm, MS, AT Ret
53-Bradley Taylor AT Ret
55-James Laughnane AT Ret
56-John Lopez AT Ret
60-Kent Falb AT Ret



MICHAEL KOTELNICKI, EDS, LAT, ATC
PRESIDENT

Congratulations to the VATA members on milestone years of membership to the NATA!

15 years of Membership

Ashley Ausborn, LAT, ATC
Ryan Averett, DAT, LAT, ATC
Corbin Bird, ATC
Brittany Braun, MEd, ATC, CSCS
Emily Buerger, DAT, LAT, ATC
Andrey Cracco, MTA, ATC
Brian Duclos, MS, LAT, ATC
Cordell Hood, MA, LAT, ATC
Nicole Hoyt, LAT, ATC
Jennifer Jessee, MS, LAT, ATC, ACSM-EP
Shawna Johnston, DPT, PT, ATC, CSCS, SCS
Christina Kennedy, DAT, LAT, ATC
Nicole Knight, MSAT, LAT, ATC
Emily Madrak, PhD, LAT, ATC
Ashley Morgan, MAT, LAT, ATC
Jeffrey Orsoe II, LAT, ATC
Alexandra Pumphrey, LAT, ATC
Joshua Shroyer, MS, LAT, ATC
Brice Snyder, MSAT, LAT, ATC, BCS-O
Michael Tierney, MS, LAT, ATC
Adam Viet, MAEd, LAT, ATC
Joshua Wall III, MS, LAT, ATC

25 years of Membership:

Philip Chapman, MEd, LAT, ATC
Kelly Creasey, LAT, ATC
Angela Emerson, LAT, ATC
Christa Faiver, BS, MS, MEd, ATC
Charles Hale IV, EdD, LAT, ATC
Katherine Bowman, EdD, ATC
Breanne Piatt, MS, LAT, ATC
Sara Pittelkau, MA, LAT, ATC
Boyd Queen Jr, MPT, LAT, ATC
Bryan Schendlinger, BS, LAT, ATC
Caroline Taylor, ATC

40 years of Membership:

Elizabeth Ayers, MSS, BSN, RN
Renee Cork, ATC
Lynn Durbin, MA, VATL, ATC
Michael Krackow, PhD, LAT, ATC
Scott Lawrenson, LAT, ATC
Paula Maxwell, PhD, LAT, ATC
Linda Pullen, MEd, LAT, ATC
Susan Saliba, PhD, PT, ATC

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50+ years of Membership:

50-Dennis Spurrier, MS, LAT, ATC
54-Steven Cole MEd, LAT, ATC
57-Robert Lester MEd, LAT, ATC

Retired Members:

40-Malcolm Lickers AT Ret
50-Mary Jefferson AT Ret
50-Donald Tillson AT Ret
50-Chris Tucker AT Ret

51-Patricia Buchanan PhD, AT Ret
51-Lorraine Michel AT Ret
52-Marty Bradley, II AT Ret
52-Sharon Summers MEd, AT Ret
52-Tom Wilkinson, Sr. AT Ret
53-Larry Nottingham AT Ret
53-Ronald Stefancin AT Ret
54-Nancy Burke MS, AT Ret
59-George Borden AT Ret
59-Thomas Jones AT Ret
65-Joe Gieck AT Ret



SUZI KONZ, PHD, LAT, ATC, CSCS
PRESIDENT

The WVATA has set the annual meeting and symposium for March 28, 2026 at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, WV.

**Congratulations to the WVATA members on milestone years
of membership to the NATA!**

15 years of Membership

Stephen Baldwin Jr, MEd, LAT, ATC
Dalyann Barnett, ATC
Derek Dewig, PhD, ATC
Nathan Harshberger, MS, ATC

25 years of Membership

Alma Mattocks, PhD, ATC, CHSE

50+ years of Membership

50-John Brautigam PT, ATC
50-Michelle Sandrey PhD, ATC
54-R Daniel Martin EdD, LAT, ATC

Retired Members

50-Cynthia Booth PhD, AT Ret
50-John Brautigam PT, ATC
52-William Tibbetts AT Ret
57-John Spiker AT Ret