



DISTRICT III  
NEWSLETTER  
Spring 2026

**MAATA**  
MID ATLANTIC ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

# LETTER FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

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



Greetings, My Fellow, D3 ATs

- Another National Athletic Training Month has come and gone! I am hopeful each of you had the opportunity to share in this year's theme, "Care You Can Count On". Thank you for all who participated on social media and at your workplaces. As I have recently posted on social media, We ATs should not stop this discussion, This is who we are and what we do!
- The BOD & many other ATs attended this year's "Hit the Hill" in Washington, DC. We had a large D3 presence and I'm thankful for everyone who participated in making Drop Ins, Drop Offs and staff meetings of many legislators. The NATA GA staff did a fantastic job putting this year's program together. More will be shared in our Quarterly NATA Beat!
- April is Volunteer Appreciation Month! Join me in thanking our volunteers at the State, District & NATA organizations. Thank You! As a reminder for those who have not updated your GATHER accounts, PLEASE do so! Your Volunteer portal on Gather will be our pathway to accept and process volunteer applications for NATA committees soon. Again, thank you for volunteering for NATA committee positions.

Reminders...

- The 77th NATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo, is in Philadelphia June 29th thru July 2nd. Plans are being made for a big event there. Our District meeting will occur Monday evening after the NATA Happy Hour! Tuesday, we will recognize our National Award winners and induct a new Hall of Fame class as we recognize Bob Casmus & Michael Higgins. Congratulations to both! This year's theme of Lead. Learn. Celebrate. Allows for 300+ Education Sessions, & 40 CEUs. More info can be found on the convention website.
- NATA Timely Topics & Podcasts are ongoing; check out the conversations.
- ***The NATA District 3 Committee Quarterly Town Hall will occur Wednesday May 13th, at 5pm ET. Feel free to join me as we hear from our committee reps to the NATA and their committee updates as well as NATA BOD updates.***

**NATA BOD Updates...**

## Membership and Workforce Trends

McKinley consultants reviewed the initial results of the NATA salary survey, highlighting compensation and work-life balance as key factors influencing member retention and workforce movement. While some perceptions of compensation remain negative, data indicates general improvement in salary which outpaces inflation and shows some narrowing of demographic boundaries, as well as optimism about continued progress.

The Board recognized the importance of continued focus on these areas as part of broader efforts to support the profession and maintain member engagement. The updated salary survey results will be available to members by early summer.

### Strategic Planning and Engagement

Progress continues in strategic plan development, supported by a series of scheduled listening sessions to invite member input as the plan is refined. Nine sessions are being held with key audiences to gather member input and ensure the final plan reflects a broad range of perspectives.

The Board emphasized the importance of incorporating this feedback into final strategic direction and maintaining alignment across organizational priorities.

### Convention and Financial Outlook

The NATA is financially stable, with an expected increase in expenditures as convention approaches. No immediate financial concerns were identified, and cash flow projections are healthy. Membership dues are ahead of 2025 but slightly behind budget, with recruitment campaigns planned for summer.

Any questions feel free to reach out to me via email, [maatad3dir@gmail.com](mailto:maatad3dir@gmail.com).

Again, thank you for your continued support to serve as your District Director.

Best Wishes in the remainder of your spring season!

**Ray Davis Jr, MSS, LAT, ATC**

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### **District III Council**

Ray Davis, Jr., MSS, LAT, ATC, District Director  
[maatad3dir@gmail.com](mailto:maatad3dir@gmail.com)

Matt Gage, District President  
[d3maatapresident@gmail.com](mailto:d3maatapresident@gmail.com)

Ashley B. Thrasher, District Vice President  
[maatameetingplanner@gmail.com](mailto:maatameetingplanner@gmail.com)

Erin Cash, District Secretary  
[d3sectry@gmail.com](mailto:d3sectry@gmail.com)

Mat Lyden, District Treasurer  
[d3maatacfo@gmail.com](mailto:d3maatacfo@gmail.com)

Katie Walsh Flanagan, Past District Director  
[katiewolfanagana@gmail.com](mailto:katiewolfanagana@gmail.com)

### **State Presidents**

Penny Lynch, District of Columbia  
[plynch@gonzaga.org](mailto:plynch@gonzaga.org)

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[marylandathletictraining@gmail.com](mailto:marylandathletictraining@gmail.com)

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Will Christman, South Carolina  
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Kirk J. Armstrong, Virginia  
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# FROM THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Matt Gage, PhD, LAT, ATC, CES

## Update & Appreciation

I look forward to seeing many of you in Winston-Salem at the 2026 MAATA Clinical Symposium. There is still time to register for the 2026 MAATA Clinical Symposium, taking place May 1–3, 2026, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This event will feature high-quality educational programming, and meaningful networking opportunities you won't want to miss.

Join me in thanking Erin Cash for her exceptional service as District Secretary over the past several years. Erin's professionalism, organization, and dedication have been invaluable to District 3. At the same time, I'm excited to welcome Amy Fraley as she steps into the secretary role. Amy's willingness to serve is greatly appreciated!

A special note of appreciation goes out to the members of the Governance Task Force for their ongoing work in combining the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association Constitution and Bylaws into one cohesive document. In addition, their efforts to develop a comprehensive Policies and Procedures Manual will help ensure clarity, consistency, and transparency in MAATA operations moving forward. Thank you for your time, expertise, and commitment to strengthening our organization's governance. The combined governance document will be shared with the entire membership in the Fall of 2026 and voted on by the membership at the upcoming business meeting in the late Fall.

## Upcoming Leadership Opportunities

This summer the MAATA will be seeking members interested in serving in key leadership roles, including District President, Vice President, and Treasurer. These positions provide an outstanding opportunity to help shape the future direction of our district. Members considering one of these leadership roles are encouraged to review the MAATA Constitution and Bylaws to ensure they meet the eligibility requirements to run for office. Please take time to encourage qualified members to consider applying for these important leadership opportunities. Finally, MAATA continues to seek member engagement through committee service. The following committee vacancies remain available, and we encourage interested members to get involved:

### District of Columbia

- Education Committee
- LGBTQ+ Committee
- Research & Grants Committee
- Secondary Schools Committee
- Young Professionals Committee

### Maryland

- LGBTQ+ Committee

### Virginia

- LGBTQ+ Committee

### West Virginia

- Ethnic Diversity Committee

If you are interested in applying to fill one of these committee vacancies, please notify your state association President and complete the application [process](#).

Your involvement is vital to the continued strength and success of District 3. Thank you to all who serve, volunteer, and support our association.

See you in Winston-Salem,  
Matt Gage  
[D3president@gmail.com](mailto:D3president@gmail.com)



## FROM THE DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

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

Happy Spring! The Annual Meeting Planning Committee has been hard at work planning a great symposium coming up on May 1-3, at Novant Health Forsyth Conference Center in Winston-Salem, NC. We have a packed agenda with a lot of educational programming, social events, and time to network with your fellow D3 athletic trainers. [Check out the schedule on the conference website!](#)

As you probably noticed, our registration system changed completely over the past year, and we appreciate your patience as we work with a new system! By using this new system, we've been able to streamline registration processes, [provide a more detailed website with all the conference information](#), and we'll have a conference app! If you are attending the annual meeting, please download the Pheedloop Go! App on the Apple [app store](#) or on [Google Play](#). Once you download the app, just sign in with the email used to register for the conference, and you'll have access to all the conference information!

As part of the conference, we will also be having the District Director's Reception offsite at the Truist Stadium, to see the Winston-Salem Dash take on their crosstown rivals, the Greensboro Grasshoppers! Watch Director Ray Davis throw out the first pitch! We are looking forward to a fun night of fellowship and fun. As an extra bonus, the Dash is having Derby Day that night, so dress in your Derby best!

The Site Selection Committee is also looking to the future to explore annual meeting sites. Next MAATA Annual Meeting will be April 30-May 1 in Charleston, WV. We're exploring sites for the 2028-2029 meetings, so look for announcements to come soon.

If you have any questions about the annual meeting, please email me at [maatameetingplanner@gmail.com](mailto:maatameetingplanner@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you all in Winston-Salem!

Ashley Thrasher

[maatameetingplanner@gmail.com](mailto:maatameetingplanner@gmail.com)



## FROM THE DISTRICT SECRETARY

Erin Cash, PhD, LAT, ATC

Hello District 3 and Happy Spring! I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and warming up as we head towards the summer. I want to thank our MAATA Symposium planning committee for all their hard work to make Winston-Salem a great weekend!

We are recognizing our D3 members on first year NATA memberships in this Newsletter. Please join me in congratulating our members in their respective state below! We are better together - thank you for supporting our profession at the national, district, and state levels!

As my time as Secretary is coming to an end, I am so grateful for all the connections and friendships I've gained in this role. Serving the District has been an honor and I hope that I have made a small change for the better along the way. I'm excited for Amy Fraley to take over as I know she will do an amazing job! In the meantime, if there's anything I can do for you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Erin Cash

[d3sectry@gmail.com](mailto:d3sectry@gmail.com)

# FROM THE DISTRICT TREASURER

Mat Lyden, MS, ATC

Happy Spring District 3 Athletic Trainers!

Hope this newsletter finds you all well. I look forward to seeing many of you at the annual meeting at the end of the month. Huge thanks to our planning committee for putting together a great weekend of education and social activities for all of our membership.

Below is the Quarter 1 dashboard report of our budget vs. actuals for FY26. We are

off to a good start with a total positive margin just over 10%. The line item I am most excited to present is our membership dues. For the first time in several years our membership numbers are trending in a positive direction. We have plenty of opportunities to continue this trend and we need all of you to help promote the profession and encourage membership. This truly is the only organization that is advocating for us as a group and I really appreciate all of our efforts to make athletic training that much better for all.

On the investment front, we saw a little fluctuation in the market resulting in some volatility in our accounts which has leveled back out. I am happy to report our annual earnings are currently at 18.7% and I will include this information in a quarterly basis to all of you.

If you ever have any questions in regards to our financial state, or anything else for that matter, I would be happy to take your call, email, text, or smoke signals.

## Mid Atlantic Athletic Trainers Association Budget vs. Actuals: MAATA FY26 Quarter 1 January - March, 2026

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>% Variance</i>
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Total 100 NATA</b>	\$ 58,333.00	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 6,333.00	12.2%
<b>Total 200 Interest</b>	\$ 750.02	\$ 350.01	\$ 400.01	114.3%
<b>Total 300 Annual Meeting</b>	\$ 7,222.26	\$ 23,700.00	\$ (16,477.74)	-69.5%
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 66,305.28	\$ 76,050.01	\$ (9,744.73)	-12.8%
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Total 1000 Business</b>	\$ 414.15	\$ 1,312.47	\$ (898.32)	-68.4%
<b>Total 2000 Communications</b>	\$ 674.22	\$ 1,629.99	\$ (955.77)	-58.6%
<b>Total 3000 Travel</b>	\$ 5,918.09	\$ 7,749.99	\$ (1,831.90)	-23.6%
<b>Total 4000 Annual Meeting</b>	\$ 4,510.00	\$ 11,912.52	\$ (7,402.52)	-62.1%
<b>Total 5000 Student Program</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,000.02	\$ (1,000.02)	-100.0%
<b>Total 6000 Advocacy</b>	\$ 3,727.28	\$ 4,500.00	\$ (772.72)	-17.2%
<b>Total 7000 Committees</b>	\$ 6,883.60	\$ 8,050.08	\$ (1,166.48)	-14.5%
<b>Total 8000 State Dues</b>	\$ 70.00	\$ -	\$ 70.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 22,197.34	\$ 36,155.07	\$ (13,957.73)	-38.6%
<b>Margin</b>	\$ 44,107.94	\$ 39,894.94	\$ 4,213.00	10.6%

# FROM THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Kevin King, MA, LAT, ATC

Kim Pritchard, PhD, LAT, ATC, NREMT

Final preparations for the 2026 MAATA Annual Meeting are underway, and we're looking forward to a strong education program this May. The schedule includes a mix of lecture sessions and hands-on learning labs, all designed to provide practical, evidence-based content for both students and certified athletic trainers. If you haven't had a chance to review it yet, you can find the schedule and session details [HERE](#).



Thank you to the Education Committee and Annual Meeting Planning Committee for the time and effort that have gone into building this year's program. We also appreciate our speakers for sharing their expertise and helping make this event meaningful for our membership.

We're looking forward to seeing you in May in Winston-Salem, NC!



## ETHNIC DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LaJoy Paige, MS, LAT, ATC

Please support the MAATA Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee during the Annual MAATA Symposium during the following:

- MAATA EDAC sponsored lecture- Building Connections: The Power of Mentorship & Networking in Athletic Training
- MAATA Ethnic Diversity & LGBTQ+ Committees Town Hall

### **Seeking Volunteers**

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

MAATA EDAC is seeking a student representative to join our committee. This is a great opportunity to experience committee involvement and to give input from a student perspective. Please email [d3edacrep@gmail.com](mailto:d3edacrep@gmail.com) if you're interested in getting involved.

### **Thank You**

We would like to thank our outgoing MAATA EDAC student member- Chris Gresham for his involvement this year.

District 3 athletic trainers and students were featured during National Athletic Training Month by the NATA Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee. Shoutout to our Virginia EDAC Representative, Brandon Holland, for being featured and representing our committee.



## FREE COMMUNICATIONS

Renae Bomar, EdD, LAT, ATC, CSCS, TSAC-F, USAW-L1

Thank you to everyone who submitted an abstract to this year's Free Communications Program. We were thrilled by the strong response and the breadth of scholarship represented. We are also deeply grateful to our dedicated reviewers, whose time, expertise, and thoughtful feedback make this peer-reviewed program possible.

These sessions are designed to highlight related topics, encourage discussion, and showcase the depth and diversity of scholarly work within MAATA. This year, we received 46 abstract submissions, representing both student and professional presenters from twelve programs across the district. Submissions were reviewed through a blinded peer-review process.

Accepted abstracts will be presented across two Free Communication sessions, including a poster presentation session on Sunday, May 3rd from 8:30 - 9:30am and an oral presentation session following from 9:45 - 10:45am. These sessions will showcase innovative research, quality improvement projects, and clinical case studies from across the region.

We look forward to engaging presentations and lively discussion at the symposium and appreciate the continued support of our authors, reviewers, and attendees.

See you in Winston Salem!



## MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS & HISTORICAL COMMISSION COMMITTEES

Randy Meador, MS, ATC

### **Memorial Resolutions Committee**

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.

On behalf of the entire Memorial Resolutions Committee, I would like to thank Jim Berry for his years of service to the MAATA Memorial Resolutions Committee as the South Carolina representative, we wish Jim the best! So we are in need of a new South Carolina representative! If anyone is interested please reach out.

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

- District of Columbia – TBA (If no one is interested please forward obit information to Sherry Summers)
- Maryland - Samuel Thompson, Jr. – [samthomp@lifebridgehealth.org](mailto:samthomp@lifebridgehealth.org)
- North Carolina – Randy Pridgen – [rplatatc@gmail.com](mailto:rplatatc@gmail.com)
- South Carolina – James Berry – [drjimberry@gmail.com](mailto:drjimberry@gmail.com)
- Virginia – Sherry Summers – [sherrysummers57@gmail.com](mailto:sherrysummers57@gmail.com)
- West Virginia – Randall Meador – [rmeador43@gmail.com](mailto:rmeador43@gmail.com)



## HONORS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bob Casmus, MS, LAT, ATC

It is my sincere hope that all of us will attend the Honors & Awards program during the MAATA 2026 Symposium this coming May. We will be honoring Tina Carillo (DC), Suzanne Konz (WV), Heather Murphy (VA), Gina Palermo (MD) and Jon Schner (NC) with the MAATA Service Award. The MAATA Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award recipients will be Sara Pittelkau (VA) and Jamilla Watson (DC). Our 2026 MAATA Hall of Fame inductees are Andy Carter (VA), Michael Higgins (VA), Kevin King (NC), Meredith Petschauer (NC) and Paul Rupp (VA). See headshots below

In addition, we will honor our MAATA scholarship winners along with a variety of District 3 award winners for 2026 from the NATA and the NATA Foundation. Please join us as we celebrate these outstanding and most deserving award winners from District 3.

I would also like to thank our sub-committee chairs for the Honors & Awards Committee of Scott Johnson, ATC (HOF), Jenn Rheeling, ATC (MDAT) and Sherry Summers, ATC (Service Award) for their time and efforts to make the Honors & Awards process a success each year. I especially want to thank the silent & anonymous scoring group members for their participation in this important activity.

### Hall of Fame Class of 2026



Andy Carter



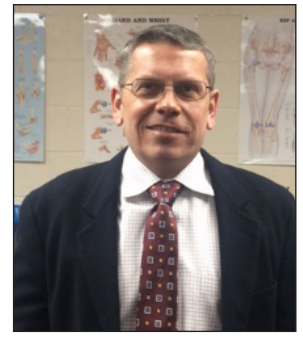
Dr. Michael Higgins



Kevin King



Dr. Meredith Petschauer



Paul Rupp

### Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award Recipient



Sara Pittelkau



Jamilla Watson

### Athletic Trainer Service Award Recipients



Tina Carillo



Suzanne Konz



Heather Murphy



Gina Palermo



Jon Schner



## SECONDARY SCHOOLS AT COMMITTEE

Adam Wall, MS, LAT, ATC

Secondary School Committee would like to congratulate our district awardees that have been recognized nationally by the NATA Secondary School Committee. Their dedication to student athlete health, safety, and performance has not gone unnoticed. From long hours on the sidelines to behind-the-scenes care and prevention, you're an essential part of every team's success. Your commitment, professionalism, and passion make a lasting impact on the lives of the athletes you serve.



We would like to congratulate Paul Rupp, MS, ATC (Virginia), pictured right, for being selected as the Secondary School Athletic Trainer of the Year for District 3!

We would also like to congratulate LaJoy Paige, MS, LAT, ATC (South Carolina), pictured right, for being selected as the Servant's Heart awardee for District 3!

We look forward to celebrating your hard work and dedication to your student athletes at the upcoming district meeting in Winston Salem and in Philadelphia at the NATA symposium.



## SOCIAL MEDIA & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' COMMITTEES

Kassy Mosley Riddle, MS, LAT, ATC

### Young Professional Committee

Congratulations to this year's MAATA Distinguished YP award winner Breyah Jones, M.Ed, M.S., ATC, LAT. Breyah will be recognized during the honors and award ceremony during the MAATA symposium!

Young Professionals (certified 2014 or later) take advantage of reduced registration pricing for MAATA symposium this year, \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members!

We would love to have you at symposium this year and encourage you to share this information with your fellow young professionals in District 3! We will also be having a YPC game night with special guests on Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> directly following the student quiz bowl!

YPs! Want to get involved with the YP committee at the district level? We will have opening representative position throughout the summers so be on the lookout and apply when those become available!

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!!

### 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



## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Sara Pittelkau, MA, LAT, ATC

The members of the scholarship committee would like to thank Jim Berry for his service to the MAATA Scholarship Committee for the past five and a half years! We hope that you enjoy retirement a little more now with a few extra free moments after the symposium in May.

We are in the process of finding a replacement for Jim as the South Carolina representative on the scholarship committee and hope to have that finalized soon!

Program Directors, MSAT educators, preceptors, students with friends who are **not** NATA members: There are changes forthcoming to the New Member Award, including a slightly new name (TBD), so please be on the lookout for that information to hopefully come across your emails in June. This award/incentive is for any MSAT student who has NEVER been an NATA member in order to encourage membership and have students see what benefits being a member offer. Because they are not NATA members, they do not receive the MAATA newsletter or e-blasts so we are relying on your help and word of mouth to encourage students to apply.

MSAT Students: Take advantage of the scholarship opportunities! As a committee, our goal is to award all of the scholarships. Scholarship applications typically open in the beginning of January and are due by March 15 of that year. Please pay close attention to the qualifications for each application to be sure you apply to the one that fits you the best!

Working ATs within D3 who are pursuing a doctorate degree in athletic training (AT) or anything AT related, AT fellowship or AT residency: You are eligible for the William Prentice Scholarship (as long as you meet the other requirements)! Please take advantage of this opportunity in 2027!

**Congratulations to the 2026 Scholarship Award Winners! They will be acknowledged during the MAATA Annual Meeting's Honors & Awards Ceremony Saturday, May 2 in Winston-Salem**

### Block:

1st place: Madeline Ostrowski UNC Greensboro (top left)

2nd place: Holly Hudson Liberty University (top right)



### Gwynne:

1st place: Brittney Hopper, Marshall University (2nd row left)

2nd place: Maguire Dinnan, West Virginia University (2nd row right)



### Sutton: no applicants

### Prentice:

1st place: Gregory Gentry, University of Virginia (3rd row)



### New Member Award:

Paola Padilla-Lorenzo, George Mason University (below left)

Alexandra Pallozzi, Shenandoah University (below middle)

Maile Kaahanui, Liberty University (below right)





**2026 MAATA Annual Symposium**  
 May 1st - 3rd  
 Winston Salem, NC

# STUDENT PROGRAM

## MEET & GREET

May 1st   
 Classrooms 2-4  
 1:00-2:00pm

## QUIZ BOWL

May 1st   
 Classrooms 2-4  
 7:00-9:00pm

## MENTORS BREAKFAST

May 2nd   
 Executive Room  
 7:30-8:30am

## RECRUITMENT EVENT

May 2nd   
 Charter Room  
 1:45-2:45pm

## AT Olympics

May 2nd   
 Charter Room  
 3:30-5:00pm

## Baseball Game

May 2nd  
 Gates Open at 5:30pm  
 Game Starts at 6:30pm

## STUDENT SESSIONS

**Donald Hooton**  
 (For Brian Parker)  
 May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:00-3:00pm  
 "Supplements and Steroids: The Pressure to Perform"

**Kirk Armstrong & Ashley Thrasher**   
 May 2nd, 9:45-10:45am  
 "From Clinical Education to Clinical Practice: Orientation That Eases the Shift"

**Jordan Bettleyon & Dustyn Walton**  
 May 3rd, 11:00am- 12pm  
 "Show Me the Money: Navigating Salaries, Opportunities, and Growth in Athletic Training"

**JC Hollowell (& friend)**  
 May 3rd, 12:00-1:00pm  
 "Mass Casualty Incidents and Management: A Learning Lab for Athletic Trainers"

# STUDENT SENATE COMMITTEE

Emily Meyerl MS, LAT, ATC  
 Erin M. Moore, PhD, LAT, ATC, CSCS



The MAATA Student Senate has had a fun year so far, and we can't wait to cap it off with the MAATA Student Symposium in Winston-Salem. We are excited to host 70+ students for a weekend of learning, mentorship, and fellowship. Please see below for the Student schedule. Information can also be found here at [Schedule | MAATA Annual Meeting 2026](#). Thanks to Student Senator Alaina Lustine and Nicole Rates for their hard work on the Student Symposium portion of the website. Follow along all weekend on the Pheedloop app so you don't miss any event while at the symposium!

Be sure to keep an eye out at the conference for how to support the National Marrow Donor Program (NMPD) through the Student Senate Service Project. NMPD is the a global nonprofit leader in cell therapy. They work to find cures for blood cancer and other blood disorders through stem cell transplants and other cell therapies. We decided to donate to NMPD as it hits close to the athletic training community. Long time USA basketball and Celtics Athletic Trainer, Ed Lacerte was diagnosed with Luekemia and requires a blood stem cell transplant as a part of his recovery. Read more about Ed and the efforts to raise awareness for the NMPD below. [USA Basketball, Celtics, NBA Team Up to Raise Awareness of NMPD Registry in Honor of Ed Lacerte - USA Basketball](#)

The committee has seen many changes as the longtime Faculty advisor, Dr. Emily Hildebrand, transitioned off. Dr. Erin Moore and Emily Meyerl took over and have continued to support our student senators as we navigated this year. We have also added 5 first year student senators to the team. They have been collaborating with their peers on various sub committees to plan for the Student Symposium. Their hard work is appreciated and we look forward to working with them next year. (continued)

**2025-2026 First year student senators**

- MD: Lexy Armstrong; Events committee member and secretary
- WV: Nicole Rates; PR committee member
- VA: Hunter Whitlow; Service and events committee member
- NC: Jackie Moncada; PR committee member
- SC: Meredith Gannon; Service committee member

The 5 senior senators began their leadership roles as sub-committee chairs and have put in a lot of hard work to make this year's symposium a success. We thank them for their hard work over the last 2 years and hope that they continue to develop their leadership and service skills as they enter the workforce post-graduation.

**2025-2026 Senior Senators:**

- MD: Keilani Rebollo; Service chair
- WV: Kendal Mader; PR chair
- VA: Alaina Lustine; VP and events chair
- NC: Tatum Hubbard; President and Events committee member
- SC: Justin May; YP and LGBTQ+ liaison and events committee member

Please keep up with all things Student Senate and Student Symposium by following us on instagram @maata\_student\_senate. We will be posting schedules, tips on how to prepare for the conference, and more.

See you in Winston-Salem!



## NATA CONVENTION PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Gina Palermo MS, MAT, LAT, ATC, LMT

The Convention Program Committee (CPC) is hard at work planning the upcoming NATA 2026 Clinical Symposia & AT Expo, scheduled for June 29–July 2 in Philadelphia, PA. With NATA, World Cup Soccer, and America's 250th birthday all occurring at the same time, this will truly be a must-attend event.

The two featured themes for the 2026 meeting are Sleep and Entrepreneurship, offering engaging and relevant content for athletic trainers across all practice settings.

The convention website is now open: <https://convention.nata.org/>. You'll find information on registration, programming, special events, and housing. Prices increase June 1.

Moderators are always welcome! If you are interested in serving as a moderator for the upcoming convention, please feel free to reach out to me. Gina Palermo at [ginarpalermo@gmail.com](mailto:ginarpalermo@gmail.com).

Call for proposals for 2027 is being pushed until after convention. Information will be forthcoming at the convention.

If you have any questions regarding convention programming or have an idea for a presentation, I would be happy to speak with you.

Thank you for allowing me to represent District III on the Convention Program Committee.

# NATA COUNCIL ON PRACTICE ADVANCEMENT

Andy Carter, MS, LAT, ATC



To begin, I would like to share some of the accomplishments and work still ongoing within the Council on Practice Advancement (COPA) and its 10 panels over the last few months. As a Council, we have monthly conference calls and had an in-person Joint Committee Meeting for committee chairs in January in Dallas. Likewise, each of the 10 committees holds monthly conference calls as well. A few of the highlights of our work include:

- This month, the JAT published the National Athletic Trainers' Association Task Force: The Athletic Trainers' Role in Implementing Heat Stress Mitigation Strategies in the Occupational Setting.
- In a couple of weeks, COPA Occupational Chair Monica Smith will attend the Health Worker Summit in Chicago, sponsored by the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. The summit will bring together employers, employees, insurance carriers and health care professionals to discuss workforce health promotion and develop interventions for each of the pillars of lifestyle medicine: nutrition, physical activity, restorative sleep, stress management, social connections, and minimizing risky substances.
- In March, with support from COPA Performing Arts panel, the NATA BOD approved the distribution of a survey on behalf of doctoral student Ariana Davis in support of her project "Self-Efficacy of Athletic Trainers Conducting on Concussion Assessments of Dancers in Dance Medicine Settings". The NATA Research Survey Service provides a process for researchers to distribute survey tools to NATA members as well as an avenue for collaboration between the investigators and NATA committees and panels.
- Work continues on the Public Safety Toolkit to provide recommendations for police academy personnel to prevent and manage heat illness among recruits. SMEs from PSATS as well as COPA Public Safety Panel are creating resources based on NATA best practice guidelines viewed through the lens of the public safety setting. Goal is to have deliverables by convention.
- At Capitol Hill Day, we appreciate having Jason Robey and Amos Mansfield speak to the group about "From the Sidelines to the Frontlines: How Athletic Trainers are Shaping Military Readiness" at the policy summit. We also had leadership from Cognito attend the event. Cognito is company in Virginia who hires AT contractors for the Army, and they supported the policy summit and walked the halls of Congress side by side with us.
- Finally, in early April, we had a meeting between NATA government affairs, COPA, and ATPPS leaders to align our advocacy efforts and strategies. I want to thank Deanna not only for her vision and expertise but her willingness to bring in SMEs and listen to stakeholders to strengthen the advocacy efforts to help move the profession forward.

COPA will be well-represented at NATA 2026 in Philadelphia with several relevant presentations throughout the convention as well as our COPA Town Hall to be held on Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:15pm. Please try to join us in Philly. Check out the Convention Pathways on the Convention website or app for a list of content by settings to help you plan your schedule each day.

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](mailto: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

Fellow members of the MAATA, I hope this edition of the Spring Newsletter finds you doing well. I am looking forward to our district's annual meeting in May in Winston Salem, NC and the NATA meeting in June in Philadelphia offering us the opportunity to gather and reconnect with each other.

One of the primary missions of your NATA Research & Education Foundation is the awarding of scholarships to the next generation of athletic trainers. This year the Foundation received over 300 applications and awarded 69 scholarships to deserving students. Please join me in congratulating the following MAATA students on receiving a 2026 NATA Foundation scholarship:

**Faith Bibbo**, Old Dominion University, PFATS Larry "Stosh" Neumann Scholarship, Professional Football Athletic Trainers' Society

**Hailey Bradley**, University of South Carolina, William Prentice/MAATA (D3) Scholarship, NATA District 3, MAATA

**Hailey Chisum**, Liberty University, Richard E. Vandervoort Memorial Scholarship for Female Athletic Training Students, The Richard E. Vandervoort Foundation

**Anna Dalelio**, University of South Carolina, PFATS Ed Block Foundation Scholarship, Professional Football Athletic Trainers' Society.

**Delaney O'Connor**, Towson University. NBA Commissioner David Stern Memorial Scholarship, National Basketball Athletic Trainers' Association.

**Brandon Rackley**, University of South Carolina, PFATS William Tessoroff Scholarship, Professional Football Athletic Trainers' Society

**Suhani Rajeev Toshniwal**, University of Virginia, NBATA Joe O'Toole Scholarship, National Basketball Athletic Trainers' Association.

Since its launch, the scholarship program of your Foundation has awarded over \$4.5 million to over 2,000 students. This year's recipients, funded through generous donations and our endowment program, represent the next generation of leaders in athletic training. We can't wait to see the incredible contributions they'll make to the profession of athletic training!

### OTHER NEWS:

Planning to come to the 2026 NATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo in Philadelphia? Join the Foundation at [Rock & Bowl at Lucky Strikes](#)

Break out your best 90's outfit or band T-shirt and help the Foundation celebrate this milestone anniversary in style! Consider joining the Foundation for this annual event, just click on the link above to see more information about this event.

### **Why Should you Attend?**

- **3 Hours of Non-Stop Fun:** Bowl to your heart's content, dance and sing along with 90's classics from dueling pianos, challenge friends at pool and ping pong, and enjoy lively social atmosphere.

MONDAY 29 JUNE 07:30 PM	TICKET \$70	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT DUELING PIANOS
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- **Food & Drinks Included:** Enjoy a pizza and fajita buffet, plus an open bar, featuring beer, wine, and soda throughout the evening.
- **Exciting On-Site Fundraising Games:** Take part in a wine pull, browse and bid in the silent auction, and join in additional fun games - all supporting a great cause.
- **Support a Worthy Cause:** All proceeds benefit the NATA Foundation, helping fund research, scholarships, and educational programs that strengthen the future of athletic training.

### Important Information

- **Limited Tickets Available:** Space is limited - tickets are \$70 and must be purchased by June 15. Be sure to secure yours when registering for the NATA 2026.
- **Why You Shouldn't Miss It:** Celebrate 35 years of impact, connect with colleagues, enjoy a high-energy night out, and support the profession - all in one unforgettable evening.

### Ways you can donate!

#### **If you are unable to attend Philadelphia? Then consider ways that you can give back to your profession!**

This year, consider giving up one Starbucks coffee or one DoorDash order a month or even just giving \$1 per month and directing that amount toward a donation to the Foundation. You can even make an annual commitment and join the [Circle of Champions](#).

The Foundation is far more than a source of scholarships and research grants. It plays a critical role in supporting the very foundation of your professional practice. The patients you work tirelessly to help, the EAPs you practice and implement, and the procedures you follow every day are all grounded in research that establishes our profession's best practices. Many of these best practices are made possible through the work of the NATA Research & Education Foundation.

#### NATA Foundation is Seeking Ambassadors

The NATA Research & Education Foundation is seeking **Ambassadors** to represent the Foundation for every state in District 3!

Ambassadors work closely with the District Foundation Board Director in member education, leadership development, board communication, promotional efforts, and of course, fundraising initiatives. If you have questions and wish to get more information you may also contact **Peter Kotz**, at [PKOTZ@olgchs.org](mailto:PKOTZ@olgchs.org).

**If you are interested?** [CLICK HERE](#)



## NATA GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Zachery Richards, MS, LAT, ATC

Dear MAATA Members,

I hope you are having a happy and healthy Spring, and I look forward to seeing you all in May!

In March, MAATA supported members of the GAC to travel to Washington DC to be a part of the NATA Capitol Hill Day. On March 30th, members attended a Policy Summit where Deanna Kuykendall hosted several different learning sessions. The day started with learning about updates from the NATA Government Affairs and Political Action Committee. Shameless plug- if you are able, please consider donating to the NATA PAC. We are FAR behind our counterpart professions, and as a district, we contribute towards the bottom of other districts. We then listened in on other great topics such as Name Image and Likeness, the Lorna Breen Foundation, the Army H2F program and heard from the NATA Lobbyists on the current state of affairs on the hill.

On Tuesday, March 31st, we were separated into over ten different groups and given a plethora of different offices to meet with or drop into. As always with politics, some meetings were better than others, but we spent four hours hopping from office to office on the Senate and House side. Our main mission for the day was to show support for appropriations to the Lorna Breen Foundation and to get athletic trainers credentialed and privileged by the Department of Defense. Some meetings sparked further conversation on the importance of athletic trainers for the physically active population. Overall, it was a great day, and a lot of good things were accomplished!

Not only did the district support someone from each state attending Capitol Hill Day but the district also increased the MAATA Advocacy Grant from \$6,000 up to \$12,000. I am super grateful for this, and am also happy to report that each state from the district submitted an application! By the time this newsletter is emailed out, it is the hope of our committee that the applications will have been processed and a recommendation will be given to the district executive committee to disperse the funding!



As always, I am thankful for the district putting in so much effort to support government affairs. I truly believe that advocacy is one of the best ways for us to keep pushing the needle forward and progressing/protecting our great profession.

For any further questions on the NATA PAC, please reach out to our district NATA PAC District Director, Steve Cole, [stevecole1227@gmail.com](mailto:stevecole1227@gmail.com). If you have any questions on advocacy, or our government affairs committee, please reach out to me at [zrichards@lexington1.net](mailto:zrichards@lexington1.net) or my cell 413-652-9746.



## NATA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Steve Cole, MEd, LAT, ATC

### Hit the Hill Day

On March 30 & 31 on 70 individuals, from all 11 Districts participated in the 2026 NATA Policy Summit and Capitol Hill Day; District 3 had a VERY strong representation! The event featured in-depth discussions on key legislative and regulatory issues impacting patient care, workforce development and professional practice. Following the summit. On Capitol Hill the participants had numerous scheduled meetings with congressional offices, providing a critical opportunity to share firsthand perspectives, educate policymakers and advocate for policies that support athletic trainers and the people we serve. Thank you to everyone that took time from their business schedules, and many at their own personal expense to participate in this event.

### JOIN THE NATAPAC

# 625 CLUB

ANY NATA MEMBER WHO GIVES A MONTHLY \$6.25(+) RECURRING CONTRIBUTION BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE 625 CLUB

- ANNUAL RECOGNITION IN THE NATA NEWS AS RECURRING NATAPAC CONTRIBUTOR
- RECOGNITION ON NATAPAC SIGNAGE AT CONVENTION
- RECOGNITION AT THE NATAPAC LUNCHEON
- DESIGNATED MEMBER OF THE
  - SELECT ( \$51-\$250 ) OR
  - ELITE ( \$251-\$500 ) OR
  - OLYMPIAN ( \$500+)

\* LEVEL DEPENDS ON ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOTAL

SCAN TO JOIN:



Must be a US Citizen + NATA member and logged in to [nata.org](http://nata.org) to contribute. Any contribution to the National Athletic Trainers' Association Political Action Committee is strictly voluntary and you have a right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. PAC funds will be used for political purposes and contributions will be made to candidates for federal office.

### Fund Raising Activity at the MAATA Annual Clinical Symposium

During the Clinical Symposium we will be selling raffle tickets for a drawing to win a portable treatment table. A total of three tables will be awarded. The proceeds from the raffle will be divided between the NATAPAC, NATA Foundation and the MAATA Student Senate in support of their efforts to raise funds for the National Marrow Donor Program.

Thanks to Tyler McDonnell and Athletic Edge for the very generous donation of 5 portable treatment tables for use during the Clinical Symposium. Two of the tables will be donated to North Carolina Schools that were impacted by Hurricane Helene.

### NATA Beat

Keep your finger on the pulse of NATA advocacy efforts through NATA Beat, a **NEW quarterly eblast** dedicated to everything NATA Government Affairs: state legislative, federal legislative, regulatory, reimbursement and NATAPAC. Each edition will focus on NATA's bipartisan work to advocate for ATs to fully practice their education and skill set.

### 625 Club

If every NATA member would commit to donating \$6.25 each month for a total of \$75 annually, NATAPAC would raise over \$2 million! Please consider making a commitment to NATAPAC.

# FROM OUR STATES



PENNY LYNCH, MS, ATC  
PRESIDENT

**There are no first time DCATA members to the NATA**



RACHEL MOORE, MED, LAT, ATC  
PRESIDENT

The Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association is excited to share several important updates and upcoming opportunities to get involved:

- Annual Business Meeting May 29  
Stay informed and engaged with MATA's ongoing initiatives. RSVP is encouraged.
- Awards Dinner June 13  
We have announced our award recipients and look forward to celebrating them at our Annual Awards Dinner. All stakeholders are invited—tickets are now available, and we encourage you to join us for this special evening.
- MATA PAC Fundraiser July 10 Oriole Park at Camden Yards  
Open to all stakeholders and family and friends. Join us for a great event in support of advocacy efforts across Maryland.  
We also continue to focus on increasing membership within the National Athletic Trainers' Association. We are actively enhancing our onboarding and offboarding processes for Executive Council members to support long-term organizational success.  
Thank you for your continued support of MATA. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

## **Congratulations to the MATA members on first time membership to the NATA!**

Marley Althoff  
Alexander Blake  
Jada Bradford  
Talia Brooks  
Madison Brooks  
Nathaniel Burkhardt  
Kasey Fairbanks  
Jalen Harrington  
Ijjae Hill  
Kate Keeler  
Rebekah Kreunen  
Claire McArthur  
Joanna Morales

Sara Morris  
Jordan Morris  
Tia Moye  
Molly Mudd  
Emily Pakaski  
Luca Pedone  
Sophia Rosa  
Elizabeth Shagen  
Zion Smith  
Samantha Steinberg  
Dyllan Thompson  
Kristen Verma



NANCY GROH, EdD, LAT, ATC  
PRESIDENT

## NCATA Hall of Fame Class of 2026 Congratulations to Dr. Henning and Dr. O'Donoghue!

**Jolene Henning, EdD, LAT, ATC** (pictured left) Dr. Henning has been a certified athletic trainer since 1996 and currently serves as Chair and Program Director of Athletic Training at High Point University. A visionary leader in athletic training education, she has guided her program through two consecutive 10-year CAATE accreditations while building innovative graduate pathways and strengthening professional standards. Recognized with honors including the NCATA Bill Griffin Most Outstanding Athletic Trainer Award and NCATA Educator of the Year, Dr. Henning's lasting impact is reflected in the countless students she has mentored and the leadership she continues to provide to the profession

**Jennifer O'Donoghue, PhD, LAT, ATC, CSCS** (pictured right) Dr. O'Donoghue has dedicated her career to advancing athletic training through steadfast leadership, service, and mentorship. A respected leader within NCATA, she

has served in key roles that strengthened the association's strategic direction and supported athletic trainers across North Carolina. Known for her professionalism, collaborative spirit, and commitment to developing future leaders, her lasting impact on the profession reflects her unwavering dedication to advocacy, service, and excellence.



The NCATA also recognized the following award and scholarship recipients in March.

- NCATA AT Service Award Miles Kliewer, Eugene Everett
- NCATA Presidential Award Brandy Jones-Neelam, Dr. Aaron Allen
- NCATA Young Professional of the Year Award Hannah McGowan
- NCATA Lifesaver Certificate Nate Clark, Mckenzie Martin, Dayziana McArthur, LaKindra McKnight, Kate Prescott, Amber Strickland, Rachel Wilkerson
- NCATA Presidential Scholarship of Leadership Shayla Richardson
- NCATA Hall of Fame Scholarship of Academic Excellence Sierra Davenport
- NCATA Pioneer Scholarship for Service Isabella Wilson

### Leadership Institute

The NCATA Leadership Institute hosted its last meeting in conjunction with the NCATA Spring Symposium. Leadership Fellows in attendance included: Tomas Chao, Tyler DePew, Reece Hayes, Mijon Knight, Hannah McGowan, Nick Seiler, Amber Seymour, Rebecca Shomo, Kou Yang and Grant Yarbrough. Excellent speakers engaged fellows in discussion about topics such as Affirmative Inquiry, High-Performance Environments, and the Future of Leadership in the Athletic Training. The group heard from Ray Davis, District III Director; Denise Henning, Director of the WCE Community College Collaborative at UNC Wilmington; and Tyler Knight, Professional Sport Athletic Trainer. The Leadership fellows will meet again this summer to discuss topics and hear from speakers surrounding effective leadership. (continued)





### New Executive Board Members Assume Office

During the symposium, new leadership for the Association was also officially installed. Nancy Groh took office as President of the NCATA, and Taryn Strickland assumed the role of Vice President. The NCATA Executive Board now consists of President Nancy Groh, Vice President Taryn Strickland, Secretary Courtney Phelps, and Treasurer Jarrett Friday. *Pictured left to right: Taryn Strickland, Courtney Phelps, Nancy Groh, Jarrett Friday*

### Jarrett Friday attends NATA Policy Summit

Jarrett Friday, Treasurer of the NCATA and athletic trainer with CaroMont Health, (pictured right) represented North Carolina at the 2026 National Athletic Trainers' Association Policy Summit, held March 30th & 31st in Washington, D.C. The NATA Governmental Affairs team hosted over 50 members from various states to discuss Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) issues, privilege for athletic trainers in the military setting, and mental health support for healthcare workers via the Lorna Breen Act.



Athletic Trainers went to at least four meetings with legislative staff to discuss how the key issues presented affect athletic trainers and how Congress can support athletic trainers in our nation and in our state. Jarrett was able to meet with four legislative staff members and visited nine additional legislative offices, all of whom were receptive to these conversations and asked insightful questions regarding the efforts of athletic trainers. Across all 12 groups of attendees, contact with nearly 150 different legislative offices was made in just over four hours. It was a highly productive day for athletic trainers in both our state and nation and we created relationships that will hold much value in our profession and in high school athletics.



The OATH committee (Our Athletic Trainers Helping) is continuing to help our members. So far this year we have been able to award a vacuum splint bag to head athletic trainer Julianna Blatz (pictured left) at High Point Central High school after she applied for hardship assistance. The committee is hoping to continue on this path and add more ways to help members in the future.

### OATH Grant

The OATH committee (Our Athletic Trainers Helping) is continuing to help our members. So far this year we have been able to award a vacuum splint bag to head athletic trainer Julianna Blatz (pictured left) at High Point Central High school after she applied for hardship assistance. The committee is hoping to continue on this path and add more ways to help members in the future.

## Congratulations to the NCATA members on first time membership to the NATA!

Ryley Anderson  
Ella Andrychowski  
Isabella Asimacopoulou  
Catherine Basinger  
Allison Brooks  
Jade Brown  
Sage Brown  
Kelsey Burge  
Evan Chouinard  
Sophia Cremeans  
Camille Crowder  
Alysa Dent  
Dylan Edwards  
Ms. Fox  
Charles Franklin

Kira Grotevant  
Jazmine Henry  
Corey Hildebrandt  
Julia Hunt  
Logan Jones  
Jaina Kelly  
Amanda Langkopp  
Taylor Lee  
Abigail Loding  
Kaitlyn McGonagle  
Alycia Melvin  
Alivia Meredith  
Shea Owens  
Riley Pascale  
Aidan Petty

Sydney Quinn  
Abigail Rice  
Sade Robinson  
Jekhia Robinson  
Meghan Schluckbier  
Isabella Souza  
Sydney St Jean  
Margaret Sullivan  
Olivia Tarzia  
Jordan Thompson  
Madison Walker  
Nicholas Wedra  
Katherine Whalen  
Matthew Woody



WILL CHRISTMAN, MS, LAT, ATC  
PRESIDENT

SCATA hosted “Hit the Hill” Day on March 24. Athletic trainers from across the state came to the Capitol and made our presence and priorities known — our voices made a real difference. All attendees were recognized on both the house and the senate floors and then reached out to their respective legislators. We successfully gained two new cosponsors for Bill 4753, the Athletic Training Loan Assistance Grants Program. We also built strong relationships with legislators and staff in both the House and the Senate, increasing our visibility and influence. The added cosponsors strengthen momentum for Bill 4753 and improve our chances for committee consideration and future floor action.



SCATA members and athletic trainers provided medical coverage to the Legislative House vs. Senate Softball game on March 24th. Thank you to USC Director Sports Medicine, John Kaski.



**EVERYONE IS INVITED!!** The 2026 Annual SCATA Symposium will be held on July 15-17th. Please visit our website found [HERE](#) for more information! Registration will open May 1st. Please email [president@scata.org](mailto:president@scata.org) to receive code prior to registering.

**2026 Annual SCATA Symposium**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**



South Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association

**July 15-17 2026**  
**Columbia, South Carolina**

### Symposium Highlights:

#### **Pre con Education - Wednesday July 16th “The Athletic Trainer Response: A Mass Casualty Incident”**

Athletic trainers will arrive on scene to a mock mass casualty incident, and identify unique challenges such as limited resources, the need for rapid decision-making, and the coordination of multiple responders during an MCI. Athletic trainers will triage patients in multiple different scenarios learning to prioritize patients based on severity of injuries and their role in managing these incidents. Athletic trainers must prepare for their role in disaster management events by establishing and reviewing an emergency action plan. Emergency action/disaster plans will be discussed in a lecture setting allowing time for individual review of implementation of new knowledge. This course will better prepare an athletic trainer for a possible mass casualty incident developing triage skills and understanding their role as a health care provider during a MCI. (continued)

**Student Symposium:** The SCATA Student Program offers engaging educational and professional development opportunities designed to support students at every stage. Featured sessions will explore topics such as abdominal trauma management and the transition to clinical practice, alongside the always-popular Student Quiz Bowl. Students also can connect with professionals during the Preceptor's Breakfast, creating a valuable networking experience focused on guidance, career pathways, and preceptor relationships.

**Please share with your students from other states!**

### **Golf Tournament - Wednesday July 15th - The Windermere Club**

Players will enjoy a day on the course and networking with friends and colleagues. Tournament tickets will include range balls, golf cart, breakfast and lunch. Mulligan packages will be available for purchase at the tournament. Tournament games! The Tournament will start with a 9am shotgun start and this is a captain's choice tournament.

### **Congratulations to the SCATA members on first time membership to the NATA!**

Gabriella Anyia	Daniel Hinton	Shamaz Quince
Haifaa Behbehani	Liam Hunter	Kelli Rozier
Kerri Bradley	Joseph Kamesha	Alex Russo
Jana Butler	Gracie Kent	Ashleigh Sides
Charity Counts	Miriam Leiva Enriquez	Khamiyah Smalls
Alexis DeAngelis	Jamison McGarrity	Emerald Sullivan
Joanna Delaney	Maegan McGriff	Anna Sumner
Jackson Dempsey	Sydney Mutascio	Emma Tyndall
Meridith Gannon	Conner O'Keefe	Kiara Watts
Catherine Goodman	Nicholas O'Neill	Lauren Weese
Xaviera Gregg	Ronin Pettit	Nahdea Wiley
Lisa Hall	Tatianna Putnam	Chara Wootten



**KIRK ARMSTRONG, EDD, LAT, ATC**  
PRESIDENT

### **Congratulations to the VATA members on first time membership to the NATA!**

Taylor Andersen	Malina Goodwin	Elizabeth Nicholas
Ethan Austell	Desani Goodwyn	Noah Oltman
Edward Ball	Donnie Guerrant	Nichelle Porto
Sophia Bavisotto	Madison Henry	Emma Rivas
Brenneman Beasley	Holly Hudson	Lauren Standish
Kameron Brown	S'Zahria Jones	Emily Stewart
Calum Bugg	Ellen Jones	Ryan Thacker
Sierra Bush	Colin Kriebel	Victoria Thompson
Cassidy Butt	Jamie Lawrence	Irenia Torre
Rachel Chung	Julia Mangum	Matthew Trapani
Daniel Clark	Emma Maslich	Madison Underhill
Alexandra Edwards	Jeanelle Mayberry	Kaitlyn Underwood
Adam Ellett	Kristen Meinberg	Tyler Watson
Jenna Fortunato	Reagan Moore	Jack Weaver
Taylor Gallik	Madison Morin	Carter Zimmerman
Hannah Garland	Emma Nicely	



**WVATA**  
WEST VIRGINIA ATHLETIC  
TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

SUZI KONZ, PHD, LAT, ATC, CSCS  
PRESIDENT

The WVATA 2026 Annual Sports Medicine Conference and Business meeting was held March 28th in Buckhannon, WV on the campus of WV Wesleyan College.

**The Athletic Trainer of the Year**

Jeanette Leal, Glenville State University

**The Athletic Training Student of the Year**

Kendal Mader from WVU

**Hall of Fame Class of 2026**

Dr. Rae Emrick

Dr. Jean Fruh

**Congratulations to the WVATA members on first time membership to the NATA!**

Clay Bailey  
Kimberly Brown  
Lindsay Fry  
Lauren Hansen  
Leah-Rose Ireland  
Allyson McGee  
Kaitlyn Ritter



MID ATLANTIC ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION