



Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear GATA Members,

Hello to all of you and happy belated New Year! I know for many of you this is your busiest time of the year, but I hope you are finding time for yourself and family. It was great to see so many of you at our annual meeting; we had close to 200 members in attendance. Our highlight, again this year, was our Hall of Fame and Awards Dinner. This year, we inducted Tom "Doc" Smith into our GATA Hall of Fame. Doc is a legend in the Statesboro area and it was my pleasure to see this honor bestowed upon him. Congratulations to all of our award winners and scholarship winners also. On Saturday, Chuck Kimmel, our NATA President, presented our keynote address and reminded us that apathy is a problem and it is up to EVERYONE to be active in our association and profession. I would like to thank Chuck Conner and the Education Committee for putting together an outstanding educational program; Mickey McBroom for organizing our Hall of Fame evening; and Ann Felts for taking on the high school student athletic trainer symposium. We were fortunate to have approximately 75 high school students attending this year, up from 60 last year. Finally, I want to thank Dana Cravey for his leadership and dedication to our association for the last 2 and one half years.

At our meeting, Paul Higgs began his term as Vice President and David Florkowski took over Paul's old job as Secretary. I know both of these men will do a fantastic job for our association.

Since our meeting in January, our bill HB 217, modified from last year's bill to regulate individuals practicing as athletic trainers, has successfully passed the House and as I write this, is in the Senate Rules Committee. Once it leaves the Rules Committee, it will be on the floor for a Senate vote. John Bozeman, our lobbyist at Georgia Link, has done a fantastic job, as always, for us. Also at this time, the Governor's office is considering our recommendations for members to be appointed to the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers,

due to some terms of our current members expiring. I will keep you updated on this matter as well. We recognized our legislators of the year again this year at a Georgia Tech basketball game. Mark Burkhalter (Speaker of the House Pro Tem) and Mitch Seabaugh (Senate Majority Whip) were treated to a tour of the Georgia Tech facilities, dinner at the training table, and introduced at halftime of the Ga. Tech/Duke basketball game. Thank you to Jay Shoop for organizing this event and to Tom Bair for representing the GATA.

I hope you all are involved in promoting March as National Athletic Training Month. This is a wonderful time for all of us to help promote our profession and educate the general public. Remember to send the NATA a report of all your efforts and events. I have had several of you to call with great ideas and I look forward to hearing from you at the end the month to hear how it all went! Your executive committee sent out letters and magnets to area media personnel and related associations promoting NATA month.

Please keep in mind the Georgia State Games are quickly approaching and Eric Pfeifer needs our help!! The Georgia State Games has helped the GATA in numerous ways and it is our turn to return the favor. In addition, for those who volunteer their time, a free CEU course is offered as a way of thanks. Keep in mind; this is a CEU reporting year. Please contact Eric or Tara Gochenour, Ga Games Chair, to volunteer your services.

After reading the results of the golf survey, the Executive Committee has decided to move the Warren Morris Scholarship Golf Tournament from the SEATA meeting. By doing this, we hope to attract more members as well as offer a CEU course in conjunction with the golf outing. Bruce Getz and Dana Cravey are working diligently on this project and we will update you as their efforts progress.

I would like to remind all of you that our license is good for 2 years at a time. It is YOUR responsibility to contact the GBAT to let them know of a change of name and/or address that would affect you receiving your renewal. We have SEVERAL members listed on the GBAT website with lapsed or expired license. Georgia requires us to have a VALID LICENSE to work as an athletic trainer. Please take a moment to make sure your information is up to date.

Finally, I would like to personally request all of you to get involved with YOUR association. There are numerous projects and committees that could use additional members, don't let apathy be the reason you are not involved. If there is anything I can do for you, please call, I am here for YOU!

I look forward to seeing you at SEATA!

Lori Groover, MS, LAT, ATC



GATA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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GATA Constitution and Bylaws Revised

Paul Higgs, ATC—GATA Vice President

At the 2005 Annual Meeting, the GATA Constitution and Bylaws were revised. The documents were revised for several reasons. First of all, the language of the former documents were ambiguous in places and the revisions help clarify policy. Secondly, the language needed to be updated to reflect the separation of secretary and treasurer positions, the creation of a new region, and the ability to use online means for better communication for the members. These changes were approved by the membership when enacted, but never formally added to the Constitution and Bylaws. The current document also updates the membership categories to reflect the terminology and levels used by the NATA.

One major revision included streamlining of the committee structure. Rather than listing individual committees and needing a vote from the membership to add or dissolve a committee, the President now has the ability to form or dissolve a committee as needed to benefit the association without need to wait until an annual meeting to poll the membership for approval. Another major revision was to update the membership categories and to remove the listed dues. Both of these areas were outdated and needed revision to reflect the structure now used by NATA and SEATA. Other revisions included updates to the Code of Conduct and licensure requirement for all executive officers.

The Constitution and Bylaws are important documents for our association and direct the way we conduct business. The original founders of the GATA did a tremendous job in creating the original document, as seen by the fact that very few revisions have been made in the past 14 years. The revisions approved in January should serve us well for many years to come.

Both documents can be found online at the GATA website, www.athletictraining.org.

Legislative Committee Report

Tom Bair, ATC—Chair, Legislative Committee

Congratulations on the final passage of HB 217!

HB 217 is our legislation strengthening the licensing code by removing a loophole that currently allows anyone to represent themselves as an athletic trainer in the high school setting. Once enacted, regardless of the setting in which you practice, HB 217 will no longer allow an individual to represent themselves as an athletic trainer unless they are truly a licensed athletic trainer.

As originally introduced, there was a requirement that would have required schools to disclose the qualifications of the individuals they hire to perform these services to parents. That provision was removed on the Floor of the Senate at the request of the Governor's Office on behalf of the school boards and school superintendents who felt that the requirement was a burden to school systems.

The bill now heads to the Governor for his consideration. Special thanks to Representative Jay Neal (R, Lafayette) who authored the legislation, and pushed it through the House, and also Senator Jim Whitehead (R, Augusta) who handled the legislation for us in the Senate.

The Governor is very much aware of our support for this measure as we have worked with his staff throughout the process. I would not advise any attempt to contact him or his staff regarding this measure as Representative Jay Neal is actively engaged in promoting HB 217 to the Governor.

GATA High School Athletic Trainers Meeting

Anne Felts, The Galloway School

The High School Section of the GATA Meeting went very well this year. There were a total of 75 high school students from 21 different schools. Some students came from as far away as Athens and Macon to attend the Peachtree City Meeting. The largest groups of students were from Dutchtown, Blessed Trinity, North Gwinnett, and Northview High Schools. Of the 75 students 11 were returning for their second GATA SAT Meeting.

The Meeting focused on anatomy and injuries to the elbow, as well as the elbow cadaver dissection which was performed by Dr. Jack Powell III, of the Georgia Bone and Joint Center in Newnan, Georgia. Overall the students seemed to have a good time and seemed to learn a great deal from the fabulous presenters.

The GATA would like to extend a special thank you for all of the Athletic Trainers that helped with this meeting: Lori Groover, Bruce Getz, Salina Blackstone, Dee Anderson, Sherri Burrell, Preston Bazemore, Dale Krach, Will Christman, Chip McCarty, Angela Miller, Will Utsey, Lloyd Knott, Kim Winn, and Karee Cantrell.

Anyone who is currently **working with a High School** either full time or in an outreach or contract capacity, **PLEASE** make sure your name and contact information is on the GATA High School Athletic Trainer Directory. This will cut down on the duplication of efforts, as well as keeping open lines of communication regarding the injury status of your athletes at they travel to away events. To make additions or changes please E-mail Lori Groover @: lori.groover@woodward.edu

Online High School Athletic Trainer Directory

Lori Groover, ATC—GATA President

An online high school athletic trainer directory is now available on the GATA website, www.athletictraining.org. I, with the help of Anne Felts and Jim McNeil, have begun collecting information. If the high school you cover, both public and private schools, is not on there, or the information is incorrect, please contact your REGION REP. The region reps will collect information and send it to me periodically and we will update the list. If you do not want your information listed on this document, please let your region rep know and we will delete the information. This is a great tool for those of us working at the high school level. Your region representatives are listed in the Directory section of the Newsletter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your region rep, or me!

GATA Legislators of the Year Award

Tom Bair, ATC—Chair, Legislative Committee

Once again this year Jay Shoop and Georgia Tech hosted the presentation of the GATA Legislators of The Year Awards. This was done during a mid-court presentation at half time of the Feb. 23rd Georgia Tech-Duke game. The legislators receiving this award were Representative Mark Burkhalter, House Speaker Pro Tem, and Senator Mitch Seabaugh, Majority Whip. This event has truly turned into something special for the award recipients who both are very appreciative. The efforts of Jay Shoop and Georgia Tech should be applauded by our association for making this event possible and doing it in a first class way.

Reporting Non-Licensed Athletic Trainers in Georgia

Paul Higgs, ATC—GATA Vice-President

I spoke with Yvonne LeSane of the Georgia Board of Athletic Training in Macon. This conversation was prompted by an email to her from a GATA member inquiring how to report a person practicing athletic training in Georgia without a license.

Here are excerpts from the email, including responses from Ms. LeSane:

1. What is the formal process in which I could report a potential violation of someone within the state that is practicing without a state license?

- Since I have your address, I will mail you a complaint form, however, you may simply put your complaint in writing to the Board giving as much information as you possibly can,

including any witness, proof of the infraction, etc.

2. What are the penalties? I was just made aware they had been increased?

- Penalties are set by the Board.

3. Will I be notified of any investigation being conducted or that my report of violation has been acted upon?

- You will be notified that your complaint has been received. Once a resolution has been reached, you will be notified.

4. Will my name be a matter of public record and/or shared with anyone other than the Board members?

- We maintain confidentiality of the reporting individual. If the case is taken to court by the Board attorney, you "may" be called to testify, if necessary.

5. Should my accusation become false after investigation am I liable for defamation of character?

- You should seek legal counsel regarding lawsuits against you.

Ms. LaSane stressed the need for athletic trainers to remain up to date on our practice act and check the Board website for the very latest in our profession.

All reports must be in writing and must be signed. The report will then be reviewed by the Board at its next meeting. The Board, however, will take up the matter at that point and investigate the charges. If the charges are proven factual, the Board will first issue a Cease and Desist Order. If the Order is ignored, fines may be imposed and the matter taken to court.

All reports of illegal practice should be made in writing to the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers:

Yvonne LeSane, Board Secretary
Secretary of State
Professional Licensing Boards Division
237 Coliseum Drive
Macon, GA 31217
Tele: (478) 207-1622
Fax #: (478) 207-1633

Congratulations to the 2005 GATA Award Winners:

- Jack C. Hughston Team Physician Award: Dr. Tony Crump, MD and Dr. Tommy Hopkins, MD
- Jerry Rhea Athletic Trainer of the Year Award: Gary Scott, ATC
- Warren Morris Sports Medicine Person of the Year: Dana Fowle and the Fox 5 I Team

Scholarship Winners:

- High School Scholarship: Ashley Dykes, Blessed Trinity High School
- Undergraduate Scholarship: Mary Bennett, Georgia College & State University
- Post Graduate Scholarship: Caren Walls, Georgia Southern University

GEORGIA GAMES MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Georgia State Games Commission, a GATA partner, is seeking medical volunteers for the 2005 Championships. Any ATC volunteering for any amount of time is eligible to attend the free CEU course, sponsored by the GATA and the Georgia Games, on July 23. Remember, this year is a reporting year!

Please support this organization that has been very supportive of the GATA and athletic training in general. As a result of the partnership with the Georgia Games, the GATA has received a great deal of exposure throughout the state. For specific sport and venue information and to complete the volunteer on-line form, please go to the Georgia Games website at www.georgiagames.org. Questions? Contact Karen Pfeifer at kpfeifer@kennesaw.edu or (770) 423-6487.

Dates:

Competitive Cheerleading & Dance	4/2	Kennesaw State University
Cobb Cup Team Handball	5/7	Mt. Paran School, Kennesaw
Fencing	6/10-12	Site TBD
Road Race ("Run for Life")	8/6	Kennesaw, GA
Gymnastics	8/20 or 8/27	Tucker Recreation Center

All 40+ Other Events: 7/8-7/18 Greater Atlanta Area



GEORGIA GAMES

EVENT: "Human Motion Institute Spine Symposium"
Friday, May 6 (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)
Saturday, May 7 (7:30 am - 5:30 pm)
10 Contact Hours (CEUs have been applied for)
\$150.00

LOCATION: Doctors Hospital, H2U Building
Augusta, Georgia 30909

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CONTACT: Elizabeth Lamb, ATC/L
Doctors Hospital Rehab Health Center
3624 J. Dewey Gray Circle, Suite 302
Augusta, Georgia, 30909
(706) 651-2270



SEATA

Register NOW for the

[30th Annual SEATA Clinical Symposium & Members Meeting](#)

March 31-April 3, 2005 Crown Plaza Ravinia Hotel, Atlanta, GA

[Web based Registration Form](#) [Mail-in Registration Form](#)

SEATA Governmental Affairs announces the [Inaugural Donjoy Governmental Affairs Fund-Raiser](#) at the [Rendezvous Nightclub](#) on Friday, April 1 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Help SEATA and NATA build our membership!

Give us leads on associate members and we'll contact the prospects you identify about membership. These might be team physicians, EMTs, massage therapists or other professionals interested or involved in athletic training, sports medicine or related fields. [Click here to provide Referrals for Associate Membership.](#)

ATTENTION: All SEATA Members, Important Reminder

Help to stay informed, keep your membership information current

Help us keep you informed by updating your NATA & SEATA Contact Information Now!

If possible, please add or correct your email address as this is our primary form of communication with you.

<http://www.nata.org/members1/resources.cfm>

Take the new Salary Survey

NATA has launched the new 2005 Salary Survey, and we need your help to make it a success!

AS ALWAYS, NATA WILL MAKE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY AVAILABLE FREE TO YOU AS A MEMBER. Results will be published in an upcoming issue of the NATA News.

When you take the survey, be sure to complete the entire questionnaire. You'll see a "Thank You" page if you submit a completed survey.

Because some members have said they want to look up very specific, detailed information about salaries, an online database will be available for purchase. Members who complete the survey will receive a 50% discount on the database as soon as it's available. If you

purchased the previous online database, you'll automatically get access to the new database for free if you take the new survey.
[Click HERE to take the survey](#)

CORPORATE SPONSORS MAKE OUR MEETING POSSIBLE

Harris Patel—Chair, GATA Corporate Sponsor Program

Any organization/company interested in joining the GATA Corporate Partner Program or arranging exhibit space at the meeting in January should nowcontact Chad Hyatt. Chad will be taking over the Corporate Sponsors program this year and can be reached at 706-549-1663 and aotrainer@hotmail.com

THANK YOU TO OUR GATA CORPORATE PARTNERS:

President's Partners:	Executive Partners:	Committee Partners:	Associate Partners:
Gatorade	School Health Georgia State Games DJ Ortho/ Orthopedic Solutions	Empi	Medquip TheraQuip

