



Georgia Athletic Trainer's Association NEWS

Volume 10 No. 2

Fall 2000

G.A.T.A. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Kelli Sabiston
(770) 429-5595

VICE-PRESIDENT

Tom Bair
(770) 227-6525

SECRETARY/TREASURER

J.C. Andersen
(912) 921-7403

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

NORTH

Tim Agan
(770) 386-6300

METRO ATLANTA

Diane King
(770) 813-1341

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Heath Mills
(912) 953-3173

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Philip Pieplow
(912) 245-2261

SEND YOUR NEWS ITEMS TO:

Dana Cravey
cravey@hughston.com
Hughston Sports Medicine Foundation
6262 Veterans Parkway
Columbus, GA 31908
Fax (706) 576-3379

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the GATA is gearing up for another superb annual meeting in January, I am winding down my term as GATA President. I'm sure the time for reflection will come, but for now the GATA is as busy as ever.

It was great seeing many of you in Nashville. I spoke with colleagues from other states who were still in awe of Georgia's ability to pass successful reimbursement legislation while many of them were still struggling to gain licensure. We are forever in the debt of Jerry Rhea, Warren Morris, and David Pursley for having the vision and the work ethic to gain licensure for Georgia's athletic trainers back in the 70's. They laid the foundation for all of our recent successes.

Election time is here again. Tom Bair will move into the Presidency at the 2001 Annual Meeting and the newly elected Vice-President and Secretary will begin their terms. Please take time to care for the future of the GATA by casting your votes and mailing your ballots.

We are still in need of a Chair for the High School Committee. Please contact me if you are interested in serving in this capacity. The Chair will also serve as the liaison for the SEATA Secondary Schools Committee.

Thanks to all Region Representatives and Committee Chairs for your hard work. There are many projects in the works for next year, and your efforts are appreciated.

I hope that everyone has a spectacular fall and I look forward to seeing you in January.

-Kelli Sabiston

Georgia Athletic Trainer's Association NEWS

2001 ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

The 2001 GATA Annual Meeting and Symposium will be held on Friday, January 5th and Saturday, January 6th at the Mariott Century Center (same location as the past two years) in Atlanta. The 2000 meeting was the most successful ever, and we hope this trend continues. Please plan to attend the increasingly popular Friday night session followed by social time in the hotel's lounge. Look for your registration packets later this fall. If you have any questions, contact J.C. Andersen at (912) 921-7403.

GATA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On August 10th, the GATA Executive Committee met at the Georgia Link Public Affairs Group office to discuss many items. The highlights are as follows:

- Financial Update – The GATA continues to run efficiently, and the new dues collecting procedures have increased the GATA's income. However, due to the money spent on lobbying efforts, special funding-raising efforts are still needed to maintain the relationship with Georgia Link and to be able to contribute to legislative causes.
- Separation of Secretary and Treasurer duties – These duties were separated and finalized. The By-Laws will be updated accordingly.
- 2001 Annual Meeting – Dates, program topics, exhibit times were discussed. Registration fees will be \$45.00 pre-registration and \$60 on-site. Exhibitor fees will be \$135.00. Possible Keynote speakers were discussed. Transfer of leadership was discussed.
- Newsletter – After the 2001 Annual Meeting, the Newsletter duties will be transferred to the Secretary for printing and mailing. This will be done to insure a timely delivery to members.
- Membership – Efforts are underway to secure a membership directory and to have that available at the 2001 Annual Meeting.
- Elections – Deadline for returning ballots is October 30, 2000.
- Committees – Each GATA committee was discussed and projects for the next

was discussed and projects for the next year assigned. Committee Chairs will be contacted about these projects.

- GSAHP – The viability of membership in the Georgia Society of Allied Health Professionals was discussed. It was decided that if fund-raising efforts were not sufficient, the GATA would forgo dues to GSAHP in favor of using that money for other legislative efforts.
- Education Reform Bill – The High School and Public Relations Committees are working on a letter educating those interested on the wording of the School Nurse Program.
- Appointments – Ashley White was appointed to the SEATA College and University Committee. Debra Morris was appointed as Chair of the GATA Ethics Committee. There is still an opening for the GATA High School Committee Chair and for the SEATA History and Archive Committee.
- Region Representatives – Efforts to communicate better with the GATA Region Representatives are underway. New duties for RRs will be to send out welcome letters to new GATA members in their region and to keep a region directory. These duties will be coordinated with the GATA Secretary.
- Legislative Efforts – Ideas for future action was discussed. A meeting will be held in October to better define what future action will be taken.
- Website – Changes to the GATA Website were discussed with Paul Higgs. See article in this newsletter.

REGION 1 REPORT

Greetings from Region 1. I'm sure everyone's running full stride by now, but hope you are all coping and doing well.

As for news, I am encouraged by the reports of success in billing and the EOB's stacking up with A.T.C.'s names on them. However, we knew to expect some bumps in the road. It seems that some TPA's are taking it upon themselves to exclude coverage of treatments provided by A.T.C.'s. Remember that according to the law it is not up to a plan administration group to make such a determination. Only if the plan they are managing, is a HMO that excludes A.T. services, should they be able to deny coverage, given the proper criteria for the prescription and athletic injury are met.

Region 1 would like to welcome Dale Yake P.T., ATC, and Jennifer Neroda P.T., ATC and congratulate former Region 1 member Craig Elder, on his acceptance of his new position as Curriculum Director at Southeast Missouri State University. Also, a position announcement for a GA ATC at Berry College, contact Ginger Swann.

Everyone take good care and as always, if you have any concerns or announcements for the newsletter, I can be reached at (770) 386-6300 or E-mail at xlatc@aol.com.

- Tim Agan

GATA FUND RAISING

The executive committee has asked Mike Dillon and myself to initiate fund raising activities for the association. We would like to establish a fund raising auction of sports memorabilia, athletic apparel, and gift packages, etc. Athletic trainers are in a unique position to secure items (free of charge) of interest for the membership and general public. Our tentative plans are to have two auctions; one at a University of Georgia (UG) home football game auctioning items of specific interest to UG fans and a second auction at the GATA annual meeting on Friday evening. We are very excited about the prospects of these events, and we the help of all the membership. If you are in a position to collect sports memorabilia (autographs, jerseys, balls, etc.) please contact us about these items and begin collecting them. Sports memorabilia is only one type of item we are planning to auction. Tickets to sporting events, weekend and golf packages, resorts stays, etc. would also be popular so please don't limit the items we could auction. We also are planning a silent auction where items could be bid for a specific period of time (during the live auction). This would include college/university/high school/professional sports clothing, sporting equipment, or a anything else that would generate interest. You would be amazed at what generates interest so please be creative and don't limit items to only sports memorabilia or clothing. If you would like to contribute items or have questions please contact Mike Dillon at (706) 542-8984 (e-mail at mdillon@sports.uga.edu) or myself at (912) 333-5897 (e-mail at rhoff@valdosta.edu).

We are excited about the opportunity to serve the GATA and feel we can be very successful, but we need all members of the GATA to help us collect items for the auctions.

- Russ Hoff

Georgia Athletic Trainer's Association NEWS

GATA HONORS AND AWARDS

The GATA will introduce three new awards for the upcoming year. The GATA Athletic Trainer of the Year, GATA Physician of the Year, and GATA Sports Medicine person of the Year. **Nominations need to be received by December 1, 2000. Please mail all nominations to: Greg Marr, MS/ATC / Hughston Clinic /1265 Hwy 54 West / Suite 308 / Fayetteville, GA 30214 / (O) 770-460-1900 or (FAX) 770-719-1214.**

As usual the GATA Honors and Awards Committee will be awarding three scholarships once again. High School Student Trainer (must plan on making Sports Medicine their major), Undergraduate Student Trainer, and Graduate Student Trainer. Please check the GATA web site for application update. **Deadline for COMPLETED application December 1, 2000 by 5 pm. Applications received after that date will not be considered.**

GATA ATHLETIC TRAINER OF THE YEAR

Criteria: To be eligible for the GATA Athletic Trainer of the Year Award, any worthy individual must be a certified member of the National Athletic Trainer's Association and the GATA, be licensed by the state of Georgia to practice as an athletic trainer, have demonstrated exemplary service to the profession of athletic training and the GATA.

Any member of the GATA may submit nominations to the Honors and Awards Committee. The purpose of this committee is to review all nominations and to forward the top three (3) nominations to the GATA Executive Committee by December 1st. The GATA Executive Committee will be asked to complete a ballot and return it to the chairperson no later than December 1st. The chairperson shall tally and report the results to the GATA President no later than December 15th. The recipient of the award shall be notified at the January GATA meeting.

Nomination Procedures:

Nomination forms will be available through the Chairperson of the Honors and Awards Committee and the GATA web page. In addition to the recommendation of the sponsor, three (3) letters of recommendation are to be included from (1) an employee from the nominee's place of employment (administrator, coach, fellow staff member, etc.), (2) a certified athletic trainer within the GATA, (3) a certified athletic trainer within the NATA. Included in these letters should be details of the personal character and specific contributions, which would make the nominee an appropriate choice for the award.

GATA PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Criteria: 15+ years of service to the state of Georgia. This physician has worked along side a certified athletic trainer providing care for Georgia's athletes while graciously giving of their time and service. The GATA is proud to award him/her Honorary Membership to the GATA as well as a commemorative plaque at the January Annual Symposium.

Nominations: In order to nominate a physician, two letters of recommendation from NATABOC, GATA members detailing the physician's dedication to providing Sports Medicine coverage to the athletes of the state of Georgia including statements of personal character and specific contributions making the nominee an appropriate choice for this award.

The nomination form must be completed and accompany the two letters of recommendation to the Chair of the GATA Honors and Awards Committee by December 1st of each year. The Honors and Awards Committee reviews the nominees prior to forwarding the forms and letters of recommendation to the GATA Executive Committee whom will vote on the nominees. The final decision will be made by December 15th and the award will be presented at the January Annual Symposium.

GATA SPORTS MEDICINE PERSON OF THE YEAR

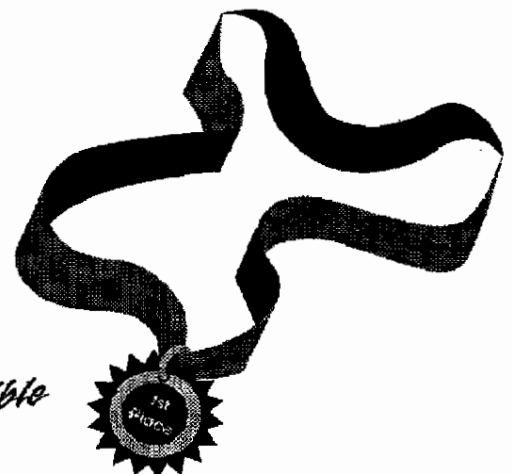
The GATA recognizes individuals who promote Athletic Training even though they are not a certified athletic trainer.

Criteria: Recommendation by 3 persons (2 of which must be NATABOC, GATA members) detailing the individual contributions to the GATA or the profession of Athletic Training.

Nomination Procedures: The nomination form must be completed and accompany the three letters of recommendation to the Chair of the GATA Honors and Awards Committee by December 1st of each year. The Honors and Awards Committee reviews the nominees prior to forwarding the forms and letters of recommendation to the GATA Executive Committee whom will vote on the nominees. The final decision will be made by December 15th and the award will be presented at the January Annual Symposium.

If anyone would like to nominate an individual for these awards please contact Greg Marr 770-460-1900 or Lori Howard 912-245-4380.

*Don't Delay!
Send your nominations
in as soon as possible*



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The preliminary schedule for the GATA 2001 Meeting has been set. The Education Committee is in the process of contacting the prospective speakers. We are excited about the upcoming symposium and feel the chosen topics will be valuable and informative. Please plan to attend this informative meeting

- Bud Cooper

GATA 2001 MEETING SCHEDULE**January 5, 2000****Friday****Topic**

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 3:00 - 5:00 pm | GATA Executive Council Meeting |
| 5:00 - 6:00 pm | Region Rep / Committee Chair Mtg |
| 6:00 - 9:30 pm | Registration / Visit Exhibits |
| 7:00 - 9:30 pm | Low Back Reevaluation - McKenzie |
| 9:30 - 11:00 pm | Visit Exhibits / GATA Social |

January 6, 2000**Saturday**

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| | | 12:30 - 1:45 pm | Lunch / Keynote Address |
| 7:00 - 8:00 am | Registration / Continental Breakfast | 1:45 - 2:30 pm | Use of Orthotics in Chronic LL Cases |
| 8:00 - 8:15 am | Welcome / Intro of Exhibitors | 2:30 - 2:45 pm | Break / Exhibits |
| 8:15 - 9:00 am | Rehab. of Overuse Shoulder Injuries | 2:45 - 3:15 pm | Sudden Death Syndrome |
| 9:10 - 9:45 am | Ulnar Collateral Reconstruction | 3:25 - 4:00 pm | On the Field Management of Spinal Inj. |
| 9:45 - 10:00 am | Break / Exhibits | 4:10 - 4:40 pm | Special Situations - Case Studies |
| 10:00 - 10:30 am | Rehab for UCL Reconstruction | 4:50 - 5:20 pm | The Role of the ACI in Clinical Education |
| 10:30 - 11:00 am | The Georgia Legislature | 5:20 - 5:30 pm | Closing Remarks |
| 11:00 - 11:30 am | Third Party Reimbursement | | |
| 11:30 - 12:30 pm | Business Meeting | | |

SEATA STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

Dates: February 16, 17, 2000

Place: Atlanta, Georgia

Cost: \$55.00

Hotel: Atlanta Marriot-North Central

Room cost: \$75.00

For reservation call Connections 1-800-262-9974

Topics: Prevention and Assessments and the Competencies Workshop for Seniors

Luncheon Speaker: Ms. Marjorie Albohm, NATA Foundation President and Chair of the Reimbursement Advisory Committee

Georgia Athletic Trainer's Association NEWS

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA

STAFF ATHLETIC TRAINER

Salary: \$22,000 - \$27,000

Job Code: Clinic-Outreach

1/2 Clinic and 1/2 High School Outreach

David Yeager, ATC, CCS

The Human Performance and Rehabilitation Center

Hughston Sports Medicine Center

6262 Veterans Parkway

Columbus, GA 31908

Fax: (706) 320-9011

Phone: (706) 324-3558

Email: none

HUGHSTON CLINIC

Sports Relations

6262 Veterans Pkwy.

Columbus, GA 31908

Phone: 706-576-3352

Fax: 706-576-3379

Position: Athletic Trainer

Qualifications: BS req'd; NATABOC; GA lic or elig. Strong computer and people skills a must. ATC will coordinate all aspects of health care for local HS and college. Responsible for providing coverage to sports events and tournaments.

Information: Please email or fax resume, cover letter, and 3 LOR to above numbers.

Contact: Bruce Getz, ATC, Director of Sports Relations

Email: bgetz@hughston.com

DOCTORS HOSPITAL CENTER FOR SPORTS MEDICINE

Sports Medicine

3624 J. Dewey Gray Circle, Suite 302

Augusta, GA 30909

Phone: 706-651-2270

Fax: 706-651-2271

Position: ATC/CSCS

Qualifications: NATABOC, CSCS, GA licensed, CPR/First Aide. Clinic/High School/CSCS coverage.

Information: Call, fax or e-mail cover letter, resume and names/phone numbers of references.

Contact: Brian Lancaster, ATC/L Coord. Sports Medicine

Email: brian.lancaster@hcahealthcare.com

DIRECTOR OF FITNESS/ASSIST W/REHAB (US-GA-THE ROCK)

Located right outside of Thomaston, Georgia, south of Griffin and Atlanta sits a perfect opportunity. Quad Graphics is a printing company that prints weekly and monthly magazines for most of the southeastern seaboard and the rest of the nation. We are the third largest printing facility in the world. We offer in house rehabilitation and fitness to our employees. Our plant is currently 850+ employees and growing. This is an industrial setting and has excellent benefits. Must be energetic outgoing and eager. NATABOC and a certification in ACE or CSCS. Cert in ACE or CSCS can be obtained within the first year of employment. Responsibilities include perf. fitness evaluations and setting up personal training sessions. Head up and run recreational program for on campus facilities. Fitness center has approx. 2200 sq ft and growing. Check out web site for more about the company.

Employee Services

Quad Graphics

100 Duplainville Road

The Rock, GA 30285

Fax: 706-646-7873

Phone: 706-648-5432

Email: qmagrah@qg.com

ATHLETIC TRAINER

Certified/licensed ATC wanted to assist orthopedist Dr. Michael Cipiela with clinical practice. Outreach to local high schools included. West Paces Ferry Medical Group in Atlanta.

Contact: Ann

West Paces Ferry

Atlanta, GA

Phone: 404-355-0655

PHOEBE PUTNEY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

PT/Sports Medicine

2336 Dawson Rd. #1100

Albany, GA 31707

Phone: 912-312-8700

Fax: 912-312-8715

Position: Staff Athletic Trainer

Qualifications: NATABOC; GA lic or elig. Experience in clinic/outreach preferred.

Information: Mail resume and 3 ref.

Application Deadline: 10/15/00

Contact: Wendi Lawson, ATC Athletic Trainer

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HUGHSTON CLINIC-ATLANTA

Sports Relations

6262 Veterans Pkwy.
Columbus, GA 31908
Phone: 706-576-3352
Fax: 706-576-3379

Position: Clinical Athletic Trainer

Qualifications: Clinical athletic training experience preferred, NATABOC, Eligible for GA Lic.

Information: This position is in the Atlanta Hughston Clinic. Work with Ortho Dr.'s in office and provide outreach.

Contact: Bruce Getz, ATC, Director of Sports Relations
Email: bgetz@hughston.com

STAFF ATHLETIC TRAINER

NATABOC; GA lic. or elig.; college football exp preferred; exercise science/fitness background preferred. Immediate opening to work in hospital based wellness center with outreach to local schools. Please call for more info., mail or fax CL, resume, and references. Resumes will be accepted until position is filled.

Sammy Muller, ATC
Washington County Reg. Med. Ctr.
P.O. Box 636
Sandersville, GA 31082
Fax: 912-552-5977
Phone: 912-552-0992

PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS INC

Clinical

3039 Premier Parkway, Suite 300
Duluth, GA 30096
Phone: 800-442-1555
Fax: 770-814-2726

Position: Clinical screening of physical therapy, chiropractic care, and general medical cases.

Qualifications: NATABOC Certification, proficient computer, telephone, and documentation skills. One year minimum clinical experience.

Contact: Todd Virgillo, ATC/L Client Relations Manager
Email: tvirgillo@procertinc.com

CLINICAL CALL CENTER REHAB. REVIEWER AND PRE-AUTHORIZATION

NATABOC Certification. Part time with the option of full time available upon discussion. Hours needed to work are early afternoon to 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Need certified athletic trainer to work in clinical call center reviewing rehabilitation Pre-Authorization requests. Proficient computer skills with basic computer applications including training of the PRI PC Applications. Good communication skills with providers and insurance carriers.

Todd Virgillo, ATC
Professional Reviews Inc.
3039 Premier Parkway
Duluth, GA 30096
Fax: 770-814-2726
Phone: 800-442-1555
Email: tvirgillo@procertinc.com

FUTURE SYMPOSIUM DATES

District 9

March 31-April 2, 2000
Crown Plaza Ravina - Atlanta, GA

NATA CONVENTION

June 19-23, 2001 - Los Angeles, CA

WEBSITE UPDATE

The World Wide Web has proven to be an excellent means of communication within our association and our profession. Our GATA website (<http://www.gsu.edu/gata>) contains a link to upcoming events in our state related to the profession of athletic. Posting to the site with a one-line hyperlink is free to any GATA member. Information beyond the one line will be charged at \$50.00 per page and will remain online for 60 days. Non-members will be charged an additional \$10.00 for the post. Any information posted will be proofread and approved by the submitter prior to going "live" on the web. Brochures or other information related to an upcoming event can be emailed as an attachment and transferred directly to the webpage for your event. All events should be related to athletic training in Georgia or be open to athletic trainers in Georgia. Information about upcoming events can be emailed to me at phiggs@mail.gcsu.edu.

-Paul Higgs

GEORGIA NATABOC EXAM SITES

November 19, 2000

Deadline for applications is October 13, 2000
Birmingham, AL

February 4, 2001

Deadline for applications is December 29, 2000
Atlanta, GA

April 22, 2001

Deadline for applications is March 16, 2001
Macon, GA

June 10, 2001

Deadline for applications is May 4, 2001
Atlanta, GA

GATA SECRETARY / VICE PRESIDENT ELECTIONS

Please mark your ballots and return to:

Tom Bair
GATA Vice President
Progressive Sports Medicine
528 8th Street
Griffin, GA 30224

For the two year term of Secretary which will begin in January of 2001 and run through December 2002 please vote for one of the below:

Greg Marr Paul Higgs

For the office of Vice-President which will begin in January of 2001 and will run through December of 2002, then in January of 2003 this person will become President through December of 2005, please vote for one of the following:

Dana Cravey Lloyd Knot

All ballots must be postmarked by November 23, 2000 to be counted.

Dana Cravey ATC

Dana graduated from Valdosta State University with a B.S. in athletic training and earned his Master's degree from Austin Peay State University. A member of the NATA since 1991, Dana has worked in both traditional and nontraditional roles as an athletic trainer.

His work experience started in 1994 as the Director of Outreach at Premier Sports Medicine in Clarksville, Tennessee. From here it was onto the traditional environment as the Head Athletic Trainer at Tattnall Square Academy in Macon. His duties including overseeing sports medicine services to 17 varsity and junior varsity sports, teaching sports medicine and health class, and organizing a yearly fundraiser for the program. After three plus years in this role Dana began his present location which is the Assistant Director of Sports Relations at the Hughston Sports Medicine Center in Columbus. In this position he provides outreach services to high school and college athletes in the Columbus area. At Hughston Dana is also responsible for providing educational courses on sports medicine to coaches, administrators and parents as well. He also has served as medical director for the Callaway Gardens Fitness Series, Peach Bowl, Bike Ride Across Georgia, and various Georgia High School Association events. He also served in the capacity of athletic trainer for the GACA/GISA All-Star games, Buick Challenge PGA, LPGA Nancy Lopez Classic, and is a Certified Sports First Aid Instructor for the GHSA.

In 1997 the High School Award of Excellence for Sports Medicine was bestowed to Tattnall Square Academy under Dana's direction. He has served as an NATABOC Examiner and over the years and is a certified facilitator for the practical portion of the exam. He served as a ATC during the 1996 Atlanta Olympic games covering basketball. He has presented numerous lectures on the need for certified athletic trainers in the secondary school and junior college level. He was the Chairman of the GATA High School Committee for two years. In this role he organized the first ever High School state wide student trainer camp which raised funds for the GATA scholarship program. Presently Dana serves as the Public Relations Chairman for the GATA. His responsibilities include producing the newsletter for the association and his committee produced the latest brochure which is used across the state to educate potential employers about ATC's. His committee also just released the new NATA public service announcement to six television stations across the state.

Dana's volunteer activities includes the American Cancer Society, serving on the board for Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Institute of Athletic Health Care and Research. In his spare time Dana enjoys spending time with family and friends and golfing. Dana looks forward to providing the GATA members with honesty, loyalty and dedication as the Vice President of this great association.

William Lloyd Knott

As a twenty-five year veteran of the National Athletic Trainers Association, Lloyd Knott knows the importance of creating a professional status for certified trainers in both business and educational environments. His personal desire to increase public awareness about the role of athletic trainers in Georgia has enticed Lloyd to seek the office of GATA Vice President. Mr. Knott brings to the political arena a wealth of community involvement. He has served as an instructor for the American Heart Association, and provides Sport First Aid Training for the Georgia High School Association.

Throughout his seventeen years as the Head Athletic Trainer of East Coweta High School, Mr. Knott has served as a model for the necessity of athletic trainers in the high school setting. By establishing a class for student trainers in the high school curriculum, Lloyd has heightened the interest to pursue athletic training as a career. Students, in turn, honored Coach Knott, as they affectionally call him, with the title "Star Teacher for Coweta County" in 1990. The Georgia High School Association gave further recognition to Mr. Knott in 1998 when he was named Assistant Coach of the Year. The highlight of his professional career was receiving the SEATA High School Trainer of the Year award in 1996. To be honored by his fellow trainers with this award was extremely gratifying yet humbling.

The past several years, Mr. Knott has played an instrumental role in seeking legislation from the Georgia General Assembly regarding the school nurse program. He has also worked with the GATA High School Committee in establishing more job opportunities for athletic trainers. For the National Athletic Trainers Association, Mr. Knott has served the Board of Certification as a national test examiner.

Despite his busy schedule, Mr. Knott still finds time for his family. His wife of twenty-two years, Lisa, is an economics teacher at East Coweta High School. His children, Christina (17) and William (15) are ECHS students who help their Dad with demanding responsibilities in the training room.

Lloyd Knott has a proven record of service to community, state and national associations. As a candidate for the Vice President of GATA, Mr. Knott promises to work hard as an advocate for professionalism in athletic training. He will listen to the needs of the association members and act as a voice to promote the agenda of the Georgia Athletic Trainers Association.

Paul Higgs ATC

I have been active in athletic training on many levels from my days as a student athletic trainer in a small high school to a head athletic trainer in a college. Along the way, I have had the opportunity to also work in the clinic, professional, outreach, and elite levels and seen many changes in the profession and in the Georgia Athletic Trainers Association. These experiences have helped me to grow as a professional as well as learn to appreciate the strengths and advantages of each setting.

Our Association has grown from a small group of athletic trainers with a common interest into a powerful organization of healthcare professionals. We face changes in our profession on many levels from third-party reimbursement to education reform and a strong professional association is vital to those changes being implemented successfully.

I look to utilize the skills learned from a variety of settings to serve the Association to the best of my ability. I believe I have the organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills to perform the duties of the office of secretary in a capable and efficient way. I feel I will be able to work with professionals in all settings and relay the needs and thoughts of the members to the rest of the Executive Board as well as serve as a positive representative for our association to others in the state.

Greg Marr ATC

Greg Marr joined the Hughston Clinic in the Fall of 1992. He graduated in 1990 with a BS in Sports Medicine from a NATA approved curriculum at California University of Pennsylvania. He then obtained his Master of Science in Sports Medicine from Georgia State University in the summer of 1992. He currently serves as Sports Relations Specialist for the Atlanta Region. Greg has previously served of the Medical Advisory Board for the Georgia State Games. He also serves as the Medical Administrator for the Atlanta Tennis Challenge, LPGA Chick-fil-A Charity Championship, and the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl. Greg also helps coordinate medical coverage for several GHSA Championship events, and also serves as a Sports First Aid for the GHSA Community Coach Program. He has provided sideline medical coverage for many schools of South Fulton and Fayette counties. He also coordinates the yearly pre-participation physicals for the local high schools and middle schools. Greg is an active member of the Georgia Athletic Trainers Association and serves as the Chairman for the Honors and Awards Committee. Originally from Connellsville, PA, Greg and his wife Annemarie now reside in Gay, GA with their two daughters Mary Katherine and Kaley. They are also expecting their third child a son in late December. In his free time Greg enjoys golf, reading, and family activities.

Georgia Athletic Trainer's Association NEWS

LET'S HONOR OUR MEMBERS

The NATA Honors and Awards Committee is looking for membership assistance in the identification and sponsorship of the qualified candidates in our state associations. The three awards for athletic trainers include the NATA Service Award (eligible with 15 years certified membership), Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer (eligible with 20 years of certified membership), and Hall of Fame (eligible with 25 years of membership). Nomination forms can be requested by calling Barbara Niland at the national office, 800-879-6282, ext. 121, or e-mail request to barbara@nata.org or by contacting the NATA web site at www.nata.org. Nomination forms for Honorary Member and President's Challenge Awards can be obtained using the same process.

Please review the features of these awards in the September, October, November and December 2000 issues of the NATA NEWS. Thank you in advance for your assistance in honoring the excellence of our membership.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

Please forward any names of vendors that you use that may be interested in exhibiting at the GATA Annual Meeting or anyone you may think that may also be interested in becoming involved as a corporate sponsor. The first of several letters and phone calls will be going out this month so please contact me at: Mike Dillon, ATC, 1 Selig Circle, Athens, Georgia 30603, (706) 542-8984, Fax (706) 542-9061, e-mail: mdillon@sports.uga.edu.

- Mike Dillon

GEORGIA STATE GAMES

Anyone interested in becoming a liason between the GATA and the Georgia State Games, please contact Eric Pfeifer at 770-523-3581

GATA ATHLETIC TRAINER REIMBURSEMENT COMMITTEE

October 1, 2000 is a momentous day for the hospital based Athletic Trainer. This is the day that the new provider revenue code becomes effective. Thanks to the efforts of the NATA and The Reimbursement Advisory Group (RAG) we now have the ability to identify ourselves with our own code. The new code number is 951. If you are in a hospital setting and need more information on using the new 951 code, or need help in getting started with Athletic Trainer Reimbursement, please contact Bruce Getz.

Several members of the Committee have visited a variety of practice settings across the state in an effort to assist the Athletic Trainers and their administrators with the mechanics of Athletic Trainer Reimbursement. This has been a great experience for everyone involved and will, hopefully, create some momentum for the facility to get started with the entire process. If you would like to have a member of the committee visit your facility please let Bruce Getz know and he will set it up for you.

The NATA and the Reimbursement Advisory Group have done many great things for us in the last year. The new hospital revenue code (951) and the new ruling on CPT codes are both great news. The CPT coding committee of the American Medical Association (AMA) approved the development of a new set of codes for Athletic Trainers. These will be "evaluation" and "re-evaluation" codes. They will be in effect in January 2002.

The NATA does need your help. If you are in a facility that is billing for Athletic Trainer Services they are looking for answers to the following questions:

1. Are you in a facility that is being reimbursed by CIGNA, BC/BS or Hartford for athletic training services?
2. If the answer to question #1 is yes:
 - A. Is the reimbursement billed under (1) a physician's provider number, (2) services provided as a physical therapy aid or (3) other?

If you have any information for the NATA, please pass it on to Bruce Getz and he will forward it to the NATA. This will also allow the Committee to stay informed of the activities in the state.

The Committee would like to thank everyone for their support throughout this effort. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of Athletic Trainer Reimbursement.

- Bruce Getz

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The new NATA public service announcement has been released by the national office. The state PR committee had copies made and mailed to TV stations in Macon, Albany, Atlanta, Columbus and GPTV. Hopefully you will see the PSA in your community. The purpose of the PSA is to educate potential employers and school administrations across the country about the role the ATC can play in their workplace. If you would like a copy of the TV or radio PSA please call or e-mail me here at Hughston.

The month of March 2001 will be known as ATC month across the nation. More information will be available at the state meeting with regards to how you can play a role in your community with regards to this event. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to call or write.

- Dana Cravey

Georgia Athletic Trainer's Association NEWS

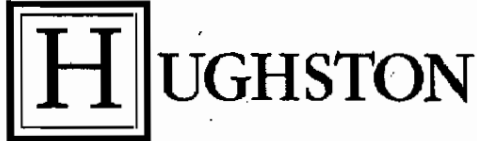
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