



DECEMBER 2024

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

NATA UPDATES

- Remember to re-new your NATA membership
- Remember to re-new your BOC maintenance fee
- Don't forget The Foundation and NATA PAC needs your support. There are many ways you can help.
- *The NATA Needs YOU!!!*_PLEASE login to GATher, update your profile, & check for volunteer updates/opportunities. I am in the process of finalizing various positions. However, there are other positions available.
- *NATAEducATe* will have new availability of CEU's that allow you to spend your free 150 bucks that is a part of your annual membership benefits.
- Please don't forget to share your NATA posts on social media. There are quite a few postings happening! You never know who may be following you and not following the NATA, D3 or even our states.
- We are in the middle of finalizing a change in the NATA staff. Please be patient as we navigate this change that begins January 1st, 2025.
- Lastly, we have many things happening on our NATA.org website that are member benefits, i.e. Blogs, Town Halls, Advocacy, etc.

Happy Holidays & stay safe!

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

As the Holiday Season is upon us, I want to take a moment to express gratitude for the dedication, hard work, and passion that all of you bring daily to the athletic training profession. Your commitment to the profession is truly inspiring. Each of us have a responsibility to serve the profession to the best of our ability, I especially want to thank the members of the MAATA Executive Board and the District Council for the leadership they provided in 2024.

As you start making plans for 2025, mark your calendar to attend the 2025 MAATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium in Virginia Beach in May. It will be a great educational and networking opportunity.

I wish you joy, peace, and time to recharge with your friends and loved ones during this season. Thank you for your ongoing contributions to the profession, and I look forward to continuing our work together in the coming year.

Season's greetings!

District Vice-President – Scott Cook, MS, LAT, ATC

Mark your calendars to attend the 2025 MAATA Annual Meeting on May 2-5th at the Founders Inn in VA Beach. Please note earlier date this year! Look for registration to open around Mid-January. The Educational Program will be announced at a later date. Make plans to attend to earn CEU's, meet with our vendors, attend the Quiz Bowl, socialize, network and meet new colleagues!

The Annual Meeting Site Committee is currently reviewing submissions for the 2026 and 2027 MAATA Annual Meeting. If you have any comments or feedback, please reach out to Scott Cook, MAATA Vice President at maatameetingplanner@gmail.com. I hope that you are able to enjoy some downtime and enjoy the holidays with friends and family. See you at the beach!!

District Secretary – Erin Cash, PhD, LAT, ATC

Hello District 3 and Happy Holidays! I would like to remind everyone of their NATA membership renewals. A membership with NATA is a one-stop shop. Paying your dues pays for all three levels: NATA, District, and State! Membership provides access to member benefits in professional growth, support, advocacy, and connection. Learn more about the value of NATA membership [HERE](#)

The NATA released very exciting news for 2025! The ENTIRE [NATA EducATe](#) On-Demand Course Catalog (more than 150 courses!) covering a host of topics you encounter daily in your practice - is now included in your membership! Renew your NATA membership today and earn CEUs at your own pace to take advantage of this awesome perk!

Members have until January 31st to renew their membership before losing access to all benefits. NATA has options in place to assist members who may be going through an economic hardship. Contact Member Services at membership@nata.org or 972-532-8897 to discuss how they can help.

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

Early Professionals Committee – Emily Meyerl, MS, LAT, ATC

Happy Holidays everyone! The Early Professional Committee has extended the deadline for the Early Professionals' Excellence award to December 31st, 2024. Please look at the application and criteria here <https://www.nata.org/early-professionals-excellence-award-overview-and-criteria> EPC has started doing Instagram lives once a month so keep an eye out so you can join us! Applications are still open for the next cycle of positions on the EPC so please visit Gather to apply.

Educational Program Committee – Claire Adkinson, MS, LAT, ATC

We extend our gratitude to all individuals who submitted abstracts for the 2025 Annual Symposium. A total of 32 submissions were received. The education committee is currently engaged in a thorough review of each abstract to ensure the development of a high-quality educational program. The finalized schedule will be made available by mid-January.

Should you have any inquiries, please feel free to reach out.

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

Currently the MAATA Honors & Awards candidate information is being reviewed and scored. The Honors & Awards Committee appreciates all the nominations received. The nominees for the 2025 awards are topnotch performers in the athletic training profession. We will be announcing the 2025 Honors and Award recipients in the January 2025 e-blast and Spring 2025 Newsletter. The Honors & Awards Ceremony will be held in VA Beach at the District III Meeting in May 2025.

LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee – Kirk Armstrong, EdD, ATC

Nominations are open for the NATA LGBTQ Inclusive Excellence. If you know an Athletic Trainer that is making a difference in patient care, please consider nominating that individual for the LGBTQ Inclusive Excellence Award. Self-nominations are accepted. Nominations are open through December 15.

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

Fall 2024 Awards

Several proposals were received for the Research and Grants Committee to review for the Fall 2024 deadline.

Congratulations to Dr. Hyunwook Lee from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who received support for his proposal entitled "Linking Tibiofemoral Contact Forces with Biological Properties of Articular Cartilage". Dr. Lee's team will examine 1) limb differences in tibiofemoral contact force during walking at preoperative and 2, 4, 6 and 12 months post-ACLR, and 2) the association between tibiofemoral joint contact force and the change in cartilage composition (i.e. estimates of proteoglycan density) at each timepoint (pre-ACLR, 2, 4, 6, and 12 months post-ACLR).

We look forward to having Dr. Lee present the findings at an upcoming meeting!

MAATA Campaign for Research

Thinking about how you can support your district and the researchers who are exploring important areas within athletic training? Please consider making a donation to the new MAATA Campaign for Research initiative ([MAATA Campaign for Research | maata](#)).

The goal of this funding campaign is to increase the research funding for the members of District III in order for our membership to pursue projects that require larger amounts of funding. This campaign will be instrumental in supporting our membership and those who lead the way through the discovery, integration and application of scholarship within the discipline.

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

Happy Holidays to All!

Scholarship Committee – Sara Pittelkau, MA, LAT, ATC

The Scholarship Committee is excited to announce the 2025 scholarships will be open for submissions beginning January 1, 2025. The scholarship deadline is March 15, 2025 11:59pm. Please be sure all requirements are completed, as incomplete applications will not be accepted/scored. Please contact Sara Pittelkau, Scholarship Committee Chair @ maata.scholarships@gmail.com

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

Young Professional Committee

Deadlines for Nominations for the MAATA Distinguished Young Professionals Award have been extended till January 8th. For more information and for the nomination form please go to: <https://www.maata.org/youngprofessionals> and click on the PDF for the MAATA Distinguished Young Professionals Award.

We have committee openings for the following: District of Columbia Representative, and Virginia state representative and two Member at Large Representative. These positions are a one year, twice renewable term.

Candidates should be:

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

- Interested applicants should email an updated resume and letter of interest to d3sectry@gmail.com

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

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

Student Senate – Emily Hildebrand, PhD, LAT, ATC

We would like to remind all students there's still time to become a [NATA member](#) in order to qualify for scholarships (such as the [NATA Research and Education Foundation](#) and [MAATA](#)) and take advantage on virtual events and in-person conferences. Make sure you are connecting with your state organizations for scholarship information and upcoming events like Lobby Day. Have something fun going on in your ATP or looking for state information? [Email us!](#)

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

Happy Holidays!! Check out this fun giveaway that the Connection and Engagement Committee is doing! There is still one week left to enter! Renew your membership and post a picture for proof in the comments on Gather; you will be entered into a drawing for an Amazon gift card! The contest will end on December 16th. If you struggle to pay your membership, several affordable options are available. Contact membership services, and they are always happy to help. If you are trying to convince your employer to pay for your membership, there are justification letters you can tailor to fit your needs. They are on the member benefits page on the NATA website at the bottom. I have provided the link for you:

<https://www.nata.org/benefits-nata-membership>. I hope everyone has a great holiday filled with much laughter and love!

NATA Convention Program Committee – Michael Higgins PhD, LAT, ATC, PT, CSCS

The CPC met last month to finalize programming for the upcoming NATA 2025 Clinical Symposium and AT Expo, which will be held in Orlando, Florida, from June 24th to 27th. The Two Themes for the 2025 meeting are: **Innovations in risk reduction** and **Advances in soft tissue injury management**. The convention website will be open in the early part of 2025, with all the information you will need for registration, programming, events, and housing.

Moderators always welcome!

If you would like to be a moderator in Orlando, please let me know. Michael Higgins email: Mjh7s@virginia.edu

If you have any questions regarding Convention Programming, please reach and I will be happy to speak with you. Thank you for allowing me to represent District III on this committee.

NATA Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee – Xavion Santiago, MS, LAT, ATC, FMT

Happy Holidays to All! New NATA EDAC awards are here! Along with the Bill Chisolm Professional Service Award, which has been awarded annually since 1994, we now have 4 other awards.

Bill Chisolm Professional Service Award is to recognize an individual who has contributed to the development and enhancement of ethnically diverse athletic trainers.

Barnes/Horton/Johnson Entrepreneurship Award - EDAC Entrepreneurship Award was established to recognize an individual, and/or company/corporation that has shown dedication & excellence in providing products and/or services that directly impact ethnically diverse athletic trainers and/or patient populations.

Frank Walters Trailblazer Award - The EDAC Trailblazer Award was established to recognize an early career / career advancement professional (<12 years as a Certified Athletic Trainer) who has demonstrated leadership & mentorship of ethnically diverse individuals & has fostered growth & a visionary approach towards ethnically diverse athletic trainers and/or patient populations.

Marsha Grant-Ford Distinguished Research Award - The EDAC Distinguished Research Award recognizes an individual and/or research team for excellence in research and/or authorship related to ethnically diverse athletic trainers, patient populations, and/or injuries / illnesses commonly affecting ethnically diverse individuals.

Rene Shingles Apple Award - The EDAC Apple Award was established to recognize an individual, an institution, and/or a company that has demonstrated excellence in the education, recruitment, retention, promotion, and/or mentorship of ethnically diverse students, faculty, staff, and/or employees.

Click the link (award name) to nominate a deserving colleague today!

Make sure you check out the DEIA council updates on page 38 of the most recent NATA News. As always please reach out to me with any questions, comments or concerns at

D3EDACRep@gmail.com

Be GreAT!

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

Every day, NATA and the NATA Government Affairs Department are working on behalf of the athletic training profession. With staff members experienced in all aspects of the legislative process, the NATA Government Affairs Department is the sole department focused on advocacy for the profession. NATA's goal is to ensure that all ATs can work to the fullest extent of their

education and skill set. These bipartisan efforts consist of five key areas: state legislation, federal legislation, regulatory, reimbursement and NATAPAC.

[NATA Beat](#), a quarterly eblast, is dedicated to these government affairs efforts, ensuring members have the latest insight into the work being done to advocate for the profession. Accompanying NATA Beat, NATA Now will provide further highlights each quarter in a quick, easy-to-digest format.

Members are encouraged to visit the [Advocacy section](#) of the NATA website for further information, exclusive member-only resources and to get involved.

Remarkable success again: This past election cycle the NATAPAC made financial donations to 72 candidates (36 in the House and 36 in the Senate); ALL 72 won their elections.

DCATA – Shannon Fooks, MS, ATC, CSCS

DC Athletic trainers are in the licensure renewal. The deadline is Dec. 31st. Website to find all the information can be found [HERE](#)

We are hosting our winter CE event and business meeting on Friday, December 13th, 2024 at 10 via zoom. The event is free to our membership and only \$10 for non-members. Our CE topic is "**The Importance of Education and Training Specific to LGBTQ+ Topics**"

SCATA – Will Christman, MS, LAT, ATC

SCATA is hosting our annual Secondary School January 25, 2025, registration is open. You can find all the details on the website: https://scata.org/Secondary_Schools_Workshop

Hurry!! It is the last week to participate in our SCATA Little Caesars Fundraiser. Thank you everyone who has helped us reach our goals along the way. Can you help us sell 50 more pizzas this week?

Our Little Caesars Fundraiser is going strong! **Together we have raised \$489 for SCATA!** Friday, December 20th is the last day to order through our SCATA links!

Our group earns \$6 profit on every item we sell and we need your help to reach our goal! Remember to share the unique link or QR code with family & friends across the country via email or text. Post your link on your social media pages to sell even more!

<https://fundraising.littlecaesars.com/products?support=45effcb3-4f06-4e7a-807f-39d0b443f91d>

SCATA Pizza fundraiser supports:

- Secondary School Workshop, January 2025
- Hit The Hill Day, February 2025

- Annual SCATA Symposium, July 2025
- Advocacy efforts for athletic training, year round
- Organization operation costs, year round

Fundraiser FAQs:

- Meal deal codes work nationwide at any Little Caesars
- Meal deal codes are good for 365 days
- Pizza kits ship directly to your address via FedEx
- Pizza kits arrive in a cooler and can be frozen for later use
- There is a gluten free pizza kit option

Thank you for supporting SCATA and our pizza fundraiser. SCATA works year round on the growth and advancement of the athletic training profession in the state of South Carolina.

VATA – Michael Kotelnicki EdS, ATC, LAT

Virginia will be hosting the 2025 VATA Annual Meeting and awards weekend January 3-5 in Hampton Rhodes VA. The links provided will provide you the information to register, pay and see the schedule. Hope to see you there.

VATA Annual Meeting (this link has everything, just scroll down to see all the other links): [HERE](#)

VATA Annual Meeting Schedule: [HERE](#)

VATA Annual Meeting General Information: [HERE](#)

VATA Annual Meeting Hotel Information: [HERE](#)

WVATA – Samantha Scarneo-Miller, PhD, LAT, ATC

The WVATA is proud to announce we have retained the services of Bowles Rice as our lobbyist. We are very grateful to the responses we received from the organizations that responded to our Request for Proposals. We are confident that Kendra Amick, Peter Markham and Richie Heath will help us continue to advance our support of athletic trainers and health and safety initiatives in the state.

Our state meeting is coming up – April 12, 2025 in Morgantown, WV. A call for proposals was sent out with a due date of January 31 and call for abstracts from students due February 12. Those interested who cannot find the email sent earlier in December can reach out to Sann (Sanntha.scarneomiller@hsc.wvu.edu). We are looking forward to developing a strong program and will send out a registration link once we get speakers confirmed. Finally, we are kicking off our fundraising efforts, led by Dr. Laura Wamsley, and we are hopeful to get great sponsors of our association who can help us with the resources necessary to continue to advocate for this great profession. Happy holidays to all and we look forward to seeing you in 2025!