



E-News Bulletin

A PUBLICATION OF THE VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS

VAAT ON-LINE

Spring 2007

VAAT President's Message

Dear VAAT Member and Valued Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and enjoying the slow end of winter and approaching spring. As you are aware there is a tremendous amount of activity for our profession legislatively both on the national and state level. Monday, February 26th was NATA Capital Hill Day 2007 in Washington, DC. Over 300 athletic trainers were in the nation's capital to meet with congressional and senatorial members to speak on behalf and encourage support for adding athletic trainers as Medicare healthcare providers. We should be hearing soon the results of their efforts.

Closer to home and to follow up on my letter of December, here is an important update. At that time there were discussions pertaining to the Physical Therapy Act, the assistive personnel language and its removal. The Office of Professional Regulation is proposing a bill to remove the assistive personnel language AND to require reimbursement for athletic trainers in Vermont. As you may image this is a huge step forward for the people of Vermont in gaining an additional profession healthcare resource / provider for their physical needs. This also will secure the jobs of Athletic Trainers in the clinical setting.

Your assistance is needed in speaking to healthcare providers you work with and your legislators to inform them of this important bill and for their support. As more information becomes available, emails will be sent out. Also please check our webpage regularly for updates (www.vtathletictrainers.org)

Please make note and do your part on other items in this newsletter which will affect you, NPI number, help a committee, and nominate some one for our upcoming vacancies on the Executive Committee. We need nominations for our state awards and for VAAT scholarships.

As this is my last letter as your President as Tim Tourville will take over the office at our state meeting in the spring, I would like to thank and recognize the other members of the EC, Tim Tourville, Denise Alosa, Leo LaBonte, Alan Maynard and Becca Choquette for all of their time efforts and dedication to the organization and to you the members who make our association a strong and vibrant one. On a personal note I cannot thank them enough for all of the support and hard work to make my time as President a most memorable one. I would also be remiss if I did not thank Mike Landsberg, Heidi McClellan, and Jenneth Parker for all the effort and time working on our legislative and reimbursements activities. Their involvement and the work of our lobbyist Allison Demag have been

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VAAT MISSION STATEMENT

To help us achieve this vision, the mission of the NATA and VAAT is to enhance the quality of health care for the physically active and advance the profession of athletic training through education and research in prevention, evaluation, management and rehabilitation of injuries.

Our mission statement underscores our commitment to education and excellence in athletic training and also emphasizes our dedication to providing quality health care.

ADDRESS OR EMAIL CHANGE?

To those members who have moved, we need your help. Your corrected contact information is requested. Please go to the NATA website "Members Only" section nata.org/members1/members.cfm to update. Please be assured your information will not be given away. It will only be used for NATA membership communication.

Thank you, VAAT E-Board

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Vermont Association of Athletic Trainers

VAAT Executive Board



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VATA Membership Card

Your NATA Membership card also serves as your VAAT membership card. Cards can be printed on-line at: www.nata.org.

invaluable. Allison has been our guiding light, mentor and friend through out this process and we as a profession owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude.

In closing I encourage you to stay involved in our profession, do all you can to keep it a strong and vibrant one. You do make a difference not only to the VAAT and NATA, but more importantly to all those you care for and return to their active and healthy lifestyles.

All the best and thank you again for the privilege of serving you!

Jim Murdock, ATC

Treasurer's Report

The VAAT is currently financially sound. The application to the NATA Governmental Affairs Committee for reimbursement of legislative expenses has been approved. All expenses related to the recent activities in Montpelier and associated lobbyist fees will be submitted by March 31, 2007 to the GAC.

It is important to remind members that the VAAT is your group and that monies are available for Athletic Training Month sponsored activities and other special events. If you have an idea for an event, you may submit a request to the VAAT Executive Board for consideration. All public relations activities are encouraged.

2006 Treasurer Summary

Income:

Legislative Expenses Reimbursed	\$6250.88
Membership dues	\$2795.00
Meeting Registration Fees	\$ 660.00
Total:	\$9705.88

Expenses:

Donation: NATAREF Roger Bryant memorial	\$ 150.00
Fees: BOC Approved provider number renewal	\$ 100.00
Legislative Expenses (lobbyist, travel, etc)	\$6250.88
Office Expenses (mailing, postage, webpage)	\$ 184.40
Public Relations (website, exhibit booths, speaker fees)	\$ 481.55
Winter Meeting Expense – Castleton	\$ 330.00
Scholarship	\$ 500.00
Total:	\$7374.17

NATA CEU News

All NATA members who've renewed their membership for 2007 now get **access to 9 free CEUs in NATA's Virtual Library of online courses**. Take the course, pass the quiz and earn 9 CEUs – free. [Click Here](#) to learn more.

Vermont Association of Athletic Trainers

Call for Nominations

There are two VAAT Executive Committee seats up for election this year: President and Secretary. The Process:

- 1) Nominations are open immediately and will remain open until March 31, 2007.
- 2) You may nominate a member or yourself by submitting names to the election chair, Denise Alosa.
- 3) The election committee will contact the nominee to determine if the said person would like to accept the nomination.
- 4) A mail-in election ballot will then be distributed to the membership for voting in April.
- 5) The newly elected officers will take office at the Spring VAAT meeting in June.

Again, please forward nominations for these positions as well as contact information of the nominees to VAAT Election Chair, Denise Alosa at dalosa@sbschools.net.

March is National Athletic Training Month!

The VAAT Executive Committee is participating in NATM in many ways. Members will be included in educational programming for the Vermont EMT Association Conference. The VAAT will sponsor a vendor booth at the EMT Conference as well as at the Vermont State Athletic Directors Association (VSADA) Conference. In addition, we are actively involved announcing NATM by producing a public service announcement as well as a press release to be published in popular print media in Vermont.

There are many things individual members can do:

- Hang NATM signs in your facility
- Change your email signature and voicemail greeting to include something about NATM
- Disseminate free brochures from the NATA which cover various aspects of the Athletic Training profession
- Download a sample public service announcement from the NATA website to be read during halftime of an event, on local radio, etc.
- Ask the VAAT to have a representative come and speak to a local group about Athletic Training (e.g. teach a booster club or athletic director how to create a proposal for an ATC in their high school)

Contact the VAAT (vtatc@vtathletictrainers.org) if you want to help with NATM or if you would like more ideas on how to get involved. We have money to help support efforts such as NATM so please don't be afraid to ask. Visit the NATM section of the NATA website for additional materials and ideas: www.nata.org/natm.

Committee Vacancies

There are numerous committees at the state and district level that could use more voices. Volunteering for committees is not a huge time commitment. Please consider your involvement with an area of the profession you are most interested in. VAAT standing committees include:

- (A) Honors and Awards Committee
- (B) Bylaws Committee
- (C) Scholarship Committee
- (D) Election Committee
- (E) Public Relations Committee

VAAT Special Committees include:

- (A) Legislative Action Committee
- (B) Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee

To view the District 1 committees, please visit: www.eatad1.org/Members/chairs.php

If you see a committee that peaks your interest at the state and/or district level, please email the VAAT at: vtatc@vtathletictrainers.org

VAAT Scholarships

Nominations must be received by **April 15, 2007**. Only BOC Certified Athletic Trainers may nominate athletic training students. Previous scholarship winners are not eligible for nomination. The VAAT Scholarship Committee will screen candidates and announce the winners of the two \$500 VAAT scholarship winners to our membership at our annual spring meeting. The \$1000 NATA District 1 Scholarship winner will receive their award at the EATA Annual Meeting. Send the complete nomination packet with ALL supporting academic transcripts to:

Heather Vonasek, MS, ATC, NCTMB
Chair, VAAT Scholarship Committee
61 Huntington Road, Unit 1A
Richmond, VT 05477

Please click the link below for more scholarship information as well as to download a copy of the scholarship application. www.vtathletictrainers.org/scholarship.htm

Vermont Association of Athletic Trainers

E-News Bulletin is a publication of the Vermont Association of Athletic Trainers.

If you have questions regarding this publication, please contact the E-News Bulletin Editor and VAAT Member-at-Large:

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Please visit the VAAT web site. [Click Here](#)

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Got NPI?

NPI: National Provider Identifier Number

The Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) mandated the adoption of standard unique identifiers for health care providers, as well as the adoption of standard unique identifiers for health plans. If you are a Certified Athletic Trainer, please follow this link to obtain your National Provider Number:

<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/StaticForward.do?forward=static.npistart>

At last count, only 3,600 members – or 17 percent - of NATA members have received their NPI numbers. VT has done well by comparison to the rest of the states with almost 25% of our membership registered with an NPI number (placing us 7th out of 50 States).

Cate Brennan Lisak, Director of NATA External Affairs recently stated she's "afraid that NATA members who don't have their NPI number are truly limiting their future job opportunities as well as harming the athletic training profession. (She is) certain that the government will use the NPI number to project all-important labor figures, access student loan programs, Medicare reimbursement projections and many other uses. **Without a high percentage of participation, athletic trainers will lose ground as federally recognized health care providers.**"

The NATA strongly encourages all Athletic Trainers to register for their NPI, and equates obtaining an NPI number to having a state license, as it "adds credibility to both the individual and the profession." NPI numbers do not expire, and will be assigned to each provider forever – regardless of employment setting. "Applying for an NPI number is quick, easy and free. You don't have to be in a reimbursement situation to need an NPI number."

When filling out your application use:

Provider Code 22 (Respiratory, Rehabilitative & Restorative Service Providers) and **Taxonomy Code 2255A2300X** (Athletic Trainer).

After completing the application and receiving your NPI number, please contact Tim Tourville (ttourville@vtathletictrainers.org), so he can remove your name from the list of VT ATC's who have not received their Provider Number.

The deadline for NATA members to get their NPI number is May 23. This only takes a few minutes and is critical to many activities of the VAAT and NATA. Get your NPI# today!

Save the Dates! Spring Meeting

The VAAT will be offering an overnight educational Spring Meeting at Lake Morey, **June 15th and 16th**. This will serve as the VAAT state association meeting as well as an exciting educational/CEU opportunity. Invitations for the educational sessions will be sent to NY, NH, ME, W. Mass. and Canada so expect a diverse and interactive group of professionals. We look forward to providing the exceptional programming you have come to expect from the VAAT as well as a CEU opportunity that you don't have travel trans-continently for. If you have never been to Lake Morey and would like to check out the resort online, please use the following link: www.lakemoreyresort.com