

MINUTES
NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
August 30, 2005
CHUCK KIMMEL, ATC, PRESIDING

ROLL CALL:

Chuck Kimmel, ATC
Jeff Stone, MEd, ATC, LAT
Jim Thornton, MS, ATC
Charlie Rozanski, MEd, ATC
Marjorie Albohm, MS, ATC
Terry Noonan, MS, ATC
Sandy Miller, MS Ed, ATC
Matt Webber, MA, ATC
Andy Paulin, ATC
R.T. Floyd, EdD, ATC
Barrie Steele, MS, ATC

Paul Genender, Esq. *Legal Counsel*
Brian Conway, ATC *District VI Director-elect*
Eve Becker-Doyle, CAE
Teresa Foster Welch, CAE
Karen Peterson

CALL TO ORDER: President Kimmel called the meeting to order at 9.04 am CST.

President Kimmel expressed concern for NATA members in the path of Hurricane Katrina.

(Following the conference call, as the devastation caused by the hurricane became apparent, the board voted unanimously to donate \$2,500 from the contingency fund to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, leaving a balance of \$14,065.

Staff has been working on ways to link those NATA members impacted by the hurricane with those who wish to help. "Katrina Needs & News" is an online message board available on the NATA Web site, www.nata.org.)

NATA SUDDEN DEATH SUMMIT

Board members considered a proposal for a sudden death summit early in 2006. Athletic trainers, coaches, EMTs, physicians in a variety of specialties (cardiologists, team physicians and emergency care docs), and athletic directors would be invited. The goal of the summit is to assemble members of the athletic health care team to develop protocol for addressing sudden cardiac arrest on the playing field, and to consider the need for recognized continuing education in this area. Ron Courson (as chair), David Klossner from the NCAA and Jon Drezner (team physician from the university of Washington) would comprise the initial program committee. Attendees' participation in the summit would be funded by their respective organizations. NATA would be responsible for funding NATA representatives. This is another opportunity for NATA to take a leadership role in the medical community as it did with heat illness, care of the spine injured athlete and, most recently, spearing in football.

**VOTED: THE BOARD AUTHORIZES STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH A SUMMIT COVERING SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST. THE BOARD ALLOCATES \$10,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND TO COVER THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE EVENT.
(9,10) PASSED 10-0-0**

REVISED MISSION STATEMENT

The mission statement has been presented to and approved by all the NATA districts.

**VOTED: TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING AS NATA'S MISSION STATEMENT:
"TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDED BY
CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINERS AND TO ADVANCE THE
ATHLETIC TRAINING PROFESSION."
(2,4) PASSED 10-0-0**

2006 DUES INCREASE

All districts approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to increase membership dues for 2006.

**VOTED: TO INCREASE 2006 DUES \$10 FOR ONLINE PAYMENTS AND \$15 FOR
NON-ONLINE PAYMENTS.
(5,8) PASSED 10-0-0**

CATASTROPHIC INJURY REGISTRY

College/University Athletic Trainers' Committee chair Ron Courson proposes the creation of a catastrophic injuries registry. The start up and first year costs are estimated at \$15,000, which includes hiring a graduate assistant to track and enter information. In the past NATA has received requests from other groups for access to our members to collect such information. Charging other data collection entities for access to the data would offset some of the costs for the service. If the service starts before the 2006/07 budget year, staff will propose other means of funding in the interim. It was suggested perhaps the NCAA and the NATA Research and Education Foundation could help fund the program.

Legal counsel Paul Genender recommended staff look closely at the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPPA) and how it might impact this service.

**VOTED: TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATA
CATASTROPHIC INJURY REGISTRY. INITIAL FUNDING FOR THE
PROJECT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE 2006/07 FISCAL YEAR
BUDGET. COSTS WILL BE OFFSET (PARTIALLY) BY CHARGING
SUBSCRIBERS FOR THE DATA.
(9,1) PASSED 10-0-0**

CMS UPDATE

NATA's original lawsuit to stop implementation of the new CMS "incident to" rule was dismissed by the court on jurisdictional grounds. The court found it did not have the authority to rule on the issue. NATA's primary argument was that CMS was acting outside of its authority. When the court dismissed the case, it did not rule that CMS' actions are acceptable or legal. It remains NATA's position they are not. NATA is appealing the Court's ruling. It is not known when the Court of Appeals will rule on the appeal. In the meantime, NATA will seek a court order preventing CMS from implementing the incident to rule while the appeal is pending.

NATA remains committed to:

- preventing implementation of the new incident to rule
- obtaining a judgment that the rule is illegal
- protecting its members' right to provide athletic training services in all settings where they are qualified to practice, including providing incident to therapy services under Medicare.

Meanwhile the new incident to rule is now in effect. Members in clinical settings should check with their billing departments to find out how such services should be billed. The new incident to rule only applies to Medicare Billing, not private insurance companies. Any member with news or relevant experience to report regarding this issue, should contact the NATA office.

CMS OVERSIGHT GROUP

NATA hired lobbyist Bill Finerfrock to obtain recognition of athletic trainers as providers for Medicare services. NATA will face significant decisions as it negotiates this process. As an example, when other health care professionals have lobbied for the right to bill, they have needed to negotiate billing at a reduced rate (maybe 80%) in order to obtain that right. President Kimmel has formed the CMS Oversight Group to oversee and evaluate our lobbyist's legislative work. Members of the group are President Kimmel, Vice President Marje Albohm and Committee on Revenue chair Ken Locker. Board members will be informed on the next board call of any relevant decisions made by the oversight group.

Staff responsibilities

Teresa Foster Welch will continue to lead the CMS legal team. Cate Brennan Lisak will lead the federal legislative efforts to establish ATCs as Medicare providers. Judy Pulice will manage the state legislative efforts.

BOC EXPENSE

Board of Certification executive director Denise Fandel recently advised NATA to anticipate a large increase in costs for the CEU recording service the BOC performs for NATA members. For 2005-06, NATA will pay \$9 per certified member (about \$234,000, based on a figure of 26,000 certified members). The actual cost to the BOC is \$17.90 per certified member (about \$465,400).

Eve Becker-Doyle remarked this is another example of the increasing expense NATA will be facing in years to come. NATA must be vigilant about finding additional revenue to offset this growing expense. The Finance Committee will discuss the situation further in December.

APTA MEETING REPORT

The August 4 NATA/APTA meeting at NATA headquarters was a valuable opportunity for dialogue and relationship building.

APTA representatives

Frank Mallon	Executive Director
Andrew Guccione	Senior Vice President of Practice and Research
Ben Massey	President
Joan Bohmert	Vice President
Barney Poole	Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates
Mike Voight	President of the Sports and Physical Therapy Section

NATA representatives

Chuck Kimmel	President
Marje Albohm	Vice President
Ken Locker	Chair of Committee on Revenue
Bill Finerfrock	Lobbyist
Eve Becker-Doyle	Executive Director
Cate Brennan Lisak	Director of External Affairs

Each organization shared current and future goals, objectives and directions. Other agenda topics included:

- the special needs article in a recent edition of *NATA News*
- the concept of a 2-week student exchange observation where students from one profession observe first hand the other profession at work
- the NATA/APTA joint education program for '06 and possibly doing another in '07, focusing on educational preparation and scope of practice of each profession
- diversity in our professions and the Allied Healthcare Reinvestment Act.

A joint press release covering mutual areas of interest was not supported by the APTA.

NASM RELOCATION

The National Academy of Sports Medicine is relocating part of its operation to the Arizona School of Health Sciences in Mesa. Eric Sauers, chair of the Post Professional Education Committee, runs the graduate program at Arizona School of Health Sciences. The PPEC has recently been charged with the implementation of specialty certifications. Education Council chair Ken Knight joined Dr Sauers in expressing concern about the possible perception of a conflict of interest. NASM has assured NATA it is committed to help promote the athletic training profession but does not intend to try to take over specialty certifications for NATA.

NATA LOGO ON ANTI OBESITY POSTER

Mike Moyers of the National Wrestling Coaches Association invited NATA to add its name to a poster as part of a promotion being done by the United States Department of Agriculture. The national campaign entitled "Play hard, eat smart," is geared toward fighting childhood obesity. Part of the campaign entails the USDA making posters for individual college wrestling teams. Another aspect of the initiative is to get college coaches and athletes and athletic trainers to volunteer to visit the elementary, junior high and high schools that receive the posters, and address the students about the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyles.

VOTED: TO PERMIT THE USAGE OF THE NATA LOGO ON THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANTI-OBESITY POSTERS. (2, 8) PASSED 10-0-0

2006 CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS

Until the extent of the hurricane damage is known, no decision will be made about the venue of the 2006 convention. Staff will conduct a site visit soon.

REHABILITATION POSTER WINS AWARD

The NATA Rehabilitation poster won a bronze 2005 National Health Information Award. Since there was no gold winner in the poster category, NATA essentially took second place, finishing in front of four others. Produced by the Public Relations Committee, a new poster is released each year in conjunction with athletic training month. President Kimmel congratulated the Public Relations Committee and staff liaison Ellen Satlof.

STAFF CHANGE

Paul Carter, NATA's National Manager of Markets and Revenue, is returning to the insurance industry. September 9 is his last day at NATA. Cate Brennan Lisak will cover this role until the vacancy is filled.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10.12 pm CST.