

The Arizona Athletic Training Times

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



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Friends & Colleagues:

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at our very successful Summer Symposium, at NAU, in July. We more than doubled our attendance numbers from last year. The new 3-day format, and Dr. McPoil's very useful, practical information, received very positive feedback from attendees. Another huge "thank-you" goes to Ian McCleod and all those involved in the resounding success of the workshop.... I hope you've all survived the often chaotic, and always a bit trying, challenges of two-a-day football practices, grueling preseasons and the commencement of another academic year. It is, certainly, an annual statement about just how hard, historically, certified athletic trainers work, and strongly asserts the dedication and commitment of so many in our amazing profession.

By now you should have received a packet from the Board of Athletic Training, regarding the change in Rule R4-49-207 of our state licensing act. The change calls for earning, and reporting 25 CEU's for each compliance period to be eligible for license renewal. I would like to provide a rationale for their decision:

The original provisions of the rules did not require any continuing education, so, in effect, an Athletic Trainer could become licensed, and never have to provide proof of ongoing education or documentation of staying current on important knowledge and skills.

The Board of Athletic Training is the regulatory agency for our state's athletic trainers, so outside regulatory agencies (i.e. NATABOC) cannot be used.

According to the rules, an athletic trainer does not have to be NATABOC certified to renew his/her license. The Board felt that accepting less than the NATABOC's CEU requirement would allow athletic trainers to fall below the national standard and potentially compromise patient safety and care.

While obtaining and reporting 25 CEU's annually may appear a bit daunting, I believe the rationale is sound and, certainly, demands that we stay up to date with our practice. Each Arizona Certified Athletic Trainer has until September 20th to submit comments and give feedback to the Arizona Board of Athletic Training. I encourage anyone and everyone to do so.

In October, the AzATA Board is meeting in Phoenix for long-range planning. If you have suggestions, comments, or a vision for Association growth, please submit to one of the Board members before then end of September.

Wishing you health and success in all your personal and professional endeavors,

Chris White

AzATA President

Special points of interest:

- Low-Cost and No-cost CEU's
- Volunteer with the AzATA
- Congratulations to grant recipients
- Student news wanted

News From the Governmental Affairs Committee

John Parsons, MS, ATC
Chair, Governmental Affairs Committee

The Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) has had a busy summer. With the assistance and expertise of AzATA legal consultant Rick Ball and AzATA lobbyist Susie Cannata, the GAC held two legislative seminars for AzATA members. Both meetings provided free CEUs to all BOC certified attendees. The purpose of these seminars was to educate ATs about how to get involved in the political process. The first was held at Brophy High School in early June; the second was held prior to the start of the AzATA summer meeting in Flagstaff. Together, these seminars served nearly 45 AzATA members who were interested in learning more about the legislative topics critical to the association as it prepares for the sunset of the Athletic Training Practice Act in 2010.

Seminar topics included: a history of the current licensing statute; a review of the legislative process through which a bill becomes law; the Arizona election cycle; and practical tips for how AzATA members can get involved in political campaigns. Attendee evaluations from these seminars were very high. Although the committee is pleased that it was able to reach 45 AzATA members through these two seminars, it also recognizes that to be successful in 2010, a much greater level of member involvement will be required. Your involvement in the political process is crucial to the association's ability to gain important political influence within the state!



Early this fall, the GAC will hold a strategic planning meeting which will begin the process of planning for two important AzATA legislative events in the spring of 2007: 1) "Athletic Training Day at the Capital"; and 2) a significant governmental affairs fundraising event. Both of these activities will require significant levels of member involvement if they are to be successful. Please be on the look out for further information from the GAC on these and other important events in the late fall / early winter.



Perhaps more than any other area of AzATA activity, legislative success depends on your involvement in the political process! "Getting involved" means developing personal relationships with legislators. Now is the perfect time to do that – as of this newsletter, political campaigns are in full swing in anticipation of the November 7th election – and they all need your help. If you're unsure of how to get involved, contact any member of the GAC who can provide you with information and advice about where to start. Don't be shy! The relationship you develop with just one legislator could be the difference in our success in 2010.

Continued on next page

Governmental Affairs Update (cont'd)

And, if you do get involved in a political campaign, or if you know or get the opportunity to meet a state legislator, we would ask that you send that information to the GAC. We are in the early process of organizing a database with just this kind of information. We'll need to know your name and home address, legislative district (if you know it), the name of the legislator, and how it is that you know or met that person. Feel free to send that information by e-mail or telephone. It just might prove invaluable to our future legislative efforts.

Finally, as always, if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to contact me or any member of the GAC. Please get involved!

John Parsons
 Chair, AzATA Governmental Affairs Committee
jparsons@atsu.edu
 480-219-6032

Additional Committee Members:

Dr. Debbie Craig
 Dr. Alison Snyder
 Mr. Mike Boese
 Mr. John Neel
 Mr. Dan Wright

Volunteer with the AzATA

The AzATA is currently looking for volunteers for various committees. We are in need of a Chair for the Fundraising Committee and can always use extra sets of hands on other committees. The AzATA supports the following committees:

Newsletter	Awards/Scholarships	Governmental Affairs
Professional Education	Publicity and Promotions	Meetings and Events
All-Stars	Fundraising	Meeting exhibits

If you have an interest in helping your association, contact Chris White at cwhite@brophyprep.or or (602) 264-5291 x6271 and he will put you in touch with the appropriate committee chair.

WATC Corner: Looking for Low-Cost CEU's...



The WATC has included a new link off of its Professional Development website that lists resources for certified athletic trainers to obtain low-cost or no-cost CEU's. Former chair of the Professional Development Subcommittee, Jenny Stone, MS, ATC, was responsible for creating the links and felt that these resources could help Athletic trainers who have limited travel budgets to attend continuing education courses. To view these resources, login to the members' only section of the NATA web page and click on committees, then on the Women in Athletic Training Committee link. Click on the Professionalism link on the left and then on CEU Opportunities. You must be an NATA member to access this list on the NATA website.

Tamara Valovich McLeod, PhD, ATC, District 7 WATC Chair, can be contacted at tmcleod@atsu.edu or 480-219-6035.

NATA Foundation News

Congratulations to Alison Snyder, PhD, ATC, and Katie M. Strasser, ATC on being recipients of research grants through the NATA Foundation.

Dr. Snyder was the first ever recipient of the NATA Foundation's Post-Doctoral Fellowship. Over the next three summers, this funding will allow Dr. Snyder to pursue a certificate in Epidemiology at the University of Michigan. She will be using this fellowship to move forward in her research agenda on Outcomes in Athletic Training, specifically focusing on health-related quality of life in high school athletes.

Katie Strasser was awarded an Osternig Master's Grant through the NATA Foundation to support her master's thesis entitled, "*The Effects of Two-a-Day Practices on Cognitive Function in Collegiate Athletes.*" Katie is a graduate student in Athletic Training at the Arizona School of Health Sciences, A.T. Still University and has a graduate assistantship with Arizona State University football. Her co-investigators are Tamara Valovich McLeod PhD, ATC and Steven Erickson, MD.



Athletic Trainers Spotlight: One Accord Athletic Training

In April of 2005, *One Accord Athletic Training* opened its doors in Casa Grande, Arizona, with a commitment to provide exceptional athletic training services to the greater Pinal County. Its athletic training division serves area schools such as Coolidge High School, Santa Cruz Valley High School, and aids in services for Casa Grande Union High School.

The Athletic Training division developed by *One Accord* is a unique program that brings state-of-the-art care to these area high schools. This excellence in care can not only be seen by the quality of staff employed by *One Accord*, but also by their commitment to the community. This commitment to excellence is vital when clients include high schools who both boast of recent football and softball state championships.

Mathew Thomas, ATC, LAT directs the program. Mat has interned for national sports teams such as the NBA's Denver Nuggets and NFL's Denver Broncos. He has also worked as an athletic trainer for Eddie Johnson's "Jump" Basketball camps. Through these opportunities, Mat was privileged to learn from some of the best athletic trainers in the field, including the expert staff of athletic trainers at A.T. Still University.

One Accord's athletic training division's success is based on several factors. One, the program allows each area high school the luxury of accessing athletic trainers, physical therapists, and orthopedic medical surgeons through just one program. Two, *One Accord* employs Masters level athletic training graduate assistants from A.T. Still University in Mesa, Arizona. The current athletic trainers employed by *One Accord* are Matthew Havranek, ATC, LAT for Coolidge High School and Danelle Dykstra, ATC, LAT for Santa Cruz High School. Three, because *One Accord's* athletic training program is clinical based, the athletic trainers are able utilize onsite physical therapists in a clinical setting to aide them in their assessment and rehabilitation of an athlete's injury.

This allows the athletic trainers to monitor the progress of the student-athlete through the rehabilitation process while improving their own hands-on-skills, evaluation techniques, and development of tailored exercise programs. Athletic trainers have access to *One Accord* Physical Therapy Clinic, located in Casa Grande, to supplement their rehabilitation and provide increased care if needed. This also allows them to continually update the coaching staff on the student-athlete's condition and progress as he/she returns to the playing field.

One Accord's commitment to athletic training goes well beyond the playing field. The program also seeks to develop the talents of area high school students who are interested in the field of athletic training by allowing them to "shadow" an onsite athletic trainer. This year, they were pleased to honor a student athletic trainer for her dedication and commitment to learning both on and off the field. Also, this year, in conjunction with the Casa Grande Frito Lay Company, *One Accord* was able to award its first annual scholarship to an outstanding athlete at Santa Cruz High school.

According to Mat, it is their program's commitment to excellence which leads to the continual development of new athletic training procedures and techniques. They want to instill their staff, student athletic trainers, and student-athletes with the belief that greatness is a process, never an endpoint.

"Greatness is an inherent dynamic process, not an end point. The moment you think of yourself as great, your slide toward mediocrity will have already begun".

Student Corner

We're Looking For Student News

Attention all high school and college student athletic trainers. We are looking for ideas, news, and items of interest for the Student Corner in upcoming issues of the AzATA Athletic Training Times. Please forward any items to Amy Freeman, ATC (amfreeman@atsu.edu) or Tamara Valovich McLeod, PhD, ATC (tmcleod@atsu.edu) and let us know what you want included in your section. The deadline for the next issue is November 15, 2006.



ARIZONA ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

Tamara C. Valovich McLeod, PhD, ATC, CSCS
AzATA Newsletter Editor
Department of Sports Health Care
Arizona School of Health Sciences
5850 E. Still Circle
Mesa, AZ 85206

Phone: 480-219-6035
Fax: 480-219-6100
Email: tmcleod@atsu.edu

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Visit us on the web
www.rmata.org/azata

Printed copies of the Athletic Training Times are available by request. Please contact the newsletter editor.

Editor's Notes

As you probably noticed, the newsletter has taken on a little design change at the request of the board. We have also added the student corner and encourage submission by high school and college student members. We've added a member profile section and if you would like to suggest an ATC for us to profile, please contact Tamara.

The newsletter will continue to be published 4 times throughout the year (June, September, December, and March) with the deadlines for submission for each issue listed below.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
September	August 15
December	November 15
March	February
June	May 15

Safe in sports,

Tamara