



Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association

Spring Newsletter

SPRING 2003

Points of Interest

- Jim Buriak steps down after 3 years at helm
- VATA Symposium a success in spite of the snow
- Nominations needed for President-elect
- Constitution & Bylaws Revised
- Nominations needed for NATA Service Award

**MAATA
Symposium
May 16-18
Virginia Beach**

**NATA
Symposium
June 24-28
St. Louis**

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President's Message

Dear VATA Members

As I begin my service to the VATA as President it is appropriate for me to give you some insight into my thinking about the direction of the VATA.

There are two initiatives that are underway within the VATA that I want to continue and strengthen in the next few years. This past VATA meeting marked the inaugural Student Program. Sharon Menegoni did an excellent job. We should be proud of her and our students. By "our students" I mean all the students in Virginia not just those at your particular school. Please encourage the students you know to be part of the 2004 VATA Student Program. Getting students involved is vital for the health of our profession. A second initiative underway in the VATA is a campaign to educate high schools about the profession of athletic training. I am pleased with the leadership of Paul Rupp as heads this task. High schools are an open market for athletic trainers. Paul's efforts could help bring more jobs to Virginia Athletic Trainers, again strengthening our profession. Please see the Secondary Schools Committee report on page 2 and please get involved when he asks for your input.

There is also a new project coming to the VATA. We will be distributing the VATA Newsletter electronically. The next newsletter (Fall 2003) will come to you via email. The VATA gets your contact information from the NATA so please be sure your NATA membership/contact information is updated. For those of you without email we will make sure you get a paper copy of the newsletter.

I end my "hello" letter with a thank you to Jim Buriak. Thank you for your service to the VATA. We appreciate your hard work. I appreciate your mentoring over the past year.



Treasurer's Report

The VATA is doing well financially. Currently, there is **\$16,531.07** in the checking account and **\$30,785.14** in savings. The investment fund consisting of a money market account and a mutual fund account (Oppenheimer Main Street Growth & Income fund) is worth **\$17,193.11**, which is down from the initial investment of \$20,000.

- Cheryl Willey, VATA Treasurer

Secondary Schools Committee Report

The VATA was represented recently at the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association meeting in Richmond. Paul Rupp manned a booth in the exhibit hall of the conference in order to promote ATC's in the high school setting. Paul is also establishing a committee to deal with timely issues such as how many ATC's are working state wide in the secondary school setting and other. The Virginia athletic training certification law has had a unique impact on high school athletic trainers. To learn more about this and to get involved with this committee, contact Paul Rupp.

- Paul Rupp, Chairperson

Two VATA High School Scholarship Awards

The VATA now offers two scholarships each year to deserving high school seniors who intend to study Athletic Training upon graduation. The scholarships are designed to recognize outstanding high school students and are based primarily upon individual merit. The scholarship amount is \$1,000 for the winner and \$500 for the runner-up. No secondary school may nominate more than one candidate. The scholarship monies will be sent directly to the candidate's student account at the college or university to which the candidate has been accepted. ***The deadline for applications is April 15.*** The winners will be announced mid-May. Scholarship Committee members are Jon Almquist, Scott Powers, Chris Smith, Jim Buriak, and Terry Zablocki.

-Terry Zablocki, Chairperson

Constitution and Bylaws: Changes to be voted on in Virginia Beach

The committee has reviewed Constitution and Bylaws and has made recommendations for changes. The Constitution and Bylaws have not been revised in over 10 years. Members are encouraged to review these documents and take an active role updating them. Proposed changes and amendments can be accessed on the VATA website (<http://www.radford.edu/%7Evata-web/>). The following is a summary of the proposed changes:

- Update and modify Constitution and Bylaws to reflect current VATA practices, as well as the Virginia certification law.
- Membership category changes: "Institutional" and "Active" categories deleted. No longer relevant due to new certification law and educational reform.
- Proposed new membership categories: Certified, Allied, Fellow, Student, State-certified*.
* State-certified category will help identify ATCs who are practicing athletic training in the state.
- Membership dues structure change to reflect proposed new membership categories
- Limit voting privileges to Virginia-certified members
- Redistribute VATA region boundaries to correspond more closely with geographic location and VHSL regions and districts.

Members will vote on changes at the VATA Business Meeting on Friday, May 16th.

Contact Mark Brandenburger with feedback, questions or concerns.

Public Relations Committee Report

The Public Relations Committee is excited to be a part of the VATA program to increase awareness of the profession of Athletic Training in Virginia. We will be calling on the full VATA membership to advance the awareness of ATC's in the workplace. If we are to grow our profession we must be the ones to promote it at a grass roots level. To use the old cliché, "You are where the tape meets the athlete". More details will follow as the programs get started. Check with your Regional Reps to find out how you can get involved. - Scott Powers, Chairperson

Nominations Being Taken for VATA President-Elect

Nominations are currently being accepted for VATA President-elect. Nominations should be forwarded to Jim Buriak. Election will be held at VATA business meeting during the MAATA Symposium May 16-18.

Legislative Committee Report

The Legislative Committee met at the VATA Clinical Symposium to react to the recent Attorney General's opinion regarding the Athletic Training Law. A suggested change in the law was discussed and supported by the VATA Legislative Committee. This change was passed by both the House and the Senate and awaits the Governor's signature with the rest of the 2003 Bills. The change is illustrated below:

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- CHAPTER

An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-2957.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to athletic trainer certification.
[H 2833]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 54.1-2957.6 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:
§ 54.1-2957.6. Exceptions to athletic trainer certification.

A. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prohibit any individual from providing first aid, nor any coach, physical education instructor or other person from (i) conducting or assisting with exercise or conditioning programs or classes within the scope of their duties as employees or volunteers or (ii) **applying protective taping to an uninjured body part.**

B. The requirements for certification of athletic trainers shall not prevent student athletic trainers from practicing athletic training under the supervision and control of a certified athletic trainer pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Board.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 54.1-2957.4 and 54.1-2957.5, any person who, prior to June 30, 1999, is employed in Virginia as an athletic trainer, or in the performance of his employment duties engages in the practice of athletic training, shall not be required to obtain a certificate from the Board to continue to be so employed until July 1, 2002. The VATA Legislative Committee has suggested to the Executive Council that there is a need for the VATA as an organization, to fund and design a campaign to educate school systems on the advantages of hiring a qualified, state certified individual to provide athletic training services and how to hire an individual with the appropriate credentials. The Legislative Committee, the Executive Committee, the High School Committee Chair and the Public Relations Chair will all be working together to come up with an effective campaign to assist schools who would like to hire an Athletic Trainer but simply do not know the specifics of how to do it. The membership may be asked to assist school systems in their area as questions and concerns are raised and advice is needed around the commonwealth.

8th Annual VATA Symposium sets record for attendance in spite of the snow!

The annual VATA Symposium, which took place January 17-19 in Williamsburg, featured a variety of lectures and workshops that were enjoyed by many of the 170 attendees. The majority of symposium registrants were undeterred by the cold temperatures and the snowfall on the day prior to the meeting. The keynote speaker was Gary Sutton of Henrico Doctor's Hospital in Richmond, who led a workshop on muscle imbalances. Ryan Kling of Central Virginia Orthopedics in Lynchburg spoke about how HIPAA will impact the lives of ATCs. Other lecture topics included athletic training clinical education, patient education, and a case study of a scapular fracture. A CPR/AED workshop was offered, as well as a VHSL Wrestling Weight Management Program Certified Measurer Workshop. VATA treasurer Cheryl Willey reported that, for the first time ever, the VATA realized a profit from the annual meeting. Attendance has increased markedly each year since 1995, the first year the VATA sponsored an annual symposium.

First VATA Student Program is a Success!!

Eight students representing three institutions participated in the first-ever student program at the 2003 VATA Annual Symposium. Students from James Madison University, Longwood University and Lynchburg College presented case studies, original research and timely education issues for students during Saturday morning's session. Each student spoke on their chosen topic or research, provided supporting electronic presentation information, and fielded questions from their peers and other professionals. Students and the institutions they represented are as follows:

James Madison University
Jason Hollar
Katie Peacock

Lynchburg College
Mathew D'Aria
Jenny Keeler
Renee Roberts

Longwood University
Andrew Daniel
Brandon Kirtley
Jessica Kronberg
Josie McMahon



From L to R; Renee Roberts, Andrew Daniel, Josie McMahon, Brandon Kirtley, Jessica Kronberg, Matt D'Aria, Katie Peacock, Jenny Keeler, Jason Hollar

Thank You, Jim, for Your Leadership, Dedication, Perseverance, and Guidance!

Jim Buriak steps down in May after serving as VATA President for the last three years. Jim, athletic training education program director and athletic trainer at Roanoke College, has also served as VATA President-elect and chair of the Public Relations Committee. During Jim's direction, the VATA has experienced a period of growth and accomplishment. Many, many thanks!



What has the VATA Executive Council been up to?

The **Executive Council** is currently working on the following issues:

- The Legislative Committee has asked the EC to support a comprehensive public relations campaign to promote the Virginia AT certification law.
- Efforts are being made to secure the domain name "www.vata.org" for the VATA website.
- A proposal has been made by a marketing company to publish the VATA newsletter electronically, similar to the current format of the MAATA newsletter.
- EC is working to increase nominations for NATA Honors and Awards.

Special Thanks to Michael Moore, assistant athletic trainer at Radford University, for maintaining the VATA website. We appreciate all of your efforts!



NATA Service Award

VATA members are encouraged to nominate fellow ATCs for the NATA Service Award.

Please contact your VATA Regional Representative or a VATA officer for assistance with the application.

The criteria for this award are:

- Certified for minimum of 15 years
- Nominations must be submitted to the District III Director
- No more than five nominees from each state
- No more than three (3) award recipients from each state
- Applications are due in January of each year.

Nominate a colleague today!



VHSL Admissions Policy for VATA Members

Some VATA members have experienced problems using the VATA membership card to gain entrance to VHSL sporting events. The VHSL recognizes the VATA membership card as a pass for sporting events. However, there appears to be some confusion about this policy. The VATA Executive Council will continue its efforts to increase awareness of this policy and to minimize the confusion. Members are encouraged to contact athletic directors as well as district and region councils for more information about using the VATA membership card. More information will be mailed to VATA members in the near future.



We're on the Web!
www.radford.edu/~vata-web



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March was National Athletic Training Month

In celebration of National Athletic Training Month, many communities and organizations sponsored activities to increase awareness of the athletic training profession. Here is a sampling of activities from across the state:

- Full-page AT Month advertisement was placed in the **CAA Men's and Women's Basketball** program.
- **Bridgewater College** posted an informative bulletin board in the athletic facility.
- **Broadway H.S.** gave a small gift with a NATA Month reminder to each member of the faculty.
- **Turner Ashby H.S.** made school wide announcements promoting their athletic training efforts.
- **Augusta County School Board** officially recognizing ATC's and their efforts in the monthly board meeting.
- **Rockingham Memorial Hospital Rehab Services** offered a free lecture on selecting appropriate footwear.
- **Shenandoah University** athletic training students made presentation, "Heat Illness Prevention and Nutrition," to the SU Kinesiology Club.
- Article in **The Daily Progress**, Charlottesville newspaper, "Gaining insight into life of Athletic Trainers"
- Article in **The Observer**, Charlottesville newspaper, "More than you might think Athletic Trainers want to get the word out about what they do".
- Article in **The Daily Progress**, "From Concussions to Lightning, ATCs on the job"

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