

NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board of Directors Web Conference Meeting Minutes
11:00 a.m. Central Time
December 22, 2025

Board

A.J. Duffy III, MS, ATC, PT, President
Donna Wesley, MS, LAT, ATC, Vice President
Scott Galloway, MBA, LAT, ATC, Secretary/Treasurer
Vicky Graham, DAT, LAT, ATC
Christina Emrich, MS, LAT, ATC
Ray Davis, Jr., MSS, LAT, ATC
Scott Lawrance, DHSc, LAT, ATC, MSPT, CSCS
Rusty McKune, ATC
Valerie Herzog, EdD, LAT, ATC
Cindy Clivio, MEd, ATC
Kasee Hildenbrand, PhD, LAT, ATC
Ryan Wilkinson, EdD, LAT, ATC

Staff

Mollie Pillman, MS, MBA, CAE
Drew Caffey
Karly Foster, M.Ed.
Deanna Kuykendall
Lori Marker, CMP, CEM
Dylan Orrell
Katie Scott, MS, ATC, CAE
Tricia Sutherland
Cheryl Campbell
Jessica Porter
Kathy Stucker

Incoming Directors

Lorna Strong, EdD, LAT, ATC
Chris King, LAT, ATC
Michael Moll, MEd, LAT, ATC

Guests

Lynne Young, Med, LAT, ATC, BOC Liaison
Gary Hanna, MS, LAT, ATC, CAATE Liaison
MaryBeth Horodyski, EdD, LAT, ATC, President, NATA Foundation
Jen Sturtevant, MBA, LAT, ATC, Chair, DEIA Council
Doug Casa, PhD, ATC, KSI
Rebecca Stearns, PhD, ATC, KSI

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[Korey Stringer Institute Report](#)

[Policy & Procedures Task Force Update](#)
[President's Report](#)

CALL TO ORDER

President Duffy called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Eleven of the eleven voting members were present. The requirements for a quorum were met.

OPENING REMARKS

President Duffy welcomed the Board, representatives of the AT Strategic Alliance and guests to the call. He introduced Tricia Sutherland as the new Chief Financial Officer and Michael Moll as the incoming District 11 Director. Katie Scott was recognized for her new role as Director of Membership, and Marybeth Horodyski, president of the NATA Foundation, was asked to pass on the board's thanks to Kathryn LaLonde for her contributions to both the Foundation and NATA.

PRIDE POINTS

President Duffy opened the floor for the board and guests to share their recent highlights.

AT STRATEGIC ALLIANCE PARTNER UPDATES

Strategic Alliance Partners submitted a written report, which was provided in the Dropbox ahead of the meeting, allowing for questions to be answered.

KOREY STRINGER INSTITUTE (KSI) REPORT

CEO Doug Casa announced that KSI recently celebrated its 15th anniversary and has opened a \$1 million heat lab at UConn, along with a satellite lab at the University of North Florida. TUFFS funds two of KSI's four initiatives. The Innovate program has received \$6 million in funding, enabling 24 school districts to retain and expand assistive technology (AT) services even after the grants have ended. ATLAS published a flagship journal study indicating slow growth in the number of full-time athletic trainers (ATs). This study also maps out emergency equipment and highlights socioeconomic disparities in AT hiring. TUFFS conducted over 80 state visits, leading to the adoption of 463 new laws and policies. Leadership groups have been established in all 51 states, with the average score rising from the mid-30s to the mid-50s, and there is an expectation that it will exceed 60 by next summer. Lastly, Casa provided updates on the Heat Stroke Focus on the Football Lineman task force and the Smart Heart Coalition task force.

PRESIDENT REPORT

President Duffy provided an update on the projects he has been working on since the last meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Appropriate information on the following items were provided to the Board through background materials, e-ballots or previous discussions. With no objections raised, the consent agenda was approved. It included:

- **APPROVE NOVEMBER 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES (ALL)**
- **APPROVE ERIC BORTMAS (D4) AS DEIA COUNCIL ACCESSIBILITY PANEL MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**
- **NATASHA SCHMITTER (D5) AS ICSM NAIA PANEL MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**
- **APPROVE ALYSSA ALBERCHT (D5) AS SAAC DIVISION I MEMBER EFFECTIVE JUNE 2026.**
- **APPROVE DENISE MARSHALL (D5) AS SAAC DIVISION II MEMBER EFFECTIVE JUNE 2026.**
- **APPROVE HEATHER ELKINTON (D10) AS ICSM PAC-12 MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**
- **APPROVE TIMOTHY NEAL (D4) AS NATA STATEMENTS TASK FORCE MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**
- **APPROVE JENNIFER MEDINA MCKEON (D2) AS NATA STATEMENTS TASK FORCE MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**
- **APPROVE STEPHANIE SINGE (D1) AS NATA STATEMENTS TASK FORCE MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**
- **APPROVE PATRICK MCKEON (D2) AS NATA STATEMENTS TASK FORCE MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**
- **APPROVE TAMARA VALOVICH MCLEOD (D7) AS NATA STATEMENTS TASK FORCE MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**
- **APPROVE BRANT BERKSTRESSER (D6) AS NATA STATEMENTS TASK FORCE MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**
- **APPROVE EMILY SWISHER (D4) AS NATA STATEMENTS TASK FORCE MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**
- **APPROVE DANI MOFFIT (D10) AS NATA STATEMENTS TASK FORCE MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**
- **APPROVE CYNTHIA TROWBRIDGE (D6) AS NATA STATEMENTS TASK FORCE MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**

(8,2) PASSED (11-0-0)

POLICY AND PROCEDURES (P&P) TASK FORCE UPDATE

Director McKune reported upcoming changes to policies and procedures would be included in the Consent Agenda but would be removed for discussion if any questions arose. He highlighted specific travel policy items that raised concerns, which include the second bullet on auto mileage, the third bullet on parking fees, and the fifth bullet regarding public transportation, taxes, and new repairs. He emphasized that these topics will be addressed in the next meeting. McKune encouraged board members to review the information provided. The goal is to incorporate additional input from the board before revising, rewriting, and implementing the new policies and procedures.

OTHER

HR 6718 Bill

Deanna Kuykendall, the director of government affairs, discussed a new bill aimed at addressing a response from the Department of Education that is expected between mid-January and early February. NATA is part of a coalition working towards the goal of getting more health professions recognized as a professional degree under the new requirements. Deanna mentioned that she had reached out to the lead legislator's office to request a meeting but has not yet received a response.

Pillman emphasized that the team wants to know the source and methodology behind the lists of professions used in these decisions. She expressed the desire to be included on any list that features physical therapists (PTs) and occupational therapists (OTs). Pillman outlined a careful approach: first conducting research, and then potentially launching a broader membership campaign or a targeted effort to constituents if necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a closed session, President Duffy adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Submitted by:


Scott Galloway, Secretary/Treasurer
NATA Board of Directors