

NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Carrollton, TX
8:00 a.m. Central Time
February 2, 2026

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
Jerry Albano
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

Jen Sturtevant, MBA, LAT, ATC, Chair, DEIA Council
Suzie Konz, PhD, ATC, CSCS, Chair, PRAT
David Gallegos, MA, ATC, Cert. MDT, Presidential Candidate
Rob Marshall, LAT, ATC, Presidential Candidate

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CALL TO ORDER

President Duffy called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Eleven of the eleven voting members were present. The requirements for a quorum were met.

OPENING REMARKS

President Duffy welcomed the board, staff, and guests.

ANTITRUST GUIDELINES

President Duffy referenced the antitrust statement provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

VOTED: TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE NATA ANTITRUST GUIDELINES.
(3,8) PASSED 11-0-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Appropriate information on the following items was provided to the board through background materials, e-ballots or previous discussions.

VOTED: TO APPROVE:

- MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 2024 BOARD WEB CONFERENCE (ALL)
- RATIFY THE E-BALLOT APPROVING THE OCTOBER 29 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES.
- APPROVE KATIE SNIFFEN (D5) AS AT AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE AS CHAIR MEMBER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.
- APPROVE TAMARA VALOVICH MCLEOD (D7) AS FELLOWS PANEL MEMBER EFFECTIVE JUNE 2025.
- APPROVE TOM BOWMAN (D3) AS FELLOWS PANEL MEMBER EFFECTIVE JUNE 2025.
- APPROVE KIM KEELEY (D2) AS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION MEMBER EFFECTIVE JUNE 2025.
- APPROVE CYNTHIA WRIGHT (D10) AS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION MEMBER EFFECTIVE JUNE 2025.

(5,11) PASSED 11-0-0

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

District 8

Director Clivio reported that several of her committees had questions about the budget process since the annual committee reports have been discontinued.

Katie Scott, director of membership, recognized the discussions from the previous two days regarding the need for chairs to seek more direction from the board and for the board to offer clearer guidance on chair responsibilities and work plans. She outlined the staff's strategy to address chairs' feelings of exclusion from the budgeting process. This plan involves aligning the new budgeting process with the strategic plan, postponing the detailed documents to a near-term board meeting, and sharing them with chairs prior to committee day.

Director Clivio stated that the Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee (EDAC) is seeking to replace a worn banner and would like to submit a funding request or secure a sponsor for the purchase.

Mollie Pillman, executive director, responded that if the committee has identified a sponsor, then staff can connect them to the appropriate person. If not, the committee can submit a funding request for February.

Director Clivio reported the Connection and Engagement Committee (CEC) is a high-performing committee with strong capacity and interested in doing more.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN ATHLETIC TRAINING COMMITTEE (PRAT) RESEARCH REQUEST

Suzie Konz, chair, reported that the PRAT research workgroup is conducting a study to understand how athletic trainers perceive and use artificial intelligence (AI) in their practice. The study aims to address the lack of profession-wide data on AI awareness, utilization, perceived benefits and risks, and readiness for integration. Using a cross-sectional survey, the team seeks insights from certified athletic trainers and student members across various settings. Key research questions focus on trainers' familiarity with AI tools, current use in clinical and administrative tasks, perceived advantages and concerns, barriers to adoption, and alignment with professional ethics. With IRB approval already secured, the project plans to distribute the survey in Winter/Spring 2026, analyze findings later in the year, and share results through publications and professional presentations.

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE RESEARCH SURVEY PROJECT FOR PRAT AWARENESS AND UTILIZATION OF AI IN THE ATHLETIC TRAINING PRACTICE.

(7,8) PASSED 11-0-0

Konz left the meeting.

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS..CONTINUED

District 9

Director Wesley reported that the Secondary Schools Athletic Training Committee (SSATC) is working on streamlining the Safe Sports School award, pausing applications to review the process and qualifications. The application process will be open twice a year, likely in July and January, but awaiting committee feedback. A new logo has been launched for 2026. The ATs Care Committee is working on filling two at-large vacancies and is working on receiving updates to the ICISF training courses offered through attending the bridge courses being offered through ICISF. The Career Advancement Committee (CAC) is researching why athletic trainers are leaving the profession in that age group. Lastly, she mentioned that the NATA Cannabinoid Task Force may need to reevaluate resources due to the recent executive order rescheduling marijuana.

District 10

Director Hildenbrand reported that the Executive Council for Education (ECE) chair's term is up in 2027. The Journals continue to work on publishing and other duties.

District 11

Director Wilkinson reported that he and the Convention Program Committee (CPC) chair, Kevin Miller, provided updates on Saturday about the upcoming Future of Convention Task Force. The Council on Practice Advancement (COPA) is working on a promotional video of an athletic trainer in the entertainment industry.

District 1

Director Graham reported that the NATAPAC Corporate dissolution was finalized in December 2025. The group retains an independent advisory board under NATA. The LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee (LGBTQ+AC) is working on modules of advanced content that could be delivered at district and state meetings. The DEIA Council is waiting on direction from the Executive Orders Task Force regarding the latest developments from the University of Kentucky. Lastly, the Accessibility Panel created the best practice document that is currently under review.

Director Graham asked the staff if there was a way to standardize all the different committee award dates.

Katie Scott replied that once the Open Water transition is complete, the staff hope to release a plan to standardize committee awards.

District 2

Director Emrich reported that the new chair of the Historical Committee (HC) is Chris Matthewson. Matthewson traveled to Dallas to meet with staff and review the archive room. The committee is currently working on digitizing materials through Proficio and is exploring new locations to display historical items. Additionally, the State Association Advisory Committee (SAAC) is planning the State Leadership Forum, scheduled for June 29, and is finalizing the committee's awards. She also met with all the liaisons in the NATA Collaborate Program to discuss project plans.

District 3

Director Davis reported that the Early Professional Committee (EPC) is working on restructuring its subcommittees to help with workload. The Compensation White Paper is expected to be released soon. The Student Leadership Committee (SLC) is looking to change the student leadership forum in 2027. The Kahoot Night is scheduled for March 10.

District 4

Director Lawrance reported that the Athletic Training Public Health Committee has completed the Public Health 101 webinar for EducATe. The group is currently developing Public Health 201, which will be followed by 301 and 401. They reviewed all the content in EducATe to create a tag that indicates this material is related to public health, making it easier for members to find. The finalized research manuscript has been submitted to the Journal of Athletic Training (JAT) and is currently under review. The Presidential Election Oversight Task Force (PEOTF) continues to meet during the ongoing election and plans to convene after the election to incorporate feedback into the Presidential Election Policy and Procedures.

District 5

Director McKune reported that Matt Kutz, the chair of the International Committee (IC), has now become the president of WFATT, which means his term as IC chair ended in January. The new IC chair is Jennifer Rizzo. The most significant project undertaken by the Intercollegiate Council for Sports Medicine (ICSM) was the letter sent to NCAA Division II athletic directors and conference commissioners; however, this proposal was not approved. The chair received a summary of the legislative issues that were passed and those that were not. He noted that the group is working to compile summaries for the other divisions and plans to distribute them to the board in February.

District 6

Director Galloway reported that the transition with the new Chief Financial Officer, Tricia Sutherland, has been great. The District Secretaries/Treasurers (DST) are working on getting organized and looking for further direction from the board.

District 7

Director Herzog reported that the Pronouncements Committee have five position statements that are in different stages of review and is finalizing the author groups for each. The Honors and Awards Committee (H&A) completed its first award season through Open Water. Overall, it went quite well with just a few hiccups. The group is reviewing their rubric to make the process even smoother for next award season. Professional Responsibility in Athletic Training (PRAT) is working on educational tools around using AI and ethical considerations. The group continues to work on The Oath.

Director Herzog informed the board that the University of Kentucky was recently flagged by the administration due to its recent DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) campaign. The administration reviewed all the faculty associations within the university and created a "nice" and "naughty" list based on their DEI activities. The university was instructed that it could not pay for faculty memberships if an association was on the naughty list.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS

District 1

Director Graham reported on a successful EATA. She announced that Ed Lacert's Bone Marrow Donation event was held with seventy-five people swabbed. A match for Lacert has not been found but found matches for four other individuals through these events.

District 2

Director Emrich reported that the executive council approved a grant to fund two people to attend the Leadership Institute; the recipients will be chosen this week.

District 3

Director Davis reported that the annual meeting is May 1-3 in West Virginia. The director's reception will be a baseball game on Saturday night. The district is working to provide a quarterly webinar update.

District 4

Director Lawrance reported that the annual meeting is March 11-14 in Wheeling, IL. He provided an update on elections, Kevin Parker is the incoming president and Jessica Hewitt is the president-elect for GLATA. The district's new strategic plan will be rolled out at the annual meeting, and it focuses on individual well-being and work-life balance.

District 5

Director McKune reported that the annual meeting is March 19-21 in Des Moines, IA. He provided an update on his district's compact legislative process. Five of the seven states have dropped bills, and a sixth state is close to dropping the bill, and the seventh is on the radar for 2027. Lastly, David Carr from Missouri will be taking over as district president and Dan Newman will be taking over as district treasurer.

District 6

Director-elect Strong reported that the district had a student workshop in January. There were two tracks: undergraduate/industry level and students preparing for the BOC. There were over a hundred students who attended this year.

Director Galloway reported that the district created several memorial tributes for Eddie Lane, who recently passed away in January. SWATA's midyear meeting is scheduled for February 15.

District 7

Director Herzog announced that the district has approved three Leadership Institute grants for the upcoming year. Jeb Davis has been elected as the new president. The district meeting will take place in Colorado Springs from May 29 to 31, featuring a new scheduling model that rotates locations among the states and will replace the state meeting in the host state.

District 8

Director Clivio reported that the district is updating its bylaws and policies, and its district annual meeting is scheduled for July 14-17, in Kona, Hawaii.

District 9

Director Wesley reported that the district meeting is February 4-7, in Atlanta. Elections for district president and district treasurer will be held in the fall with a changeover in June 2027. She updated on the AT Compact and noted that Alabama has dropped legislation, and two other states are looking to do the same.

District 10

Director Hildenbrand reported that the district meeting will take place from March 19 to 21 in Boise, ID. The TUFSS program has reached nearly every state within the district. The district conducted a survey among its members regarding their preferences for managing funds. Notably, a third of the members attend the meetings, and there is still a demand for a district meeting. Additionally, dues were raised two years ago, but \$150,000 in increased dues went uncollected. This situation has now been addressed.

District 11

Director Wilkinson announced that Michael Moll has been elected as the incoming District 11 Director. The district approved two Leadership Institute grants. Additionally, the district is implementing a student engagement project that facilitates connections between the entire executive board and the Council on Early Career Athletic Trainers with accredited programs.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OTHER

None

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into closed session at 9:55 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a closed session, President Duffy adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.