

**NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**New Orleans, LA**  
**8:00 a.m. Central Time**  
**June 24, 2028**

Board

Kathy Dieringer, EdD, LAT, ATC, President  
A.J. Duffy III, MS, ATC, PT, President-elect  
Rob Marshall, ATC, Vice President  
Scott Galloway, MBA, LAT, ATC, Secretary/Treasurer  
Vicky Graham, DAT, LAT, ATC  
Tanya Dargusch, LAT, ATC  
Ray Davis, Jr., MSS, LAT, ATC  
Scott Lawrance, DHSc, LAT, ATC, MSPT, CSCS  
Valerie Herzog, EdD, LAT, ATC  
Cindy Clivio, MEd, ATC  
Donna Wesley, MS, LAT, ATC  
Kasee Hildenbrand, PhD, LAT, ATC  
Ryan Wilkinson, EdD, LAT, ATC

Staff

David Saddler  
Tamesha Logan, MBA  
Michael Anto, PHR, SHRM-CP  
LaNell Armour – *absent*  
Amy Callender  
Drew Caffey  
Kathy Crelly  
Anita James, CMP  
Lori Marker, CMP, CEM  
Kelly Carlin  
Katie Scott, MS, ATC  
Jessica Porter

Incoming Directors

Christina Emrich, MS, LAT, ATC  
Rusty McKune, ATC

Guests

Trevor Bates, DHSc, AT, ATC, Co-Chair, DEIA Council  
Rebecca Lopez, PhD, ATC, CSCS, Co-Chair, DEIA Council  
Brian Conway, BS, LAT, ATC, BOC Liaison

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**CALL TO ORDER**

President Dieringer called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Eleven of the eleven voting members were present. The requirements for a quorum were met.

**OPENING REMARKS**

President Dieringer welcomed the board, representatives of the AT Strategic Alliance and other guests.

### **BOARD QUOTABLE**

Director Davis provided the Board with some of his favorite inspirational quotes.

### **PRIDE POINTS**

President Dieringer opened the floor for the Board and guests to share their recent highlights.

### **ANTITRUST GUIDELINES**

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

**VOTED: TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE NATA ANTITRUST GUIDELINES.  
(2,3) PASSED 11-0-0**

### **BOARD OF CERTIFICATION (BOC) REPORT**

BOC Liaison Brian Conway reported that the BOC board is currently seeking an AT Director and a Physician Director. The deadline to submit applications for these positions is June 30. He announced that Dr. Debbie Bradney and Dr. Ron Walker are the recipients of the Dan Libera Service Award, and Dr. Marsha Grant-Ford is the recipient of the Paul Grace Leadership Award. The BOC will be hosting a session titled "Professional Practice and Responsibility: Top Discipline Cases" on Friday and encouraged directors to attend. He said the BOC, the Council of State Governments (CSG), and the Department of Defense (DoD) held a kickoff meeting for the development of an interstate compact for licensed athletic trainers. A recording of the meeting will be available on the CSG website. The next step is for the CSG to assemble a Technical Assistance Group to develop recommendations for the Compact Document Team. He mentioned that the BOC has requested the Technical Assistance Group to include a representative from the CAATE, NATA, and the NATA Foundation. As of March 28, there are 49 BCS-O credential holders. The application deadline for the September 2024 exam is August 15, and the registration deadline is September 3. Lastly, the CARE Conference will be held on July 9-10 in Omaha, Nebraska.

### **STATE ASSOCIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S (SAAC) ONBOARDING FOR STATE ASSOCIATIONS PROPOSAL**

Director-elect Emrich presented the proposal for onboarding state associations to the Board. She explained that the document is a resource for state associations to use when onboarding new state leaders, helping them prepare for their leadership roles.

**VOTED: TO APPROVE THE STATE ASSOCIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S (SAAC) ONBOARDING FOR STATE ASSOCIATIONS PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED.  
(5,7) PASSED 11-0-0**

### **NATA COLLABORATE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Director Davis gave a NATA CollaborATE Program Update. He then presented the report on NATA liaisons to external organizations.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board went into closed session at 9:20 a.m. and returned to open session at 4:32 p.m.

### **NATA JOURNAL ADVISORY TASK FORCE PROPOSAL**

Director Hildenbrand presented the proposal for the NATA Journal Advisory Task Force to the Board. She explained that the task force aims to address the improvements identified in the consultant report from Wiley Partner Solutions. The task force will gather input from key stakeholders of NATA journals and use benchmarking data to explore recommended areas for improvement. It will also decide on which improvements to pursue and develop implementation plans. Jay Hertel, with six years of experience as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Athletic Training* and a background in scholarly publishing, will chair the task force. If approved, the task force will commence its work in August 2024 and submit a report to the Board in January and August 2025.

**VOTED: TO APPROVE THE FORMATION OF THE JOURNALS ADVISORY TASK FORCE AS PRESENTED IN THE JOURNAL ADVISORY TASK FORCE PROPOSAL.  
(10,9) PASSED 11-0-0**

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD**

President Dieringer officially welcomed President-elect Duffy to the Board.

**2024-25 SECRETARY/TREASURER**

President Duffy presented Director Galloway as his choice for 2024-25 Secretary/Treasurer and Finance Committee chair.

**VOTED: TO ENDORSE DIRECTOR GALLOWAY AS 2024-25 SECRETARY/TREASURER.  
(5,4) PASSED (10-0-1) (ABSTAIN: D6)**

**2024-25 VICE PRESIDENT**

President Duffy asked for nominations for vice president. Current Vice President Marshall was the only nominee and elected unanimously by consensus.

**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 APRIL 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ALL)**
- **APPROVE TAVARUS FERGUSON (D1) AS ICSM – DISTRICT 1 COMMITTEE, BIG EAST MEMBER EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2024**
- **APPROVE JOSHUA WOOLRIDGE (D5) AS COPA ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE MEMBER EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2024.**
- **APPROVE JOSH DREHER (D6) AS COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS NON-DISTRICT MEMBER EFFECTIVE JUNE 2024.**
- **APPROVE DEREK PORT (D9) AS ICSM – NAIA COMMITTEE MEMBER EFFECTIVE JUNE 2024.**
- **APPROVE CARRIE RUBERTINO SHEARER (D6) AS ICSM – DIVISION 1 COMMITTEE, BIG TWELVE MEMBER EFFECTIVE JUNE 2024.**
- **APPROVE JEFFREY SAGE (D2) AS ICSM - DIVISION 2 CHAIR EFFECTIVE JUNE 2025.**
- **APPROVE ANDREA DITRANI LOBACZ (D2) AS CONNECTION AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR EFFECTIVE JUNE 2025.**
- **APPROVE SHAKETHA PIERCE (D6) AS ETHNIC DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR EFFECTIVE JUNE 2025.**
- **APPROVE MICHAEL SLOUP (D5) AS THE STATE ASSOCIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR EFFECTIVE JUNE 2024.**

**(7,3) PASSED 11-0-0**

**ADJOURN**

After appropriate thank you's, President Duffy adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

**NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**New Orleans, LA**  
**9:30 a.m. Central Time**  
**June 28, 2024**

Board

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

Staff

David Saddler  
Tamesha Logan, MBA – *absent*  
Michael Anto, PHR, SHRM-CP  
LaNell Armour  
Amy Callender  
Drew Caffey  
Kathy Crelly  
Anita James, CMP  
Lori Marker, CMP, CEM  
Kelly Carlin  
Katie Scott, MS, ATC  
Jessica Porter

Incoming Directors

Christina Emrich, MS, LAT, ATC  
Rusty McKune, ATC

Guests

Trevor Bates, DHSc, AT, ATC, Co-Chair, DEIA Council  
Rebecca Lopez, PhD, ATC, CSCS, Co-Chair, DEIA Council  
Dale West, Executive Director, CAATE  
Ken Cameron, PhD, MPH, ATC, CSCS, President, NATA Foundation  
Kayla Jo Bittle, Chair, SLC  
Michelle Boling, PhD, LAT, ATC, Chair, CPC  
Joe Greene, MS, ATC, TPRI  
Tim Neal, LLMSW, MS, AT, ATC  
Michelle Odai, PhD, LAT, ATC, Chair, ECE  
Jennifer Rheeling, MS, LAT, ATC, Chair, SSATC  
Katie Sniffen, PhD, LAT, ATC, AT & Public Health Task Force  
Rebecca Sterns, PhD, ATC, KSI  
Ciara Taylor, EdD, LAT, ATC, Incoming Chair, SSATC  
Colby Tegt, Incoming Chair, SLC

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Duffy called the meeting to order at 9:43 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 other guests. He noted minor changes to the agenda including Vice President Marshall bringing forth an Honors & Awards proposal.

**ANTITRUST GUIDELINES**

President Duffy referenced the antitrust statement provided to the board of directors prior to the meeting.

**VOTED: TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE NATA ANTITRUST GUIDELINES.  
(2,9) PASSED 11-0-0**

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The board went into closed session at 9:45 a.m. and returned at 9:50 a.m.

### **INTER-ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPING A PLAN TO RECOGNIZE AND REFER STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL CONCERNS AND THE COLLEGIATE LEVEL**

Tim Neal, the former chair of the 2013 consensus statement, proposed the formation of a task force to update the 2013 NATA Inter-Association Consensus Statement. The goal is to incorporate new information and approaches that have evolved over the past 10 years. The updated statement will focus on recognizing and referring student-athletes with psychological concerns at the collegiate level. It will also include detailed information on assessing student-athletes, considering social determinants of health, cultural humility, and addressing issues such as sexual trauma and discrimination faced by athletes with sexual minority identities, which were not covered in the 2013 statement.

**VOTED: TO APPROVE THE FORMATION OF THE INTER-ASSOCIATION TASK FORCE, CHAIRED BY TIM NEAL.  
(3,1) PASSED 11-0-0**

### **COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION (CAATE) REPORT**

Dale West, executive director, reported the CAATE Board of Commissions granted accreditation to 7 universities. He said the CAATE received seven years of re-recognition from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). As of May 31, ATCAS applicants were up 21% from the same period in 2023. CAATE has provided 65 application waivers valued at \$6,2040 to potential students from low-income households. He reported that CAATE has launched RF-ATCAC, a new centralized application service system for residency and fellowship programs. Lastly, the next CAATE Town Hall is scheduled for August 22.

### **NATA FOUNDATION UPDATE**

President Cameron announced that the Pickleball event was sold out and expressed gratitude to everyone who attended and supported the event. The Free Communications sessions had a good turnout, and he mentioned that the feedback on the poster location this year was very positive. Additionally, the grant writing workshop and mentor session were successful. He also noted that the scholarship recipients were recognized earlier this week during the convention, and the Foundation hosted the Distinguished Scholar session yesterday. Lastly, he met with past President Dieringer to discuss how the Foundation can help with NATA membership numbers and convention attendance, he said he will bring the discussion to his board and expects to bring back a plan soon.

### **THE FUTURE IS NOW**

President Duffy invited Student Leadership incoming Chair Colby Tegt to present to the Board on why he wanted to become an athletic trainer.

### **STUDENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (SLC)**

#### **New SLC Application Process Update**

Kayla Bittle, chair, presented the revised SLC application process. She explained that the application process would now require candidates to submit a one-page cover letter addressing the questions on the application, as opposed to the previous requirement of three essays. She mentioned that this new process is designed to better prepare students for future job applications, where a cover letter is often required.

Director Hildenbrand suggested including the specific font size to use on the cover letter.

#### New SLC Chair Timeline and Application Process

Bittle presented the new SLC chair timeline proposal to the Board. The purpose of these changes is to expand the eligibility pool and to align the SLC Policy and Procedures with the transition to Masters program.

**VOTED: TO APPROVE THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (SLC) UPDATED CHAIR TIMELINE AND APPLICATION PROCESS AS PRESENTED IN THE PROPOSAL.  
(3,7) PASSED 11-0-0**

#### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Amy Callender, department director, provided an overview of federal congressional and political issues and the 2024 presidential election. She then provided an update on NATAPAC, state bill statuses, NATA boot camps, NATA's regulatory priorities, and the Occupational Heat Task Force.

#### MARCOM UPDATE

LaNell Armour, department director, reported that the Member Statement was released on June 20 via NATA Now, member e-blast and social media and shared some of the member feedback. She also mentioned that the Timely Topics event "The AT and Conversations on DEIA: Past, Present and Future moderated by past President Dieringer was held the same day; other panelists included Jay Hertel, Trevor Bates, Rebecca Lopez and Lovie Tabron.

#### THIRD-PARTY REIMBURSEMENT INITIATIVE

Joe Greene updated the Board on the Third-Party Reimbursement Initiative (TPRI). He provided an update on the 2024-2025 strategic priorities, reviewed current activity, and shared new developments.

#### KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVES

Anita James, department director, provided an update on the 2024 Convention CEUs. She mentioned that attendees have the opportunity to earn a total of 20 CEUs. This includes 15 CEUs for onsite or on-demand sessions, plus an additional 5 CEUs for exclusive on-demand sessions, which are available through October 1. She also reported that planning is underway for the 2025 Convention. The call for proposals will open on July 19 and close on July 22. The 2025 call for proposals includes a question related to settings, allowing sessions to be marketed to specific setting bases. Additionally, EMTs in Louisiana can submit their credit statement to their provider to obtain their CEUs for attending the 2024 convention.

NATAPAC's outgoing Chair, Mark Letendre, visited the board room to thank the NATA Board for their support during his term. He also asked the district directors to ensure that the DST representatives receive the necessary information about NATAPAC.

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION (ECE) UPDATE

Michelle Odai, chair, provided an update on the ECE realignment approved in January. After the Joint Committee Meeting, a meeting was held with all the ECE members from the previous committees to encourage them to apply for the new openings. She said 19 applications were received, interviews were conducted, and selections were made. The new council represents 8 of the 11 districts and various settings. She reported that a successful council meeting took place on Committee Day, and the next steps involve working on objectives and projects.

#### CONVENTION PROGRAM COMMITTEE (CPC) UPDATE

Michelle Boling, chair, reported that she received positive feedback on the convention and educational sessions. This year, 29 learning labs were offered, compared to 21 last year. One new offering this year was a pre-conference learning to complement an in-person learning lab, which incurred an additional cost and was well received. The CPC plans to add more of these sessions at future conventions. She then provided an update on the 2025 convention. The CPC worked with the Connection Engagement Committee (CEC) and Early Professionals Committee (EPC) to develop themes for 2025. Two tracks have been identified for 2025: Accessibility in Athletic Training and Early Professional Development. Proposals are due by July 22, and the CPC will finalize sessions in late September.

### **2024 CONVENTION UPDATE**

Lori Marker, director of meeting management, provided the Board with an update on the 2024 NATA. She reported that as of this morning, there were over 7,957 total registrants, including exhibit personnel, and 273 confirmed exhibitors. She mentioned that the AT Expo was a success and was the largest since the pandemic. NATA was able to deliver a two-day trade show with unopposed hours. The ribbon cutting and AT Expo closing were well appreciated by the exhibitors. She also received positive feedback on the other schedule changes and plans to continue with the aspects that went well.

### **AT PUBLIC HEALTH TASK FORCE PROGRESS REPORT**

Katie Sniffen, the chair of the research committee, provided a brief background and reviewed the goals of the task force. She updated the Board on the task force's progress, which includes developing an educational toolkit, hosting a three-part webinar series on suicide prevention in collaboration with the American Public Health Association (APHA), and conducting and disseminating a nationwide survey related to athletic trainers' engagement in 10 essential public health practices. She also informed the Board that a proposal for the formation of a permanent NATA entity could be submitted in December.

### **KOREY STRINGER INSTITUTE (KSI) UPDATE**

COO Rebecca Stearns provided an update on three projects KSI and NATA are partnering on, ATLAS, Team Up for Sport Safety, and the NATA Task Force on Preventing Exertional Heat Stroke Death in Football Linemen.

### **KGL CONTRACT EXTENSION**

James reported that the Advisory Task Force plans to incorporate some of the consultant report's findings into the RFP process. The task force would begin its work in August and would commence building the RFP in the first quarter of 2025. From April to June 2025, they would conduct the RFP. Before drafting the 2026 budget, the task force would determine whether there will be a change in publishers. If the recommendation is to change publishers, the transition process must start in January 2026. If the recommendation is to continue with the current publisher, NATA will work with KGL to make improvements based on the Journals Advisory Task Force's findings. Due to COVID and costs, NATA has not issued an RFP since 2017, leading to contract extensions with KGL. KGL has been a reliable partner by not increasing prices upon extension. They have agreed to extend the contract for 2025-2026 and have once again committed to not raising the price. The recommendation is to postpone the RFP once more and, pending Board approval, conduct the RFP in the second quarter of 2025.

**VOTED: TO APPROVE DELAYING THE RFP FOR THE JOURNALS PUBLISHING CONTRACT TO Q2 2025, AND TO EXTEND THE KGL PUBLISHING CONTRACT.  
(10,2) PASSED 11-0-0**

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES FROM BOARD LIAISONS**

Treasurer Galloway reported that the District Secretaries/Treasurers discussed in their meeting the membership strategies that Associate Executive Director Tamesha Logan and Staff Liaison Kelly Carlin presented to the group. He said the Historical Commission is looking for guidance from the board on what to do with items that have been contributed to the association.

Director Herzog said the Pronouncements Committee is working on a methodology paper and updating three positions statements. The Professional Responsibility of Athletic Training (PRAT) revisited the Athletic Training Oath because language on diversity could be in conflict with state law; this concern could be brought to the Board in the future.

Director Clivio reported Tim Neal attended the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) meeting to teach members coping skills when dealing with disturbing cases. The committee is also updating its investigation processes. The Connection and Engagement Committee (CEC) worked on creating an outline of their projects for next year. The Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee (EDAC) is interested in developing an Ethnic Diversity Toolkit and will work with the AT Compensation Task Force to gather data.

Director Wesley said the ATs Care Committee focused on training new members and looked at sessions on ways to incorporate opportunities for learning labs to help with risk reduction on pronouns. The committee is looking to fill several

vacant positions and welcomed Tanya Marquez as the incoming chair. She said The Secondary School Athletic Trainer's Committee (SSATC) welcomed Ciara Taylor as their new chair. The Career Advancement Committee (CAC) welcomed Matt Smitley as incoming chair.

Director Wilkinson reported that the Council on Practice Advancement (COPA) has been making structural changes in response to the new alignment. The council is currently working on themes for the 2025 COPA Conference and has updated the NATA member profile to include setting questions. Additionally, the council has welcomed Andy Carter as its chair. He mentioned that the Convention Program Committee (CPC) has welcomed Kevin Miller as the incoming chair and is actively working on policy proposals to adjust non-AT speaking reimbursement.

Director Lawrance reported that the AT Public Health Task Force plans to submit a proposal to become a standing committee.

Director Davis said the Early Professionals Committee (EPC) has been working to prioritize their projects for the upcoming year. The Student Leadership Committee (SLC) is focused on the Athletic Training Student Seminar (ATSS).

Director Dargusch reported that the Intercollegiate Council for Sports Medicine (ICSM) has been working on making structural changes in response to the new realignment. They have also been focusing on future projects, including hosting virtual town halls and providing educational materials for workers' compensation. The Government Affairs Committee (GAC) is working on evolving their webinar series into a Government Affairs Hot Topics series, which will cover legislation related to seasonal athletic training topics.

Director Graham reported that the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee (LGBTQ+AC) is focusing on taking a strategic approach to their work on DEI initiatives to ensure that no disparities have been overlooked. The committee had a very successful charity sock drive and collected over 400 pairs of socks to donate to Covenant House of New Orleans. They plan to hold the same sock drive in Orlando next year. She also reported that the State Association Advisory Committee (SAAC) had a successful State Leadership Forum with over 100 attendees. The committee welcomed Mike Sloup as the new chair.

Vice President Marshall reported that he met with the Asian Pacific Athletic Association and they expressed interest in being recognized by NATA by becoming a potential affiliate or liaison. He mentioned that the Honors and Awards Council (H&A) is considering changing the limit on how many times a candidate can apply to be in the Hall of Fame. The council is thinking of reducing the limit from 7 to 5 total submissions.

### **RESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Duffy informed the Board to be on the lookout for a Doodle poll for the 2024-25 board meeting schedule.

### **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

#### District 5

Vice President Marshall said the District 5 meeting is scheduled to be held in La Vista, NE, March 13-15.

#### District 1

Director Graham reported that EATA meeting is scheduled to be held in Philadelphia, PA, January 10-13.

#### District 3

Director Davis said the District 3 meeting is scheduled to be held in Virginia Beach from May 2-4.

#### District 4

Director Lawrance reported that the district is reviewing its bylaws to expand the eligibility for the district director position. The board will vote next week, and if approved, the proposal will go to the membership in March. The changes will be implemented in the next district director election.

#### District 11

No report.



District 10

Director Hildenbrand reported that the District 10 meeting is scheduled to be held in Bellevue, WA, March 13-15.

District 9

Director Wesley said SEATA's 50<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in Atlanta, February 6-8. She reported the district is looking to combine the student symposium with the annual meeting.

District 8

Director Clivio reported that the district meeting will be held in Las Vegas, April 17-20.

District 7

Director Herzog said RMATA will be held in Wyoming, June 2-4.

District 6

Treasurer Galloway reported SWATA will be held in Arkansas, July 16-19.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The board went into closed session at 3:50 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Following a closed session, President Duffy adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by:



Scott Galloway  
Secretary/Treasurer  
NATA Board of Directors