

# Advocating

## AT EVERY LEVEL

Meet the NATA Government Affairs and NATA State Association Advisory Committee representatives, members' contacts for advocacy and support

BY CLAIRE WILLIAMS

**A**thletic training progresses and grows with advocacy, and athletic trainers can be their own advocates. Alongside NATA's own professional Government Affairs Department, are two volunteer committees at work to ensure members have the resources they need to be the best advocates for the profession nationally and at the state level.

The NATA Government Affairs Committee and NATA State Association Advisory Committee both consist of athletic trainers with an expertise in or a passion for advancing athletic training legislation and recognition.

GAC oversees NATA's government relations and regulatory efforts and advocates for regulation favorable to the profession, while SAAC is responsible for addressing issues that directly affect state associations and coordinating leadership development for state leaders.

Two separate committees, GAC and SAAC work closely together and toward many of the same goals.

"[GAC] works to produce and disseminate legislative advocacy resources and education multiplies [member] impact and fosters consistently successful advocacy efforts designed to move the profession forward," said GAC Chair Anna Sedory, MS, ATC, CSCS.

In conjunction with GAC's advocacy efforts, "SAAC is an important benefit to members because it serves state leaders by recognizing and addressing issues that impact state associations specifically, provides training and advice to develop and advance state leadership and maintains communications between the state associations and NATA," SAAC Chair Christina Emrich, MS, LAT, ATC, said.

Both Sedory and Emrich agree that it's important for members to know who they can connect with on each committee for more information and resources.

"We want to bring a level of comfort and knowledge in legislative advocacy work to the average athletic trainer," Sedory said. "I think the perception exists that it's a leadership issue or something with high barriers to participation.

"I want every AT and athletic training student to be aware of and at least minimally involved in legislative advocacy in their state."

Hear from district and regional representatives that make up GAC and SAAC currently. On the next page, they answer questions about the importance of serving members and why it's important that members stay involved in advocacy. >>>>>



GAC Chair Anna Sedory, MS, ATC, CSCS



SAAC Chair Christina Emrich, MS, LAT, ATC

## Government Affairs Committee

### Incoming Chair BJ Maack, LAT, ATC



"I believe the role of the GAC is one of the most tangible answers to the oft-asked question: 'What does the NATA do for me?' The history of the committee, from financial support to legislative help, has always had a direct impact on the member, including changes to a state's practice act and new laws passed to open more access and protection."

Contact: [bjmaack@gmail.com](mailto:bjmaack@gmail.com)

### District Three Rep. Ed Strapp, NRP, LAT, ATC



"We are here to help each member or state association be successful in their current legislative efforts by bringing NATA resources and state collaboration together to your state for success. We are stronger together!"

Contact: [strappatc@gmail.com](mailto:strappatc@gmail.com)

### District Four Rep. Lucas Dargo, DAT, LAT, ATC



"I hope that members realize how many resources are available to each state organization because of the collective efforts of NATA and the GAC. These resources have led to the tremendous success of expanding the scope of practice and access to

athletic trainers throughout the country. Every dollar that comes from the membership creates endless opportunities for the continued legislative efforts of all athletic trainers."

Contact: [lddargo@manchester.edu](mailto:lddargo@manchester.edu)

### District Six Rep: R. Joseph Hebert, MS, LAT, ATC



"This committee is a brain trust of incredibly passionate individuals who are always eager to learn and to provide support to state leaders. They assist in pushing the boundaries of advocacy for athletic training. For these reasons, I am proud and humbled to be among these incredible professionals."

Contact: [rjhebert.atc@gmail.com](mailto:rjhebert.atc@gmail.com)

### District Seven Rep. Jerry Krummel, ATC



"The GAC has a positive effect on membership. Our work is to help state athletic trainer organizations navigate the political world when establishing laws pertinent to the practice of athletic training. This is accomplished with

webinars, staff assistance with letter writing campaigns and answering questions when they arise."

Contact: [jerry.krummel@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.krummel@gmail.com)

### District Ten Rep. Sam Johnson, PhD, ATC



"As the profession continues to evolve – from working in new settings to performing new skills – it is critical those changes are reflected in the laws regulating the profession. The resources the GAC and the NATA Government Affairs staff have

developed are vital in these efforts."

Contact: [sam.johnson@oregonstate.edu](mailto:sam.johnson@oregonstate.edu)

### District Eleven Rep. Brent Amble, PhD, LAT, ATC



"Regulation of the athletic training profession transcends across settings, and as we move forward as athletic trainers, this is a uniting front. I am honored to represent District Eleven to utilize national resources at the state level."

Contact: [brentamble@gmail.com](mailto:brentamble@gmail.com)

For members in Districts One, Two, Five, Eight and Nine, see below for each district's respective representative contact information:

• District One Rep. Jim Murdock, MEd, ATC:

[vtsoxman08@gmail.com](mailto:vtsoxman08@gmail.com)

• District Two Rep. Robb Rehberg, PhD, ATC, NREMT:

[rehberg@gmail.com](mailto:rehberg@gmail.com)

• District Five Rep. Blaise Kriley, MS, LAT, ATC:

[blaisekriley@gmail.com](mailto:blaisekriley@gmail.com)

• District Eight Rep. Jamie Adam, ATC, CES:

[jadams@gavilan.edu](mailto:jadams@gavilan.edu)

• District Nine Rep. Chris King, LAT, ATC: [cking60440@aol.com](mailto:cking60440@aol.com)

## State Association Advisory Committee

### DIVISION ONE

#### Rep. John Ryan, EdD, LAT, ATC



"I want members to know that the work of those who are serving on SAAC is one where we are actively involved in helping the state athletic training associations address the issues that are affecting them, whether those issues involve membership engagement, navigating governmental affairs and political action committees to issues surrounding their state practice acts."

Contact: [jpryanlatcme@gmail.com](mailto:jpryanlatcme@gmail.com)

#### Rep. Lynne-Marie Young, MEd, LAT, ATC



"Our major role is to assist in state associations and be a conduit for communication to and from NATA. On the committee, I am one of two representing Division One states. Instead of viewing limited members and other issues as roadblocks or obstacles,

we see this as situations to be creative and explore many options. Listening to the concerns and issues state leaders are facing and assisting in collaboration to find viable and successful solutions is an area that is extremely important as we all work daily to improve our profession at the state, district and national levels."

Contact: [behmer1@aol.com](mailto:behmer1@aol.com)

### DIVISION TWO

#### Rep. Jennifer Johnson, MS, LAT, ATC



"My desire to serve on SAAC was to assist other states in continuing to advance the profession of athletic training. As a former president of a smaller, less populated state, I know the challenges our Division Two states experience with involvement

and maintaining membership. But ultimately, we are all athletic trainers regardless of our setting, and I hope to help bring all the states together to move forward with a unified front."

Contact: [johnsonjen@marshall.edu](mailto:johnsonjen@marshall.edu)

**Rep. Mike Sloup, MHA, LAT, ATC**



“I have had some great representatives before me on this committee and this is a way for me to pay it forward for what they did for me. This committee provides tips and tools for a state leader to be successful without having to reinvent the wheel in most cases.”

Contact: [sloupatc4@gmail.com](mailto:sloupatc4@gmail.com)

**DIVISION THREE**

**Rep. Brad Floy, PhD, ATC, CSCS**



“I hope members know that SAAC is composed of people who have been in their shoes and want to help them be better leaders and run more effective state organizations. It’s important because I believe there is a lot of potential growth in our profession lying in the hands of our state organizations.”

Contact: [brad-floy@uiowa.edu](mailto:brad-floy@uiowa.edu)

**Rep. Michael Moll, MEd, LAT, ATC**



“Each of us has an opportunity to positively impact the AT profession each day. SAAC has been successful providing tools and programming to increase the effectiveness of state associations and their ability to advocate for individual

members. It is so valuable for ATs to understand the importance of a state association having a presence in each state to represent the interests of individual ATs.”

Contact: [mkm@athletics.wisc.edu](mailto:mkm@athletics.wisc.edu)

**DIVISION FOUR**

**Rep. Nina Walker, MS, LAT, ATC**



“We are here to support states in their legislative battles, encouragement of member engagement, help support leadership transition and be someone to listen to their struggles and bring

concerns up to the national leadership. We are all current or past leaders and want state leaders to know you don’t have to reinvent the wheel. We got you!”

Contact: [walkern@email.unc.edu](mailto:walkern@email.unc.edu)

**Rep. Greg Janik, DAT, LAT, ATC**



“As a state leader, there are times of essential change and/or conflict where you just don’t know where to turn. My goal with serving on SAAC is to help cultivate relationships and be the primary conduit for state leaders seeking

answers and/or needing resources.”

Contact: [gkjanik@kings.edu](mailto:gkjanik@kings.edu) §



**TIPS FOR SUCCESS**

**From the NATA Government Affairs Committee:**

“My favorite and No. 1 resources of the GAC are the district representatives. These ATs are part of regular discussions about nationwide athletic training advocacy activity and can help you locate the right resources at the right time. They are also the drivers behind one of our newer resources: the Legislative Planning and After Action documents. Along with some guidance from district representatives, these documents can help establish proactive planning and debrief habits for legislative sessions, as well as provide opportunities for intra-state association collaboration and historic documentation.”

**– GAC Chair Anna Sedory, MS, ATC, CSCS**

*For more information about the GAC resources available to members, visit [www.nata.org/advocacy/state](http://www.nata.org/advocacy/state).*

**From the NATA State Association Advisory Committee:**

“Several resources I would recommend for members to utilize are the Emerging Leader Toolkit, as well as best practices and policies and procedures for state associations, in addition to SAAC’s flagship event: the State Leadership Forum. This forum provides state leaders from across the country the opportunity to network with one another, receive training and education specifically tailored to leadership within their state associations and connect with other states facing similar challenges. The goal of the State Leadership Forum is to provide ideas, resources, connection, and solutions to state leaders and future state leaders who are working together to solve the same challenges others may face.”

**– SAAC Chair Christina Emrich, MS, LAT, ATC**

*For more information about resources exclusive to members who are state leaders and the State Leadership Forum, visit [www.nata.org/advocacy/state](http://www.nata.org/advocacy/state).*