



# Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association Newsletter



NATA  
DISTRICT IX

Volume 12, Issue 3

August 2006

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## News from the District Director, R.T. Floyd

Wow! What a great NATA Convention! I have had so many athletic trainers across the country express how much they enjoyed Atlanta and the convention. Many were amazed at how well everything went with so little time to prepare after having to relocate from New Orleans.

So many of you deserve the credit for your hard work in making it all come together and for being such excellent hosts. Thanks for your long hours and diligence to make District IX shine. The NATA Office Staff and particularly the Meetings Department, who themselves did an extraordinary job, were very appreciative as well for all of the great volunteer support. As you have read in the July 29 SEATA eBlast this was the most well attended convention to date by athletic trainers. I particularly want to thank the Volunteer Team Leaders - **Tom Bair, Wally Blaze, Steve Bryant, Lori Groover, Jeff Hopp, Joan**

**Reed, Ashley Roberts, Gerard White, Crandall Woodson,** and the Host Committee Chairs **Jay Shoop and Jerry Rhea** who organized the 225 volunteers (175 from SEATA). You are to be congratulated on job done extremely well and we all appreciate it.

Congratulations again to our NATA Award winners. We had a particularly large number of recipients this year and are very proud to see these excellent athletic trainers and physicians receive national recognition. Our award winners are listed in this *Newsletter* as well as in the recent *eBlast* and on the SEATA website. Please join me in expressing appreciation and congratulations to these outstanding members.

I also want to congratulate our NATA Research and Education Foundation scholarship winners. Who are also listed in this *Newsletter* and on our website.

Nominations are being ac-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## News from the President, MaryBeth Horodyski

The NATA Annual Meeting was a huge success thanks to the many SEATA volunteers (78% of all volunteers). A special thank you is extended to Jay Shoop and Jerry Rhea for serving as Host Committee Chairs and the Volunteer Team Leaders - Lori Groover, Gerard White, Crandall Woodson, Ashley Roberts, Joan Reed, Jeff Hopp, Tom Bair, Wally Blaze, and Steve Bryant.

I look forward to serving the SEATA membership for the next

three years. I would encourage you to review the SEATA website and keep in contact with your state organizations to keep up to date on activities of the profession. Your SEATA Executive Board and some committee chairs have been busy during the last few months working to obtain a new location for the SEATA Annual Meeting and developing the first draft of a strategic plan for the future of our organization.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## State Presidents

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### Congratulations to our NATA Award Winners in SEATA!!

#### **NATA Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer**

John Anderson  
Chris Gillespie  
Paul Newman  
Larry Starr  
Kenneth Wright

#### **NATA Athletic Trainer Service Award**

Earl "Bud" Cooper  
Joseph Erdeljac  
Ed Harris  
Paul Higgs  
Sherry Kimbro  
Paul Newman  
Chris Snoddy  
Gerard White  
Gary Wilkerson

#### **NATA 50-Year Award**

Earnest Harrington

#### **NATA Honorary Membership**

Scott Gillogly, M.D.

#### **NATA President's Challenge Award**

Michael Brunet, M.D.

#### **American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine**

#### **Distinguished Service Athletic Trainer Award**

Chris Patrick

#### **NATA CUATC Recognition Program Over & Above Achievement**

Mike Meyer

## News from the Vice-President, Marisa Brunett

SEATA Members:

I hope you had a great summer with some rest, and relaxation and are ready to go with the upcoming fall season. It was great to see so many of you in Atlanta for the NATA Symposium. As voiced many times in Atlanta and in our newsletter, many thanks go out to Jay Shoop, Jerry Rhea, the Host Committee and all the D9 volunteers. Everyone did a great job in such a short amount of time and hosted an incredible convention for our colleagues.

At our District 9 meeting in Atlanta we announced that

our 2007 District Symposium would be held in Nashville in the early part of March, and we were working on finalizing the contract with the hotel. If you have visited the [seata.org](http://seata.org) website in recent days you will notice the meeting is now in Franklin, Tennessee at the Marriott Franklin Cool Springs March 22-25, 2007. This is due to the fact that following the convention and many negotiations back and forth with the hotel in Nashville; we were not able to work out a contract that would be most beneficial to D9 and its members. We are very excited with the new

facility the Marriott Franklin Cool Springs has to offer for our symposium and the members of D9 and hope that you will mark your calendars to join us in hospitable Tennessee for the 2007 meeting.

I would like to again thank Clay Farr, David Green, the Site Selection Committee, Sandra Geiger with Conference Direct and MaryBeth Horodyski for all of their hard work and perseverance in securing a new location and site for our District meeting.

Have a great Fall!

**Marisa**

## News from the Secretary, Lori Groover

### **SEATA Minutes Prepared July 30, 2006**

The following motion was presented to the group by Gerard White of Louisiana, on Tuesday July 11, 2006, Second: Brad Montgomery of Alabama on July 11, 2006.

**I move that the seven**

**State Presidents serve to form the "Athletic Trainer Relief Fund Advisory Board"; and as such, to oversee and approve all transactions in regards to funds deposited and dispersed from the Athletic Trainer Relief Fund Account with Chase Bank - Thibodaux Branch.**

The motion was approved with a 7-0 vote, with the final vote coming on July 24, 2006.

TN, AL, and KY all voted yes to approve the above motion, but requested a stipulation that the criteria be revised for future considerations.

## CMS Update - Board votes to seek panel re-hearing

The NATA Board of Directors voted July 26 to pursue the next step in the legal challenge of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services "incident to" rule. NATA will ask the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to reconsider its July 3 affirmation of a lower court's decision that the district court did not have jurisdiction to hear the case.

NATA believes the Court's July 3 ruling imposes a new standard that has not previously been applied. By seeking a re-hearing, NATA is asking the panel to reconsider its decision in light of the applicable law and facts. The deadline

for NATA to file its request is August 17, 2006.

"NATA is committed to its legal challenge of the CMS 'incident to' rule," said NATA President Chuck Kimmel, ATC. "We believe we have strong legal grounds for the positions we're advancing."

The CMS rule improperly restricts who may provide therapy services "incident to" - or under the supervision of - a physician. NATA initially filed suit in May 2005 after CMS announced it would no longer pay for therapy "incident to" a physician's services unless the provider is a physical therapist, occupational therapist or

speech/language pathologist. Under this rule, doctors cannot bill Medicare for treatment provided by athletic trainers or a host of other health care practitioners.

NATA remains devoted to protecting athletic trainers' full scope of practice and their right to provide physical medicine and rehabilitation services consistent with their qualifications -- including in clinical settings under the supervision of physicians.

For the complete background about this issue, go to [http://www.nata.org/members1/committees/gac/CMS/cms\\_results.htm](http://www.nata.org/members1/committees/gac/CMS/cms_results.htm)

## Tough Medicine

The recent ruling by the Fifth Circuit Court was disheartening for many Athletic Trainers. This is particularly disheartening by those who have lost their jobs as a result of the CMS ruling. This does not mean that the NATA or its membership should give up the good fight. Athletic trainers should press forward and find another avenue to have our voice heard and to be deservedly recognized. Certainly, the legal route would be a faster method than trying to pursue the legislative route. Will Rogers stated that: "We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress". It is wise that our membership weighs its advantage points and pursues more than one angle towards solving the CMS issue.

Athletic trainers' may be asking "what could I possibly do?" It means that athletic trainers continue grass root campaigns by calling your Senators and Congressmen. It means that athletic trainers contribute to the NATA-PAC fund. It means being active within your state and national organizations. Let's face it, money talks in Washington D.C. and in your own state. Passing legislation is a slow progress but if done properly can be a powerful tool.

The key is timing, finding the right legislator, and proper universal language towards

passing a bill. Timing is important because of worries with internal political wrangling and other issues that are the "Hot Button" topics such as immigration. It is just as important that your bill sponsor can articulate the need for a stronger Athletic Training Licensure bill on the floor of your State Senate and House of Representatives. These are the same issues that your SEATA leadership must also consider. Language is important because one word can change the entire intent of a law. It is painstakingly slow but there is an "art" towards creating a solid legislative bill. Sometimes, the leadership can be criticized by some for moving slowly on legislative issues.

It is often easy to question our SEATA and NATA leaders for their decisions or their caution when it comes to legislative initiatives. I have personally answered phone calls asking "what are WE (SEATA/NATA) doing about poor salaries and long work hours?" "What about saving athletic training jobs?" I ask you as a SEATA member: "are you supporting the cause"?

Recently, I contacted the NATA membership office. Did you know that there are 741 certified athletic trainers in District IX that do not belong to the NATA. That is 20% of all certified athletic trainers eligible to be NATA members

that choose not to be. Yet, the NATA is out on the front lines fighting for your jobs and supporting legislative efforts on the Federal and State level to have your voice heard. Let me ask you some questions that are intended to raise your level of awareness. Did you know that an ATC can not contribute to the NATA-PAC fund unless you are a Certified NATA member? How many of you who are Certified NATA Members contributed to the NATA-PAC this year? What does this say about our members and its willingness to support the livelihood as an athletic trainer and supporting reimbursement initiatives?

I am reminded of a quote by Edgar Guest who stated, "Apathy is a word that is foe to ambition and it bows only to courage, patience, and skill. It should be hated and once welcomed it can break any man."

I have heard reasons why some do not join the NATA stating that they do not see the benefit of joining. I would argue that such a stance is not only hurting the athletic training profession but yourself. The NATA-Governmental Affairs Committee sets aside money every year specifically for state legislative efforts. All the committee asks is that your state members contribute to the fund raising effort and the GAC will match the funds

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Congratulations to our 25 Year NATA Award Winners in SEATA!!

### NATA 25-Year Award

Linda Barker  
Joseph Beckett  
Craig Brewer  
John R. Brown  
Lisa M. Bruno  
Alana E. Conley  
Michael Cortese  
Cheryl Fuller  
David Fleshman  
Cynthia Goldberg  
Timothy Gonda  
Carol Hommick  
Douglas Keskula  
Dale J. Krach  
Charles A. Lollar  
Samuel Lunt  
Deborah MacLean  
Ronald Medlin  
Bradley Miles  
Kathleen Osborne  
Janet L. Passman  
George B. Reed, III  
William F. Saylor  
Vincent Scavo  
James Searcy, Jr.  
Angela K. Shaffer  
Chris Snoddy  
Therese Sparn  
Thomas Steltenkamp  
CarolLynn Stevens  
Kathleen Ann Stroia  
Mark Tonkins

## News from the President, MaryBeth Horodyski *(continued from Page 1)*

Clay Farr, Marisa Brunett, and David Green worked diligently to obtain a place for our meeting (Marriott Franklin Cool Springs, Franklin TN). Brad Montgomery (AL), Stephanie Lennon (FL), and Joseph Erdeljac (TN) have put in many hours into the first draft of the

SEATA strategic plan. We will be organizing a SEATA Hall of Fame Committee to develop the criteria to be nominated and accepted into the SEATA Hall of Fame. Look for more information on this soon.

In closing, I encourage you to promote our profession

when the opportunity arises and contact members of the SEATA Executive Board with your ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely,  
MaryBeth Horodyski, EdD,  
ATC, LAT



### NATA Research & Education Foundation

#### Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients

**Devona Hollingsworth**,  
University of Georgia, *Jerry Rhea/Atlanta Falcons Scholarship* sponsored by Jerry Rhea/Atlanta Falcons Scholarship Fund

**Takeo Ichiyanagi**,  
University of Alabama, *Dr. Jack Hughston Memorial Scholarship Award* sponsored by Hughston Sports Medicine Foundation

**Renan Saavedra**,  
University of South Florida, *Thomas J. Kerin Memorial Scholarship Award* sponsored by DeRoyal Sports Medicine

**Lauren Steiner**,  
University of West Alabama, *Jerry Rhea Scholarship Award* sponsored by National Football League Charities

#### Graduate/Master's Scholarship Recipient

**Jessica Dysart**,  
University of Georgia, *Bobby Barton Scholarship Award* sponsored by Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association/NATA District 9

## News from the District Director, R.T. Floyd (continued from Page 1)

cepted from August 1 until Nov. 15 for the 2007 NATA awards, and I encourage you to nominate our many deserving members.

Regarding news from the NATA Board of Directors, we were very pleased with our strategic planning session in May and feel that this will help us better address the needs of our membership.

I am sure that you have heard about the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals affirming a lower court's ruling that it did not have jurisdiction to hear the case regarding the CMS law suite. We have discussed this on a recent conference call and you should have received the NATA eBlast on July 26 that we voted to pursue the next step in the legal challenge of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services "incident to" rule. Again, I want to strongly

encourage you all to assist when requested with our continuous efforts at the national level as this issue does affect every athletic trainer regardless of employment setting. This is an example of why we need every certified member to support the NATAPAC as we move toward addressing this issue legislatively.

I encourage you to review the minutes of the NATA Board of Directors Meetings and Conference Calls which are on the SEATA List Serve and to please contact me with questions or concerns.

Congratulations to **Mary-Beth Horodyski**, **Lori Groover**, and **Jim Mackie**, on being elected SEATA President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. I have no doubt that we will see much progress within the organization under their leadership. Thanks to **David**

**Green**, **Eric Fuchs**, and **Dale Krach** for making themselves available as candidates. I am certain that they will each continue to serve SEATA in a variety of ways. I also want to thank **Chris Gillespie** for his service as your President over the last three years. He has been great to work with and truly had the membership's best interest in mind with every action he took.

I appreciate the opportunity you have provided me to continue to serve as your District Director and sincerely desire your input and guidance as I work on your behalf to address the issues facing our profession. Best wishes to you as we begin the fall.

Sincerely,  
R.T. Floyd, EdD, ATC

## College & University Athletic Trainers Committee

The NATA CUATC met on 6/14/2006 in Atlanta, GA at the NATA Annual Meeting and the following items were discussed:

Approved a proposal to partner with the CDC to develop and disseminate MRSA materials.

Tabled a proposal on program development for NCSS course adaptation due to significant Changes in CPR with new AHA ECC guidelines.

DVD from Spearing in Tackle Football Task Force was

distributed at Riddell Booth. It is currently on NATA web site.

Review of AMCIA document to determine the best way to proceed with updates. A focus group will be convened to provide feedback and the membership will be surveyed.

The CUATC Awards season will be ongoing.

Suggested Procedures Task Force has been asked to research certain topics and develop outlines/articles.

Working to establish a sports medicine credential

through NCAA for tournaments and post-season events.

Bob Toth agreed to represent CUATC on Sickle Cell Task Force that will convene in 2007.

Developed update recommendations for the College Football Hall of Fame's review.

CUATC agreed to again fund the study monitoring environmental conditions at Southeastern Universities.

The 2007 CUATC educational session will focus of SCA/CD in athletics.

## College & University Athletic Training Student Committee

The student session at the NATA Meeting was a tremendous success, with the overall theme: "Professional Development". Special thanks to the

District IX members who served as speakers:

- Ron Courson PT, ATC, NREMT - Keynote Speaker
- Carl Mattacola, PhD, ATC

- Greg Sonnenfeld, ATC
- Karen Straub, ATC

## Committee on Revenue

By Tom Bair M.Ed., ATC

At the NATA meeting in Atlanta the COR worked with NATA staff to provide some Kiosk that were used for NPI registration. This was met with overwhelming success and several hundred ATCs registered for their NPI. This continues to be a major focus of the COR and will be until the end of the year. A friendly competition was announced to stimulate awareness of the importance of the NPI. The State with the highest percentage of members who have

registered for their NPI will receive an award presented at the district meet which that state belongs to. **I can think of no reason why the winner of this competition should not be a District IX state.** If you don't understand the importance of having an NPI or if you are having trouble registering feel free to contact me, your State COR member, or your State President. To register for an NPI you can go to <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/StaticForward.do?forward=static.instructions>.

### COR contacts:

*Alabama:* Alan Ridenoure  
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## NATA

### Summer Camp Survey

If you've worked as a head or assistant athletic trainer at a summer sports camp – the NATA would like to hear about it! NATA is surveying members to determine compensation for summer camp coverage and how the pay ATs receive relates to that of other camp staff (i.e. coaches, counselors). We plan to share this information with the membership so those interested in working camps will know what to expect when they sign up. Go to <http://express.perseus.com/perseus/surveys/1734848031/2a11a6fb.htm> to take the survey before August 15, 2006.

## History and Archives Committee

R.T. Floyd and I discussed the lack of updated history for SEATA and the NATA. Jay Shoop and I did SEATA's history around 1985-86. I need an update please.

A short narrative of your

(SEATA members) place of employment giving the history – example: (founded, location and who were and who are the present ATCs).

Let's be the district that can do this better than any

other district. Email me (John H. Anderson) the narrative [athtrain@troy.edu](mailto:athtrain@troy.edu) –from there I will compile the information for distribution. "Tell the story."

## Memorial Resolutions Committee

Please send all pertinent information to John H. Anderson at

[athtrain@troy.edu](mailto:athtrain@troy.edu) of any SEATA member's recent death.

## Research and Education Foundation

We are proud to recognize the 2006 Research and Education Foundation scholarship winners from District Nine. They are Jessica Dysart – University of Georgia (graduate). The undergraduate winners are Devona Hollingsworth, University of Georgia; Takeo Ichiyanagi, University of Alabama; Renan Saavedra, University of South

Florida; and Lauren Steiner, University of West Alabama. Each one of these students received a two thousand dollar award.

I would also like to thank all of the members who have donated to the Foundation this year. We are on pace to make this a great year. If you have not given a tax deductible donation yet and would like to,

please visit the Foundation website at [www.natafoundation.org](http://www.natafoundation.org) where there are many convenient methods listed to set up your donation. If you have any questions or suggestions for the Foundation, please feel free to contact me.

[mwilkinson@msmoc.com](mailto:mwilkinson@msmoc.com)

Sincerely,  
Mike Wilkinson



**The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual SEATA Athletic Training Student Symposium is scheduled for Feb. 9-10, 2007, Crown Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta, GA**

### Iota Tau Alpha

Founded in District #9 (SEATA) –a National Honor Society for Athletic Training Education members. Now has 19 chapters and 257 members.

Please contact John H. Anderson at [athtrain@troy.edu](mailto:athtrain@troy.edu) at your University that offers a degree in Athletic Training is interested in becoming a member.

### 2007 NATA Athletic Trainers Educators' Conference

Presented by the Education Council - Continuing Education Committee

Date:  
January 12 - 14, 2007  
Place: Hilton Anatole,  
Dallas, TX

For complete conference schedule and details please download and view the 'Agenda & Print Registration Form' link below.

#### Registration

Register online for savings  
[www.grires.com/natashowec07.htm](http://www.grires.com/natashowec07.htm)

Agenda & Print Registration Form  
<http://206.211.148.195/~cec/pdf/ATEC06.pdf>

If you need any further information, contact Anita James at 214-637-6282, ext. 152 or e-mail: [anitaj@nata.org](mailto:anitaj@nata.org)

## SEATA Exhibits Committee

Believe it or not we are already working on next years SEATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium. With our NATA Meeting on the West Coast we should have a good attendance at this our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting. I would like to Thank our Corporate Partners, Gatorade, Sports Health Supply, Theraquip and Mississippi Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center. We want to

attract more vendors, so please put the word out about next years meeting to all of those sales reps who call on you.

Please submit any new companies in your area who could become a new exhibitor or have them contact me at the address given. Please support our exhibitors, especially our Corporate Partners, as they help in making our SEATA Annual Meeting and Clinical

Symposium the great success that it has become.

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## Women in Athletic Training Committee

The District IX WATC would like to welcome its three newest members: Cheryl Ellis (GA), Cary Berthelot (LA), and Peggy Bratt (TN). The WATC district committee is comprised of a chair and members from each of the states in the district. Returning members of the committee include: Mary McLendon (Chair), Sherry Kimbro (AL), Kristen Couper Schellhase (FL), and Ruth Hagan (MS).

We are still looking for a new representative for Kentucky, so if you are interested,

please contact state president Greg Rose or District IX WATC chair Mary McLendon ([mmclendon@athletics.msstate.edu](mailto:mmclendon@athletics.msstate.edu)).

The Breast Cancer 3-Day is looking for volunteers across the country to assist with their events. Two of the events are taking place this October in our district in Atlanta and Tampa Bay. If you are interested in helping or you just want to know more about it, please visit the WATC committee page on the NATA website. The organizers have

always been very complimentary of the services that athletic trainers have provided in the past, so they are excited about any help we can provide.

A big thanks to everyone who has contributed information to our timeline of women in athletic training in District IX! After all the finishing touches are in place, the timeline will be available on our committee page on the SEATA website. As always, if you would like more information about the district committee, please visit this site.

## State Reports

### Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association

The Georgia Athletic Trainers Association will hold its annual meeting in Atlanta January 11-13, 2007 at the Marriott Atlanta NW, located on North Parkway, just off Windy Hill Road. The meeting format is different from past years by adding an additional full day educational session from the 2006 meeting. This new format will allow our members to receive more

CEU's as well as allow our vendors more time to meet with our members. Moreover, the pre-registration fee will remain the same as the 2006 rate. The hotel rate is locked in at \$99.00/night and will be available 3 days prior to the meeting and 3 days after.

More details will follow as we get closer to January and will be available on the GATA website,

[www.athletictraining.org](http://www.athletictraining.org). Chuck Conner is the chair of the Education Committee and can be reached via email at [cconner@valdosta.edu](mailto:cconner@valdosta.edu)

Elections for GATA Vice-President and Secretary will be in the Fall and the new officers will take office at the annual meeting. A call for nominations will be made in October.

## Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society

### Tennessee Passes Historic Bill Establishes Board of Athletic Trainers

In an historic event last month, Governor Phil Bredesen signed into law changes that make the athletic training practice statutes in the State of Tennessee one of the country's best stand alone athletic training practice acts. Its significance will shape the future of athletic training in the State and sets the tone to help protect the public from unlicensed individuals and further strengthen the athletic training profession in Tennessee and allied healthcare everywhere.

The new changes, which went into effect July 1st, 2006, were designed to further strengthen what had become a model for others to follow and to better protect the citizens in the State of Tennessee. "This will help to strengthen and solidify our profession among the allied healthcare providers in the state of Tennessee" said Joe Erdeljac, TATS President. "We have accomplished what has been a priority for several years. A strong Board will help continue to shape the professional image of athletic training and ensure that the public receives that care from duly licensed individuals."

Immediate past president and bill author Nick Pappas commented: "This event is the culmination of a process that began with the passage of the original practice act in 1983. David Adams, Eddie Cantler and others were instrumental in making that a reality. When I came to Tennessee in 1989, then TATS President Chuck Kimmel put me to work on what became the first of several major revisions that took place over the next eighteen years. It became my passion and now we have legislation in

place that we believe will serve our profession and the public very well."

Hope Jackson, who is an attorney for Bone and McAllister and serves as TATS lobbyist with Jay West said "With the creation of their own board, athletic trainers will be able to more efficiently and effectively deal with the issues and concerns of their own profession. They also will have increased credibility and visibility on par with the other health professionals that already have their own boards. This is a wonderful thing, not only for athletic trainers, but for all of the many Tennesseans across the state that athletic trainers serve."

Here are what the new changes do and why they were needed:

It creates the Board of Athletic Trainers so the issues and practice of athletic trainers currently licensed under TCA Title 63, Chapter 24 can be more directly and efficiently dealt with and also establishes the powers and duties of the Board.

It empowers the Board to take action on those who employ, contract for or otherwise utilize an unlicensed individual to provide athletic training services when such individual must first be licensed under the current laws of this State. It also empowers the Board more precisely in their ability to take action on individuals who attempt to practice without a license or the use or attempted use of a revoked or suspended license. It more clearly gives the Board authority to take action on individuals who attempt to obtain or obtain a license to practice through misrepresentation or fraudulent means or use the title of athletic trainer without first having a license under T.C.A. Title 63, Chapter 24.

When the athletic training practice act was first passed in 1983, there were fewer than 100 athletic trainers in the State. Putting them under the authority of the Board of Medical Examiners made sense at that time. Those numbers have grown nearly 700 percent to date and projections indicate that growth will continue. With that growth, so have the demands and needs of the athletic training profession to have the ability to have a dedicated Board to address the increased demands on compliance with the statutes already in place and the issues that face these allied healthcare professionals. Did you know that over a dozen states requiring licensure have a Board of Athletic Trainers? Included in this group are the neighboring states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia and North Carolina as well as Florida.

The bill helps ensure the safety of the public by providing for enforcement of current statutes and thus protecting the public from possible harm and injury resulting from the care that might be provided by an unlicensed and untrained individual.

For details on changes and important information please read the special newsletter at [www.tnata.org](http://www.tnata.org). Questions should be forwarded to TATS President Joe Erdeljac at [jterdeljac@charter.net](mailto:jterdeljac@charter.net) or Nick Pappas at [npappas@miller.fsu.edu](mailto:npappas@miller.fsu.edu).

### Congratulations to TATS!!



Gathered for this momentous occasion standing left to right are lobbyist and attorney Hope Jackson, Senator Mark Norris, TATS President Joe Erdeljac, bill sponsor Senator Roy Herron, immediate past president of TATS and bill author Nick Pappas, paralegal Jennifer Bragg, bill sponsor Representative Les Winningham and Representative Gary Moore. Seated in the center is Governor Phil Bredesen. (Photo courtesy TN Governor's Office)

Review NATA Honors & Awards, then nominate a deserving member between August 1 & November 15 at [www.nata.org/honors/index.htm](http://www.nata.org/honors/index.htm)

Update your NATA & SEATA Contact Information now at [www.nata.org/members1/resources.cfm](http://www.nata.org/members1/resources.cfm)

### National Provider Identifier (NPI) Information

Get your NPI Today!  
[www.seata.org/npi.htm](http://www.seata.org/npi.htm)  
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NPI update  
[www.seata.org/NPIupdate\\_Feb06.doc](http://www.seata.org/NPIupdate_Feb06.doc)  
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SEATA Offers Online CEUs  
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Congratulations to the members of District IX for winning the "Signatures are Vital Signs" SCA awareness campaign! District leaders will be presented with a LIFEPAK CR Plus AED, donated by Medtronic.

## Tough Medicine (continued from Page 3)

raised up to \$2000.00 a year. The dollars can also be used to help support your state lobbyist. Two years ago SEATA held a fundraiser that generated a total of \$3,000.00 that was divided between the states. That money was then turned into the NATA-GAC for matching funds and doubled the money raised for a total of \$6,000.00. In essence, each state doubled its money for legislative funds. We were hampered this year with our GAC fundraiser by some legis-

tics but plan on resurrecting this program again next year.

This editorial may come across as tough medicine for some. However, I felt it necessary as your District IX GAC representative to encourage all within the SEATA membership to recruit those certified athletic trainers that are not members of the NATA to stress the importance of joining. It is just as important to stress the need to contribute towards the NATA-PAC fund. It is unfortunate that it takes money for

our voices to be heard but that is how the game is played. I also encourage all athletic trainers to be active by getting involved within their own state organizations and with SEATA. Athletic Trainers are a strong "willed" group and are passionate about their profession. Let us channel that wonderful spirit and grow to be an even stronger SEATA organization!

David Jones, MSHA, MS, ATC  
District IX GAC Representative

**Mark your calendar & make your reservations!**  
**The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual SEATA Clinical Symposium & Members Meeting will be March 22-25, 2007, Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, Franklin, TN**  
Room Rate \$109.00++, 1-888-403-6772  
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