



NDATA Extra NEWS

DECEMBER 19, 2012

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 2

EXTRA! EXTRA!

**READ ALL
ABOUT IT!!**

**Very important
information for
members in this
extra
newsletter.**

**We need your
help!**

**The adage
"strength in
number" applies
to politics in a
big way.**

**Many people
speaking with
one voice can
have a profound
impact.**

Concussion Legislation Update:

The NDATA had been actively working on improving the wording of the Concussion Management bill that was enacted in the ND legislature. Many members have been involved fighting this battle. Multiple people have spoke to the Education and Taxation committee this summer and others have sat in on discussion groups working on the wording of the bill. Thanks to all those that have contributed to this. To help our cause, the NDATA has hired a lobbyist, Shane Goettle. Shane brings a strong knowledge of the legislative process and as been great so far helping us. The cost will be \$9,500 for his work from October 2012 to April 2013.

Other health professions have been involved in the re-write process. The biggest challenge we may have is going to be the doctors in the state. The Board of Medical Practice may oppose some of the wording of the the bill so it will read that only MD can return an athlete to play after a concussion.

A lot of time and effort has been put in to make this better for Athletic Trainers in the state. As the bill is now, it is much improved. Not exactly how we want it but better than before.

We need your help to keep it bill going in the right direction for the Athletic Trainers in this state. Please help in any way you can.

Here is how you can help:

- 1) Write a letter to your legislator. Last page of this newsletter is sample letter to help you get started.
- 2) Call or visit your legislator
- 3) If you have a doctor you work closely, ask them to help us out. See if they will write a letter. You never know until you ask.

The NATA had great tips too if you need more information:

<http://www.nata.org/state-government>

http://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/2011_legislative_toolkit.pdf

*NDATA
Symposium
and Business
Meeting*

April 26-27, 2013

Fargo, ND

*MAATA Annual
Meeting &
Symposium*

March 14-16, 2013

Tulsa, OK

*NATA Annual
Meeting &
Clinical
Symposium*

June 24-27, 2013

Las Vegas, NV

**North
Dakota
Athletic
Trainers'
Association**

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Exciting News Regarding the

NDATA Spring Meeting:

JIM THORTON IS COMING!!

NDATA Symposium and Business meeting will be held Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27 in Fargo. It is with great pleasure that we announce that Jim Thorton will be the special guest speaker at the Symposium. Please make every effort to be at this conference as it is not everyday the NATA President will come to our conference.

Co-chairs for the conference this year are Pam Hanson and Nikki German.

**News from the
North Dakota Board of Athletic Trainers
by Heather Golly**

The North Dakota Board of Athletic Trainers met on October 10th to amend the technical language in the Athletic Training Act. The language changes align the North Dakota Century Code, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education, and the BOC, Inc. language. The decision to amend the North Dakota Century Code was based on the discovery of out dated language within the Century Code. The North Dakota Board of Athletic Trainers is working with Edward E. Erickson an Assistant Attorney General appointed to the Board by the Attorney Generals Office. Mr. Erickson has produced a draft of the changes to the bill and the board will meet via phone conference the last week of November to discuss and finalize the changes.

Election Results:

Congratulations Steve & Alyssa!

NDATA held elections for Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. 31 votes were cast and after the tally, Steve Westereng was elected to Vice President and Alyssa Sorensen was elected to Secretary/Treasurer. Thank you Nomination Chair Scott Witte for all your work on the election!

Vice President: Steve Westereng

Secretary/Treasurer: Alyssa Sorensen

Two year term January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014.

One year interim and two year term January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2015

To aline our committee more with the district and national levels, the Board of Directors has voted to disband the following committees:

**Placement,
Historian,
Clinical/Industrial**

Sample letter to Legislator

It will be more effective not to use a form letter, this will help you get started writing a letter.

(Put this on letterhead or make letterhead using NDATA Logo)

DATE

The Honorable (*Name*)
The (*State Name*) Senate
(*Senate Address*)
(*Senate Address*)

or

The Honorable (*Name*)
The (*State Name*) (*House of Representatives*)
(*House Address*)
(*House Address*)

Dear *Senator * Representative * Assemblyman/Assemblywoman (Name)*:

First paragraph: 1) reason for writing: 2) your position: 3) the issue and, if appropriate, the bill number and where the bill is in the legislative process. (These three facts should be in one sentence.) **I am writing requesting your support for Concussion Management Program:Section 15.1-18.2-04 that is currently being amended by the Education and Taxation Committee.**

Second paragraph: Briefly, concisely, explain your position – why this is important to you and how you're affected by the proposed legislation. **Amendment of section 15.1-18.2-04 would help protect our athletes and ensure proper care and treatment of concussions. By amending this legislation it will help clear up confusion the bill has created.**

Third paragraph: Briefly provide salient facts about athletic training in your state and about yourself. **There are 198 athletic trainers licensed in North Dakota. I have been a certified athletic trainer for (#) years. I have been employed as an athletic trainer by the University of (State name), by sports medicine clinics in (town, State), and by (****).**

Fourth paragraph: Thank the legislator for considering your position and offer to provide further information.

Signature