



MARYLAND ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

*News Affecting You, The Maryland Athletic Trainer*

October 2020

[www.marylandathletictrainers.org](http://www.marylandathletictrainers.org)

**A Word From The President:**

The past few months have been very challenging for us all as we all continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent events shedding light on the racial inequality and racial injustice for people in America. It's times like these that I look to my AT family for support and guidance, so having both the NATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposia in Atlanta and the MAATA Annual Meeting in Charlotte canceled, is even more heartbreaking. I will truly miss the opportunity to reconnect with friends, colleagues, and all athletic trainers throughout the state, and to catch up on the past year. I encourage you to take a moment and reach out to anyone you feel may need some extra support during these difficult times.



**Gina Palermo**

One of the things I will miss most about not having the NATA Annual Meeting in person is not having the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of one of our own, Maggi Souris (Athletic Trainer Service Award)! The bright side is the NATA has paused Honors and Awards for the year so we will have the opportunity to celebrate with them next year in Orlando. Additionally, congratulations to our district award winners as well, Pete Kotz (Hall of Fame), and Maggi Souris (Athletic Trainer Service Award)! Our district meeting will be in Charlotte again in 2021.

As we start to look to the future, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to some of our leaders for their service to MATA and the profession, Wes Robinson moving into our past-president role. Thank you for your hard work on HB 576 along with Ed Strapp, and Nick Pitruzzella. Thank you to Ed Strapp, as he has accepted a position as the MAATA District 3 representative to the NATA GAC. Our state and members will be forever grateful for your service. I know you will make us proud at the district level. BIG NEWS As of October 1, 2020, our opportunities as athletic trainers have expanded. Additionally, our re-vamping of the Athletic Training Advisory Committee structure and streamlining the licensure process.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of our members who without a doubt have risen to the occasion in the past few months. Without your support, the MATA, and the profession would not be where it is today.

***Thank you to our sponsors:***



## MATA PAC

MATA PAC empowers members to support state elected officials who champion policy that advances the athletic training profession in Maryland. By donating to MATA PAC, you can help shape the political environment and educate state legislators on the significant contributions that athletic trainers make as healthcare providers. Your contributions to the MATA PAC help us seek better working conditions, fair access and the right to practice for all athletic trainers in our state. Please consider helping the profession by donating to MATA PAC today! Donations are accepted via PayPal ([mata4pac@gmail.com](mailto:mata4pac@gmail.com) or scan the QR code below with any smart phone), Venmo (@MATA-PAC), or good old fashioned check. Any questions can be emailed to Adam Brown at [abrown@gprep.org](mailto:abrown@gprep.org).



**Adam Brown**



### *Thank you to our sponsors:*



### *The MATA is:*

- *An AMA recognized health care professionals.*
- *Unique health care providers-working under the supervision of a licensed physician to provide assessment, treatment and rehabilitative services to patients.*
- *Educated in the assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of medical conditions resulting from injury and illness.*
- *Qualified providers of rehabilitative medicine and preventative service.*

### **Executive Board**

<b>President:</b>	Gina Palermo	<a href="mailto:ginarpalermo@gmail.com">ginarpalermo@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jean Perez	<a href="mailto:jean.perez@goucher.edu">jean.perez@goucher.edu</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Ashley Holmes	<a href="mailto:aholmes@mcdonogh.org">aholmes@mcdonogh.org</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Michael Smuda	<a href="mailto:mсмуда@umoa.umm.edu">mсмуда@umoa.umm.edu</a>
<b>Past- President:</b>	Wes Robinson	<a href="mailto:marylandathletictraining@gmail.com">marylandathletictraining@gmail.com</a>

## Young Professionals Committee

Happy Fall, All!

I hope this Newsletter finds you well. Please see below for ways that you can get involved with the YP Committee! As always, the most up-to-date information can be found posted in our Facebook group (MATA Young Professionals)- so join us there and get involved!



**Caroline Siebens**

Full list of Fall Events:

- 10/4- Pack Walk
- 10/8- Full Tilt Brewery 7:30PM
- 10/16- Elder Pine Brewing Co 4:30PM
- 10/31- Costume Contest 5pm- see FB for details
- 11/1- Pack Walk 12:30PM @ Cromwell Valley Park

November: Food Drive  
December: Toy Drive

The food and toy drives will benefit the Y of Central Maryland; specifically their Turkey Trot food drive and Giving Tree campaigns. We will be accepting NEW items only or cash donations towards the Committee shopping on your behalf.

e-mail [csiebens@towsonortho.com](mailto:csiebens@towsonortho.com) for Donation drop-off, Venmo, CashApp, and PayPal information.

**You do not have to be a Young Professional to donate!**

## Committee on Practice Advancement (COPA) Update:

The new changes to the practice act brings more opportunity for the COPA committee. Currently the committee is working with D3 COPA representatives to identify possible opportunities that would benefit the state membership. The new changes to the practice act



**Chelsey Toney**

will be bringing many new jobs to the organization in the non-traditional settings. We are working to gather resources and make them available to the membership as they start to make these transitions in practice. In the meantime if anyone is currently transitioning to the non-traditional setting please don't hesitate to reach out for support. You can contact Chelsey Toney, COPA Chair, at [chelseytoney13@gmail.com](mailto:chelseytoney13@gmail.com). Additionally, as we begin to expand we are also looking for additional support within the committee. If you are interested in volunteering with COPA please reach out to Chelsey Toney.

## The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Hey All! Quick Update from the DEI committee. This fall has been such a whirlwind with everything going on. We have been working on highlighting members of our community, that are helping to spotlight the works of the DEI committee. Shoutout to Lydia for providing a lot of information



**Rachel Moore**

on our social media pages to inform and get the word out to our state. Also, the NATA is doing a great job of providing resources and highlights within the DEI community. Right now, we are working on a presenter for our 2021 state Symposium. Please be on the lookout for some polling questions in the near future that will explore different topics that we would like presented and some areas of focus for the DEI committee for this year. We are always looking for more members for our committee, so please reach out to [Rachel.moore@bullis.org](mailto:Rachel.moore@bullis.org) if you are interested. Hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

## Governmental Action Committee

Dear Members,

The MATA Governmental Affairs Committee has had an amazing year. I am sure its old news, but I am still on the roof tops screaming! WE DID IT! After a long road and many little hurdles, SB 732(HB579) was passed in the Maryland General Assembly giving Athletic Trainers licensed in Maryland a new and updated practice act. ([http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/Chapters\\_noln/CH\\_579\\_sb0732t.pdf](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/Chapters_noln/CH_579_sb0732t.pdf))



**Ed Strapp**

While it is always important to keep an eye on changes in a practice act, these changes should have no impact on those currently working in Maryland in the traditional settings. However, the changes in our practice act will really allow to a variety of new settings for athletic trainers to seek employment here in Maryland. The biggest change is the dramatic change to the definition of Active Individual:

**“ATHLETIC INDIVIDUAL” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PARTICIPATES IN AN ATHLETIC ACTIVITY, A JOB FUNCTION, OR A JOB-RELATED ACTIVITY THAT REQUIRES PHYSICAL STRENGTH, RANGE OF MOTION, FLEXIBILITY, CONTROL, SPEED, STAMINA, OR AGILITY.**

The second major change was the removal of defined workplace settings. Together these two changes have opened the door for a variety of work place opportunities from Production/Manufacturing, warehouses, public safety, and other new and expanding environments.

This is a huge occasion for the MATA and really opens the door to many employments possibilities. I could not be more proud the work that so many put into this process. From membership engagement at Town Hall meetings, attending lobby days and legislative receptions, and emailing senators and delegates, it was getting your voice heard that made the greatest impact. We had outside support from all over the country completing I-Petitions, to coming into Maryland to Testify! IT WAS AMAZING! And as I have said before, WE DID IT!

But it didn't stop there, the Maryland Board of Physicians completed their sunset review in 2019 and submitted legislation to make a number of sweeping changes to their committees. HB 560 had several athletic training pieces. ([http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/Chapters\\_noln/CH\\_612\\_hb0560t.pdf](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/Chapters_noln/CH_612_hb0560t.pdf)) The composition of the ATAC was altered to now include only one of the 3 outside allied health providers. So now the committee will have ONE Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, or Chiropractor. The other significant piece was a processing of licensure applications. This has been streamlined and allows an Athletic Trainer to begin working once all documents are received and confirmed by the BOP, prior to the next ATAC meeting, with some stipulations. So this is another milestone improvement for Athletic Trainers in Maryland.

Lastly, Wes Robinson and I were able to meet with the State EMS Medical Director and begin the process of improving the care of Exertional Heat Illness cases in Maryland. As we know, The EHI gold standard is immersion cooling and “Cool before Transport” mentality. Well that now matches with the Maryland EMS statewide protocols, if active cooling has been initiated by a licensed athletic trainer or school health care provider.

**IF ACTIVE COOLING IS IN PROGRESS BY A TEAM/EVENT PHYSICIAN OR ATHLETIC TRAINER, ALLOW COOLING TO CONTINUE PRIOR TO MAKING AN ATTEMPT TO TRANSPORT UNTIL THE PATIENT HAS AN IMPROVED MENTAL STATUS OR THE TEMPERATURE HAS DECREASED TO 102 DEGREES F OR LESS. IF ANY DISAGREEMENT IN THE PATIENT CARE PLAN OCCURS, CONTACT A BASE STATION FOR AN ONLINE MEDICAL CONSULTATION. (NEW '20) (Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services)**

*Continued on next page.*

## Governmental Action Committee (Cont.)

So, WE DID IT! We had an amazing year, and look forward to what is ahead. I want to personally thank all of our members for your support. We do want to thank you for your help in 2020 and support of the GAC. The ball doesn't stop rolling here, we need you to Stay engaged, talk to EVERYONE you can! This includes Friends, Family, Colleagues, PTs, OTs, and Chiropractors but most importantly, you connect with a Legislator and talk about us! This is a great time to just say HELLO to local legislators, and engage them so they know what impact we have on their community.



**Ed Strapp**

With all these great accomplishments, The MATA won the Dan Campbell Legislative Award. We were Co-Award winners with Kentucky for the 2020 Level one Award. This was in recognition to the legislative efforts. Anna Sedory was really excited for our successful campaign and recognized this was a long battle for us and was excited for the ways that we utilized the NATA resources which are available, engaged our members in a variety of activities and successfully changed the face of Athletic Training in Maryland.

I also must say thanks to the MATA PAC! Adam Brown has done an amazing job as PAC Chairman. I cannot stress enough the benefit we received from your support of the PAC. Financial support is key to increasing our war chest, and we have hosted events like the Orioles baseball Game, State Symposium, Clothing, and straight donations. Covid-19 has thrown a wrench in some plans, but keep an eye for new opportunities ahead. Adam Brown won the NATA Impact Advocacy Award; Adam has made great strides in developing and expanding our PAC fund for Maryland and was recognized for the work he has done with the PAC and how it was instrumental in moving our legislative efforts forward and paramount in the success of the 2020 campaign.

Lastly, I bid you "good bye." I have been selected to be the next MAATA District 3 representative to the NATA GAC. Over the next few months I will be shadowing the current representative and completing the NATA onboarding process so in June 2021 at the NATA meeting in Orlando, I will begin my role. So I will be working with the MATA board as we identify the next Chairman for the MATA GAC, and I look forward to working with them as they get up to speed. But Good Bye does not mean good riddance! I will continue to support the MATA in any way that I can and look forward to new opportunities to expand Athletic Training here in Maryland, around the district and across the country!

So thank you all for your amazing support and I can't wait to see the first official AT job in a new and expanding setting here in Maryland!

Stay Safe

Ed

# Secondary School Athletic Trainer's Committee

Hello SSAT's,

What a strange and weird place to be, in athletics in Maryland right now. It sure feels like it's been over a year since we actually had any secondary schools organized athletics. It also feels like this has been the longest year ever. We don't know about you, but it felt like April-June were 6 months. Now that we are actually into the Fall season and almost no sports, it's just seems even longer sometimes.

Well, we hope that many of you can find some peace in whatever it is that you are doing right now. We hope that everyone has been able to continue to work in some way or another. Whether that is working from home, as we're sure plenty of SSAT's are teachers as well, or if you are actually able to go in to work in your office. We're sure so many of our colleagues have so many new and different protocols that you must consider that it might seem like a different world altogether.



**Nick Pitruzzella**

Secondary school athletics in Maryland has never had a more difficult time in memory and we can only do our best to keep up hope that things will eventually return to "normal". We must all prepare for what many would call a "new normal" for the near future and possibly beyond. In that new normal, we must be ready to pivot even more than we would have in the past. We are certain that more of us are being asked to do things that we might not have considered before Covid.

We have also created and distributed some folders for the SSAT's that you can reference. We have included links to both folders here [Covid Resources](#) and [Maryland Secondary Schools Athletic Trainers' Resources](#). So please feel free to look into those files and utilize any of the materials you need. We want you to know that we try to keep these files up-to-date and relevant with resources for SSAT's. However, if there is something that you come across, or know that should be shared with other SSAT's across Maryland, do not hesitate to reach out to us to have it included in these folders.

We wanted to include an update and information from the ATLAS team, so please read this message from Ayami Yoshihara and her team regarding ATLAS: [ATLAS link](#)

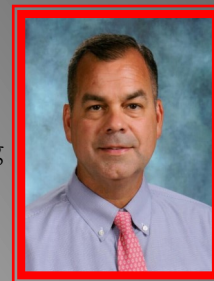
1. The survey will only need to be completed every *other* year instead of every year. If you have schools that have not updated their information before **August 2019**; we encourage you to reach out to your ATs to update their ATLAS survey.
2. We have added 2 questions related to the impact of COVID-19 and employment in the secondary school setting. We hope this will give us an overall picture of how the pandemic has affected secondary school AT services.
3. We can also assist outreach coordinators in these updating efforts. If there is a medical facility (e.g. university, clinic, physician's office) that covers many schools or an entire district, please have the coordinator reach out to us so we can help update these schools on the maps.

Well, it's our time to sign-off for now. Please know that we are here for any and all of you out there. Don't hesitate for one second to reach out to us for anything, even if you just want to talk...our door is always open. Keep up your heads up and eyes to the sky, because this is just another part of our journey and we will get thru this to be in a better place.

Thank you,  
MATA Secondary Schools Athletic Trainer's Committee  
Nick and Melissa  
[npitruzzella@gilman.edu](mailto:npitruzzella@gilman.edu) and [mread41@gmail.com](mailto:mread41@gmail.com)

# Fall Report 2020 - Honors & Awards

This past year for all of us has had its challenges, its ups and downs, and I am sure just some crazy moments. Even though most of us were quarantined for a good part of the spring and possibly the summer, I know we all missed doing what we do the most and that is caring for our patients.



**Peter Kotz**

Even though 2020 has been crazy, we had one of our best years for involvement with Maryland awards. Not only did we have some great individuals nominated who were worthy of the MATA awards but also had a few of our members recognized by local, district and national organizations for their commitment to the profession.

With us all settling into a new normal for now, it is time to begin considering possible candidates for State awards. So please take a moment to consider a colleague that you believe is deserving of recognition for all they do for our profession.

**The MATA awards are as follows:**

- Pioneer Award**
- Presidential Award of Merritt**
- William B. Howard Award – Recognizing an outstanding Team Physician**
- Athletic Trainer Service Award**
- Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer**
- MATA Hall of Fame**

As for the MAATA/District awards, you may still nominate someone for district awards, however time is running out, so nominate now. On the other hand, the NATA has decided so that they can give the appropriate recognition to the 2020 award winners they are not accepting nominations this summer/fall. They will instead recognize the 2020 winners during the 2021 National Meeting.

Finally, please know that when nominating an individual, many awards require a candidate to complete an application and submit supporting materials. Therefore, we recommend you allow ample time to complete these materials by submitting your nominations early.

## **TIME LINE**

**Now – March 1- Nominations accepted. Qualified nominees notified by MATA H & A Committee**

**April 1 - Deadline for nominee to return all application and support materials**

**May/June 2020 - Awards presented during the MATA Business Meeting**

For all of our information on the specific MATA Honors and Award, please visit the [MATA web page](#). If you are unsure of an individual's qualifications for an award, please do not hesitate to contact me at [pkotz@olgchs.org](mailto:pkotz@olgchs.org).