



Dear Membership,

I hope this note finds you well. It's hard to believe that it is already January 15th, I've been trying to get an update out to you since December...I know that you all understand! I just wanted to take a few minutes to update you regarding happenings and some upcoming dates.

WORK COMP

The last time that you heard from me, I was begging you to obtain letters of support from your physicians for proposed changes to the Workers Compensation Court's Schedule of Medical and Hospital fees for 2010. I am happy to report that approximately 70 letters of support were submitted. The majority were from physicians, and they clearly advanced the court's awareness of services that Athletic Trainers are educated, trained, and licensed to provide. The changes sought were adopted by the court and can be seen at

<http://www.owcc.state.ok.us/PDF/2010%20Fee%20Schedule%20ADOPTED%20FINAL.pdf>

(pdf page 141). This was a successful culmination of 14 months of discussions with court administrators which provides positive recognition for our profession.

NEW OKLAHOMA SENATE BILL

In other news, the OATA submitted a bill (Senate Bill 3509) modeled after recent Washington State legislation which provides that "A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury during a practice or game shall be removed from participation at that time," and that "A youth athlete who has been removed from participation...may not participate until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and receives written clearance to return to participation from that health care provider." Recognizing that concussion related hearings are currently being held in Washington DC, and the Youth Athlete Safety Summit was recently held in Sacramento, California (www.youthsportssafetyalliance.org), this bill will begin to put a legislative spotlight on youth sport safety issues within our state. We will be asking you for more letters and phone calls in the near future!

OCA

A topic that never stops...the OATA was contacted in August by the Oklahoma Coaches Association to provide assistance in restructuring the All State high school student athletic training aid and licensed athletic trainer selection process. A proposal was submitted and accepted that will benefit both the members of the OCA and the OATA, while positively impacting the care received by student athletes competing in OCA games. For more information, see www.oata.net, or contact Dan Newman.

MEETING DATES

As a reminder, please mark you calendars for the OATA symposium and business meeting to be held at The University of Tulsa on May 22nd and 23rd, with golf on the 21st. The meeting committee is putting together a great meeting, with a special focus on AT presenters. There are a few presentation spaces still open, so if you have an interesting presentation idea, please reply to this message.

The Mid-America Athletic Trainers Association annual meeting and symposium is March 25-26 in Columbia, MO, and has nominal registration costs for members. Please see <http://maata.net/node/196> for details.

In closing, we genuinely appreciate your support and assistance in each of the endeavors of our professional association. We continually strive to improve the care given to patients and athletes, to protect your right to practice athletic training in a variety of settings, and to foster positive relationships with a variety of governmental agencies and professional associations. Many of you have stepped up in the past year to address these issues, and many of you would make outstanding organization leaders. The office of president-elect will be vacant in May, and we ask that you seek out dedicated professionals for nomination to this or other offices.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,
Yours in Service,

RW

Ron H. Walker, MA, LAT, ATC, CSCS

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