

06/08/05 - LETTER FROM THE MATA PRESIDENT

On Saturday May 14, 2005, the Minnesota Athletic Trainers' Association held its annual meeting and symposium at the Grand Casino in Hinckley. There were just over 100 registered for the event.

During the honors and awards ceremony we inducted two new members into the MATA Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Neal Dutton and Roger Schipper for their well deserved induction into the Hall of Fame.

During the business meeting Ronda Peterson and Neal Dutton were re-elected to another term as Treasurer and State Representative respectively. Brian Zeller was elected as the Vice President for a two-year term, congratulations to Brian.

There was an important discussion held during the meeting in regards to the MATA securing the services of a lobbyist to watch for our best interest in legislative efforts. In the past we have had to watch out for legislation that might impact our practice as athletic trainers through the vigilance of our own members. The membership voted, at the meeting, and overwhelmingly voted to pursue and secure the services of a lobbyist that can watch for legislative change for us. This was strongly encouraged by the LIME team members in attendance from the NATA as well. When asked, Speaker of the House Steve Sviggum also recommended a lobbyist to watch out for our interests. It was also stated by all of these individuals that we should have this lobbyist help us look for legislation that could affect our practice but that our members must do the contacts with legislatures individually. Lobbyists are seen as "hired guns" and the legislatures like to hear from their constituents and this carries much more weight. We were able to see this first hand when legislation was introduced in another health care providers bill that would have had significant impact on our practice. Athletic trainers around the state got on the phone and computers and contacted their legislature members and the bill did not proceed. The main question at this time with a lobbyist is how the cost will be handled. The executive committee will be meeting this summer and looking at that issue. The MATA Legislative committee will be looking for a lobbyist to recommend to the executive committee. Watch for more news on that front.

Special thanks to Kara Haring, who is the outgoing VP, for her work these past two years and the very successful state meetings that she has held. We will miss you on the EC.

The state business meeting minutes will be posted to the web site shortly. Please check the web site periodically for important information. Remember that we get your information from the NATA. If you are moving, changing email or have any changes that may effect your membership or getting information from us please make changes on the NATA website and keep your information up to date.

If you are going to be speaking to a group and would like copies of our MATA brochure please contact one of the executive committee members or PR committee members. If

you are interested in serving in any capacity do not hesitate to contact us. We are always looking for volunteers to help out the organization.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact anyone of the EC.

Thanks and have a great summer.