

08/05/05 - LATEST LETTER FROM THE MATA PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe that the summer has come and gone and we are on the verge of another year of athletic competition. Hopefully all of you have had the opportunity to take some personal time and been able to relax and get away from the office.

The upcoming year is full of challenges for all of us and for the profession in general. Recently the lawsuit filed by the NATA against CMS was dismissed due to a technicality. The NATA is working on changing that and pursuing the challenge to the CMS decision. With one legislative session just over and another just on the horizon we will have to wait and see what new challenges to our profession are brought forward. To that end we are securing the services of a lobbyist. This was approved by the membership at the annual meeting this past May in Hinckley. The challenge is to find a way to fund this position. We are working on several options within the executive committee. One of the options we are considering is a special assessment to the membership. We would use this to establish a fund that can help with the cost of a lobbyist. We have some funds currently available and also are working with the NATA on funding help from the national organization. Other ideas we are working with are private donations to reach an objective. We will proceed with the lobbyist and fund it from the MATA general fund at this time but we need to find assistance before long. The lobbyist is truly needed and will benefit the MATA and each member personally and professionally. The Executive Committee will be meeting to talk about these options and then there will be a town hall meeting, via web cast, to present the plan and take questions from the membership. Watch for further details about the web cast.

I would personally like to welcome Brian Zeller to the EC as the new Vice President. He will be heading the committee to organize this years state meeting in St. Cloud. We are always looking for people to help within the organization. Amy Hamilton has been working with the newsletter people to help keep the web site updated and they will continue to work hard on keeping the web site full of helpful information. I appreciate her work on the web. Look for EC meeting minutes and the state meeting minutes on the web shortly.

Another thank you from myself and on behalf of the entire membership goes to Liz Kestner. She had been the PR committee chair for some time now. She has done an outstanding job and every member should be thankful for her years of work and dedication to the organization and profession. She will be truly missed and that does create a needed void. If anyone is interested in serving on the PR committee or serving as its chair please contact either Amy Hamilton or myself as soon as possible. This is an important position and we would like to fill it shortly. Liz will help with consulting but is no longer able to serve as chair of the committee. Thank you again Liz.

Please go to the web site once in a while to check on new happenings and news. If something big comes along we will send out an eblast to check out the web. The newest information will be on the scrolling screen on the front page and available in the news section.

Remember that if you change address or even just your email please update the NATA through the NATA web site. We get all of our member information from the NATA and only can update our lists through them so please keep them up to date with current contact information.

Enjoy the rest of your summers and good luck to one and all with another sports season on the horizon.