



RIATA Winter 2004 Newsletter

Letter from the President

By: Andy Llaguno, MEd, ATC, CSCS

First, on behalf of the RIATA Executive Board, I would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy upcoming holiday to you and your families. Secondly, I would like to welcome everyone to our first "ONLINE" RIATA Newsletter.

There are so many exciting developments from the RIATA within the last year and a few new upcoming events. The Executive Board and RIATA Committee Chairs have some new faces such as Jen Brodeur- President Elect, Tom Belmaggio- Secretary & Treasurer, Rob Lawton- Public Relations, Garrett DeGroot- Web Master, and a warm welcome back to Paul Roberti- Secondary Schools. As you can see, things have really picked up and this brings in a lot of fresh ideas. These folks have been working hard making our organization stronger. I would also like to thank those who are on the other RIATA committees which can be viewed on our website under the RIATA Leadership icon.

You may have also seen that our website has extended a long way and many thanks to Garrett DeGroot, our webmaster. He has put in many hours designing and continually upgrading our site to be one of the best within the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA). This website will be a communication tool for our membership as well as the general public. Please encourage your family, friends, and your community to visit and ask questions online. In addition, new sponsors will be forthcoming on our site and you can link to their websites for additional information. Rob Lawton has also been working hard writing public announcements for local Rhode Island television, radio, newspapers, etc. Some announcements can be viewed on our website under the News Room icon. If you have any ideas or suggestions please contact Garrett or Rob.

Some new developments are focusing on the secondary schools. Jen Brodeur, Paul Roberti, & I have been in direct contact and have met with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL) Committee. Our main objective is to get Certified Athletic Trainers working in all of our high schools across the state. Tom Mezzanotte, Director of the RIIL has been supporting us in

our quest. Jen and I have also become members of the RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee discussing how to improve ways to protect our secondary school athletes. Luckily, Dr. Sullivan sits on this committee and we are leaning on him for additional support. Dr. Sullivan also sits as a member of the State Licensing Board and will be focusing on our objective as well.

Some upcoming events are the Eastern Athletic Trainers' Association (EATA) Convention in Boston on January 7-9th, 2005. This is a reminder about CEU's and our RI state meeting held on January 8th, 2005 at 4:00 PM in the Yarmouth room. We will be voting on a recommendation from our membership to add a section to the website called Guidelines for Salary Structure for Athletic Camps. Let's not forget that March is Athletic Trainers' Month. We can use some suggestions at the EATA's. Alan Segee- RIATA/ATOM Conference Chair is working on our state symposium in May (TBA). Also during the month of May we are going to have our first annual RIATA Family Member picnic (TBA). We hope this will be a great success and encourage everyone to participate.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone directly involved with RIATA and encourage others to continue to support and make our state organization one of the best in the country. I look forward to seeing you in January!

Sincerely,

Andy Llaguno, MEd, ATC, CSCS
RIATA President.

President-Elect Report (CMS Update)

The CMS has announced its decision regarding “Therapy-Incident To”, and although the immediate results weren’t what we had hoped for there have definitely been benefits from the work that has been done. On behalf of the RIATA, I composed a letter supporting the need for changes in the CMS Bill and am encouraged by the positive response from Senators Chaffe and Reed, as well as Congressman Patrick Kennedy. I have also been able to speak with the Congressman’s assistant who was very curious about the situation and said she would be willing to bring up the topic when she meets with the APTA in the spring. I am hoping that eventually we could arrange a similar meeting with members of the RIATA/NATA. Copies of the letter were also forwarded to other state and federal officials, Rhode Island College/University presidents, athletic directors, and directors of pertinent state agencies to increase awareness of the issue. I believe that it is imperative to keep the discussion going on this matter, and will be following up on the letter on a continual basis.

I would appreciate any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the CMS legislation so that we can continue to fight the current decision. Please feel free to contact me at jbrodeur@providence.edu or 401.865.2251.

Thank you.

Jennifer Brodeur, ATC
RIATA President-Elect

Past-President's Report

STEP UP TO THE PLATE

By Mike Monteiro, MS, ATC, CSCS
Past-President, RIATA

We all witnessed a historical moment when the Boston Red Sox came back from a 0-3 deficit against the New York Yankees and won 7 straight games to clinch the World Series for the first time in 86 years! What a monumental achievement! Even more impressive is the fact that the Red Sox did not win the series by home runs but, rather, it was the small contributions by all that pushed the team to victory. A base hit here and a stolen base there got the offense in scoring position. A strike out here and a defensive stop there preserved the win. This model of success serves as a template not only for athletic teams, but also for any organization striving to achieve. This model of success is an example of the plight of Athletic Trainers throughout the country. As a profession, we have gone from the training rooms of traditional athletes to the boardrooms of industrial athletes; from impacting the bottom line of a Division 3 college to serving on the front line of the military. Sure, we hit some home runs along the way, but it was the small contributions that got us in scoring position. My point? If we could all put ourselves into the line-up and make a small contribution, imagine the impact that would have on the total picture. It's not necessary to hit a home run when you step up to the plate; just get on base. Oh, and one final thought; just like the Yankees and Cardinals are making moves to conquer the Red Sox in the future, recent activity by the American Physical Therapy Association shows that we, Athletic Trainers, better tighten up on our defense or else all of our offensive achievements will be nullified. So, grab your cleats because we have many more innings to play in this game!

Secretary's Report:

General Account: \$1455.93

Legislative Account: \$655.19

Dear RIATA,

I hope you are all doing well and slowing down in order to enjoy the upcoming holiday season. The RIATA executive committee has been working diligently in order to improve the membership and increase awareness of athletic trainers in the state. This year we were able to purchase a Dell notebook computer, have a social at the NATA convention, and focus on improving our website. To better serve you and the public please check the website frequently for updated information. We are also encouraging all members to include the website www.riathletictrainers.org on your daily emails.

As a reminder with credentials, the NATABOC has placed a copyright on the ATC credential. In the November NATA News, the Executive Director of the NATABOC Denise Fandel MS, ATC, advised that any component attached to the letters ATC, is in trademark violation, (i.e. LATC or ATC/L). In order to recognize our profession and licensure in the state of Rhode Island, the executive committee is asking all members to eliminate LATC and ATC/L from their name. We came to a conclusion and a unanimous vote to utilize the letters ATC to recognize our profession statewide. This, in turn would eliminate ambiguity and comply with Laws put forth by the State of Rhode Island and NATABOC copyright.

Good luck with your seasons and have a wonderful and happy holiday.

Professionally yours,

Tom Belmaggio MS, ATC, CSCS

RIATA Secretary/Treasurer

Public Relations Update

We have had a good year on the Public Relations front. Thanks to Garrett for all his work on getting the website up and running (www.riathletictrainers.org). It is still a work in progress but it is a great representation of our association and an informative resource for the general public.

My goal is to issue at least one press release per quarter to educate the public and promote our association as the voice of athletic training issues in the state. We got a huge boost when our release on safety in summer camps was a feature on Channel 10's Health Beat segment. In addition, Paul Ullucci and Kim Bissonnette appeared on the Dan York radio show speaking about athletic training issues. It is difficult to get the media to publish these releases but we will continue to work hard to get the word out. Often times we get the best press when our members who have existing relationships with the media approach them.

I encourage you to start planning now for March 2005, National Athletic Training Month. The key to our success is the grass roots efforts by our membership. I challenge all RIATA members to get involved! Please contact me anytime with potential public relations ideas.

Rob Lawton ATC, CSCS
Sales Manager
SwimEx Inc.
373 Market St.
Warren, RI 02885
800-877-7946
401-245-3160 Fax
rlawton@swimex.com

Website Update

Welcome to the first “Online Newsletter”. I would like to start off by thanking everyone who has assisted with improving the website to what it is today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kate Moore for her assistance in maintaining the website on a regular basis. Without her help, the website would not be running as smoothly as it is right now. She does an outstanding job at getting things done as quickly as possible (usually within a few minutes) even though she too has an extremely busy schedule.

I look forward to any suggestions that you may have to make our website better. Personally, I am really looking forward to the upcoming year for the RIATA. Our President, Andy Llaguno, as well as the Committee Chairs have brought many new ideas forward, all of which will do nothing but improve our status as Athletic Trainers in the state of Rhode Island, as well as on the national scene. As the Webmaster, I am anxious to get all of this information online to get it out to the public as well as other Athletic Trainers around the country to show how successful our “little state” will be. Our finances are in solid order thanks to Tom Belmaggio (Treasurer/Secretary). One of our upcoming plans is to try and solidify some sponsors which will be advertised over our website. In doing this, they will have the opportunity to be readily available to the consumers who they work with the most (local area schools). This will also give them the chance to advertise nationally as well. Also, I would like to thank Rob Lawton (Public Relations) for keeping the press releases coming on a regular basis. This really will begin to set us apart from other states as many don’t have these available online or at all. This is an outstanding tool both for our members (we are working on some information for salaries for summer camps) as well as the general public to get some basic concepts across (Heat Illnesses, Concussions, etc.).

I look forward to hearing from all of you if you should have any ideas on how to improve the website, if you have any upcoming events you would like to advertise, or any local meetings, please feel free to e-mail me at groot9@yahoo.com. I also urge you to include the website to spread the address to as many people as possible www.riathletictrainers.org.

Have a Safe and Healthy Holidays!!!

Garrett DeGroot, MS, ATC

Secondary Schools Update

As the co-chairperson for the high school athletic trainers in Rhode Island, it is with great pleasure that I write to you to say we are making great strides in getting Certified Athletic Trainers into all Rhode Island high schools. Tom Mezzanotte, the Director of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League allowed Andy, Jennifer, and myself to attend the athletic directors and high school principals meeting at the start of the fall season. At this meeting we handed out literature explaining the importance of having Certified Athletic Trainers at their schools. Dr. James Sullivan, who is an ATC as well as a podiatrist, sits on the Rhode Island State Board of Health and is very proactive in establishing a precedence to have athletic trainers at every high school in the State of Rhode Island.

I hope you all have a very happy holiday season and a prosperous and healthy new year.

Paul Roberti, ATC