



November 30, 2011

## **Hello Everyone!!!**

I hope that you were able to break away from work and enjoy some 'down time' with family and friends over the Thanksgiving weekend. As the busy winter schedule takes hold...remember to take good care of your mental and physical health! Trust me it is worth the effort and all you have to say is NO! Take time for you!

I have a few things to cover in this note!

### **Website and Information Sharing:**

Thanks to Greg Mitchell, our great and wonderful webmaster! He has created a place on our website for us to post messages, comments, job openings, CEU opportunities, etc. This will allow all of us to utilize our website more effectively. One thing that may help with this 'forum' space is to post in your opening line your topic and then follow that with your information. This will be a great tool for the membership...so please use it! Just remember to keep a high level of professional etiquette in your postings. Thanks.

### **Awards:**

While several have been recognized at the district level (and even national!), it has been several years since the IATA has given out any awards... and I KNOW of many in our great Association who are deserving! This isn't because there is no one deserving of recognition but rather because no one has been nominated. *Please* consider nominating a colleague, friend or other member who is gone above and beyond the call of duty and is worthy of the IATA's recognition. See the IATA website ([idahoata.com](http://idahoata.com)) for more information!!

### **New AT Programs:**

The University of Idaho has recently started a Master of Athletic Training program (entry-level) and the nation's first Doctor of Athletic Training program. Both programs are unique in that they rely heavily on a distance learning approach. Idaho State University is also in the final stages of

proposal of its entry-level Masters program in Athletic Training. We applaud both schools for their efforts to advance our profession and wish them the best in these endeavors.

### **Concussion Legislation:**

The State Board of Education has asked Idaho State University to lead the charge to get the concussion legislation passed in Idaho. Smitty is on that task force... along with several State Board of Education members, some other folks from ISU and some physicians from around the state (IMA). The intent of legislation is to finish what was started in 2010. This will bring Idaho up to the same level as 38 other states. While this is not an IATA or athletic training led effort, we are fortunate that Smitty was invited to the table and are confident she can continue to help advocate for athletic trainers! As you may know, fewer than 20% of Idaho's high schools have access to athletic trainers. Without that presence (especially in our rural schools), it is imperative that Legislators understand the significance of proper post-concussion care. Certainly, the NATA is among the best resources! Smitty has also reached out to the national NATA office (for recommended language) and also the NFL (for money, lobbyists, speakers, materials, etc.) so they can help along the way. Smitty promises to keep the IATA membership informed as details become available... but here's what we know right now: It has not yet been decided if the bill will be introduced in 2012 or 2013. The legislation will follow the three prongs included in WA's Lystedt Law... hopefully! There is some resistance to all the prongs – but the folks at ISU are confident that their lobbyist will help ease the fears. They are also currently working to get the endorsements of several sport bodies throughout the state and various medical associations. Certainly, once the bill is drafted, the IATA membership will need to consider whether or not we would like to put our name behind the bill. Obviously, we cannot decide that until we see the bill. The task force is not ready to make any official announcements until after the bill sponsors are set (but they are encouraged by the support of some BIG GUNS on both sides of the aisle in the House and in the Senate!!). The ultimate goal is to have the legislation drafted by mid-December... although that does not mean it will be carried into this legislative session. The NFL has committed to helping with Idaho's efforts in 2013... but is unsure how much they could do in 2012 (they need to plan...). The State Board of Education will be discussing this in the coming weeks... and as Smitty finds out – she will tell me and I will relay the information to you... so MORE TO COME... but if you have questions or would like to help the effort...please contact Smitty (faurcaro@isu.edu).

### **Summer Meeting:**

***SAVE THE DATE!!!! July 27-28, 2012 in Boise.*** More details to follow! We will have a bunch of things to cover regarding the future of the IATA.

### **NWATA Meeting:**

- March 30-31, 2012 in Bellevue WA
- 2013 in Boise – we'll need to give lots of help to help organize and put this on... More to come!

### **Bylaws:**

I am sending out the latest draft of our new bylaws. You are welcome to review and make suggestions (use our webpage forum section!!!) Remember this is a draft and in no way the final draft. The reason for the rewrite is to bring the IATA in line with the NWATA and NATA. If we can get this closer to a final draft, then the membership will need to vote to approve them. At this point there is no timetable. I would like to see the vote happen around our summer meeting. The final phase of non-profit status has been filed with the IRS. This happened at the end of October. It is expected that the IRS will take three months to process our application. Nikki has to file taxes in late March of 2012 for the IATA.

### **Vote of Confidence in the IATA President:**

We anticipate having this voting take place mid to late January 2012. If you would like me to serve as president for another two years you will vote "YES." If you do not want me to serve another term you will vote "NO."

### **A Final Word...**

*Together* we can accomplish great things. As our association moves forward, we must work together for the common good of our group. If any one person succeeds, then our association and profession does the same. However, no one person can carry the torch; we must all work together for the good of our profession. While we applaud the efforts of those who transcend our profession, we must also recognize those who maintain its tradition. We can agree to disagree... but we must continue to respect all members along the way. We have critical issues facing our Association and its members in the coming years... and we must face them as a united front. *Together* we have this opportunity....

I thank you all for your service to this great profession!

*Brent*

**IATA WEBSITE:**

**[www.idahoata.com](http://www.idahoata.com)**