



**District Council Conference Call Minutes**  
**January 28, 2026**  
**8:30am**

**I. Call to Order**

- President Gage called the meeting to order at approximately 8:31am

**II. Roll Call:**

- **Members Present:**
  - Matt Gage – District President
  - Ray Davis – District Director
  - Ashley Thrasher – District Vice President
  - Erin Cash – District Secretary
  - Mat Lyden – District Treasurer
  - Penny Lynch – President, DCATA
  - Rachel Moore – President, MATA
  - Nina Walker – President, NCATA
  - Will Christman – President, SCATA
  - Kirk Armstrong – President, VATA
  - Suzy Konz – President, WVATA
- **Guests Present:**
  - Andy Massey – District Parliamentarian
  - Katie Walsh Flanagan – Past District Director
  - Tom Campbell – President-Elect, VATA
  - Erin Moore – Student Senate Faculty Advisor
  - Emily Meyerl – Student Senate Junior Faculty Advisor
  - Kevin King – Education Committee
- **Members Absent:**
  - None

**III. Read and Approve the Consent Agenda – Matt Gage**

- a. Approval of minutes of previous District Council Meeting – 11/18/2025
- b. Angela White – VATA Rep to SSATC
- c. Amanda Pendelton – YP Committee
- d. Julia Oliver – YP Committee
  - a. Motion to approve – Erin Cash
    - 1. 2<sup>nd</sup> –Kirk Armstrong
    - 2. No Discussion
  - b. Passed unanimously

**IV. MAATA Education Committee – Kevin King**

- a. National Marrow Donor Program opportunity
  - a. Requesting that they be at our Annual Symposium in honor of Ed Lacerte and in conjunction with the NBA
    - 1. We will provide a table and a TV; they bring everything else
    - 2. The EC met a few weeks ago and unanimously said yes to this, no opposition with the DC

**V. MAATA Student Senate – Erin Moore**

- a. Trying to link their service project to the National Marrow Donor Program with Kevin
- b. 2 accepted talks and waiting on 1 more, sending those out on Friday

**VI. District Secretary – Erin Cash**

- a. Drop Box:
  - a. DST membership at a glance
  - b. District membership at a glance
  - c. Website activity at a glance – January E-Blast 66% Opened, 8% Clicked
  - d. Publication dates
  - e. Membership updates
  - f. State membership lists
- b. Newsletter Due Date –
  - a. April 15, 2026
  - b. October 14, 2026
- c. Monthly E-Blast Due Dates – Please keep short and sweet
  - a. March 23, 2026
  - b. May 18, 2026
  - c. August 17, 2026
  - d. September 7, 2026 Combo E-Blast with All Awards, Grants & Scholarships
  - e. December 7, 2026

**VII. District President – Matt Gage**

- a. MAATA Committee vacancies
  - a. District of Columbia
    - 1. Education committee
    - 2. LGBTQ+ committee
    - 3. Research and Grants Committee
    - 4. Secondary Schools Committee
    - 5. Young Professional Committee
  - b. Maryland
    - 1. LGBTQ+ Committee
    - 2. Secondary Schools Committee
  - c. South Carolina
    - 1. Secondary Schools Committee
  - d. Virginia
    - 1. LGBTQ+ Committee
  - e. West Virginia
    - 1. Ethnic Diversity Committee
- b. Annual Business Meeting recap

**VIII. District Vice-President – Ashley Thrasher**

- a. 2026 Annual Meeting
  - a. Education Committee is notifying speakers and getting confirmations from those who will be presenting
    - 1. Website will be updated with speakers and schedule once speakers are confirmed
  - b. Friday Reception at Novant
  - c. Mentor’s Breakfast will be Saturday morning
  - d. HOF Luncheon
  - e. Free Communications Committee will be putting out a call for free communications abstracts soon
  - f. Director’s Reception will be Saturday night at Truist Baseball Stadium to watch the Wiston-Salem Dash take on their cross-town rivals, the Greensboro Grasshoppers! Your ticket includes the game and dinner at the game. Your ticket is included in the cost of your symposium registration, but you will need sign up for the game to reserve your seat. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$30. [Just add a ticket to your cart when registering for the conference!](#)
  - g. Registration update
- b. 2027 Annual Meeting
  - a. West Virginia
- c. 2028 Annual Meeting already looking into

**IX. District Treasurer – Mat Lyden**

- a. Presented Financial Information and Budget

**X. District Director – Ray Davis**

- a. The NATA Salary Survey is now Open. There is a 2-week window to get this survey completed
- b. The New NATA Leadership Institute is taking applications now with a closing deadline by early February
- c. NATA BEAT: Winter 2026 Advocacy updates has been released, please take the time to read all the recent news release sent via email
- d. NATAM 2026 Theme is ‘Care You Can Count On’, The purpose is to raise awareness about the essential work of athletic trainers and our commitment to athlete safety & well-being
- e. Membership: Please encourage colleagues who are not members to join us, We Need You!!!!
- f. Student Writing Contest Submissions, the deadline for NATA Research & Education Foundation Athletic Training Student Writing Contest submissions is Feb 1<sup>st</sup>
- g. The Bobby Gunn Student Leadership Award application is open; applications are due by February 15<sup>th</sup> more info on the D3 website!
- h. The first District 3 Committee Quarterly Town Hall will occur Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 5pm ET. Feel free to join me as I introduce our committee reps to the NATA and their committee updates as well as updates from JCM
- i. The NATA 77<sup>th</sup> Clinical Annual Symposia & Expo is June 29<sup>th</sup> -July 2<sup>nd</sup>. in Philadelphia! Housing & Registration is Open!

**XI. Past District Director – Katie Walsh Flanagan**

- a. Call has been out for about 3 weeks, Sunday is the deadline

**XII. State Presidents Reports:**

- a. *District of Columbia* – Penny Lynch
  - a. At DC we just had our joint symposium with Maryland
  - b. We also represented DC ATC’s the first ever Howard university, Sports Medicine Career and Graduate program fair. We had about 80 registrants and it was for 7 CEU. The event was a success and something we hope to continue. Another yearly fundraiser for us is helping with the DC Rock n Roll Marathon.
  - c. Next up our Honors and Awards event. Then we will have our Student ATC symposium that is for high School students, which we are hoping to partner with HOSA. We will also offer a CEU at this event and take advantage of the MAATA available funds. After that we have a joint social with Maryland that we will also offer another CEU.
- b. *Maryland* – Rachel Moore
  - a. The Maryland association continues to experience active engagement across multiple initiatives. On January 24, a joint symposium will be hosted in collaboration with DCATA. This event is designed to facilitate professional collaboration, continuing education, and networking among attendees.
  - b. The PAC Pickleball fundraiser has been canceled due to insufficient registration. The organization appreciates the interest expressed by members and is currently evaluating alternative PAC fundraising opportunities to be offered later in the summer.
  - c. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives remain a priority. Planning is underway for a DEI-focused student symposium, and a related webinar is scheduled for the spring. These efforts underscore the organization’s ongoing commitment to inclusive practices, educational advancement, and professional development.
  - d. Members are encouraged to remain engaged through participation in organizational committees, including Secondary School, COPA, Young Professionals (YP), and Collegiate. Increased member involvement is essential to supporting the association’s mission and sustaining continued growth.
- c. *North Carolina* – Nina Walker
  - a. Upcoming events:
    1. March Symposium at Wrightsville Beach March 6-8<sup>th</sup>
    2. Committee Fair Feb 22nd 6pm via zoom.
  - b. NCATA Updates
    1. Had our full meeting board and committee chair meeting Dec 7th- Chapel Hill. Notes below
    2. We are getting Tik Tok
    3. Preparing for our Symposium. Excited about being at the beach. May be a while until we can afford it again
    4. Have named our HOF and Award winners are being voted on now.
  - c. Goals and Initiatives
    1. Exploring lobbyist, have one now but mostly reactive. Looking into a firm that would provide more proactive presence in the state house.

- a. challenges - so expensive. We have a much less expensive option currently but after losing to the PTs in the concussion law, it became evident that we need more firepower representing us.
    - b. Deciding if we go into savings to pay for it, since member dues won't cover
  - 2. Creating a site selection committee that would lead reviewing sites for conferences that are low to no cost.
- d. *South Carolina* – Will Christman
  - a. Call for Nominations will be going out for Secretary and President-Elect with a vote going out in February with the transfer happening in July at our meeting
  - b. Secondary School Workshop will be held 1/24/25 with 157 pre-registered – had to postpone
  - c. Governmental Affairs we have 1 bill prefilled for loan assistance to AT's working in public schools. Watching several other bills
  - d. SCATA store opening soon and it will have a SS and LS T-shirt with a special logo for NATM
  - e. Annual Symposium will be July 15-17 in Columbia. Website will be live in April and Early Bird registration will open May 1<sup>st</sup>. PreCon this year will be a Mass Causality Event
- e. *Virginia* – Mike Kotelnicki
  - a. 2026 VATA Annual Meeting
    - 1. Successfully hosted the 2026 VATA Annual Meeting January 2–4 in Hampton Roads
    - 2. Strong attendance and engagement throughout the event (nearly 200 attendees, including about 50 professional students)
    - 3. 4 students from each professional program were provided free registration, with each staffing the registration table for 1 hour and serving as session moderators
    - 4. New session format this year, workshop and lab sessions, to emphasis application and engagement with participants, resulting in increased CEU offerings, 12-14 CEUs for the weekend
    - 5. We appreciate everyone who participated and helped make the weekend a success
  - b. New Website via StarChapter is live
    - 1. Website is more customizable and edits can be made in real-time
    - 2. Registration for the Annual Meeting was completed via the website, allowing for direct payments through the website without use of Paypal or external pay site
    - 3. Added a “donation” button to registration to allow for \$25, \$50, or \$75 donation to sponsor a professional student registration cost (10 full sponsorships, 1 partial)
  - c. New leadership has officially taken office
    - 1. Kirk Armstrong, President
    - 2. Tom Campbell, President Elect
  - d. Monitoring and supporting key legislative efforts, including HB841 and SB728
    - 1. Update the definition of the “practice of athletic training” to include dry needling
    - 2. Likely to be introduced on Thursday, January 30
    - 3. Honest conversations with executive leadership of the VPTA
  - e. Upcoming Events
    - 1. Legislative Day: Friday, February 13, 2026
    - 2. Secondary School Symposium, Saturday, February 14 (Social Friday, 2/13)
- f. *West Virginia* – Suzy Konz
  - a. 2026 WVATA Annual Meeting
    - 1. The date for our annual 2026 WVATA meeting is Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at West Virginia Wesleyan in Buckhannon, WV
    - 2. The meeting agenda is forth coming. We are looking for speakers for this event contact: Meleesa Wohleber, [wohleber.m@wvwc.edu](mailto:wohleber.m@wvwc.edu) if interested
    - 3. We have a call out for awards on going
    - 4. Our call for research abstracts is also forth coming
  - b. 2026 Legislative Session
    - 1. Began January 14, 2025.
    - 2. Bills of interest for WVATA
      - a. SB 21 - Allowing students, coaching staff, and athletic trainers to participate in non-school athletic activities
      - b. SB 134 - Renaming WV Board of Physical Therapy (will add *Athletic Training* to the board name)
      - c. SB162 - Requiring WV Board of Education to promulgate legislative rule relating to concussion protocol

- d. SB 232 - Establishing WV Secondary School Athletic Trainer and Career Technical Education Program Act (this is a 5-yr program to get ATCs in all school district using the WVDOE Sports Medicine CTE program)
3. WVATA is in the process of acquiring a new lobbyist as the group used last year was no longer cost effective.

**XIII. Adjournment of meeting**

- a. Motion to adjourn meeting – Will Christman
  - a. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kirk Armstrong
  - b. Passed unanimously
  - c. Meeting was adjourned 9:25am