



District Council Conference Call Minutes
March 25, 2026
8:30am

I. Call to Order

- President Gage called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30am

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
 - Katie Walsh Flanagan – Past District Director
 - Penny Lynch – President, DCATA
 - Caroline Siebens – President-Elect, MATA
 - Nancy Groh – President, NCATA
 - Will Christman – President, SCATA
 - Tom Campbell – President-Elect, VATA
 - Suzy Konz – President, WVATA
- **Guests Present:**
 - Andy Massey – District Parliamentarian
 - Taryn Strickland – Vice-President, NCATA
 - Erin Moore – Student Senate Faculty Advisor
 - Julie Cavallario – Governance Task Force Committee
- **Members Absent:**
 - None

III. Read and Approve the Consent Agenda – Matt Gage

- a. Approval of minutes of previous District Council Meeting – 2/25/2026
 - a. Motion to approve – Ray Davis
 - 1. 2nd – Ashley Thrasher
 - 2. No Discussion
 - b. Passed unanimously

IV. Governance Task Force Committee – Julie Cavallario

- a. Making progress but much more than originally planned since they are starting from scratch
- b. Have a very rough draft and starting to go through section by section
- c. Gathered other groups policy and procedures for reference
- d. Finalized the first section
- e. Would like to send each section for approval versus waiting until the very end to help keep things expedited

V. Student Senate/Student Education Program – Erin Moore

- a. Finalized MAAT Symposium schedule, program goal is April 12th
- b. Quiz Bowl questions are done, thank you to everyone who helped with questions
- c. Working to recruit students, once Free Comms are announced that will help, please ask your Program Directors in your state to spread the word
- d. Students need to register by the 31st to be sure they can attend the social

VI. Scholarship Committee – Katie Walsh Flanagan

- a. Scholarship Committee – 3 student NATA memberships per state plus DC
- b. Approved the budget but not necessarily the actual scholarship
- c. Discuss feedback on name change, date
- d. Motion to approve the Scholar Award as is for now, awarding 3 students from each state who have applied
 - a. Motion to approve – Katie Walsh Flanagan
 1. 2nd – Ashley Thrasher
 2. No Discussion
 - b. Passed unanimously
- e. Comments to send back to the Scholarship Committee
 - a. Rename it - New Member Student Incentive
 - b. Beneficial that students are required to be attending an institution within our District
 - c. Application due in June so you can catch students who are entering their ATP
 - d. Some states have less programs, DC currently has zero, so discussed ways to allocate all awards are given out
 - e. Discussed giving the money out – reimburse versus giving the state the allotted amount and then the state distributes

VII. District Secretary – Erin Cash

- a. Update to membership – states will now need to request a non-member/lapsed membership list from the NATA
Contact Erin Cash/Amy Fraley if you need to do that
- b. Newsletter Due Date –
 - a. April 15, 2026
 - b. October 14, 2026
- c. Monthly E-Blast Due Dates – Please keep short and sweet
 - a. May 18, 2026
 - b. August 17, 2026
 - c. September 7, 2026 Combo E-Blast with All Awards, Grants & Scholarships
 - d. December 7, 2026

VIII. District President – Matt Gage

- a. MAATA In Person Symposium District Council Meeting - May 1st, lunch pick up 11:45am, working lunch meeting 12pm-1:30pm. Room 6-7
- b. MAATA Committee Vacancies by State
 - a. District of Columbia
 1. Education committee
 2. LGBTQ + Committee
 3. Research & Grants Committee
 4. Secondary Schools Committee
 5. Young Professionals Committee
 - b. Maryland
 1. LGBTQ+ Committee
 2. Secondary Schools Committee
 - c. South Carolina
 1. Scholarship Committee
 - d. Virginia
 1. LGBTQ+ Committee
 - e. West Virginia
 1. Ethnic Diversity Committee

IX. District Vice-President – Ashley Thrasher

- a. 2026 Meeting
 - a. Meeting Date May 1-3, 2026 Novant, Winston-Salem
 - b. April 10, 2026 will end early registration
 - c. Make sure you book your hotel! It's a busy time in Winston-Salem, and it will book up fast

- b. Education Program
 - a. Schedule is finalized
 - b. Speakers and schedule have been added to the [website!](#)
 - c. As we get bios and headshots, that information will be added
- c. Free comms received—45 total submissions
- d. 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!](#)
 - a. Make sure you add your ticket by March 31!!!
- e. Registration update
 - a. 104 Registered
 - 1. 56 certified members
 - 2. 5 certified non-members
 - 3. 2 certified students
 - 4. 7 YPs
 - 5. 22 HOF
 - 6. 12 students
- f. Vendors
 - a. Gold: 4
 - b. Silver: 2
 - c. Bronze: 3
 - d. Exhibitor: 10
- g. Each program is getting 2 free student registrations
- h. MAATA 2027
 - a. April 30-May 2 at Embassy Suites Charleston, WV
- i. MAATA 2028
 - a. Site selection committee is getting bids for May 4-6 and April 28-30

X. District Treasurer – Mat Lyden

- a. Finances remain favorable. Did see first small dip in investments since re-aligning assets this time last year
- b. In first full year under this new strategy, investment accounts have performed well earning 16.25% annually

XI. District Director – Ray Davis

- a. NATA COPA is going to do a public safety panel update coming soon. Looking for 2 members for their panel. Ray can email you the information if needed
- b. Meet our NATA Presidential candidates via Virtual Town Halls; the dates are 3/16, 4/14, and 5/27. An email was sent recently where you can register and send your questions. Don't miss this opportunity to hear & be heard!
- c. As a reminder please complete NATA based surveys as they arrive in your emails. This is your voice as a member, and it helps the NATA a better opportunity to serve you. Thank You for completing the Salary Survey recently.
- d. The New NATA Leadership Institute is moving forward as applications have been closed. I am hopeful D3 will have opportunities for grants in 2027 for this LI.
- e. NATA BEAT: Winter 2026 Advocacy updates has been released, please take the time to read all the recent news release sent via email.
- f. NATAM 2026 Theme is 'Care You Can Count On', I hope you had the opportunity to share your month with others especially via social media. And on another note, Why can't this be our new normal? Something to think about moving forward.
- g. Membership: Please encourage colleagues who are not members to join us, We Need You!!!!
- h. Congratulations to all our MAATA D3 & NATA Award Winners! Join me in congratulating the 2026 Bobby Gunn Student Leadership Award recipient, Nicole Rates from West Virginia University. As a reminder to future applicants, applications are due by February 15th!
- i. Our first District 3 Committee Quarterly Town Hall was a success. We will have our next quarterly update via zoom in mid-May. Please take the time to join us and hear how our volunteers are representing You!
- j. The NATA 77th Clinical Annual Symposia & Expo is June 29th -July 2nd in Philadelphia! Housing & Registration is Open!

XII. Past District Director – Katie Walsh Flanagan

- a. 2 candidates for District Director. Asking state Presidents to remind their members to vote, closes Sunday evening

XIII. State Presidents Reports:

- a. *District of Columbia* – Penny Lynch
 - a. Working on free Student Symposium scheduled for the middle of April
 - b. Working on Honors and Awards along with a CEU event to help increase attendance
 - c. Work to fill positions
- b. *Maryland* – Caroline Siebens
 - a. Rachel and Caroline will be in DC next week
 - b. May 29, 2026 in person meeting Business Meeting
 - c. PAC Fundraiser at an Orioles game on June 10th
 - 1. Looking for PAC sponsors, please let her know if you have any ideas
 - d. Honors and Awards dinner is tentatively scheduled for June 13th
- c. *North Carolina* – Nancy Groh
 - a. 203 attendees for their Symposium, 70 were students
 - b. YP held a casino night with leadership being the dealers which helped with networking.
 - c. Boots and Hoops event during the UNC/Duke basketball game - watched the game and had line dancing going on
 - d. Adding students into each committee to help involved students more
 - e. Establishing a Student Leadership Institute
 - f. Currently looking for a lobbyist and asking for any tips/tricks, help with the process
- d. *South Carolina* – Will Christman
 - a. Hit the Hill Day yesterday, small group but got a lot done. Working on an Athletic Training loan forgiveness bill and discussing why ATCs were removed from their Executive Committee
 - b. Town Hall meeting today at 2pm with their membership
 - c. April 15th their Annual Symposium website goes live, early bird will open May 1st. Planning a mass causality event, business meeting and Abby will take over.
- e. *Virginia* – Tom Campbell
 - a. Dry Needling Bill – passed the House. Initially did not pass in the Senate. The House Bill crossed over but it was not voted on. Currently in the state of Virginia, ATCs cannot dry needle
 - b. Kirk and Tom met with their financial advisor for the VATA. In the process of developing financial reserve guidelines to help better understand their finance
- f. *West Virginia* – Suzy Konz
 - a. Symposium this weekend, WV-Wesleyan
 - b. Hall of Fame winners: Rae Emerick and Jean Fruh
 - c. Athletic Trainer of the Year: Jeannette Leal
 - d. Athletic Training Student of the Year: Kendal Mader
 - e. Looking for President-Elect and Secretary nominations
 - f. Capitol Hill Day on March 4th, had a lot of representations from many institutions including many students who did a Scavenger Hunt

XIV. Adjournment of meeting

- a. Motion to adjourn meeting – Erin Cash
 - a. 2nd – Will Christman
 - b. Passed unanimously
 - c. Meeting was adjourned 9:48am