History of the New York State Athletic Trainers’ Association:
Reviewing the Early Years
by Kent Scriber - Ithaca College (updated 5/27/2013)
**Introduction**

I was fortunate to have started my professional career as a clinician and athletic training educator in the early 1970s. This was a very exciting period of growth for the profession of athletic training for several reasons. Since there were not a lot of certified athletic trainers at that time in New York State and I was young and energetic, there were many opportunities to get involved with professional activities outside of my work at Ithaca College. The first curricula for formally NATA “approved” educational curriculums had been instituted in 1969. The newly established national certification credential (ATC or Athletic Trainer, Certified) resulted from the leadership of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) Certification Committee, chaired by Lindsy McLean. The first certification exam was administered in 1970. The formal establishment of an improved professional preparation for students both didactically and clinically helped assure continued growth in the profession and approved programs proliferated in the 1970s and 1980s. At that point, there were four ways to become eligible to sit for the certification exam; 1) graduate from an NATA approved program, 2) graduate from an internship/apprentice program, 3) graduate from a physical therapy program, or 4) special consideration (5 years previously “actively engaged” as an athletic trainer).

Another major change during the same time frame having a positive impact on the profession occurred with the passage of Title IX in 1972. The implementation of this Educational Amendment led to many existing athletic training facilities becoming coeducational. Not only did athletic participation opportunities for females increase greatly, so did opportunities for females interested in pursuing the profession of athletic training. Many women began entering the previously male dominated profession as the educational programs continue to grow at a rapid pace. Due to the growth of the profession, the need for individual state legislative efforts
was becoming more evident. The NATA could not address the many issues on a state by state basis and encouraged each state to form their own societies and pursue legislation for a state licensure. This was similar to what other health care professions had done many years earlier (e.g., medicine, nursing, physical therapy). Since virtually all of my early colleagues from the 1970s have “moved on” and NYSATA has passed its 35th birthday, I thought now would be a good time to document some of the early history and growing pains of the New York State Athletic Trainers’ Association. To do this I have relied heavily on past documents, letters, meeting minutes, publications, newsletters, interviews with colleagues, and my memory. Legislative work clearly dominated NYSATA’s activities in the early years but many other committees were formed as the fledgling organization started its professional growth. Hopefully others will pick up on this effort, extend upon it, and more closely document some of NYSATA’s more recent history.

**Formation of NYSATA**

At the 27th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Athletic Trainers’ Association (Nevele Resort, Ellenville, NY) in January of 1976, a small group of athletic trainers from New York State met to form a state organization. Shortly after this EATA Meeting John Sciera, (Cortland State) was elected over Joe Abraham (Hobart College) for a one year term as NYSATA’s 1st President. Gene Castrovillo (Alfred University) was President-Elect and Mike Cappeto (Columbia University) was the group’s first Secretary-Treasurer. Immediately following the January formation of NYSATA, the Advancement and Professional Education Committee was appointed: Claudette Delamater (Albany State), Joe Abraham (Hobart College), Kent Scriber (Ithaca College), and Chairperson Dave Bailey (Oneonta State). The makeup of this committee
quickly “morphed” into the NYS Licensure Committee and a different “Education” Committee was formed around 1978 with Ken Knight (Brockport State) appointed as chair. That committee was made up primarily of the program directors for the initial four NATA Approved Athletic Training Programs in New York State: Cortland State, Ithaca College, Canisius College, and Brockport State.

To continue with the formation of a state organization, a small group gathered for NYSATA’s initial “formal” meeting in the living room of John Sciera’s Cortland home on March 28, 1976. The primary purpose was to establish the organization’s by-laws and determine the major goals and direction for the New York State Athletic Trainers’ Association. A constitution and by-laws were discussed and annual dues were set at $10.00. The early goals as stated in a summary letter of this meeting later sent out by John Sciera were to: 1) Have a certified athletic trainer in every high school in New York State, 2) Investigate the possibility of licensing athletic trainers in NYS, 3) Increase public relations (for ATCs) in NYS, and 4) Increase communication with other professional organizations (e.g., NYSAHPER).

Attendees at this “founding” meeting included: John Sciera, (Cortland State), Joe Abraham (Hobart College), Gene Castrovillo (Alfred University), Mike Cappeto (Columbia University), Kent Scriber (Ithaca College), Laurence Steve (NYC area physical therapist), Jack Koelmel (Albany State University), Claudette Delameter (Albany State University), Hollis Powers (Plattsburgh State), Pete Farrell (Potsdam), Robert Kane (Clarkson), Tom Sheehan, Jr. (RPI), Don Lowe (Syracuse University), and David Bailey (Oneonta). There was no listing of who attended in any records, so this listing may be off by one or two. Although a picture of the group was taken, the author has been unable to locate it.
Trainers from all over New York State met at a organizational meeting.

Columbia

Schenectady

Clarksburg

FPI

Hobart

Colcord

Albany

Oswego

Syracuse

Plattsburg

High school trainer fromCompra

one of 3 HS train

one of 3 HS train

M.I. City Therapist

Train Western N.Y. Buffalos

The following goals were established:

1. A certified athletic trainer in every school in N.Y. State

2. Possibility of licensure of athletic trainers (West & committee)

3. Increase public relations in N.Y.S.

4. Increase communication with other N.Y.S. professional organizations

Mr. Robert Rodgers, President of N.Y.S. H.O.R.C, spoke to our group concerning the benefits derived from affiliation as a section of their organization. He encouraged...
Initial Press Release (SUC at Cortland) after 1976 EATA Meeting
The Need for Individual State Regulation

In June of 1976, NATA President Frank George (Brown University) sent a letter to the NATA’s general membership encouraging individual states to seek licensure. A “model legislation” had been developed by the NATA was sent to the NYSATA Licensure Committee (Sciera, Delameter, Scriber, Lowe, Castrovillo, Abraham, Cappeto). This committee immediately started working on developing a strategy that would lead to state regulation of the growing profession of athletic training. The NATA’s “model legislation” was given to certain contacts in Albany for their reactions. The committee met several more times over the next few months.

In January of 1977 NYSATA met during the EATA Meeting at Grossinger’s Resort. Thirty three ATs attended including 19 who were certified members of NYSATA. Total numbers reported at that time was 48 Certified and 17 Associate members. It was reported that NYSATA’s financial balance was $739.71. Jeff Snedeker (NY Cosmos) expressed a concern regarding opposition of any athletic training regulatory bill by the PTs. Joe Abraham received the initial “Tom Sheehan, Sr. Award” from President Sciera. The following members were nominated and elected as officers for 1977: Gene Castrovillo (President), Hollis Powers (President-Elect), and Mike Cappeto (Secretary-Treasurer) At the NYSATA Meeting in January of 1977, the following committees and chairs were: State Symposium (Hollis Powers/Plattsburgh State), Constitution and By-Laws (Marty Erb/Colgate University), Public Relations (Don Lowe/Syracuse), Physical Therapy Liaison (Kent Scriber/Ithaca College) Research and Injury (Vince Salamone/CW Post), and Nominations (Pete Farrell/Potsdam State). Gene Castrovillo took over as President at this meeting and Hollis Powers was elected President-Elect with Mike Cappeto being elected for a second 1-year term as Secretary-Treasurer. At a 10/28/77 meeting of the membership a vote was taken to change the By-Laws to make terms of office (including
President and President-Elect) two years. In 1978 Hollis Powers became the first 2-year President with Mike Cappeto elected as President-Elect. Kent Scriber was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

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Dear NATA Member,

Many of you know that this past year NATA has formed a State Licensure Committee. This committee has developed model legislation for state licensure, along with suggestions and guidelines for implementation. A number of meetings were attended regarding this subject at the past convention.

The NATA recommends that each state form a licensure committee. This should be done with the assistance and direction of your District Director. State licensure committees may obtain the model legislation through their District Director.

Every member of NATA should become involved with the development and passage of a license within your state. We must be protected by a license to perform our daily responsibilities. Other professions are protected by a license. We should be.

In many states the passage of a license to protect athletic trainers will be difficult -- not impossible, never impossible. But, we agree, you may encounter some difficulties. Do not be discouraged. Do not expect your license to pass the legislature the first year it is presented. That would be extremely lucky. However, if we keep trying success will come.

Athletics and being connected with athletics has a certain charisma about it. This charisma will help many of us in the passage of a license. We need this license to protect ourselves. We cannot wait any longer. Now is the time this issue must be faced. We cannot any longer pretend that it isn’t needed, because of the protected environment of schools and athletic clubs.

The national association will give each state as much assistance as possible through the District Directors. Please, contact your director, and begin moving on the passage of a license to protect yourself.

Sincerely,

Frank George
President NATA

1977 ANNUAL MEETING – DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

1976 Letter from NATA President Frank George encouraging States to seek licensure
**Hiring Legal Counsel**

A Syracuse based law firm Bond, Schoeneck, and King was hired (June 1977) to advise NYSATA regarding legislative efforts to get a licensure bill introduced in Albany. Michael Shanley was the primary attorney from this law firm that worked most directly with NYSATA. Soon a subcommittee of John Sciera, Don Lowe, and Kent Scriber began addressing a document required by the State Education Department (“18 Questions”) to expedite development and submission of a licensure bill in Albany. An August 1977 memo to the membership informed them that the legal firm had been hired and that there was a proposal that all members pay an assessment of $25 due January 1, 1978. Soon after the firm developed a bill, they indicated NYSATA would need to partake in an intensive lobbying effort to obtain legislative support for the bill. Many members wrote numerous letters to their legislators. It was quite evident that legislators were not anxious to have another group to license and regulate (very expensive for the Department of Education to do so). Even with this additional $25 assessment, in July of 1978 there was only a balance of $1474 in NYSATA’s account. This was far less than the fees already owed (> $2,000) to the law firm since many members had not paid the one-time assessment fee. Obviously, the amount of this legal debt was of great concern to the NYSATA Executive Council. In January of 1979 the legal firm was asked to cease efforts on behalf of NYSATA.

**Early Challenges**

The early work done by the initial Licensure Committee became quite discouraging. First, the legal fees from Bond, Schoeneck, and King quickly surpassed NYSATA’s minimal financial assets. John Sciera had given a report in January of 1977 from the Licensure Committee and expressed concern about the cost of establishing an Albany office to oversee athletic
training. Also, Senator Tarky Lombardi (Syracuse region) expressed concern about the small number of athletic trainers that were actually members of the organization and the unlikelihood of passing any supportive legislation. Other key legislators, including Assemblyman Melvin Miller, were against any regulation of athletic trainers at that time. In an April 18, 1978 memo Mr. Miller (Chairperson of the Committee on Higher Education, which was the initial committee that would review any bill of this nature) stated to Assemblyman Gary Lee he felt the licensure of athletic trainers didn’t demonstrate “evidence of compelling reasons which serve a paramount public interest” and didn’t feel there was “a clear indication that it (the need for any legislative action) is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.”

The NYS Physical Therapy Chapter of the APTA also resisted the spirit of the legislation being written as well, as did the New York State Society of Physiotherapists, which was primarily made up of private practice professionals. They viewed it as a threat to their practice
and felt athletic trainers were inadequately prepared, stating they would “vigorously oppose any legislation allowing athletic trainers to use physical therapy modalities.” Their suggestion was that athletic trainers be allowed to provide first aid only unless they became physical therapists first, then they could legally provide treatments. Their much larger numbers than NYSATA and stronger legislative lobby presence in Albany created a challenging resistance.

**Introducing the Initial Athletic Training Bill**

In spite of these many challenges, the association moved forward with the goal of achieving licensure. The initial bill (Athletic Trainer Licensure Bill - #9159) was introduced to the Senate in April of 1978 sponsored by Senator Stafford, then later to the Assembly sponsored by Dan Walsh but the bill failed to get out of committee. The bill was put on “study hold” by Assemblyman Mel Miller (also Chair of Higher Education Committee) which killed it for that legislative session. A similar “uni-bill” (S 2594 & A 3292) was reintroduced in February for the 1979-1980 legislative session (copy follows). It was thought that this would result in less partisan politics. Senators Stafford, Barclay, Flynn, and Pisani were the sponsors in the Senate and Assemblyman Walsh and many others sponsored the bill in the Assembly. The bill again was not able to gain enough support to move it out of committee onto the floor of the Assembly or Senate for further discussion. It was modified and reintroduced multiple times with more legal assistance several years later before it was finally passed and signed by Governor Mario Cuomo in 1992. The initial bill that was defeated included the following language defining athletic training. “The practice of athletic training is defined as the use of various techniques as an employee of an educational institution, a professional athletic organization, or other bona fide athletic organization as determined by the commissioner upon the supervision of a physician to: prevent athletic injury from occurring; provide initial care of an athletic injury; provide support
for athletic injury; perform tests and measurements as a aid in the evaluation of an athletic injury; apply physical modalities such as heat, light, cold, air, water, electricity, sound, massage, therapeutic exercise and their use for the effective treatment and rehabilitation of an athletic injury.”

Initial Licensing Bill Introduced April 5, 1978 by Senator Ronald Stafford
NYSATA “Uni-Bill” (S 2594 - A 3292) reintroduced for 1979-80 sessions
The Need to Grow and Other Professional Activities

In 1980 Mike Cappeto (Columbia University) took over as President, John Bernfield (University of Rochester) was President-Elect and Kim Miller (Binghamton) began his 2-year term as Secretary-Treasurer. In the early 1980s to help address the concern that NYSATA had such small numbers in their membership, efforts shifted toward becoming a part of the New York State Association of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (NYSAHPER) to have more “clout” numbers-wise and financially with legislative efforts in Albany. Instead of being a professional organization representing less than 100 members, NYSATA would now be part of an organization with several thousand members. NYSATA members joined NYSAHPER and several athletic trainers were invited to speak at NYSAHPER’s annual meetings for the next 2 or 3 years (Don Lowe, Al Peppard, John Sciera, Kim Miller, Dot Cohen, Joe Donovan, Beth Deutsch, Bill Chisholm, Kent Scriber, and Michael Aitken). Although this appeared to be a mutually beneficial organizational move, it became apparent fairly quickly that it was not going to help NYSATA’s legislative efforts. NYSATA members found themselves in Albany lobbying for NYSAHPER legislation that held no professional significance relating to athletic training. Also, NYSAHPER members did not lend much assistance in supporting NYSATA’s licensure efforts in Albany. In May of 1983, feeling this professional merger was not mutually beneficial, led by President John Bernfield the membership voted to withdraw its direct association with NYSAHPER and become independent once again. Dues in 1983 were $20 ($5 for students).

Although gaining a state professional credential was clearly the primary objective of NYSATA in the early years, the association was also moving forward with other professional goals. Some early State meetings for the membership and for students were held, but with mixed success. In 1976 Hollis Powers (Plattsburgh State) was contacted about setting up a statewide
sports medicine symposium in conjunction with the Lake Placid Olympic Training Center. Recognizing the importance of student involvement for the profession’s future, several annual meetings were held primarily for student members. Ken Knight (Brockport State Program Director) had taken over as Chair of the Advancement and Education Committee and initiated these one-day symposiums. In April 1978 the first student program was held on the Cortland State campus. Brooklyn College hosted the conference in 1979, followed by Brockport State in 1980 and Ithaca College in 1981. The student conference was not held in 1982, then the last NYSATA sponsored “student” event was held in 1983 in Rochester in conjunction with NYSATA’s regular meeting.

A First Annual NYSATA Meeting was held in May of 1981 at SUNY Binghamton and the second NYSATA sports medicine symposium for the certified members was held at Cortland in 1982 (67 registrants). In 1983 the symposium was held in Rochester, then Syracuse in 1984. “Downstate” members encouraged President Don Lowe to have the annual meeting closer to them for ease of attendance from the metropolitan area and Long Island, so the 1985 meeting was held at New York Medical College in Valhalla. Unfortunately, only 17 members were in attendance along with about a dozen exhibitors. Because of the low attendance, it was determined that most of the registration fees would be returned to the exhibitors. Soon, it was decided that NYSATA should become a co-sponsor at the Empire State Games Annual Sports Medicine Symposium. This resulted in better attendance and a somewhat “trapped” audience (ESG volunteers providing health care services could attend for free). Others could attend for CEUs, but had to pay a registration fee. This was done from the late 1980s through the early 2000s when NYSATA again began holding separate annual meetings for its membership which brought in additional revenue. The 2001-2003 meetings were held in Albany, 2004 and 2005 in
Rochester. During 2006 and 2007 the meetings were held at West Point, 2008-2010 at Syracuse University, and 2011 and 2012 in Lake Placid at the US Olympic Training Center.

**Importance of the Empire State Games**

A very important professional relationship NYSATA developed in the early years was with the administrators in Albany who initiated the Empire State Games. The Empire State Games were first held in Syracuse in 1978 and provided an excellent venue for bringing a “behind the scenes” group of athletic trainers much needed professional exposure and recognition. This statewide “Olympic-type” event gave the athletic training profession good exposure with the public and the other medical volunteers (particularly physicians). More than 5,000 young athletes participated at the first ESGs and there were 12 ATCs, 4 associate members, and 28 student members who assisted with event coverage for the Games. Originally the plan was to hold the ESGs biannually, but with its great success, it was instead held annually. Hollis Powers had been appointed as the first Head Athletic Trainer and in an August memo to the NYSATA Executive Council following the Games, he stated that he believed “our involvement in the Games has done more for the profession in the state than anything we have done before.” There was concern expressed over assigning young students for event coverage without the supervision of certified athletic trainers. Hollis’ leadership as head athletic trainer (1978-1979) was followed by Anthony Ortolano/Plattsburgh State & RPI (1980-1992), Stu Balter/Hudson Valley Community College (1993-2003), then Kathy Koshansky/ Stony Brook University (2004-2010). Dr. Merritt Spear of Plattsburgh was the Games’ initial Medical Director and remained in that position until the ESGs were discontinued in 2010. The sports medicine staff continued to grow as the ESGs “matured.” More physicians and athletic trainers volunteered and the group always led the procession at the Games’ Opening Ceremonies. Fairly
early in its existence the Games began sponsoring a Sports Medicine Symposium that was held in conjunction with the orientation/organizational meeting before the start of the competition. Volunteer coverage for the Games became an important professional and social medium for athletic trainers and other health care volunteers.

Athletic Trainers and Physicians marching in an ESG Opening Ceremonies
Continued Legislative Efforts and New Leadership

Over the next few years the AT bill continued to be modified and was introduced several more times and was finally passed in 1992 and signed by Governor Mario Cuomo. In the mid-1980s, Ron Linfonte (St. John’s) took over as chair of the Licensure Committee, followed by Lou DiNitto (Sports Medicine Resources, Stony Brook) in the late 1980s. In 1990 Assemblyman Edward Sullivan, Chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Higher Education, invited both proponents and opponents of the Athletic Training Bill to testify at a public legislative hearing in Albany (October 23, 1990). Long time supporter of the bill, Assemblyman Samuel Colman also presided at this meeting. The following is the listing of those who testified:

This testimony given in the Hearing Room C of the Legislative Office Building seemed to have a positive impact on helping the legislators present better understand the educational and professional aspects of Athletic Training. From an educational standpoint it was evident that many were not aware that Athletic Training was required to be an academic major and was not the same thing as “coaching” or “physical education.” Many testified of the necessity of realizing
that ATs were well educated and clinically trained health care professionals. In this bill (1991-1992) “athletic training” was defined as the “practice of the profession of athletic training is defined as the application of principles, methods and procedures for managing athletic injuries, which shall include the preconditioning, conditioning and reconditioning of an individual who has suffered an athletic injury through the use of appropriate preventative and supportive devices, under the supervision of a physician and recognizing illness and referring to the appropriate medical professional with implementation of treatment pursuant to physician`s orders. Athletic training includes instruction to coaches, athletes, parents, medical personnel and communities in the area of care and prevention of athletic injuries. The scope of work described herein shall not be construed as authorizing the reconditioning of neurologic injuries, conditions or disease.”

In a 1991 report Lou DiNitto (Stony Brook), Chair, NYSATA Licensure Committee, mentioned the necessity of NYSATA hiring a lobbyist to help efforts in Albany. He estimated that the expense for this would be around $6,000-8,000 annually, which was just about what the organization’s total assets were at the time. During the 1992 legislative session, Mary Ann McLean, an Albany based attorney, was hired as NYSATA’s lobbyist. She worked closely with President Steve Norman (Rye Day Country School, Scarsdale), President-Elect Jenny Hathaway Monaco (Manhattanville College & L. Klein Middle School), and Lou DiNitto. At that time Jill Dale (Orthopedic and Sports Therapy Associates, Elmira) served as NYSATA’s Treasurer and Kathryn Koshansky (Stony Brook University) was Secretary. This bill was far more general than the original bill that was submitted more than a decade earlier, but it was necessary to be written as such to gain the support it needed to be passed. Lobbying costs turned out to be $15,935.10 but were covered by another membership assessment ($50.00/member) and donations from
Sports Medicine Rehabilitation of Manhasset, Onondaga Sports Medicine (Syracuse), and Jaybird & Mais, Inc. According to the 1991 Winter NYSATA Newsletter, the New York Chapter of the APTA felt ATs should be a part of the PT Practice Act and only allowed to do “preconditioning and conditioning of the athlete.” The NYS APTA Chapter also stated that in their opinion “the educational training of athletic trainers does not enable them to “manage” competently, safely, and thoroughly athletic injuries/illnesses as the bill states.” Taking this position was quite ironic since in June of 1990, the American Medical Association formally endorsed Athletic Training as an allied health profession with support from the American Physical Therapy Association, the Academy of Family Practitioners, the Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons for Sports Medicine, and was co-sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Therefore, NYSATA’s official position and response to the NYS Chapter’s comments was that the bill still would define athletic training as “care, treatment, and prevention of athletic injuries” and they would be supervised by physicians, not physical therapists.

NATA News headline with an important endorsement
Passage of the AT Bill

On June 30, 1992 the bill was finally passed by the New York State Senate and Assembly. The Athletic Training Bill was signed into law by Governor Mario Cuomo August 7th. Twenty years later NYSATA has been reassessing this now somewhat “outdated” bill.

“The Senate
State of New York

JAMES L. SEWARD
STATE SENATOR, 5TH DISTRICT
CHAIRMAN, ENERGY COMMITTEE

July 2, 1992

Mr. Ken Scriber
85 Gunderman Road
Ithaca, New York 14850

Dear Mr. Scriber:

Knowing your interest in the Athletic Trainer Bill, S.5177, I thought you would like to know it passed the Senate, with my support on July 2nd. It also passed the Assembly on June 30th and now awaits action by the Governor.

I appreciate your input.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES L. SEWARD
State Senator

“Good news” letter to Kent Scriber from Senator James Seward (Ithaca, NY District)
[There is also a January 6, 1993 letter to incoming NYSATA President Jenny Hathaway Monaco from NATA President Dennis Miller congratulating the members of NYSATA for the passage of the athletic training regulatory practice act.]

Efforts are continuing today to rewrite portions of the practice act to better align with the actual scope of duties athletic trainers presently use providing health care to their patients. In particular, the NYS
Concussion Management and Awareness Act that passed in July 2011 has made it evident that the language of the current Education Law Article 162 defining the scope of practice for athletic training needs revision. Some of the current language can still be debated. For example, what constitutes a neurological disorder (e.g., concussion?) and can ATs manage them, how is “athlete” defined and what if any other types of patients can ATs “legally” treat, and can ATs be reimbursed for the services they provide? Our current NYSATA leaders (President Deanna Errico [Utica College], President-Elect Aimee Brunelle [Jamestown Community College], Past-President Chris Hobler [Ithaca Orthopedics and Sports Medicine & St. Bonaventure University], and Governmental Affairs Committee Chair Christine Jenkins [Hudson Valley Community College]), and the NYS Athletic Training Committee will continue to address these types of important professional issues that will help shape our profession in the future.

The New York State Committee for Athletic Training (2011) (l-r) Walter Ramos (Executive Secretary of the New York State Board for Medicine), Louann Kuntz, ATC (Albany Medical Center), Timothy Kelly, ATC (USMA), Karen Balter, ATC (Sage College), Kevin Kroencke (Staff Assistant to the Office of Professions), Jim Gossett, ATC (Columbia University), and Jacob Wilkinson (lobbyist for Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Eldman, & Dicker LLP)
Continuing Efforts in Albany

Annually several NYSATA members have gone to Albany for Lobby Day to continue to educate legislators and key players in the State Education Department about the athletic training profession and issues relating to its practice. During the fall of 2012 NYSATA representatives, as well as lobbyist Mary Ann McLean, met with Walter Ramos (Executive Secretary of the New York State Board for Medicine, Office of the Professions), to continue to educate and be advised by his office as to how best to go about changing the current bill (Article 162). Hopefully, these efforts will result in continuing to make the athletic training profession better. More importantly it will assure the “physically active” public that they are receiving the best possible health care when seeking the services of an athletic training professional.

2009 NYSATA Lobby Day
Left to Right: Jessica Lustbader, ATC; Kent Scriber, ATC; Maria DelliVeneri, ATC; Christine Jenkins, ATC; Mary Ann McLean, Lobbyist; Chris O’Brien, ATC, GA Chair; Kristy Hart, ATC, PR Chair; Jake Wilkinson, Lobbyist; Jennie Petrone, ATC, DII GAC; John Cottone, ATC, President; Robby Vought, ATC
Evidence of Growth

Gradually many of the early NYSATA leaders left. Joe Abraham passed away in 1981 and John Sciera in 1986. Hollis Powers took a position at Longwood College in Virginia at the end of 1979. In the early 1980s, Gene Castrovillo became the athletic director at Alfred University and Mike Cappeto left the profession. In spite of the voids left by these departures, NYSATA continued on in pursuit of many of its original professional goals. NYSATA gradually grew membership-wise, as well as financially and new leaders stepped up. After five years as an association the January 18, 1981 minutes showed NYSATA’s balance was a mere $376.00, but there were no longer any outstanding legal bills! June 4, 1985 meeting minutes reported a balance reported as $3,994.49. The Fall 1989 NYSATA Newsletter mentioned there were 142 certified members with $6,205.40 in assets. A few years later in 1992, NYSATA’s assets were reported at $8,076.71. Treasurer Kathy Koshansky’s report in the Fall 1994 Newsletter noted assets had grown to $14,823.92 even after paying approximately $16,000 in “Legislative” fees. In the Winter 1998 Newsletter the total membership (including students) was 333. At some point during the early 2000s, state organizations began receiving substantial monetary support from the NATA and Districts resulting in much more growth in NYSATA accounts. This occurred because in 2001 NYSATA (and other state organizations) stopped billing each member for their state dues. All state dues were billed and collected by the NATA at the same time as the national dues. Therefore all NATA members were automatically included as members of their state organizations and no longer had an option not to join. Initially NYSATA was reimbursed $40 for each certified member and $25 for each student member. This change immediately impacted NYSATA’s total assets and there was now money available for legislative efforts as well as other state activities which included scholarship and research support. Laurie Bitting’s (Ithaca
College) treasurer’s report in 2001 listed $93,813.81 in assets and this increased to $112,053.45 by the end of 2002. In 2005 Treasurer Mark Alderman (Ithaca College) listed total NYSATA’s assets at $157,918.68. NYSATA’s Fall 2012 Newsletter reported 1072 certified members and 209 students, with total assets to be $306,616.27, a far cry from the initial few members and $376 balance three decades earlier! Professional progress hasn’t always been as quick as many members had initially hoped, but there has been some progress none the less. We still have a long way to go.
Past Officers for New York State Athletic Trainers’ Association

Presidents:

John Sciera 1976-1977
Gene Castrovillo 1977-1978
Hollis Powers 1978-1980 (Start of 2-year terms)
Mike Cappeto 1980-1982
John Bernfield 1982-1984
John Sciera 1984 (Unable to serve term)
Don Lowe 1984-1986
Tom Fashouer 1986-1988
Rick Zappala 1988-1990
Steve Norman 1990-1992
Jenny Hathaway Monaco 1992-1994
Mike Matheny 1994-1996
Tim Kelly 1996-1998
Marty Erb 1998-2000
Kathy Koshansky 2000-2002
Andy Smith 2002-2004
Andy Duncan 2004-2006
Todd Hirsch 2006-2008
John Cottone 2008-2010
Chris Hobler 2010-2012
Deanna Errico 2012-2014

NYSATA Secretary/Treasurer:

Mike Cappeto 1976 & 1977
Kent Scriber 1978 & 1979
Kim Miller 1980-1982
Abbe Herzog 1982-1984
Diane Pavlik 1984-88
Jenny Hathaway 1988-1990

NYSATA Secretary (Became a separate position in 1990)

Jill Dale 1990-1994
Deanna Errico 1994-1998
Mark Casterline 1998-1999
Chris Enk 1999-2004
Jackie Upton 2004-2005
Chris Hummel 2005-2008
Jarett Rhodes 2008-
NYSATA Treasurer (Became a separate position in 1990)

Kathryn Koshansky 1990-1998
Andy Smith 1998-2000
Laurie Bitting 2000-2004
Mark Alderman 2004-2006
Chris Jones 2006-2011
David Byrnes 2011-
NYSATA Awards

The Thomas Sheehan, Sr. Award is presented by the New York State Athletic Trainer's Association to the athletic trainer whose character, commitment and achievements in the athletic training profession clearly exemplify the traits of Thomas J. Sheehan Sr. Mr. Sheehan was the long-time Head Athletic Trainer at RPI (27 years) and was one of the founding fathers of both the Eastern Athletic Trainers’ Association (1949) and the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (1950). At the time it was established in 1977 this award was the highest individual honor a member of NYSATA could achieve. Approximately twenty years later NYSATA established its Hall of Fame which since has become the association’s highest individual honor.

Past Thomas Sheehan, Sr. Award Recipients

1977 - Joe Abraham
1978 - John Sciera
1979 - Hollis Powers
1981 - Michael Cappeto
1983 - Don Lowe
1985 - Anthony Ortolano
1990 - Kent Scriber
1991 - James D. Gossett
1992 - Rick Zappala
1993 - Lou DiNitto
1994 - Pete Koehneke
1995 - Steve Norman
1998 - Mike Matheny
2001 - Bernie DePalma
2001 - Jill Dale
2002 - John Cottone
2003 - Marty Erb
2003 - Bud Carpenter
2004 - Tim Kelly
2005 - Kathy Koshansky
2006 - Andy Smith
2009 - Deanna Errico
Establishment of the NYSATA Hall of Fame

Under leadership of Marty Erb (Colgate University), the NYSATA established its Hall of Fame in 1998 to honor those individuals who have worked or are working in the State of New York and have made significant contributions to the profession of Athletic Training, particularly at the state level. A committee was formed to determine criteria for selection and to review nominations. Any member of the New York State Athletic Trainers’ Association may nominate someone for NYSATA’s highest recognition and the basic criteria are as follows: 1) A minimum of 15 years as a certified member of the National Athletic Trainer’s Association, with at least 10 of those years being served in New York State, 2) Contributions to the profession of athletic training in the State of New York (Involvement in NYSATA, Empire State Games, Promotional activities in the community, Presentations and public appearances), 3) High Profile position in New York State, perhaps not allowing for involvement in above (#2), but in a position to be a professional role model for other athletic trainers; or having made significant contributions professionally in other available avenues, 4) Additional Considerations (Involvement at the district and the national level, Research/Educational Accomplishments, Honors/Awards).

dedicated on March 4, 2002 (photo below). The Medco Company has graciously sponsored this exhibit. Deanna Errico currently serves as chair of the HOF Committee.

**March 4, 2002 NYSATA HOF Dedication Ceremony (Buffalo, NY)**

L to R: Andy Smith (NYSATA President), Kent Scriber (Class of 2000), Ed Abramski (Class of 1999), Paul DeMartinis (Medco), Marty Erb (Chair, HOF Committee)

**Current NYSATA Hall of Fame Members** (from NYSATA website)


Other NYSATA Awards

Joseph Abraham Award- This award, started in 1986, is given annually by the New York State High School that has provided outstanding athletic injury care to the student-athletes of their school.

Past Joseph Abraham Award Recipients

John Sciera Service Award- The NYSATA added this award in 2005 to recognize members and supporters of the association for their service and/or outstanding contribution to the profession of athletic training in New York State.

Past Sciera Service Award Recipients
Research and Injury Committee

In the early 1990s NYSATA’s Executive Board established the Research and Injury Committee in hopes that it would stimulate more scholarship among the membership. The EATA had done this several years earlier with good success. Kent Scriber was appointed its initial chair and Lynn Steenberg/Syracuse and Terry Whieldon/Buffalo initially served on the committee. Later Karen Balter/Russell Sage College, Cindy Trowbridge/Ithaca College, and Karl Koslowski/Buffalo served. There was no specific budget established for awards. The committee did establish the qualifying criteria for these potential grants, but no one applied for several years. As NYSATA’s financial situation improved through the 1990s research monies were set aside, then applications began to be submitted. The following is a listing of awards reported at the 2006 NYSATA Executive Meeting held at West Point. These grants typically ranged between $700.00 and $1500, so at that time several thousand dollars had been awarded for research by NYSATA members. Trayce Rawls-Martin/LIU-Brooklyn took over as chair in 2010.

Portion of report given at 2006 NYSATA Meeting (West Point)
Scholarship Committee

In 1990 another newly formed committee was charged with looking into establishing NYSATA Scholarships. Mike Matheny (Ithaca College) was appointed chair and reported in the 1990 Fall Newsletter that letters had been sent to each professional sports team in New York State to solicit support. At that point there were no responses. A year later it was reported that the Buffalo Bills Football Team made a donation of $2000 to the NYSATA Scholarship fund. In January 1992 the first Buffalo Bills/NYSATA Scholarship was awarded to Mark Garcia of Cortland State. The next year Mike Militello of Brockport State was the second recipient. In 1998 the Buffalo Sabres of the NHL began the first of 3 years sponsoring a second NYSATA Scholarship. 1998 recipient was Amy Cayouette (Ithaca College) and Heidi Gross (Houghton College) received the Bills Award. Scholarship Committee chairs have included Mike Matheny/Ithaca, Tom Kaminski/Alfred, Mike Dolan/Canisius, Gina Delmont, Tim Neal/Syracuse, and Steve Chouinard/Colgate. In 1999 Medco Company began sponsorship of a scholarship which they continued until 2010. In 2000 NYSATA began funding an additional award to make 4 total annual NYSATA scholarships. In 2001 the Sabres discontinued theirs, but NATA’s District 2 began supporting an annual NYSATA Scholarship. Four scholarships were continued until 2010 but when Medco was discontinued, three currently remain.
Selected NYSATA Related Documents

Brochure - What you should know about the AT Licensure Act (~ late 1970s)

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE ATHLETIC TRAINING LICENSURE ACT

A NOTE FROM THE LICENSURE COMMITTEE:

One goal is not toCommercialize the AT profession. We do not intend to make it a business. It is not a money-making venture for us. We are interested in expanding the role of the AT in sports medicine and in improving the quality of the care we provide. It is our belief that the best way to achieve this is through licensure. An ATR must meet the following criteria to be considered for licensure:

1. Education
2. Clinical Experience
3. Professionalism
4. Continuing Education

There is a moral obligation to all the athletes to improve their health care. A big step in this direction is to become licensed. An ATR has been designated as an ATC (Athletic Trainer-Certified) by the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA). The ATC designation is recognized by the state as being qualified.

If there are any questions, please contact the licensing committee:

- John S. Martini, ATC, Cortland College
- Joseph A. Weishaar, ATC, Robert College
- Michael Cappuccio, ATC, Columbia University
- Daniel C. Chadwick, ATC, Alfred University
- Donald E. Page, ATC, Syracuse University
- H. Curtice Smith, ATC, State University of New York

NEW YORK STATE ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

NYSATA Informational Brochure (~1978)

NYSSATA is concerned:

- What is an Athletic Trainer?
- How do they become licensed?
- What are the benefits of having an ATC?

The intention of this brochure is to provide informational answers to the most often asked questions.

WHAT ABOUT LICENSURE?

What is an Athletic Trainer?

A: An Athletic Trainer is a person who is licensed by the New York State Athletic Trainers Association (NYSATA) to provide athletic training services. They are responsible for the prevention, diagnosis, and management of injuries and illnesses that occur in athletic settings.

How do they become licensed?

A: To become licensed, an Athletic Trainer must complete a bachelor's degree in athletic training or a related field, complete a minimum of 2,000 hours of supervised clinical experience, and pass a national certification examination administered by the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA). The license is renewed every two years.

What are the benefits of having an ATC?

A: Having an ATC designation provides the athlete with a level of confidence in the quality of care being provided. It also helps to improve communication and collaboration among healthcare professionals.
Brochures from combined NYSATA/ESG Sports Medicine Symposia
Headline from Fall 1992 NYSATA Newsletter!

The author before and after NYSATA licensure efforts. It took a while! 😊