

## **KATS 2018 Election Candidate Biographies**

### **President-Elect Nominees**

#### *Scott Helton*

It has been my humble honor to serve as Vice-President of KATS (2014-2017) and as current KATS President (2017-present) working alongside of the many talented and dedicated Athletic Trainers of Kentucky. As a 24 year veteran Athletic Trainer, my experiences in the clinic, on the field, and in administration have provided me with great insight into the challenges we face as Athletic Trainers in an evolving health care environment. We have much work to do to elevate our status as key players in the health care system. Advocacy, education, and professional engagement will continue to be the driving forces behind our strategic plan and I would be honored to continue to serve as President of our great organization.

#### *Nick Repka*

First of all let me say how honored I am to be nominated for the position of President in such a storied organization.

Now let me introduce myself, I am Nick Repka, ATC. I am a 1989 graduate of Western Kentucky University where I majored in Physical Education with a minor in Athletic Training. I was very fortunate to learn from a great Athletic Trainer and a better person, KATS Hall of Famer, Mr. Bill "Doc E" Edwards at WKU.

Upon graduation I began my career in the Clinical Outreach field where I am still today. Along the way I have had the great pleasure of working with some very fine physicians from both Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati. I am very grateful for the learning experiences from the likes of Dr. Jim Bilbo, Dr. Mike O'Brien, Dr. Angelo Colosimo, and Dr. Jon Divine to name a few.

I had the privilege of being an Outreach/High School Athletic Trainer at my alma mater Simon Kenton High School (their first ever ATC) for 27 seasons, 22 seasons as the Head Athletic Trainer. During my 28 year career I have had the privilege of working all levels of Athletic Training from High/Middle School, Professional Sports (Arena Football), to USA Diving where I was the Head ATC for the 1999 National Championships/2000 Olympic Trials/2002 World Cup Trials.

For the past 20 years I have been the Regional Coordinator of Athletic Training for NovaCare Rehabilitation. Where we have given Athletic Trainers opportunities in a wide variety of settings such as Professional Sports, Collegiate, High School, Middle School, and Industrial.

The past two years it has been my privilege to serve as the Chair of the Awards and Scholarship committee.

Recently at one of our staff meetings during NATM I expressed to my staff that I did not choose Athletic Training, Athletic Training chose me. Being an Athletic Trainer is not just what I do, it is who I am.

It would be an honor for you to consider me to lead KATS an organization that is dedicated to bettering the profession of Athletic Training in the State of Kentucky.

Thank you!

## **Secretary Nominees**

### *Doug Branch*

My name is Doug Branch and I currently live in Barbourville, KY. I have been a certified athletic trainer for almost 20 years. I received my Bachelor's degree from Wingate University in 1998, Master's degree from Marshall University in 2001, and a Doctorate from A.T. Still University in 2014. Currently, serving as the Program Director for Athletic Training at Union College and have resided in Kentucky and a member of KATS for 5 years.

As an athletic trainer, I have worked in many different settings, including collegiate, high school, and industrial setting. In addition, worked as a physician extender in the clinical setting. In my practice, I have treated many athletes, talked to parents, and worked beside coaches with the ultimate goal of keeping kids safe and being successful. Although I do not get the chance to practice clinically in the field as much as I did in the past, but when I do, it is something that I still enjoy.

Recently, instead of practicing as an athletic trainer, I wanted to teach. This is something that has given me great joy. Watching athletic training students have that "ah-ha" moment gives me a sense of accomplishment. I enjoy sharing stories with students about my athletic training experiences and educating them to be good athletic trainers and health care providers.

Honestly, it would be an honor and privilege to serve as the secretary for KATS. I love the athletic training health profession and want to do whatever I can to move this profession forward. Leadership is a passion of mine and something that I try to improve upon on a daily basis. Serving as the secretary for KATS would enable me put those leadership skills to use. I appreciate your time and consideration for this position.

### *Sheri Utz*

My name is Sheri (Harris) Utz. I am honored to accept the nomination of secretary for the Kentucky Athletic Trainers Society.

I began my athletic training journey in 1998 when I graduated from Western Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Science in Health Education degree, minoring in Athletic Training—which at the time was an internship BOC program. Upon completing my undergraduate requirements, I had the privilege of continuing work full-time as a member of the athletic training staff at WKU. During this time I earned a Master of Science in Sports Administration degree.

After over a decade of gaining collegiate experience at WKU, I began a new chapter at NovaCare Rehabilitation in Northern Kentucky. There my athletic training career took a new route in a clinical position. During my nine years with NovaCare, I assisted with outpatient orthopedic physical therapy, became a clinical instructor for Northern

Kentucky University and Thomas More College, and helped with high school athletics on a PRN basis.

As of last June, I now work at Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine Owensboro (OSMO) as a Registered Orthopedic Technologist and was recently promoted as Coordinator of Athletic Training Services. Our outreach services are provided to two local high schools in Owensboro, as well as three high schools in surrounding areas, including Indiana.

I have served as an active member of the KATS Awards Committee for two years. I have enjoyed reading the numerous nominations we've received and there are many talented athletic trainers making great strides and positive impacts on the individuals and families they are working with.

Thank you for your nomination, I look forward to serving you as your next KATS Secretary.

## **Region 2 Representative Nominees**

### *Doug Means*

Doug Means is the Director of Sports Medicine at Kentucky Orthopedic Rehab Team. He joined KORT in 1996 after working as the Assistant Football Athletic Trainer at the University of Louisville.

Means came to Louisville in 1992 after completing his Master's Degree at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. He is a native of Ohio where he gained his undergraduate degree from Bowling Green State University. Doug has over 25 years of athletic training experience while working with high school athletes, professional athletes and Olympic athletes.

Doug spent 4 years working with the Cleveland Browns while completing his undergraduate degree. He working minor league hockey with the Kalamazoo Wings and Division I hockey at Western Michigan University while earning his Master's Degree. As part of the USOC medical staff, Doug has been involved in providing medical coverage at qualifying Olympic events such as the Titan Games and the World University Games in Bangkok, Thailand.

As we continue to advance the profession of athletic training I am honored to be involved in the process while serving on the board. I am grateful to have represented all athletic trainers in District 2 for the last two years and with your vote, will be just as thankful to be elected again for another term.

## **Region 4 Representative Nominees**

### *Joseph Sarver*

My name is Joseph Sarver MS, LAT, ATC, CKTS, and it is my honor to be nominated for the Region 4 KATS Representative position. I am currently employed as a full-time assistant athletic trainer at the University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, KY), and have been working as a Kentucky licensed athletic trainer for the past 6 years. I previously worked 4 years in the Louisville, KY area as an outreach athletic trainer through ProRehab (formerly STAR Physical Therapy) and was the acting Head Athletic Trainer at Fern Creek High School during that time. While at ProRehab, I was the designated American Red Cross Instructor on staff and was responsible for the organization and recertification of ~45 clinic employees. I moved to the University of the Cumberlands and the area of Southeastern Kentucky (Region 4), 2 years ago, and have enjoyed contributing to the campus community, but am ready to extend my professional contributions by becoming involved with our state association. My professional preparation has included the completion of my bachelor's degree in Physical Education at Ferrum College in Virginia and then my Master of Science degree in Athletic Training at Shenandoah University. While in school I had the opportunity to serve in the following leadership roles: I served as Treasurer of my Fraternity and exercise club while at Ferrum, and then worked as Treasurer for my AT class at Shenandoah U. I have lived and worked as an AT in Kentucky since graduating, and met and married my wife Jennifer and started our family here. I continue to learn what the needs of the state and the regions are, and I like to think I am forward thinking, ambitious, and highly motivated. I am currently enrolled in the NATA leadership academy and have the desire to become involved in KATS with the hope of making a positive contribution and impact for our profession.

### *Joseph Hacker*

I have been raised in sports medicine most of KY life as my stepfather was an Athletic Trainer in South Texas. I am a 2009 graduate of the Athletic Training Program at NKU and completed my Master's degree in 2014 in Medical Education at the University of Cincinnati. My research there focused on concussion education as well as the self-efficacy of entry level athletic trainers in working with disabled athletes. I have worked in many roles including teaching in the ATEP at NKU, the Head Athletic Trainer at Ludlow High School (09-10) and Simon Kenton High School (10-16), and I now serve as the Regional Athletic Training Coordinator for Ohio and Kentucky for Drayer Physical Therapy. My passions are in the areas of professional growth and development of health care professionals as well as serving others.