

Board of Directors Elections 2022-2023

The Nominations Committee of the NATCO Board of Directors has put forth a slate of candidates in accordance with the requirements of the NATCO Bylaws. Based on the expiration of the terms of office the following positions are open: President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and 4 Councilor-at-Large positions. The Nominations Committee selects candidates for the positions of President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary from the current Board of Directors. Candidates for the Councilor-at-Large positions are selected from open nominations generated by the NATCO membership. Nominees for the Councilor-at-Large position must meet eligibility requirements as set forth in the bylaws. Each member may vote for one President-Elect, one Treasurer, one Secretary, and four Councilors-at-Large.

Nominees for Councilor-at-Large:

Anita K. Sites, RN, MSN, AG-ACNP-BC, CCTC



Candidate Statement: I graduated from the University of Virginia in 1998 and have been fortunate to be part of the transplant community since that time. I started my nursing career as an acute care nurse taking care of abdominal transplant patients, also at the University of Virginia (UVA). In 2002, I began my journey as a transplant coordinator in the outpatient setting. While continuing to function in a variety of capacities within the UVA Transplant Center, the primary focus of my practice transitioned to the care of living kidney and liver donors in 2004. I completed my Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program of study in 2015. I function as the clinical lead of the UVA Transplant Center's Living Donor Program.

In addition to my clinical practice, I am actively involved with multiple transplant program-specific and institutional initiatives such as ambulatory optimization, quality metric capture and analysis, staff education planning, and advance practice provider professional development. On a national level, I am a member of the National Kidney Registry Operations and Research Committees. As an active member of NATCO, I am a faculty member for the CCTC review course and am also a member of the 46th Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

As a member of NATCO and prospective Councilor-at-Large, professional education will continue to be the focus of my involvement and vision. NATCO is a proven industry leader in transplant education and continually responds to the needs of its members. In the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, NATCO was able to rapidly transition multiple course offerings and meetings to virtual platforms with great success. A year later, NATCO's virtual optimization initiative has continued to improve while exceeding participants' expectations. My involvement in this virtual innovation has been a personally-rewarding learning experience. Many of my most meaningful professional relationships have resulted from my involvement with NATCO

over the past several years. Being a part of creating these connections and celebrating our commonalities, as well as what makes us unique in our roles, ultimately enhances the patient care we provide. My vision as a leader in NATCO encompasses each of these goals.



Joseph A. Carder, B.S., CPTC

Candidate Statement: I joined Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network in November of 2005 after 18 years in Emergency Medical Services. Once having joined Finger Lakes, I experienced the true “Circle of Life”, from delivering babies to maintaining a patient long enough to see their organs successfully recovered to save another life.

I started in donation at the beginning of the HRSA Collaborative and was truly moved by this effort to engage everyone to come together to work on ways to increase organ donation and transplantation. It was apparent to me the importance of NATCO as a leader and as a provider of education. I became a member of NATCO in 2006. I have had the opportunity to attend many NATCO conferences, collaborate and meet leaders in the field and would like to continue this as a Board Member. It would be a great honor to be given the opportunity to represent the procurement community as a Councilor-at-Large. In this position, I would work tirelessly during my 2-year term to help the Board move forward with their vision.



Annette Needham, DNP, NP-C, CCTC

Candidate Statement: I am currently the Transplant Quality Manager at UC Davis Transplant Center in Sacramento, California in charge of quality, data, research, and regulatory compliance. I have been in the field of transplantation for over 20 years as both a transplant coordinator and a nurse practitioner mostly in kidney transplant and living donation. As a long-term NATCO member, I have been actively involved in the planning of NATCO’s largest educational event, the

Annual Meeting, and I have worked together with current Board members to promote the professional development of NATCO’s Transplant Coordinators by creating a partnership with UC Davis Health and NATCO to bring the CCTC Review Course to the west coast. I am looking forward to expanding NATCO’s education and certification programs.

If chosen as a Board Member, I would like to improve member recruitment, grow the online communication forums, help to update position statements and handbooks, and be involved in

organizational planning. I believe that my vast experience among the different patient groups in transplantation, along with my organizational skills from both my doctorate and managerial positions in this field will be an asset to help advance NATCO's mission. Over the years, I have seen the organization develop into the great community that it is today, and I would love to be a part of that continued growth.

Melissa Kelley, RN, CPTC



Candidate Statement: My nursing career started in 1999 in a Trauma ICU that also recovered the post operative liver and KP transplants. It gave me a broad perspective of the entire organ donation/transplantation process. Simultaneously, a life-long family friend with polycystic kidney disease received the organ he desperately needed. The combination of personal and professional experience collided and set me on a path I could have never predicted.

I began working with NATCO in 2017 as an educator for the Introductory Course. I am looking forward to becoming more involved, not only in the education that NATCO provides, but expanding my role into other areas that will support the NATCO membership in their process improvement initiatives.

Qualifications: I became an RN in 1999 and worked at a Level 1 Trauma Center in ER, trauma, and transplant for five years before coming to LifeLink of Florida as a coordinator. I worked as a transplant coordinator for 14 years before becoming the training supervisor. I joined the management team in 2017 and currently serve as the Assistant Manager of Recovery Services.

I am proud to be part of the LifeLink of Florida team and have dedicated my life to our mission of honoring donors and saving lives through organ and tissue donation for the last nineteen years.

Candidate for President Elect



Jennifer Reese, RN, MSN, APRN-CNP, CCTC It is a great privilege to be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors as President-Elect. I am a proud member of NATCO and have considered it an honor to serve on the Board of Directors over the previous four years as a Councilor- At- Large, and last year as Treasurer. I have learned so much from my fellow Board members and the members of NATCO over the past decade of my involvement with NATCO. In addition, I have been allotted the opportunity to share my 22 years of transplant experience with the membership by helping develop annual meetings in the past, by serving as a Board liaison for the NATCO newsletter, *In-Touch*, and serving as a faculty member of NATCO's CCTC review course. It has been exciting to see how much NATCO has evolved, and I look forward to continuing to be an

integral part in NATCO's continued growth and success in the years to come. Thank you in advance for your consideration of my candidacy.

Candidate for Secretary:

Andrew S. Mullins, MBA, FACHE, CEBT

Candidate Statement: In 1987, my life was personally touched by donation and transplantation



after my grandfather received a heart transplant. Since that time, I have dedicated my career to saving and enhancing lives through organ, eye and tissue donation. I have the honor and privilege each day to work with an amazing team to facilitate donation, all thanks to the donor and his/her family.

For the last four years, I have served on NATCO's board as Secretary as well as Councilor at Large. I am fully committed to seeing NATCO continue to grow further each year in order to see our membership reach their highest potential. Our diverse membership is composed of vast experience, talent, and full of tremendous ideas. I look forward to collaborating with each of you to ensure you are equipped to be the best you can be each day to save and heal more lives than ever before.

Qualifications: I have more than 20 years in the field of organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation serving in various leadership roles, and currently serve as the Chief Executive Officer of Lifeline of Ohio. At Lifeline of Ohio, my team partners with 78 hospitals throughout Ohio and West Virginia facilitating the donation process.

Candidate for Treasurer:



Brittany K. Lyons, BS, CPTC

Candidate Statement: If elected to the NATCO board I will be honored to lead the organization into the next few years. As a member of the NATCO board I envision playing a key role in elevating and growing the transplant profession. I believe this can be done empowering each member of our organization. I will advocate for continued education and professional growth opportunities for each of our members. When I think of the future of NATCO I see the membership working together for the betterment of donation and transplantation as a whole. As Aristotle said, “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts” and I believe this to be true of our organization and each of its members. I will be proud to be part of the growth of an organization and profession I have been a part of for the last 10 years.

Qualifications: I have worked in the field of donation and transplantation since 2010. My professional career has been spent as a procurement transplant coordinator at Gift of Life Donor Program in Philadelphia, PA. As part of my role of Advanced Practice Coordinator at Gift of Life Donor Program, I spend a majority of my time acting as a didactic instructor and on-site preceptor for new procurement transplant coordinators. Prior to starting my career in transplant, I worked as a paramedic in Delaware and Pennsylvania.