

## Board of Directors Elections 2025

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, and 3 Councilor-at-Large positions. The Nominations Committee selects candidates for the positions of President-Elect, and Treasurer 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, and three Councilors-at-Large.

### Candidates for Councilor-at-Large:

#### Faith Hilterbrand, MA



It is imperative we continue to seek new solutions that result in more lives saved. A keystone of NATCO is the platform for procurement and transplantation professionals to come together, breakdown silos, and collaboratively seek new solutions. This ecosystem that is donation and transplantation, however, consists of another key pillar and that is the donor hospital. I frequently hear from those that have been in the field for decades share fond memories of the 'collaborative days'. While times are different now, is the general concept still valid? Through engagement with all key stakeholders, I believe greater solutions can be found. Writer John Heywood shared similarly 'that two heads are better than one'.

My passion is relationship building and advocacy. Should I be elected to serve this membership as a Councilor-at-Large, I would look to review and evaluate the opportunities NATCO has available to increase and expand membership to new stakeholders. As members, we all have the chance to act as community leaders to positively influence donation and transplantation. Alignment of the organizations responsible for ensuring donation and transplantation opportunities are maximized will improve best practices and reduce the waitlist.

I have been fortunate enough to have had great leaders that shared with me many new opportunities, including engagement with NATCO early in my career. I have served on the Hospital Engagement faculty and am now a member of the 2025 Annual Meeting Planning Committee. I also serve on the AOPO Leadership Development Committee and am an Alliance Faculty member for the Executive Insights workgroup. Perhaps it is my background in public education that has grounded me as a continuous learner or my involvement with each organization that has highlighted to me how education is vital to the success and fulfillment found working in this industry.

In a field that demands being nimble due to the expeditious rate of change, NATCO's precedence as an industry leader in development of both procurement and transplant professionals is unmatched. As our respective employers continue to navigate unprecedented hiring and training demands, NATCO's pillar of education and training, in addition to the focus on a pipeline of future leaders, will serve our members best. If elected to the board, I would look to explore any additional needs of the membership that enhance retention as our people are our greatest strength. It is the tenured professionals, and those who are eager to gain experience like that of their mentors, together that will explore the solutions of the future.

**Tania Houle, MBA, CPTC**



Hello fellow NATCO members,

My name is Tania Houle and I am running for NATCO Board of Directors - Councilor-at-Large. I have been an active member of NATCO since 2004 serving on different committees and work groups. NATCO is an important organization that provides our chosen professions a voice within the larger donation and transplantation community plus numerous training opportunities.

As we all work hard to innovate and expand opportunities within donation and transplantation I believe active engagement; meaningful and honest communication; and sharing of practices will enhance our performance. As your

Councilor-at-Large I will be reaching out to determine your needs, hear requests, and help develop a strong strategic plan to allow NATCO to grow in service to our membership over the coming years.

I look forward to serving you!

Tania

## Melissa Kelley, RN, CPTC



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 and became a board member in 2022. I am looking forward to continuing my involvement, 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/surgical ICU, and transplant for five years before coming to LifeLink of Florida in 2003 as a coordinator. I became CPTC in 2004 and worked as a transplant coordinator for 14 years before becoming the training supervisor in 2015. I joined the management team in 2017 and currently serve as the 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 twenty-one years.

## Darryl Nethercot MSN, RN, CPTC, LSSBB



I am Darryl Nethercot, and I serve as the Director of Organ Services at Lifesharing in San Diego, bringing over 17 years of experience in the medical field. Prior to my current role, I spent 10 years as an ICU nurse, which laid the foundation for my expertise in critical care and patient management. Over the past seven years, I have dedicated myself to the organ donation and transplantation industry, where my leadership and commitment to excellence have made a lasting impact.

As a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, I am deeply committed to continuous improvement and effective implementation of innovative strategies. I have spearheaded numerous initiatives at Lifesharing, which have contributed to multiple record-breaking years for the organization, including a remarkable 20% growth in both donation rates and organs transplanted. My ability to lead by example, particularly in collaborating with donation partners and driving research efforts, has set a new standard for organ procurement organizations.

My achievements have been widely recognized, including receiving NATCO's prestigious Donation and Transplant Innovation Award. My approach blends data-driven insights with a hands-on leadership style, ensuring that every project is executed with precision and purpose. Whether it's refining processes, fostering partnerships, or driving research, I am committed to advancing the mission of saving lives through organ donation and transplantation.

I have a clear vision for the future of NATCO. This vision is one of collaboration, professional excellence, and continuous improvement. At the heart of this vision is a commitment to fostering collaboration, breaking down silos and creating opportunities for open dialogue, shared learning, and joint problem-solving between transplant centers and OPOs. In achieving this, we can advance our collective mission of saving lives and improving patient outcomes through organ transplantation.

With my extensive background in planning conferences and my passion for implementation and follow-through, I envision NATCO playing a pivotal role in elevating the field by promoting professional development and supporting certification programs that validate expertise. Certifications not only enhance the credibility of individual professionals but also improve the overall quality of care within the field. NATCO is in a prime position to lead the charge in this area by offering certification programs, study materials, and preparation courses tailored to the unique needs of transplant professionals.

In summary, I would be honored to contribute to NATCO as we work to overcome obstacles, achieve new milestones, and propel this incredible field forward. Thank you for your consideration.

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



I graduated from the University of Virginia (UVA) 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, at UVA Health. 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 and manager 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 Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC) Advisory Board and well as a NATCO Board Councilor at Large. As an active member of NATCO, I am also a faculty member for the Introductory Course for Transplant Professionals and the CCTC review course and have also participated as a member of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

As a member of NATCO and 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 all of their course offerings and meetings to virtual platforms with great success. Four years later, NATCO's virtual optimization has continued to improve while exceeding participants' expectations. 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.



## Candidate for President-Elect

**Brittany Lyons, BS, CPTC**



Thank you for the opportunity to be elected your President Elect of NATCO, I am honored. As President Elect, I am committed to support NATCO as an organization, its history, and its future. I see NATCO not as an abstract but as the collective of its members. NATCO is you. My goal as the President Elect is to continue to support you, your professional education, and your professional growth within the field of donation and transplantation. The field of donation and transplantation is rapidly evolving and NATCO will do the same. As President Elect, I am committed to guiding the NATCO organization through these changing times in a fiscally responsible way. I bring with me over 14 years' experience

working for an OPO as a Procurement Transplant Coordinator and Advanced Practice Coordinator, and 4 years' experience serving on the NATCO board, most recently serving as NATCO treasurer. I thank you again for your support.

## Candidate for Treasurer

**Joseph Carder, BS, EMT-P, CPTC**



I live in Upstate New York and have been in the medical field since 1987. Starting as a Navy Corpsman and serving in Desert Storm, I then worked as a ground and flight paramedic, retiring in 2016. In 2004 I began my career in Organ Donation. I currently hold a position as Remote Administrator on Call for Nevada Donor Network. I have a bachelor's degree in health education from Suny Brockport. I have been a CPTC since 2006.

I have over 20 years of knowledge and experience in donation and transplantation. I previously served on the UNOS Transplant Committee as an At Large Member. I have been a NATCO Member for the past 18 years and started volunteering for NATCO as Co-Chair of the Education Committee in 2016. In 2020 I became a Councilor at Large in which I have served for the past 4 years. I feel that I can continue to offer my experience and knowledge to NATCO and continue to help it become the leader in education for our profession. I would also like to contribute more at the Executive Board Level as Treasurer while also continuing to work on active projects

that NATCO is currently pursuing. It would be my honor to continue with NATCO in a capacity as Treasurer. Thank you for your consideration.