

USA TRIATHLON 2013 GENERAL ELECTION

Welcome to USA Triathlon's 2013 election coverage. Please use the following information to learn about the candidates nominated in your region for the National Board of Directors. We hope this will assist you with your voting decision.

CANDIDATES FOR THE MIDEAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Please vote for up to six (6) of the following candidates:

REGION	CANDIDATE
Mideast (includes Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio)	Lawrence Giannetti (Incumbent)
	Jeff Grady (Incumbent)
	Andrew Heintz (Incumbent)
	Lesley Kruzel (Incumbent)
	Eric Potter (Incumbent)
	Keri Serota (Incumbent)
	Melissa Stockwell (Incumbent)
	Robert Takla (Incumbent)
	Maggi Wettstein
	Graham Wilson (Incumbent)

LAWRENCE GIANNETTI

DeMotte, IN

Mideast Region



First and foremost I would to thank all the USAT membership in the region as well as their families for making the commitment to the multi sport lifestyle. Regardless of the level of expertise, age, gender or physical challenge the I and the Mideast Regional Council appreciate your efforts. If elected this will be my fourth four year term on the council. In previous years I have held positions ranging from committee member, member at large, state representative and vice president of the region. In addition I served as a race official for four years. Every year I have participated in at least one USAT sanctioned event. This year I competed in both the sprint and Olympic distance duathlon regional championships as well as the Valparaiso Triathlon. In addition to my experience as a competitor I also bring to the council maturity, commitment and interest in making sure we as a council make the best decisions for our regions membership.

JEFF GRADY Palatine, IL Mideast Region



I have been a participant, advocate, and promoter of triathlon for over 20 years. I have served on the USAT Mideast Council as an appointed member since 2011. My experience in triathlon includes race director of the Elkhart Lake Triathlon (since 1999), XTERRA Dairyland (since 2011), and numerous endurance events. My credentials include certification as a USAT Level 2 Race Director, former USAT certified official, USAT Mideast Council member, and annual attendee of the USAT Race Director's Symposium. My passion for triathlon, background and experience allow me to provide a combined athlete/race director perspective to Council and USAT policy and programs. This role allows me to provide input and guidance that protects the interests of athletes and helps to ensure that event directors provide athletes great venues and races that meet the high standards triathletes expect. I am an advocate of uniform application of the USAT Competitive Rules and seek to educate athletes about them are every opportunity – whether at my own events or while on rides with other triathletes. Ultimately, my goal is that each and every member gets to experience the camaraderie, competitive spirit, and sense of fulfillment I have enjoyed through triathlon and USAT membership.

ANDREW HEINTZ Toledo, OH

Mideast Region



My name is Andrew Heintz. I work in the field of Information Technology and have been active in the Triathlon world for just under 10 years. This past week I competed in the Louisville IRONMAN, the first 140.6 race I have been involved in. I have been mainly involved with attending events in Mideast at information booths in expos and the website/marketing go to person. I am very passionate about the world of Triathlons and love to bring my abilities to the table to help USAT spread the word and get more people involved!

LESLEY KRUZEL Holland, OH

Mideast Region



My name is Lesley Kruzel, I have been a triathlete for 10 years. In my time I've raced everything from sprint to Ironman races. I am currently serving on the Mideast Regional Council and have done so for the past 5 Years. I am looking to continue to serve. My dedication to USAT and this region, coupled with my drive to do great work means that I will do the best job representing the Mideast Region. During my 5 years on the Council I have served as Treasurer along with Chair of the Mideast Region Club Race Series committee. I also involved with the Regional Championship Committee. I value greatly the opportunity USAT has given me and I enjoy giving back to the sport. It is my desire for the Mideast Region to continue to evolve and thrive. I anticipate another active role with the USAT Mideast Region Council and I look forward to once again have the opportunity to represent the Mideast Region.

ERIC POTTER
Chicago, IL
Mideast Region



My interest in triathlon as a sport started several years back when I was still in the active duty army. I was a high school and college swimmer and because of the way the army approaches physical fitness I soon became a runner too. Running has since becomes a therapeutic past time of mine from helping deal with the stress of multiple combat deployments to helping me switch off from office life to home life now. Endurance sports have had such a positive impact on my life and I currently volunteer with a non-profit called Team RWB (Red, White and Blue) because of my experiences. The focus of Team RWB is getting veterans reengaged with their communities through sport and to reap the physical/mental benefits of an active lifestyle. In 2007 I had a pretty bad motorcycle accident and broke both my legs and could no longer run for almost a year and half. During that time period I took up cycling to get my endurance sport "fix." I also had a mentor and friend who is an avid triathlete and really got me involved in putting all three sports together and I've been hooked ever since.

KERI SEROTA Chicago, IL

Mideast Region



Keri Serota has been a triathlete for over 10 years and has done all distance races from sprint to Ironman. Her passion is getting paratriathletes into the sport. She and 2 friends, cofounded dare2tri, the nation's first USAT sanctioned paratri club. It is a Chicago based program that is helping spread the sport of paratriathlon throughout the Mideast as well and the country. Dare2tri has both recreational and elite athletes. Keri also serves as the Vice Chair of the USAT Paratri Committee. She has been instrumental in helping get race directors to make their races Parafriendly. She also helped initiate the first ever Mideast Paratriathlon Regional Championships. Her goals include growing the sport, having the Mideast region serve as a model for other regions on how to include and develop paratriathletes and include them in USAT events and races. Keri is also eager to be involved in the planning of the ITU World Championships when they come to Chicago in 2015. She is passionate about triathlon, getting as many people involved in the sport as possible and making sure the triathlon community is inclusive of all paratriathletes.

MELISSA STOCKWELL

Chicago, IL

Mideast Region



My name is Melissa Stockwell and as an above the knee amputee, I am a proud Paratriathlete competing around the nation and the world. I have been heavily involved in sports since the loss of my left leg above the knee and swam in the 2008 Paralympics before getting involved in the sport of Paratriathlon. In 2010, I co-founded the Dare2tri Paratriathlon Club that is a Chicago based club that serves athletes with disabilities and gets them into the sport of triathlon. As both an athlete with a disability and a strong advocate for this group, I feel I bring a unique perspective to the Mideast Council. It is my goal to provide race directors with the appropriate information to have a division in their races for athletes with a disability. It is also important to hold Paratriathlon clinics around the region in order to recruit more athletes with a disability and increase the number of Paratriathletes in the Mideast region. I hope I can continue to serve on the Mideast Regional Council and increase the level of awareness for athletes with disabilities.

ROBERT TAKLA West Bloomfield, MI

Mideast Region



I have had the pleasure to serve on the USAT Mideast Council for the past few months on an interim basis and would very much appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve. I am an amateur athlete with an interest and passion for multisport and believe in the mission to encourage the multisport lifestyle and to grow our sport regionally and nationally. I am part of a club that participates in such events (Club Fraser – AKA team Fraser) and continue to encourage participation. As a health advocate by career, I believe that we should all strive to be our healthiest. Earlier this year, I had the pleasure to work with Lawrence on the Duathlon committee and helped to select the venues for the regional championship races. I am also serving on the Race Bid Selection Committee for our Special Qualifier 2014.

MAGGI WETTSTEIN Peoria Heights, IL

Mideast Region



I participated in my first triathlon in 2006 with a rented wetsuit, in frigid waters, and on my dad's 1970's road bike. I did the race with a friend and our only goal was to not let our professor beat us. That goal was achieved and since then, I've continued to set new goals with each race I do. I have raced in both local and national events, and I love seeing new people having fun with triathlon. I actively participate in my local tri-club, and I've even started coaching the Bradley University Triathlon Club. Getting people active and cheering them on has always been a huge part of my life. I've been a fitness and indoor cycling instructor for over 10 years, a runner for even longer than that. The opportunity to be a part of the Mideast Regional Council would be a great way to further involve myself with triathlon, as well as help to grow the sport and expose more new people to the great community that is triathlon. I am also excited about the chance to connect on a more regional scale with individuals who are as interested and excited about triathlon as I am.

GRAHAM WILSON

Lake Bluff, IL

Mideast Region



For the benefit of the Council and our Region, I bring a unique set of qualifications to the position:

USAT Level III Coach – and past chair of USAT National Coaching Commission

- a. USAT Cat I Race Official
- b. Contributing author to USAT publications
- c. Active and Competitive Triathlete
- d. Owner of a business consulting firm

I believe that the primary purpose of the Regional Council is to ensure our members are receiving the best possible guidance and advice regarding Mideast matters. As such, I have been, and will continue to be, an active member who is not afraid to raise a dissenting opinion if needed. In addition, I feel that I can add value to the Council because I have vast experience of USAT at multiple levels; this, combined with my business consulting acumen, ensures that I am able to assist the Council to make the best decisions for all parties. It has been an honor to be a Council Member and I look forward to being part of it success in the future.