

**Jennifer D. Rheeling, MS, ATC**

**Why I Should Be Elected to the BOC Board of Directors**

My name is Jennifer Rheeling and I thank you for taking the time and initiative to vote in the Board of Certification AT Director election and read my application.

I should be elected to the BOC Board of Directors because I am passionate about the profession of athletic training, advocating on behalf of the profession and, more importantly, making sure the standards upheld by an athletic trainer are uniform, rigorous, and universally recognized and respected. When a member of the public sees an athletic trainer, they should know that person is a medical professional who has a unique skill set and a strident desire to protect those they serve and to restore their patients, in any setting, to full health and activity.

I want to know that the profession I have pursued since junior high is strong and has a firm foothold in the medical field. I want nurses and physician's assistants and medical receptionists to know that athletic trainers are within legal confines regarding HIPAA and FERPA and they can share information regarding mutual patients with me. I want primary care physicians and internists to know and respect our profession the way orthopedic physicians do. I want parents to understand how crucial and relevant an athletic trainer is to the protection and safety of their child and to want to demand one at their child's school. I want the public to know better than to say "oh, you're a trainer, you can help me lose weight". I want state licensing boards to no longer make athletic trainers feel as though we need to define who are patients are or should be.

I am equipped to represent athletic trainers on the BOC Board of Directors not only because of my passion and love for athletic training and its' future, but also because of my extensive history in leadership and advocacy. I have served in various capacities since 1991: secretary-treasurer of the DC Athletic Trainers' Association in its' earlier incarnation, NATA Secondary School Athletic Trainers' Committee, President of the DCATA as it exists now, chair of the DC State Athletic Association Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association Honors & Awards committee, athletic trainers' representative to the Washington Teachers' Union, NATA Secondary School Value Model Project, Division I representative to the NATA State Association Advisory Committee, and many local representations. Furthermore, I have been the catalyst for the reformation of the once defunct-DCATA and lead our efforts to seek amendment of a currently unfriendly licensure bill and have directed the re-establishment of the DCATA as a non-profit organization in good standing with the District of Columbia. I also pushed for the formation of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee when the DCSAA was formed. I have received many awards over the years for my efforts in supporting athletic training, most recently the NATA Athletic Training Service Award and the NATA State Association Advisory Committee Excellence in Leadership Award.

Athletic training has been my passion and calling for as long as I can remember. I want other athletic trainers to feel the sense of fulfillment and satisfaction and pride that I do, and to receive the external acknowledgment of our expertise and value from consumers who no longer question what we do or who we serve.

I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve my fellow athletic trainers in our endeavor to provide the best quality care to our patients. Thank you for your consideration as your candidate for BOC AT Director.