




THE TECHNICIAN

MAY-JUNE 2024

ISSUE #3, Vol. #82

DUTY ● DIGNITY ● DEDICATION

A large circular graphic with a red top half and a blue bottom half, separated by a white horizontal band. The red and blue sections contain white stars. The white band contains the text "MEET THE CANDIDATES" in red and blue.

**MEET THE
CANDIDATES**



03

ELECTIONS INFO

14

**VICE PRESIDENT 2
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NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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**NATIONAL
TREASURER**

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ELECTION 2024



NOMINATIONS FOR ACT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

were accepted on March 1, 2024, until April 15, 2024

Nominations were accepted for the following positions:

**National President
National Treasurer
Vice President NE
Vice President NW**

Only written nominations were accepted.

All nominations were submitted electronically, and received by the e-mail server no later than April 15, 2024. All nominees are members in good standing and have been on membership rolls since July 1, 2023.

ELECTION 2024

All candidate information contained within this publication is shown as it was provided by the candidate with no changes made for grammatical errors or punctuation.

Candidates who provided no information will have their name shown as it appears on the ballot.

National President

Candidate Mr. Chris Searcy



Chris Searcy is a resident of Danville, KY, and a retired member of the United States Army and Kentucky Army National Guard where he served as an Avionics Mechanic, UH-60 Blackhawk Mechanic, Technical Inspector, Flight Instructor, Standardization Instructor, and First Sergeant before retiring as a Sergeant Major in December 2018.

Chris has also been a long-standing member of the Kentucky Long Rifle Chapter (83) of ACT where he has been a shop steward, Chief Steward for the state, Executive Vice President, Chapter President, and also served as an ACT National Field Representative.

Throughout his service as a union steward, officer, and Field Rep, Chris has represented ACT membership in cases at the state and national level including contract negotiations, Unfair Labor Practice filings, Merit System Protection Board filings, and filings before the Federal Labor Relations Authority and Federal Services Impasse Panel.

Chris is married to his wife Joanna, has two children, Max and Ellie, two grandchildren, Salem and Pearl, and a big fluffy German Shepard-Great Pyrenees mix named Cash.

National President

Candidate Mr. Jeff Osborn



Hello. My name is Jeffery Osborn, I am 51 years old, have a wonderful wife Janet and together we have 5 children that are all grown and out of the house. I have been in the Army National Guard for 28 years. I serve in the Army National Guard here in Missouri. I currently hold the rank of MSG (E-8). I have been deployed once for a little over 12 months. I joined the technician force in 2008 have been a member of ACT for 11 years, I was a steward for 7 years, and I currently hold the office of National Southeast Vice President as well as President for the Missouri Show-Me Army Chapter 92. I have been a technician for 14 years, and I currently work at an FMS located in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. I would appreciate your vote and if elected I look forward to continuing serving at the National level.

National President

Candidate Mr. Pat Straka



Mr. Patrick (Pat) Straka

Bio for National President nomination:

- Joined Union 2009
- Blue Mountain Chapter 46
- Served as Shop Steward until promoted to the State council in 2016
- January 01, 2017 assumed the duties of State council treasurer
- 2019 served as EVC Army on State council while maintaining the Treasurer duties
- Assisted team with Bylaw updates and implantation in accordance with the National Constitution
- During this period held office as Blue Mountain Chapter President due to officer retirement and until a new Chapter president was appointed
- December 2019 was appointed to State Council Chairman assumed all duties there in

Areas of special focus:

- Revamped training program with my team for grass roots stewards in conjunction National training to establish a state wide standard to adapt to the demands of a smaller steward team to maintain same level of personal care for the bargaining unit as times have changed
- Communication to the lowest level of the team to ensure their voice was heard and had access to the same resources as the Council to represent our members
- Assisted with Contract negotiations alternate and then when time came as the lead negotiator for the members as Chairman of Pa using all of A.C.T. resources
- Continuing the legacy of the Chairman before to perpetuate a solid working relationship with management to solve issues at the lowest levels keeping with moral dignity
- Monthly meetings with the PA DAG Army and Directorates
- Most cases resolved without going to arbitration, but ready to do so or use ULP, FLRA and MSPB to preserve justice and employee rights
- Maintain relevant knowledge to keep up current sitting Administration changes to law, statutes labor laws EOs, and NGB language NCR ensuring our rights
- Recognizing our Field reps and their efforts as the back bone of our organization

National President

Candidate Mr. Pat Straka

Committees, boards, councils, and charters:

- National level, serve as a team member volunteering to step up to fill vacancies when needed to maintain operations in between keeping PA operations ongoing
 - National level, serve as a team member on the FPRAC committee for FWS feedback to OPM
 - National level, special projects committee for retired membership requirements and updating language to bring before the body
 - National level, special projects team member to add to why A.C.T. flyer and to help with recruitment pitch
 - National level, assist North East rep with training in other states to add to the comprehensive scenario-based training in real time
 - PA State Council Board Chair, take approach as a business CEO as well as labor CEO and look at revenue streams, investments, and sound decisions for the success of the organization keeping with in the scope of the mission and principals. The most important is to be the spokesperson to answer the hard questions and be prepared to take owner ship to make corrections leaving pride aside.
 - State level, Board member on Special Acts of Service award board for employees to ensure they are compensated fairly
 - State level, Charter member on ESAP council for ensuring safety trends and equipment are tracked to reduce accidents and incidents providing PPE and funding where needed
 - State level, board member on the SOHI for Air and Army safety program and hazard log tracking and ensuring training is completed and safety stand downs are conducted
 - State Level, Tennant committee to be abreast of building moving and or work area repairs, outages, and demo
 - State level, over see that the legislation committee takes the voice of our bargaining unit and their family needs before our elected officials to ensure we have a movement that can get results through studies, petitions and the expertise form our National legislative Rep. learning from His long tenure and preserving that legacy as well. Endeavoring to make change and do away with antiquated programs
- Civilian Board experience:
- Nonprofit Board member elected to ensure the lively hood of the employees and the Mission of the Veteran organizations to establish solid community values and Americanism. steward of the coffers
 - Understanding that a Board is no one person, but a body of persons entrusted to put the needs of the members first and not personal gain.

Experience in representation:

I have seen and worked on so many cases from as simple as a coffee pot, up to having to help escort an employee out of the work site ensuring all their rights were protected in that emotional time. Unfortunately, I find my self being last hope for people. This where I find the strength in my experience from all those case events. This speaks to when I get a case or the pass up from a lower steward due to the technical level in the grievance process, I can look at the case notes and make a judgment call on what resources to assign right away to achieve the best outcome for the member. Yes, knowing the agency rights is very important too, however there is more to our collective tool box and legal recourse. Being able to read people and understand the culture and behavior. Un-bias approach is necessary and the ability to listen to understand as well as to form a response. The truth is always the last thing that comes, I find. The employee, the Boss, and the Facts. Also being humble and using the subject matter experts. You can t do it alone. I could pull case files, and give counts, but the reality is you live and breathe this when your heart is in it. I still have the passion and drive to be my brothers/ sister's keeper. We are in this together.

National President Candidate Mr. Rick Wrenn



April 3, 2024

Biographical Summary of Richard Wrenn (ACT 61 President)

With a dedicated commitment to serving and advocating for the rights of federal civilian technicians under Title 32 and Title 5, I bring over nine years of experience in labor relations and federal employment representation to the table. My journey began in 2015, where I embarked on a mission to ensure that the voices and concerns of technicians were heard and addressed effectively.

During my tenure as the Southwest Vice President on the national board from 2019 to December 2023, I worked tirelessly to champion the interests of technicians across the region. Through collaborative efforts and strategic initiatives, we were able to navigate complex labor issues and negotiate favorable outcomes for our members. My role required a deep understanding of federal employment laws, including Title 5 U.S.C. Chapter 71, and a commitment to upholding the rights and protections afforded to federal employees.

Throughout my career, I have prioritized the needs of our members above all else. Whether advocating for fair wages, resolving workplace disputes, or providing guidance on employment rights, my focus has always been on ensuring that technicians are treated with dignity and respect. I firmly believe that effective leadership is rooted in empathy, compassion, and a genuine desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

As a candidate for the position of National President, I am fully committed to continuing this legacy of service and advocacy. My experience, dedication, and proven track record of success make me the ideal candidate to lead our organization forward. I am ready to work tirelessly on behalf of all technicians, ensuring that their voices are heard and their rights protected at every turn.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive organization that truly serves the needs of its members.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Wrenn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Richard W Wrenn
Arizona ACT CH61, President

National Vice President Incumbent Mr. Mathew Carpenter



Candidate Statement for Northwest Regional Vice President

I'm Matthew Carpenter, President of Washington State's Rainier Chapter #108 representing both Army and Air National Guard. I have been a member of ACT since 2017. I did not seek the position, but instead I was appointed to the position in July 2018 after some personnel issues within the chapter that broke down the structure. I felt that there was a reason that I was appointed for the position and immediately took the role by the reins to bring the chapter back from the brink. I was successful, quickly increasing membership by over 40% within just the first 6 months and maintaining one of the largest chapters in our national organization. I instituted a slogan within my chapter "Integrity, Transparency, Relevancy" to give our chapter a foundation to build on. I have challenged our HRO, rather than be a "yes man", breaking the expectation they had previously of the chapter agreeing to everything they wanted. For my tremendous efforts, I was awarded the John Hunter Award at the 2019 national rally, a mere 7 months after becoming chapter president.

Earlier this year, I was appointed to the position of Northwest Regional Vice President, a position I again did not seek. The position sought me instead, echoing in ways my previous ascendancy to chapter president. I believe that when these roles find you, even when you're not seeking them, you must be the right person for the job. With that in mind, I humbly ask for your vote of confidence to continue to fulfill the position of Northwest Regional Vice President. I bring a younger perspective to the national organization, a willingness to try new things, and I approach every issue with integrity, transparency, and relevancy. I believe in ensuring our funds are always used in a way that benefits the members and ensuring our employees are taken care of. I will also work to provide instruction to chapters on how to effectively recruit new members, as our national organization needs us to maintain a healthy membership base. I will ensure that the board is transparent with the membership; not allowing the appearance of secrets being swept under the rug. Lastly, I will work to ensure our organization is working for our members in a meaningful way. Vote for me for your Northwest Regional Vice President and allow me to effectuate changes that benefit our organization both now and for the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Carpenter".

Matthew Carpenter

National Vice President

Candidate Mr. Gene Fuehrer



Gene joined the Nebraska Army National Guard in January 1997, at the age of twenty-five where he joined as a welder and machinist in a maintenance Company.

He then became a welding tech. in Sept 2003 at the CSMS with 17 years in Lincoln NE until he retired in July 2020. Was deployed to Iraq in 2004 returned in 2005 and did countless (12) overseas A.T. tours from Germany to Italy to El Salvador.

Gene retired in Jan. 2020 as a SFC from Nebraska Army National Guard with 23 years. He also has been a DAV/VFW life member and Legion member for 22 years. Also retired with over 15 years as a Fireman/EMT/Hazmat helping people in time of need.

Gene is a Lifetime member of ACT, He started as a steward, became Vice President of Army affairs, then served as SGT of Arms and Executive Vice President currently holds the position of President of Cornhusker Chapter 88 in Nebraska.

Gene currently is an Adjunct Welding and Machining instructor for the College side and Highschool TCA areas at Southeast Community College in Lincoln NE, where I get to help Students learn skills and I can hand off to them my knowledge of the areas also.

Gene also held the position as Northwest VP from Feb 2019 to 2023. While in the position he did countless tasks and continuously donated countless hours to help improve ACT and move it to the future generations. Making improvements to the office and helping up grading the security system.

He lives life to the fullest every day. It allows him to continue to help and represent and assist Technicians, and Civil Service employees in a much bigger arena. He takes pleasure in making himself available for anyone that has a question or needs assistance.

Gene has 3 amazing kids and a daughter in law and granddaughter, 29-year-old son who is a mortician and 2 beautiful daughters both 15 and 16 years old who are very active and love dance. Gene enjoys lots outdoor activities, camping, big game hunting, fishing, working outdoors and taking road trips on his motorcycle.

Gene looks forward to being selected as Vice President at a National level with ACT, and is determined to help all current employees, members, and future ACT members. He is committed to assisting with the organization of being bigger better, and stronger membership the best way possible.

National Vice President

Candidate Mr. Neil Gardner



Neil Gardner is a resident of Hopkinsville, KY and member of the Kentucky Army National Guard where he served as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic, Generator Mechanic, and Senior Mechanic.

Neil has also been a long-standing member of the Kentucky Long Rifle Chapter (83) of ACT where he has been a shop steward, and Secretary.

Over the course of his service as a union steward officer, Neil has represented ACT membership in cases at the state and national level including contract negotiations, Unfair Labor Practice filings.

Neil is married to his wife Kim for 28 years.

National Vice President Candidate Mrs. Relisha Kohn

Howdy Yall!

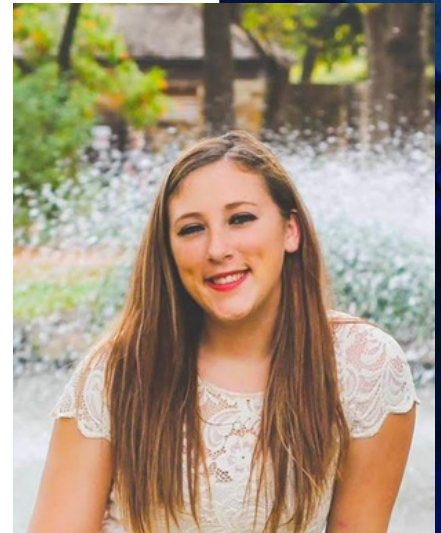
I am honored to serve as the Secretary for the Lone Star Chapter 100 out of Texas for the past 9 years. Upon joining the Military in August of 2008, I secured a full-time Technician job at FMS 34 in Wichita Falls, Texas. During my time there from 2009 to 2011, I not only worked as a mechanic but also took on responsibilities as a Production Controller and handled Human Resource tasks. I then moved to CSMS #1 in Saginaw, Texas, where I worked from 2011 to 2023 to advance my career in maintenance. At this new position, I obtained certifications to enhance my professional growth. Following a recent transfer, I am currently employed at FMS #15 in Fort Worth.

Since becoming a member of the Lone Star Chapter 100 in 2012, I have served as a Steward before being elected as the Chapter's Secretary. Notably, I have been actively assisting the Field Representative in covering the Chapter President's duties because of various deployments and TMD's Border Mission I have on occasion filled other Chapter leadership roles besides my own due to the absence of Officers.

My dedication to compliance and regulations, along with my commitment to upholding policies and procedures, has always been a driving force in my professional life. I am known for voicing thoughts that resonate with many and strongly believe in the effectiveness of collaborative efforts towards common objectives. I was both thrilled and honored to hear that I had been nominated for your National Vice President. I cannot thank you enough for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Relisha A. Kohn



Mrs. Relisha Kohn

National Vice President Candidate Mr. Thomas McGill

Thomas E. McGill

Thomas has more than twenty-eight (28) years of military service. He enlisted in the United States Army after graduating high school. Thomas served as an enlisted soldier, retiring at the rank of Sergeant First Class (SFC). He earned an Associates Degree from Vincenne University in Business Administration.

Thomas occupied the position of Painter at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) with the Delaware Army National Guard (DEARNG). He held the position of Maintenance Supervisor at Joint Force Headquarters of the Delaware Army National Guard as a reservist. Thomas represented and defended the interest of his fellow employees in the position of Shop Steward for five (5) years. He would go on to be selected and serve as Chapter President of the Delaware Association for Civilian Technicians (ACT). Thomas has represented both the Army and Air National Guard for eight (8) years.

In his capacity of President for Chapter Twenty-Four (24), Thomas has coordinated annual training for new and existing Shop Stewards. Previously, he arranged joint training with the chapter of the neighboring state of New Jersey. Thomas maintains files and records by keeping updated addresses, telephone, and email information on the chapter's members. He has served as a delegate of the annual rally with the Association for Civilian Technicians (ACT) for the past twelve (12) years.

Thomas is a lifetime member of the Association for Civilian Technicians (ACT). He occupies the position of Junior Deacon as a member of the Dover Air Force Base (DAFB) Military Lodge, Twenty-Eight (#28). Thomas is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Kenton Ruritan Club.

Thomas resides in Smyrna, Delaware with his wife, Darlene.



National Vice President

Candidate Mr. Zebadiah Lynn

No Bio & Pic Provided by Candidate Zebadiah Lynn

National Treasurer

Candidate Mr. Christopher Remillard

No Bio & Pic Provided by Candidate Christopher Remillard

National Treasurer

Candidate Mr. Pat Straka



Patrick Straka

PA State Council Chairman

Bio for National Treasurer:

Union experience and accomplishments:

·Joined Union 2009

·Blue Mountain Chapter 46

·Steward until promoted to the State council in 2016

·January 01 2017 assumed the duties of State council treasurer

·Acquired training from National Treasurer

·DOL training during annual rally

·Completed file retention update and proper storage for audit purposes and availability to Due paying members upon written request

·Assessed budgetary needs against forecasted revenues

·Reigned in excessive spending and created proposed operational cost going forward

·Monitored and mentored 7 chapters under the State Council Charter for proper accounting measures and annual filling statutory guidelines according DOL and IRS

·Aligned voucher system with National

·Assisted with DOL audits of three Chapters and completed recovery of misused appropriations ensuring all accounts had dual signature authority for any checks to be released

·Maintained proper bonding and insurance to protect assets

·Developed a banking plan to coincide with Chapter consolidation to maintain control of coffers and accurate breakdown of trusteeship to ensure the chapters had control and access to their funds upon request with monthly statements and finance reports from the treasurer.

·Asset depreciation and property inventory control

Civilian nonprofit Board experience:

·Finance officer with Legion Post 674 / 101 – Quartermaster VFW 8851

·Responsible for over an operational budget of \$595,000 a year with a thru put of 1.2 million in sales and other revenues

·16 total employees between both facilities

·Employee salaries and tax preparation in tandem with accountant to meet Filling deadlines

·Executive Board member involved with day-to-day operations of employee's decision-making process for timely operations

·Preparing annual audit information for parent organizations and State and Federal entities

·Asset depreciation and property inventory control use of quick books reports and profit and loss statements

Federal service:

·GPC Card holder for Ground maintenance requisitions

·GPC card holder for educational services VACE fund disbursement

·Property Book control and hand receipt management As Supply tech/ NCO

National Treasurer

Candidate Mr. Rick Wrenn



April 11, 2024

Biographical Summary of Richard Wrenn (ACT 61 President) for the National Treasurer

With a dedicated commitment to serving and advocating for the rights of federal civilian technicians under Title 32 and Title 5, I bring over nine years of experience in labor relations and federal employment representation to the table. My journey began in 2015, where I embarked on a mission to ensure that the voices and concerns of technicians were heard and addressed effectively.

During my tenure as the Southwest Vice President on the national board from 2019 to December 2023, I worked tirelessly to champion the interests of technicians across the region. Through collaborative efforts and strategic initiatives, we navigated complex labor issues and negotiated favorable outcomes for our members. My role demanded a deep understanding of federal employment laws, including Title 5 U.S.C. Chapter 71, and a commitment to upholding the rights and protections afforded to federal employees.

As the President of Arizona Chapter 61 since 2016, I have prioritized the needs of our members above all else. Notable achievements during my tenure include negotiating a new Collective Bargaining Agreement for our state in 2021 and preparing for another round of negotiations this June to further improve working conditions for our members. I have successfully represented members in arbitration cases, ULP's, and advocated for their rights, ensuring fair outcomes and resolving workplace disputes.

Additionally, I have actively worked on initiatives to enhance member engagement and increase chapter membership, resulting in a 15% increase in membership within our chapter over the past three months. My leadership style is rooted in empathy, compassion, and a genuine desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

In the role of Treasurer, I understand the importance of financial responsibility and accountability. If elected to the position of National Treasurer, I will bring the same dedication and diligence to managing the finances of the Association of Civilian Technicians (ACT). I will ensure the custody of all funds of the organization, keep accurate accounts of all receipts and expenditures, and submit itemized reports at each annual meeting as required. Additionally, I will complete the annual DoL LM Report and IRS 990N Report in a timely manner, ensuring the correctness of these reports and the financial integrity of the organization.

Thank you for considering my candidacy for the position of National Treasurer. With my experience, commitment, and dedication to the principles of financial transparency and accountability, I am confident in my ability to fulfill the responsibilities of this important role.

Richard W Wrenn
Arizona ACT CH61, President



ASSOCIATION OF CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS

YOUR ONLY CHOICE TO PROTECT YOUR BARGAINING RIGHTS

DUTY...DIGNITY...DEDICATION

SINCE 1960

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