

Jim Bazluki, MAEd, LAT, ATC, EMT
Candidate for DIII President

1. What unique skills would you bring to the position of DIII President?

The newly created position of DIII President has the unique opportunity to help shape the position for the future. With over 30+ years of experience in athletic training, I have worked in the university/collegiate, secondary schools, clinical, hospital outreach and public safety settings. This variety of experience would help give me a unique set of skills for the position and lenses to look at challenges through. As a state president, I have had the opportunity to work along side other state presidents and share ideas and work thru various challenges faced by each of our states. As state presidents we often found ourselves facing the same issues and frustrations and would lend each other support and advice. As the DIII President, I would like to help better address those frustrations and help create solutions to the challenges we face as individual states by coming together more and sharing strategies and solutions. I am also licensed to practice in two of our DIII states.

2. How did you become interested in the profession of athletic training?

I grew up in a service oriented family. My father being a volunteer HS football coach, I was frequently around teams as a kid and would help out wherever I could. Once in HS, I continued as a student aid as well as an athlete for my first few years, quickly realizing that I was a much better aide than player and could offer others more of my skills. I followed that passion to college and knew that this was the profession for me. I have been a lifelong member of DIII and was influenced by many great ATs from our district.

3. As you go about your daily duties as an athletic trainer what are you most passionate about?

I believe that one of my daily passions is to be prepared to deal with the uniqueness of each day in my setting. Being prepared to respond to anything from a simple task to a medical emergency at a moments notice with ease is something we all should be passionate about. Refreshing and rehearsing skills not often utilized, interacting with other professionals and professions is imperative to success in challenging times. Being able to help create and develop critical thinking skills in others is another passion I have on a daily basis. Knowing not just what to do, but why your doing it and selecting the best alternative is critical to great outcomes.

4. Have you ever discontinued a service/leadership activity or position prematurely in the past? Is so, under what circumstances?

To date, I have not had to resign or step away early from a service/leadership activity. Should that time/situation arise, I would talk with those involved and impacted with the decision and make sure that a plan of action was in place for a successful transition to a replacement. Change is inevitable in our profession and opportunities for advancement, life situations etc. will happen. How we respond to the challenges and changes is what is important.