

To: Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association Members  
From: Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Media Relations  
Re: Officer Voting, Membership List, Other Updates

April 12, 2022

## Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association Update – REPLY NEEDED

Greetings OPSWA members and thanks for your coverage of high school sports. Congratulations to the OPSWA – membership has now reached 201 members! In addition to several updates below (including updated member list), this memo serves as the process members will use to elect OPSWA officers for two-year terms beginning May 1.

### OPSWA Officer Elections

**From the list of potential officers below, please reply to this memo by 5 p.m. on April 20** with the names of up to four individuals who you would like to see be an OPSWA officer for a two-year term (May 2022 through May 2024). It does not matter what order you list the names, as the highest vote getter will be president, while the next three highest vote getters will be vice presidents. OPSWA officers select the Hall of Fame, vote for All-Ohio teams (with the district chairmen), determine any changes to OPSWA procedures, etc. I will file all ballots (print reply emails), mark the membership list when a member has voted, and then utilize OHSAA staff and a couple non-candidate OPSWA members to help tabulate the votes on April 21.

I appreciate all seven of these individuals being willing to serve as an officer, and I anticipate that all seven will remain involved in OPSWA matters and all-district teams even if they are not one of the four officers.

### **Officer Candidates Listed Alphabetically – BIOS ARE BELOW, REPLY AND VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR BY 5 p.m. on APRIL 20**

John Cummings, Miami Valley Newspapers  
Eric Frantz, MaxPreps.com  
Jake Furr, Mansfield News Journal  
Scott Halasz, Xenia Daily Gazette  
John Kampf, Willoughby News Herald  
Greg Shoemaker, TriStateFootball.com  
Tom Wilson, Lancaster Eagle-Gazette

#### **John Cummings, Miami Valley Newspapers**

Has been a managing editor/sports editor of the Miami Valley Newspapers since 2018 and a member of the OPSWA board since 2016. I am the pool reporter for the state wrestling tournament and was recognized with the media service award in 2014. I serve as the co-chair for SW Ohio for football and the chairman for basketball in SW Ohio. I have been in the business since 1982 when I was a freshman in high school and worked as a stringer for the Daily Advocate in Greenville, The News-Messenger and Herald in Fremont and Port Clinton and the Dayton Daily News. I have also worked as the sports editor at the Piqua Daily Call, Greenville Daily Advocate and the Miamisburg-West Carrollton News.

#### **Eric Frantz, MaxPreps.com**

Has served on the OPSWA Board (current President) since the organization was resurrected in 2013. Employed as a state partnership manager and senior writer for MaxPreps.com. Previously served as an editor/writer at JHuddle.com, the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette and the Centerville-Bellbrook Times. Has freelanced for the Dayton Daily News since 2003.

#### **Jake Furr, Mansfield News Journal**

I have been with the Mansfield News Journal since 2018 with previous stops in Bucyrus and Norwalk from 2015-2018. I have been a part of the Northwest District football and basketball board for the last four years. I would like to be considered for a spot on the OPSWA Board of Officers to help grow the organization's presence in the state as well as hopefully bring some fresh and new ideas to how to move forward.

#### **Scott Halasz, Xenia Daily Gazette**

Scott Halasz has been covering sports, focusing on high schools, in the Dayton area for more than two decades. He has been at the Xenia Daily Gazette, Fairborn Daily Herald and the Beavercreek News-Current since 2014. He has been on the OPSWA board for two terms and wants

to continue because high school sports coverage is important and the OPSWA makes it possible to recognize student athletes in a positive way with integrity.

### **John Kampf, Willoughby News Herald**

I've been a sports writer in Northeastern Ohio since graduating from Ohio State in 1991, including six years at the Ashtabula Star Beacon and 20 at The News-Herald in Willoughby. I was the district chairman of the Northeast Lakes District from 2010-2022. Among the awards I've been blessed with are the National Football Foundation's Ohio Writer of the Year in 2017, Wrestling Media Service Award in 2019 and Ashtabula County Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018.

### **Greg Shoemaker, TriStateFootball.com**

Greg Shoemaker: Current OPSWA officer. Co-founded TriState football/tristatefootball.com (in 2005) which covers 150-plus schools in Southwest Ohio, Northern Kentucky and Southeast Indiana. Co-host High School Football Tonight Radio show on ESPN 1530 AM for the past decade. Graduate of Springfield Catholic Central ('84) and Xavier University ('88).

### **Tom Wilson, Lancaster Eagle-Gazette**

I have been with the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette since 2013 and before that, I was at the Newark Advocate from 2007-2013. I was also the Sports Editor at the Mount Vernon News from 1990-1999. I have been a part of the Central District football and basketball board for more than 20 years. It would be an honor to help the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association grow and have an even stronger presence around the state with new and fresh ideas as we move forward. I would like to be considered for a spot in the OPSWA Board of Officers. Thank you for your consideration.

## **OPSWA Membership List**

Please check the district membership lists, and if you are aware of any edits, please email Tim Stried at [tstried@ohsaa.org](mailto:tstried@ohsaa.org). The membership lists are posted at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/membership>. The goal is that OPSWA members utilize the list to communicate with other members for such things as exchanging information on out-of-area opponents, facility details, etc.

## **OPSWA Member Meeting**

We are planning for an in-person OPSWA member meeting on Thursday, July 28, 2022 at the OHSAA office. The last two in-person meetings were cancelled due to the pandemic. Please keep an eye out for the date and details if we are able to have an in-person meeting this April. The meeting will include officer elections, announcing the contest winners and discussing OPSWA topics.

## **Annual Writing and Photography Contest Details**

The entry process for the annual OPSWA writing and photography contest is now closed. The submission deadline was March 1. The contest includes articles and photos about Ohio high school sports published in print or online between Jan. 1, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2021. The cost is \$15 per person to enter the contest, which is the OPSWA's only source of funding, so please enter the contest to support the OPSWA. Members serve as judges in the contest, while Tim Stried coordinates the judges packets, tabulating results, etc.

## **OPSWA Members Encouraged to Join All-District Voting Process**

Since 2017, the OPSWA has coordinated the All-District and All-Ohio teams in football and basketball. All OPSWA members are encouraged to be a part of the selection process for the all-district teams in football and basketball. The All-Ohio teams are based on the work and nominations of the district committees. Please contact your district chairperson to be a part of the process.

Northeast Lakes: John Kampf, Willoughby News-Herald

Northeast Inland: Chris Beaven, Canton Repository

Northwest: Mark Hazelwood, Norwalk Reflector

Southeast: Paul Boggs, Portsmouth Daily Times

East: Jeff Harrison, Caldwell Journal-Leader

Central: Steve Blackledge, PressProsMagazine.com, retired from Columbus Dispatch

Southwest: John Cummings, Miami Valley Newspapers; Eric Frantz, MaxPreps and Dayton Daily News; Greg Shoemaker, TriStateFootball.com

## Hall of Fame

The 2020 induction class for the OPSWA Hall of Fame was honored at the 2022 boys basketball state tournament. They include Craig Dunn (Logan), Mark Huber (Wilmington), and the late Pat Galbincea (Cleveland Plain Dealer). The Hall of Fame ceremony did not take place in 2020 or 2021 due to the pandemic.

The complete OPSWA Hall of Fame list is posted at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/HOF>

## OPSWA ID Badges Available

The OHSAA produces ID badges for OPSWA members that include the member's photo and their media outlet logo(s). Any OPSWA member that wants a new ID badge should email their headshot and media outlet logo, if desired to Tim Stried. There is no cost for the ID badge and a green OHSAA lanyard is included.

### Tim Stried

Director of Media Relations

### Ohio High School Athletic Association

614-267-2502, ext. 124

[tstried@ohsaa.org](mailto:tstried@ohsaa.org)

[www.OHSAA.org](http://www.OHSAA.org)

[www.Twitter.com/OHSAASports](http://www.Twitter.com/OHSAASports)

4080 Roselea Place

Columbus, OH 43214