

## **KELSEY RYAN**

Position: At-Large

### **NOMINEE'S EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS, INTEREST IN THE POSITION:**

I am originally from small-town Livingston County and graduated from Livonia H.S. in 2005. I then attended Le Moyne College and decided to try out for the cross country team. There, I improved steadily every year and ended my career by placing 9<sup>th</sup> at DII Northeast Regionals and I was Le Moyne's selection for NCAA Woman of the Year.

From there, I moved to Buffalo and earned a Ph.D. in Political Science at UB. I held various professor positions for a few years until jumping into healthcare analytics, and I currently work as a data consultant for Change Healthcare. I am also an assistant XC/TF coach at **Daemen University** with my husband (Pete Gratien) who is the head coach.

I've been a long-time member of **Checkers Athletic Club** and am currently a board member. I'm actively involved in recruiting runners for our USATF race teams which focus on team competitions and events, and my husband and I manage the @checkers\_ac\_racing Instagram account (check it out for a laugh).

In addition to my own personal running, I founded and manage **Snyder Track and Field** (snydertrackandfield.com) which provides premier classes, clinics, camps, a USATF club team, and coaching to kids ages 3-18. We have served over 200 families with our programs so far and recently expanded to a second location in Orchard Park, NY. The entire goal of the program is to elevate the sport of track and field in WNY. In my 3 years coaching at Daemen, I've come to realize that some of our best athletes stumbled into track and field from other sports like baseball and soccer. This always makes me ask "how many great athletes are out there who were never introduced to track and field?" And I'm on quest to bring the sport to as many kids as possible at an early age.