

A Message from your APTA Louisiana President



It is hard to believe that 2023 is winding down and we are heading into the fourth quarter of the year with the holidays around the corner. Another reminder that time rolls on and waits for no one!

I am trying to settle in to my new role as your president of APTA La. I want to thank Bart Jones, PT, DPT for his service as President of APTA LA. for the past three years and as Treasurer before that. He lead our organization thru Covid, Hurricanes and the changing landscape of our association and profession. His leadership during these unprecedented times is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with Bart in his new role on the Board of Directors as Past President. I know that I will lean on him for advice and guidance as we move forward. Thank you, Bart, for all you have done for our association.

Congratulations to our own Sharon Dunn, PT, PhD, OCS for receiving the Marilyn Moffat Leadership award. In conjunction with the 2023 APTA Leadership Congress, award recipients will be recognized at the APTA Honors and Awards Ceremony on July 21, 2024 in Kansas City, MO. Sharon continues to make us proud on a national level. Congratulations to Sharon for another well-deserved award. Thank you for all you do for APTA LA and nationally.

Thanks to all who attended our Fall meeting in Baton Rouge at the end of August. The Education Committee put together two great, timely courses with excellent speakers. Bill Boissonnault, PT, DPT, DHSc, FAAOMPT, FAPTA presented on diagnostic imaging in PT. Jay Morange, PT, DPT, RMSK, MBA and Bert Lindsey, PT, RMSK presented on musculoskeletal Ultrasound from a PT perspective. Sassan Keshavaizi, MD presented on the latest in spinal surgery and Daniel Flowers, PT, DPT, PhD coordinated an excellent research presentation of platforms & posters. Congratulations to all of the award winners presented at the business meeting. It is convenient and easy to get our CEUs online these days. But, the value of being together, face to face, while getting those CEUs cannot be underestimated. The meetings allow us to get quality education while networking with colleagues, rekindling old friendships and making new ones, all while showing support for your association. I would encourage everyone to consider joining us for our Spring meeting to be held in Lafayette, LA on March 22-25, 2024.

Lastly, if you have not heard already, I want to make sure everyone is aware of APTA's landmark economic study titled "The Economic Value of Physical Therapy in the United States- A report from the American Physical Therapy Association." "For Decades, our profession has delivered cost effective care that changes lives. And for just as long we have strived to demonstrate our value to policy makers, other health care providers, payors, and the public. A growing body of scientific evidence supports the high value, lower cost interventions physical therapy offers patients and the health care system" Roger Herr PT, MPA; APTA president. ***I encourage you to familiarize yourself with this report as it proves what we have always known- that physical therapy is effective and saves valuable health care dollars.*** APTA is using this report in a nationwide campaign to inform policy makers, payors, insurers and employers about the significant role and economic value that PT brings to health care system. In addition to APTA's national rollout, we will also use this report at our state and local level to promote our profession

and the important role that we play in the health care system.

Enjoy this issue of the Bayou Bulletin. Please share it with all your coworkers and nonmember friends. APTA LA. and APTA national work everyday for your profession. We need active, informed, and engaged members to affect the changes we want to see and to ensure that we can continue to change the lives of the patients we serve. We are stronger together.

Respectfully submitted,

-Karl Kleinpeter, PT, DPT
President, APTA Louisiana



APTA LOUISIANA SPRING MEETING MARCH 22-24, 2024 LAFAYETTE, LA

SAVE THE DATE

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Membership Update: September 2023

Please continue to encourage your fellow PTs, PTAs and students to join or renew their APTA/APTA Louisiana membership!

PTs	1,038
PTAs	242
Students	593
Total	- 1,873



Donate to the PT PAC today!

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Dave Pariser Memorial Scholarship Fund

To make an online contribution to the Scholarship fund, go to the Foundation website and at the top right hand side of the page, there is a purple box with the words "Make A Gift." Choose the amount of the donation and choose the designated fund, the Dave Pariser Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Or you can mail to the Dave Pariser Memorial Scholarship Fund:

The Foundation for the LSU Health Sciences Center
450A South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112

[Donate Here](#)

Submissions

We welcome anyone to contribute to the quarterly Bayou Bulletin.

If you would like to advertise, report, or share experiences with your fellow APTA Louisiana members, please see below for Publisher contact information.

Fall Meeting Award Recipients



Bart Jones - Dave Warner Award



Cristina Fauchaux - APTA LA Hall of Fame Award



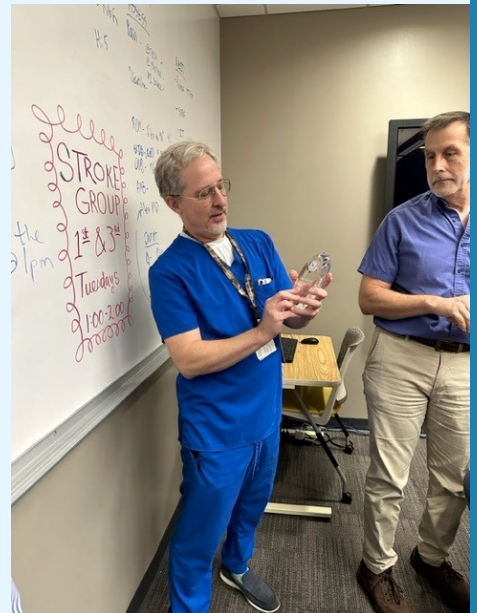
Jane Eason - APTA LA Hall of Fame Award



Erin MacInnes - Friend of Physical Therapy Award



Representative Thomas A. Pressly - Legislator of the Year Award



John Reichard Marius - PTA Distinguished Service Award

Upcoming Events!

APTA Private Practice Session
November 2-5, 2023 in Austin, TX

CSM 2024
February 13-15, 2024 in Boston, MA

APTA Louisiana Spring Meeting
March 22-24, 2024 in Lafayette, LA

APTA Leadership Congress

APTA Louisiana Fall Meeting
August 16-18, 2024 in Baton Rouge, LA

Treasurer's Report

Date	Total Assets	YTD Revenue	YTD Expenses	YTD Gain on Investments	Net Gain
7/31/2023	\$440,026	\$161,481	\$117,342	\$31,762	\$44,139

- Although registration fees were lower this year, dues and exhibit fees have increased (~\$3k each).
- General and Administrative expenses decreased ~\$12k.

The 2024 budget was presented to the APTA Louisiana Board of Directors at the Fall Meeting on Friday, August 25, 2023. The recommendation of the Executive Committee to approve the budget presented by the Finance Committee was received by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. Notable edits from the previous year's budget include



Decreased Revenue/Increased Expenses

- Software Subscriptions increased by \$500
- Decreased Fall Meeting Exhibits revenue by \$1,000, since \$4,345 was collected in 2023
- Spring Meeting Audio Visual & Room Rental: Increase due to 2022 actuals & contract obligations for 2023
- Decreased Fall Meeting Registration projections by \$14k due to \$58k in 2022
- Fall Meeting Audio Visual doubled (\$3,500 to \$7k) based on 2022 cost: \$6,220 + \$1,025 video)
- Decreased Spring Meeting Registration projections by \$18k due to actual 2023 - \$44,766 and 2022 - \$43,396
- Advertising decreased from \$1,000 to \$500 due to actual of \$300 in 2022

Increased Revenue/Decreased Expenses

- Removed \$2k for Entertainment & Events (President's discretion-networking with other professionals/APTA events)
- Decreased Finance Travel by \$1,450 to remove Treasurer's travel to the Component Leadership
- Removed \$500 flight expense from General & Admin travel due to ED relationship (already traveling for another association)
- State Gov: removed \$5k bonus from Lobbying
- Removed flight (\$500) due to conjunction with HOD (discuss each year due to strength of Chair)
 - Federal Gov: decreased travel expense by \$2,170: Travel reimbursement for Federal Affairs Liaison to attend the Federal Government Affairs Conference (APTA pays airfare and registration for Federal Affairs Liaison) - May or may not happen
 - Spring Meeting Exhibits revenue increase by \$1,000 due to 2023 actual \$5,250
 - Spring Meeting F&B decreased \$2,500 (\$13k++ (Min plus tax & gratuity) Est
 - Member Communications-Postage & Mailing: removed \$700 due to move to online only
- Also removed \$700 for printing due to online only

I am happy to answer any questions you might have regarding our 2024 budget:

h.e.bays1@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Bays Lester, PT, DPT
Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physical Therapy
Treasurer, APTA Louisiana



It is with great honor and privilege that we announce that Louisiana's own, Sharon L. Dunn, PT, PhD, Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, has been awarded the 2023 APTA Marilyn Moffat Leadership Award!

This is a prestigious award that requires significant leadership that has had a lasting impact on the development and progression of the physical therapy profession continuous over a 15-year period or more.

Dr. Dunn will be recognized next year at the APTA Honors & Awards ceremony on Sunday, July 21, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Congratulations, Dr. Dunn!

Award Information and Criteria



District & Component News

Federal Affairs Report

You should have received a copy of "The Economic Value of Physical Therapy in the United States – A Report from the American Physical Therapy Association."

As you are aware, this landmark report is unlike anything APTA has historically produced. The report uses an economic model to calculate the net benefits to patients and the U.S. health care system when choosing physical therapy over alternative treatments for eight conditions. (acute LBP, claudication, female stress urinary incontinence, carpal tunnel syndrome, fall prevention, cancer rehabilitation, lateral epicondylitis, osteoarthritis of the knee and hip)

APTA is using this report in a nationwide campaign to inform policymakers, payers, insurers, and employers about the significant role and economic value that physical therapy



brings to the health care system.

Earlier this month, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. APTA has submitted comments to the proposed Fee Schedule. In this year's rule, CMS proposed a conversion factor update of \$32.7476, a 3.3% decrease from the \$33.8872 conversion factor adopted in 2023. The proposal continues a concerning trend, as CMS is again forcing dozens to foot the bill for increasing payment to primary care providers years ago. While the cuts remain a critical issue, other proposals would greatly benefit the physical therapy profession such as:

- CMS has proposed to extend virtual direct supervision until the end of 2024
- Make general supervision the standard for PTAs in all settings when performing RTM services
- CMS is also proposing coverage for new CPT codes representing caregiver training without the patient present — a service many PTs already perform but can now finally be paid for. CMS' proposal to cover these services isn't a guarantee they will make the final rule.

Lastly, the rule outlines that the quality payment program has a new requirement that physical therapists report the Promoting Interoperability category of MIPS may prove extremely burdensome. When this went into effect for physicians, grants/ funding were provided. We have solicited for the same consideration as most PT clinics may not have certified electronic health record technology and may be cost prohibitive to obtain. We expect the final rule to be released sometime in November.

Respectfully Submitted,

-Cristina Fauchaux, PT
APTA-LA Federal Affairs Liaison

Nominations Committee Report

Congratulations to our newly elected leaders who were sworn in at Fall Meeting:

- President – Karl Kleinpeter
- Secretary – Kelly Rodriguez

We appreciate your willingness to serve and are looking forward to the contributions you both continue to make to our association!

The following positions will be on the ballot for APTA Leadership in 2024:

- Government Affairs Chair
- Chief Delegate
- Two delegate positions
- PTA Council/Caucus Member
- Nominating Committee Chair-Elect



If anyone has any questions about the positions, please don't hesitate to contact Nominations Committee. Details of the roles and responsibilities of each position is listed in our bylaws. Please contact the Association Office or myself with any nominations. Self-nominations are also appropriate.

McKenzie LeBlanc will be assuming Nominations Committee Chair position in January 2024, as the term of current Nominations Committee Chair, Jane Eason, ends in December. McKenzie notes her appreciation for extensive mentorship and guidance from current chairman, Jane Eason, and expresses her excitement to continue to serve our association through leadership and service over the next several years.

Respectfully submitted,

-Jane Eason, Nominations Committee Chair
-McKenzie LeBlanc, Nominations Committee Chair-Elect

Payment & Practice Chair Report

2023 has been an extremely busy year for advocacy as well as changes in the payor and practice space.

Medicaid MCO Shuffle

This year, an additional MCO has been added to the LA roster to include Humana. The current MCOs for Louisiana State Medicaid include:

- Aetna Better Health Louisiana
- AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana
- Healthy Blue
- Humana Healthy Horizons in Louisiana
- Louisiana Healthcare Connections
- United Healthcare Community Plan

Medicaid Unwinding

This year brings an important change for Medicaid beneficiaries that stems from Federal Regulation. Federal Law implemented during the Covid-19 PHE required continuous eligibility from March 2020 to April 2023 specific to state run Medicaid programs. That requirement for continuous eligibility has ended and as a result, states are now required to complete an "unwinding" redetermination process of all Medicaid enrollees to include disenrollment of those that are no longer eligible. Louisiana has officially begun this disenrollment process and it is expected that millions will lose coverage. Estimates also indicate that nearly 1/2 of those that will lose coverage will be due to eligibility but that the other half will lose coverage simply due to procedural reasons even though they may still be eligible for coverage. This estimate anticipates that children, young adults and individuals of color will be impacted disproportionately.

After disenrollment, the individual will have 90 days to appeal and if successful, coverage will be applied retroactively. Otherwise, the individual may seek other coverage or remain uninsured. Please note that there has been coordination with the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) and there will be an extended special enrolment period through 7/31/24 for anyone losing coverage.

Finally, it is expected that challenges will surface specific to coverage affordability, healthcare system literacy, and access to care.

BCBS LA and Elevance

BCBS LA entered into an agreement with Anthem/Elevance for acquisition in January 2023 and was submitted to the LDI. Additionally, BCBS LA submitted a plan for reorganization in accordance with the intended acquisition. The required steps in the approval process began moving forward by requesting a membership vote of eligible members, allowing for public comment, and submitting for LDI Insurance Commissioner approval. At this time, BCBS LA has formally withdrawn the plan of reorganization and Elevance Health's acquisition application from the Louisiana Department of Insurance has also been withdrawn. Spokespeople from the corresponding organizations have noted that the intention remains to move forward at a later date but that more time is needed to ensure that raised concerns are addressed.

PTA differential

Beginning December 1, 2023, Aetna Commercial and Medicare Advantage plans will implement the PTA differential, requiring the CQ modifier for PTA services.

UHC Habilitative and Rehabilitation revisions/updates

UHC updated policies and revisions have caused some degree of confusion amongst providers due to release of new policies followed by revisions of those newly released policies. For purposes of clarity, in April of 2023, UHC released a significant number of additional requirements for Habilitative and Rehabilitative services including a POC signature requirement and start/stop time of each CPT amongst other items. That policy has been updated twice since its release with changes taking effect both in August and November of 2023. Both updates are a result of advocacy efforts led by multiple states and the national APTA payment and policy



leadership and include a removal of the POC signature requirement as of August 1, 2023 and a CPT timing update to include only the total treatment time as of November 1, 2023. Additionally, starting November 1, 2023, UHC plans managed by Optum and those on the individual exchange will no longer require prior authorization for CPT codes in the range of 97010-97763 (excluding 97533).

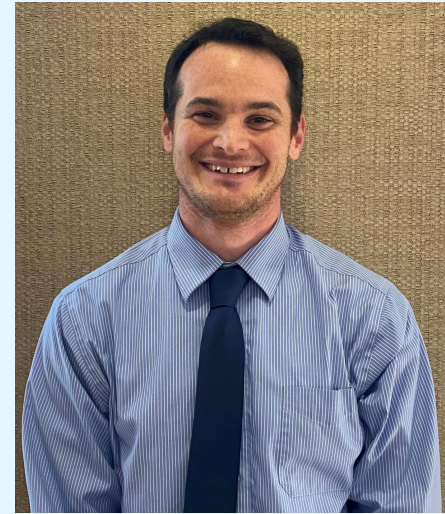
A big thank you to everyone for your advocacy efforts this year. Please feel free to reach out to Katie if you have an interest in payment and practice advocacy efforts.

-Katie Brittain, PT, DPT, MBA
Payment & Practice Chair

Research Chair Report

The Research Committee has been busy this year. We had four platform presentations and 18 poster presentations at the APTA LA Fall Meeting. Congratulations to Caroline Hughs, SPT, Mia Smith, SPT, Erin McCallister, PT, DPT, and Daniel Flowers, PT, DPT, PhD from LSU Health Shreveport for being awarded the best platform presentation for their work entitled, "Does a Hip Muscle Activation Home Exercise Program Change Performance on the Forward Step-Down Test?," and to Danielle Rankin, PT, DPT and Phil Page, PT, PhD from Fran U for receiving the best poster award for their work, "Total Knee Arthroplasty and the Screw Home Mechanism of the Knee: A Scoping Review."

-Daniel W. Flowers, PT, DPT, PhD
APTA Louisiana Research Chair



Education Chair Report

My three-year term as the APTA-LA Education Chair has come to an end and I have been honored to help serve the APTA-LA in this capacity. Every opportunity I have had to serve the APTA has been rewarding and being LA's Education Chair has been no different. I have major respect for our state leaders. The APTA-LA board continues to do great things in the face of a changing and challenging therapy landscape.

The 2023 Fall Conference was the last conference served as Education Chair, where we hosted concurrent sessions, one taught by Dr. Boissonnault on imaging, and another hands-on MSK-US course taught by Jay Morange and Bert Lindsey, national leaders in the field, practicing in St. Tammany parish.

I am proud of the conferences and educational opportunities from these past three years, which had their own set of unique challenges. I was fortunate to be following in giant footsteps: Joe Shine (literally) and Claire Kantrow (figuratively). They continued to help contribute to the quality of our education. Dana Segraves will be the new chair and I know she's going to take education to new territory.

Thank you to our leadership team, Melanie Talley, and Danielle Blanchard for making quality education happen in Louisiana. Your contributions and commitment are no small feat! Thank you to our board members for assisting in the planning of our conferences these years, that help was tremendous. Thank you to our speakers that have given their time and talents to the cause. Finally, thank you to our members that place their trust in us to provide quality continuing education. Mark your calendars for the spring conference March 22-24, 2024.

-Monique Serpas, PT, DPT



Lafayette District Chair Report



District News:

-PT SERVICE MONTH: We are participating in the St. Jude 31 Mile Dog Walk. You can register for free and participate with the goal to raise \$250 or more. If you would rather not participate you can still donate for the cause. Please send me your photos if you decide to participate!

-Next Lafayette District Meeting: January 24, 2024 held at The Therapy Center in Grand Coteau. Dr. Paul Birinyi, neurosurgeon, will be giving a 1 hour CEU course.

-Thank you for all of those who participated in our last district meeting where JD Boudreaux presented on the importance of sleep health. Thank you also to MTS Youngsville for hosting the event!

-We have started a groupme for the Lafayette district to improve communication. This is a text based app that I can use to get information out to the entire district in a quick and efficient manner. It is very rarely used and only for important updates so you will not get many notifications. If you are interested in joining please reach out to me with your name and cell phone number so I can add you to the group.

-If you are interested in being more involved with the district, please reach out to me. I'm always looking for people to help with volunteer opportunities, finding speakers for meetings, etc.

-If anyone would be interested in or knows someone who would like to speak for 1-2 hours at a district meeting let me know! You get CEU hours for presenting.

Upcoming Local Events:

- PT SERVICE MONTH! – October
- Lafayette District Meeting – January 24th in Grand Coteau
- CSM 2024 – February 13-15, 2024 in Boston, MA
- Spring Meeting – March 22-24, 2024 in Lafayette, LA
- Fall Meeting – August 16-18, 2024 in Baton Rouge, LA

Lafayette District Positions:

- District Chair (2 year term) – ME
- Nominating Committee (1 year term) – John Boudreaux (Position is looking to be filled! Please let me know if anyone is interested in being more involved)
- Governmental Affairs Committee (1 year term) – John Boudreaux
- Finance Committee (1 year term) – Jacob Freyou
- Research Committee (1 year term) – Zach Pitre

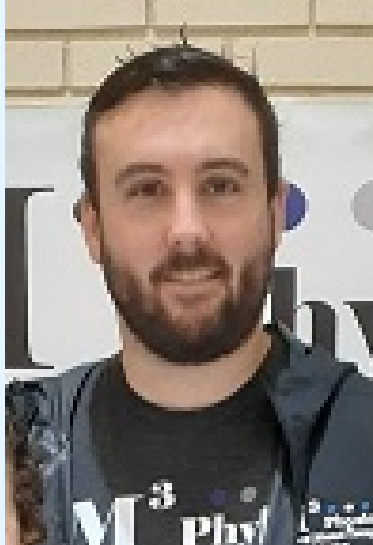
Keep a look out for more information in our district through your email, the Groupme app, and the Central Acadiana PTs/PTAs Facebook page. PLEASE if you don't get my emails about these meetings, send me an email and let me know at kzerang16@gmail.com!

-Kassy Zerangue, PT, DPT
Lafayette District Chair

Monroe District Chair Report

Hello from the Monroe District!

For PTDOS on October 21st we will be providing community mobility and wellness screenings at the ULM Activity Center from



8am-12pm. Hopefully your clinic is already one of our sponsors, but regardless we hope you show up to volunteer along with PT students to give back to our community while showing the value of physical therapy. Also be on the lookout for a PT Pub Night coming soon!

As always feel free to reach out with any questions.

-Michael Hildebrand, PT, DPT
Monroe District Chair

Houma District Chair Report

On September 26th, 2023 Ochsner St. Anne along with APTA – Louisiana held a fall prevention day. This was a community service event done to celebrate the beginning of fall and educate those in the community on ways to prevent falls. The goal was to educate individuals on the complications associated with falls and recommend interventions for prevention. There were two PTs from Ochsner present, Lydia Ingram and Marci Ellender, performing fall risk assessments. Attendees were given their score and educated on their risk for falls. Amy Malbrough, Director of Ochsner Home Health, and Lisa Adams were present to educate the public on the role of home health. Courtney Sanford and Deedee were there with The Broadway nursing home educating attendees on the benefits of short-term rehab with skilled nursing when an individual is not safe to be home alone. Becky Gautreaux along with two dietetic interns, Claire Sampongnao and Brittinee Cox, with LSU Ag Center educated the public on the benefits of a balanced diet and fall prevention. Jesslyn Ledet with Ochsner pharmacy reviewed medications and their side effects with the attendees. Mae Hitt and Shirley Gautreaux with Ochsner provided health screens, blood pressure checks, glucose checks, and flu shots. Erin Rushing with Comprehensive Hearing Solutions had a private room at the event to perform hearing screens. Light snacks were served, and everyone left with a swag bag. The attendees were pleased with the information received and many connections were made.



We are looking forward to making this an annual event for our community.

-Blair T. Duthu, PT
Board-certified Women's Health Clinical Specialist
Houma District Chair

New Orleans District Chair Report

New Orleans will be hosting a district meeting on Wednesday, October 11th at 6:30pm at Ochsner Therapy and Wellness - Clearview.

We will have Dr. Karim Meijer, who is the head team physician for the Saints, come speak on UCL reconstructions.

Hope to see everyone there!



-Matt Powers, PT, DPT
Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopedic Physical Therapy
Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical
Therapists
New Orleans District Chair

Follow APTA Louisiana on social media to stay up to date on current news and events!



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