President’s Message

Speak Now or Forever Hold Your Peace!

I would imagine that each of you have witnessed, or are at least familiar with, the many pieces of legislation that the LPTA leadership and lobbying team has managed over the last two legislative sessions. The way these laws are then put in action is through a process of promulgation of rules and regulations. Promulgation is defined as: to make known by open declaration; publish; proclaim formally or put into operation (a law, decree of a court, etc.). (Source: www.dictionary.reference.com) This promulgation of rules and regulations is outlined through the Louisiana Administrative Code. I will give my best attempt to describe the next course of action regarding the recent pieces of legislation that will affect physical therapy in the State of Louisiana from this point forward.

The first area of change has to do with the practice of physical therapy and the Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act. HB 773 (better known as “the practice act rewrite”) now known as act 535 of the 2009 Louisiana Legislature, is the first piece of legislation that prompted a change in the rules and regulations governing physical therapy practice. The writing of rules and regulations (which I might add is a huge undertaking) then becomes the task of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board. This process has proceeded along through the year with input from many of the schools in the state, the LPTA, and others.

These rules were nearly ready to be published until the 2010 Legislative session began. I detailed in the last president’s message the course of events of SB 590 which became Act 139 of the 2010 legislative session. This new act altered some of the supervision requirements in the practice act. This then delayed the promulgation of rules and regulations regarding the practice act. Some changes had to be made to the original proposed rules and regulations as they had been drafted during the spring and early summer. The plan for promulgation of these rules and regulations is to have them published in the upcoming edition of the public register which is to be published on December 20, 2010. This could likely prompt a public hearing to be held in January 2011. Stay tuned to the LPTA website, www.lpta.org, and the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board’s website, www.laptboard.org, for further details. Once published, the public register can be located at http://doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/register.htm.

(Continued on page 3)
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Bayou Bulletin Publisher Information

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LPTA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar NOW!

2011

February 9-13
CSM
New Orleans, LA

April 15-17
LPTA Spring Meeting
Lafayette, LA

June 8-11
APTA Annual Conference
National Harbor, MD

Bayou Bulletin September/October 2010
The other piece of legislation that will impact the way physical therapists and physical therapist assistants as well as other health care providers treat worker’s compensation patients is SB 303, now known as act 254 of the 2009 legislative session. This act provided for the creation of a Workers Compensation Medical Advisory Council. This task force made up of health care providers essentially prepared the guidelines that will be published as the rules and regulations that enact this legislation. These rules should be published in the October Edition of the Public Register (Oct 20, 2010). Again, stay tuned to LPTA and LAPT board websites for more information.

It is imperative that we read these rules and submit our comments to ensure our (LPTA) collective voice is heard, so speak now or forever hold your peace. I plead that each of you submit comments to the LPTA office and/or submit your comments directly to the Division of Administration (http://doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/register.htm) regarding each of these sets of rules and regulations. I can assure you that your LPTA leadership has been hard at work monitoring and working on each of these pieces of legislation and will continue to be vigilant through the rules promulgation process. As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me with any comments, questions, or concerns regarding the actions of the association.

Greg

(Continued from page 1)

It’s Our Time To Shine!

In February, 2011 CSM returns to our great state and the fabulous Big Easy! The APTA website has all of the information you will need to register and plan for getting the most out of this awesome event! You can even make your hotel reservations on the website!

And we are proud to announce that LPTA’s own Suzanne L. Tinsley, PhD, PT, NCS will be presenting a preconference course benefitting the LPTA entitled, Pharmacology for Rehabilitation Specialists. We encourage all to support the LPTA by attending this course which will be offered on Tuesday, February 8 and again on Wednesday, February 9. Spread the word!

Katrina hit New Orleans hard, but it’s back! And better than ever! It’s our time to shine! Let’s show our colleagues from around the country just what it means to “pass a good time”!

Laissez les bon temps rouler!
Comments on RC 01-10

Recently Danny Landry, LPTA and APTA member, as well as LBPT member, submitted the following letter expressing his thoughts on RC 01-10 which failed to pass in the APTA House of Delegates this past June. My apologies to Danny for omitting his letter from the last issue of the Bayou Bulletin.

The APTA certainly didn't drop the ball as I did. You'll find more of Danny's comments published in the October issue of PT In Motion beginning on page 64.

Kudos, to you Danny! We appreciate your sharing your thoughts!

I recently attended the APTA House of Delegates in Boston and sat in the gallery to observe the delegates discuss, debate, amend and vote on current RC's pertaining to the profession of Physical Therapy. The motion RC 01-10 proposed a bylaw change that would allow PTAs to have a full vote within their state chapter and section of the APTA (PTAs currently have a ½ vote at the component level). The motion stimulated much discussion and debate by the delegates; and the PTA Caucus did a remarkable job of explaining the purpose of and need for the full vote. I heard many reasons for allowing PTAs this opportunity and also heard strong opposition to allowing PTAs to having any vote at all within the association at any level. I wanted to write this letter to express my opinion on this subject and to inform members of the profession of my concerns with the House's failure to pass RC 01-10.

This past April, I was fortunate to have been the first PTA appointed board member on the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board where I have a full vote like all other members of the board, which consists of 5 PT's and a physician. I understand that other state licensure boards consist of Pts, PTAs (some states offer as many as 2 PTA positions), public members and physicians who all have a full vote as members of state licensing boards. PTAs serving as state licensing board members addressing sensitive issues pertaining to the profession of physical therapy have acted responsibly. PTAs are equally responsible to manage their voting responsibilities within the state chapter for the benefit of their patients and the profession.

My confusion comes with understanding the opposition from those that have concerns with PTAs having a full vote or even a say with issues regarding to practice or professional issues in the profession of physical therapy. Why would anyone have a problem with a PTA having a vote when there are public members and physicians that have a vote on our state licensing boards? Is it not true that the only persons that really have a vote with regards to the practice of physical therapy are our legislators? I have been involved in legislative issues within our state and have experienced firsthand the process in which and how our practice act can change and who has influence on these changes.

Respectfully, I understand that the physical therapist is the primary provider of physical therapy, but I also learned that many people, entities, boards, associations, and political entities have influence on the practice of physical therapy. The political process has shown me that the legislative bodies of our state government hold the voting power for changing and implementing the laws that govern our profession. PTAs presently may only have ½ vote on chapter level of the association and no vote on the national level, but they do have a full vote in state elections where legislators are selected by the citizens.

In closing, I believe that the profession of physical therapy is only as strong as its members; and the members of this profession, include both physical therapist and PTA’s. We are professionals that work as a team to provide services to patients that need our care. We must stay united in our efforts to continue to provide the best care to our patients, and we must remain a team concept in the governance of our profession. We are all dependent on the success of the profession in the age of health care reform and have the best interest of the profession at heart.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion on RC 01-10 and why it is still an issue to be rectified I am excited to ‘Move Forward’ with the profession of physical therapy and proud to be a member of the American Physical Therapy Association. I also will serve the state of Louisiana to the best of my ability as the newly appointed board member of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board and as a newly appointed member of APTA’s Advisory Panel of PTA’s. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you.

Respectfully,
Danny P. Landry PTA
Back to Basics

Have you ever had someone come up to you and say, “So, you’re in physical therapy, huh? Well, I’ve got this pain…” I don’t know about you, but I get that a lot.

It’s times like these that are in fact great publicity opportunities to promote physical therapy by simply going back to basics. My response is usually, “Have you ever had an evaluation by a physical therapist?” Then the conversation usually progresses wherein I might make recommendations for a referral to a therapist that has offices near the person’s home, or who might be specialized to help with the person’s symptoms. I also mention the fact that a physical therapist can perform an initial evaluation without a prescription from a physician.

And speaking of prescriptions, it’s also times like these that I realize just how vague the average person’s knowledge is about physical therapy, including how to acquire treatment and choices of treatment, etc.

In my experience I find that more often than not folks who have sought medical attention from a physician and have received a prescription for physical therapy have no idea that they have their choice of physical therapist. When I learn this I usually give the example of buying eyeglasses. With an eyeglass prescription a person can go to any retailer that sells eyeglasses, not just the optometrist’s office. The same holds true for physical therapy, but the average patient usually doesn’t realize this.

We have a huge task at hand to continue to promote physical therapy and educate the public about what, where and how we do things. So, during your celebration of National Physical Therapy Month and of course, any other time, remember to go back to basics!

Kinta LeBlanc

New Orleans District

The New Orleans District celebrated National Physical Therapy Month by participating in the American Cancer Society Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk. For the 4th year, Team Physical Therapy New Orleans had a large presence at the Walk! Approximately 25 PTs, PTAs, students & families joined together to enjoy beautiful City Park on a bright sunny fall morning. The team raised $1000 towards the cure. Top participant in raising funds this year was Jennifer Scanio, PT at Tulane. The top fund raising student was Kristy Anderson, Delgado PTA student. After the Walk the team enjoyed New Orleans po-boys. Special kudos go to special guest Gumby (aka Jennifer Becnel, PTA student) for walking the entire 5K Walk in costume on a warm morning. And, for the most steps walked, the award goes to Beignet, Amelia's 4-legged guest!
MDS 3.0 for Skilled Nursing Facilities Goes Into Effect

As skilled nursing facilities begin implementation of the Minimum Data Set version 3.0 (MDS 3.0), October 1, APTA is creating resources to aid physical therapists (PTs) and physical therapist assistants (PTAs) with questions regarding specific hot topics that will directly affect the delivery of physical therapy in the skilled nursing facility. Check out the APTA website to read and listen to podcasts regarding the modes of therapy and use of therapy students. In the coming weeks, podcasts will discuss the use of therapy aides, modalities, and documentation tips.

Helping Kids Get Fit

PT Legislative Day added fitness this year and it was a BIG success. So successful, Legislators are expecting us back next year. Legislators are given a LPTA pedometer. The Legislator who takes the most steps wins the Committee Room Run Award along with choosing a recreational center in their district which the LPTA will make a donation. We are also planning to make a DVD on “What is Physical Therapy” to give to Legislators.

If you are interested in helping kids get fit, developing an excellent rapport with Legislators and/or wanting the public to understand physical therapy purchase a LPTA pedometer ($3 each) or send a donation to “Attention PT Legis Day”:

Louisiana Physical Therapy Association
8550 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 1001
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Or contact
Susan Blanchard, PT, Donation Coordinator:
Phone: 985.705.3225 Email: susanhblanchard@gmail.com

Elizabeth Thornton, Senior Association Coordinator:
Phone: 225.922.4614 Fax: 225.408.4422 Email: office@lpta.org www.lpta.org

Your support has made PT Legislative Day a vital aspect of our legislative process. Thanks!

Student’s Speak

I would like to update everyone on some ideas recently discussed and some changes to come with regards to the SSIG. The Student Special Interest Group was created to be a portal for students throughout the state to get to the information they wanted/needed at any time. We are currently working to improve the effectiveness and efficiency at which we can provide such things when requested. Below is a list of changes and additions to the current activities that will hopefully enhance the role of the SSIG and make everything easier to utilize. If anyone has any further ideas or concerns about anything, please feel free to contact me or any of the officers. We are here to serve you, and we look forward to directing any changes or progressions that would enable that process.

- The SSIG meeting held semi-annually at LPTA Meetings will now be held at 6:30pm (instead of 4pm), immediately preceding the Welcome Reception at 7pm.
- CSM in New Orleans is February 9-13th!!! Book your hotel rooms!!
- LPTA Spring Meeting is March 18-20th in Lafayette. It will be different from the usual programming and will be a total Sports Symposium.
- A clinical site database will be released in Spring 2011 for easy accessibility by all students. This database will include clinical sites that current students and recent graduates have rotated through (nationwide), the primary patient population, availability of skills to practice in the setting, housing possibilities and miscellaneous comments concerning the site.

Thank you to everyone that participated in the SSIG Quiz Bowl at the Fall Meeting! It was a great time, and we were able to donate $365 to the PT-PAC (political action committee) of the LPTA.

Ashley Henk, SPT
SSIG Chairman
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR EXHIBITORS

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2010 LPTA Award Recipients

Beth Ward
Dave Warner Award

Edwin “Bubba” Porche
Hall of Fame Award

Elizabeth Thornton
Friend of PT Award

Congratulations to the newly elected LPTA board members

Joe Shine, Vice President; Judith Halverson, Treasurer;
Anna Means, Nominating Committee; Allison Day, Delegate
Oh, the many talents of this month’s LPTA Spotlight person! From assisting the now World Champion New Orleans Saints to the world famous Radio City Music Hall Rockettes, Rick Coogler does it all!

I was surprised to learn that Rick hails from Charleston, West Virginia and spent his years growing up in Stamford, Connecticut. I would have never guessed that he ever spent any of his years north of the Mason-Dixon Line as southern as this gentleman is! It stands to reason that Rick acquired his southern charm during his years of study in Mississippi. In 1983 received a Bachelor’s Degree in Zoology from the University of Mississippi, and a couple of years later he earned another Bachelor’s Degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1985.

But his studies didn’t stop there. Rick went on to earn a Master’s Degree in Health Sciences from Louisiana State University Medical Center in 1997, and became a Certified Orthopedic Manual Therapist in May of this year from the Ola Grimsby Institute.

Along the way Rick also received certification as an athletic trainer and, as mentioned above, has not only had the opportunity to work the New Orleans Saints but also worked with Tulane Athletics and numerous high school athletic programs. His certification as a Golf Performance Specialist has allowed him to work with both the PGA and the LPGA.

With his experience of athletic training in performing arts he was fortunate to work with one of my all time favorite performing groups, the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes. (I just had a thought: Perhaps we could talk Rick into performing some of the Rockettes’ routines as a fundraiser for the LPTA at our next meeting. I wonder if we could squeeze him into some fishnet stockings.)

Rounding out his list of specialties is TMJ rehabilitation and podiatric therapy in his practice in Metairie where he serves as the clinic manager at Select Physical Therapy (formerly Healthsouth).

Rick and his wife, Karen, also live in Metairie and have 3 children: Emily 10, Benjamin 8 and Sara 5. He serves as a deacon at Metairie Baptist Church, and is on the Board of the St. Catherine of Sienna Men’s Club. He enjoys golf, and has been known to rock the Friday night karaoke social at the LPTA with his musical talents.

Those of you who know Rick can attest to his devotion to Ole Miss, and perhaps the reason he has been known to sport a goatee was so he could resemble the Ole Miss mascot, Colonel Reb.

Hmmm…There might be something to this goatee theory, huh?
But with or without his facial hair you always tell his allegiance. He’s always making an Ole Miss fashion statement.

The LPTA is fortunate for Rick’s numerous years serving as our treasurer, and we are deeply grateful for his service. His dedication to our profession and service to his patients are a true reflection of what makes a great physical therapist. We thank Rick’s family for sharing him with us, and we look forward to the years to come with this great individual in our ranks!

Kinta Mader LeBlanc

MOTIONS FROM THE 2010 FALL MEETING

• Motion by Greg LeBlanc: I move that we abolish all of the standing committees which are not required by bylaws and preserve a committee chairperson that can then appoint members as needed when projects arise. The remaining committees that are required by bylaws will remain as such. Required committees are Bylaws, Ethics, Finance, Governmental Affairs, Nominating. Not required are Continuing Ed, Membership, Newsletter, Practice, Public Relations, Research. Motion seconded by David Qualls. Motion passed.

• Motion by Rick Coogler: I move that the LPTA establish a pool of volunteers to assist committee chairs with projects as determined by the committee chair or the BOD. Motion seconded by David Qualls. Motion passed.

• Motion by Greg LeBlanc: I move that the LPTA BOD modify the Hall of Fame Award Criteria by striking criteria #3 “Nominees who are retired or no longer work in Louisiana.” and changing criteria #2 to “Nominees who have practiced for a total of 20 years with 10 of those years being in Louisiana.” Seconded by Rick Coogler. Motion passed.

• Motion by Greg LeBlanc: I move that the LPTA appoint a Worker's Comp Task Force to address pending Worker's Comp issues and report back recommendations and actions to the Governmental Affairs Committee. Seconded by Rick Coogler. Motion passed.

• Motion to approve the 2011 budget as submitted by Beth Ward, second by Amelia Leonardi. Motion passed.

• Motion by Amelia Leonardi: I move that the LPTA provide up to $500 for upgrading the LPTA website to coincide with APTA’s branding campaign. Seconded by Beth Ward.

Thank You to our out going Board Members!

Rick Coogler, Treasurer
Kitty Krieg, Baton Rouge District Chair
Amelia Leonardi, New Orleans District Chair
Fall 2010 Meeting Pictures
Sheryl Flynn, PT, PhD, helps keep the fun in physical therapy!

In 1998 and 1999, Sheryl was awarded two doctoral scholarships from the Foundation. Today, her game company, based in Santa Monica, California, is working to develop video games for rehabilitation that patients can enjoy with their friends and family.

Help the Foundation support the next generation of physical therapy researchers. Your gift today will make a difference for your patients tomorrow.

Learn more or donate at www.FoundationforPhysicalTherapy.org or call 800-875-1378.