

President's Message

Busy, Busy, Busy

I hope each of you had a safe and joyous holiday season. There has been no lull after the holidays for the LPTA leadership. How busy the year has been so far? The LPTA leadership has been hard at work and I would like to give you a little glimpse of LPTA activity over the last three weeks on your behalf at the local level.

First of all, the annual board retreat took place in late January and a very productive meeting was held. In addition to our regular business, we were able to complete a comprehensive review of our strategic plan and then incorporate unfinished elements into our newly revised strategic plan. Education, advocacy, and resources will be the three pillars of our plan for the coming year, which will put our plan more in line with APTA's strategic plan. We also welcomed two new board members, Althea Jones, PT, MPT, and Lisa George, PT. Althea will serve as Baton Rouge chairperson while Lisa will take over leadership of the New Orleans district.

The Louisiana Physical Therapy Board (LPTB) hosted a public hearing on the newly proposed rules and regulations. The LPTA was well represented at the public hearing and I believe there was good conversation that took place on various topics. At this point, the LPTB will consider all written and verbal comments and make necessary changes to the rules. My understanding is that those changes could then be heard before a legislative oversight committee. Stay tuned to the website and email blasts as this process continues to take place. At this time, I would like to acknowledge the LPTB for the tremendous amount of work that they have put into this process up until this point.

As you get this newsletter, the Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) will likely be happening in New Orleans. As of late January, CSM 2011 was projected to be the largest ever. This seems to be a recurring theme as New Orleans frequently has very good attendance and often sets records when hosting CSM. The LPTA will host a preconference, Pharmacology for the Rehabilitation Specialist. Our own Suzanne Tinsley, PT, PhD has donated her time to teach this course on behalf of LPTA. Many thanks to Suzanne for her expertise, generosity, and time!

The LPTA will host its first Sports Symposium at our spring meeting in Lafayette, LA the weekend of April 15-17. We will host physicians, physical therapists, and trainers who work with our local professional and college sports teams to be our guest speakers. This is shaping up to be an exciting event for the LPTA and local health care professionals alike.

As if I haven't mentioned enough, we are continuing our efforts and

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SAVE THE DATE

1st Sports Medicine Symposium

April 15-17, 2011
Hilton Lafayette
Lafayette, LA



American Physical Therapy Association

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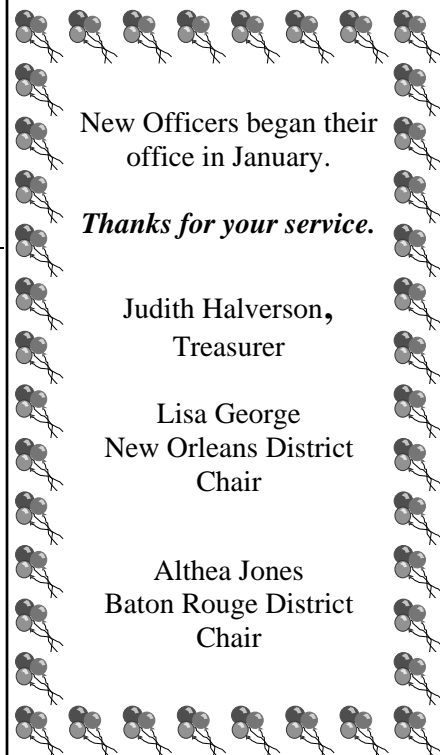
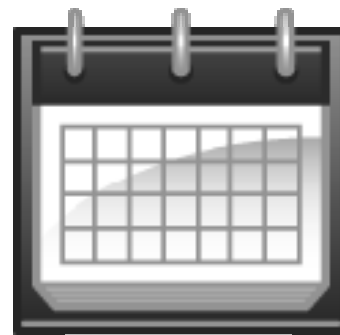
UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar NOW!

2011

April 15-17
1st Sports Medicine Symposium
Lafayette, LA

June 8-11
APTA Annual Conference
National Harbor, MD



New Officers began their office in January.

Thanks for your service.

Judith Halverson,
Treasurer

Lisa George
New Orleans District
Chair

Althea Jones
Baton Rouge District
Chair

Bayou Bulletin Publisher Information

The *Bayou Bulletin* is published six times a year by the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association, (LPTA). Copy and advertising inquiries should be directed to LPTA. Advertising rate sheets and deadlines for each issue are available upon request.

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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!

	Current	Last Year
Active members	624	658
Life Members	24	25
PT Students	200	133
PTAs	76	78
PTA Students	<u>2</u>	<u>23</u>
Total	926	935

(Continued from page 1)

involvement in the governmental affairs arena. The implementation of the medical treatment guidelines in the worker's compensation system is ever changing and we have members as well as our lobbying staff attending and participating in these meetings. We will continue to keep the membership up to date through our website and blast emails. The upcoming legislative session will be here before we know it. It is scheduled to convene on Sunday March 20, 2011 and adjourn on Wednesday April 13, 2011. Again, stay tuned to our communication about the session as it nears.

This is a sampling of the activities taking place on a local level on behalf of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants across the state of Louisiana. It is your membership that allows these kinds of activities to take place locally and nationally on your behalf. I thank each of you for your membership and encourage you to contact the LPTA leadership with any concerns, comments, or questions you may have in the coming year.

GREG



**The LPTA website will soon have a
fresh, new look!**

THE REIMBURSEMENT CORNER

Do you know the CPT changes for 2011? According to the APTA, the first change is that physical therapists are now able to bill Medicare for canalith repositioning, using code 95992. CPT Code 95992 was developed in 2009 with help from the APTA, but in the final 2009 physician fee schedule rule, CMS decided to bundle 95992, thus not pay for it separately. It agreed though to reimburse for canalith repositioning by a physical therapist using code 97112. The 2011 final physician fee schedule rule changed this situation and 95992 is no longer a bundled service. CMS will now pay for canalith repositioning using code 95992.

The second change is to wound care. CPT Code 97597 Wound Management is billed for the first 20 sq cm of a wound. CPT Code 97598 is also billed if a wound is greater than 20 sq cm. CPT code 97598 used to read "surface greater than 20 sq cm." Now it reads "each additional 20 sq cm or part thereof". Therefore, if you had a wound size of 45 sq cm, you used to properly bill one unit of 97597(initial 20 sq cm) and one unit of 97598 (additional wound size over 20 sq cm). With the language change, you would now properly bill one unit of 97597(initial 20 sq cm) and two units of 97598 (each additional 20 sq cm or part thereof – one 97598 for first additional 20 sq cm and one 97598 for the remaining 5 sq cm of wound area).

Please be aware that you may reference the CMS reimbursement value for these codes by going to "Reimbursement" on the APTA website – Medicare Fee Schedule Calculator.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeremy Stillwell, PT

LPTA Spotlight: Anna Means, PT, DPT, OCS



By Kinta LeBlanc

I'd like to introduce Anna Means, PT, DPT, OCS as this month's Spotlight subject. Hailing from north Louisiana Anna graduated in 2002 from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches with a degree in Health and Exercise Science, then ventured a bit farther north to Shreveport where she acquired her Master of Physical Therapy degree from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Allied Health Professions in 2005.

Continuing on her quest for knowledge, she worked at PT Pros in Barbourville, Kentucky to gain experience in the management and operations in the outpatient setting. While at PT Pros she was responsible for direct patient care, and she also served as acting clinical director when the primary director was on maternity leave.

She returned to Louisiana and acquired her Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree in August of 2008. Not quite finished with her quest of expertise, she next obtained her Orthopedic Certified Specialist commendation in June of 2009. Quite a busy gal, wouldn't you say?

Her time in Kentucky was well spent apparently. Also in June of 2009 she opened The Edge Physical Therapy in Shreveport, an outpatient clinic, where she serves as owner and clinical director.

Having been a member of the APTA/LPTA since 2003 as a student, she also belongs to the Private Practice and Orthopedic Sections of the APTA. Additionally, she serves on the APTA Advisory Panel On Membership, and is a member of the Membership Development Committee for the Private Practice Section of the APTA since July 2009. On behalf of the APTA Orthopedic Section she serves as the liaison to the LPTA since February 2008, and has served as the LPTA Shreveport District Chair from 2008-2009. Currently she is also serving as the LPTA Nominations Committee Chairperson.

Anna has been involved in the director capacity for a couple of 5K races, and seems to do a little running herself. OK, a LOT of running! An avid triathlete, in 2010 Anna set a personal best when she competed in the Florida Ironman in November placing 385 of 2402 participants overall. Prior to that, she placed 149 of 2065, (and first in her division), in the Half Ironman in Austin in October. Currently Anna is training for the New Orleans Rock and Roll Mardi Gras Marathon (which, coincidentally, will take place at the end of this year's CSM), and later this year she'll travel to Las Vegas in September to compete in the Half Ironman World Championships (70.3).



Run, Anna, Run

Anna and her fiancé, Justin, are soon to be married in April and will honeymoon in St. Lucia. Along with running and training, owning and directing an outpatient clinic and planning for her wedding, she somehow finds time to spend with her Golden Retriever, Angus, who she says, "probably digs more than he retrieves!"

We wish Anna all the best in all she endeavors this year and in the years to come! Her service to the LPTA and the APTA is much appreciated!

APTA Working For YOU

CMS Releases Updated Information for 2011 Payments

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released corrected payment amounts for 2011 that incorporate the changes included in the Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010 that was signed into law December 15. The legislation stopped the 24.9% payment cut from occurring on January 1, 2011. However, CMS announced that the conversion factor used to update payment for next year will be \$33.9764 instead of the \$36.8729 conversion factor that was in effect in 2010.

The conversion factor is lower for 2011 because CMS is rebasing the Medicare Economic Index (MEI), an inflation index for physician practice costs that is used as part of the formula to calculate the Medicare physician fee schedule rates. To offset the increased practice expense and malpractice relative value units (RVUs), CMS is reducing the 2011 conversion factor by approximately 8% to achieve budget neutrality as required by law. The practical effect of this change will be a slight overall reduction of approximately 2%. However, codes in which the value of the practice expense is high (relative to the total value of the code) may see increases and other codes (with minimal practice expenses) may see a larger decrease. For example, ultrasound (CPT code 97035) received an increase in practice expense from 0.33 units to 0.35 units. Combined with the conversion factor decrease, this results in a decrease in payment of 27 cents.

APTA will post a fee schedule calculator to include the new payment amounts on www.apta.org; Areas of Interest: Advocacy tab.

Also important to physical therapists is the January 1, 2011, implementation of the multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR) policy. (See below.)

CMS Clarifies MPPR Amounts for Office and Other Settings

Based on policy changes required by the Physician Payment and Therapy Relief Act of 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued a [Change Request \(7050\)](#) and [MLN Matters article](#) clarifying that the multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR) for therapy services in the therapy office setting (eg, private practice therapist offices, physician offices) will be 20% instead of 25%. For all other settings (eg, skilled nursing facilities (Part B), outpatient hospitals, etc) the MPPR amount will be 25%.

The MPPR policy, which was effective January 1, 2011, will apply to outpatient physical, occupational, and speech language pathology services that are paid under the Medicare fee schedule. Specifically, CMS will make full payment for the therapy service or unit with the highest practice expense value and reduce payment of the practice expense component by 20% in the office setting and 25% in institutional settings for the second and subsequent procedures or units of service furnished during the same day for the same patient. The MPPR would apply to therapy services when multiple therapy services are billed on the same date of service for the same patient by the same practitioner or facility under the same National Provider Identifier, regardless of whether those therapy services are furnished in separate sessions. The reduction applies across disciplines. The work and malpractice components of the therapy service payment will not be reduced.

In addition to the MPPR, other refinements to the fee schedule relative value units will affect payment for 2011. The negative impact of the MPPR will be adjusted by the use of the physician practice information survey data and the Medicare Economic Index rebasing. The net impact of these changes combined in 2011 will be -5%.





1st Sports Medicine Symposium April 15-17, 2011

TOTAL 15 Contact Hours



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011

9:00am—1:00pm
12:30pm
1:00pm—5:00pm

LPTA Board of Directors' Meeting
REGISTRATION OPENS
Exhibit Setup

LSU Orthopedics Department, Dr Michael Hartman

1:30pm—2:30pm
2:30pm—3:30pm
3:30pm—4:30pm

Conservatively Treating OA of the Knee
ACL Conservative Care
High Ankle vs. Low Ankle Sprains

5:30pm—6:00pm
6:00pm
6:00pm—8:00pm

Committee Meetings
EXHIBITS OPEN
WELCOME RECEPTION with Exhibitors

Total Number of Hours on Friday: 3 Hours



SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011

7:00am—7:45am

Registration
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST in EXHIBIT HALL

7:45am—9:15am

Knee Injuries, Dr. Ricardo Rodriguez

9:15am—10:30am

Hip Labrum Repairs, Dr. Brett Cascio

10:30am—11:30am

Exhibitor Break

11:30am_ 12:30pm

Micro Fractures and Knee Articulation Repairs, Dr. Misty Suri

12:45pm—1:45pm

LPTA Business Meeting with Lunch

1:45pm—2:45pm

Hip Arthroscopy and the treatment of Femoro-acetabular Impingement in Athletes, Dr. Misty Suri

2:45pm—4:15pm

Shoulder Injuries in the Throwing Athlete, Dr. Matthew Williams

4:15pm—4:30pm

Break

4:30pm—5:45pm

Shoulder Replacement in the Aging Athlete—Traditional vs. Reverse, Dr. Matthew Williams

5:45pm—6:00pm

Afternoon Panel: Shoulder Pros and Cons with afternoon speakers

Total Number of Hours on Saturday: 8 hours



SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2011

8:00am—9:30am

Strength and Conditioning Concepts, Tommy Moffitt, Strength and Conditioning Coach, LSU Athletics

9:30am—10:30am

Rehabbing Running Backs post ACL Repair, Scottie Patton, ATC, Head Athletic Trainer New Orleans Saints

10:30am—1:00pm

Shoulder Rehabilitation in Throwing Athlete, Beau Lowery, PT, ATC, SCS, LSU Baseball

Total Number of Hours on Sunday:



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Congratulations to Newly Certified and Recertified Specialists

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Metairie

Diana Rose Gates, PT, PCS
Shreveport

Ricky Lane, PT, OCS
Baton Rouge

Scott Larson, PT, OCS
Baton Rouge

René LeBlanc, PT, MPT, OCS
Lafayette

Paul Melancon, PT, OCS
Gonzales