

President's Message

Can you say "learning curve?" Here is this naive apolitical Shreveport girl suddenly thrown into politics as it pertains to physical therapy at the state, national, and APTA levels! I have spent many late nights and early mornings attempting to read and make sense of bills and legislation, trying to field all manner of questions from all manner of folks, all to protect and defend our wonderful profession. In a Clark-Kent-esque manner, I have seen patients then hopped in the car in my scrubs, emerging from a McDonald's bathroom in a business suit and heading to Baton Rouge or Lafayette to meetings, only to turn around that same day and drive home again. Thankful for my little Prius, I am!

I am also thankful for all the many people who have emerged as bedrock of strength and information for me on this journey. It is truly about collaboration. Here I shall mention a few: Cristina Fauchaux out of Zachary stepped into the role of Governmental Affairs Chair for LPTA only one week prior to the start of the legislative session and she has not stopped! She is married with 3 children, the youngest of whom is only one year old. She did not hesitate when asked, and has been amazing in her professionalism, grasp of the issues, communications skills. She is able to work her schedule so that she attends many of the meetings I am unable to attend. Thank her if you see her!

David Tatman, LPTA's lobbyist, is always there for us, and we have had many phone conferences and face-to-face meetings. He knows how things work at the Capitol, and has good advice and contacts to keep the wheels moving on issues pertinent to physical therapy. Joe Shine and many others have stepped up regarding the FCE bill and there have been many lively email discussions regarding that bill. Past presidents' input has been invaluable, including the articulate and impassioned opinions and history from Sharon Dunn, Paul Hildreth, David Qualls, and Greg LeBlanc. Justin Elliot, responsible for state issues at APTA, has been in the thick of things with excellent advice on many pieces of legislation. And Alice Quaid who heads up our PT Legislative Day at the Capitol has an energy and enthusiasm for the profession that is unrivaled.

So, I learn. I learn with the support and mentorship of those who came before me and those currently involved. I learn from enthusiastic students who make time to attend LPTA BOD meetings and events. And I am ever so thankful for all those people, because without that history and advice, the profession that we all love so much might be in jeopardy.

What is your task as an active and involved member in the next few months of this state legislative session? The session runs through June 6th and there are a number of important bills that can directly impact physical therapy, including some workers comp bills and some bills pertaining to massage therapy. Please, when David Tatman's group sends you an email that is called a Legislative Update, read it and absorb the information. Learn from the updates. More

(Continued on page 3)



During this state legislative session please be on the lookout and respond to the Legislative Alerts from the Tatman Group.

These Alerts are concise and provide all the info you'll need to act quickly and easily to keep your legislators in the know regarding the impacts of proposed legislation on YOUR profession.

The Tatman Group also sends out Legislative Updates to keep us posted on the activities in the legislature.

Remember: ALERTS mean ACTION!

Please do your part!



American Physical Therapy Association

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UPCOMING EVENTS

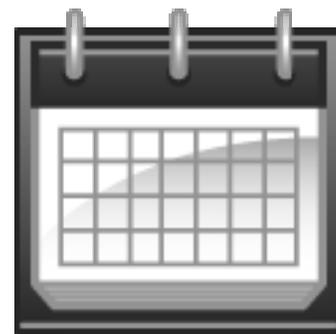
Mark Your Calendar NOW!

2012

April 20-24
APTA Leadership Conference
Washington, DC

September 28-30
LPTA Fall Meeting
Baton Rouge, LA

November 2-4
APTA National
Student Conclave
Arlington, VA



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	684	681
Life Members	28	25
PT Students	196	116
PTAs	95	77
PTA Students	<u>40</u>	<u>27</u>
Total	1,043	926

(Continued from page 1)

importantly, when his group sends you a LEGISLATIVE ALERT, you MUST ACT immediately. We will provide you with talking points. Go see your legislator in person if you can. Bring your patient, other therapists, your secretary, your mother! Do email or write a letter to your legislator regarding the issue. At LPTA, we need grass roots involvement to make things happen.

What does the future hold politically? Probably about the time you are reading this, I will be in Washington DC at APTA's Federal Advocacy Forum with Billy Naquin, our FAF liaison and a student companion Ashley Henk. There we will meet our Louisiana legislators and discuss national issues. In June is APTA's House of Delegates in Tampa, FL. That will be my first time attending and I will rely on David Qualls' expertise and experience as our Chief Delegate along with our other delegates to guide me through that process.

Great things are happening at LPTA! Contact me if you want to get involved! Bethwardpt@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Ward, LPTA President

PTNow

APTA's clinician Web portal, PTNow, is a collaborative effort designed to:

- Make it easier for you to apply the best available evidence to patient care;
- Lead you to external resources that have been vetted for relevance and credibility;
- Help you improve efficiency.

PTNow will be the physical therapist's "multi-tool":

- Translation tool--for translating research to knowledge for practice;
- Implementation tool--for implementing evidence in the evaluation and treatment of patients;
- Collaboration tool--for sharing information and strategizing when evidence is lacking;
- Search tool--for seeking out relevant, vetted sites across the Web and organizing results based on the source of the information.

PTNow has the long-term goals of helping the physical therapy profession:

- Improve patient outcomes
- Reduce unwarranted variation in practice
- Demonstrate the value of physical therapist services to the health care system

That's a tall order. To succeed, the site has to be built to meet your needs. Throughout the beta development of PTNow, we will be seeking feedback using a number of different survey methods. You can contact us any time at ptnow@apta.org.

PTNow is open to APTA members as it goes through beta development.

Small but Big Results

By Marie Alice Quaid

PT Legislative Day (PTLD) is always unpredictable, simply put – it's controlled chaos. The Legislators' schedule can change on a moment's notice. This year we had to quickly change from 1pm to 9am. This last minute change almost caused a disaster with the invites but with quick thinking, Melinda Wilk got to the printers in the nick of time. There were several PTs who were disappointed their schedule did not permit attendance this year especially those which the time change affected their coming. This all resulted in a small core group for PTLD.

Bruno Steiner and Cathy Pennington are the backbone of PTLD. They provide the exhibiter display on which we hang our LPTA banner. They also provide several anatomical models. Bruno and Cathy's presence are unnoticed because they are working hard while Bruno demonstrates to Legislators our skill level. Legislators were jumping on our tables at 8:30am, a lot earlier than planned. Fortunately Sister Francanne Etringer and Kelly Bernard also worked the tables teaching Legislators about physical therapy. We continued being busy an hour after the session closed. The Legislators are working up to 16 hours a day so they were physically exhausted, appreciated our visit, and stayed later than scheduled.

Beth Ward, Ameilia Leonardi, Christina Faucheux, and Paul Hildreth were vital in interacting with Legislators. They were effective in renewing relationships with the Legislators, helping them get over to the tables, and taking pictures with Beth giving them their pedometers. Rep. Ted James showed his enthusiasm by sending a picture of his pedometer from that night with over 10,000 steps for the Committee Room Run. The fitness challenge is well on its way!



David Tatman, our lobbyist and his group did a stellar job this year. They had Sen. Martiny and Rep. Montoucet present resolutions (SR24 & HR17) recognizing LPTA week. This year, and for the first time, they brought us on to the House floor while Rep. Montoucet read the resolution. There were cheers and applauding for our profession. It was a wonderful feeling. This just geared us up even more for the day.

Lastly, Robbie Lazarine, Kate Broussard, Robbie Banta, and Ryan Hill represented our students in the most professional manner.

At the end of the day, the balloons and candy were dispersed among the capitol employees. We packed up and left the Legislators with a good feeling about Physical Therapy...a job well done.



Representative Lenar Whitney and LPTA President Beth Ward



Representative Dalton Honoré and LPTA President Beth Ward



Senator Robert Adley and LPTA President Beth Ward

PT Legislative Day Donations

There were several people who could not come but still participated in PTLTD by sending a donation. We deeply appreciate the donations from Susan Blanchard, Rehab Dynamics, Driggs Group, Anjelique Via Liles, and Greg & Kinta LeBlanc.

There is still time to take part in PTLTD by purchasing a pedometer. We have several left over. Your purchase will help fund the \$1000 donation we make to a recreational center in the winning Legislator's district. This gift is solely dependent on your generosity.

Be part of making a difference in your profession and helping a kid get fit.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

LPTA pedometer (purple with black lettering)	\$6.50 each	_____	Quantity
		_____	subtotal
		_____	postage*
		_____	Total

Check (made payable to LPTA) American Express MasterCard VISA Discover

Name on Card _____

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

For more information, please call the LPTA office, 225-922-4614

*Postage:

For 1 pedometer: \$1.10

For 2 pedometers: \$1.30

For 3 or 4 pedometers: \$1.50

For 5 pedometers: \$1.70

Membership Report

Thank you all for helping send the message to non-members about the importance of APTA membership. We've got a tough hill to climb, but fortunately we have some momentum. APTA has over 82,000 members now and we are growing! I need your help to make our chapter and our profession better. Please remember, "Each One, Reach One!"

For the soon to be PT and PTA graduates who are interviewing for job opportunities, please tell your potential employer how important APTA membership is and ask them to incorporate that into your career benefits. If its important to you it will be important to them too!

Your Membership Chair,

Jake McKenzie

APTA in Action

APTA protects your ability to provide high quality health care. Here are a few recent victories that membership made possible:

- Eliminated the requirement that PTs in private practice be accredited in order to provide equipment such as prosthetics and orthotics to patients.
- Eliminated the requirement that PTs rent an entire swimming pool in order to provide aquatic services.
- Repealed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services final rule, which restricted Medicaid reimbursement for PT services in outpatient hospitals.



Benefits of
Belonging



Not a Member Yet?

Visit www.apta.org/join or call 800/999-2782, ext 3395 to join.



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Governmental Affairs Committee

I am thankful for the support, guidance, and feedback that I have received during this legislative session. I am looking forward to continuing to work alongside the District Liaisons as we protect and guide the growth of our profession.

Feel free to communicate any concerns or suggestions to your District Liaison or directly to me at Cristina@moreaupt.com.

Your District Liaisons are as follows:

Shreveport: Chris Cathcart (Ccathc@lsuhsc.edu);

Natchitoches: Jason Parker (JasonP1113@suddenlink.net)

Alexandria: Kevin Garrigan (KGarrigan@laptc.com);

New Orleans: Jeffrey Thompson (jtho14@lsuhsc.edu) and Troy Bourgeois (troymsc@yahoo.com)

Northshore: Tony Miller (Tmillertime@yahoo.com);

Baton Rouge: LeBlanc, Greg (greg@brptlake.com)

Lafayette: Anthony Marino (amarino@moreaupt.com)

Lake Charles: Jeremy Stillwell (jtstill@bellsouth.net)

Sincerely,

Cristina Faucheux, PT

LPTA Spotlight: Claire Melebeck, PT, DPT



By Kinta LeBlanc, PT, DPT

A big welcome goes out to this month's LPTA Spotlight subject, Claire Melebeck! We welcome her back to our great state and also welcome her as the new LPTA Public Relations and Newsletter Committee Chairperson!

Claire has compiled quite an impressive resume since she began studying physical therapy in 2006 when she apparently hit the floor running! After graduating summa cum laude in Biological Sciences from LSU in Baton Rouge, she traveled up to the LSUHSC in Shreveport where she earned her DPT in 2009. While enrolled there she somehow found time to serve as both her class president and the SAHP SGA President, as well as rock her physical therapy studies with a 4.0 GPA! Her performance and dedication did not go unnoticed; in 2007 she was named "Ms. Core Values"; in 2007-2008 she received the SGA award for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership; in 2009 she received the Dean's Award and Scholarship.

Flirting with the title of "overachiever" she also dazzled the national physical therapy scene by serving as a member of the APTA's Student Assembly Nominating Committee in 2008-2009 and also as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for APTA's *Perspectives* magazine. Speaking of the APTA, she's been a member since her days as a student, including being a member of the Sports, Orthopaedics, and Women's Health Sections. She also served as a student usher for the APTA House of Delegates in 2008.

Not content with simply getting her DPT, Claire took to traveling again to pursue a residency in Orthopaedic and Practice Management through LSUHSC Shreveport and PT Pros in Corbin, Kentucky. After gaining valuable experience in the outpatient setting she put it to use down in Crestview, Florida where she worked in an orthopedic and sports physical therapy outpatient clinic for about a year and a half. She lived in Destin while she was in Florida and says the beach there is the most beautiful in the U.S.!

But the call of Louisiana was strong, so she headed back to our great state and has settled in the Big Easy working at Touro Hospital's outpatient orthopedic department. She enjoys living in uptown New Orleans and is excited to be fine tuning her manual therapy skills. Her future she plans include becoming an Orthopedic Certified Specialist, as well as squeezing in a manual therapy fellowship somewhere along the line to seal the deal before putting the word "specialist" behind her name.

Claire says she loves being back in South Louisiana, having moved back for life, love and family. She's the self appointed "favorite aunt" of her sweet Godchild, Mick, and her niece, Vivian Claire. She also has a pack of pooches which is comprised of 17 year old geriatric pooch named Sophie, and her pals Eli and Bill E. Goat.

I would like to take a personal privilege of thanking Claire for her willingness to take over the duties of public relations and newsletter chair. Over the past "too many to count" years I've truly enjoyed serving in this capacity, and I am looking forward to great things to come for this committee! The energy and enthusiasm which Claire exudes will no doubt contribute to a fabulous future for the LPTA! I look forward to assisting her in the future, and I'm sure she can count on all of you to support her as well in her endeavors!

And in closing I would like to offer my most sincere thanks to those of you who have guided and assisted me with the duties of PR and the newsletter. I look forward to continuing to serve the great members of the LPTA in other capacities, and truly encourage those of you who haven't yet volunteered your talents to please give it a try! A little bit of effort means so much and can have a great impact as well! Thanks, again!

Are you the missing piece?



What is EarlySteps?

EarlySteps is Louisiana's Early Intervention System, which "provides services to infants and toddlers from birth up to 36 months who have a developmental delay or a medical condition likely to result in a developmental delay." LA Dept of Health & Hospitals

What does an EarlySteps Provider do?

The primary role of an EarlySteps Provider is to work collaboratively with the family, child, and IFSP team members to achieve desired goals and outcomes in the child's natural environment. The EarlySteps provider has many other diverse roles. Learn more at: <https://www.laeikids.com/> or <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/139/n/139>.

Is there a need for PTs? Yes!

"Shortages continue for some disciplines such as *physical therapy* throughout the state and for many disciplines in the rural areas of the state." (2012 Early Steps Annual Performance Report)

Is EarlySteps right for YOU?

Perks of the job:

- \$82.35 paid per visit (PT, OT)
- Full-time or part-time
- No binding contract
- Great way to earn extra money
- Very flexible hours – make your own schedule
- Work as an independent provider or through a participating provider agency

Job Satisfaction:

- Dynamic work environment
- Work with children on a daily basis
- Member of a multi-disciplinary team
- Impact an important stage of life and see significant changes

How to apply:

Contact your EarlySteps regional coordinator and complete the Provider Forms:

- Regional Coordinators: <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/directory/detail/676>
- Provider Forms: <https://www.laeikids.com/UI/ProviderForms.aspx?sec=Off>





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