President’s Message

My message in this issue is brief, as you are hearing from me in 2 other places in this issue: my candidate statement for another 3-year term as your President, and the Chief Delegate report. Please refer to those.

Plan to attend Fall Meeting! Awards will be presented on Friday evening during the Open Forum from 5-6:30, then we will usher the deserving winners into a celebratory welcome reception. Elections will be held on Saturday morning, and then members will vote on revised bylaws changes at the Business Luncheon on Saturday, September 20th. Look for a special guest at the luncheon! We have excellent speakers for your continuing education, and (as we will always plan to have) a 2-hr Ethics course to fulfill your requirements for licensure renewal.

Thank you for being a member. Your contributions of time, talent, gifts and service help keep your Association strong! Please reach out to one PT or PTA who is not a member and ask them to join. Tell them why you value your membership. If each member could get one non-member to join, we would double membership! Think what we could do then: more delegates to the House of Delegates, improved legislative power at the state and national level, additional services and member benefits! Sometimes it just takes an ask!

Respectfully submitted by:
Beth Ward, PT, DPT

2014 Fall Meeting

September 19-21, 2014
Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA

Friday Session:
- What’s in Your Patient’s Medicine Cabinet? What Every Healthcare Professional Should Know — Suzanne Tinsley, PhD, PT, NCS

Saturday and Sunday Concurrent Sessions:
- Recent Advances in the Evaluation and Treatment of the Shoulder Complex — Kevin Wilk, PT, DPT, FAPTA
- Wound Healing — Ed Mahoney, PT, DPT, CWS

Sunday Session:
- The Ethics of Billing and Coding in Physical Therapy Practice — Kirk Nelson, PhD, PT

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Bayou Bulletin Publisher Information

The Bayou Bulletin is published six times a year by the 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

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

Active members
Current 738

Life Members
Current 30

Students
Current 207

PTAs
Current 140

Total
Current 1,115

Don’t make us say it...are you still not a member?
State Policy & Payment Forum
The APTA State Policy & Payment Forum is designed to increase your involvement in and knowledge of state legislative issues that have an impact on the practice and payment of physical therapy, and to improve your advocacy efforts at the state level. Programming will focus on physical therapy payment & legislative issues at the state level and will include presentations on physical therapy copay legislation, telehealth, implementation of health care reform in the states, emerging scope of practice issues, direct access, strategies for negotiating with insurance companies, infringement issues, and much more!

National Student Conclave
Attending NSC provides you with the opportunity to attend the following can't-miss events:
- Special-interest seminars covering topics including acute care, clinical electrophysiology and wound management, geriatrics, neurology, orthopaedics, pediatrics, sports physical therapy, and women's health.
- Develop a framework for exploring career pathways and learn some of the core essentials required to pursue these options! Take advantage of opportunities to explore innovative career paths and fortuitous detours to taking the initial steps in identifying your preferred pathway as a new graduate entering the profession.
- Workshops on resume writing, interviewing skills, and small-group debt evaluation.
- An open discussion with APTA's president, where you'll find out what's ahead for the profession.
- An exhibit hall that features employers, manufacturers, and publishers who are eager to speak with you.
- Network with colleagues, mentors, and other members of the profession at Special Events.

Combined Sections Meeting
The Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) focuses on programming designed by all 18 of APTA's specialty sections. CSM 2015 will bring together more than 10,000 physical therapy professionals from around the nation for several stimulating days of exceptional programming, networking opportunities, and an exhibit hall filled with products and services.
Component Wrap Up!

Gail Pearce, Bylaws Chair

Per our LPTA Bylaws this will serve as the official notice of a pending Bylaw Revision. The voting on the revision will take place on Saturday September 20, 2014 during the business meeting of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association. This voting can only take place if we have a quorum of approximately 89 voting members present.

One of the proposed amendments is to reduce the quorum to 25 voting members. This change will prevent closing the business meeting for lack of a quorum. Other changes proposed will be to extend length of delegate terms from 2 years to 3 years. There is also a clarification of the chapter committees which are classified as mandating district representation.

If you desire a written copy of the proposed revision, you may contact our Chapter office at (225) 922-4614 or Email Carrie at: office@lpta.org You may also contact me at (318) 746-0627 or gmp5050@aol.com.

Julie Danieles Harris, Shreveport District Chair

The Shreveport District had another successful PT pub night with 75 people in attendance! We had an opportunity to network with the PT’s, PTA’s, and students in the Shreveport area with great conversations and of course, great beverages! Others in attendance were the Dean of the LSUHSC Allied Health School in Shreveport, Dr. Joseph McCulloch, who gave us a wonderful photo bomb to show his lighter side during the night. The Great Raft Brewery was an awesome host and we thank them for their hospitality.

We are also planning our 11th annual “Hustle for Your Health” 5k fun run for the month of October 2014. This will give us an opportunity to educate those involved about physical therapy and also to give back to our community. This year the funds will go to Independence Regained, a private not-for-profit advocacy organization that was formed specifically to create a specialized spinal cord and traumatic brain injury rehab. For more information, go to: www.independenceregained.org.

Claire Melebeck, New Orleans District Co-chair

The New Orleans District had their first but definitely not their last PT Pub Night at Dat Dog on Magazine street! Everyone had a great time networking and talking shop over cocktails. Stay tuned for the date of the next PT Pub Night and the next NOLA District Meeting following the Fall Meeting in September!

Alicia Pruitt, Membership Chair

This summer has been wonderful and busy! I hope all of you are doing well and recovering from your adventures. I just wanted to give everyone some great news….APTA and LPTA membership is GROWING! Let’s talk about LPTA first! As of June 2014, the PTA’s and SPTA’s have increase by 53 members since June of 2013. Woohoo! Overall total PT’s have gone down by a few and SPT’s have decreased by a few, but that’s okay because we are growing. CURRENT LPTA MEMBERSHIP = 1,115. Great job! Make sure you continued to pass on the value of your membership to all of your co-workers and students. APTA membership at the end of May stood at 88,777—an overall increase of 3.48% (2,988 members) from June 2013. There are 60,552 PTs, an increase of 1.76% (1,047 members). The number of PTAs increased by 3.71% (249 members), for a total of 6,953 members. Overall, the student category increased 8.65% (1,693 members), for a total of 21,266. I hope every one of our members realizes the importance of active membership. If you are looking for a way to get involved or you have ideas please contact me, alicia_pruitt@att.net.
Amelia Leonardi, Nominating Committee Chair

We will elect officers and one delegate at our fall meeting. Please read the candidates’ statements in this edition of the Bayou Bulletin (pages 5-10). Nominations will also be taken from the floor during Friday evening’s Open Forum.

LPTA Nominations Committee — Slate of officers for election, Fall, 2014:

- President: Beth Ward
- Secretary: Jane Eason
- Government Affairs Committee Chair: Cristina Faucheux
- Nominations Committee chair-elect: Amelia Leonardi
- Delegate (one to be elected): Judith Halverson; Paul Hildreth; Kinta LeBlanc

Alix Sorrel, Lafayette District Chair

The Lafayette district has been relatively quiet this summer but things will be picking up soon after the Fall Meeting with a district meeting and a social! Please stay tuned and keep your eyes peeled for those dates!

Aimee Kramer, Monroe District Chair

MONROE therapists....LPTA is calling you for service! A new district chair is needed. This also includes some interaction with the Ethics and Governmental Affairs Committees. I hope someone is ready to step up. I will be moving to Colorado soon. Let me know by message or comments if you have any questions about this position. It has been a blast! Thanks for everything LPTA!

Student Speak

As I walked into the enormous conference room holding over 400 of the most awe-inspiring physical therapists and leaders in the nation, it took my breath away. Never in my life have I met so many incredible and passionate professionals who are immensely dedicated to advancing our profession. Attending the APTA House of Delegates conference in Charlotte, NC as the LPTA’s elected Student Delegate Companion was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life!

As an upcoming second year DPT student at LSU HSC in New Orleans, I was initially intimidated by the depth and breadth of the vast collective accomplishments of the physical therapy leaders that comprise the APTA House of Delegates. Within minutes however, my intimidation subsided simply by how wonderfully down-to-earth, welcoming, and funny many of the Delegates are. One of the highlights of the conference was a flash dance to Pharrell’s “Happy”. The Delegates kicked off their shoes and boogied down! Needless to say, the conference was not all business!

Overall, attending the APTA House of Delegates reconfirmed to me just how amazing physical therapy leaders all over the country are! Finally, the experience demonstrated to me just how important it is for the next generation of leaders to step up and begin getting involved as advocates for our profession. I am truly grateful for such an amazing opportunity and cannot thank Beth Ward and the LPTA enough for sponsoring me!

Respectfully submitted by: Stephanie Todd, SPT
President: (unopposed)

Beth Ward

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the membership of LPTA the last 3 years. Working with our association at this level has opened my eyes to vast resources available to practicing clinicians, students, and patients we serve. I am fortunate to have access to what other chapters across the country are doing and can bring these best practices and innovative ideas home to Louisiana. I believe my work and active leadership strengthens our small chapter. What have we achieved in the past three years?

- Legislatively: 1. LPTA began formulating a plan to achieve full patient access to our services. 2. We have been successful in defending the profession against encroachment by various groups in the legislature. 3. We also accomplished adding an appointee to the Workers Comp Advisory Council.
- Professional Development: LPTA offers excellent continuing education opportunities with world-renowned speakers in a setting that encourages networking. The Bayou Bulletin is an excellent source of information for professionals. Our website offers a career center with a new membership promotional and recruitment video on the homepage. Social media messages are expanded to include an active FaceBook page, Yahoo!Groups and Twitter.
- Research Promotion: The Louisiana Chapter committed $25,000 over the next 5 years to The Foundation's Center of Excellence to train physical therapists to do the type of research necessary to demonstrate the value of physical therapy to governmental and regulatory groups.
- Strategic Planning: Last year we formulated a new strategic plan designed to improve reimbursement and membership, to raise awareness of physical therapy among consumers, to be proactive in the legislative process, and to empower us to demonstrate high standards of professionalism. We are undergoing a bylaws revision with a vote at the upcoming Fall Meeting.

What are some plans for the next three years?

- I want the Louisiana Chapter to take the lead in APTA's new Integrity in Practice Campaign. Louisiana has 6 of the top 20 hot spots of fraud and abuse in the country. I plan to promote awareness of this dilemma and educate members on how they can ensure a high level of integrity in their practices. We also need to reach non-members, and I plan to address this issue.
- In line with APTA’s new vision “Transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience,” I’d like to look into how we as physical therapists and physical therapist assistants can reach the people of Louisiana to make this state more aware of the importance of daily movement to health.
- We plan to look at our structure and governance and ensure we are operating as efficiently as possible.
- Look for changes to the website that include consumer education regarding physical therapy and how consumers can access our services.
- We are initiating a “Going Green” campaign and will begin to distribute the Bayou Bulletin via e-newsletter to members who wish to participate in this option.
- We continue to drive forward on a plan to improve patient access to physical therapy services, as well as to continue to defend the profession against challenges from other groups.
- A new payment model is on the horizon, thanks to efforts at APTA, and we will help educate members and non-members on how to utilize this new payment system when it is enacted.

(continued on page 7)
Secretary: (unopposed)

Jane Eason

I am honored to be nominated to run for the position of secretary of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association (LPTA). I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors of the LPTA. Besides having the practical skills that are required to be the secretary of an organization, I believe that I have other skill sets based upon other areas of involvement in the profession that would make me a valuable member of the Board of Directors that could contribute to policy discussion. First, I am department head of the LSUHSC – New Orleans physical therapy program. Because of this position, I have a unique perspective on the issues affecting our profession from an educator’s perspective. In my position, I have to be the link between the didactic preparation of students with real world clinical application of their classroom work when they are on their clinical internships. Second, my experience in the House of Delegates this past summer provided me with greater exposure to physical therapy practice issues at the national level.

It was a great way to learn more about practical solutions to some of these issues, but I was also able to hear global, philosophical discussions from people around the country about the issues affecting our practice. Finally, I serve as Associate Editor of Cardiopulmonary Clinical Summaries for PTNow. PTNow is an APTA initiative that is aiming to place in one location, evidence-based information on a variety of diagnoses (Clinical Summaries) as well as access to validated tests and measures to measure outcomes in a variety of diagnoses. The intent is that busy clinicians will only have to go to one location to gain access to evidence to help drive clinical decision-making. This unique experience affords me the opportunity to meet with an amazing group of people from across the country at least two to three times a year to discuss issues related to translation of evidence to practice.

I believe that because of my varied experiences, I can make valuable contributions to the LPTA. I have enjoyed the interactions and professional relationships I have developed with people around the country about the issues affecting our practice. Thank you for your consideration.

I do not work in a vacuum. I must thank STAT Home Health, my employer, and the team at the Shreveport branch for allowing me the time to serve you, the members. Without a great team (your Board of Directors, excellent association management in Bland and Carrie, and top-notch lobbying via The Tatman Group) and without member support, we can achieve nothing. Thank you for the opportunity to serve again, and I promise I will work just as hard for you in the upcoming three years as I have in these past 3 years. We have an amazing chapter, and we can grow to make a difference in Louisiana for the profession of physical therapy and for our patients.

Government Affairs Committee Chair: (unopposed)

Cristina Faucheux

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the LPTA Governmental Affairs Chair for the last three years. I have been a member of the LPTA for the last 17 years. My involvement with the LPTA began with a student membership while attending LSUHSC in New Orleans. After graduating in 1997, I pursued a certificate of manual therapy from the Ola Grimsby Institute. I am co-owner of a private practice, Moreau Physical Therapy. I am fortunate that I accepted the call to fill GA Chair position. Although challenging at times, the position has given me a great deal of respect for the legislative process.

(continued on page 8)
Delegate: (one to be selected)

Judith Halverson

I am honored to be nominated for the Delegate position to the APTA House of Delegates in 2015. I am excited about the opportunity to serve as your Delegate. I have served as delegate on 2 different occasions in the past. The experience is rewarding. Serving as a delegate is an important way of giving back to our profession. I bring a variety of talents to the Delegate team. I have been a PT for 3 decades. During that time, I have seen many changes in our profession that demand our nimbleness and willingness to adapt to and learn from the forces around us. I have seen many changes in reimbursement for what we do. I have worked primarily in the outpatient environment, and have had the opportunity to work in home health and inpatient rehab. I have worked with exceptional acute care therapists. My knowledge of the different arenas in which therapists work is important when we deliberate on various initiatives for the profession. The strength of our LPTA delegate team comes from a balance of young and seasoned therapists. I believe I can be an asset to the team to be a strong voice for the LPTA. Thank you for your consideration of me as your delegate.

Absentee Voting!

A voting member can request a ballot from the LPTA office. Information concerning all candidates on the ballot will be enclosed with the ballot sent to the member. Each absentee voter will seal their ballot in an envelope with no mark of identification and enclose it in another envelope bearing their signature and address. The voter’s envelope must be postmarked no later than Monday, September 15, 2014.

***to request an absentee ballot, contact LPTA office at 225-922-4614 or office@lpta.org***
Paul Hildreth

I am very happy and honored to again be running for the position of delegate for the LPTA. My experiences as chief delegate for 5 years, delegate for 6 years and as a member of the APTA nominating committee for 3 years have given me great opportunities to understand the policies and positions of the APTA and the reasons for their creation. Also, my experiences as Dave Pariser’s campaign manager for his successful APTA nominating committee and board of directors election and my own national election experiences gave me valuable insight into the election process. Being a delegate is an awesome and humbling responsibility and I feel the insights I have gained from my service coincides well with the current environment.

These are exciting times for the LPTA at the House of Delegates! Not only is one of our members currently the Vice President but Sharon Dunn is seeking nominations to become President next year. Her potential election and the knowledge she will gain can only be beneficial for the LPTA and I greatly desire to assist her toward a successful campaign. I believe my knowledge of the process, my previous experience, and my contacts that have been forged over the years can be of great benefit to the LPTA and to Sharon’s bid for election.

These are also exciting times for the House of Delegates. Strategic plans are being formulated to implement our new vision statement and their 8 guiding principles. I hope you took the chance to participate in the board of director’s feedback form regarding the guiding principles. We continue to work on payment reform and strategies to improve the performance of the APTA for our members. The question of who provides physical therapy services as directed by a physical therapist will continue to be an issue during the evolution of health care reform. Also, since I held the position of chief delegate at the start of the governance review, I would like to participate in the end of the governance review or at least the beginning of its culmination during this “bylaws” year at the House of Delegates. I sincerely hope to again become a participant in those conversations at the House and promote the vision of the APTA and the LPTA. As a delegate I assure you that I am knowledgeable of our professions core documents and policies so I can provide a reasonable and informed voice.

I ask for your vote so I can have the honor of being a LPTA delegate and be of service to you and our profession. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding my statement and I’d like to thank the nominating committee for submitting me as a candidate.

Kinta LeBlanc

Please let me begin by thanking you, the members of the LPTA, for your support and confidence by having elected me to serve as one of your delegates to the APTA House of Delegates. I have been so very honored, proud and humbled to represent the PTs and PTAs from our great state over the past years and I have thoroughly enjoyed being active in the amazing process of the HOD.

I certainly must admit (and I’m sure the other delegates would agree) that there is a learning curve involved in service as a delegate. Therefore, having a historical perspective and familiarity with the proceedings of the HOD is an huge asset since the schedule of the HOD can be grueling. Additionally, the experience that comes with having served several terms as delegate is beneficial when engaging in debate and discussion with other delegates from across the country, as there are many other delegates (like myself) who also serve year after year for their respective chapters. Having networked over the years the friendships and collegial relationships I have established has proven to be most beneficial in conducting the business of the House.

These are exciting times in the APTA due to the recent hiring of a new CEO, J. Michael Bowers this past February, and also due to our own Sharon Dunn making a run for the office of APTA President in 2015.

(continued on page 10)
With all of this excitement the APTA remains committed to its members and the pressing issues facing our great profession. As a result several advances have been made in the HOD over the past years with regard to improving the flow of the business of the House. These advances include the implementation of the APTA Communities page on the APTA website which allows for discussion of proposed RCs prior to the HOD session with other delegates from across the country. Additionally, in more recent years the APTA has adopted the use of electronic devices for the purpose of electing the leaders of the association and for voting during the HOD which has made a huge impact on the flow of business and debate in the HOD. The APTA also will be holding Town Hall meetings to facilitate discussion and business of the House, with the Speaker of the House advising that the several topics have been selected concerning by-laws revision and will headline the Town Hall meetings.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the LPTA and with respect and humility I am asking for the chance to continue my service as a delegate representing our great state in the APTA HOD. I will gladly share my experiences in the HOD and/or answer any questions about my candidacy. Feel free to contact me through my email (k_mader@hotmail.com) or in person at the LPTA Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge.

### APTA Student Membership Benefits

One of the benefits of being in school is the close proximity of medical libraries and our ability to access countless sources of research, case studies and peer-reviewed journals. While this is one of my favorite things about physical therapy (PT) school, I admit that when I am on a break I aim for something quick and easy to read. I think most people are this way, and that is why social media is so attractive. It is very easy to stay current on physical therapy findings, advancements and events through the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and their social media outlets. As an APTA student member it is actually difficult to be out of the loop, because the APTA is constantly working at engaging us in new health care topics and encouraging community involvement through the usage of social media.

The APTA has been using trendy web sites and smartphone applications to disperse important news, which means that APTA student members are current no matter where they are. Whether you are in the school library or 500 miles away in a beach town or on a clinical rotation, the APTA has made it easy almost too easy for us! Follow the Student Assembly on Facebook and Twitter, and follow the APTA on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The APTA already has over 31,000 followers on Facebook and over 27,000 followers on Twitter. Read the blogs that are provided in multiple formats through mail, e-mail and web site links through the APTA. “Move Forward” is a consumer information website of the APTA (moveforwardpt.com) for the public and has excellent articles on physical conditions, prevention and benefits of PT that are useful for both patients and physical therapists. “PT in Motion” is the professional issues magazine of the APTA with articles that provide news on PT work related interests, ideas and issues. Find the full recent issue or archived issues through their website (http://www.apta.org/PTInMotion/).

An APTA membership is crucial to student life. Although our education promotes the most up-to-date practices and adheres to current legislation, once we graduate from school much of our knowledge will be a function of our own curiosity of the profession and our own individual habits of seeking information. We live in a time of social media reliance, so why not use social media to our advantage and make the habit of checking Facebook or Twitter into a productive habit that can last us years beyond graduation? This is when we can make that commitment to become lifelong learners and adapt to future changes in our profession. APTA membership offers just that.

Respectfully submitted by: Bel Erten, Student SIG Director
Government Affairs Report

There is still much speculation regarding how ACOs and other health care changes will impact our profession. We are constantly battling over reimbursement issues with payers and their requirements such as G-codes and other documentation requirements. Also, as health care changes occur, other professions will begin to expand their practices. We have two choices: sit on the sidelines and watch other professions/organizations shape the future of physical therapy or we continue to move forward by being strong politically. Now more than ever, we must continue to build strong relationships with our legislators to move forward with our legislative goals and to have our voices heard when key decisions are made regarding healthcare reform.

Building relationships can start small such as: inviting your legislators to your workplace, your district meetings, your PT Community Events, or visiting them at their office. This is a great opportunity to educate them about the physical therapy profession. End your visits with the suggestion that you would be happy to be a resource to them regarding legislative topics that impact physical therapy. It is very important that we visit with our legislators on various occasions, not just when we need a favor or their vote.

In order to further strengthen our legislative relationships and to become more organized, we have a much broader goal for the LPTA. We need strong relationships with as many state legislators as possible. We have improved our relationships with key committee members but now is the time to start setting our sights higher. We need Strong relationships with ALL State Legislators. In order to accomplish this, we are setting up a key contact list. Our goal is to match every state Legislator with a Key Contact.

The outline for the position is below. We are asking for you to be a key contact to your Legislator. Please contact office@lpta.org today and volunteer to be a part of the movement that continues to advocate for our patients and our livelihood.

- **Position Title:** Key Contact
- **Responsible To:** Lobbyist, Government Affairs Committee Chair, and Governmental Affairs District Liaisons
- **Program Goals:** One Key Contact will serve as a primary contact to their legislator (Senator or Representative). The Key Contact will establish valuable relationships with their legislators to increase the awareness of the key issues facing physical therapists and their patients.

- **Benefits to You:**
  - Have the opportunity to educate policymakers with respect to problems/challenges facing physical therapists and their patients.
  - Network with colleagues, their practices, and others.
  - Use your creativity to benefit the LPTA.
  - Develop relationships and contacts with state legislators.

- **Responsibilities:**
  - Stay abreast of the key state issues that impact the physical therapy profession.
  - Serve as a resource and grow your relationship with your legislator by contacting the appropriate staff at least three (3x) times per year on important key legislative issues and events.
  - Strive to meet in-person with your local legislator at least once per year.
  - Promptly and appropriately respond to all LPTA grassroots network alerts.
  - Strive to participate in one local meeting and/or attend/hold one local fundraiser per year.

- **Qualifications:**
  - Must be a member in good standing of the LPTA.
  - Must maintain a working e-mail address in the LPTA database.
  - Training and Supervision: The Lobbyist, Government Affairs Committee Chair, or Governmental Affairs District Liaisons will provide an orientation.

Respectfully submitted by: Cristina Faucheux, Government Affairs Chair
PT in Motion — News Now!

American Ninja Warrior, PT, DPT, OCS, MTC, FAAOMPT

Watching Todd Bourgeois, PT, DPT, OCS, MTC, FAAOMPT, artfully navigate the ramps, ropes, waving pods, and sliding curtain obstacles in his qualifying round on NBC TV’s "American Ninja Warrior," you half expect him to shoot webs out of his wrist, Spiderman-style. He’s that good.

But radioactive spider bites aren’t at work here. This is pure physical therapy power—well, there may also be some incredible athleticism involved, along with strategic brains and a powerful level of focus that you get the feeling he applies to everything he does. Bottom line: dude is intense.

Bourgeois, 31, is a lot of things—instructor at the University of St Augustine, PhD doctoral student, third-world mission leader—but, most notably for now, he’s in the running for title of American Ninja Warrior, a televised contest in which participants compete to make it through a series on insane obstacle courses in a series of regional competitions that lead to a national championship. Bourgeois qualified for the regionals in his last television appearance, and his regional performance is set to be broadcast on July 28.

This is Bourgeois’ second attempt at the contest. Last year, he didn't make it to regionals. "I was trying to go as fast as I could," he said. This year, he approached the course differently, taking care to achieve the right balance and timing to execute the moves he needed to get through the obstacles.

Bourgeois describes the shift as a tough one to make for someone who was a college pole vaulter then, later, winner of several "metro dash" events—compact, more urban-based obstacle races that are all about time. "I had to take a step back and use more skill and finesse than just muscle and brute strength," he said.

Bourgeois' performance in the qualifying round is even more impressive when you realize that he had just arrived back in Florida at 3:00 am that day after spending a week in Ecuador on a mission trip. This is the third such trip he's organized (the first 2 were to Nicaragua and Costa Rica) to bring physical therapy and occupational therapy to people in need.

The trips don't operate under a formal name. "I just put together a group of friends," he says, "mostly PTs and OTs. When we get there, everybody just starts doing their thing. We see about 250 people during the week that we're down there." The missions were featured in a short bio that accompanied his televised attempt on the "Warrior" course.

He says that his background as a physical therapist was instrumental in his success in the first round of the show. "The people on the show, a lot of them are athletes, professional stuntmen, own their own gyms," he said. "Some of them actually constructed these courses in their gyms to prepare. I had to use my knowledge of physical therapy to think about the movements involved, and I made small things to reproduce the motions I'd need to work on."

Back at the University of St Augustine, his students who got him interested in the show in the first place are cheering him on, as are his fellow faculty members. "We are very proud of Todd," said Wanda Nitsch, PT, PhD, president and chief academic officer of the university. "His focus on health and wellness, sportsmanship, service, and academics makes him a great example of our university core values and quality faculty."

The opportunity to make a statement for physical therapy is not lost on Bourgeois. "I really want to get people to join in, have fun, and engage in physical activities," he said. "It’s an honor to represent physical therapy on a national television show. Hopefully it's portraying an image of a profession that I'm proud of."

*Todd is originally from Louisiana!
Rise in Obesity More About Inactivity Than Caloric Intake

It’s no news that Americans have become more obese during the past 15 years, but a new study adds an interesting perspective—the dramatic gains may be almost entirely due to lack of physical activity, and not an increase in caloric intake.

In an article e-published ahead of print in the American Journal of Medicine (abstract only available for free), researchers examined data from National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) administered between 1988 and 2010. Much of what they discovered about rates of obesity, overweight, and abdominal obesity have been well-substantiated, but some twists to the story were uncovered when researchers looked at these data in terms of caloric intake and levels of physical activity.

What they found was that in comparing the 2 surveys, caloric intake "did not change significantly over time for women or men as a whole, or when stratified by race/ethnicity." On the other hand, they write, the number of Americans who reported engaging in no leisure-time physical activity tripled on average, from 15.3% to 47.6%. Authors believe the results lend more support to the Institute of Medicine's efforts to link physical activity to obesity reduction.

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Comparing the sexes, 51.7% of women reported engaging in no leisure-time physical activity, compared with 19.1% 15 years prior. Inactivity rates for men rose as dramatically, though not as high, from 11.4% to 43.5%.

During the same period, rates of obesity, overweight, and abdominal obesity (defined as waist circumference of 34 inches or more in women, and 40 inches or more in men) climbed, with women reporting more significant increases than men. Obesity prevalence in women increased from 24.9% to 35.4%, and rose from 19.9% to 34.6% in men.

"Average BMI, average waist circumference, the prevalence of abdominal obesity increased substantially over the past 2 decades in both women and men," authors write. "These changes have occurred in the context of substantial increases in the proportion of adults reporting no leisure-time physical activity, but in the absence of any significant population-level changes in average caloric intake."

Among other findings in the study:
- Over the past 2 decades, the average BMI in the US increased by .37% every year in both men and women.
- Average waist circumference increased for all groups, but for women was largest among non-Hispanic blacks. Non-Hispanic whites were the male group with the largest rate of increase.
- Among adults categorized as normal weight based on BMI, the rate of abdominal obesity increased significantly in women, from 9.6% to 13.8%.
- Among women and men, rates of inactivity were higher among non-Hispanic blacks and Mexican-Americans.

APTA strongly supports the promotion of physical activity and the value of physical fitness to prevent obesity, and has representatives on the board of the National Physical Activity Plan Alliance. The association offers several resources on obesity, including continuing education on childhood obesity, and a prevention and wellness webpage that links to podcasts on the harmful effects of inactivity.

From The House of Delegates: Help in Responding to “Productivity” Issues on Its Way

By this time next year, physical therapists (PTs) and physical therapists assistants (PTAs) may have a few more tools at their disposal when it comes to talking with employers and others about productivity and performance.

This year’s House of Delegates (House) voted overwhelmingly to identify and develop resources that will help PTs and PTAs negotiate successfully around productivity and performance in ways that ensure the provision of quality physical therapy care. The motion was approved during the 2014 session held June 9-11 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

According to the statement supporting the motion, the need for more analysis and tools has arisen in the face of a changing health care climate that has created "uncertainties" that have caused some employers to turn to "productivity" measures as the primary measure of PT and PTA performance. These productivity measures may not be realistic and generally do not reflect the value of PT care and the patient related outcomes of PT practice.

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CMS Criticized Over Rate of Improper Payment

A recently issued congressional report offers a grim assessment of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service's (CMS) attempts to curb improper payments, calling them largely ineffective "pay and chase policies" that provide no reason for recovery audit contractors (RACs) to stop improper payments before they happen. In fact, the bipartisan report (.pdf) from the Senate Special Committee on Aging argues that the RAC incentive structure "could be viewed as an incentive to keep improper payment rates high."

While other parts of the US government have dramatically reduced their rates of improper payments since 2010, the report states, CMS has experienced an increase, to just over 10% of the $604 billion spent in 2013, "the highest improper payment rate of the past 5 years."

The 43-page report states that while RACs were established to identify overpayments and underpayments, part of the mission of the contractors included "taking action to reduce future improper payments." The ways RACs are paid, however, provides contingency fees for the number of improper claims identified. These rates have ranged between 9% and 12.5%.

The committee regards Medicare administrative contractors (MACs) in a somewhat more favorable light, writing that MACs "have done a great deal to reduce improper payments, including implementing many local coverage decisions."

The committee findings, also subject of a recent report in Modern Healthcare, include an acknowledgement that CMS "does have a number of prepayment checks, or edits in the system which automatically deny payments that appear to be improper," and the agency "should be congratulated on the development of prepayment review systems like the National Correct Coding Initiative and Medically Unlikely Edits."

Committee staff recommendations include the establishment of financial incentives for the reduction of improper payment rates, rather than an exclusive focus on the identification of improper payments made. The recommendations also address the need for CMS to better define scopes and objectives of systems focused on improper payments, and to better educate providers on improper payments.

The report comes after a CMS report in late June that touted the use of predictive analytics in its Fraud Prevention System, which the agency claims prevented over $210 million in improper payments in 2013.

APTA has worked exhaustively with CMS officials to try to produce more effective review systems, by urging them to reduce administrative burden, improve communication among their contractors, focus their investigation and review on the highest risk cases, and minimize disruption to providers.

The association also is helping physical therapists and physical therapist assistants understand regulations and payment systems through its Integrity in Practice campaign that puts them in touch with tools and resources to promote evidence-based practice, ethics, and professionalism.
Innovative Physical Therapy Models Chosen For Further APTA Support

Following a rigorous review that included a "Shark Tank"-like workshop and critique in May, APTA has announced the finalists in its Innovation 2.0 initiative. Through the program, APTA will provide funding and in-kind services over a 12-month period to help advance these innovative models of care delivery that highlight the value of physical therapist services.

In return, APTA will be able to access model data that potentially helps the association develop and disseminate templates and other resources that enable members throughout the country to promote the impact of physical therapy in the emerging health care environment—a strategic priority of the association. "The health care environment is rapidly evolving with an emphasis being placed on collaborative care models that achieve the triple aim of improving health and outcomes and reducing costs," said APTA President Paul A. Rockar Jr, PT, DPT, MS. "Our finalists have demonstrated success in using new and collaborative models to achieve these goals, and we are proud to support them in their pursuit."

The competition, which began with 60 applicants, included such models as accountable care organizations (ACOs), bundled payment, direct access, patient-centered medical homes, prevention and health promotion, and value-based purchasing. A group of member experts assessed the final 16 submissions to choose the winning 3:

- Timothy Flynn, PT, PhD, OCS, FAAOMPT, Colorado Physical Therapy Specialists and Northern Colorado Individual Practice Association Inc (NCIPA), and Mountain and Plains ACO LLC, for "Facilitating Access Improving Care—Physical Therapists as Integral ACO Members"
- Robin Marcus, PT, PhD, OCS, University of Utah, for "Adding Value to Postacute Care Settings Through Evidence-Based Physical Therapy Services"
- Brian Wrotniak, PT, PhD, Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, for "Patient-Centered Medical Home: An Innovative Model for Childhood Obesity Prevention With the Physical Therapist as a Key Player to Improve Quality of Care and Reduce Costs"

APTA also gave "honorable recognition" to 2 additional models, which will receive a financial award:

- Craig Johnson, PT, MBA, Minnesota Physical Therapy Association, for "A New Model of Care in Workers' Compensation: Direct Access to Physical Therapist Services by Workers with Low Back Pain"
- Allison Orofino, PT, Marshall Medical Center, for "Integration of Physical Therapy in 90-Day Postacute Episodes of Care"
PTNow: Easier, Better, Faster, Stronger

Think PTNow.org has made it easier to use evidence in patient care? The PTNow Editorial Board has something to say about that: you ain’t seen nothin’ yet.

A July 29–31 meeting of the board brought together 22 board members representing acute care, cardiovascular and pulmonary, geriatrics, home health, neurology, oncology, orthopedics, pediatrics, sports, and women’s health with social media and video experts and APTA staff to assess PTNow’s progress and look to the future. PTNow cochairs Judy Deutsch, PT, PhD, FAPTA, and Tara Jo Manal, PT, DPT, OCS, SCS, led discussions and breakout sessions geared toward finding the best and quickest way to help clinicians apply evidence and improve patient and client outcomes.

In an APTA video dispatch, Deutsch highlighted major developments over the past year, including integration of APTA’s Open Door service, now known as PTNowArticleSearch, into the PTNow site for seamless access to full-text articles in a variety of literature databases; launch of PTNow’s blog, including features such as "All Evidence Considered," with a primary goal of talking about what to do when evidence is weak or doesn’t exist; and launch of CPG+ (see CPG+ torticollis guidelines for an example), a translation aid that provides highlights of clinical practice guidelines and guidance about what changes clinicians can make immediately based on a guideline.

According to Deutsch, PTNow users can look forward to more enhancements over the next year, including increased resources on intervention. "That’s one of the areas where PTs probably want the most help," she said. "We’re going to synthesize information about intervention and animate it with videos. Our video repertoire is going to be much richer."

In addition, Deutsch said, education and outreach efforts will "explode in terms of mini-sessions on the site and targeted presentations to all kinds of audiences—clinicians, educators, and even clinicians in training, [who] are our students."

When it comes to reactions to PTNow, "people can’t believe that this resource exists," Deutsch said. "People are finding the synthesis products to be very relevant to their practice. They’re excited about it, and they always give us suggestions for improving it, and that’s exactly what we are doing—we’re dynamically trying to change and respond."

APTA Opposes UnitedHealthcare’s Plan to Use Functional Reporting Requirements

APTA is urging that UnitedHealthcare (UHC) stop its plan to implement Medicare outpatient therapy functional reporting code requirements in its Medicare Advantage plans.

UHC announced its decision to implement functional limitation reporting in their May bulletin (.pdf, p.46). The company plans to require G-codes and severity/complexity modifiers on contracted physical therapist (PT) claims with dates of service on or after August 1, 2014. Claims that do not include the appropriate G-code and modifiers will be rejected.

In its letter to UHC, APTA argues that the difficulties experienced by PTs during Medicare's changeover to the requirements, as well as limitations in data, make UHC's planned August 1 move ill- advised.

APTA has its own functional limitation reporting webpage that provides resources to help members meet this reporting requirement.
Deal on VA Includes Money for More Providers, New Facilities

After weeks of appearing to be another victim of a gridlocked Congress, a bill to improve access to health care in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system is now poised for a vote in both chambers. Called the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, the compromise bill was reached by leaders of the Senate and House veterans affairs committees, and was developed in response to news early this year of lengthy wait times—and alleged administrative efforts to cover up those waits—for patients in the VA system. The issue sparked congressional hearings and ultimately led to the resignation of then-VA head Eric Shinseki, but legislative efforts to address the problem seemed to stall as the summer wore on.

The $17 billion deal includes:

- A $5 billion allocation to hire more health care providers with the largest staffing shortages
- Authorization for the VA to lease 27 new major medical facilities
- An option for veterans to use a Medicare provider, a federally qualified health center, or a Department of Defense or Indian Health Service facility if the wait for or distance to treatment is too long
- An extension of the Health Professionals Educational Assistance Program that helps medical professionals through scholarships, tuition reimbursement, and debt reduction
- Additional authority for the VA secretary to fire or demote employees for mismanagement

The deal is paid for in part through $5 billion in spending cuts in the agency, with the remainder of the price tag to be considered emergency mandatory spending that would add to the deficit—a problem for some Republicans in Congress. Spending cuts include a ban on performance bonuses in the agency through 2016, and an August 1 deadline for veterans to opt into the private care alternative.

Reports on the compromise from the New York Times, Politico, CNN, and other outlets described the legislation as having wide support, but not necessarily guaranteed success.

Log N’ Blog Results!

The second annual Log N’ Blog competition came to a close on July 31st, 2014. Log N' Blog is a nationwide fundraising initiative, created and run by PT students and supported by the Foundation for Physical Therapy. It aims to promote physical activity and raise money for PT research while encouraging friendly competition between PT and PTA schools. This year there were some changes made to the activity logging options that suggests Log N’ Blog will continue to grow and improve every year. Log N’ Blog allows participants to keep track of their miles spent swimming, biking, running, and hours spent in fitness activities. A general fitness category was added so that members could log in any type of physical activity that didn’t fit into the running, swimming or biking categories. Other new options included the ability to go back into previous days to back log, and the availability of logging hours instead of just miles.

The results of Log N’ Blog show that the Louisiana community participated and performed well, for LSU HSC - New Orleans PT School is listed in the “Top 5 Teams“. LSU HSC - New Orleans raised $1,040 as a 32 member team. Congratulations to Neil Delude, Kassy Drouant, Carol Eason, Dr. Jane Eason and Julia Heflin for being the top five Log N’ Blog fundraisers in Louisiana. Top performing teams and individuals will be recognized with a special certificate from the Foundation of Physical Therapy. Additionally, Log N’ Blog total results show that most of the miles logged were biked, followed by running and then swimming. Louisiana will continue to increase Log N’ Blog membership and fundraising next year, and strive for our goal of reaching $3,000 as a 100 member team.
2014 Fall Meeting

Registration:
- Registration is now available online! Go to www.lpta.org and follow the links to the online registration system. Register early to receive the discounted early bird registration rate. Cancellations may be made through August 25, 2014 without penalty; after August 25, a $50.00 cancellation fee will apply up to 48 hours prior to the meeting, after which all fees are forfeit.
- Exhibit hall passes do not include drink tickets for the welcome reception or a luncheon ticket. Drink tickets can be purchased at the registration desk. Although provisions will be made for unregistered members to attend the business meeting, lunch on Saturday will be served only to registrants and to those who purchased a lunch ticket.

Eligibility:
- Physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, PT students, PTA students, Athletic Trainers, other licensed healthcare professionals, and PT office staff.

Business Meeting and Lunch:
- The business meeting and luncheon will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 12:30-2:00pm. The purpose of this meeting is to inform you of the accomplishments the LPTA has made over the past year and the future direction of the LPTA. Election results will be announced! The LTPA membership will also vote on Bylaw revisions at the Fall Meeting. Awards will be presented instead on Friday, September 19, 2014 before the Welcome Reception.

Dress Attire:
- To help promote the Physical Therapy community as a doctoring profession and as independent practitioners, we are asking all attendees to dress in business casual attire for this weekend’s courses.
- Suggested attire includes: collared shirts, blouses, casual pants or jeans in good condition with appropriate shoes or sandals. T-shirts, scrubs, shorts, and flip-flops are discouraged.
- Thank you for joining the LPTA as we MOVE FORWARD!

Chief Delegate Report (brought to you by your President)

I was honored and humbled to serve as Chief Delegate at this year’s House of Delegates in Charlotte, NC June 8-11. All of the Louisiana Chapter’s delegates were female, and if it weren’t for Jason Oliver, PTA Caucus Rep, we would have had no protection! Serving as Chief for this year only gave me a great deal of admiration for our Chief David Qualls, as serving as Chief Delegate requires a great deal of time, organization, and focus.

There were fewer motions before the House this year, but the depth of the conversation on each motion was richer than in past years. Please remain aware that APTA’s BOD must approve the minutes of the House at their Sept. 5th meeting, but here were some highlights of the House:
- RC 5-14 and 6-14: Adds “gender expression and gender identity” to the list of attributes that should not cause discrimination by the APTA or in providing physical therapy services. Passed on consent.
- RC 7-14: Amends current position to state, “Physical therapists are entry-point providers into the healthcare system.” Passed.

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• RC 8-14: Creates an APTA position that telehealth is an appropriate model of service delivery for the profession of physical therapy when provided in a manner consistent with other existing APTA documents. Passed on consent.

• RC 9-14: Pursuit of DPT as the Regulatory Designation to begin by the year 2025. This was adopted but needs some explanation. This is not about the individual, but about the profession as a whole. It is projected that by the year 2025, 85% of licensed physical therapists will have earned the DPT. Each state must work legislatively to update their Practice Acts, and this push will begin across the country in 2025. This gives stakeholders time to prepare states. There is no plan to require going back to school, nor is the intent of this motion to put to pasture those who earned BS PT or MPT. It is simply a regulatory designation change. Passed.

• RC 10-14: Updates and combines APTA positions related to licensure of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants as well as rescinds APTA positions that were incorporated into this new position. Passed.

• RC 11-14: Membership Value for the PTA. This motion got the House discussing something that APTA’s Board of Directors will bring to the House in 2015. Passed.

• RC 12-14: Adopt: Promoting Excellence in Physical Therapy Education.

• RC 13-14: Best Practices in Physical Therapy Clinical Education.

• These 2 motions were adopted and will charge the Board to look at ways to take a close look at physical therapy education and clinical education. Passed.

• RC 14-14: Creates an APTA position to define underrepresented minorities in physical therapy education. Passed on consent.

• RC 15-14: Membership Retention of Early Career Individuals. This was brought by the Student Assembly for APTA to continue to focus on how to increase recruitment and retention of early career individuals. Passed.

• RC 16-14: Pertains to PT productivity standards. This motion charges APTA’s BOD to identify and develop resources that equip PTs and PTAs to negotiate successfully in establishing an agreed-up conceptual framework of productivity and performance that ensures the provision of quality physical therapy care with a report to the 2015 House. Passed.

• RC 17-14: Created a position that the APTA supports consumer access to mobility status certification by inclusion of physical therapists as able to make such determinations. This passed, and did you know that Louisiana is the only state that has such legislative language already intact?

• RC 18-14: Creates a position that the APTA endorses the 4 Interprofessional Education Collaborative Core Competency domains and their respective general competency statement. APTA and its members will endeavor to integrate these IPEC core competencies into practice and education initiatives, where feasible. Passed on consent.

• RC 23-14: Creates an APTA position that, “the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) positions, standards, guidelines, policies, and procedures are intended to communicate best practice for physical therapist practice. Acknowledging that these APTA documents are and should be used to inform state practice acts, these documents are not intended to limit the development of innovative approaches to physical therapist practice in the evolving health care system.” Passed.

If you have any questions about the motions, please do not hesitate to contact any of your Delegates: Jane Eason, Allison Daly, Ashley Henk, Kinta LeBlanc, Beth Ward. Amelia Leonardi was our Alternate Delegate, Jason Oliver is our PTA Caucus Rep, and Stephanie Todd was the Student Companion Delegate.

Respectfully submitted by: Beth Ward, standing in as Chief Delegate
Student Opinion

I spent part of my vacation this summer in the New York metro area where my family lives. Fresh from an eight week clinical experience and my first three semesters of physical therapy school before that, this summer felt different from any of my previous summers. During a family reunion my uncle asked me about his sciatica, my mother mentioned her neck spasms and my brother complained about his back. I made an effort to provide them with science based explanations, suggest some stretches and remind them that I was still just a student... but I found that I had taken on a new role in my family as ‘budding PT’.

I inadvertently took on this role when wandering New York City as well and watched the activity around me through a PT’s eyes. I watched countless runners pound the pavement of 3rd avenue and hoped the concrete would be forgiving on their knees. I felt my heart react to the flights of stairs I ran up or down trying to catch the next subway train. Attempting to not fall on a moving subway train was a true test of balance; as the train thrashed around and jerked unexpectedly I fought to keep myself upright. An environment such as New York City demands a lifestyle where activity is a necessity. Whether you want a slice of thin crust New York pizza or a view of Central Park, everything in Manhattan involves a walk. It markedly contrasts to most American towns and smaller cities where active lifestyles have to be created. Where I live, bike lanes have sprung up, biking grows in popularity, and bus lines provide the bulk of the public transit system. Yet my city tends to be spread out and heavily reliant on vehicle transportation. The Louisiana lifestyle I experience requires effort to incorporate physical activity into it in a natural way. I need a car to arrive at the majority of my destinations and there is often no way of getting around that. If I feel this way, my future physical therapy patients living in Louisiana feel this way too.

My time in New York City has made me consider the link between geographic location and the conditions PTs treat. Separate geographic locations contain populations that vary in their daily behaviors, which lead to increases in certain conditions over others. Ultimately, a location helps mold the overall health status of entire populations in ways that people might not be aware of. Living environment and lifestyle are linked and the two factors must be addressed when considering how to improve a patients’ overall health status. This simply implies that we have to be even better motivators and physical therapists, despite the struggles presented by our environment.

Respectfully submitted by: Bel Erten, Student SIG Director

PT-PAC!

Based on a recent survey put out by the APTA, 77% of our colleagues said they would be willing to contribute $20 ever year to help pass our legislative priorities in Congress! Support the PT-PAC’s $20 campaign — your profession and patients are worth it!

Get more traction with your $20 action!
LPTA’s Fittest Legislator(s)

Senator Barrow Peacock won the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association’s “Fittest Legislator” Award during the 2014 session by taking the most steps in a week.

Peacock walked 116,444 steps from April 3-9 as recorded on the pedometer provided by the LPTA. For this achievement, the LPTA awarded Peacock $1,000 to donate to the recreation center or centers of his choice.

Peacock chose to give $500 to the Shady Grove Recreation Center, 3949 Wayne in Bossier City, and $500 to Valencia Park Community Center, 1800 Viking Drive in Shreveport. He presented the check at Valencia at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 10, and the ceremony in Bossier City followed.

Shady Grove will use the money for a resistance chair exercise system, said Clay Bohanon, Bossier Department of Parks and Recreation director. Shalon Lewis, recreation manager at Valencia Park, said the $500 will be used to buy copies of The Race: Life’s Greatest Lesson by Dr. Dee Groberg and sport balls. The poem encourages a boy in a race who falls down to get back up.

Beth Ward, PT, DPT, president of LPTA, states, “We are thrilled that Senator Peacock has won this award and that our monies are going to parks in the Shreveport/Bossier area to promote fitness.”

Peacock obtained money that is enrolled in capital outlay funding for South Bossier Park and Valencia Park during the past Legislative session. The Valencia money is for planning and construction of a spray park. Money is also allotted for construction of new pavilions at the Bossier park.

In addition to Senator Peacock, we had another equally fit legislator in Senator Mike Walsworth! He will present his award to elementary schools in the Monroe area in September! Stay tuned for coverage of that event!

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 purple box with the words “Donate Now”. Choose the amount of the donation and choose the designated fund, the Dave Pariser Memorial Scholarship Fund.

http://www.lsuhealthfoundation.org/?dt=1360008523433

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
Treasurer’s Report

The LPTA Finance Committee met Saturday morning, July 12th in Baton Rouge. It was a very productive meeting, and from it we hammered out the 2015 budget. We brought the proposed budget to the Executive Committee that same afternoon. The budget will go to the full board at the Fall meeting and then to the membership at the Business meeting. Our 2015 budget contains many important initiatives. We will continue to ensure that our Chapter remains strong financially through robust and lean times.

The financial strength of our Chapter rests with each member. The majority of our revenue comes from registration at the Spring and Fall Chapter meetings. We strive to bring top name speakers to our meetings who in turn provide the most current information we need to be better clinicians. Another key area of financial support is through our vendors participating at our meetings. Each of you has vendors you work with. Encourage them to be part of our spring and fall meetings as exhibitors and sponsors. Finally, encouraging your non-member friends and colleagues to join the APTA/LPTA is key to continue to be a strong and active voice for all physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

Respectfully submitted by: Judith Halverson, LPTA Treasurer