

## President's Message

Ahhhh, summer! Kids out of school, water activities, cook outs, gardening. It's a season that is a little more relaxed in a lot of ways, and I hope your summer has gotten off to a great start. Welcome to the new classes of students just beginning their training. And congratulations to all those brand new PT's and PTA's who recently graduated from programs across the state. You are well prepared by your faculty and clinical instructors to serve your patients.

The 2014 Legislative Session ended on June 2, 2014 and LPTA has been following bills of interest for you as members. A special thanks goes to Cristina Faucheux, LPTA's Governmental Affairs Chair, who has worked tirelessly in her volunteer capacity to ensure our safety as a profession. I think she has been at the Capitol more than some of the legislators! In tandem with Cristina, David Tatman and his group have kept on top of things for us. There has also been good collaboration with the LaPT Board on certain legislative issues. Thanks to all who assisted during this session. It is always the busiest time of year for LPTA.

It's awards time!! Please look in this issue at the criteria for awards, and carefully consider nominating someone you feel fits those criteria and is deserving of one of the many LPTA awards. Don't you know a PTA who goes above and beyond? How about a seasoned therapist who would be honored to receive LPTA's Hall of Fame Award? There are many others; please take a look! These nominations need to be in by July 1, because Executive Committee meets on July 12 to decide the winners. And remember, we are mixing things up a bit at Fall Meeting in September as we are presenting awards on that Friday evening just prior to the celebration reception.



Written by: Beth Ward, PT, DPT

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## APTA Membership Perks for Students

Being a member of the APTA means staying in the loop with all the opportunities available to students! Learn more about this year's National Student Conclave (NSC) now by checking out the website. This year the NSC will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin during October 30-November 1, 2014. With an APTA membership, students can enter the "Current Students" section of APTA website, look under "Student Activities & Events" to find a link to the National Student Conclave. To go directly to the website, search "[www.apta.org/nsc/](http://www.apta.org/nsc/)". Find information on rates, registration, housing, and travel on the website and start thinking early about making the event. Some benefits to attending include customized learning where you can attend the sessions you are interested in, and meet hundreds of fellow students, employers, publishers and APTA leaders.

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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 732

### Life Members

Current 31

### Students

Current 271

### PTAs

Current 85

### Total

Current 1,088

**What's that?! You're not an LPTA member? I can't even right now!**



## 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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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2014

June 9-11, 2014

House of Delegates  
Charlotte, NC

Charlotte Convention Center

June 11-14, 2014

NEXT!

Charlotte, NC

Charlotte Convention Center

September 13-15, 2014

State Policy & Payment Forum  
Seattle, WA

Grand Hyatt Seattle

September 19-21, 2014

LPTA Fall State Meeting  
Baton Rouge, LA  
Crowne Plaza

October 30—November 1, 2014

National Student Conclave  
Milwaukee, WI

### **NEXT (formerly known as ANNUAL CONFERENCE and EXPOSITION)**

Say goodbye to "Annual Conference and Exposition." Say hello to NEXT! Starting in 2014, APTA's annual June conference will have a new name and a new attitude. It's a name change, but it's more than that it's commitment to making APTA's June conference about looking into the future of physical therapy. "NEXT" isn't an abbreviation, but it does stand for something: It's a name thematic of where this conference and the profession are headed. Like all those "PT" conferences before it, NEXT will continue to offer the visionary McMillan and Maley lectures and the lively Oxford Debate. It will still provide an intimacy to networking that can be a challenge at CSM. It will still occur immediately following APTA's House of Delegates. And it will look to build on the energy of 2013's opening event.

But NEXT will also be a conference that evolves over time, in exciting and engaging fashion. This is your chance to be there for the start of it all! Plan to join us June 11-14, 2014, for the first NEXT conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.



### **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!

## **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

# Component Wrap Up!



**Amelia Leonardi, Nominating Committee Chair**

CALL for NOMINATIONS!

Is it time for YOU to become more involved in the LPTA??? NOW is the TIME !!!  
The LPTA Nominations Committee is recruiting and accepting nominations for the following positions to be elected at the fall meeting: President, Secretary, Nominations Chair-elect, Governmental Affairs Chair, and Delegate. If you would like to discuss the job description and function of either of these positions, please feel free to contact me. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please feel free to contact me. There's no time like the present to become more active and contribute to your professional association!!



**Danielle Morris, Baton Rouge District Chair**

Baton Rouge district members actively participate in legislative activities and continue to build relationships within the community. They advocate for key issues that Impact our profession.



**Gail Pearce, Bylaws Chair**

**Where Does it Say That?** Did you know that the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association (LPTA) has an Ethics Committee? See your LPTA Bylaws ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES, Section 2. Ethics Committee. This is a standing committee that does not require District representation. The members are appointed by the Executive Committee of the Chapter.

In the event that a written complaint alleging a violation of the ethical principles and standards of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) is sent to this committee, they have the obligation to act on the complaint. The Committee can act only if the person in question is a member of the APTA.

However, did you know that the Louisiana Practice Act holds all physical therapists and physical therapist assistants accountable to the APTA Code of Ethics? I advise you to read **Subchapter D. Disciplinary Proceedings; Paragraph 345. Unprofessional Conduct, B.** of the Louisiana Practice Act. Please also read **Subchapter D. Disciplinary Proceedings; Paragraph 377, Initiation of Complaints.** This paragraph indicates that a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant is "obligated to report" any violations of the Code of Ethics and related documents of the APTA.

Know your professional responsibilities as a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant practicing in Louisiana.



### **Claire Melebeck, New Orleans District Co-chair**

The New Orleans District had their first meeting under the (new) leadership of co-chairs Claire Melebeck and Allison Daly. Topics of discussion were goals for the upcoming year and ways to provide an understanding of what physical therapy is to the great patrons of our NOLA community. We will be having a PT Pub Night in July so please be on the lookout for emails and Facebook updates!



### **Julie Harris, Shreveport District Chair**

The Shreveport District is hosting it's second PT pub night at Great Raft Brewing at 1251 Dalzell St Shreveport, 71103. The date is set on June 19th at 6 pm and all PT's, PTA's and students are invited to this wonderful gathering. We had 70 people show up to the first event and we hope to have the same turnout this time around. We will send out a reminder on email and our profile will be updated on Facebook so we can stay connected. Again the purpose of this event is to allow all works of physical therapy gather to share ideas, form relationships, and to promote LPTA membership with a drink in our hand. Hope to see you there!

## **Patient's Perspective**

Hi, I am a 39 year old female who has been diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and rheumatoid arthritis since age 30. Following this diagnosis, everything changed. I use to have an active lifestyle which included routine exercise, enjoying family outings, and working a full-time job. I enjoyed giving back to my community by volunteering to feed the homeless and working with children who were abused and neglected. Unfortunately, all of this ceased subsequent to this horrible ailment. As a result of SLE and rheumatoid arthritis, I could no longer exercise, walk or stand for more than 5-10 minutes at a time, and I developed extreme back, neck, and joint pain. As well, my endurance declined, causing me to lay down throughout the day. Ultimately, I could no longer work and do the things I most enjoyed.

April 2014, I received another dreadful diagnosis, fibromyalgia. I believed life was over for me. My body felt like an 80 year old woman. My primary care physician suggested that I attend physical therapy (PT). Though I was hesitant, I realized I made the best decision of my life. My life has changed tremendously. I have learned exercises to assist with strengthening my back and neck muscles. My stamina has improved. Now, I am able to do more household tasks than I have in years. I can sit up for hours before I have to lay down. I am able to participate in family outings without feeling overly drained. I don't experience pain as I did before. Most importantly, I am regaining my durability and I am now able to exercise by walking at least 30 minutes at a time. Again, physical therapy has made a positive impact on my life and I advise anyone dealing with chronic pain to give it a try.

Sincerely, A Blessed Client

## PT in Motion — News Now!

### APTA Participates in White House Concussion Summit

Need confirmation of physical therapy's role in education, prevention and treatment of concussion in youth sports? Would an invitation from the White House do?

APTA President Paul A. Rockar Jr, PT, DPT, MS, and APTA staff were on hand for a May 29 gathering at the East Wing of the White House during which President Barack Obama announced new public and private sector commitments to increase awareness of concussions in youth sports, and to encourage more research into the topic. APTA was among the groups invited to attend the event.

The association has a long history of support for concussion education and research, and shared its "planned commitment to action" with the White House and summit attendees. That commitment includes member education; the development of multi-disciplinary treatment standards; interprofessional collaboration to raise awareness; the development of new prevention, identification, and rehabilitation tools; and the creation and dissemination of concussion-related resources for parents and coaches.

APTA has also advocated for policy changes and guidelines on the state and federal level, and has worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the issue of concussions. Two APTA members serve on the CDC Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury Guideline Workgroup.

"Physical therapists provide a unique contribution to the concussion care management team, particularly in the areas of balance and vestibular evaluation and rehabilitation," said Rockar in an APTA news release. "We continue our commitment to research, education, prevention, education, and treatment. We are honored today to be invited by the White House to participate in this summit and look forward to future work with other stakeholders involved in addressing this important issue."

### Move Forward Radio Calls for Patient Stories

Physical therapists watch incredible patient success stories unfold every day. Now it's time to share those stories with a wider audience.

APTA is seeking current or former physical therapy patients and clients to share their stories for upcoming episodes of Move Forward Radio, APTA's official consumer-oriented radio show and podcast.

Do you know of an inspirational physical therapy success story? E-mail Katie Kissalwith basic details of the patient's condition and age during treatment, as well as a brief description of the patient's story (the patient's condition before physical therapy and afterward). Do not include in the e-mail your patient's name or any other identifiable information that would violate HIPAA's patient privacy protections.

In the past, Move Forward Radio has shared the stories of a school teacher who found relief through dry needling, a dentist who reduced his dependency on pain medication for arthritis of the neck, and a personal trainer who learned to run again after nearly losing her foot in a water skiing accident, among others. Current LPGA star Natalie Gulbis and former NFL lineman Don Davey also discussed their experiences with physical therapy.

If your suggested patient story is selected, APTA staff will contact you to arrange an interview with you and your patient. The story may also be used for a print version of "Patient Stories," also featured on MoveForwardPT.com.

Move Forward Radio airs approximately twice a month. Episodes are featured and archived at MoveForwardPT.com, APTA's official consumer information website, and can be streamed online via Blog Talk Radio or downloaded as podcasts via iTunes.

## **UnitedHealthcare Announces FLR Requirements Starting August 1**

UnitedHealthcare announced in its [May bulletin](#) that the Medicare outpatient therapy functional reporting requirement would apply to UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plans beginning August 1 (the announcement can be found on page 46 of the bulletin).

G-codes and severity/complexity modifiers will be required on contracted physical therapist 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.

APTA offers a [functional limitation reporting webpage](#) that provides resources to help members meet this reporting requirement.

## **WHPA: To Grow Worldwide, Professional Regulation Needs to Be Responsive**

As health care professional regulation's prominence increases worldwide, regulatory models will need to develop in ways that are sensitive to regional differences and changes in the overall health care landscape. That was the challenge presented to physical therapists (PTs), physicians, nurses, dentists, and pharmacists at a recent international conference sponsored by the World Health Professions Alliance.

While attendees to the May 17–18 conference in Geneva, Switzerland, stressed the importance of diverse approaches to individual regulatory frameworks, the WHPA members also agreed that the shared goals of professional regulation should be "person-centered, involving patient care, patient rights, and patient safety," and should "take into account social and economic welfare and professional practice," according to a WHPA press release.

"It is clear that there is no single model for a good regulatory system," said Marilyn Moffatt PT, DPT, PhD, GCS, FAPTA, president of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT), "but all should ensure that physical therapists and other health professionals provide safe and competent services. Regulatory bodies also need to understand the day-to-day realities of the health professions they are seeking to regulate."

The WHPA conference on regulation was held immediately preceding the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Health Assembly in Geneva. APTA is a member of WCPT.

## **VA Will Use More Private Care to Reduce Delays**

In an effort to respond to criticism that the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has subjected veterans to excessive and potentially deadly waits for care, the VA has announced that it will increase veteran access to private hospitals and clinics.

As reported in the [Los Angeles Times](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Washington Post](#), and other media outlets, the May 24 announcement from VA Secretary Eric Shinseki stated that VA centers are enhancing capacity wherever possible, and that in areas where expansion isn't an option, the agency will increase use of non-VA care.

In 2013, about 10% of the department's spending—\$4.8 billion—was for non-VA care. The recent announcement did not include cost estimates for the increase in use.

Critics of the VA say that delays in care have become excessive, that the delays themselves were covered up, and that in some cases patients died while waiting for care. An initial review has not revealed an instance in which a delay resulted in a patient's death, according to the VA.

## FLR Processing Fixes May Decrease Rejections

The US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has implemented several fixes that should decrease the number of rejections in the processing of functional limitation reporting (FLR) claims. APTA became aware of claims processing errors and delays in payment soon after the FLR system was implemented, and has worked extensively with APTA members and Medicare officials over the last several months to resolve these issues.

According to CMS, accurately submitted FLR claims should process in the typical 14-day timeframe, and FLR claims with errors should now reject quickly from the system. Providers can then resubmit previously rejected FLR claims once their most recent FLR claims are processing normally. The fixes apply to claims submitted on or after May 6, 2014.

In [correspondence with CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner \(.pdf\)](#), APTA requested that CMS "take immediate action to remedy this situation and ensure that the financial burden caused by the FLR claims processing problems do not hinder patient access to care." APTA offers multiple resources on FLR reporting at its [FLR webpage](#).

## APTA Partners in "Choosing Wisely Campaign"

The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Foundation has announced that APTA will be among the first 3 nonphysician provider organizations to partner later this year in a high-profile national campaign to educate consumers on making informed health care choices. APTA will prepare to join the "Choosing Wisely" initiative by surveying members to refine a list of the top 5 physical therapy tests and procedures that may be unnecessary under certain circumstances.

The association will join the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Nursing as the first nonphysician provider organizations to be included in Choosing Wisely, a campaign centered around [lists of procedures \(.pdf\)](#) that tend to be done frequently, yet whose usefulness is called into question by evidence. *Consumer Reports* is partnering with the ABIM Foundation to promote the campaign and helped to create a [video describing the effort](#). According to a press release from the ABIM Foundation, "*Consumer Reports* will also work with each organization to develop patient-friendly materials based on their lists."

"Care that is best for the patient has always been a priority for APTA," said APTA President **Paul A. Rockar, PT, DPT, MS**. "This is why we have chosen to join the Choosing Wisely effort. Choosing Wisely perfectly addresses the patient's role in good health care, and there couldn't be a better fit for what we're trying to achieve with our [Integrity in Practice Initiative](#)," a broad effort to eliminate fraud, abuse, and waste from health care and strengthen the good reputation of physical therapy. The effort is the subject of a [feature article \(members-only access\)](#) in the February issue of *PT in Motion*.

APTA's efforts to create its Choosing Wisely list are already under way. In March, the association called for input from members and received more than 200 suggestions for possible inclusion. APTA will convene an expert panel to review and rate all member submissions and create a list of approximately 10 potential items that will be narrowed down to 5 by way of an all-member survey. The top 5 questioned procedures will then go to the APTA Board of Directors before being submitted to the ABIM Foundation for final approval.

"APTA is committed to taking the lead in promoting transparency and education of patients and health care providers for a better and more streamlined health care system," Rockar said. "A well-informed patient is a well-treated patient. We are extremely pleased to be joining this outstanding project."

## New AGPT State Advocate Appointed for Louisiana

We are pleased to announce that Jeff Paddock, PT, MPT, MBA, CSCS, CEEAA will be taking over the reins as the State Advocate for the Louisiana chapter of the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy (formerly the APTA Section on Geriatrics). A 2005 graduate of LSUHSC—New Orleans, Jeff currently works with rehab teams in skilled nursing facilities across Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas to install specialized clinical programs such as Fall Prevention, Continence Improvement, and Pain Management.

Jeff will have a booth set up at the 2014 LPTA Fall Meeting to provide more information on the benefits of AGPT membership, organizing GCS study groups, and the APTA's Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults (CEEAA) program. In the meantime, please feel free to contact Jeff at [jpaddock@hanger.com](mailto:jpaddock@hanger.com) for more information.



## Wikipedia Medical Information Popular But Often Wrong

When it comes to medical information, Wikipedia's popularity may be exceeded only by its inaccuracy.

A new study has found that among Wikipedia entries on the most costly conditions, 90% contained errors—a problem made even more troubling given the website's popularity generally, and the fact that 47% to 70% of physicians and medical students admit to using it as a reference.

In the May issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* ([.pdf](#)), authors of the study write that "most Wikipedia articles on the 10 most costly conditions in the United States contained assertions that are inconsistent with peer-reviewed sources," and that "these assertions on Wikipedia represent factual errors."

For the study, authors identified Wikipedia articles addressing heart disease, cancer, mental disorders, trauma-related disorders (concussion), osteoarthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hypertension, diabetes, back problems, and hyperlipidemia. Two reviewers—internal medicine residents or rotating interns—then read each article, identified all assertions made in the article, and verified the accuracy of the assertion by finding concordance in peer-reviewed resources.

In the end, reviewers identified "statistically significant discordance" between the Wikipedia articles and the peer-reviewed sources in all areas except concussion. Authors were unsure why the concussion entry withstood scrutiny, other than to speculate on the possibility that "the contributors to this particular article were more expert."

In an [editorial \(.pdf\)](#) accompanying the article, Lori Fitterling, MLS, reference librarian for the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, writes that the study "adds credence to the message librarians have heralded: medical professionals should be educated about and engaged in the critical analysis of online information. In other words, information literacy should provide a basis for evidence-based practice."

"Would I want my physician to consult Wikipedia about my condition? No," Fitterling writes. "Physicians and medical students, spend your time consulting a credible, peer-reviewed, evidence-based resource. And if you do not know how to do this, let your reference librarian teach you."

APTA is actively engaged in building the infrastructure that can connect physical therapists (PTs) and physical therapist assistants (PTAs) with accurate peer-reviewed information to inform evidence-based practice through its [PTNow](#) website. Additionally, the association offers the extensive—and recently revamped—[MoveForwardPT.com](#) website that provides timely and accurate health information to consumers.

## Student Speak

I asked an incoming first year physical therapy (PT) student why she chose PT. Her reply was one I have heard many times before from other students and one I have even recited myself. Among several reasons, the one that stands out, “the stability – I am pretty much guaranteed a job.” It seems like all students enter PT school with that same sense of optimism regarding PT’s secure placement in the world of healthcare. PT students are confident that the path they are embarking on is a stable one where their financial status is pleasantly predictable and their growth as professionals practically guaranteed. Why should new PT students feel any differently? They know they will hold a doctorate level professional degree in a field where employment rates and professional demand are projected to be on the way up for years to come. Mindy Le, a second year PT student commented, “I strongly believe PT plays a big role in healthcare that can’t be represented by any other profession, making it a necessity”. Most patients who have benefitted from PT would agree.

The previous statement of PT as a necessity raises an important question of how important, distinct and well-recognized PT services are perceived by others outside the PT community. One issue that has been a surprise to learn since entering PT school concerns something I will refer to as the turf war, or PT’s efforts to conserve and protect their profession from others. This turf war stems from the nature of PT’s evolution from a group of ‘reconstruction aides’ in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to the DPTs of today. Our education and areas of certification have enabled us to treat a wide array of conditions with increasingly sophisticated expertise. Whether or not other healthcare professionals and patients are completely aware of the depth of PT practice today is another matter and their lack of awareness is evident from some of the opposition the PT profession has faced from physicians or chiropractors regarding PT practices, like dry needling or spinal manipulations.

As our field of practice expands we have had to defend our competence ever more. Aaron Souvinette, Chairman of the LPTA SSIG and LSUHSC PT student wonders, “How many dentists know we can intervene with TMJ? How many neurologists know we can intervene with vertigo? If anything, it is the lack of knowledge base by the community as a whole that concerns me.” This is not to say that PTs aren’t also monitoring the practices of others felt to be impinging on our services. We are learning that we have to be aware of places claiming to provide PT services without a PTA or PT on staff. Another growing concern lies with athletic trainers (ATs), for the definition of the AT client can be uncomfortably close to that of a PT patient. Without question the primary purpose driving these battle lines is protection of the patient—ultimately we are all fighting to preserve their safety and quality of care. Still, we need to be honest with ourselves. It’s quite transparent that there’s a corollary economic motivation to secure our proficiency and exclusivity in providing PT services.

Maintaining a clear, distinguishing definition of a PT is very important but I cannot help but feel that some overlap is unavoidable. The APTA clarifies, “It is inappropriate for one profession to attempt to ‘own’ a specific technique or dictate clinical practice through such legislation.” A majority of the practices of PT sprung from, borrowed or were influenced by other fields. Therefore PTs should primarily target their efforts on getting the word out to others that not only do we provide certain services but we are trained to provide those services safely, a key difference. As students we also need to envision a future where we play a role in increasing public awareness on what differentiates a PT’s proficiency from that of a trainer, chiropractor, or physician. Even if the ‘turf’ gets shared across other healthcare professions, at a minimum we can make the strengths of our services better known so that the patients can make a well-informed decision on who to see for their healthcare needs.



Respectfully submitted by: Bel Erten, Student SIG Director

(continued on page 14)

## Federal Advocacy Forum 2014

April 6-8, 2014, APTA's Federal Government Affairs Forum was held in Washington, D.C. Our Louisiana delegation was made up of Billy Naquin, Sharon Dunn, Beth Ward, Scott Hollier, Amelia Leonardi, and Alexia-Rae Reed, SPT. During the 3 day seminar we were visited by U.S. Senators and members of Congress that gave us their opinions on everything from balancing the budget to the most effective way to lobby our member of Congress. The amazing APTA lobbyists instructed everyone present from across the country on key bills that will affect physical therapist and effective ways to lobby Congress.

We were very fortunate this year to meet with Senator Vitter as well as some of our actual members of Congress instead of their aides as in past years.



We lobbied on three bills this year.

1. The Medicare Access to Rehabilitation (better known as the Therapy Cap Repeal) The repeal of the sustained growth rate is also tied into our repeal the therapy cap legislation.
2. Promoting Integrity in Medicare Act, this act would remove in-office ancillary services exception under the Stark Law. Last issue of the Bayou Bulletin had a wonderful article on this issue, which would essentially eliminate physician self-referral for our Medicare patients.
3. The Physical Therapy Student Loan Repayment Eligibility Act- This bill would add physical therapists as a provider under the National Health Service Corps. Allow therapist loans to be forgiven if they practice in a designated rural setting.



We had a great time lobbying Congress and meeting other therapist from all over the United States. We had the opportunity to see how Congress works up close. Please remember to call your Congressman and Senators and tell them to support our legislation.

APTA has an app now for you to stay abreast of all things legislative at the national level. Go to the app store and search for "APTA Action." You will find it there. It's free and a great way to stay knowledgeable about our national legislative issues.



Respectfully submitted by Billy Naquin, Federal Affairs Liaison

# Government Affairs Report

At the time of this writing, the 2014 session is winding down with only 1 day left. The LPTA and the Tatman Group monitored over 30 bills this session. Some of the main bills are outlined below:

- **HB 691**, authored by Representative Broadwater, deals with the practice and licensure of athletic trainers. There were several meetings with various stakeholders and collaboration with the APTA and the LA PT Board. The LPTA was able to add a definition of athlete to the bill and the LA PT Board was able to add language that clarified the criteria that must be met in order for the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners to approve athletic organizations that are within the realm of athletic trainers to provide prevention, emergency management and treatment. This bill has been sent to the governor for his approval.
- **SB 355**, authored by Sen. Mills, would establish a budget stabilization program for Medicaid programs, certain elderly services, rehabilitation services and other health care services. This bill is scheduled for Senate Floor debate on 6/1/14. Other bills to help decrease the Medicaid budget deficit provided HMO contracts for managed long term care support. Although the LPTA is in support of Medicaid stabilization bills that would protect long term care services, such as Early Steps, there was concern about having Early Steps Providers deal with the potential administration issues from HMO contracts. The LPTA worked with the Louisiana Speech Language and Hearing Association. In the end, the bills that encouraged HMO contracts for managed long term supports and services did not move.
- **HB 1280**, authored by Rep Simon, provides for the LA Telehealth Access Act. This bill includes physical therapy and will be sent to the governor for his approval. If the bill is not vetoed and becomes law, the LA PT Board will begin the process to promulgate rules to govern telehealth in physical therapy.
- **SCR-22**, authored by Sen Mills, was a Concurrent Resolution that would perform a study to define the regulations and practice of Acupuncture. Since the study would include Dry Needling, the LPTA was able to add language that a designee from the LPTA would be included on the panel. The bill moved through the Senate but was not heard in House Committee.
- **SB 649**, authored by Sen. Mills, provided for the LA Health Care Profession Institute. This bill would have provided for a panel to make recommendations to the legislators concerning legislation that pertain to scope of practice issues. The Executive Director or his designee from the LA PT Board was appointed to this panel. The bill passed the Senate but was involuntarily deferred in the Committee of House and Governmental Affairs.
- **HB 506**, authored by Rep. Greene, provides for notice requirements for qualified health plan issuers on the health insurance exchange. This bill has been sent to the Governor. This bill adds some protections to the providers if the qualified health plan does not properly inform the provider that a beneficiary is in a grace period due a delinquent payment of a premium.

Thank you to our members that responded to the calls to action and contacted legislators regarding our concerns or were present when bills were heard. Also, I would like to recognize and express my gratitude to the Tatman Group, LPTA Governmental Affairs Committee, the LA PT Board Legislative Task Force, and Justin Elliott with APTA for their support and input. Drawing from the experiences that the LPTA and others faced this session, Legislative Plans are already underway as we move past the 2014 Legislative Session. Should you have any questions regarding legislation, feel free to contact your Governmental Affairs District Liaisons.



Respectfully submitted by: Cristina Faucheux, Government Affairs Chair

(continued from *Government Affairs Report* on page 14)

Governmental Affairs District Liaisons:

Monroe District: Aimee Kramer [aimee.kramer@gmail.com](mailto:aimee.kramer@gmail.com); Shreveport District: Daniel Flowers [dflowe@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:dflowe@lsuhsc.edu); New Orleans District: Claire Melebeck [cmeleb1@gmail.com](mailto:cmeleb1@gmail.com); Houma District: Eddie Himel [eddie.himel@att.net](mailto:eddie.himel@att.net); Baton Rouge District: Karl Kleinpeter [KarlKleinpeter@aol.com](mailto:KarlKleinpeter@aol.com); Alexandria District: Oday Lavergne [olavergne@leegateway.net](mailto:olavergne@leegateway.net); Lafayette District: Alix Sorrel [asorrel@integratedpt.info](mailto:asorrel@integratedpt.info); Lake Charles District: Danny Landry [landryp@aol.com](mailto:landryp@aol.com); Northshore District: Troy Bourgeois [troymsc@yahoo.com](mailto:troymsc@yahoo.com); Chair: Cristina Faucheux [cristina@moreaupt.com](mailto:cristina@moreaupt.com)

## PT-PAC—LPTA is #1!!!!

Congratulations to the LPTA, we are the APTA chapter with the highest percentage of PT-PAC Eagles. In 2013 the LPTA had 22, count 'em, 22 Eagles (members who have given \$500 or more in a calendar year)!!! This means 2.9% of LPTA members are Eagles. The next closest chapter is Utah with 1.89%, not even close!

On behalf of the PT PAC, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the PT PAC in 2013 but especially those 22 Eagles. The PT PAC again notched some impressive accomplishments; preventing a hard cap on outpatient therapy services under Medicare and avoiding a 24% cut in payment for our services. They continue to work on eliminating the in-office ancillary services exception under Medicare and legislation that would add PT's to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

Your donations contributed to those accomplishments! Never doubt even the smallest amount can make a difference which is why you will soon hear about the PT PAC \$20 donation campaign.

But I now want to acknowledge those 22 Eagles who made their generous contribution and thank them for making the LPTA #1! Thank you to Helen Balzli, Trevor Bardarson, Susan Blanchard, Troy Bourgeois, Richard Bunch, Don Cassano, Marc Cavallino, Scott Dickie, Sharon Dunn, Cristina Faucheux, Paul Hildreth, G. Hollier, John Johnson, Bart Jones, Seth Kaplan, Karl Kleinpeter, Marvin Neal, David Qualls, Freddie, Ann Regan, Stephen Van Hook, Beth Ward.

Remember, it is very easy to donate to the PT PAC. You can donate on the PT-PAC's website at [www.ptpac.org](http://www.ptpac.org) or contact Michael Matlack, Director, Grassroots & Political Affairs [michaelmatlack@apta.org](mailto:michaelmatlack@apta.org) fax: 703/706-3246 phone: 703/706-3163. There is also a link on our very own LPTA website where you can donate to the APTA PT-PAC. All amounts are most appreciated but it sure would be good if the LPTA could again be the envy of our peers.

Finally, I'd like to end on some interesting facts you may not know about PAC laws and regulations:

1. PT-PAC can only solicit APTA members for donations to PT-PAC.
2. PT-PAC can not take APTA dues money for contributions to candidates running for Congress (it's illegal). An APTA member must make a voluntary contribution to PT-PAC for this purpose.
3. PT-PAC can accept both personal and business donations to PT-PAC from APTA members but only personal contributions can be used for direct contributions to candidates running for Congress. Business donations to PT-PAC are only used for the administrative expenses of PT-PAC.
4. Federal PACs are only allowed to contribute \$5,000 for a primary and \$5,000 for a general election to a Congressional candidate. APTA members can contribute up to \$5,000 to PT-PAC in a year.
5. PT-PAC is required to file monthly reports to the Federal Election Commission detailing donations received and disbursements made to Congressional candidates.



Please contact me at [revdrpaul1@cox.net](mailto:revdrpaul1@cox.net) if you have any questions regarding the PT-PAC.

Respectfully submitted by: Paul Hildreth, PT-PAC

## Request for Award Nominations!

Please submit your nominations to the Board for the following LPTA awards:

- Hall of Fame Award
- Dave Warner Distinguished Service Award
- PTA Distinguished Service Award
- Friend of Physical Therapy Award,
- Legislator of the Year

Please visit the LPTA website for a description/criteria for these awards. Please submit your nominations to the board by July 1. Thank you!

## Call for Abstracts!

Want to share your research??? Please submit your abstracts to be presented at the Fall meeting no later than August 8, 2014. ..There will be more reminders and information coming to you on LPTA website and via email. Thanks!

## A Huge Thank You...

...to our amazing Government Affairs Chair, Cristina Faucheux who has been working tirelessly for us during this legislative session. She did not have the luxury to put her physical therapist, MPT co-owner, or wife and mother roles on hold. We thank you so much for your amazing dedication to this profession and to the LPTA legislative efforts!

(continued from *Student Speak* on page 10)

I don't believe student optimism is out of place, but it could use a dose of reality. We need to enter the profession with our eyes wide open. PT students are highly encouraged to attend LPTA meetings to learn more about the current status of the profession not only in Louisiana but at large. It's become clear to me from recent LPTA meetings that unless we as students and professionals get involved, our power to initiative change will be limited. Kassy Drouant, an LSUHSC PT student mentions that she worries mostly about our general lack of awareness of bills being passed and PT legislation, a concern that others at LAPT district meetings have also voiced.

You can say that all education is an internal process of change. The status that many of us have ascribed to the PT profession, one that still shines brightly for most of us, has arguably rougher areas that we are not completely aware of yet. As we move through this transformational journey from student to PT, my wish is that we hold on to the optimism we walked in with, and see the way the profession is trying to define itself as a challenge for us to become engaged in the process.

(continued from *President's Message*  
on page 1)

Your delegates are preparing for the House of Delegates in Charlotte, NC June 8-11. We met as a delegation in early May to discuss motions and candidates for national office. There are some interesting motions before the House this year and a full update will be provided to you, the membership, in the next issue of the Bayou Bulletin.

You are reading this message because you are a member, and I thank you for your membership. Maybe it's time for you to go beyond just being a passive member. Please consider running for an office this year. Service to your profession enhances your practice and makes you keenly aware of all the things that APTA and LPTA do for you and for all practicing therapists and students. You reap benefits beyond your wildest expectations! If you have any questions about this or any other issue, I am a phone call or an email away! Please do not hesitate to contact me!

Respectfully submitted by Beth Ward,  
PT, DPT, President of LPTA



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