I feel re-energized following our recent LPTA planning retreat. Several of the LPTA board and committee members met in Lafayette at the Winter Retreat and Board Meeting to discuss what the focus of the LPTA will be for our members. Topics discussed were: reviewing our mission and strategic plan, upcoming educational events, APTA issues, governmental affairs initiatives that the LPTA may want to pursue in the future, re-branding the LPTA, and membership benefits. We covered a lot of ground, had robust discussions, and set our direction for the next year. What impressed me the most about this meeting was the compassion and effort this group of volunteers put forth. Volunteering our time and effort to better our association. I have been asked several times what drives me to dedicate so much time and effort without any monetary or tangible reward.

I believe serving on the LPTA in some capacity has to be self-serving. A win-win situation. We all want to deliver the best physical therapy possible, have better education, better payment for services, better job security, and less regulation and restrictions. These are the things that will make our lives as physical therapists and physical therapy assistants easier, more efficient, and with improved job satisfaction. This is what I fight for on a regular basis. I also feel rewarded by working closely with my colleagues in a common goal. I have built great friendships with some amazing people all over this state that I would have never done if it were not for the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association. The most important reason I volunteer is because I believe that I can make a difference. By my participation, I am helping shape not only my future, but to a greater satisfaction the future of the members of the LPTA and the APTA.

I ask that you give a little of your time, effort, or what every you can to better your membership and the members of the association. Go to a district meeting, participate in our state meetings, get to know your legislators, volunteer for a committee, donate to the PAC if you can, and if possible recruit your friends into the LPTA. You have to have a sense that there is more to your profession than just being an individual. Try to pay it forward. While the Board works diligently for the association, we need your involvement because we are better and stronger together. I want to thank those who dedicate their service to the association, and for those who are members of the LPTA. The LPTA is helping therapists be therapists! See y’all in March at the Sports Symposium!

Respectfully submitted by:
Joe Shine, LPTA President
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Shreveport
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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 793

Life Members
Current 46

Students
Current 257

PTAs
Current 138

Total
Current 1,188

If you are interested in "opting out" of receiving hard copies of the Bayou Bulletin and receiving you Bulletin in full color by email, please reply to the office (office@LPTA.org) with the Subject line "Opting Out." Make sure you include your name, member number and a contact number in case we need clarification. Join us in "Opting Out!"

Bayou Bulletin Publisher Information

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2016 – 2017

February 15-18, 2017
Combined Sections Meeting
San Antonio, TX

March 10-12, 2017
LPTA Spring Meeting
Sports Symposium
Lafayette, LA

March 26-28, 2017
Federal Advocacy Forum
Washington D.C.

June 21-24, 2017
NEXT Conference and Exposition
Boston, MA

September 15-17, 2017
LPTA Fall Meeting
Baton Rouge, LA


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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/

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
District and Component News

Matt Powers, New Orleans District Chair

The New Orleans District will hold a district meeting followed by PT Pub Night on Thursday, March 30th, so please mark your calendars. We are very excited about continuing to advance our profession in 2017. Hope to see everyone at the Spring Meeting Sports Symposium.

Marianne Bell, Lake Charles District Chair

Join the Lake Charles District for a PT Pub Night on Thursday, February 23, 2017 from 6-8pm at Crying Eagle Brewery!

We will also be having a formal district meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 6pm at LCMH Main Campus in the Sherman Conference Room. We will hold elections for district chair and other Lake Charles liaison positions for the LPTA committees. Hope to see you all there!

Congratulations Julie!

Congrats are in order for Julie Harris who has been selected by the Governor to serve on the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board. She has given years of dedication and service to the LPTA and to the Shreveport District and community. We look forward to continuing to work with Julie in her new role, and hope to continue to foster a positive relationship between the LPTA and the Board. Thank you, Julie!

Welcome, Mary Beth Foreman!

After almost 5 years in the role of Public Relations and Newsletter Chair, Claire Melebebeck is moving on to the role of Education Chair. With that shift in the LPTA leadership, we welcome rising star Mary Beth Foreman to the role of Newsletter Chair. Mary Beth graduated from LSU Health in Shreveport in 2016 where she was a leader both in the classroom and in the Student SIG of Louisiana. She will be taking over starting with issue 2 of the Bayou Bulletin which will come out in April. Please send any thoughts or input you have to marybethfor@gmail.com!

Jennifer Watson, Lafayette District Chair

The Lafayette District was quiet during the holiday season but is gearing up for the year. We would like to extend our deepest thanks to Errol LeBlanc for his service as Government Affairs (GA) District Liaison for Lafayette and support of District events. He was relentless in meeting with local legislators during our push for Direct Access and has had a personal investment in the lives of many area therapists. Our hats off to you, Errol! With that said, we are looking for someone who is energized to fill the GA Liaison position. Please contact me if interested or if you know someone who would be well suited to serve in this position.

The next PT Pub night will be held in February with details to follow. Keep your calendars open for the upcoming Sports Symposium, March 10-12, 2017, in Lafayette at the Hilton DoubleTree Hotel. Registration is available on the LPTA website.

If you have any questions about activities happening in the Lafayette District or would like to make something happen, please contact me at j_watson77@cox.net.
District and Component News

Mallory Lott, Student SIG

PT and PTA Students, GET EXCITED! Something new is happening at this year’s LPTA Spring Meeting -- the 1st LPTA Student Conclave. Chairman of LPTA’s Student Special Interest Group (SSIG), Rebecca Troulliet, has teamed up with clinicians and student leaders from across the state to bring this fantastic event to Louisiana. All PT and PTA students are invited to attend the Student Conclave and are encouraged to continue networking by staying for the LPTA Spring Meeting! Details for the Student Conclave are below:

**Who:** All PT and PTA Students in the state of Louisiana

**What:** A day filled with networking, hands-on learning, and advocacy geared specifically towards students. Guest lecturers (including our very own APTA President, Dr. Sharon Dunn, DPT!!) followed by the SSIG Meeting

**Where:** Doubletree Hilton Hotel - Lafayette, LA

**Housing:** discounted rooms available under "LPTA" at the hotel

**When:** Friday March 10, 2017

**Time:** 1 pm - 5 pm, "Sippin' with SSIG Social" to follow at 7:30pm

**Cost:** $40 for LPTA members; $50 for non-members (no late fees)

- Cost Includes: 4 Ignite Talks, 2 hands on lectures, dinner, drinks, and entrance to "Sippin with SSIG" social event

**SIGN UP:** Register online at www.LPTA.org —It is included as an option when signing up for the LPTA Spring Meeting (Sport’s Symposium).

For more information and updates on the Student Conclave, follow us on social media!

- Instagram/Twitter: LPTA_SSIG
- Facebook: LPTA Student Special Interest Group
- Email: lptassig@gmail.com

Katie Britain, Payment Chair

As always, lots happening in the world of payment! If you are not following the LPTA Facebook page, I recommend that you do because lots of good info is posted there when payment news comes out. In addition, please feel free to post questions on the LPTA Facebook page and tag me... usually if you have a question, someone else likely has that same question.

Hot topics in payment:

- **Fair copays:** There is a push by other states to ensure that patients will not have to pay a specialist copay when attending a PT visit. My two cents here... make sure that when insurance is verified... ask for benefits specific to the place of service NOT just physical therapy benefits. Typically insurance companies determine if the benefits are a specialist or not depending on the place of service billed.

- **Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Model:** CJR episodes will be defined as 90 day episodes. During that episode, physical therapists will continue to be paid by Medicare. All CRJ cases will then be reviewed and reconciled at the end of the year to determine if target prices were met. For participating hospitals, if targets were met, the hospital may receive a reconciliation payment. In the event that it was not met, hospitals may be responsible for making a payment back to Medicare. This repayment policy will be waived the first year. For PTs who have entered into agreements to share in reconciliation payments with the hospital, those funds will be paid to the physical therapist directly from the hospital.

In addition, patient satisfaction is considered in the model however, this is only captured for the acute care stay. Additional care that falls outside the 90 days will not be included in the CRJ calculations.

Lastly, if a patient chooses to see a non-participating PT either during or following the 90 day episode... the PT would just bill MC as usual.
Governmental Affairs Report

It is so gratifying to hear from the PT practices across the state that are recanting their stories of how patients are benefiting from the successful passage of our direct access legislation. When all was said and done for our direct access campaign, we raised enough money to cover all of our expenses except for $4,300. That is a phenomenal accomplishment and I can not even begin to thank you all enough for the part you played to help us achieve this success!

Our work is not over, we need to continue to raise LPTA PAC and PAIF (Patient Access Investment Funds). It is vitally important that we replenish our PAC funds so that we can be ready to support our legislative friends when needed. The PAIF is needed for future legislation that improves patient access to our services or in the event we need to defend our current direct access law. You may contribute to either of these funds online at www.lpta.org or plan to attend the fundraising party that will be held on March 11, 2017, during our Spring Conference. Please consider a donation as any amount would be much appreciated.

The 2017 Legislative Session will begin on April 10th. This Session will be a fiscal session which means legislators will only be allowed to present 5 bills that are not fiscally related. We are excited that we will hold a PT Day early in the session. Please mark your calendars now for LPTA Day at the Capital on April 18th. This will be a great time to rekindle those relationships you made last year or to start a new one. We want to have a huge presence to simply thank the legislators for their support last session. Please plan to join us on this day as we don’t get many opportunities to be in front of a legislator just to say, “thank you”. Trust me, this doesn’t normally occur in their world either and it really does go a long way.

Over the past few months, your GA Team has been hard at work. We spent time interviewing potential candidates to recommend to the LPTA Board as the LPTA Representative to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board. We are pleased to report that Julie Danieles Harris is the newly appointed LPTA Representative to our Regulatory Board. Thank you to all that volunteered and interviewed for this position, it is greatly appreciated.

In addition, your GA Team has been meeting with APTA staff and other various stakeholders to explore issues that impact the PT Profession. We are currently developing a list of legislative priorities for the LPTA for the next 3-5 years. Should you have a regulatory or legislative issue you feel the LPTA should research, please contact us.

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- New Orleans: Rich Baudry  rich@baudrytherapy.com
- Northshore: Troy Bourgeois  troymsc@yahoo.com
- Alexandria: Oday Lavergne  olavergne@leegate.net
- Monroe: Michael Hildebrand  Michael.hildebrand87@gmail.com
- Shreveport: Daniel Flowers  dflowe@lsuhsc.edu
- Chair: Cristina Faucheux  cristina@moreaupt.com

Respectfully submitted by:
Cristina Faucheux, Government Affairs Chair
MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

You take care of so many.
Let us take care of you!

Bill Marin | Chairman of the Board
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Federal Affairs Liaison Report

I am happy to take on the role as your 2017 Federal Affairs for Liaison for Louisiana. I look forward to serving the LPTA and APTA in this capacity. I would like to take a moment to thank Billy Naquin for his work in this role for the last 11 years. He served with great professionalism and passion. Thank you, Billy!

As your new FAL, one order of business is to ensure that all of the Louisiana Members of Congress are paired with a member PT, PTA, or student. If you currently serve in this role, thank you very much and I look forward to working with you more. If you are interested in being a key contact to a member of Congress, let me know. The success of the APTA’s legislative agenda is vastly dependent on the involvement from the membership.

The APTA will host its Annual Federal Advocacy Fly In March 26-28th, 2017. If you have ever had an interest to learn how to make a successful congressional visit, now is the time to book this event. The APTA holds a phenomenal workshop prior to your visits on capital hill to make sure you are well versed to discuss the issues that impact the PT Profession. Another item worth mentioning is that if you are an Eagle Level Donor to the APTA PAC your registration to this event is waived.

I would like to leave you with the following summaries of various topics. If you need any additional information on the topics below, feel free to contact me.

2016 Look Back — 2016 ended well for APTA, the 21st Century Cures bill was passed. This bill had two priorities within it. First, it included an increase in funding for NIH Research. Second, it provided locum tenens arrangements for PTs in Health Professional Shortage Areas.

2017 Changes: Trump Administration — The Trump administration instituted a regulatory freeze on January 20th, 2017, that requires federal agencies not to issue any new regulations or guidance documents, pull back any regulations or guidance under review by the Office of the Federal Register, and temporarily postpone regulations and guidance that have been published but yet to take effect. The APTA anticipates this will affect several rules including the episodic payment model rule, the new prosthetics and orthotics rule, and potentially the proposed rulemaking cycle for 2018.

Do you make Orthotics for Medicare Beneficiaries? On January 12, 2017, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Establishment of Special Payment Provisions and Requirements for Qualified Practitioners and Qualified Suppliers of Prosthetics and Custom Fabricated Orthotics proposed rule.

The proposed rule establishes the qualifications and requirements that must be met in order to be considered a qualified practitioner or a qualified supplier. The proposed rule also amends the special payment rules for items furnished by DMEPOS suppliers and the accreditation organization requirements. Only qualified practitioners who furnish or fabricate prosthetics and custom-fabricated orthotics and qualified suppliers that fabricate or bill for prosthetics and custom-fabricated orthotics would be subject to these requirements.

(continued on page 9)
For PTs, the most notable parts of the proposed rule have to do with how a provider would become qualified to participate in the system. According to a fact sheet from CMS, while PTs are among the providers who could participate, they would need to be "licensed by the state [as a qualified provider of prosthetics and custom orthotics], or ... certified by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics ... or by the Board for Orthotist/Prosthetist Certification." These requirements would need to be met within a year after CMS posts its final rule, or at the time of the provider's reaccreditation cycle, whichever is later.

The APTA is currently drafting comments to submit regarding this proposed rule. For more information: http://www.apta.org/PTinMotion/News/2017/1/17/ProstheticsProposedRule/

**Clinicians in a Home Health Setting:** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) brought its home health participation rule out of the 1990s by issuing its first revision to the rule in more than 20 years. The new rule, set to go into effect July 13, 2017, establishes minimum standards for home health agencies (HHAs) that want to serve Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, and includes requirements that CMS hopes will strengthen patient rights, encourage more effective communication between patients and caregivers, and result in better outcomes reporting.

APTA was successful in its advocacy for PTs to be included in the list of providers qualified to serve as clinical managers for an HHA. Under the new rule, managers have oversight responsibilities related to patient and personnel assignments, care and referral coordination, needs assessments, and plans of care.

For more information: http://www.apta.org/PTinMotion/News/2017/1/12/HHARuleCOP/

**Use of PTAs to Treat Tricare Beneficiaries?** APTA has received many requests from its members for clarification on the role physical therapist assistants (PTAs) can play within TRICARE, the health care program of the US Department of Defense. The confusion is understandable, as neither TRICARE itself nor contractor provider manuals have been crystal clear in their communications. APTA can state without ambiguity, however, that PTAs, unfortunately, are not permitted under any circumstances to provide services for payment under TRICARE.

Over the past several years, the APTA has been pushing TRICARE to internally make the change so PTAs are recognized. Currently, they are not recognized to provide care or be reimbursed under TRICARE in any setting. In the 115th Congress, APTA will push for legislative changes, since all other routes have been exhausted.

For more information: http://www.apta.org/PTinMotion/2016/12/ComplianceMatters/

**Medicare Therapy Cap Repeal:** This will be one of the biggest initiatives by the APTA. As you know the cap expires at the end of the year. The APTA is looking to generate a large initiative to permanently repeal this moratorium. APTA is close to seeing the Therapy Cap repeal bill dropped in both the House and the Senate. The APTA is currently garnering as much support as they can so it can drop with several original co-sponsors of the legislation. Please keep and eye out for legislation alerts or updates on therapy cap and act when called upon.

Respectfully submitted by:
Cristina Faucheux, Federal Affairs Liaison
PT-PAC Ambassador Report

The LPTA continues it’s strong participation in our Federal PT-PAC! I have recently taken over for Paul Hildreth in the position of PT-PAC Ambassador for Louisiana as he has moved on to be a Trustee for the PAC. Congratulations Paul!

All of the numbers are not in for 2016 yet, but it looks like Louisiana will AGAIN be in the top 5 for percentage of Eagles for the PT-PAC! Eagles are contributors who give between $500 and $999 in one calendar year. In 2016 we had 20 Eagle donors which is 2.5% of our members. Although this is down slightly from 2015, it still looks to be top 5! Louisiana members also donated a total of $20,815 to the PAC. This is also slightly down from last year, but in a time when we were fighting for Patient Access here in Louisiana, we believe the totals are very commendable. Congratulations to all!

Now, more than ever we need to be aware of the importance of the Federal PT-PAC. In 2016, with the help of PAC contributions, we were able to pass Locum Tenens legislation that helps rural and small providers to get coverage for their patients when they are out of the office. This is a huge win for the PT industry. In 2017, the Therapy Cap comes up AGAIN! There is momentum to get the cap repealed once and for all, but the efforts of the PT-PAC are integral in this fight and WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please carefully consider a donation to the PAC. Any amount is helpful. It is also very easy to donate. The easiest way to donate now is to simply go to the PT-PAC website at www.ptpac.org, or you can do the same through the LPTA website, www.lpta.org, and click on “Donate”, then “Give to APTA PT-PAC”.

Let’s make Louisiana relevant on the national scene! Keep those Eagle donations coming if you can, but remember, that no donation is too small! We need your help. This will be a big year in Congress and it is extremely important that we have a voice! The PT-PAC is the best way to have that voice. Please help! I will be at the Sport’s Symposium in March and will be available should you have any questions. Or, you can reach me at bjones@elitephysicaltherapy.us.

Thanks again!

Respectfully submitted by:
Bart Jones, PT-PAC Ambassador

Leadership Opportunities in the LPTA!

We are looking for energetic and passionate leaders to jump on (the LPTA) board! There are vacancies in several major positions within the LPTA including Membership Chair, Shreveport District Chair, and North Shore District Chair.

There are also opportunities to “get your feet wet” as a committee member representing your district. Committees that need district liaisons include the Government Affairs Committee, Membership Committee, Finance Committee, Nominations Committee, and Ethics Committee.

Finally, we have decided to split the Public Relations/Newsletter Chair into 2 separate committees, and we are looking for someone to fill the role as Technology Chair (formerly Public Relations) that will be in charge of website updates, social media, and re-branding the LPTA. Please let us know if you or someone you know is interested in filling these roles!
New CPT Codes Result in Payment Increases From Medicare

From PTJ: Study of 1 Hospital Finds Nearly 16% of Scheduled Physical Therapy Sessions Don’t Happen

Patients with TKA Who Receive Outpatient Physical Therapy Soon After Surgery Recover More Quickly Than Patients Who Receive Home Physical Therapy First

APTA’s Public Awareness Efforts Reach Millions in Record-Setting 2016

APTA, Canadian Physiotherapy Association Team Up in Opioid Battle

Want to Decrease Unnecessary Spinal Surgeries? Get a Multidisciplinary Team to Do Evaluations, Researchers Say

APTA Pursues Updated Public Policy Priorities With New Administration, New Congress

Coding Resources Continue to Grow With New Webinar, Medicare Payment Tools

Webinar, Q-and-A Session Help PTs and PTAs Make the Case for Physical Therapist-Led Workplace Programs

CMS Considers Upgraded Requirements for Orthotics and Prosthetics Providers

Study: Cybercycling PE Program Associated With Significant Improvements in Classroom Behavior Among Children With Behavioral Health Disorders

From PT in Motion: Could Better Financial Literacy Help Future PTs Handle Student Debt?