What a great Spring Meeting we had! We had nearly 200 people register for the LPTA Sports Symposium which offered three days of education in Lafayette. The speakers included Sharon Dunn, APTA President, five Orthopedic Physicians, three PM&R Physicians, and nine Physical Therapists. Nearly 100 PT and PTAs attended the Friday afternoon session. The Friday night vendor social was one of the best attended events I have seen in a long time. The weekend was capped by an Ethics course and Jurisprudence presented by the Board with the LPTA’s involvement. Overall, just a huge success. Some of the benefits of attending this very popular association meeting is catching up with friends, having open discussion about the future of our profession and the concerns of members during the open forum, and attending the business luncheon.

We had our first Louisiana Student Conclave which ran concurrently with the programming on Friday. This is a student organized event for students. The focus was on the importance of advocacy. We had over 60 students attend the Friday event. The energy and excitement by the students who attended the conclave was very contagious. I would like to thank Rebecca Troulliet, SPT for getting this project off the ground, and to all the student SIG members who met multiple times to make this event such a great success. To those students who missed this event, we hope to see you here next year. What a great opportunity to hear about the future of our professional, to understand the importance about being involved, and to have the opportunity to meet your future colleagues and do a little job searching.

What is on the horizon? The legislative session is about to start, and even though this is a fiscal year, I am sure we will face several challenges from individuals and organizations trying to encroach on our profession. The LPTA board continues to review and explore how we can improve on membership benefits, and are focusing on four primary pillars of service: Education, Membership, Payment, and Advocacy. We are narrowing down our work on designing a new chapter logo that reflects more of the mission of LPTA. We are looking for nominations for several different association awards; watch for email blast or visit the awards tab on the LPTA web site. Please take the time to nominate those who stand out and deserve to be recognized. I look forward to seeing you at the Fall meeting, and hopefully at the state capital during the legislative session. Until then, stay involved and be proud of your profession.

Sincerely,

Joe Shine, PT DPT
LPTA President
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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!

PTs  783
Students  265
PTAs  142
Total  1,190

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
We are looking for leaders to jump on board!
The North Shore District Chair position is currently vacant.
Committees that need district liaisons include the Government Affairs, Membership, Finance, Nominations, and Ethics Committees.
Please let us know if you or someone you know is interested in filling these roles!

If you are interested in 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 "Going Green!"
This is going to be BIG!

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IMAGINE – Speakers who unlock your passion.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2017

April 20-22, 2017
Annual Orthopedic Section Meeting
San Diego, CA

June 19-21, 2017
APTA House of Delegates

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

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

September 16-17, 2017
APTA’s State Policy and Payment Forum
Detroit, MI

October 19-21, 2017
National Student Conclave
Portland, Oregon

November 1-4, 2017
Private Practice Section Convention

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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOTE ELECTRONICALLY?  Gail Pearce, Bylaws Chair

The Board of Directors has directed the Louisiana Bylaw Committee to look into the feasibility of allowing electronic voting. Many states and most APTA Sections hold their elections electronically. Per the APTA Parliamentarian, our current bylaws do not permit the members to vote electronically. Our Bylaws only state that the vote must be done by ballot. The Bylaw Committee is in the process of reviewing other state bylaws to see how they word them to allow for this type of voting. Electronic voting would be for only officers, delegates, representative to the PTA Caucus, Government Affairs Chairman and Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Bylaw amendments and motions made during a called state meeting will continue to be done by the members present and voting. The duties of the Nominating Committee would also change with the change to electronic voting.

Matt Powers, New Orleans District Chair

"We had a great turnout at our Spring district meeting. Big thanks to our speaker Mark Gutierrez, PT, DPT, OCS, SCS, FAAOMPT who gave a great presentation on low back injuries and return to sport. This was the first time we offered a CEU credit at our district meeting and everyone had a great time. We look forward to continuing to offer CEU credits at future meetings. Our district meetings and pub nights are great opportunities to network with local therapists, get updates on the LPTA and now to receive CEU credits. Our next PT Pub Night will be on Thursday, April 20th at Nola Taproom, so I look forward to seeing everyone out there!"

Katherine Voorhorst, Membership Chair

Our newly appointed Membership Chair, Katherine Voorhorst, attended her first board meeting earlier this March. Katherine graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, GA, in 2015. She moved to Louisiana to pursue a career in the acute care setting in New Orleans. Her interests include all neurological diagnoses, and she particularly enjoys working with the geriatric population.

Katherine would like to welcome all new LPTA members, thank current members for their continued support, and encourage all members to contact her with any questions, suggestions, or comments regarding membership. She is excited to have joined the board at such a pivotal time during the rebranding process and looks forward to serving and growing the LPTA membership.
Payment Chair Report

10 Payment/Practice FYI Topics for 2017

Katie Brittain, Payment Chair

1. Medicare CCI Edits and LCDs (both updated 1/1/17)
   - CCI edits still all about the 59 modifier
   - LCD is a great resource and place to answer questions regarding medical necessity
   - Questions pop up about Medicare maintenance... check out LCD L35036

2. Proposed rule on billing for orthotics and prosthetics, requiring licensing by the state/O and P board
   - APTA is requesting that PTs contribute and be a part of this conversation
   - Go to the APTA website to comment

3. Comparative Billing Reports are out
   - I recommend that they are used as reference material and utilizing them for situations like contract negotiations with other payers (it is free outcomes data)
   - Medicare auditors have stated that they can use the data to ID areas that require and audit (i.e. excessive use of the KX modifier)

4. MIPS and PQRS
   - PTs are not currently included in MIPS
   - Potential for inclusion in 2019, affecting payment in 2021
   - APTA recommends continued voluntary reporting on quality measures (PQRS)

(Continued on page 12)
During the last week of March, over 270 APTA members traveled to Washington, DC, to attend the 2017 Federal Advocacy Forum and meet with the US Congress Representatives and Senators. The main goal was to educate Members of Congress and their staff about the Medicare Therapy Cap (H.R. 807/S. 253), adding PTs to the National Health Service Corps (S. 619/H.R. 1639), the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act (H.R. 302), concussion management, the role PTs could play to help with the opioid epidemic, and the impact of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) on the patients we serve.

The specifics of the bills are as follows:

1. Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Service Act (H.R. 807/S. 253) continues to gain cosponsors. There are now 90 cosponsors in the House and 18 cosponsors of the Senate companion bill. H.R. 807/S. 253 would permanently repeal the $1,980/year arbitrary cap imposed on Medicare beneficiaries who receive physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services. Because the current exceptions mechanism expires on December 31, 2017, corrective legislation must be passed before the end of this year or the hard cap on therapy expenditures will return. Currently, Congressman Abraham is a co-sponsor of this bill.

2. Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act (H.R. 1639/ S619) This is a student loan repayment program that incentivizes medical professionals to serve in rural and underserved areas. There is currently not a rehabilitation provider listed that is eligible to participate in this program. The APTA is seeking to include Physical Therapists to the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program. Representative Richmond was a co-sponsor of this bill last year but as of March no one from the Louisiana Delegation is signed on as a co-sponsor.

3. Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act (HR 302). This bill has passed the house and will be scheduled in the senate. This bill would extend professional liability to certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary state when services are rendered to an athlete, athletic team, or team staff member. Congressman Richmond and Congressman Abraham are co-sponsors of this bill.

Another Issue that is on the Radar of the APTA is Medicare Opt Out. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) will return as the lead on the Senate opt-out bill but she has not set a date for reintroduction. The APTA expects the bill language to remain the same as last Congress; therefore, the legislation will seek to allow Medicare enrolled providers (including physical therapists) to contract directly with their patients who are Medicare beneficiaries on a case-by-case basis. The decision to opt-out would not affect the entire practice, only the billing relationship between that patient and therapist.

Cristina Faucheux, PT, and Sharon Dunn, PT, after conversing with Congressman Mike Johnson
CALL FOR PRACTICE EXAMPLES:
In preparation for future efforts in pursuit of the legislative and advocacy priorities, we are seeking stories that can illustrate how policies would impact you or your practice.

1. OPT-OUT:
How would you or your practice utilize the ability to opt-out of Medicare on a case-by-case basis and how would your patients would be impacted? For example, do you have a patient who has hit the therapy cap, but has the financial means to pay out of pocket? Or a patient who has a secondary payer they would prefer to use?

2. THERAPY CAP:
How are your patients impacted when they have hit the therapy cap? What is your experience with the exemptions process? Please share specific examples.

3. TELEHEALTH:
How have you have used, or would use, technology in order to increase access to care for your patients? For example, what kind of therapy would you be able to provide via a video link or webcam.

Should you have any further questions or examples to share, feel free to email them to Cristina@moreaupt.com.

Respectfully submitted by
Cristina Faucheux, PT

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CALL for NOMINATIONS!
The LPTA Nominations Committee is recruiting and accepting nominations for the offices of President and Secretary. If you would like to discuss the job description and function of either of these positions, please feel free to contact me or Kinta LeBlanc, Nominations Chair-elect, at k_mader@hotmail.com. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please feel free to contact us. There’s no time like the present to become more active and contribute to your professional association!! The election for these positions will be held at the fall LPTA meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Leonardi, MHS, PT
Nominations Committee Chair
aleona@dcc.edu
504-671-6239

Happy Spring!
From the LPTA
Call for Award Nominations!

Nominations are being solicited to honor deserving persons who have made special contributions to the physical therapy profession in Louisiana. Retired or currently out-of-state physical therapists who have made lasting significant contributions to the profession are eligible for the LPTA Hall of Fame. Active Louisiana are eligible for the Dave Warner Distinguished Service Award. Non-PTs are eligible to be recognized as a Friend of Physical Therapy. Physical therapist assistants who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in clinical practice, community service and personal commitment to physical therapy may be nominated for the PTA Distinguished Service Award. Nominations should be submitted on office letterhead in the general format(s) described below.

Selection of the Friend of Physical Therapy and the Dave Warner Distinguished Service Award will be made by the LPTA Executive Committee. Specific recent contributions for the benefit of the profession or to society on behalf of the profession will both merit consideration. Hall of Fame inductees are elected by the LPTA Board of Directors. The PTA Distinguished Service Award is decided by an Awards Committee appointed by the LPTA President. If you know of a person who deserves consideration for one of these awards, please submit a nomination containing as much of the information called for in the applicable nomination format that you can obtain. Send to: LPTA, 8550 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 1001, Baton Rouge, La, 70809, by fax to (225) 408-4422, or by email to office@lpta.org.

Deadline to submit is June 30, 2017. Awards will be presented at the 2017 Fall Meeting.

DAVE WARNER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Nominations should be submitted in the format below and should be limited to two pages in length.

1. Name of Nominee
2. Address
3. Number of years as licensed physical therapist
4. Has the physical therapist been actively practicing in Louisiana at least 2 years?
5. Where is the nominee employed?
6. What type of position is held?
7. What has the nominee contributed?
   Through present job or past job if retired.
   Through any other level (APTA, publications, research, etc.)
8. In what way has the nominee contributed to community activities in the last 3 years?
9. In what other organizations does the nominee participate (professional or civic)?
10. In what way has the nominee continued his education during his professional career?
    (gradual courses, course work, etc)
Call for Award Nominations!

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Eligibility and Procedure
A nominee for the award must be a licensed PTA and member in good standing of the American Physical Therapy Association.
1. An individual may receive the award only once in a three (3) year period.
2. Nominations shall be submitted in writing to include name/contact information of the nominee and a written statement on how this individual is a worthy candidate specifically addressing the award criteria. The written statement must include name, signature, and APTA membership number of the nominator.
3. Criteria for selection
4. Outstanding achievements in delivery of care and/or service to the Association and profession are demonstrated by:
   5. Contributing professionally to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association;
   6. Serving the community through activities that enhance quality of life and function
   7. Representing and promoting the role of the PTA through education, practice, or research;
   8. Promoting ethical standards and professional conduct among peers, patients, and students;
   9. Pursuing professional development through continuing education (for example, courses, workshops, in-services, etc);
10. Encouraging patients, peers, or students to perform at, or strive to achieve their optimal potential.

**FRIEND OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

Nomination Format
Nominations should be submitted in the format shown below and should be limited to two pages in length.
1. Name of nominee.
2. Address
3. Profession/education
4. What has the nominee contributed to the physical therapy profession of the last three years?
5. Hobbies, special interests/abilities, organizations, etc.
6. Briefly summarize why you think this nominee merits consideration of this award.
Governmental Affairs Report

The 2017 Legislative Session is just around the corner. The 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 along way.

The GA Team hosted an open forum to get feedback from the membership on PT/PTA supervision issues, Medicaid rules in the outpatient setting and various other topics. In addition, Don Cassano, the Chairman of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, provided an update on a bill that will be presented in the 2017 Legislative Session. Should you have a regulatory or legislative issue you feel the LPTA should research, please contact us.

Lake Charles: Danny Landry landrydp@aol.com
Lafayette: [open]
Baton Rouge: Karl Kleinpeter karlkleinpeter@aol.com
Houma: Eddie Himel eddie.himel@att.net
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Monroe: Michael Hildebrand Michael.hildebrand87@gmail.com
Shreveport: Daniel Flowers dflove@lsuhsc.edu
Chair: Cristina Faucheux cristina@moreaupt.com

Cristina Faucheux, PT

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board
Legislative Session 2017

The 2017 Regular Legislative Session is scheduled to convene at noon on Monday, April 10, 2017 and will last no later than 6:00pm on Thursday, June 8, 2017. Representative Robert Johnson is authoring House Bill 305, which provides for the regulation of the practice of physical therapy. In summary, the Bill is written to modify the Practice Act in the following three ways:

1. Add language to the Practice Act that establishes that the Louisiana State Legislature acknowledges the anti-competitive nature of the Board, but believes that the Board’s duty to protect the health and welfare of Louisiana citizens within the confines of the practice of physical therapy outweighs any limitation on market participation. This is in response to the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission ruling that anti-competitive actions must be clearly articulated and affirmatively expressed as state policy and that the policy must be actively supervised by the state for a state board to receive immunity from federal anti-competitive laws. (Continued on page 11)
2. Add language to the Practice Act that will allow the board to license PTAs who do not complete a CAPTE accredited program. This includes foreign-trained PTAs and US military trained PTAs. The Bill also updates the foreign-trained license qualifications language.

3. Clean-up language in the fee schedule to provide a maximum amount for course review fees and for a maximum amount for a course provider fee. Adding a course provider fee maximum will allow the LPTB to promulgate Rules that allow for course provider approval in the future, which will allow approved providers to have all courses approved for the year rather than paying for course approval for each course.

Questions and comments related to House Bill 305 may be submitted directly to Charlotte Martin, Executive Director, Louisiana Physical Therapy Board via email at charlotte@laptboard.org or by telephone at 337-262-1043 ext. 102.

Charlotte F. Martin, Executive Director

“PTPN has been a great asset to my company, and I would definitely recommend it to any other practice because of all the built-in benefits PTPN brings.” — Cristina Faucheux, PT, Moreau Physical Therapy

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> Help you identify new revenue streams to counter declining reimbursements from other sources.

It pays to join PTPN. To learn more, contact Kim Bueche Hardman at 225-927-6888 or kbueche@ptpnla.brcoxmail.com.
5. CMS is proposing Episodic Payment Models (EPM) focused on episodes of care for AMI (Acute Myocardial Infarction), CABG (Coronary Artery Bypass Graft), and Surgical hip/femur fracture treatment (SHFFT) excluding lower extremity joint replacement as well as the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Program (CJR).
   - Executive order mandating a freeze on new rules for Medicare this year
   - This freeze would apply to expansion of the CJR and the other proposed models
   - APTA received clarification from HHS that some portions of the new rule may be delayed but implementation still a go for July 1. UPDATE since the spring meeting: CJR has been pushed back to October 1, 2017
   - Providers will continue to be paid under their respective payment systems during the course of the CJR episode. Cases will be reconciled at the end of the performance year to determine if they have met the target price. If target prices are greater than actual spending, hospitals will receive reconciliation payment or vice versa. Participating PTs are paid out of this pool.
6. Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB)
   - Balance billing not allowed for members (i.e. a patient cannot be billed deductible, co-pay, coinsurance, etc…)
   - Clear details provided including penalties for violation in MLN Matters SE 1128
7. Fair Copays
   - APTA has an initiative to look into fair copays
   - Questions regarding specialist verse non-specialist copays….. Instruct billers to request benefits based on your place of service and not on specialty for more accurate benefits
8. Home Health
   - Final Rule is out
   - Expect to see a 0.7% net reduction in payment for 2017.
9. New evaluation codes
   - Many states are reporting problems with payment on the new codes
   - No current complaints in Louisiana
10. EMR and billing systems
    - A Facebook discussion was started on the LPTA page on both topics for members to share pros/cons of their experiences. Please add to the discussion and learn something too!!

Respectively Submitted by
Katie Brittain
Congratulations to the LPTA SSIG!

At the spring meeting, the SSIG hosted Louisiana’s first-ever Student Conclave. Special guests including Sharon Dunn, PT, DPT, Jimmy Welsh, PT, OCS, CKTI, Cristina Faucheux, PT, and Joe Shine, PT, were followed by the SSIG meeting. The SSIG also hosted “Sippin’ with the SSIG,” hopefully beginning a new tradition of biannual state-wide PT Pub Nights! Huge thanks and congrats to SSIG Board Members, especially Rebecca Troulliet, Jennifer Vegh, Kendall Antee, Caroline Denison, and Broque Thomas.

Thank you to sponsors of the #choosePT t-shirt, given to all students who attended Student Conclave!

Moreau Physical Therapy
Agilus Health
Performance Physical Therapy
LPTA

Sport Symposium Success!

Big thanks to Joe Shine, Bland O’Connor, all speakers, and all who attended the 2017 Sports Symposium! It was well attended, successful, and a great time!
Fiscal Therapy.

Vickie D. Cavitt | Billing Manager, Owner

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Exercise and Parkinson’s Disease

2-Year Study: Informal Exercise Could Play a Role in Slowing QoL, Mobility Losses Associated with PD

The Rise in TBI from Falls

CDC: TBA Due to Falls Climbing at a Disproportionate Rate Among Older Adults

Physical Activity

Physical activity helps older heart patients improve lives, heart experts say

APTA and Health Care Reform

APTA: Proposed AHCA Provisions ‘Create Unneeded Barriers to Care’

Concussion Management

Beyond Rest: Physical Therapy and Concussion Management

Injury Prevention in Sports

Study: 10-Year Pattern of HS Soccer Injuries Shows Need for New Look at Injury Prevention Programs

Networking

The Benefits of Sharing Professional Experiences