President’s Message

As we close out the end of 2017, we have so much to be thankful for as a profession. The APTA has reached over 100K members and has been very active in promoting our profession as the movement specialist. We continue to make strides in using movement as the best option to beating back the opioid epidemic, treating chronic pain and fatigue, countering cognitive decline, preventing Obesity and DVTs, and in so many other topics. The APTA has several projects focused on health promotion, prevention and employer initiatives to a healthier work force. APTA remains very active with CMS, payment reform, reimbursement for PTAs in Tricare, and on several national issues. The APTA is actively working with over 30 coalitions, alliances, and other shared interest groups to help highlight the important issues and bring our profession’s voice to the table. The amount of quality literature, research, and educational opportunities offered to APTA members is vast, diverse, and one of the best benefits to being a member.

During this past year, the LPTA has had two very successful Annual Meetings. We had our first Student Conclave held during the Spring Sports Symposium, established a new logo, and continued to promote the success of Direct Access. The LPTA has representatives on several key areas throughout the state: the LA Department of Insurance, the Governor’s Commission on Preventing Opioid Abuse, Worker’s Compensation Advisory Council, Medical Advisory Council, and we have members participating in a variety of different associations. We have a very active LPTA Board, work closely with the PT Board, Practice/Payment expert, Katie Brittain, State Legislative team led by Cristina Faucheux and Public Relations, spear headed by Destiny Kennedy, just to name a few. The LPTA mission is all about helping therapists be therapists. As a LPTA member, please reach out to us if we can help you.

Looking forward to the new year, we have APTA Combined Section Meeting in New Orleans mid-February, a three day action-packed state meeting in Lafayette in March, and several social events scheduled in your districts. We continue to work better together on several key issues: repealing the Medicare Therapy Cap, Comprehensive Joint Replacement models (CJR), multi-state licensure compact, working on alternative payment models, and promoting different practice models for our profession. All of these past accomplishments could not have been achieved without our membership involvement. Our future depends on what we make of it, so please stay involved. For the therapists who are not members, please consider joining us. We need your support, and the benefits you will receive as a member are much more than you can imagine! I want to wish everyone a happy and safe end to this year, and a joyous and profitable start of the new year. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Joseph Shine, PT, DPT
LPTA President
**2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Delegates</td>
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<td></td>
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**LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

We are looking for leaders to jump on board!

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!

**LPTA MEMBERSHIP**

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

- **PTs** 855
- **PTAs** 129
- **Students** 365
- **Total** 1,349

**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.

**Newsletter Chairman, Destiny Kennedy, DPT**

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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 "Opting Out!"
Bayou Bulletin

UPCOMING EVENTS

2017

February 21-24, 2018
Combined Sections Meeting
New Orleans, LA

March 23-25, 2018
2018 Spring LPTA Meeting
Lafayette, LA

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

November/December
District and Component News

Rebecca Troulliet, PT
Northshore District Chair

It’s Official! District Meetings and PT Pub Nights have returned to the Northshore! Come out with your colleagues and join LPTA President, along with others, for an evening on the lakefront. **Thursday December 14th 6:30-9:30pm** meet us at The Barley Oak in Mandeville wearing your favorite holiday sweater to “mix and jingle” with local PTs, PTAs, and students! There will be updates on the recent news with LPTA and APTA, including the upcoming Combined Sections Meeting in New Orleans early 2018 as well as a Christmas Sweater Competition for all those in attendance. Please check out the Facebook pages or shoot me an email: rebecca.troulliet@gmail.com for more information!

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SAVE THE DATE

For Our Spring Meeting!!

**Lafayette**

**March 23-25, 2018**
Payment Chair Report

Help needed as we plan for 2018:

In an effort to help get you the information that you need and want, I need your help!

Advocacy is clearly important but I would also love to offer Q and A or educational sessions to help with struggles and celebrate successes in the world of payment and practice that you are experiencing. BUT I need to hear from you!

Please go to our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/310700435436/ and tag me in your comments: Katie Regan Brittain.

As an example of struggles, if I had to list items that need attention, the list would be topped by Humana as well as 3rd party contracts. Maybe throw in understanding how to perform an audit or set up quality improvement strategies just to name a few!

I am looking forward to hearing from all of you!

Katie Brittain, PT
Payment Chair
Bayou Bulletin


Happy Holidays

PAIN RELIEF

VS.

PAIN RELIEF

Ask a physical therapist about safer ways to manage pain.

#ChoosePT
MoveForwardPT.com

Bill Marin
Chairman of the Board
NMLS #139271
PO Box 427, Patterson
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(985) 518-9792 (mobile)
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Paul Hildreth

is the new

Bylaw Chairman!!
REGISTER TODAY
Combined Sections Meeting!

New Orleans
February 21-24, 2018

“As a busy clinic owner and clinician, I find PTPN valuable both in keeping me abreast of breaking news in the physical therapy world that affects my practice and in securing contracts with payers.”

— Amanda Brewer, DPT, Brewer Physical Therapy

PTPN’s expert advice, training and tools help your practice capitalize on emerging and essential reimbursement streams:

♦ qualify for higher reimbursement via the BCBS of LA PT/OT Quality Blue program
♦ master practice marketing in direct access
♦ maximize your participation in new bundled payment programs

It pays to join PTPN. Contact Kim Bueche Hardman to learn more: 225-927-6888 or kbueche@ptpnla.brcoxmail.com.
Final Fee Schedule Rule a Mixed Bag

The final physician fee schedule rule released by CMS contains a mix of positives and negatives when it comes to CPT codes: many values will go up, but some will see reductions. APTA staff are reviewing the rule to get a better take on overall impact.

Defense Bill Set for Vote Includes PTAs in TRICARE

PTAs are now closer than ever to being included as accepted providers under TRICARE, the payer used throughout the US Department of Defense health care system.

Direct Access, Direct Advantages

A new study finds that patients with back or neck pain who accessed physical therapy via direct access experienced outcomes as effective as referral-based care at lower cost, and with no adverse events.

Disruption, Confusion, and Shrinking Benefits

APTA is encouraging members to speak up on a proposed HHS plan that would allow states to dramatically alter the way essential health benefits, including rehabilitation, are managed.

The 2018 Physician Fee Schedule: What’s Here, What’s Ahead

The final Medicare physician fee schedule varied from the proposed version in significant ways. What happened, where do things stand now, and what's next?

Visit www.apta.org to see full articles.
Bill Adding PTAs to TRICARE Ready to be Signed
It only took a week for the defense bill to make it through both congressional chambers and on to the President's desk.

Home Health and Outpatient Payment Details
Now available: APTA fact sheets on the 2018 home health and outpatient payment system rules.

The Fee Schedule’s Out. Now what?
APTA's recommendation for 4 things you should do now that the 2018 PFS is final.

Childhood Obesity, Patient-Centered Medical Homes, and the PT
The latest and last Innovation 2.0 Learning Lab explores the key roles PTs can play in this value-based system.

TKA and THA Bundling Program Shrinks, Offers More Possibilities for PT Participation
CMS will scale back its CJR mandatory bundling program in 2018 and has abandoned plans to set up a similar system for cardiac care and femur fractures. At the same time, it's expanding the range of providers who can participate in the smaller system.

Visit www.apta.org to see full articles.