President’s Message

The LPTA and APTA remain very busy for our profession. We had a very successful Fall meeting, and several of us are returning from the APTA Payment Forum. The payment forum brings together all the state chapters to get the latest payment updates, to participate in workshops and robust discussions to gather data on what is occurring in each state, and to strategize on how we can drive our profession forward in a proactive way. As the end of the year is fast approaching, the association is preparing for several meetings already scheduled for 2019. Some of our future events for the LPTA include the Board meeting at a planning retreat the first weekend of January, component leadership conference at CSM in late January, in March we are gearing up for our 5th Sports Symposium, and right after that will be House of Delegates and NEXT Conference.

APTA has several major projects going on, and here are some of the hot ticket items to keep your eyes out for. CMS will be discontinuing Functional Limitation reporting at the end of the year. The final rules have not been released yet but it appears we will be facing Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) that will determine Medicare payment adjustments, whether that is a payment bonus, a payment penalty, or no change in payment. The APTA continues to work with multiple health care providers and the AMA to look at alternative payment models based on the individual, co-morbidities and diagnosis. There seems to be a constant battle between value-based payment models and the traditional pay for service model. The APTA continues to advocate strongly for the elimination of the payment differentials for PTAs that are set to go into effect in 2022. Telehealth Legislation continues to gain momentum as telehealth legislation has been developed in multiple states and in other areas of medicine such as emergency medicine, radiology and psychology. Several projects are occurring within the APTA focused on population health and physical therapy’s role in primary care. APTA continues to push for increased access to team-based pain management that would eliminate barriers to care by allowing increase patient access, and reduced or eliminated copays for non-pharmacological pain treatments. Only through aggressive changes in how we address the opioid epidemic will we truly make a difference.

It is a very exciting time. Physical therapists have so much to offer to the health profession and the citizens of LA. We no longer sit by and let the field of medicine dictate what we do. We are emerging as primary care providers, managing population health, working with other health care providers and insurance companies on directing evidence based care, and we are practicing at a much higher level than ever before. We could not achieve any of this without the help and support of our members within the association. Currently, there are nearly 4200 licensed therapist in our state, and only 960 therapist are APTA/LPTA members. I cannot say thank you enough to our members. I encourage you to stay involved and to energize your colleagues to become members of this great association. Your best investment is in your professional association. We are stronger together. Happy Holidays and I look forward to seeing everyone in March.

Joe Shine, PT DPT
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Lake Charles and Lafayette District Government Affairs Liaison
Positions are open. See District News for more information.

Submissions
We welcome anyone to contribute to the Bayou Bulletin. If you would like to advertise, report, or share experiences with your fellow LPTA members, please see the publisher contact information on this page

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 23-26, 2019
Combined Sections Meeting
Washington, DC

March 22-24, 2019
LPTA Spring Meeting
Lafayette, LA

June 12-15, 2019
NEXT Conference
Chicago, IL

LSU Health New Orleans Studies Innovative Approach to Improve Walking In Children with CP

The National Institutes of Health has awarded a $2.5 million translational research grant over five years to Noelle Moreau, PhD, PT, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at LSU Health New Orleans School of Allied Health Professions, to study the effectiveness of a highly innovative approach to improve the ability of children with cerebral palsy to walk. Dr. Moreau will investigate the effects of Power Training combined with Interval Treadmill Training, known as PT³, on functional walking capacity, muscle performance and architecture. PT³ is a combined impairment and task-specific approach, which targets muscle power deficits specifically.

Dr. Moreau’s research has been featured in the Foundation of Physical Therapy Newsletter.

For More Information regarding Dr. Moreau’s Research, Please Visit: https://www.lsuhsc.edu/newsroom
Blair T. Duthu, PT, Houma District Chair

The Houma District has had a busy start to Fall. We had a successful Fall meeting on September 6th. We also participated in a Fall prevention event on September 27th at The Claiborne in Thibodaux. We brought together numerous medical professionals to educate the community on fall prevention. Stay tuned for a therapist spotlight in the upcoming newsletters. I will select a therapist and highlight their practice in each newsletter to help us get to know our peers and their areas of expertise. Please contact me at blair.duthu@rehabcare.com or 985-381-2927.

Kassy Zerangue, PT, DPT, Lafayette District Chair

The Lafayette District had a solid turnout on its last District meeting on May 24th. SI-Bone hosted and attendees received one-hour CEU. During this meeting, Jennifer Watson stepped down from her position as Lafayette District Chair. I will now be serving as Lafayette District Chair. There will be a PT pub night/district meeting coming up soon, keep an eye out on social media for more information.

Matthew Powers, PT, DPT, New Orleans District Chair

“We had our District Meeting on September 27th at Touro Outpatient Rehabilitation in New Orleans, LA 70130. Our speaker was Dr. Lance Estrada who spoke on advancements in joint replacements. The meeting was attended by nearly 80 participants, and we earned 1 CEU credit. Following the meeting we had a PT Pub Night at Lula Distillery. Thank you to everyone who turned out, and I hope to see everyone at our next event. Our next PT pub night will be on Wednesday, November 28th. Keep your eye out on Facebook for the announcement.

Danielle Morris, PT, Baton Rouge District Chair

The Baton Rouge District meeting held on October 24th was hosted by the Physical Therapy Department of Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University. The event was sponsored by SI-BONE, Inc., and a 1.5 hour free CEU course titled The Symptomatic SI Joint was presented by Christine Cook, MS, PT and Arthur Hess, MD. We had an amazing turnout of over 75 participants. Thank you to all who attended, and a special thanks to the DPT student volunteers! Stay tuned for details on our upcoming PT Pub Night in January. On October 27th, the Baton Rouge Wheelchair Tennis Association hosted the Hallowheel Adaptive/Wheelchair Tennis Carnival (picture below) at BREC’s Highland Park Tennis Center. This event introduced the sport of wheelchair tennis through fun, games, and instruction. A special thanks to all the volunteers, including the PTA students who helped make this event successful. Please stay active and engaged, and I hope to see you soon!
“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

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#337 Successfully Using Sign Language with Children Who Have Special Needs with JILL EVERSANN, MS, CCC-SLP
Baton Rouge, LA
Baton Rouge General Medical Center
Saturday, December 1, 2018

#130 Orthopedic Rehabilitation for the Lower Extremity...
Treatment for common injuries or impairments to Lumbopelvic, hip, knee, foot and ankle

Instructor:
Robert Donatelli PhD, PT, OCS
Metairie, LA-Saturday, March 9-10, 2019

For information:
admin@motivationsceu.com

#337 and #130 approved by the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board.

www.MotivationsCeu.com
Nominations Committee Report
LPTA Elections

This year’s election process was held using electronic voting method for the first time, and it appeared to be very successful. The voter response increased more than 100% compared to the on-site voting method used in the past.

Electronic voting process feedback thus far has been positive, with suggestions being made that the LPTA send more electronic reminders to vote. Please keep the suggestions coming!

The results of the 2018 election are as follows:
- David Qualls, Chief Delegate
- Rich Baudry, Delegate
- Jane Eason, Delegate
- Caroline Denison, Alternate Delegate
- Victoria McDowell, PTA Caucus Representative
- Cristina Faucheaux, Governmental Affairs Chairperson

Preparation for next year’s election process has already begun. The Nominations Committee will be slating candidates for the following positions:
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Delegate
- Nominations Committee Chair Elect

As mentioned above, the Nominations Committee and Board of Directors welcome any feedback and suggestions regarding candidate suggestions, elections and basically all things P.T..

And as always, we would love to have more members get involved with the various committees and districts that comprise our great association! The level of involvement and commitment regarding LPTA activities is very individualized and flexible; you’d be surprised! Mentorship is our thing so if you’re not sure about getting involved please just ask me and I’ll be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Kinta Leblanc, PT, DPT
LPTA Nominations Committee Chairperson

Payment and Practice Committee Report

1. Locum Tenens and Incident to billing:
   a. PTs are not allowed to participate in Incident to billing at this time
   b. Starting 6/13/2017, PTs became eligible to participate in what was previously known as Locum Tenens, which is now separated into reciprocal billing and fee for time compensation arrangements, in the same manner as physicians if serve a HPSA, MUA, or rural area. In addition, there are particular time limitations.
   c. Please see MLN #MM10090 for more information.
   d. Note that most commercial payers default to CMS’ policy.

2. PTA billing
   a. In LA, I am not aware of any commercial carrier that credentials PTAs.
   b. PTA and PT relationships should follow the practice act but for billing, check with the guidelines for each payer. For example, Medicare requires direct on site supervision for PTAs in order to bill for their services.
   c. PTA services are currently billed under the PT NPI for in network services.
   d. Tricare is still working through the process of allowing PTAs to treat patients as covered providers but the process is not currently finalized.
   e. PTA services are covered for Triwest patients under VA Choice and Patient Centered Community Care Programs.
Payment/Practice Committee Report Cont’d...

3. Functional Limitation Reporting
   a. It is proposed that FLR will be eliminated starting 1/1/19.
   b. APTA were huge advocates in the elimination of FLR.
   c. Expected quality reporting changes include replacing FLR with MIPS participation for those that meet eligibility criteria.

4. MIPS
   a. PTs will be allowed to participate in MIPS in 2019.
   b. We are waiting for the final rule to come out in November.
   c. Please be aware that there will likely be heavy percent penalties for noncompliance and the turnaround time for implementation and training will be short.
   d. Check back with LPTA and APTA in November for more information and to see if you qualify.

5. IRF
   a. Effective fiscal year 2020. FIM will no longer be used to determine motor and cognitive scores.
   b. This change will go into effect October 1st, 2019, effective for all discharges from that date.

6. PTA modifier and differential
   a. It is expected that the 85% differential payment will start 2022.
   b. The current discussions regarding payment revolve around the terms in part or in whole.
   c. APTA is fighting to ensure that in part treatment provided by the PTA will not equate to the entire treatment time payment being reduced by 15% as it currently stands.
   d. We will keep you updated on this progress as well as modifier requirements that are expected to be clarified this year.

7. Quality Payment Program
   a. Be aware that the current Quality payment program has two tracks: MIPS and Advanced APMS.
   b. MIPS is discussed above.
   c. Advanced APMS differ in that they include bonus payment as well as increased risk for the providers.
   d. APTA is in discussions with different organizations to help get PTs better aligned to participate with advanced APM programs.

8. Home Health
   a. CMS will adopt a new payment methodology by 2020 that will untie PT visit numbers to payment.
   b. It is expected to look a lot like the previous proposal.
   c. Comment period ends on Friday, August 31st.

9. SNF
   a. CMS has finalized new payment methodology for SNF for 2020.
   b. The title is the SNF patient driven payment model.
   c. The purpose of the new payment model is the tie payment to patient characteristics as opposed to utilization.

Katie Brittain, PT, DPT, MBA
LPTA Payment and Practice Chair

If you are interested in receiving you Bulletin in full color by email, please reply to the office (office@LPTA.org) with the clarification.

Just type in the subject line, "Opting Out." Make sure you include your name, member number and a contact number in case we need one!"
Federal Affairs Report

All the seats for LA Representatives to the US Congress are up for re-election. If you get invited to a fundraiser, consider contacting the APTA PT PAC for funds to support our friends.

Regarding Physical Therapy Assistants:

TriWest (the contractor for VA Choice) clarified their policy to the APTA that services furnished by PTAs are covered and TriWest will be clarifying this in their August newsletter.

Regarding TRICARE, The Dept Of Defense is still drafting the proposed regulations to recognize PTAs and COTAs as authorized providers under TRICARE. We expect the Department of Defense will issue the proposed regulation this fall/winter and will allow a 60-day comment period. They will then need to draft and publish a final rule. We do not anticipate that the rule will be retroactive; therefore, it is recommended that you wait until PTAs are recognized in the final rule before changing your practice guidelines on PTAs and Tricare beneficiaries in an outpatient facility.

PTA Differential Modifier for Medicare:

This will be applied to services performed “in whole or in part” by a COTA/PTA. The APTA is proposing ideas to CMS on the “in whole or in part” requirement. The Reimbursement for a PTA/ COTA will be 85% of the applicable Part B payment on January 1, 2020 for services provided by a PTA or COTA. Services provided by a PTA or COTA will be indicated by a separate modifier attached to the CPT code. The modifier will be defined by January 1, 2019.

There are some Medicare Regulations that you should be watching closely. I will highlight two of the Medicare Proposed Rules.

Medicare Physician Fee Schedule:

Two big items are the proposed removal of Functional Limitation Reporting (FLR) and that Physical Therapists will be eligible to participate in MIPS (Merit Based Incentive Program). MIPS has 4 components. The proposed rule is that Physical Therapists would initially report on 2/4 components. There is a low volume threshold in place with 3 criteria to determine your eligibility to participate in MIPS:

- Annual allowed charges of $90K for Part B Medicare services
- Provide services to more than 200 Medicare part B enrolled individuals
- Provide More than 200 covered professional services in a year (the term professional services are still being defined. Currently, we are not clear if that relates to individual CPT codes or units).

If all 3 thresholds are met, then the proposed rule states that Physical Therapists providing services under Medicare Part B would be mandatory to participate. If 1/3 criteria are met therapists would have the option to opt in or voluntarily report under MIPS. It is very important for each practice to determine and weigh the cost/benefit ratio when deciding if you should “opt in” or “voluntarily report” as there are very different reimbursement/penalty scenarios in 2021 based on your performance and selection of opting in or voluntarily reporting in 2019. Also, the criteria are defined to help you determine if you would report as an individual or a group.

I strongly urge you to pay close attention in October/November when the final rule is published as you will only have a short time period to educate your clinicians and determine how to participate in MIPS for January 1, 2019.

HH Proposed Prospective Payment System

The Proposed rule is set to be in effect 1/1/2020. The billing period for Home Health will change from 60-day episode to 30 days. CMS will classify episodes as early/late. Early is defined as first 30-day period in a sequence. Late is classified as all other subsequent periods.

This rule replaces Home Health case methodology with a new patient driven grouping model (PDGM).

In general, the proposed rule effects HH in terms of:

- admission source
- clinical groupings
- functional level
- comorbidity adjustment

For additional information on Congressional Regulations such as MIPS or the HH Proposed Payment System, feel free to contact Katie Brittain or me. In addition, you can review the APTA website as it is a host of information and many webinars can be found on these topics.

Cristina Faucheux, PT
Government Affairs Chair
The 2018 LPTA Legislator of the Year Award was awarded to Senator Peacock at the Fall Conference. Senator Barrow Peacock authored the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact. Successful passage of this bill occurred in the 2018 Session. LA now joins the ranks of 21 states that offer compact privileges.

Elections next year will be critical in the fall. Approximately 40% of the legislators are termed for their current seats. Therefore, it will be very important to have meetings with all new legislators to begin to establish relationships. If you served as a key contact during our direct access push, you will be contacted to consider serving in this role to be a resource to your legislator with upcoming legislative issues. In addition, raising funds for the LPTA PT PAC will be vital to support our friends in the legislature. When you see the call to contribute to the LPTA PT PAC, please consider donating at a minimum of $20.

New Rules/Regulations for the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board are tentative set to be effective December 20, 2018. Please stay tuned and look for more information from our regulatory board on these changes.

Patrick Cook’s term as the LPTA Representative to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board will expired in Sept 2018. We are pleased that we had several applicants express interest in the position. We are extremely thankful for Patrick’s service as not only a board member, but also for his service as Chairman of the LPTB.

The GA Committee is currently looking for those interested in joining the Governmental Affairs Committee that live in the Lake Charles and Lafayette Districts. Please contact cristina@moreaupt.com, if you are interested in learning more about this position.

Cristina Faucheux
Government Affairs Chair
Chief Delegate Report

The gavel has sounded and the 2018 Session of the APTA House of Delegates has closed. Again, we completed our work, but just barely.

The 2018 Session was a good one. New ideas and goals were outlined. This was also a year when we were able to reminisce as the Special Committee of the House of Delegates brought forth the first half of their seventy motions which allows us to combine, rescind, amend or re-word policies and procedures, some many years old. The new wording allows us to better conform to modern day practice.

We survived a shorter and more compressed schedule and also endured a new candidate interview format. We already know the interview format will be tweaked next year.

Speaking of candidates, elections went well. Our own Sharon Dunn was re-elected as APTA President. Her support was overwhelming, as you would expect. Matt Hyland (NY) was elected as VP. All three incumbent Board of Director members were re-elected. Those were Susan Appling (OH), Bob Rowe (FL/LA) and Cynthia Armstrong (CO). Dan Mills (UT) was also elected to fill the unexpired term of Matt Hyland, who was elected as VP. Also, Derrick Fenwick was elected to the Nominating Committee.

Seersucker Day was again a success and it appears that over half of the Delegates were dressed in seersucker this year.

Your delegates were helpful in assisting the House to hear 57 motions this year. This is almost twice as many as we have heard in the past few years. Fortunately, because of the work of the Special Committee and considerable work electronically on the HUB prior to the House, we were able to approve many motions by consent. This really helped our schedule.

The motions discussed this year included encouraging physical therapist ownership and operation of physical therapy services, delivery of value based physical therapy services and exclusive use of multiple physical agents / modalities. Also, we debated ethical and legal considerations for clinical education and overwhelmingly supported the endorsement of national efforts addressing the Opioid Health Crisis. We cleaned up the language on access to durable medical equipment and strengthened language supporting Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and use of automated external defibrillators.

The annual visit with a physical therapist language was strengthened and by a unanimous vote, we expanded the wording to support reporting sexual harassment. We even discussed working/practice relationships with veterinarians. We re-visited core values for the physical therapist and value based behaviors for the physical therapist assistant.

The delegates did some word re-modeling relating to direction and supervision of the physical therapist assistant and addressed procedural interventions exclusively performed by physical therapist. Provisions for physical therapy interventions and related task was amended by addressing the role of aides in a physical therapy service. We also supported the DPT as the minimum professional education qualification for physical therapist. All accredited schools now offer the DPT as the entry level degree. Delegates also supported that physical therapist professional scope includes pharmacology management and Pro Bono services, by physical therapist, were encouraged and are supported by the Code of Ethics. We addressed our commitment to person–centered services and supported physical therapy as being part of established health benefits plans. There was considerable discussion in reference to best practice in mentoring and also American Board of Physical Therapy residency and fellowship education.
Chief Delegate Report

We also passed several charges:
1. Endorsement and integration of the International Association for the study of curriculum outlined on pain for physical therapy.
2. The role of the physical therapist and physical therapist assistant in disaster management.
3. Exploration of barriers to clinical research by physical therapist.
4. Eliminating the improvement standard for receiving physical therapy, especially is some populations.
5. Adjustment in documentation requirements for prevention and wellness interactions.
6. Professional well-being.
7. Advance practice in physical therapy.
8. Reframing the description of physical therapist service delivery.

James H. Rimmer PhD, Daniel Corcos PhD and APTA’s long time and now retired employee Bonnie Polvinale were elected to honorary membership in APTA.

The two by-law amendments proposed this year, Qualifications for voting delegates and Allowing sections to vote in the House, were not heard. They did not receive the needed 2/3 vote to be heard in a non-by-law year.

I hope you can see that your delegates were busy while on site and especially during the 4–5 months prior to the actual House of Delegate Session.

Your 2018 delegates were Joe Shine, LPTA President; Jane Eason; Paul Hildreth; Rich Baudry and David Qualls. Kinta LeBlanc was your alternate and Victoria McDowell was your PTA Caucus Rep. Trey Dickinson was the LPTA student companion delegate this year.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your delegates. The post-house packet is posted on the APTA HUB and a post-house slide presentation will be posted soon.

On behalf of the delegates, we thank you for allowing us to serve you at the 2018 Session of the APTA House of Delegates.

David Qualls, PT
LPTA Chief Delegate

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:
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MARCH 22-24, 2019

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