



July 2019 Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

CARRIE ABRAHAM PT, DPT, MPH
PRESIDENT, WVPTA

It is summertime and a wonderful time to take advantage of all of the fun opportunities for rest and relaxation that this season provides. I hope that you are enjoying it all! But in our rest, let us not forget that our important work must continue to move forward!

In the next couple of months, you as members of the WVPTA will be receiving a survey asking you about the work of your state Physical Therapy Association. This will be a short and painless survey for you to complete, but will provide chapter leaders with key information with which to move forward into the next phase of the association planning process. Your volunteer leadership team is planning to update the WVPTA Strategic Plan in late summer/early fall 2020. In order to get the focus of this plan right, we need to hear from you – our valued members. We need to know that our work will be geared towards the issues that you face in your practice on a daily basis. We want to know what services that you find most valuable from your professional association and more. So, please, when you see this come

through your email, take a few minutes of your time to help shape the future work of the West Virginia Physical Therapy Association.

Although it feels like the session just ended – we are also looking forward to the 2019-20 WV Legislative Session and beginning to consider the political contests that might have an impact on health care policy in WV. In order to influence that policy, we not only need to have developed relationships with our legislators, we also need to build up an adequate pool of funds in our Political Action Committee (PAC) account to be used to support candidates who value physical therapy as a meaningful contributor to the health of our communities. Relationships are built over time and our team has been cultivating those bonds for some time. Fundraising, however, can be done spontaneously and quickly. These funds really do help us to support those legislators who are friends of physical therapy, health care and public health policy. They help us to battle the road blocks that we, and our patients, encounter. I would encourage every member of our state association to contribute to our PAC this year. No amount is too small – and I mean that with all sincerity. Just as our unified voice is heard louder when more of us speak out – that voice is also magnified when we engage the political system. Some may find that frustrating, and I understand. But this is the way of our government and we feel too strongly about patient access to our services to stay quiet. So, voices and dollars it is! Please click [here](#) to go to our website to donate or contact the chapter office for assistance.

I would love to hear from you. Please don't hesitate to contact me about any need that you may have regarding the work our association. My email is cabraham@wju.edu and my office phone number is 304-243-2286. Reach out anytime!

EXCITED TO SERVE THE STATE CHAPTER

Corrie Mancinelli, PT, PhD, GCS
WVPTA Vice President

I am excited to serve the state chapter as the newly elected Vice President. While I have been engaged with the state chapter over the years and in various ways, I have not served in this capacity. I am prepared to assist Carrie Abraham as the President and am honored to do so. As the VP, I will be the liaison to the WV Board of Physical Therapy. I feel strongly that this is critical to our mission of protecting our scope of practice and reporting news from the Board to the Chapter. I have been in contact with several Board members thus far by way of introduction. The VP also serves to foster development of special interest groups within the chapter.

I am grateful of the start-up work that has been done by Scott Davis as former VP and Ian Dobek, Marshall PT student and President of the Student SIG. Ian led a conference call recently with discussion of plans for more student participation in PT Day of Caring, etc. I enjoyed listening to the energy and professionalism of the students as well as embracing the idea of collaboration of students from all three WV schools. I was very impressed with their maturity, caring of the profession and drive as emerging young professionals. I believe that my years of experience in the clinical and academic realm of the profession have prepared me to assist the President of the WVPTA and carry out the other duties of the office of Vice President including fostering development of special interest groups, serving as a liaison with the WV Board of PT, coordinating leadership training for chapter leaders and overseeing the nomination of members for association and chapter awards/recognition. I still have lots more to learn but will work to do my best for the chapter and the profession I truly love.

THE ADVANCED PROFICIENCY PATHWAY FOR THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Bryanna Ordiway, PTA, BS
WVPTA PTA Caucus Chair

If you are looking for a way to continue to develop your knowledge and development of skills in a specific area, the Advanced Proficiency Pathway for the Physical Therapist Assistant is a great tool to use! This pathway was developed by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) as a way for PTA's to continue their education after graduation in a specific area of physical therapy.

The APP serves as a guide for PTA's to focus their life-long learning that consists of general course work, specialty coursework, demonstration of skills, and mentorship from physical therapists with expertise in the selected area of choice. There are currently seven specialty areas to choose from: acute care, cardiovascular/pulmonary, geriatrics, oncology, orthopedics, pediatrics, and wound management. The APP not only focuses on education, but serves as a way to advance the PT/PTA team approach to patient care. PTA's will be working both with their supervising physical therapist and other physical therapist mentors to continue to develop their skills to become a better asset in their clinic. This recognition is a way for PTA's to identify their advanced knowledge and skills in their selected area of physical therapy to their employers, their community, and the patients that they serve. Once completed, PTAs will be recognized

by the APTA with a certificate of completion, lapel pin, and national recognition during the Recognition Ceremony at the Combined Sections Conference.

For further information and details on the Advanced Proficiency Pathway for the Physical Therapist Assistant, please visit <http://www.apta.org/APP/About/>.

WVPTA TREASURER REPORT

Matthew Madrid, MSPT
WVPTA Treasurer

I. **No Current Issues or Concerns Raised** from executive committee meetings and/or chapter members.

II. **Recent Treasurer Activities**

Organize and oversee peer review audit for 2018. 2018 tax return filed.

III. **Financial Position (6/28/19)**

<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents		\$92,373	
Marketable Securities		\$74,723	
Total Current Assets		\$167,096	<u>Total</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		----- 0 -----	

V **Final Comments** - 2019 Annual Spring Conference deposits \$44,616

Amounts include registrations, sponsors, exhibitors, golf funds, & partnerships

Feel free to contact me at Madrid.AffiliatedPT@gmail.com

INSURANCE UPDATES

SALLY OXLEY, PT, OCS, CHT, CMDT

WVPTA Payer Relations Committee Chair

Medicaid – WV Family Health Medicaid participants have been transitioned to other Medicaid providers since WVFH will no longer be participating in the program as of July 1st, 2019. The Health Plan will honor the prior authorizations for services already granted to WVFH. BMS will share those prior authorizations with THP and other Medicaid providers

Aetna Better Health is hosting provider workshops. Below are the meeting dates and locations:

Martinsburg, WV on July 8, 2019 - Hilton Garden Inn

Clarksburg, WV on July 9, 2019 - Village Square Conference Center

Wheeling, WV on July 10, 2019 - Springhill Suites

Charleston, WV on July 12, 2019 - Berry Hills Country Club

Huntington, WV on July 16, 2019 - Big Sandy Superstore Arena

Beckley, WV on July 17, 2019 - Tamarack

All meetings above - Registration 8 - 9 AM / Presentation 9 - 12 PM

Highmark - Treatment provided for "Chronic Pain" can be provided without the patient being responsible for co-insurance or deductibles. The billing must include one or more of the diagnosis' codes G89.21; G89.28; G89.89 or G89.4. When providers bill the G-codes the visit limit goes away and there is no deductible. There is a co-pay, but no co-insurance. The physician must apply the G-code initially to establish that it is a "chronic pain patient that qualifies".

PEIA – As of July 1st PEIA claims will be administered by UMR, a United Healthcare company. A provider does not have to be in network with United Healthcare to participate and for now the PEIA fee schedule will remain the same. We are hopeful that the situation will not change since UHC pays a low per diem rate for physical therapy services.

TriWest - TriWest and TriCare are now being managed separately. TriCare was managing TriWest at one point, but they no longer do and TriWest does not follow the same policies. TriWest policy does not specifically address PTA care, however TriCare does. TriCare specifically says that therapy assistants (and it names Physical, Occupational, etc.) cannot provide services or treat patients enrolled in TriCare. PTAs can treat and bill Tre-West for PT.

United Healthcare – United Healthcare announced a new pilot program to increase access to Physical Therapists Services as a result of a collaboration with APTA. The pilot program will be in 5 states and will waive the cost of co-pays and deductibles for 3 physical therapy sessions for patients with low back pain (LBP) living in Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and New York. The pilot, which could affect as many as 1 million enrollees, goes into effect July 1st, 2019. Other states will join the program in 2020 and 2021.

Specifically, the pilot will be available to UHC enrollees with new onset of LBP when receiving care from an outpatient in-network provider. This benefit change will not extend the enrollee's physical therapy or chiropractic benefit maximum, and will apply only to services related to treating back pain. Enrollees must have physical therapy or chiropractic benefits remaining in order to use this benefit.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNER!

