



October 2019 Newsletter

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

CARRIE ABRAHAM PT, DPT, MPH  
PRESIDENT, WVPTA

Hello all! As I am writing this, it is Physical Therapy Month and we have just passed the 2019 Global PT Day of Service. It was wonderful to see all of the amazing physical therapists and physical therapist assistants step out of the clinic and into the community to serve our neighbors. There was so much variety in that service, just as there is much variety in our profession. Our role in promoting the health of our communities is vital to the ability of that community to be able to meet the needs of its citizens. We help to keep the WV workforce healthy to avoid disruption in many industries, which in turn supports our economy, we keep our children moving to instill in them the value of movement in their general health, we assist our elder population with balance training to reduce the risk of falls and the cascade of events that falls can initiate, the impact that you have is unending. Thank you all for your dedication to your communities and to the patients and families that you serve!

We have been quite busy in the chapter recently. As we have previously communicated, we are searching for a new association management and government relations firm and I want to keep you updated on that process. The chapter released an RFP in early September with a submission date of October 9, 2019. The chapter executive committee is currently considering the proposals that have been received. We will select those whom we would like to interview, complete the interview process and we plan to have a selection by November 15, 2019. We will communicate with you, our members, when that process is complete to announce our new management team.

We are actively working on the development of a legislative plan to address the recent Performance Evaluation Review Decision requesting that the WV Legislature weigh in on physical therapists performing dry needling. You can see more

information about this in the PAC section of this newsletter written by Dr. Brad Proffitt. This battle is being fought across the nation by many other states and what we do know is that it takes a strong, unified voice, backed by evidence (which we have) and money (which we need). Whether you use dry needling in your daily practice or not, we are preparing to defend the scope of PT practice in WV. That is important to all of us, because today dry needling is being questioned, but what comes tomorrow? We need to advocate for the evidence-based interventions that we use and that takes money in the political scene. Please consider a donation to the PAC to help us with this work. No amount is too small, it all helps.

Our year of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the PTA is winding down. It has been fun! On Oct 5, 2019 we held the first continuing education event dedicated to the PTA. It was held in the Caperton Center in Clarksburg with Dr. Sujoy Bose sharing his knowledge and expertise in the field of Pharmacology. There were 52 physical therapist assistants registered for this conference – it was a great response! Dr. Bose did a fantastic job presenting the basic science of the topic along with the day to day clinical applications and safety considerations that we all deal with when managing our patients who are prescribed pharmaceuticals. A big thank you to the Celebrate PTA Committee for all of their work over this past year in planning events at annual conference last April, this CEU event in October and writing newsletter articles related to current PTA topics. Members of that committee include Bryanna Ordiway, Kelly Terry, Ron Moreland, Sujoy Bose, Tannor Decker (student PTA) and me. After this year, this work will be absorbed into the PTA SIG for continuation. We would love to have you assisting with this work. We know what everyone is very busy, we feel it too! But, it doesn't take much time and your thoughts and opinions are so valuable. Please consider it! Generally, one hour per month for a phone call meeting to help guide the work of the association where PTA practice is concerned.

Along those lines, I would be remiss if I did not mention the recent (Oct 1) implementation of the new payment models in SNF and home care, PDPM and PDGM respectfully. We are hearing from clinicians that some national corporations are cutting staff positions and hours in anticipation of a decreased reimbursement from these new models. This has affected some of our clinicians in WV. We also continue to keep the PTA differential on our radar. Although the differential does not go into effect until 2022, modifiers must be added to billing for care provided by PTAs for more than 10% of the service delivery time after January 1, 2020. If you are being impacted by these changes, please reach out to Sally Oxley, Payer Relations Chair at [soxley@hptservices.com](mailto:soxley@hptservices.com), to have a conversation so that we can be aware of how it is affecting the access to and the delivery of PT care in WV.

Yes, a lot is going on in the wild, wonderful world of physical therapy in WV. No time to rest, there is still much work to be done! Don't forget, the phone lines are always open for a chat. Don't hesitate to call or email with any concerns that you have or with your interest in helping out with some of the chapter work. It takes a village....a very large village! Talk soon!

## **Student Leadership Academy**

D. Scott Davis PT, EdD, OCS

*WVPTA President Elect*

The WVPTA will offer the inaugural Student Leadership Academy (SLA) on Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27, 2019 in Huntington at the Marshall University School of Physical Therapy. The Chapter invited PT and PTA students from all of the PT/PTA academic programs to apply for the weekend intensive leadership training academy. Sixteen of the best and brightest physical therapy students from Wheeling University, West Virginia University, and Marshall University were selected to participate.

The 16 students include Amanda King and Winston O'Neal from Wheeling University. Isabella Anile, Lauren Cline, Kelsie Gillespie, Emma Grose, Rachael Mears, Cole Salmons, and Aaron Saunders from West Virginia University. Whitley Adkins, Ian Dobek, Summer Hill, Andrew Lively, Chloe Parsemain, Donald Smith, and Jared Tucker from Marshall University.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Bobbi Nicholson. Dr. Nicholson has had an impressive career that includes being a high school teacher, Professor of Communication Studies at Glenville State College, Communications Director for Governor Gaston Caperton, and she is currently a Professor and the Graduate Coordinator of Leadership Studies at Marshall University. She was a Fulbright Fellow at Stockholm and Uppsala Universities in Sweden. Dr. Nicholson has been a visiting professor at Charles University in The Czech Republic and the University of Glasgow in Glasgow, Scotland. She was an invited delegate in both Johannesburg, South Africa and Oxford University in England. She has numerous publications and presentations in the area of leadership.

The students will have an opportunity participate in leadership activities and engage with several Chapter leaders including, President Carrie Abraham, Executive Director Jeff Stevens, Senator Eric Tarr, Delegate Mick Bates, WVBOPT board member Ashley Mason, PAC Chairperson Brad Profitt, Chief Delegate Ralph Utzman, Education Committee Chairperson Krissy Grubler, Strategic Planning expert Louis Gaunch, Nancy Tonkin Service Award Recipient - Sally Oxley, and President-Elect Scott Davis.

The students will develop lasting relationships with each other as they learn how the APTA functions and how to participate on committees, boards, and elected positions. They will learn about professional advocacy and how to appropriately engage in the state legislative process. The students will learn how to conduct a board meeting using Robert's Rules. The conference will end with a student-led Student Special Interest Group (SSIG) meeting led by SSIG President Ian Dobek. We also hope to take a little time to participate in a community service project to benefit the citizens of Huntington.

The goal is to fast track these high achieving students into leadership roles in the APTA and the profession after graduation, to prepare them for active service on committees and boards within their community, and to be advocates for the profession. If we want a vibrant profession, we must invest in the next generation and give them the tools to be successful.

## **Do you practice Dry Needling (DN)? The WVPTA PAC needs your help!!!!**

*Brad L. Profitt, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS, DC, CFCE*  
*WVPTA Political Action Committee Chair*

Do you practice Dry Needling (DN)?  
The WVPTA PAC needs your help!!!!

Recently, the Performance Evaluation and Research Division (PERD) of the West Virginia Legislature at the request of the WV Board of Acupuncture was asked to review the use of DN in West Virginia by Physical Therapist. There was a hearing at the capital on September 25th, 2019 in which the Board of Acupuncture and the Board of Physical Therapy had representatives discuss the issue. The Board of Acupuncture stated that they were seeking some clarifications with regards to DN by PTs in WV. Their questioning about the use of DN for PTs in WV comes from the fact that PTs were not included in the use of auricular acudetox therapy as it uses the same filiform needle. They were seeking clarification with regards to the definition of DN and greater regulatory oversight by the WVBOPT. The WVPTA is preparing to defend DN by physical therapist in West Virginia and we need your help.

If you have questions about this important issue or would like to get involved, please reach out to one of the WVPTA board members.

Please see the following link for more details regarding this issue:

[http://www.wvlegislature.gov/legisdocs/reports/perd/PT\\_September\\_2019.pdf](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/legisdocs/reports/perd/PT_September_2019.pdf)

To ensure that we have the needed resources, the WVPTA PAC is seeking contributions to help preserve the current practice of DN in the state of WV. If you desire to make a financial contribution to the WVPTA PAC then please send it to the following:

WVPTA PAC

c/o Brad Profitt-WVPTA PAC chair

2847 5th Ave

Huntington, WV 25702

Please make your checks payable to the "WVPTA PAC."

Thank you in advance for your consideration regarding this matter.

Remember: "The battles won are not won by the individual, but rather the collective efforts all."

## WVPTA TREASURER REPORT

Matthew Madrid, MSPT

WVPTA Treasurer

- I. **Current Issues or Concerns Raised** from executive committee meetings and/or chapter members. Executive Committee approved \$5,000 investment in 60 month CD before the end of 2019. Current 5 year CD bank rates being evaluated.
- II. **Recent Treasurer Activities - Peer Review Audit** - 2018 WVPTA peer review audit completed with assistance of Chief Delegate - Ralph Utzman, PT, PhD, Vice President - Corrie A. Mancinelli, PT, PhD, GCS. Review forwarded to Derick Gomez, Finance Associate at APTA.

III. <b>Financial Position (9/24/19)</b>	<u>Current Assets</u>	
	Cash & Cash Equivalents	76,410
	Marketable Securities	78,709
	Total Current Assets	155,119
	<u>Total Liabilities</u>	----- 0 -----

- V **Final Comments** – Current net revenue over expenses as of 09/24/2019 = \$1,905

Feel free to contact me at [Madrid.AffiliatedPT@gmail.com](mailto:Madrid.AffiliatedPT@gmail.com)

## 50th Anniversary of the Physical Therapist Assistant

Ron Moreland, PTA

WVPTA PTA Committee

The 50th Anniversary of the Physical Therapist Assistant is coming to a close just as there is change within the reimbursement of services provided by the PTA. There are many questions regarding the future for PTAs and what the job market will be like. I do not have a crystal ball to be able to answer that. I can give you perspective from 30 years of being a PTA.

When I went to school, I do not recall being taught much about insurance reimbursement. When I first started working, nearly all of insurance was traditional fee for service. I worked in a freestanding rehabilitation hospital where it was normal for a patient recovering from a stroke being able to stay for 2 to 3 months of care before being discharged. Today that is the exception, not the standard. During that time, I was introduced to managed care. The feeling at that time was that managed care would hurt health care and possibly reduce jobs. Physical Therapy found a way to adapt and overcome those initial concerns. The Physical Therapy and the role of the PTA continued to grow. Next was the Medicare cap on payment for Physical Therapy. Again, there was an initial reaction that this will negatively influence jobs and the care of patients. After the initial impact, we found a way to work within the constraints, give good care, and prosper.

Now we are dealing with multiple changes affecting Home Health, Outpatient and Skilled Nursing Facilities. Some reactions have been to reduce the workforce in addition to the fear of the unknown with possible pay reduction. I can only say that I have faith that Physical Therapy and specifically, PTAs will again find a way to give quality care and prosper. The APTA and the WVPTA work diligently for both Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants

because we are all in this together. We are no longer adversaries but partners in the protection and growth of Physical Therapy. We need more PTAs to step up within our ranks in the WVPTA to move forward. Now is the time to step up and move PTAs into the next 50 years.

## Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy

*Rhonda Haley, PT, DPT, GCS*

*WVPTA Advocate for the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy*

As the West Virginia State Advocate for the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy, I wanted to share this information with our state chapter members. If you have any questions related to this survey, please feel free to reach out to Jennifer! We are looking forward to having many responses! Your time is great appreciated!

### Email from Jennifer Vincenzo:

Hello,

On behalf of the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy and the National Council on Aging, please complete this ~ 15 minute survey.

The purpose of this survey is to explore fall prevention practices and referrals to community based organizations among physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. Even if you do not participate in these practices, please complete the survey!

\*Upon completion, please forward the link to three of your colleagues. \*

<https://crisredcap.uams.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=C3NCKKYJAJ>

This survey is voluntary and being used to inform a task force with the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy in collaboration with the National Council on Aging.

This survey has been approved by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Institutional Review Board.

Thank you for your participation!

Jennifer Vincenzo

Jennifer L. Vincenzo, PT, MPH, PhD

Assistant Professor, Lewis E. Epley Jr. Department of Physical Therapy

KL2 Mentored Research Career Development Scholar

Chair – Admissions Committee

Chair –Neurology Curriculum

Board Certified Clinical Specialist, Geriatric Physical Therapy (GCS)

Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)

State Advocate - Arkansas, Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy

Chair – Balance and Falls Special Interest Group, Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy

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## 2019 Nancy Tonkin Distinguished Service Award

It is our honor to announce that Sally Oxley was the recipient of the first annual Nancy Tonkin Distinguished Service Award which was presented at the 2019 WVPTA Annual Conference.

Sally has been an engaged member of the WVPTA since 1975. In addition to Sally's most recent service to the WVPTA as the Payer Relations Chair (2008 – present), she has also served as chapter secretary (1982-1983) and chair of the Nominating Committee (1993-1996). For the years of 1997-2008, Sally served on the West Virginia Physical Therapy Licensing Board serving as its chair from 1999-2008.



Sally's work in her many leadership roles both inside and outside of the WVPTA has produced immense growth and stability in the physical therapy profession in WV. She has advocated for the integrity of the licensure process in the legislature and fought for the scope of the Physical Therapy Practice Act when it was attacked by special interests. Sally's work with the Payer Relations committee has held payers accountable for fair reimbursement practices and she continues to lead the efforts of improving rates of reimbursement, keeping patient financial responsibilities to a reasonable level to maintain patient access to needed services.

Sally's dedicated, generous and humble service has impacted emerging leaders within the PT profession. Many of whom have or are currently serving as volunteer leaders within the WVPTA and some of whom have gone on to higher offices of public service. Her leadership provides inspiration for early career professionals and experienced clinicians alike.

Sally truly epitomizes the sentiment of this award. She matches Nancy's level of dedication, love for our profession, and willingness to take on the fight for what is right. Thank you Sally, for your tireless work on behalf of the profession of physical therapy in WV.

# THANKS TO OUR PARTNER!

