

The content in this preview is based on the last saved version of your email - any changes made to your email that have not been saved will not be shown in this preview.



Southeast District Newsletter

Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association



July 2012

In This Issue

District Elections

Membership Update

PT Fundraisers

**CMS Decision and
TENS**

APTA HoD News

PTA Volunteer Needed

**Fairness in Co-
payment**

Quick Links

PPTA News

SED Webpage

Join a PPTA SIG

**PPTA Mission &
Vision**

State Board of PT

**Advertise with Us
Click here for more
info.**

Recent District Activities



Things have quieted down a bit now that summer is here. We finished the active spring season on a good note with an excellent May Business Meeting and a district sponsored bus trip to a legislative training day in Harrisburg.

Legislative Training Day

On May 8th, about 25 district members, from all practice settings, including students, boarded a bus to Harrisburg for training on legislative advocacy and the lobbying process. Our district had by far the most members in attendance. After coffee, donuts and training from our PPTA Lobbyists Kent Culley and Paul Welk, we split up in teams and visited the offices of our various state senators and representatives. Mostly, we discussed the Fairness in Co-payment bill. More on that later in this newsletter.

Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting was held on May 9th. We had about 60 members at the meeting. It was an excellent mix of some of our distinguished members such as Colleen Chanler, Mary Sinnott, Mike Johnson, and Kristen Von Neida, among others, and many new faces. Also, the president of the APTA Student Assembly, Colleen Sullivan, was in attendance.

We started with a brief orientation to the organization of the APTA and its components and the workings of the State Board and an update on the State Practice Act. It is important for members to note that APTA policy influences but does not govern practice. Practice is governed by the Practice Act and the State Board of PT. Many of us seem to misunderstand this. Thus, you should recognize the importance of our legislative advocacy in Harrisburg.

Next, our committee Chairs reported. The consensus was that the Chairs are handing their business well and the district is in good shape.

Once all the business was completed, Pennsylvania's Chief Delegate to the APTA House of Delegates, Robin Dole, lead a discussion about the important (and controversial) motions that were debated and voted upon at this year's House of Delegates (HoD) meeting in June in Tampa, Florida. These motions would make fundamental changes to the APTA policies on how PTs direct care and how we can use support personnel.

Jeff Ostrowski, PT
SED District Chair
jostrowski@excelphysicaltherapy.com

District Elections

Voting is now open for the following district positions: secretary, nominating committee chair and delegate to the APTA House of Delegates. To vote, log onto the PPTA webpage (www.ppta.org) and click on your district's link under "events". You will need to scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the link.



Please follow the prompts on the webpage to vote. Read the "voting disclaimer" carefully before placing your vote. To vote, you will need your APTA id# (username) and your last name, all in small case (password). In order for your vote to be considered valid, you must cast your vote between midnight (EST) July 1, 2012 and midnight (EST) August 1, 2012.

Be sure to exercise your right as a PPTA member and vote!



Penn Medicine

Physical Therapists

Home care
opportunity knocks.

[Click Here](#)

Membership News

Southeastern District membership as of June 2012 is 1,125 PTs and 30 PTAs for a total of 1,155. Last year at this time the SED had 1,049 PTs and 31 PTAs, totaling 1,080. In 2010 we had 965 PTs and 25 PTAs, totaling 990. District membership is growing very nicely.

Fundraiser for Friends of PT

SED members John Lockard and Jeff Ostrowski recently hosted fundraisers for Philadelphia area candidates running for re-election to the US House of Representatives.

John hosted Democrat Allyson Schwartz running in the 13th Congressional District at his home on Tuesday, May 29th. Congresswoman Schwartz is a primary sponsor of a House bill that would repeal the flawed Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate formula.

Jeff hosted Republican Pat Meehan, running in the 7th Congressional District at his home on Tuesday, June 12th. Congressman Meehan is a co-sponsor of the bill to permanently repeal the Medicare Therapy Cap.

Both events were attended by SED PTs, who took advantage of the opportunity to speak one-on-one with the candidates about the

issues noted above and others which impact our practice. The candidates made remarks to the groups, primarily centering on our area of interest, health care policy.



From left to right: Deborah Wiegand-Snyder, Main Line Health; Joe Ruhl, E & A Therapy; Pete Grabaskas, Physiotherapy Associates; Mark Reitz, Penn Therapy Associates; Gerald Dufour, Superior Physical Therapy; Nancy Houttman, Crozer Keystone Health System; Maureen O'Leary, Maximum Rehab; Christine Osman, Physiotherapy Associates; John Lockard, Northwest Physical Therapy; Congressman Patrick Meehan, Jeff Ostrowski, E & A Therapy; Margerite Fontanez, Good Shepherd Penn Partners; Darren Rhodia, Kinetic Physical Therapy; Steve Pettineo, Temple University

Through the generosity in time and money of many PTs (but not enough) we were able to strengthen the relationship between our profession and these two candidates. Thanks to all who contributed. It is important that with so much of our practice determined by what happens in Washington, we have as many friends there as possible. Both candidates look to be in the lead for re-election in November in their respective districts.

CMS Retains Clinical Study Requirement in Final TENS Decision Memo

Despite [APTA's urging](#) for continued Medicare coverage of TENS for chronic low back pain (CLBP) and additional research regarding the circumstances when the use of TENS for CLBP is effective, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized the requirement of enrollment in an approved clinical study to receive coverage for TENS for CLBP.

In its [final decision memo](#), CMS said that the clinical study requirement is to support additional research on the use of TENS for CLBP, and this requirement will expire in 3 years. CMS says in the memo that based on its review of the evidence, "... we have determined that TENS is not reasonable and necessary for CLBP under 1862(a)(1)(A) of the Act. Neither the comments we received, nor the discussions that we have had with industry and investigators, have provided us with the persuasive scientific evidence to reach a different conclusion." Thus, at the expiration of the 3-year clinical study requirement, TENS for CLBP will not be covered, as it will be considered not reasonable and necessary.

APTA House of Delegates Meeting News

To follow up on the House of Delegates (HoD) discussion from the Annual Business Meeting, a brief summary of some of the motions that were discussed are presented below. You are encouraged to visit the APTA website for more complete information. A [Post-House Packet](#) containing draft final motion language for all the motions acted on at the 2012 House of Delegates in Tampa is posted in the House community in the archive folder 2012

RC 2-12 Physical Therapist Responsibility and Accountability for the Delivery of Care. The position confirms that physical therapy is provided by, or under the direction and supervision of, a physical therapist (PT). Evaluation remains the complete responsibility of the PT.

In its deliberations, the House cited the ways that APTA's Vision 2020 and Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy support the position. However, the House noted that current APTA positions, standards, guidelines, policies, and procedures may be in conflict with the new position as some of them stipulate the use of specific personnel (ie physical therapist assistants and aides) rather than

recognize the responsibility and accountability that accompany the independent judgment of contemporary physical therapist practice, which characterizes the autonomous professional. Thus, the position will take effect upon the implementation of necessary initiatives in education, practice, payment, regulation, and research, and adoption of requisite APTA positions, standards, guidelines, policies, and procedures.

In discussing this issue, the House also commented on the need for PTs to respond to changes resulting from health care reform, including new models of care that might provide opportunities for PT leadership. Accordingly, APTA will explore practice models that are responsive to the needs of society and adaptable to the changing health care environment.

RC 20-12 Development of Guidelines for Transitioning to an Entry-Level Baccalaureate Physical Therapist Assistant Degree. To examine how the physical therapist assistant (PTA) can best support the physical therapist in the current and future health care environment, APTA will collaborate with appropriate stakeholders to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether or not transitioning the entry-level degree for the PTA to a bachelor's degree is indicated. In accordance with the motion adopted by the House of Delegates, the study will identify the following: (1) additional/expanded content to be addressed in a 4-year curriculum; (2) baccalaureate-level educational models for the entry-level PTA that include a description of the required and elective discipline-specific and liberal arts components of the curriculum; (3) a mechanism for PTA programs housed in 2-year institutions to award a baccalaureate PTA degree; (4) educational models for PTAs with associate degrees to transition to a bachelor's degree; and (5) possible practice act language modifications that could be required as a result of the transition. A report on the study will be submitted to the 2014 House, with an interim report to the 2013 House

RC 23-12 Standards of Conduct in the Use of Social Media. The use of social media by physical therapists (PTs), physical therapist assistants (PTAs), and students for professional, work, educational, and personal purposes creates opportunities to communicate in a public forum, and with that the potential for conflicts in patient/client management, APTA's House of Delegates said last week in adopting the new position Standards of Conduct in the Use of Social Media. To use social media productively and avoid these conflicts, the new position calls on PTs, PTAs, and students who engage in social media activities to demonstrate appropriate conduct in accordance with the Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist and Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant. The standards also call for PTs, PTAs, and students who identify content that appears to be unprofessional to alert the colleague who posted it so that he or she can remove it or take other appropriate actions. Furthermore, the new position requires that PTs, PTAs, and students not misrepresent themselves, APTA or other organizations, educational institutions, clinical sites, or employers on social media.

RC 25-12 Access to Hooked on Evidence. The House of Delegates passed a resolution calling for complimentary "read only" access to Hooked on Evidence for all health care practitioners and health care students world-wide in an effort to advance evidence-based practice by all physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. In adopting Access to Hooked on Evidence, the House cited language in APTA's Vision 2020 that supports the use of evidence-based practice by all physical therapists. This RC was developed by the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association.

RC 27-12 Physical Therapists as Expert Providers of Exercise and Physical Activity Prescription. Quoting national and international statistics on coronary heart disease, diabetes, cancer, COPD, high blood pressure, cigarette smoking, and obesity, showing that these diseases are epidemic in their incidence, the House of Delegates adopted Physical Therapists as Expert Providers for Exercise and Physical Activity-recognizing physical therapists as health service delivery providers of choice to prevent or treat these noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and their related risk factors.

Help Wanted - PT Assistant

The district needs a PTA representative to serve as district liaison to the chapter PTA Special Interest Group (SIG). The duties of the position are to attend the district meetings and stay in contact with the PTA SIG chair, field PTA questions and be a go to person for that district. The chapter is also in the process of forming a PTA Caucus Committee which the PTA liaison will be a part of. You would need to be available for email correspondence and attendance at district meetings. If you are interested in more information, please contact the chapter PTA SIG Chair, Anne Lowry at Ann Lowry annlowreypa@gmail.com.

Fairness in Co-payment Bill Status

Presently, the PA Senate Banking and Insurance Committee is being asked by us to consider [Senate Bill 1391](#), "The Fairness in Copayment Act", in its committee deliberations. The language of the bill specifically indicates that a healthcare insurer shall not impose a "copayment or coinsurance that exceeds an insured's primary care physician copayment amount or up to 30% of the total reimbursement to the provider of service, whichever is less." The bill also attempts to rectify the "multiple copayment" issue by only allowing



one copayment per day for services provided by a one provider and by prohibiting an insured from being charged for more than one visit per day for services provided by one provider.

There have been some issues raised by the Insurance Federation recently. Our representatives have participated in a call with the prime sponsor of the bill and a member of the Insurance Federation and are in ongoing discussions regarding the Insurance Federation's concerns.

Please be aware of calls for action from members to move this important bill through the legislature. Your help is needed. The most effective way to move legislation is with direct contact to legislators from constituents. If you need additional information, please go to <http://www.apta.org/TakeAction/> and click on take action link and click state issues.

After contacting your Senator please send an email to Joe Shaffo, Legislative Chair of the PPTA, so we may track the contacts that have been made. His email is shaffopt@gmail.com.

About Us

This e-newsletter is a publication of the Southeast District (SED), which is a component of the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association. The SED works cooperatively with APTA and PPTA in fostering the development and improvement of physical therapy services and education and to promote legislation to protect and promote the interests of the public and the rights of Association members. The SED seeks to encourage research, foster contributions to the professional literature and promote the development of new knowledge and use of evidenced based practice and to provide for the dissemination and exchange of information related to physical therapy.

E-newsletter Editors:

M. Alex Haddad, PT, DPT
m.alex.haddad@gmail.com

Bob Wellmon, PT, PhD, NCS
rwellmon@widener.edu

Please contact us with any feedback regarding the e-newsletter. Opportunities for advertisement in the e-newsletter are also available. Please click [here](#) for more information.

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to wellmon@comcast.net by wellmon@comcast.net | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association | 4646 Smith Street | Harrisburg | PA | 17109