



Committee Reports

Spring 2008 Business Meeting

OPTA President's Report

By Karen Walz, PT, MA, OCS, FAAOMPT – OPTA President

The OPTA Executive Committee and Board of Directors continue to be diligent in being accountable and responsive to OPTA members and the physical therapy profession. We welcome your comments and feedback. We are faced with many challenges and opportunities including:

1. Turning around a proposed deficit budget from declining OPTA revenues (ie: continuing education, improve our non dues revenue diversification, etc.)
2. Government Affairs – Chiropractic, PT term protection and Referral for Profit challenges
3. Government Affairs – Oregon PT-PAC funds challenge to raise \$50,000
4. Membership relative growth still representing only 1/3 of our state's licensed therapists
5. Membership outreach to entire state and special groups including students—does Oregon need to consider formation of Districts?
6. Mentoring and leadership development
7. Reimbursement Issues – plan to hold an insurer's reimbursement forum with the help of APTA in the fall of 2008
8. Reimbursement Issues – working with partner groups to encourage the Division of Worker's Compensation to update reimbursement rates, reconsider requirements of PCE/WCE's and reimbursement for the services provided
9. Reimbursement – proposed Medicare "hard" CAP \$1,810 reinstated with exception process intact but may be eliminated unless action taken by Congress before 7-1-08
10. Healthcare access, coverage and innovations statewide and federally affecting our practices

Other highlights from the 2007 OPTA planning retreat:

1. Sources of non dues revenue considered
2. PR innovations
3. Private practice special interest group

As president, I have represented OPTA at a recent OPTIP meeting (11/07), and APTA Combined Sections Leadership meeting (2/08). Please review the committee reports and financial highlights carefully. Thank you for your attendance at today's business meeting!

Chief Delegate Report

Chief Delegate: Stacey Cochran-Comstock, PT, DPT

Delegates: Karen Walz, PT, Chris Murphy, PT, Zach Jones, PT, DPT, Joan Brassfield, PT, Jane Montgomery, PT, Mike Hmura, PT, PTA caucus rep: Stacy Bigham, PTA

I attended component leadership meetings and Chief and Assembly delegate meetings at CSM 2007 in Nashville, TN in February. The Oregon Delegates have met twice in 2008. One order of business has been to discuss the national slate of candidates. We are currently in the process of gathering information on the candidates through candidate and peer interviews and will further discuss each candidate's merits at our next delegate meeting. Each delegate has subscribed to the HoD message board and is staying informed of the conversations that each component and or section is having on the various issues. Our next delegate meeting is at the end of April, after the first packet of RCs for this year's HoD is published where we plan to have in depth discussions of this year's RCs. We have welcomed two students to our delegation, Josh Zavertrnik, SPT and Lindsey Twiss, SPTA who will both be attending the HoD with us this June under the new Emerging Student Leader Program. They plan to be active participants at our upcoming delegate meetings and offer a great insight to the group. This year's HoD is being held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Antonio, TX June 8-11, 2008.

Education Committee Report

Committee: Dode Jackson, Chair, Trevor Todd Vice Chair, Alison Hayward, Anne Nemec, Beatriz Sunderland-White, Leslie Black, Ben Bleazard, Christen Davidson-Juhnke, Cindy Powell, Corinne Dutto, Ellen Fineman, John Friends, Janelle Janicke, Jennifer Wood, Jim Arnoux, Jodie Majerus, Joyce Wheeler, Leslie Black, Marnie Coutts, Michael Rennick, Sandra Gallagher, Sasha Jackson, and Tom Watson.

Please see the attached Education calendar for upcoming events. Certainly, our evening "Doc Talks" are very popular, not only in Portland but in Bend and Southern Oregon as well. In 2008, we will be providing courses that meet the new mandatory pain management education requirement. In other business, we have performed an assessment of our 2006-2007 activities to determine the best course of action for 2008-2009. We have also updated our action plan items from the 2007 strategic plan. We will be asking for your input in relation to CE items in a membership survey that will be coming out later this spring.

The Education Committee has many participants from a variety of clinical settings and locations throughout the state. The attached calendar is the combined effort of the best decisions from all of these members, accomplished from many rounds of emails and our committee meetings. Sincere thanks to all on the committee.

Ethics Committee Report

Committee Members: Herc Merrifield PT, Randy Grossman PT, Hilary Garrett PT, Mark Duyck PTA, Jon Seitz PT (Bylaws) and Carol Schunk PT, Chair

The Ethics Committee has one case in progress which is being reviewed with a recommended decision to be made in March. The chapter committee has worked closely with the APTA committee on procedures for review. We have also established ongoing communication with the Oregon PT Licensing Board. The committee's additional focus is on education of OPTA members through articles in the *LOG* and educational programs. OPTA members interested in ethics are welcome to contact carolschunk@earthlnk.net

Government Affairs Committee Report

Committee Members:

Ricci Susick, Chair

Karen Walz, Stacey Cochran, Cathy Zarusinski, Jim Cenova, Chris Murphy, Zach Jones, Steve Alstot, Ann Carlin-Ripley, Susan Bamberger, Steve Barsotti, Noel Tenoso, Tracy Rutten, Lobbyist

Oregon News:

2007 Legislative Session:

- Opposed Chiropractors attempts to disallow PT's from performing Spinal Manipulation. Extended Direct Access from 30 days to 60 days.
- Updated language.
- Law passed that requires PT's to take CE related to Pain Management.

2008 "Special Session":

Attempt made to include PT's on list of people required to report child abuse – this did not succeed.

Other state activities:

Monitoring the Oregon Health Fund Board who are developing a recommendation to the legislature in 2009 regarding universal healthcare for all Oregonians.

Working on strategic plan to fight Chiropractors planned 2010 Ballot Initiative which would prevent other providers, including PT's, from doing Spinal Manipulation without 500 class hours of manipulation training and 900 hours of practice under the supervision of a physician.

Planning OPT – PAC fundraising activities.

Developing key contacts and grass roots communication plan to link up key legislators with PT's who are OPTA members.

Attended APTA State Government Affairs Meeting in Santa Fe.

Attended APTA CSM in Nashville and reported to Manipulation Task Force on Oregon Chiro's Ballot Initiative. We have great support from APTA, other chapters, and AAOMPT as this is the first time a ballot initiative has been attempted by Chiropractors.

National Legislative News:

APTA Government Affairs Meeting will be held in Washington D.C. March 30 – April 1. We will be lobbying our Senators and Representatives about PT issues including Medicare Direct Access, Elimination of the PT Cap, and our opposition to HB 1846 which would allow ATC's and LMT's to provide PT services to Medicare patients in physicians' offices.

CMS extended the 30 day Medicare recert requirement to 90 days starting Jan. 1, 2008.

OPTA Licensing Board Liaison & Scholarship Committee Report

By Dylan Hogan, PT, DPT – Director at Large #1

Scholarship Update: At the Fall Board of Directors meeting, the OPTA Board voted to convert the preexisting scholarships for both PT and PTA students into a program, which will encourage a more active role in the profession and organization.

OPTA would like to foster leadership amongst upcoming PT or PTA students. Through application and selection process we hope to identify students wishing to participate in a leadership role within the classroom, throughout the state and on the national level. The application and selection process will take place in the fall of the second year for a PT student, and in the spring of the first year for a PTA student. Once chosen as an OPTA Emerging Student Leader participation in the following roles would be expected: Attending at least one board meeting, attending the House of Delegates, and possibly Student Conclave, and giving a presentation to their student body regarding their experiences

This year's Emerging leader recipients are: Joshua Zavertnik, SPT and Lindsey Twiss, SPTA

The scholarship committee is composed of: Mark Duyck, Debbie Van Doveer, Wayne Taylor, Stacey Cochran, and Dylan Hogan

Licensing Board Liaison Update: As the OPTA OPTLB Liaison, I have acted as an intermediary between the Oregon Physical Therapy Licensing Board and the OPTA Board of Directors. In the past year the issues that have recurring themes, and which are currently being addressed by the OPTLB Rules Advisory Committee, include scope of practice around PT's ability to perform mobilization and manipulation, Direct Access, the new Pain management CEU's, as well as the role of the PTA in performing reassessments. It is hoped that all of these topics will have further clarification in the new Administrative Rules that will likely be adopted on the committee recommendations. It has been a pleasure to serve the OPTA and its members in my capacity as the OPTLB liaison as well as serving as the Scholarship committee chair.

Membership Committee Report

Committee Chair: Jeffrey Cox

Committee Members: Glen Akers
Stacy Bigham
Ann Carlin-Ripley
Ted Ellquist
Susan Bamberger

This last year has been another successful year in regards to growth of membership in the OPTA. We reached a milestone of 1,000 members. As of early March we had 1,066 members. Again, we exceeded our goals for Physical Therapist full memberships as set by the 2007 APTA Membership Drive by gaining 26 members over our goal. As a reward, the OPTA was given \$2,600 from the APTA. We did not meet our goals for Physical Therapist Assistant membership and this group of our profession will be an area of focus over the next year.

The membership committee is currently working on four major projects. The first project involves an effort to reach out to PTAs early in their career. The OPTA is going to be awarding membership dues assistance to current physical therapist assistant students. The goal is to get them active in the OPTA early on so that they can experience the benefits of membership. To be eligible, the students must be currently enrolled in the MHCC PTA program and be willing to volunteer at an OPTA event and participate on one OPTA committee in exchange for their dues assistance.

Our second outreach project that we are happy to be working on is a program that is directed toward current members who may be struggling to maintain their membership due to financial hardships. We are finalizing a current members' dues assistance program. To apply, the PT or PTA must be a current member of the OPTA, be currently practicing in the state of Oregon, and be willing to volunteer at one OPTA event and participate in one OPTA committee.

The third project is an OPTA Members Appreciation and Social Event. The details of this event are still in the planning stage, so keep a look out for information regarding this event that hopefully will take place in late June or early July.

Our last project is the 2008 OPTA Membership Drive. The theme is "Recruit Just One." This membership drive asks all current OPTA members to be active in recruiting new members. If you actively recruit a new member, you will be able to complete a certificate which will include your name, APTA membership number, and contact information as well as the professional who you recruited. Your certificate will then be put into a drawing for prizes. But more importantly, you will be helping to grow your professional organization.

The OPTA membership committee has a lot on its plate to get done over the next year as it works to recruit new members and retain its current members. If you think you may be interested in joining our efforts, contact Jeffrey Cox at jeffrey.cox@providence.org or talk to me during the conference.