



Greetings Friends of the Arizona Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association:

Happy August! I hope this email finds you well. First off, many of you have seen President Dunn's on proposed Medicare payment cuts. These cuts to Medicare outpatient services threaten patients' ability to access needed care and our ability to provide it. Last year, Congress introduced a Medicare fee schedule that reduced the cut to approximately 3.3% but without Congressional intervention again, the cuts will continue in 2022. CMS is also planning to move ahead with a plan that would reduce payment rates for outpatient therapy services delivered by PTAs and OTAs under Medicare Part B by 15% — the "differential." It is more important now than ever to advocate on behalf of your Profession and make your voices heard! Please stay tuned for additional advocacy opportunities through APTA National.

I would like to thank our Chief Delegate Jim Roush and the other members of the Arizona Delegation who are working tirelessly to prepare for the upcoming House of Delegates. The House of Delegates will be meeting virtually in August before returning to in-person events this September. I would like to publicly acknowledge the following members of the Arizona Delegation: Ellen Lowe, Kacey Kline PTA Caucus Rep Alternate, Jamie Kuettel, Lori Perlmutter, Lara Safa PTA Caucus Rep, Kimberly Vernado, Tarang Jain Alternate Delegate, Jim Lynskey, Blair Packard, and Seth Peterson. Thank you for your tireless dedication to shaping our Profession. The House of Delegates and Centennial events will be held September 10 – 14<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria, VA and Washington, D.C. Arizona is proud of its work on the House of Delegates and excited to send our Chapter representatives to advocate on your behalf.

Please allow me to again to recognize Arizona members John Heick PT, DPT, PhD and Blair Packard PT, MS, FAPTA for their National Awards which will be received in September. Dr. Heick has been awarded the Lucy Blair Service Award and Blair Packard has been awarded the APTA Humanitarian Award. Congratulations to both members and thank you for your service and dedication to our Profession!

The Arizona Chapter would like to remind you to save the date for our Annual Fall Conference which will be held Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Chapter is hosting a hybrid event which will include both virtual and in-person offerings as we continue to navigate rising COVID concerns. I am hoping this event will serve as an opportunity to reconnect and return to professional interaction – with a little bit of fun! We are proud to announce that we will be hosting a golf tournament at the Ocotillo Golf Club in Chandler. Please visit our website at [aptaaz.com](http://aptaaz.com) and click on our event for additional information. The PTA SIG will be hosting a cornhole tournament during the golf tournament and we will have many opportunities for networking. Special guest to be announced very soon!

I would also like to thank Jennifer Zoucha, our District IV Representative extraordinaire and Chair of the PT PAC, for organizing our Medicare 80/20 Raffle. Raffle tickets are available to purchase in \$10 increments with 80% of the proceeds benefitting the APTA AZ Political Action Committee. The PT PAC raises funds for, and provides financial assistance to, Arizona public officials who actively support the PT Profession. Donate now for an opportunity to win 20% of the pot. Winner will be announced at our Fall Conference but you need not be present to win! See the link on our website to donate via FundRazr.

We are looking forward to Elections being held in the Fall and would like to see a full slate of candidates for the available positions of Chief Delegate, Alternate Delegate, PTA Caucus Representative, PTA Caucus Representative Alternate, District 2 Representative (Central Maricopa), and District 4 Representative (Southern Arizona). We are also looking for nominations for PT and PTA of the year so please contact Christa at [christa@aptaaz.org](mailto:christa@aptaaz.org) to nominate a deserving colleague.

With Gratitude,

Brian Schmitz PT, DPT

President, Arizona Physical Therapy Association