



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

Happy July! June was a great month and I want to start by offering my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of our Sponsors, Exhibitors, Speakers, and Attendees who made our June Conference a huge success. Thank you to A.T. Still University for hosting us and to our Executive Director Christa Lombardo-Ploof for a wonderful day. A huge thanks to Carefree Physical Therapy, Cynthia Driskell, and our PT-PAC Chair Jennifer Zoucha for a wonderful PAC event as well. We had over 90 attendees brave the hottest day of the year, and it was wonderful to get back to some sense of normalcy after the past two years of virtual and hybrid conferences!

Several representatives of APTA Arizona attended APTA's Federal Advocacy Fly-In in June to advocate for several issues affecting the profession including CMS physician fee schedules, locum tenens, and prior authorization processes under Medicare Advantage (MA) plans on the Senate side and addressing the PTA Differential and PTA supervision rules on the House side. We anticipate a companion Senate Bill to HR.5536 (SMART Act) to be released in the near future. Special thanks to our Federal Affairs Liaison Phil Tygiel for organizing our Arizona team which consists of Cammy Koerber, Kristen Johnson, Mackenzie Greenhalgh, Makaylee Madriz, Stephanie Weiner, Tanya Herman, and Taryn Harker and to our elected representatives who made time to speak with us regarding physical therapy related issues. Thank you to all those involved in our continued Federal advocacy efforts.

S.B. 1312 passed both the House and the Senate and will be signed into law 90 days after the end of the Legislative Session. S.B. 1312 will grant Physical Therapists the ability to order radiographs in the State of Arizona. Please stay tuned for additional details to follow on implementation of this into our State Practice Act.

Remember, licensure and certificate renewals are due August 31, 2022 and licensure renewal notices were sent out by the Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy beginning in July. Please be sure to view the State Board's beautifully updated website at <https://ptboard.az.gov/> for all of your license and certificate renewal needs.

Be sure to check out our website at <https://aptaaz.org/> for all of our upcoming events. We are excited to host the Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program (CCIP) in August, our Annual Golf Tournament and social event in September, and our Annual Fall Conference October 22, 2022. We hope to see you all at an APTA Arizona event in the near future!

Please allow me to again recognize Arizona members Phil Tygiel PT, FAPTA and Todd Ellenbecker PT, DPT, MS, FAPTA who were both awarded the Catherine Worthingham Fellow designation. Congratulations to both members and thank you for your profound contributions and impact on our Profession! In addition, we would also like to recognize Kelly Carroll PT, DPT who was awarded the APTA Minority Scholarship

Award. Award recipients will be recognized at the APTA Honors & Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. this August.

Most importantly, we have numerous Board positions up for Election this Fall. If you are interested in running for a position on the APTA Arizona Executive Board, please contact Christa Lombardo-Ploof at admin@aptaaz.org to discuss your interest and learn more about the structure and function of the Board. Our future success as a Chapter and a Profession is dependent on you and we would love to have a full slate of candidates for the Fall Election.

I wish you all the best on behalf of the Arizona Chapter. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything the Chapter can do on your behalf.

With Gratitude,

Brian Schmitz PT, DPT

President, Arizona Physical Therapy Association