



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

November brings the beginning of the Holiday season and a reminder of gratitude for all we have accomplished through a challenging 2020. Thank you for all you do bringing the Physical Therapy Profession to your communities and for making meaningful change in the quality of life for so many individuals.

Our primary focus will change from 2020 to 2021 in the coming months. Our primary legislative issue to address is permanent inclusion of Physical Therapists as providers with telemedicine privileges in the State of Arizona. Our State Governmental Affairs Committee is working with the Governor's office to achieve this goal and we need your patient and provider testimonials about how telemedicine has positively impacted your healthcare experience. Please send both patient and provider testimonials to [admin@aptaaz.org](mailto:admin@aptaaz.org) to be included in our efforts to make telemedicine a permanent part of PT scope of practice in Arizona.

Thank you to all of our Members who contacted their State Representatives resulting in members of Congress sending a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Minority leader Kevin McCarthy asking them to intervene by either legislative or regulatory action to prevent the pending 9% cut in reimbursement for Physical Therapy and other services. 8 out of 9 Arizona Representatives signed on to that letter. If your Congressman signed on please take a moment to contact his or her office to express your thanks.

Here is a list of those who signed the letter along with their Contact information:

CD 1 Tom O'Halleran - Phone: 928 304 0131

CD2 Ann Kirkpatrick - Phone: 520 881 3588

CD3 Raul Grijalva - Phone: 520 622 6788

CD5 Andy Biggs - Phone: 602 699 8239

CD6 David Schweikert - Phone: 480 946 2411

CD7 Ruben Gallego - Phone: 602 256 0551

CD8 Debbie Lesko - Phone: 623 776 7911

CD9 Greg Stanton - Phone: 602 956 2463

Our Federal Affairs Chair, Phil Tygiel, is still looking for a Key Contact in Congressional District 4 which is currently represented by Paul Gosar. The 4th District covers the entire western portion of Arizona including all of La Paz County and portions of Gila, Maricopa, Mohave, Pinal, Yavapai, and Yuma counties. Please contact [admin@aptaaz.org](mailto:admin@aptaaz.org) if you live in this district and would like to participate and learn more about Federal Advocacy.

The Executive Board will meet again on November 18<sup>th</sup> to begin preparations for 2021. We are excited to work with the winner of the 2020 APTA Centennial Scholar Award, Kacey Kline, on a special Centennial Scholar Project. Please email [admin@aptaaz.org](mailto:admin@aptaaz.org) if you have any recommendations for Public Relations projects for the Board.

The Executive Board is forming a Diversity Affairs Committee to demonstrate our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion issues here in Arizona. Anyone interested in participating on this Committee should email [admin@aptaaz.org](mailto:admin@aptaaz.org) to be added to the list. We look forward to seeing what we can accomplish working on behalf of ALL Physical Therapists, Physical Therapist Assistants, and Student members.

APTA has announced the 2021 Combined Sections Meeting will be held in a Virtual Format February 1 – 28th and the format will be similar to the Virtual Format for the 2020 NEXT Conference. Stay tuned for additional details!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do on your behalf. I look forward to everything that 2021 has in store.

Brian Schmitz PT, DPT

President, Arizona Physical Therapy Association