



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

Happy September! The Arizona Chapter is excited for cooling temperatures and all of our events coming this Fall. Arizona representatives recently attended APTA Leadership Congress August 12 – 16th. Congratulations to APTA Arizona members Phil Tygiel and Todd Ellenbecker on receiving the Catherine Worthingham Fellow recognition. I would also like to personally acknowledge and congratulate APTA Arizona Delegate Kayla Black for being honored with the Arizona Chapter's 2022 Emerging Leader Award. APTA Arizona is proud of the outstanding contributions of our members and about all of the work being done on behalf of PT, PTA, and student members of the Arizona Chapter.

Please allow me to thank the Arizona Delegation for their hard work and service to the Profession representing APTA Arizona in the House of Delegates. Thank you to our Chief Delegate Lori Pearlmutter and Arizona delegates Jamie Kuettel, Jim Roush, Jim Linskey, Kimberly Vernado, Seth Peterson, Suzanne O'Neal and PTA Caucus members Kacey Kline and Lynette Lauterbach for participating. A special thanks to U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra for addressing the 2022 House of Delegates and speaking on the importance of Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants in their roles in providing high-quality healthcare. A few highlights of motions passed during the 2022 House of Delegates include:

In a motion that revised APTA's position on the direction and supervision of PTAs, the House adopted changes that strengthen the concept of collaboration between the PT and the PTA, addressed basic concepts around the PT's supervision of the PTA, and clarified that the PTA could be included as part of the patient's or client's interprofessional services team. (RC 8-22, amended). Great job to our PTA Caucus members who were actively involved in the passing of this motion!

A charge approved by the House could deepen that conversation by directing APTA to collaborate with interested parties to evaluate continuing competency requirements and develop recommendations "for a uniform evaluation process of educational and professional activities that could be implemented by components and jurisdictions." (RC 19-22). Huge shout out to Seth Peterson of the Arizona Delegation who was the maker of this motion – Congratulations, Seth!

The House adopted a statement that reinforces APTA's ongoing work in major related areas, including the importance of collaboration between the PT and patient to determine the optimal modes for any PT services, the PT's responsibility for "all aspects of patient/client management," the centrality of the therapeutic alliance, adherence to practice scope and requirements around use of assistive personnel, and compliance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations regarding digital technologies in practice. (RC-4, amended)

House members adopted an official APTA position supporting the PT's and PTA's roles in promoting research, education, practice, and policy in the nonpharmacologic management of blood pressure to enhance the health and well-being of society. (RC 9-22, amended)

House members approved a statement that articulates APTA's support for "access to physical therapist services in the prenatal and postpartum periods as the standard of care to improve health outcomes and prevent comorbidities and health disparities." A special thanks to Representative Tom O'Hallerhan, who

following our conversation in June, co-sponsored H.R. 8181 *Optimizing Postpartum Outcomes Act of 2022*. I personally would like to recognize and thank you for your continued support of PT Practice in the State of Arizona.

The House voted to adopt a position statement that supports improved physical therapy access for this population as an area of focus for APTA, with the aim of making physical therapy a mandatory benefit in all Medicaid programs, "authorized without administrative delays and barriers at adequate levels to meet patient needs, and paid commensurate with other public and private payers." (RC 14-22)

The House charged APTA with developing "a coordinated approach to enable members to pursue direct-to-employer physical therapist services" that would help to highlight the association's longstanding support of PTs providing evaluative and preventive services directly to employers. (RC 12-22)

I also wanted to make APTA Arizona members aware of newly developed State Payer Advocacy Resource Center made available to all APTA members through a joint-venture between the Private Practice Section and APTA. This is an excellent collection of resources on prior authorization and utilization management, denials, appeals, and external reviews, title and term protection information, and model contract language which should help all members dealing with administrative burden. Please check out this free resource! A special thank you to Tom Dorn, of the Dorn Policy Group, for attending the Payor Relations Forum at APTA Headquarters and learning more about pressing Legislative issues affecting PT Practice across the Country. His attendance will help support our State Advocacy efforts and allow our Lobbyists to be serve our needs.

Be sure to check out our website at <https://aptaaz.org/> for all of our upcoming events. We are excited to host our Annual Golf Tournament and social event on September 17th and our Annual Fall Conference October 22, 2022. We look forward to an excellent educational session by our very own Seth Peterson entitled "**The Art of Catching Zebras**" on differential diagnosis for physical therapists – no Zebras will be hurt in the education of PTs and PTAs! I hope to see you all at an APTA Arizona event in the near future.

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