

A Message from your APTA Louisiana President



The "I's" have it! Impressive, Informative and Inspirational! Those are the thoughts I was left with after a great APTA LA Spring Meeting. Our contingent of primarily Louisiana presenters did a great job providing valuable educational content, from ACL rehab, to throwing mechanics, surgical procedures, to post-partum considerations for athletes and much more. If you were lucky enough to be in attendance, I think you would agree that our Sports Symposium was a "Winner"! We have also tried to put more emphasis on fun and fellowship at the meetings. Our Saturday PT Pub night was well attended and we are developing more ideas for future meetings.

As I indicated in my President's report at our business meeting, 2023 is a pivotal year for our association. Because of our post-covid world and Louisiana's transition away from "in person" CEU requirements, APTA Louisiana's primary revenue stream has taken a hit. Attendance at our meetings is down and we will certainly need to make a shift in our budget to adjust for this. We have an important budget meeting in a few months where we will take a deep dive into every dollar that comes in and out of the association. Rest assured, APTA Louisiana is on solid financial footing and your leadership is working diligently to manage the budget and develop other revenue streams to support the budget. We do not anticipate that there will be any impact on the services that we deliver to our membership, and we will plan to make the necessary decisions to ensure the long term financial viability of our organization.

With that in mind, your individual membership and growing our membership becomes more important than ever. Membership is our second largest revenue stream and we've been fortunate to be able to maintain fairly consistent numbers through the pandemic and our post-pandemic world. We ask you to encourage your peers to carefully consider the benefits of APTA Louisiana membership and making a financial commitment to your profession.

We will continue working on several initiatives this year, particularly updating our Strategic Plan which will help bring us into the next stage of our association. The framework for the plan is currently laid out and more details will follow. We are also working on a list of members who have shown interest in participating in our association in a more formal fashion. If you or another member that you know might be interested in volunteering to be on a committee or just getting involved in some way, have them reach out to the APTA LA office and we can get them involved. The more people we have involved, the stronger our organization will be.

Thank you for your commitment to your association and we hope you enjoy our quarterly Bayou Bulletin. Have a great Spring! We look forward to seeing you in Baton Rouge in August.

-Bart Jones, PT, DPT
APTA Louisiana President



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Houma District Chair

Membership Update: February 2023

Please continue to encourage your fellow PTs, PTAs and students to join or renew their APTA/APTA Louisiana membership!

PTs	778
PTAs	130
Students	408
Total	- 1,316



Donate to the PT PAC today!

Bayou Bulletin Publisher Information

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Dave Pariser Memorial Scholarship Fund

To make an online contribution to the Scholarship fund, go to the Foundation website and at the top right hand side of the page, there is a purple box with the words "Make A Gift." Choose the amount of the donation and choose the designated fund, the Dave Pariser Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Or you can mail to the Dave Pariser Memorial Scholarship Fund:
The Foundation for the LSU Health Sciences Center
450A South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112

[Donate Here](#)

Submissions

We welcome anyone to contribute to the quarterly Bayou Bulletin.

If you would like to advertise, report, or share experiences with your fellow APTA Louisiana members, please see below for Publisher contact information.



Renewing your PT License in 2023? Visit the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board website for licensure requirements for renewal today!

[LA PT BOARD WEBSITE](#)

APTA LOUISIANA 2023 FALL MEETING

AUGUST 25-27, 2023
CROWNE PLAZA EXECUTIVE CENTER
BATON ROUGE, LA
www.aptala.org



William Boissonnault
PT, DPT, DHSc, FAAOMPT, FAPTA



Jay Morange
PT, DPT, RMSK, MBA



Bert Lindsey
PT, RMSK

A Message from your APTA Louisiana Vice President



What a great start to the new year it has been already! Your APTA Louisiana Board has been hard at work finalizing the Association's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan. The plan follows the same structure as APTA's Strategic Plan, but with a specific focus on Louisiana's four key pillars: Education, Membership, Payment, and Advocacy. These areas continue to be mainstays of importance for the association. We are excited to continue to pursue excellence in each of these key areas over the next three years. The Strategic Plan will be available at the end of April 2023 for public review.

As we continue to create future goals for our association one thing remains apparent: we still need more leaders across the state to help fill open board and committee positions. Serving in one of these roles, while on a volunteer basis, has significant rewards which include: networking, leadership and skill building, and team collaboration as well as the ability to make

a direct impact on the trajectory of our profession within the State of Louisiana. Please consider nominating yourself or someone you know for any of the open board or committee positions. Please contact: [Jane Eason](#) for a list of open board positions or the district chair for the district in which you live for a list of open committee positions.

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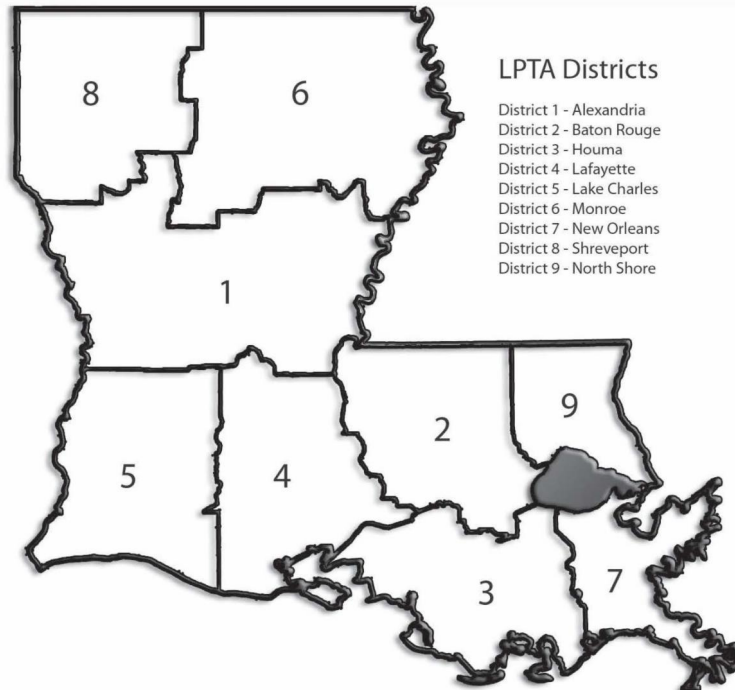
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-Rebecca Troulliet, PT, DPT, SCS,
CSCS
APTA Louisiana Vice President



What Is PTPAC?

Five Things You Need to Know!

Our political action committee is working on issues that matter now and into the profession's future.

1. It's All About Developing Champions for Physical Therapy.

APTA's sole political fundraising arm provides access to and influence on federal legislators for the benefit of the profession. **PTPAC** supports physical therapy-friendly legislators and provides opportunities to speak on issues that impact the profession, your practice, and your patients.

2. PTPAC Is Powered by Individual Contributions

Voluntary contributions by current APTA members are what makes the PAC possible — that's why every dollar counts. Like all political action committees, **PTPAC is subject to federal laws and regulations**. Those laws and regulations prohibit the use of APTA dues to support the PAC — instead, it's up to individual members who understand the value PTPAC brings to the profession.

3. PTPAC Builds Connections That Make an Impact.

PTPAC focuses its efforts on **building relationships with members of Congress and their staff** — the crucial component in being able to deliver advocacy that will be listened to and acted on.

4. PTPAC Is Among the Top Influencers in Health Care

In a large field of health care associations competing for attention on Capitol Hill, PTPAC is a standout. **In the 2022 election cycle**, PTPAC was listed among the top 10 health professional association PACs in terms of candidate contributions.

5. PTPAC's Champions Are Carefully Selected

PTPAC's **donation decisions** are backed up by thorough research and evaluation. PAC staff analyzes candidate voting records, current relationships with APTA members and chapters, current or potential leadership roles, and a host of other factors to ensure the best fit with the profession's advocacy goals.

PT PAC INFORMATION

INTRODUCING *the 2023 SSIG Board*



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Chairman



CAROLINE HUGHES
Vice Chairman



RYAN JONES
Treasurer



KOLBY SCULTHORP
Secretary



HAMILTON MILLS
Student Delegate



KAITLYN SCHEURICH
Communications Director

Upcoming Events!

House of Delegates / Leadership Congress — July 22-24, 2023 in Washington, DC
Federal Affairs Forum — July 25, 2023 in Washington, DC
APTA Louisiana Fall Meeting - August 25-27, 2023 in Baton Rouge, LA
CSM 2024 – February 13-15, 2024 in Boston, MA
APTA Louisiana Spring Meeting – March 22-24, 2024 in Lafayette, LA
APTA Louisiana Fall Meeting – August 23-25, 2024 in Baton Rouge, LA

Spring Sports Symposium Recap



APTA Louisiana's very own, Katie Brittain, PT, DPT, MBA - Practice/Reimbursement Chair, represented Louisiana in the APTA Magazine for March 2023.

[View the article here!](#)

District & Component News

Governmental Affairs Chair Report

GA REPORT:

The 2023 Legislative Session begins on April 10th and ends June 8th. This session will be a fiscal session. Prefile deadline was April 1st. Your GA Committee along with our lobbyists will be

reviewing all pertinent bills that may impact us.

Mark your calendars to attend PT Day at the Capital. This day and recognition by the legislature will be held on May 2nd. We will host a zoom meeting to discuss any relevant talking points on April 25th at 6 pm to prepare for those attending PT Day at the Capital.

Due to the fact that the students will be in finals the week of May 2nd and there was a strong interest in attending PT Day at the Capital, a student PT Day at the Capital will be held on May 11th.

The GA Committee met in January to discuss legislative initiatives. A task force was developed to review the Practice Act and submit comments to the LA Physical Therapy Board. In addition, the discussion of reducing administrative burdens and unnecessarily long credentialing process for providers was discussed. In response to that conversation, APTA-LA met with BCBS of LA to discuss the issues providers were experiencing.



BCBS of LA stated *"that physical therapist providers are automatically enrolled in Reimbursement during credentialing upon receipt of an initial credentialing application provided that the provider must be applying for network participation to join a provider group that already has an executed group contract on file with Blue Cross Blue Shield of LA. This provision is not available for solo practitioners. If a clinician is eligible for this provision, BCBS of LA will process the eligible applicant's claims at the member's in network level of benefits. The eligible applicant agrees to accept Blue Cross Blue Shield of La's allowable and the member's cost share as payment in full. The applicant may not balance bill the member."* This provision is a great start to eliminate the issues and pressure that many clinicians were facing.

As we move through this legislative session, please act upon any legislative alerts that you receive. Every contact with a legislator truly makes a difference!

FAL REPORT:

Locum Tenens: The Prevent Interruptions in Physical Therapy Act (H.R 1617, S. 793) has been reintroduced in the 118th Congress. This bipartisan legislation seeks to expand engagement in what the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services calls "reciprocal billing and fee-for-service" to all PTs. The bill was introduced in the House by Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Paul Tonko (D-NY). The Senate version of the bill was introduced by Sens. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) and John Thune (R-SD). Locum tenens provisions allow a PT to arrange for another qualified PT to treat the PT's patients during a temporary absence due to illness, vacation, continuing education, pregnancy, and other events, and still receive payment from Medicare. APTA has been a leading advocate for expansion of that ability to all PTs to better support patient access to care. Physical therapists are the only providers whose use of *locum tenens* is limited geographically.

SHARE Act: On March 1, 2023, Reps. Tracey Mann (R-KS) and Joe Neguse (D-CO) introduced the States Handling Reciprocity for Employment Act (SHARE Act), H.R. 1310. This APTA-supported legislation would ensure that required federal background checks are completed so physical therapists and physical therapist assistants can participate in the state Physical Therapy Compact.

National Health Service Corp & Community Health Centers Rep. Kelly Armstrong (R- N.D.) has been confirmed to be the lead republican sponsor for the APTA-supported bill to include PTs in the National Health Service Corp Loan Repayment program and provide federal community health centers (CHC) the option to hire physical therapists.

Health Provider Workforce: On March 20, 2023, APTA submitted extensive comments to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee in response to a "Request for Information" seeking input on the challenges facing the health care provider workforce, and possible policy solutions.

PTA supervision and PTA differential

The plan for this Congress is to introduce a bill which will allow Medicare to accept a state's supervision standard for physical therapist assistants (PTAs) and occupational therapy assistants (COTAs) in outpatient settings instead of Medicare maintaining their own direct supervision requirement. This is the same language which was introduced last November in the Senate. However, the effort this Congress will also include language that requests a GAO study on how the PTA/OTA differential has impacted access to therapy services in rural and underserved areas.

Opt out

In years past we have been pursuing legislation that sought to make significant reforms to the current Medicare opt out program. This legislative effort to add physical therapists and allow providers to opt out of Medicare on a case-by-case basis did not see any movement. Therefore, this Congress we are trying a different tack. Instead of proposing major structural changes we are going to pursue legislation which will add physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech language pathologists to the existing Medicare opt out program. Should the legislation be enacted, rehabilitation therapists would be allowed to wholly opt out of Medicare for 2 years at a time. The two-year term automatically renews unless a provider actively opts back into participating in Medicare. This legislation will be introduced in the Senate by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY).

Telehealth

Our champion on the bipartisan *Expanded Telehealth Access Act*, Rep. Mikie Sherril (D-NJ) plans to reintroduce the legislation that would add physical therapists to the list of distant site providers—this legislative change would result in permanent Medicare coverage for care provided via telehealth.

Prior Authorization

In mid-January Speaker McCarthy asked the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to reassess the *Seniors Timely Access to Care Act* and provide an informal score; the request strongly encouraged CBO to use a cost analysis which included CMS' proposed rule on prior authorization. CBO responded in late February with an informal score of \$10 billion. The score in September 2022 before the proposed rule was \$16 billion.

The plan to introduce a revised *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act* to address prior authorization remains, but the timeline is dependent on the CBO rescore. The bill champions have said they are talking with CBO to figure out exactly what the informal score represents and are trying to work with them and CMS as well to clarify how and why CBO and CMS have such different positions on the cost of reducing prior authorization. Champions are also waiting for CMS to finalize their proposed rules so that the cost of the bill won't include policies already in place under regulations.

The legislation has also garnered over 500 endorsing organizations representing patients, providers, the medical technology and biopharmaceutical industry, and several Medicare Advantage (MA) plans—strong evidence of the bill's widespread appeal for consensus-driven solutions. At this point, the hurdle is the bill's cost.

Federal Agencies

CMS: On March 13, 2023, APTA submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on a proposed rule entitled "Advancing Interoperability and Improving Prior Authorization Processes", which aims to streamline prior auth processes across multiple payer types, ensure comprehensive denials information, and additional data to providers on prior authorization denials, appeals, and other areas. APTA's comments largely support the proposed rule and request modifications to the proposal in several key areas.

CAC: The Contractor Advisory Committee met late February to convene subject matter expert consultation regarding published literature in the development of Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs). APTA was one of over 50 stakeholders represented, and spoke primarily on Remote Therapeutic Monitoring codes. APTA is submitting follow-up information in support of these codes, and in opposition to a potential LCD that could inadvertently limit coverage for RTM codes.

Continuing Education Chair Report

Thank you to everyone that attended the sports symposium in the spring as well as our mindfulness webinar in the early part of this year. APTA-LA continues to bring quality education to our members and also highlight those PTs in our own state that are doing quality work. We are looking forward to the fall conference in Baton Rouge. I am very excited to share the fall meeting headliner speakers. I think it's going to be a hard decision on which tract to take for many people! You will have your choice of an intro course in MSK-US taught by our own local leader, Jay Morange, or a masterclass in imaging from THE Bill Boissonnault. And I am excited to be listed as a Friday speaker alongside these giants, presenting "Strategies to Stay Current in Practice" Please join us for another engaging weekend of physical therapy education in Louisiana. If you have ideas of your own about education or would like to get more hands on with helping to plan our conferences and education offerings, please contact the office.



-Monique Serpas, PT, DPT, OCS
Continuing Education Chair

Nominations Chair Report

In July, the following positions will be on the ballot for APTA Louisiana leadership:

- President
- Secretary

Running for office is a great way to get involved in APTA Louisiana! It's an opportunity to work with a great group of people, develop leadership skills and make new friends all while continuing to move the Association forward.

If anyone has any questions about the positions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Please contact the Association Office or myself with any nominations. Self-nominations are also appropriate.



-Jane Eason
Nominating Committee Chair

Research Committee Chair Report



APTA Louisiana hosted a Research Presentation at the 2023 Spring Sports Symposium on March 17, 2023. We awarded the Outstanding Poster Presentation to the following:

Best Platform Presentation

Validation of the Digitsole Pro Smart Insoles for Gait Analysis
Baillie Marsh, SPT
Phil Page, PT, PhD

-Daniel W. Flowers, PT, DPT, PhD
APTA Louisiana Research Chair

Houma District Chair Report



We had a PT Pub night on February 2nd at The Pour House in Houma. I enjoyed meeting some new faces! Our next District Meeting will be Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at the Terrebonne Parish Library from 5:30-7:30pm. Light snacks will be provided. If this is your first district meeting or you bring a potential APTA-Member you will get a chance for a door prize!

Please reach out with any questions to blair.duthu@ochsner.org or 985-381-2927.

-Blair Duthu, PT
Board-certified Women's Health Clinical Specialist
Houma District Chair



New Orleans District Chair Report

The New Orleans district will hold a district meeting on Wednesday, April 19th at 6:00pm in the PTA classroom at Delgado. We will have a 1 hour CEU on wellness in physical therapy prior to the business meeting.

I hope to see you there!

-Matt Powers, PT, DPT
Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopedic Physical Therapy
Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical
Therapists



TO ALL OF THE STUDENTS
PREPARING FOR THE
UPCOMING NPTE:

Good Luck!

Volunteer Opportunity!

The Special Olympics Louisiana is currently looking for physical therapists who are willing to serve as volunteer clinical directors throughout the state. Special Olympics hosts events called Healthy Athletes and this provides our athletes with free health screenings in 8 different disciplines. For more information please view the links below.

[Special Olympics Healthy Athletes
Information](#)

[What is FunFitness?](#)

SSIG Report

Board is continuing to plan and organize upcoming events and opportunities for student involvement and professional growth at the regional and state levels. The SSIG executive board aims to hear the voices of all DPT/PTA students from around the state to better address the needs of individuals as they continue to build their educational and clinical skills while transitioning into their physical therapy careers.

Please reach out to lptassig@gmail.com with any questions, comments, or concerns regarding APTA Louisiana's SSIG.



WELCOME - 2023-2024 SSIG Executive Board:

Chairman: Zachary Dubois, SPT2

Vice Chairman: Caroline Hughs, SPT2

Treasurer: Ryan Jones, SPT2

Secretary: Kolby Sculthorp, SPT2

Student Delegate: Hamilton Mills, SPT2

Communications Director: Kaitlyn Scheurich, SPT2

OUTGOING QUOTES - 2022-2023 SSIG Executive Board:

Chairman: Brittany LaGrange, SPT3

"I have made meaningful connections with many PTs/PTAs/students as well as my fellow board members that I will forever cherish."

Vice Chairman: Zachary Dubois, SPT2

"Being part of an organization, like the SSIG, let me have a bigger purpose than just trying to improve myself; it left me each week eager to brainstorm ways to fight for the students in this wonderful state."

Treasurer: Jania Burns, SPT3

"Serving as Treasurer has allowed me to meet and build relationships with students and PTs across the state while also learning about our profession beyond the clinic."

Secretary: Danielle Rankin, SPT3

"As SSIG Secretary, I was able to develop my leadership skills and collaborate with students from across the state, and I am thankful for the opportunities and relationships I gained."

Student Delegate: Grant Matherne, SPT3

"The community, networking, and educational experiences that serving as Student Delegate has brought to me has ignited a fire of passion for this profession in a way that will inspire me to continue to chase bigger and better things for our chapter and for the PT profession."

Communications Director: Brooke Petkovich, SPT3

"I am grateful for the opportunity to connect with both PT/PTA students and clinicians throughout the state and promote increased involvement beyond the classroom/clinic."

LA Core Ambassador: Micah Fontenot, SPT3

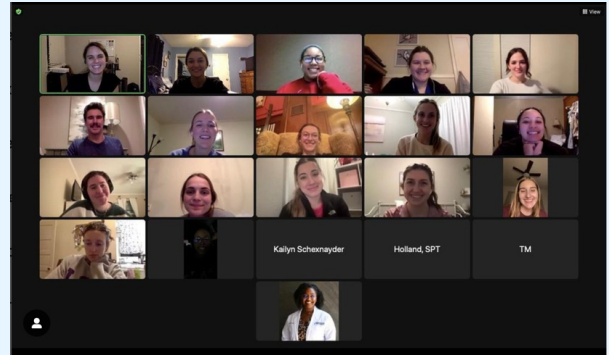
"I have loved interacting with many of you from across the state & keeping us all connected, and this will definitely be an experience that I cherish for a lifetime!"

STUDENTS IN ACTION

*If you or someone you know deserves to be recognized for professional or educational efforts,

please reach out to ljptassig@gmail.com with the student's name, year/program, and their accomplishments.

January Virtual Guest Speaker Event
Speaker: Dr. Claire Schott Lusignan PT, DPT
Topic: "Pelvic Floor Issues: The Importance of TA Activation and Breathing"



February Virtual Guest Speaker Event
Speaker: Dr. Mercedes Aguirre Valenzuela PT, DPT
Topic: "Running for Office as a PT/PTA & Latest Advocacy Updates"



APTA – Louisiana Spring Sports Symposium Student Conclave
Speaker: Kaitlyn Moreau Thibodeaux, LPC
Topic: "Mental Health and Athletes"



SSIG Executive Board Elections

2023 Dave Pariser Student Service Award Winner

Grayson Dubois, SPT



Marquette Challenge benefiting the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research

LSU-Shreveport Cornhole Tournament



LSU-New Orleans Kickball Tournament

FAREWELL EVERYONE! It has been such an honor to serve as the SSIG Chairman throughout this past year as well as work closely with the amazing members of the 2022-2023 SSIG Executive Board to bring new events/activities to the DPT/PTA students of Louisiana. I thank you all for your patience and continuous support as I navigated this role and developed new life-long personal and professional skills. I look forward to all the new opportunities to come upon graduation, and I cannot wait to continue to connect with you all at future APTA-LA meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

-Brittany LaGrange
APTA Louisiana SSIG Chairman
Contact: bml005@lsuhs.edu



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