



CONNECTICUT PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

A COMPONENT OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

15 NORTH RIVER ROAD, TOLLAND, CT 06084

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www.ctpt.org

Michael Emery, PT, EdD, FAPTA President

David Lane, PT, MHS Vice President

Heidi Adamski PT, MS Secretary

Laura Martorello, MSPT, DPE Treasurer

Katherine Harris, PT, MS Chief Delegate

James Leahy, CAE Executive Director

February 17, 2009

As the new President of the CPTA, I wish to thank you for your support and confidence as expressed in the fall elections. I will make every effort so see that the chapter is a good steward of your interests and resources, and that of our profession. I also want to acknowledge and thank the past leaders of the chapter and, in particular, Peg Grey for her tireless efforts on our behalf as Chapter President. As President, I am excited about the task at hand. I want to outline my vision for the chapter over the coming two years, some of the strategies that the new leadership of the chapter will pursue on your behalf, and to solicit your service in the many initiatives of our chapter.

As I examine our current environment, I make the following observations:

- The current world-wide economy will create unique challenges for our profession, association, chapter and members over the next two years. CPTA must be prepared to respond to these challenges on behalf of our members.
- Delivery of physical therapy services, payment for services, and the profession's body of knowledge will continue to change rapidly. This will necessitate professional involvement and participation of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. APTA/CPTA membership will be one of the best ways for PTs/PTAs to maintain 'current, best' practices and up-to-date information about physical therapy.
- Health care financing will continue to be scrutinized and subject to change as healthcare rises on the national political agenda. We will need to represent our profession well as these changes take effect at the local and state level.
- Identification of physical therapy outcomes will be increasingly essential. We must promote the value of physical therapy through greater clarity of the outcomes of our interventions.
- Students of our profession will be increasingly challenged clinically and financially. We must be prepared to mentor and support our next generation of professionals.
- As members of our professional association, we will all demand 'Value' (tangible benefits and reasonable costs) from our association services, resources and benefits.

With these environmental factors in mind, I believe that the Chapter needs to focus on four priorities over the next two years:

1. Maximize membership benefits, resources and services.
2. Develop and implement greater operational efficiencies for our chapter.
3. Building committee vitality and infrastructure to serve our strategic purposes.
4. Promoting leadership development and succession.

These priorities will focus and streamline our efforts and, I believe, deliver to our membership what they expect and deserve: Value for their membership.



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The Executive Committee of the chapter met in mid-January to begin to shape our immediate agenda. New and existing chapter leaders met on January 31 for a Leadership Retreat to begin discussion and implementation of this agenda. Our next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for February 19 to continue this work. Look for several new initiates in the weeks ahead from your Chapter:

- Frequent communication with chapter members using electronic newsletters, email and enhanced chapter website resources versus print materials. (Please be sure that the chapter has an active email address for you!). This will soon become the preferred method of communication with chapter members.
- Introduction of several new professional development resources available to members.
- Expanded committee activities and membership.
- Reorganization of chapter committees to better address member services.
- Implementation of a Payers Forum (to promote communication/enhance relationships with our third party payers).

Membership and participation in your professional organization (individually and collectively) is more important now than ever. Help CPTA move forward to the important work ahead as we re-engage and grow our membership. PTs and PTAs simply cannot afford not to be a member! Our profession is growing and changing that fast. Consider joining a committee or participating in your district to offer service to your profession and gain the benefits. There has never been a more important time than now. If you are not sure where or how to get involved, drop me an email. My email is emerym@sacredheart.edu

The time is now! Where challenges exist, so are there opportunities!

With my best wishes for a productive new year!

Michael J. Emery PT, EdD, FAPTA
President
Connecticut Physical Therapy Association