

August 2006

The President's Column

Joshua D. Brooks, PT, MPT
President, NHAPTA

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**Volunteers are needed,
and appreciated.
call 497-8989
for information**

**December Newsletter
Deadline November 20th**



It has been several months since I wrote to you when I had just returned from Combined Sections Meeting in California. Since then much has happened and I would like to give a brief overview of some of the happenings that I have had the pleasure being part of while I serve your interests. I would also like to let you know what else is coming up and could be coming.

I traveled with our Chief Delegate Marc Lacroix, PT to Philadelphia for the Northeast Caucus where we discussed with the northeast chapter leaders the proposed RCs and what changes could occur within our profession. I traveled to Washington, DC for the Federal Government Affairs Forum with the Chief Delegate and our Vice President Kris Terrio, PT for the education given by the national APTA folks and their guest lecturers. In DC we also met with the 2 Congressmen's and 2 Senator's staffs to educate them on the needs of our colleagues, like yourself, and the people you serve. We were fortunate enough to meet with Congressman Jeb Bradley himself for nearly 30 minutes. He is a strong supporter of our efforts and patient needs.

Most recently I had the opportunity as a Chapter President and delegate to travel to the House of Delegates with our Chief Delegate and Delegate Susan Abis, PT to bring your spring caucus input to the national arena. Our state even proposed an RC (RC 10) which could improve the quality of therapy delivered on a daily basis.

The current situation is that with your help our membership is growing and will continue to grow with the help of colleagues like you being part of our only national professional organization. Thank you for continuing to be a member and also to those that have chosen to join, I thank you.

Nationally the hot topic is we elected the new national chapter president, Scott Ward PT coming in the wake of Ben Massey. Ben served our profession very well and will be missed. Mr. Ward comes with many professional attributes that during our ascent towards vision 2020 will serve us well. Several other positions nationally were decided as well and the national website can help you see what those were.

During House of Delegates, New York took a big step in getting Direct Access and now has been named the 43rd state to pass legislation for Direct Access. Give your NY colleagues our congratulations the next time you have a chance. Coming up is the Northeast Caucus, October 21st in Manchester NH, yeah NH!! We will be hosting this year's caucus and want to get things started right with a new president. Please get your thoughts to us about our profession and its direction.

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NHAPTA Board of Directors

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SCHEDULE

February	Legislative Bulletin / Calendar of Events
August	Reports: Caucus; National HoD; Legislative
December	Election Results; Annual Meeting

Preview: Your Nominating Committee is looking for
A few good people!

Members will shortly be receiving a letter along these lines:

This is an exciting time to be involved at the state level as we are confronted with many issues that affect our profession. Reimbursement, important at multiple levels, the doctorate degree, use and supervision of paraprofessionals, clinical research, are all examples of topics addressed by the board. It is important to the current Board that we are well represented from our diverse settings to allow for well-rounded discussion and approaches to the many challenges in our society. The time commitment is manageable, and well compensated by the inspiration and information you will receive throughout your experience.

This November, the chapter will elect many positions:

Secretary: a member of the Chapter BoD and executive committee. Attends monthly BoD meetings (2 hrs) and keeps a record of the meeting minutes, summarizes pertinent business for publication in the chapter newsletter, serves on a chapter committee and helps to lead the regional caucus (2 hrs) each spring. Time commitment: approximately 4-6 hrs/mth for a 2 year term.

Treasurer: a member of the Chapter BoD and executive committee. Attends monthly BoD meetings (2 hrs), serves on the finance committee (meets 2x/yr) which presents the BoD with the annual budget, maintains an accurate record of chapter income & expenses and reports the financial status quarterly, helps to lead the regional caucus (2 hrs) each spring. Time commitment approximately 6-8 hrs/mth for a 2 year term.

Board Member: attend monthly meetings (2hrs), serves on 1-2 committees: meeting as needed, helps to lead the regional caucus (2 hrs) each spring. Time commitment: approximately 4-6 hrs/mth for a 2 yr term.

PTA Liaison: a PTA who serves in the same role as a BoD member with additional honor of attending the regional New England caucus to discuss issues up for debate at the annual House of Delegates. 2 yr term.

Nominating Committee Member: solicits interest for open chapter positions, works with other committee members to develop the slate of nominees for the November elections, attends BoD meetings as desired, 3rd year of term serves as the committee chairperson. Time commitment: approximately 15 hrs/yr, usually between May and November.

You can affect the future of your practice. Return the postcard that accompanies this letter and learn more about the Chapter's needs.



Chief Delegate Report

Marc Lacroix PT, MBA, NHA

The 2006 House of Delegates was a spirited event where professional debate over issues such as whether it is appropriate for DPTs to call themselves “Doctor” in the clinic and whether or not we will reach a critical mass in DPTs where all therapist call themselves “Doctor”.

While this may seem far fetched but actually this has happened in other professions in the past. There was no decision re: all therapist calling themselves “Dr” once a critical mass is reached but consensus of the house is those with a DPT could call themselves “Dr”. The correct way to introduce oneself would be something to the effect of, “I’m a physical therapist, Dr. Smith” or “I’m a doctor of physical therapy”. While we are on this topic, a reminder: the legal designation of physical therapist is “PT”, therefore a DPT would sign their name, Joe Smith, PT, DPT.

Another interesting debate came when it was proposed APTA convene a summit of many different stakeholders to discuss the future of physical therapy in the next 30-50 years. With the advances in technology and genetic engineering, potentially the field of physical therapy could undergo as radical a change in the next 30-50 years as it did at the end of the polio epidemic. Historians stated how therapists at the time thought the end of the profession may occur as there would be little opportunity or need for physical therapists once polio was eradicated. It is an interesting thought if strokes, spinal cord injuries, Parkinson’s and other diseases are eradicated, where would therapists who deal with these issues evolve to.

Autonomous physical therapy was given a definition. It involves 6 major characterizations.

1. Independent, self determined professional judgment within one’s scope of practice and in the patient’s/client’s best interest.
 2. Responsibility and acceptance of risk for all aspects of the physical therapist patient/client management
 3. Ability to refer to and collaborate with health care providers and others to enhance physical therapist patient/client management
 4. Recognition of circumstances that necessitate a request for consultation and initiation of such consultation when in the best interest of the patient/client
 5. Incorporation of the best available evidence within patient/client management
- Adherence to applicable legal, ethical and regulatory requirements

You may not agree with any of the above. If you want to change and join the debate, you simply need to join APTA and get involved. Provide your name to any board member or the nominating committee and become involved. Your opinion matters, we are a member driven organization and need diverse opinions to become stronger.



Volunteer Needed

We need a volunteer to work with the Chapter Web Master to review and update our award winning website on a regular monthly basis. Estimated time commitment, after the initial training: 2-3 hours monthly. Work at home, on your own schedule. Must be an NHAPTA member, have a computer and be familiar with Internet Explorer & MS Word.

Great opportunity to meet and support Chapter leadership and be part of the dynamic group that is making NH a great place to practice physical therapy.

Call 497-8989 for more information.

Physical Therapist.

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President's Message *Continued from Page 1*

More locally, here in NH we have some exciting things coming up. Along a *professionally positive* emphasis, Jeb Bradley has agreed to a site visit in Nashua to see again first hand what you all are doing every day. We hope this generous time Congressman Bradley is giving us will help build support for legislative efforts in the making.

In line with getting more *Connected* I have tasked the board and staff with responding to your request for getting more information about what is going on nationally and locally above and beyond the spring caucus or new addition power point yearly update. We will be setting up meeting places other than the usual for the first fall caucus similar to the spring format. Please stay tuned. I want to put these updated messages into a video web stream to make it easier for you to stay informed. I am currently working on this with our webmaster.

Lastly along the lines of *Fiscally Responsible* we are in the more process oriented steps of forming a Political Action Committee (PAC) to generate the influence we need in the legislative arena. Upcoming primaries and general elections in NH are being watched for those who can help our efforts. It would be more likely for us to be successful if we were able to generate funds to help those candidates and incumbents with there campaigns.

Most exciting, during PT month is the upcoming 3rd Annual Physical Therapy Wellness Workout 5k road race on October 29th at Franklin Pierce College in Concord NH. Last year we held the race the weekend of the floods, and we are hoping this year will be a great success. Help a successful event happen, and sign up today to run or walk the 3.1 miles along a flat course.

Though only serving as your chapter President for 8 months I have gained an appreciation for the many great things happening for our profession to better serve our clients. I urge you to find that part you can help with. Many hands need only do a little work to have a huge impact. We need that huge impact now.

 **APTA**
American Physical Therapy Association
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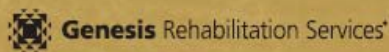
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**Second NH PT named
Emerging Leader**

Josh Cleland, PT, DPT, OCS of Hillsboro, NH has been named one of 23 recipients of APTA's 2006 *Emerging Leader Award*. The award recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated extra-ordinary service to the profession early in their careers.

Josh will be recognized, as well, in the October issue of *PT Magazine*.

NHAPTA president, Josh Brooks, PT, MPT wrote: "Joshua continues to demonstrate a dedication to the profession of physical therapy that exceeds that of the majority of our colleagues, and he will facilitate many professional changes as we continue to journey toward Vision 2020."

**Washington State PT Runs
for US House**

Richard Wright, president of Columbia Physical Therapy is running for the 4th Congressional District of Washington state.

Wright, was graduated from Washington Physical Therapy School in 1979. After three years in Moses Lake, at Samaritan Hospital, he opened a private practice which has grown into a thriving company, with 12 clinics in three states.

Once in Congress, Wright hopes to stop the fraud and abuse caused by POPTS. He also hopes that his move to public service will inspire other physical therapists to do the same.