

## In This Issue...

The President's Column  
Page 1

Board Member List  
Page 2

Chief Delegate Report  
Page 2

Evening Lecture Series  
Page 3

Update from the Colleges!  
Page 3

## NHAPTA CONTINUING EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES

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December Newsletter  
Submission Deadline  
January 15, 2009



## The President's Column

Joshua D. Brooks, PT, MPT  
President, NHAPTA

### BEGINNING THE LAST YEAR

The 2008-2009 NHAPTA leadership year is well underway and for me it is bittersweet as I will begin the 4th year of a 2-term Chapter Presidency. The Chapter Board has been formed and has already begun the planning for a successful 2009. I have asked the Board/committees to provide goals for the 2009 year that have measurable action and I trust they will do this. I believe with the talented returning and new board members you elected we will be able to push forward and protect your profession. 2009 will certainly be a year for change and if our efforts are successful they will be changes that continue to serve you.

Some things that have already begun to change are related to streamlining and improving the access to our current structure. We are transitioning our website to a new webmaster and should be able to update our website easier with faster turn around. We are eliminating our cell phone contract and have moved to change to a new NHAPTA office number which will be connected to the Lahey Management Group. We have finalized our ability to process credit cards making it easier for people to pay for services we provide such as evening lectures. We will be conducting some of our Board meetings via teleconference thus making the time commitment for busy committee members easier to handle. In addition, we are exploring fundraising options that can help take the burden from the usual non-dues revenue streams.

All are certainly aware the economy has been struggling across the country and state jobs are not solid as unemployment has been steadily increasing. The National jobless rate hit 7.2 percent in December, although New Hampshire's employment picture remained bright. The state's jobless rate, at 4.3 percent in November, is tied as the sixth-lowest in America.

Major economic concerns in the U.S. include national debt, external debt, entitlement liabilities for retiring baby boomers who have already begun withdrawing from their Social Security accounts, corporate debt, mortgage debt, a low savings rate, falling house prices, and a large current account

*President's Message, contin. page 4*

*Spread the Word:*

## Upcoming Continuing Education

*January 22, 2009 Topics in Advanced Woundcare*

*February 19 Assistive Technology Solutions to Reduce Slips, Trips and Falls*

*March 12 Update on new Rules for NH Physical Therapy Practice Act*

*Check out [NHAPTA.org](http://NHAPTA.org) for more information*

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(Changes to: office@nhapta.org) (updated 3/08)

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## Chief Delegate Report

Marc M. Lacroix, PT, MBA, NHA

December 2008

This article will update you on the resources that the national APTA has provided in the last year which can benefit you directly.

One of the new features on the web site is the ability to download a podcast. I admittedly needed help from one of my children but they managed to show me how to download the weekly podcast from APTA. This keeps me current with topics such as reimbursement and CMS (Medicare) regulations.

Also, APTA now has a blog where therapists can express ideas, concerns and help answer questions. It is new and as I write this, it has 5 bloggers. In this economic climate it will be interesting to see where the topics lie. One person has already blogged that in his community there is an overabundance of physical therapists due to the importing of foreign trained physical therapists thereby driving down the wage of physical therapists.

Another resource is to help meet the weakened economic state of the country. Certainly as income is reduced, people lose their jobs and health coverage, less people will be able to afford physical therapy. On the web page there are resources under the title, “Overcoming the Current Financial Climate” It can be found at the following web page. [http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Info\\_for\\_Clinicians&TEMPLATE=/MembersOnly.cfm&Nav](http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Info_for_Clinicians&TEMPLATE=/MembersOnly.cfm&Nav)

*Chief Delegate, contin. page 5*

## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

New Hampshire Chapter APTA

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## SCHEDULE

February: Legislative Bulletin / Calendar of Events

August: Reports; Caucus; National House of

Delegates; Legislative

December: Election Results; Annual Meeting

## Evening Lecture Series

Judy Thackaberry PT, MPT, GCS

The Continuing Education Committee has been regrouping this year with office technicalities as well as changes in membership. Still, the Committee has persevered and is looking forward to another diverse and informative Evening Lecture Series in 2009.

This year's offerings will begin on January 22 with Topics in Advanced Wound Care presented by Matt Taylor PT, DPT, CWS, OCS. Other topics this year include Update on New PT Practice Act Rules, Sports Rehab, and Treating Pediatric Clients. Brochures for this series to be mailed this month.

The Evening Lecture Series is held once a month on Thursday evenings. The lecture begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Concord. Two contact hours are awarded for each lecture making it easy to earn your CEUs for the year. There is also a considerable cost savings for members - just another great reason to join!

So grab a PT or PTA friend and make it a date. You are sure to see an old friend there or make a new one. Thanks for your support.

## Update from the Colleges!

Deborah Nervik PT, MHS, DPT, PCS

The school year has gotten off to a great start for all of our PT programs in NH. Many things are happening as these programs grow and expand. Here are the highlights from our two PTA programs and one DPT program.

Laurie Clute continues to direct the New Hampshire Community Technical College PTA program in Claremont; however the program has been renamed: River Valley Community College! There are currently 8 seniors and 16 freshman in the program. Course and clinical work are intense, especially since many of the students are also working and have families. Laurie is proud to announce that the passing rate for the PTA license exam for the last 3 years is at 97% which far surpasses the national rate of 77%. Way to go River Valley! Students have been actively involved in community service projects including a balance screening for seniors, the PT month 5k road race, and "Discovery Day" at a local high school. Laurie would like to thank all for supporting the PTA, especially Jane Venzke from Franklin Pierce University, and would like everyone to keep her students in mind when looking to fill job vacancies.

Deb McWeeney is the new director of the PTA program at Hesser College in Manchester. She is pleased to share that the program has been making many updates and revisions including hiring a new ACCE, Jessica Palmer, and many new adjunct instructors. In addition, she is excited to announce that the college has just added a "SMART" classroom which will greatly enhance their educational experience. Deb also reports that the students have been fortunate to be able to participate in lab time at HEALTHSOUTH rehabilitation hospital in Concord. There are currently 70 freshman and senior students who are active in many community service projects including volunteering at the annual NHAPTA Wellness run in October. Deb says Hesser encourages students to become APTA members and many have joined. She looks forward to having her students working in clinics and practices throughout New England.

Ann Greiner, director of the DPT program at Franklin Pierce University in Concord reports a full slate of students (120) with a waiting list to boot! The program is bustling with activity including lots of

*Update from the Colleges!, contin. page 4*



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***President's Message, Continued from page 1***

deficit. As of June 2008, the gross U.S. external debt was over \$13 trillion, the most external debt of all countries in the world. But I certainly don't want to bore you with the current economic struggles. The good news is health care continues to enjoy a positive environment.

Per an article on the Health Care Guide USA website: As the largest industry in 2006, health care provided 14 million jobs—13.6 million jobs for wage and salary workers and about 438,000 jobs for self-employed and unpaid family workers. Of the 13.6 million wage and salary jobs, 40 percent were in hospitals; another 21 percent were in nursing and residential care facilities; and 16 percent were in physicians' offices. The majority of jobs for self-employed and unpaid family workers in health care were in offices of physicians, dentists, and other health practitioners—about 295,000 out of the 438,000 total self-employed.

Health care will generate 3 million new wage and salary jobs between 2006 and 2016, more than any other industry. Seven of the twenty fastest growing occupations are health care related. Job opportunities should be good in all employment settings.

Wage and salary employment in the healthcare industry is projected to increase by 22 percent through 2016, compared to 11 percent for all industries combined. Employment growth is expected to account for about 3 million new wage and salary jobs—20 percent of all wage and salary jobs added to the economy over the 2006-16 period. Projected rates of employment growth for the various segments of the industry range from 13 percent in hospitals, the largest and slowest growing industry segment, to 55 percent in the much smaller home health care services segment.

Even better Physical Therapy per the same health care guide reports: Employment of physical therapists is expected to grow 27 percent from 2006 to 2016, much faster than the average for all occupations. The impact of proposed Federal legislation imposing limits on reimbursement for therapy services may adversely affect the short-term job outlook for physical therapists. However, the long-run demand for physical therapists should continue to rise as new treatments and techniques expand the scope of physical therapy practices. Moreover, demand will be spurred by the increasing numbers of individuals with disabilities or limited function. In addition, the increasing elderly population will drive growth in the

demand for physical therapy services.

It will be important for us to be vigilant in protecting our profession despite the rosy outlook. The challenge is that other professions, having seen our growth, want to restrict our ability to provide comprehensive care to our clients, which appears to me to be nothing more than turf or financial reasons. Others would attempt to flat out receive reimbursement for Physical Therapy when not provided by a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant. I know this may not seem possible as our profession is a well grounded and respected profession but the only constant in this world is change. We must continue our good work, come together as one, and support meaningful efforts to ensure that we continue to be valuable to our patients.

I hope to see many of you at any number of the evening lectures or at one of my student speaking engagements. I will also attend CSM in Vegas and hope that you will be able to attend this valuable event. I am always available through the email link on the website so don't hesitate to contact me or our chapter office as our purpose is to serve you and the profession. Until next time, be well.

***Update from the Colleges!, Continued from page 3***

community service projects such as volunteering at the annual Down Syndrome Walk and annual NHAPTA Wellness 5k race. Josh Sigsworth, second year student, recently represented NH in the APTA student conclave in California. After attending this exciting event, he looks forward to being an active APTA member. Becca Brown, another second year student, serves as the NHAPTA PTA liaison for the chapter. Faculty members Dr. Josh Cleland and Dr. Deb Nervik both serve as NHAPTA chapter leaders. All faculty members are working hard at completing a variety of professional development activities including active research, publishing, presenting locally and nationally, and completing terminal degrees. Nancy Peatman and Olga McSorely, ACCE directors, are looking for more clinical sites for students to participate in 20 to 40 hour directed clinicals. They note that 10-12 week long affiliations are also available! All clinicians should take part in this great opportunity to serve our profession.

Thanks goes out to these great programs. For a small state, we certainly have much to be proud of! Keep up the great work.

*Chief Delegate, Continued from page 2*

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Do you want to know what is going on in Washington, DC on healthcare topics related to physical therapy, you can sign up to be a member of the PTEAM. You receive regular updates on legislation and how changes in legislation could affect your practice. You also receive resources where you can click to send your message to your member of Congress. It is easy and always pretty cool when you receive a letter from your representative in the mail addressing the issue you brought forward.

Are you worried about your dues payment. You currently can pay your dues into 4 payments to split up the costs. APTA is working on allowing members the option of having monthly installments similar to a health club. Logistics need to be defined and worked out but there is hope for the program to roll out next year.

Have you been providing or do you work with a vendor to provide DME. In June new rules went into effect which may change the way you do business. The rules simplified are available to members on the website at [http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Reimbursement\\_News2&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=50157](http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Reimbursement_News2&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=50157)

As always, APTA is a member driven organization. Examples of this occurred over the course of the year with ability to input on the strategic plan and the priority of the goals of the organization. In this economy and time of change we need an organization which will advocate for us and our patients now more than ever. Please feel free to contact me or any board member with any input you would like to provide.