



February 3, 2021 President Update

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ANNOUNCEMENTS: (DID YOU KNOW)

- **SAVE THE DATE: APTA Tennessee Virtual Spring Meeting, March 26 & 27, 2021.**
 - **The Health and Human Services Department will make a proclamation every 90 days regarding the “Pandemic” as to how long the Pandemic will be extended? Currently their statement and proclamation is extended until the end of April. Governors are alerted every 30 days to the extension.**
 - **APTA Tennessee “Day on the Hill” will go virtual— See information below?**
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APTA-Tennessee 2021 Legislative Initiatives

At this time, we have not identified any specific legislation at the state level that we want to impact during the 2021 legislative session. However, we stand ready to engage as an association, if needed. At this point, it appears that telehealth performed as a physical therapy service is protected in the statute. If there is any concern that this is not the case, we are prepared to move forward with initiatives to protect that service. At the federal level, we do plan to address reimbursement issues, with the looming 3% Medicare cut and the 15% differential cut for services provided by PTAs.

In an effort to protect state legislators and their staff from exposure to Covid-19, public access to the Cordell Hull building and state capitol building will be extremely limited for the foreseeable future. Because of these restrictions, it will not be feasible to conduct an in-person APTA-Tennessee Day on the Hill in 2021. However, APTA-Tennessee remains committed to our advocacy efforts and your Legislative Team came up with some alternatives to maintain the momentum that we have impacting physical therapy issues at the state level.

The Hill Visits the Clinic:

As in-person visits to the state capitol in Nashville are not feasible right now, we'd like to you to consider the idea of inviting your legislators to visit your respective clinics so they can see firsthand how our profession is positively impacting the lives of their constituents. Keeping your legislators engaged and informed during a clinic visit is the key to successful advocacy. To keep your legislators engaged and informed, we'd suggest the following activities as they can all be performed safely and effectively so long as proper COVID-19 safety protocols are adhered to accordingly:

- Take your legislators on a tour of your clinic
- Invite your legislators to sit in on a staff meeting
- Ask your legislators to provide you and your staff with a short legislative update
- Have a conversation with your legislators about the issues that are important to the physical therapy community in Tennessee
- Ask your legislators what you can do to help them
- Take pictures of you, your staff, and the Legislators. Send those to Amy.

Before any of the above takes place, the Legislative Team will provide you with talking points on the issues that are important to the physical therapy community in Tennessee. Advocacy does not have to be intimidating or stressful, so we'll make sure you're well prepared before your legislators walk through the doors of your clinic. If you'd like a little moral support on the day your legislators visit, we can try and arrange for a member of the APTA-Tennessee Legislative Team to be there with you.

APTA-Tennessee plans to limit "Hill Visits the Clinic" events to APTA-Tennessee members that are constituents of legislators that are members of either the House Health Committee or the Senate Health & Welfare Committee. If you are an APTA-Tennessee member that falls into this category, you will soon receive a personal invitation to host a "Hill Visits the Clinic" event. We promise that we will provide you with all the assistance that you need to have an effective visit with your legislators.

Additionally, think about the marketing/public relations impact that such a visit could have on your clinic. You could invite local media to the event or at the very least share the visit on social media.

This is your way to positively impact our profession and your practice, and you never have to leave town to do it!

APTA-TN Flash Action:

On a day to be designated in the near future, APTA-Tennessee will ask all physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to contact their legislators (everyone has two—a member of the Senate and a member of the House) with a brief message. Again, we will provide you with suggestions for that message.

Invitation to District Meetings:

With all District meetings being held virtually, this is a great opportunity to invite your legislators to find out what's happening with our profession in the District. We will be contacting all District Chairs and encouraging them to make time in the business portion of their District meeting for a brief introduction and a few words from their legislators.

Trust us, your legislators want to hear from you. You are their constituents and you are the people that vote to keep them in office. It also opens lines of communication with your legislators, so when issues impacting physical therapy come up, you already have a path to their door and they can connect name with a face.

In-Person Hill Visits:

If there are legislators that you would like to visit, the Legislative Team can and will make that happen. The "in-person visits" with legislators at the Cordell Hull building is difficult at the moment, but it is certainly not impossible should the necessity arise. If the Legislative Team needs to make an in-person visit with a particular legislator at the Cordell Hull building, please let us know and we'll make sure it happens with assistance of Lou and Estie.

MAKE A NOTE!

- ***Registered for CSM? Dolly Swisher a former Tennessean, past Vice President of TPTA, a Leader for the profession in Physical Therapy Ethics, UT Memphis PT alumna and former Vandy PT employee is presenting Educating for Professionalism - The science of caring. The art of healing. on February 4, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM. We encourage TN PTs & PTAs to log in and watch and perhaps send Dolly a congrats from the Chapter! Click the link below for more information!***

[ED-9875 Pauline Cerasoli Lecture: Educating for Professionalism - The science of caring. The art of healing. Laura Lee Swisher, PT, PhD, FAPTA](#)

REMINDER!!

To join in the Celebration of APTA's 100 year anniversary, the new APTA TN logo and the updated APTA TN website, we are offering APTA TN members one free logoed mask. Just click on the picture below, login the APTA TN website (www.tptatn.org) as a member, enter the promotional code APTA100 and submit the form to receive your mask. After you receive it, post a picture wearing it on social media with the #APTATN100, and include a hashtag to include your "District". The district with the most #'s represented by September 1st, at 5pm central, will receive special recognition at the APTA Tri-State Fall meeting!

District #'s (will be listed on the website - under your district page)
Nashville District: #APTATN100NASH

Upper Cumberland District: #APTATN100UC
Knoxville District: #APTATN100KNOX
South Central District: #APTATN100SC
Tri-Cities District: #APTATN100TC
Chattanooga District: #APTATN100CHAT
Jackson District: #APTATN100JACK
Memphis District: #APTATN100MPHS



**CE Broker is now the the official CE
Tracking System of the Board of
Physical Therapy in Tennessee**

Should you have additional questions or need further information about this notice, please do not hesitate to contact the Board Administrative Office at (615) 741-3807.
