



MPTA Chief Delegate Report to the Membership Summer 2009 *Shorelines*

Chief Delegate Report to the Membership

Submitted by Chris Wilson PT, DPT, GCS - MPTA Eastern District Chair and Chief Delegate

The official list of delegates for Michigan has been submitted to the APTA for the House of Delegates in June 2009 in Baltimore MD. Michigan will have 13 voting delegates in 2009. The official list is as follows: Ann Fox, Kathleen Jake Jakubiak Kovacek, Peter V. Loubert, Edward Mathis, David W Perry, Suzanne Perkins, Cindy Pfalzer, Michelle Ramirez, Kirk Randall, Mark Randell, Teresa Stayer, Cameron T. Williams, Alternate: Gina Otterbein. I want to thank them for their service and commitment to our organization.

In 2008, Michigan submitted 2 RCs, one of which was postponed indefinitely regarding Support for National Candidates for Office (RC 15-08). At the Combined Sections Meeting in Las Vegas in February of 2009, Chris Wilson and Jake Jakubiak Kovacek attended the Chief/Section/Assembly Meeting and reintroduced the concept of RC 15 and solicited feedback, which was generally positive, therefore Michigan has agreed to reintroduce the Motion to Support Candidates for National Office, which entailed that candidates would have a maximum of \$1,300 to attend a National meeting like CSM or the APTA Board of Directors meeting in the year that they are a candidate to prepare them for their candidacy. Please contact Chris Wilson to review the full motion concept. This has been cosponsored by Alaska, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

Michigan is also going to submit a motion regarding Member Economic Dues Relief Motion in light of the Economic Recession of the United States. Some of the highlights are as follows:

[Abridged] “The APTA recognizes the current financial crisis in the United States of America and the financial challenges that some of our members may be having that may hinder their capacity to afford APTA membership. The APTA chooses to support its members through this challenging time as the membership has strongly supported the APTA through challenging times as well. The APTA Board of Directors reserves the right to waive the dues of members who have undergone life changing events or natural

disasters in BOD Policy Y11-97-08-20. For those members involved in this financial emergency, it can oftentimes be as life-changing and stressful as a weather related or other natural catastrophe.

Be it resolved that the APTA House of Delegates endorses the appropriate utilization of BOD Policy Y11-97-08-20 to include financial hardship as determined by the APTA Board of Directors and APTA Staff and that the APTA House of Delegates endorses communication through available media to increase awareness of BOD Policy Y11-97-08-20 for members in need.”

With the logistics of the House of Delegates, for this motion to even be heard in the House of Delegates, it must garner a majority vote without any debate, a daunting task, but a worthwhile one.

There are several interesting motion concepts that were introduced at CSM in Las Vegas including exploring ideas such as:

- Developing a mechanism to rescind RC 16-08 regarding a monthly dues program. A task force was developed to explore this concept after the RC was passed and it was determined that it would be too costly to the association and that the association’s dues management program would not be able to handle it. The general consensus was to rescind.
- Discuss offering the Basic Clinical Instructor Credentialing to members free of charge.
- Develop a “Go Green” program for the APTA to reduce our carbon footprint.
- Updating the APTA Code of Ethics to establish minimum acceptable behaviors and add ideal ethical behaviors to both PT and PTA documents.
- Several motions discussing modernizing definitions of continuing competence.
- Amend position on DESIGNATION “PT,” “PTA,” “SPT,” AND “SPTA” to recommend limit of the use of initials by PT so that only the regulatory credential, highest earned physical therapy related degree, other earned academic degrees and Association related professional honors shall be the credentials recognized by APTA in an initialized format with the intent to reduce confusing initials and acronyms for APTA documents.
- Create models of advanced clinical practice beyond the traditional scope of physical therapist practice to explore the feasibility of and particulars of pursuing an "advanced practice credential" that would enable the PT with the credential to order diagnostic tests and prescribe specific classes of drugs, etc.

Stay tuned for the fall membership meeting for the results of many of these updates.