



NEWS FROM THE ARK



Arkansas Physical Therapy

April 1, 2011

Volume 3, Issue 2

President's Address

As you may know, every other year the Arkansas legislature meets to consider new Acts, amendments, and regulations for our State. This is one of those years. The legislature this year is different than in the past as the elections of 2010 created a very young, more Republican, and very inexperienced body of legislators. The number of motions brought to the House and Senate were less than in the past...until about March 1 when all heck broke loose as the deadline for new motions is March 15th. In the packet of motions are several from the Chiropractors, a couple from the Athletic Trainers, and quite a few addressing the Health Reform changes that will affect this State now and in the future. I will not go into a lot of detail at this time, but we are in constant communication with our lobbyists on all the motions which might affect the physical therapy profession and we are taking action when warranted.

The ArPTA volunteer leadership has changed as of January. Leaving us for a brief period of time were our previous Secretary, Debbie Crandall and our Vice President, Joel Sebag. However, we have excellent individuals who have stepped up to take the places of these honored volunteers. We have Kathy Borelli stepping into the position of Secretary and Jenny Gregory stepping into the role of Vice President as a result of last year's elections. Both of these individuals have already contributed greatly in our 2011 planning meeting and we expect many more contributions in the next few years.

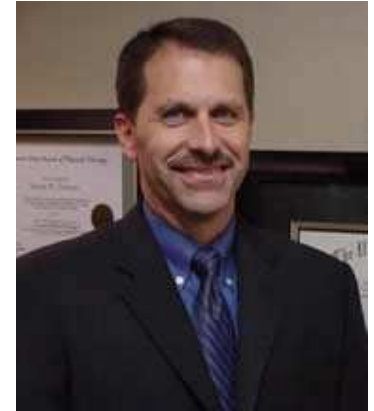
The ArPTA Spring Meeting will be on April 9th with the continuing education portion of the course will be on Kinesio Taping on both April 9 and April 10. This is one of the latest tools used in sports and rehabilitation and we hope to have a great turnout. If you haven't registered yet, please go to the website to get the

material or call Becky Sewell in the Chapter office.

The ArPTA Student SIG has started to get more active. There was a great representation of students at the Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) in New Orleans from February 9-12 and they want to be more active in our State activities. One of their goals is to host a regional student conclave for this area. To get them started toward this goal, we will be hosting a student only course session opposite the Kinesio Taping course on April 9th. There will be two short lectures with a presentation by Park Tipton, SPT in between these two seminars. Park will be discussing the National Student Assembly, activities going on throughout the United States, and additional thoughts or interest to our student members. The courses will be on "Surviving the Storm: How to be successful through Health Reform changes" and "Making Money in as a PT/PTA in This Millennium". We hope to get students from all over the State to attend.

The CSM in New Orleans was well attended and the APTA had more attendees than at any other time in history with over 9,000 attendees. New Orleans was mobilized through the physical therapy attendees. Many great courses and forums were available with many needing to be repeated because they were over loaded with participants and no seats remained. Great food was available in so many of the venues and the people were wonderful.

The planning for 2011 has been accomplished by your Board of Directors and is being finalized this month for report to the



**ArPTA President
Steve Forbush**

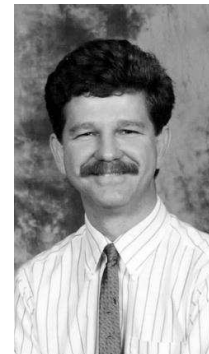
members during the Spring Meeting. We plan to continue to progress our continuing education agenda, our activity with BCBS and other third party payers, and our reach out to find and solve the needs of our members. We are looking forward to a great and productive 2011.

Steven W. Forbush, PT

President, ArPTA



**In Memory of an Arkansas PT
Cleveland Searcy Smith,
RPT, MTC, CRA
Jan. 8, 1956 -
March 23, 2011**



Committee Reports



This month the ArPTA will be hosting several courses and we are very pleased with the record attendance. Both our Vestibular Rehabilitation Course in El Dorado and our Fundamental and Advanced Kinesio Taping Course in Little Rock were such big successes we are now turning people away. Dr. Stanley J. Harris, PT, DPT, has agreed to have another Vestibular Rehab Course in Northwest Arkansas per popular demand. We will likely schedule this for the Summer or Fall. He has over 50 people attending the course this weekend.

The Kinesio Taping courses for April 9-10, 2011 has 45 attending which is the max our two instructors will allow. Along side the Kinesio Taping courses, we are offering a special course for our PT and PTA students. Registrations are still coming in for that course but we hope to have a good turnout for it.

Our Kinesio Taping course has brought people in from all over to attend. We have attendees coming from TN, LA, TX, MS, and KS along with many Arkansans. The course has brought in interest from PTs, PTAs, OTs, ATCs, LMTs and even one chiropractor from Memphis. There is a business meeting for the ArPTA planned during the noon hour on April 9, 2011, at the UAMS Institute on Aging so please come out and join us. The meeting will be in the auditorium. In the evening we are having our Spring PAC Fund Raiser (aka PAC Fiesta Banquet) at CozyMels. The cost is \$40 to attend and our PAC Chair Amy Denton requests that you RSVP her before April 7th to get on the list (amy_denton@pedsplustherapy.com). You can pay for the PAC event at the door and it starts at 6:00pm.

Program Chair Leah Lowe and Executive Director Becky Sewell are in the process of putting some final touches on the Fall Meeting courses. It is their intention to offer two course lines at each meeting and they are looking at new locations as well for the Fall, so keep your eye out for forthcoming emails and at www.arpta.org for more information.

The Finance Committee reports that we are still doing well financially even with our slight drop in membership. In 2010, we increased our non-dues revenue by offering ads in our quarterly newsletters, starting a career center on our website with the help of Affiniscape, and through adding online courses on our website with the help of DavisPT Network. Not to mention the addition of regional courses that have done really well. Besides the one in El Dorado going on this weekend, we are offering a Running Analysis Course in Hot Springs on May 28th and we plan to offer programs in NW and NE Arkansas so keep an eye out for more information on those.

If you would be interested in co-sponsoring a course at your facility, please let our executive director know. She can be reached at 501-499-6163 or rehabnet@alliancecable.net. We are also happy to hear suggestions for courses in your area.

Your membership committee continues to send out letters to new members welcoming them to the group. They also send out letters to terminated members to remind them their membership has lapsed and of the benefits. As of last year, we have started sending out information on the APTA to new licenses along with an application form in an effort to recruit new members. ArPTA President Forbush also speaks to course attendees about membership at each regional course he puts on.



Facility Membership Challenge

Achieve 100% APTA membership among your facility's physical therapists and physical therapist assistants and gain recognition among your patients and peers.

All facilities that employ PTs and PTAs are eligible to participate in the Facility Challenge. This includes acute care settings, academic programs, privately-owned facilities, and more.

You'll receive:

An [11x13 certificate](#) that lets your patients know that your staff is committed to the highest quality of health care

Recognition at APTA conferences and on APTA.org

Take the Challenge

Submit the Facility Challenge Application (available at www.apta.org), along with a roster of all PTs and PTAs employed by your facility, via e-mail or fax (703/706-8575), or mail to:

APTA Facility Challenge
Membership Development Department
1111 North Fairfax St
Alexandria, VA 22314

An APTA staff member will contact you as soon as we've verified your facility's membership status.

Meeting the Challenge

Sadly there are no facilities in Arkansas currently recognized as meeting this challenge though Executive Director Becky Sewell states, "I personally know of some who meet the criteria." She will be encouraging those of you who already are eligible to submit their application and get recognized.

Renewing the Challenge

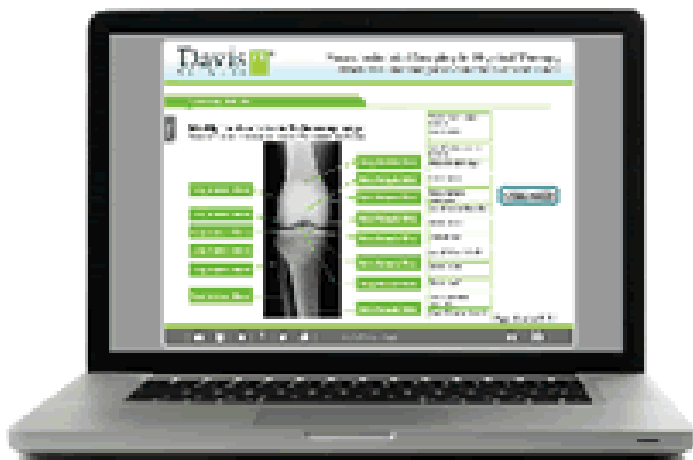
Facilities must reapply **annually** to receive ongoing recognition. The renewal form is also available at www.apta.org or you can contact Becky Sewell at 501-499-6163 or rehabnet@alliancecable.net and she can forward you the form.

Questions? Contact: *Daniel McGill*, Assistant Director, Membership Development, 800/999-2782 (ext 8577) or danielmcgill@apta.org.

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Upcoming Courses

Mark Your Calendars

April 2, 2011 ArPTA Vestibular Rehab Course at South Ark

April 9-10, 2011 ArPTA KT1/KT2 Courses at UAMS

May 28, 2011 ArPTA Running Analysis Course at Tri-Lakes Physical Therapy in Hot Springs

Annual National Conference

June 8-11, 2011 - National Harbor, MD

September 24, 2011 ArPTA/Rehab Net Fall Meetings, topics and location to be announced soon.

NSC 2011: October 21-23, Minneapolis, MN

For more info on any ArPTA courses call Becky at 501-499-6163 or 501-548-6003

ArPTA partners with Affiniscape to provide job listings on our websites to help our members find jobs and find employees. Check it out at www.arpta.org or

<http://pt.ar.associationcareernetwork.com/Common/HomePage.aspx>

ARPTA Career Center
**Find Jobs
and Qualified
Candidates**



Arkansas Physical Therapy Association

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Conway, AR 72033

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Fax: 501-548-6003
E-mail: execdirect@arpta.org



We're on the web at
www.arpta.org



The APTA Working For You!!!

New Category for PTA Recognition of Advanced Proficiency: Aquatic Physical Therapy



APTA recently approved the addition of aquatic physical therapy as a new category of work for the physical therapists assistant (PTA) seeking Recognition of Advanced Proficiency. This latest addition brings the number of recognition categories to 7: aquatic, cardiopulmonary, integumentary, musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, and

pediatric. PTAs are encouraged to submit an application for Recognition of Advanced Proficiency by the August 1 application deadline.

The PTA Recognition of Advanced Proficiency Program recognizes physical therapist assistants who have achieved advanced proficiency through education, experience, leadership and as part of the PT/PTA team in a specified area of work. This brand signifies that the recipient has gone above and beyond entry-level education in their selected area of work and sets the recipient apart from other providers.

The benefits of attaining this recognition of advanced proficiency in a given area of work include:

- Increased confidence in the provision of patient care
- External recognition from APTA
- Reinforcement of life-long learning
- Distinction that assists with career advancement

Successful applicants will receive a Certificate of Advanced Proficiency

suitable for framing and a lapel pin. This achievement will be recognized publicly in *PT in Motion, Voice*, and at APTA's Annual Conference Honors and Awards Celebration and Reception.

The minimum eligibility requirements for PTA Recognition include:

- Current member of the APTA
- 5 years of work experience that must include a minimum of 2,000 hours total and at least 500 hours in the past year in one of the before mentioned areas of advanced proficiency
- Completion of at least 60 contact hours (6 CEUs) of continuing education in physical therapy within the last five years prior to application
 - 6 contact hours (.6 CEUs_ per year for the five years prior to application
 - 75% or forty-five (45) hours must be in the selected category of advanced proficiency
 - Continuing education must be related to physical therapy and within the scope of work for the PTA as defined by APTA standards, policies and positions and *The Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*. Continuing education may include topics that are both clinical and non-clinical.
- Consistent, above-average job performance within the PT/PTA team verified through a letter of reference from a supervising physical therapist.
- Evidence of involvement in at least three activities that demonstrate the applicant's leadership abilities and contributions to the community. At least one of these activities must be related to physical therapy or health care.

MPPR System 'Fixes' to be Installed May 9

News Now [recently reported](#) that the Centers Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) was working on system changes to address errors in payment amounts under the multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR) policy. APTA learned this last month that the fixes to the MPPR problems will be installed May 9. Once the systems changes are completed, contractors will adjust claims paid in error within the following 6 weeks.

APTA Kicks Off 'Move Forward Monday'

To further create visibility online for the *Move Forward* brand for the physical therapist, develop relationships with a wide range of online influencers, and enhance [MoveForwardPT.com](#) search engine optimization, APTA launched its new 'Move Forward Monday' on March 21, 2011. Every other Monday the APTA will post a new interview featuring a health conscious influencer or a physical therapist explaining how he or she uses physical activity to 'move forward' and keep mobile and fit to age successfully. The first post featured Terri Mauro, author of About.com's Guide to Parenting Special Needs blog. Mauro has been a supporter of APTA and helped promote the association's December 2010 tweetchat about gifts for children with disabilities with a blog post, and also made us the "Site of the Day" on the day of the chat. The tweetchat was a part of consumer outreach and education efforts related to the branding campaign.

Fraud & Abuse Alert

Providing Fee Screenings Could Place you At Risk!

By Helene Fearon, PT, and Steven Levine, PT

When "Free Screenings" are discussed, it is generally understood to mean the first visit would be provided at no charge. As such, it is strongly advised that providers avoid this unless they have received an opinion from the Federal Government (which it is under no obligation to provide) that such a practice would fit into the "discount" safe harbor of the anti-kickback statute. This safe harbor is narrowly construed and usually applies to existing patients. If the practice's intent is to attract new patients, as the concept of a "free screening" is clearly designed to do, then attorney's who are experts in Medicare regulations would advise against it.

In addition, there have been instances where the free screenings also include a potential referral to a familiar physician. This would implicate the physician in the potentially illegal activity and arguably is a violation of the Stark laws as well. The physical therapist is rewarding a referral source (the physician) with an easily identifiable group of new patients obtained (arguably) improperly.

In regards to providing free screenings to non-Medicare patient, it will depend on whether your particular state has a similar anti-kickback law, and you would need to study the law and its safe harbors. Providers should not assume that non-Medicare patients are not subject to similar restrictions.



Special Olympics



Get Involved for a Great Cause!

Come be a part of FUNfitness on Friday, May 27, 2011 at Harding University in Searcy. The FUNfitness curriculum was developed for Special Olympics Healthy Athletes by the American Physical Therapy Association and your Arkansas Chapter would love to have a great turnout this year showing your support for Special Olympics as well as the APTA.

Robin Dyer, PT, is the AR Clinical Director for this event. Robin is looking for licensed PTs and PTAs to volunteer their services. She also welcomes any of our students who would like to get involved. For those of you who would like to come down on Thursday night for opening ceremonies, they will even put you up at a local hotel.

This is a wonderful experience.

Comprehensive, cooperative and educational, FUNfitness is the physical therapy component of Healthy Athletes® that Special Olympics athletes describe as "just plain fun".

Designed to assess and improve an athlete's flexibility, functional strength, aerobic capacity and balance, volunteer physical therapists, assistants, and students assess the flexibility and functional strength of Special Olympics Athletes' muscles, as well as overall balance at FUNfitness screenings.

Professional volunteers (OTs, PTs, students) interested in assisting at FUNfitness events please contact:

Arkansas Clinical Director

Robin Dyer, M.S., P.T.
robinder1@hotmail.com

Advertising in the Newsletter

The rates are as follows:

¼ page ads, 3 ¾ x 5, for \$50 per issue

½ page ads, 3 ¾ x 10 for \$90 per issue

1 page ad, 7 ½ x 10 for \$175 per issue

For ease, please email your ad in electronic format to execdirect@arpta.org. Payments should be made to:

ArPTA

P.O. Box 202

Conway, AR 72033

For more info call 501-499-6163. We also have opportunities to advertise on our web page.