

NOVEMBER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ArPTA, November 1, 2009

Another month has come and gone and I hope everyone is excited about the next two months as we close out the year. It has been two months since our last address and much has happened in our Component. We have hired a new Executive Director, Becky Sewell, and she hit the ground running in mid-October and has not stopped since. She has been busy planning some of our regional courses, working on getting to know the BOD of ArPTA, starting up our defunct newsletter, planning the ArPTA Spring meeting and Stanley Paris S1 course, and getting acquainted with the APTA staff in Alexandria to keep abreast of all the activities and events promoted in our region. Please feel free to contact our Chapter office with any questions or information for Becky. She would love to hear from you.

I mentioned the S1 course that is going to be taught by Stanley Paris in the Spring of 2010. The history of the course being offered in Arkansas is convoluted. In 1998, the course was offered and there was a challenge by the Board of Chiropractic prior to the course being taught in the State, as this board felt the course was teaching components of chiropractic practice. Dr. Paris suggested they send someone to take the course and the Chiropractic Board did so. The individuals monitoring the course took offense to everything that was done (not a surprise) and reported to the Chiropractic Board who had their attorney send a "cease and desist" request to the course instructor in the middle of the course and asked for a Circuit Court injunction at the same time. The course was completed, but the stress on the University of St. Augustine was great and the courses were never offered again in the State of Arkansas. I have since discovered that the circuit court did NOT grant the injunction requested and there would not have been an issue. However, the laws governing the practice boards and their ability to go after licensees from other boards have been better defined over the past 7 years and the Chiropractors can no longer control our practice of PT or that which is learned by a PT. These are the reasons we are bringing this course back to the State of Arkansas and why Stanley Paris is coming out of retirement to present this course again. Prior to him coming here, we will make sure the course is properly approved and that the courts are on our side so we will not have any embarrassments. I hope all of you having interest in this course will make a special effort to get time off to attend this special learning opportunity. Right now the course is planned for the last week of March with our conference and business meeting occurring on the first weekend in April. Please make plans now to free up some time to attend and the details will be sent out next month.

The continuing news on in our Nation's Capital is on Health Reform and the bills being promulgated in both the House and the Senate. Many good things have been placed in the bills through amendment, including a trial acceptance of direct access in rural settings, but much more debate will occur and we expect even more amendment prior to anything being accepted as a new law. To keep up with this debate and the bills themselves, tune into the APTA web site under Governance or into the HPA Section website under the Health Reform Debate. The APTA continues to be in continuous discussion with all parties on the formulation and debate on these bills. Our Senators and Congressmen

are in the news on a regular basis with their input on these bills. I will remind all of you that these individuals represent you and you have the ability to have a “say” through continual interaction with these elected representatives.

One of the actions taken in our last business meeting was to disband the districts of the ArPTA. We only had one district still functioning (the Central District) and there was a distinct drain on the resources of our State and actual competition with our Component on course offerings. In order to allow a more regional emphasis and interaction with all of our members, we have started a new regional course and meeting structure. Two courses are being offered this Fall and more will be offered in the upcoming year that will reach all the corners of our State and make it convenient to gain CEU credit and interact with your colleagues in your own region. Upcoming courses are in process or will be planned for Jonesboro, Little Rock, Magnolia, Fayetteville, and Ft. Smith between now and the end of 2010. If you would like to sponsor one of these courses, please contact Becky Sewell at the address listed below or myself at sforbush@uca.edu.

The first course offering is in **Jonesboro, AR** (the Northeast region) and will be taught by Steve Joseph at the ASU campus. There will be a luncheon from 12-1 at this course where you can address any PT or PTA issues you might have in our State and lunch is free for participants or reasonable for anyone else wishing to come and visit. The course title is “***Soft Tissue Assessment and Release***”. Please contact either Becky Sewell at arpta@alliancecable.net or Becky Keith at beckeith@astate.edu if you are interested in attending this course. This is a great opportunity to get together with other practitioners in the Northeast Arkansas region and fellowship about your concerns or your needs.

The other course occurring in the next 5 weeks is a course being offered in **Conway, AR** at UCA entitled “***Advanced Lumbo-Pelvic Manual Therapy***” and will be offered by Steve Forbush (me) on December 5th, 2009. Registration can be done through Becky Sewell at arpta@alliancecable.net. We hope to have all of the persons from the Central District (now the Central Arkansas Region) come and participate in either this course or at the luncheon (free to all participants and reasonable for all others) for this same opportunity to collaborate and fellowship with other practitioners in this area.

I appreciate all of your support to our Association. Remember, no one is representing you in your needs as a collective entity on the National level except for the APTA and no one is more concerned with your needs in this State in the practice of our profession than the ArPTA. We are here for you and willing to help in any way we can at any time.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Forbush, PT

Steve Forbush, PT

President, ArPTA