

## ArPTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September, 2009

As you may have heard, the latest elections have been completed for the ArPTA. I appreciate all of the votes that were cast for all the candidates. The final tally resulted in the following persons being elected:

Steve Forbush	President
Stan Harris	Treasurer
Nancy Reese	Chief Delegate
Beth McKittrick-Bandy	Delegate
Charlotte Yates	Nominating Committee
Kristi Neely	PTA Caucus Representative

I wish to congratulate all of the persons who ran for each of the offices and also wish to sincerely thank those persons who were willing to serve, ran, but did not win in this election. It takes a full community to succeed in a truly volunteer organization. If you know any of these persons personally, thank them for their commitment and their willingness to serve you.

We have a wonderful opportunity for all members and other licensed physical therapists to get together and interact with other like-minded professionals at the **ArPTA Fall Meeting** in Conway on **September 12 and 13**, 2009. Terry Malone is our distinguished invited speaker and he will be presenting lecture and lab time studying the **Shoulder**. The business meeting will commence immediately following the lecture time on Saturday (September 12<sup>th</sup>) at 3:30 PM (or closely thereafter) and before the **PAC function at Mike's Place** starting at **7:00 PM**. Our speaker for the PAC function is a gentleman who has just thrown his hat into the Federal Senatorial race against Blanche Lincoln in the next year's election—Gilbert Baker. This is a conjoined meeting with the folks from Rehab Net and so far they are outnumbering our ArPTA members. Please make a point of registering and planning on attending this wonderful event.

Health reform is still the primary piece of legislation of interest across the nation, and we are closely following the twists and turns of this legislation as it makes it through the House and Senate. You can continue to follow this yourself through the APTA website and some of the section websites. You can find this link in previous messages from the President. Remember, the APTA is constantly diligent in this process and has a goal of making sure physical therapy is well represented in any legislation coming out of committee. You can also make some difference by contacting your representative legislators and let them know the importance of PT in the health arena.

I was honored to be able to take part in the DPT kick-off at Arkansas State University this past weekend in Jonesboro. Your vice-president of ArPTA, Joel Sebag, also was present and participated in this event. Bill Boissonnault was the primary speaker and did coursework on communication, differential diagnosis, and manipulation/manual therapy for the students, clinical instructors, and other professionals on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. He was impressed with Arkansas and all the professionals and students he met while visiting. Dr. Patricia King was a great host, made a wonderful impression on our esteemed guest, and orchestrated an impressive kick-off to the newly revamped program at ASU.

Over the next few months, we will be starting a new project for the ArPTA that should allow us to reconnect with many of the members and potential members in areas outside the region around Little Rock. We will be creating a travelling continuing education system with the goal of presenting a day-long continuing education program for Northwest Arkansas, Southern Arkansas, Western Arkansas (the Ft. Smith area), Central Arkansas, and Northeast Arkansas. The first continuing education program will be presented by Stephen Joseph in Jonesboro on November 14<sup>th</sup> and will be announced to all members in this region and around the State shortly. We will be trying to have a similar course in Northwest Arkansas and in Southern Arkansas within the same time frame. Our new membership co-chairs, Becky Keith and Ashley Mott-Murphree, will be organizing these for our membership and you will hear from them soon.

Thank you again for your support of our only professional organization. We need more persons supporting our efforts through financial support (membership fees) and personal volunteer hours. All the lobbying on any National and State legislation, the education of payers, the marketing of our profession, and the governance of our activities as professionals is done through the APTA and its Components. In return, we will continue to try to be your source of information and your voice for any of your concerns. Feel free to contact me directly through my e-mail at [sforbush@uca.edu](mailto:sforbush@uca.edu).

Respectfully submitted,

*Steven W. Forbush, PT*

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President, ArPTA