

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

JANUARY 6, 2021



Hello APTA Alaska Members,

Hang on, help is on the way.

What are your New Year's traditions? Do you make a resolution or visualize your year looking forward? It all feels different this year because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. As an organization, we worked hard to be the trusted source of guidance and information over the past nine months. It was not easy or perfect, but we stuck together and I'm proud of our association's performance. Nevertheless, as a group and as humans, we keep moving forward and this year is an exciting one. Personally, I'm very much looking forward to working with our Board of Directors to support our members of APTA Alaska.

This month, our profession turns 100 years old. We have a brand new, state-of-the art headquarters in Alexandria, VA. Learn more about all the events celebrating the centennial and register for the Jan. 15 Virtual Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at <https://centennial.apta.org>.

Other Upcoming APTA Events:

- The APTA [Combined Sections Meeting](#) will be virtual and available online for two months!
- There will be a [Centennial Gala Weekend](#) in Washington, DC, Sept. 10-14. Our Centennial Scholar, Rachel Jermann, PT, DPT, of Kodiak, will be intimately involved throughout the year.

We are excited to get our legislative team cranked up again for another run at getting our practice act updated and to join the PT Compact. Contact our state legislative liaison, LeeAnne Carrothers, PT, PhD at leeannecarrothers@aptaalaska.org with questions related to our progress. After nearly 20 years of excellent work from APTA Alaska's lobbyist, Caren Robinson, we have contracted with a new lobbyist, Dave Parrish, who has taken up our bill, and our cause, and will help us guide it through the Alaska legislature.

Our 2020 bylaws amendment project did not have enough votes to meet the requirement of a quorum at our Fall Conference. So, it will be coming back to the membership with another opportunity to vote.

It's great to feel hopeful, but still vigilant and cautious. Today, I happily rolled up my sleeve and received my first COVID-19 vaccination. Based on its clinical trial results, I'm thrilled to provide another layer of protection to all the patients I see. If it decreases the possibility of my being a vector of the coronavirus to a compromised person, sign me up. If you are seeing patients face to face, you can sign up now at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/pages/COVID-19/vaccine.aspx>. As I strolled out of the pharmacy, the Little River Band song *Help Is On Its Way* popped into my head (if you weren't alive in the 70's you missed some cool music). It was a corny, overly optimistic moment ... but, I'll take it.

Best wishes moving forward in 2021.

Alec Kay, PT, DMT, Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy
President, APTA Alaska