

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

When the calendar flips to a new year, it's a nice time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future, with a wider view. It's with gratitude, I look back, but also do my best to learn from past experiences that were not as optimal (disastrous) and plan for what can be improved or enjoyed in the new year. We probably all do this to some degree. Some, more formally, than others.

APTA and APTA Alaska have lots to be thankful for and proud of, thanks to our membership and volunteer leaders. We are doing our best to move our profession forward for the benefit of our patients and society, in the face of continuous obstacles from a global pandemic.



A Few Highlights From 2021:

- APTA celebrated 100 years in January of 2021!!!
- APTA Alaska hired a new lobbyist, Dave Parish, to represent us at the state Capitol. .
- Successfully moved House Bill 99 through the House during the Alaska legislative session and then on to the Senate in January 2022. We are poised to move this bill swiftly.
- Obtained authority, through the Alaska Legislature, for PTs to grant parking permits for patients with a disability.
- In June, APTA announced the PT Moves Me Campaign, to recruit the next generation of PTs and PTAs, focusing on high school students. The APTA Alaska PT Moves Me Ambassadors are Pat McAdoo and Joan Stassel.
- Many events occurred in September, to include:
  - Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Five APTA Alaska members met with Federal Legislators from Alaska.
  - APTA opened their new, state of the art headquarters in Alexandria, VA and had an Open House.
  - The APTA House of Delegates occurred in person in Washington, DC. This year's House highlighted APTA as an anti-racist organization. Voting rights in the House were also granted for PTAs.
  - APTA Alaska's Operation Appreciation delivered food to five Alaska hospitals, showing our gratitude for healthcare workers on the front lines.
- In October, APTA Alaska held the Annual Fall Conference virtually, with speakers presenting on oncology rehab.

- Through strenuous opposition and APTA advocacy, the Medicare payment cut for PT services was averted in October. We will continue advocating for legislation for telehealth access and stopping the PTA differential.
- In November, APTA Alaska announced our goal to establish a pro bono PT clinic in Anchorage.
- Also in November, the APTA Alaska Activity Challenge launched.
- In December, APTA Alaska sponsored the UAA PTA Program Pinning Ceremony.
- Later in December, APTA Alaska received a citation from the Alaska Legislature recognizing our overall wonderfulness as a profession and our positive impact on society. The Citation was sponsored by Senator Revak and Representative Shaw, attended generously by Senator Gray-Jackson

Things to Look Forward to in 2022:

- Ongoing development of an APTA Alaska sponsored pro bono clinic.
- UAA PTA Alumni Night in Anchorage, sponsored by APTA Alaska.
- Moving House Bill 99 through the Senate and signed into law.
- The APTA Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) will take place in person, in San Antonio, TX, in February.
- Continued efforts to engage and recruit Chapter members, focusing on PTAs.
- Continued advocacy at the national level for fair reimbursement for PT services.
- PT Moves Me campaign kicks off.
- Remain nimble and agile for whatever the world brings our way.

It's with pride, I look back and excitement, I look forward. This profession needs a louder voice for advocacy. This is not just for fair reimbursement, but to spread the word about the benefits of what we have to offer to so many, in all corners of our community. I look forward to starting our monthly member meetings later this month and especially look forward to in person gatherings...Omicron move on along, you pesky variant.

Best of luck to you all for a fantastic 2022.

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

President, APTA Alaska