

## A Message From the President November 21, 2022

We are solidly in our “low light” phase surrounding the winter solstice, but there are still plenty of ways to stay warm. Appreciation is the theme of this message. This season brings it front and center, but personally, I am overwhelmed with so many things that need to be acknowledged and appreciated, personally and professionally.

My biggest thanks go to my family, and especially my wife, whose support is felt in all things I do. From an APTA Alaska point of view, I’m hugely grateful for:

**Our Volunteers.** Committee members and my exceptional Board colleagues. It’s a rewarding, but sometimes demanding, experience for all of us. Both the APTA Alaska Executive Board and the Alaska Community Physical Therapy Clinic Board have committed, competent and optimistic individuals. **It’s election time, thanks for all those candidates agreeing to be on our Slate. Vote, vote, vote.**

**PT Day of Service.** Thanks to our willing participants throughout the state, we were able collect food for donations in at least 4 separate Alaska communities. Thank you, Secretary, Meera Davenport, for spearheading.

**APTA Alaska Delegation.** Rebecca Byerley, Patty Runde, and Michael Zinsli monitor resolutions and concepts from APTA National. There is a lot to track culminating in the annual House of Delegates; thank you for your work.

**Advocacy Team.** LeeAnne Carrothers as State and Federal Affairs Liaison, Katie Piraino as Payment Chair, and Pat McAdoo as the key contact for several legislators and fountain of institutional knowledge. One of APTA’s priorities, both state and national, is the continuous battle for fair reimbursement and having a voice in our destiny as a profession. This takes work and support from our members.

**Alaska Community Physical Therapy Clinic (aka Pro Bono Clinic).** Learn more about us [HERE](#).

Opening, first in Anchorage, on Saturday, December 10, 2022, we will be living our mission and helping to improve the human experience through movement and better the health of society for members of our community who have financial barriers to treatment. We are now getting the message out to potential referral sources, meeting with our community partners who support people experiencing homelessness and other people in our community with challenges to access to physical therapy. We are putting an emphasis on agencies like Brother Francis Shelter, Complex Care on Fireweed but also community clinics, family practices and all of you as well to spread the word. The next step will be to spread this model to other parts of the state, to as many Alaskan communities as possible. We always need more members involved in this on many levels, so please reach out if you have not already. Consider making a tax-deductible donation to this clinic to cover fees associated with operation. We need financial help.

**Our Executive Director.** We were fortunate enough to have Suzie Callan come up in October, but she is a constant source of knowledge, know-how and can do, that keeps us running smoothly.

**My Work Colleagues.** Forgive me, as I take a point of personal privilege to thank my work colleagues for their commitment to their patients, and continually inspiring me with innovative and creative ways to help those who trust us with their health. It reminds me daily of what we are working for at at the Chapter and National levels.

Use the caring heart that brought you to this admirable profession to propel you toward more involvement in our association. Bring ideas and feedback. but more importantly, step forward. We are helping our community and solidifying our brand as caring and practical members of the health care community. This is part of an interconnected web of helping and establishing our value to our community as health care providers.

See you at our next meeting in January or at CSM in San Diego. Enjoy the season. Amazingly enough, days will start getting longer in about a month.

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