

President's Message

WHO DAT?!!!

I am not sure how anyone could start a conversation or write a column without a "Go Saints!", "How bout dem Saints?" or "Who Dat?!" Congratulations to every Saints' fan out there whether you've been pulling for the black and gold for the last season or the last forty three. What a great time in the history of the New Orleans Saints' franchise and the State of Louisiana. It was through many years of hard work, dedication, faith, and probably a little bit of gris-gris that the Saints have finally won the Superbowl.

As physical therapists in Louisiana, we must demonstrate these same character traits if we are to win our "PT Superbowl". We have a great group of leaders and volunteers working on special projects that I would like to recognize as some of the "WHO DATS" in the LPTA.

Many of you are already aware that the Louisiana Workforce Commission has developed a medical advisory panel to work on selection and implementation of a set of medical guidelines to be utilized in the treatment of worker's compensation injuries in Louisiana. This panel has been divided into three groups: upper extremity, lower extremity, and spine. Seth Kaplan, PT, MHA, OCS is working together with other providers on the lower extremity panel and Ricky Lane, PT, OCS is working with the spine panel. I am in the process of finding some additional physical therapists that have a special interest in lower extremity or spine injuries to assist with the very meticulous process of selecting, then modifying, and finally adopting a set of guidelines that will guide the treatment of worker's compensation injuries in Louisiana.

Another project currently underway is the first LPTA Payer Forum. Jeremy Stillwell, PT, our reimbursement chairperson is championing this event. APTA's reimbursement department will be assisting with the planning and hosting of this event as well. The date of this first forum will be April 6, 2010. Our agenda has been set and we look forward to hosting many payers from around the state to educate them about physical therapy. Many thanks are in order to the PTs who have forwarded contacts/names to LPTA in an effort to create the invitation list.

The last event that is currently being planned is our PT day at the Capitol. Alice Quaid, PT has brought endless energy and enthusiasm to this event the last five years. This year's event will take place on April 13, 2010. We will continue to provide hands-on assessments of the legislators and their staff, and we are currently in the process of ordering pedometers (black and gold of course) to issue to the legislators. These pedometers will be utilized as part of a fitness challenge for the lawmakers. We hope to create a competition and

(Continued on page 3)

2010 SPRING MEETING

The LPTA 2010 Spring Meeting is fast approaching. It will be held in Bossier City, Louisiana on March 19-21 at DiamondJacks Casino and Resort.

Mark Cornwall, PT, PhD, CPed will present a 12 hour course entitled "Update on the Foot and Ankle: Biomechanics, Evaluation and Treatment."

For Hotel information please see page 3, the schedule is on page 9 and a registration form is on page 10.



American Physical Therapy Association

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar NOW!

2010

March 19-21
LPTA Spring Meeting
Bossier City, LA

April 6
LPTA Payer Forum
Baton Rouge, LA

April 13
LPTA Day at the Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA

June 16-19
APTA Annual Conference
Boston, MA

September 24-26
LPTA Fall Meeting
Baton Rouge, LA

Bayou Bulletin Publisher Information

The *Bayou Bulletin* is published six times a year by the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association, (LPTA). Copy and advertising inquiries should be directed to LPTA. Advertising rate sheets and deadlines for each issue are available upon request.

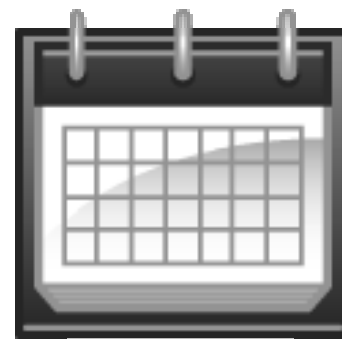
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LPTA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please continue to encourage your fellow PTs, PTAs and students to join or renew their APTA/LPTA membership!

	Current	Last Year
Active members	658	644
Life Members	25	24
PT Students	151	133
PTAs	78	74
PTA Students	<u>23</u>	<u>36</u>
Total	935	911



(Continued from page 1)

proclaim the legislator who takes the most steps the “fittest lawmaker” at the capitol.

I feel confident that LPTA is on its way to the “PT Superbowl”. It is with these efforts of hard work and dedication that we will make it to our “PT superbowl” some day. Championships are not won overnight, but instead through years of dedication and hard work by its team members. I would like to personally thank the “Who Dats” mentioned here as well as those who continue to devote their time and resources to APTA/LPTA. May you all celebrate this special Saints’ Superbowl win and hope to celebrate a “PT Superbowl” some day in the not so distant future.

GREG

Spring Meeting Information

See page 10 for a registration form

Speaker

Mark Cornwall, PT, PhD, CPed

Topic

Update on the Foot and Ankle: Biomechanics,
Evaluation and Treatment

Accommodations

DiamondJacks Casino & Resort

711 DiamondJacks Blvd.

Bossier City, LA 71111

(866) 552-9629

Rates:

\$79.00 per night

THURSDAY ONLY (Single/Double)

\$109.00 per night

FRIDAY & SATURDAY (Single/Double)

Registrants must make their own room reservations. Please identify yourself with the “Louisiana Physical Therapy Association” to receive the group rate. Please reserve your rooms early. Although the hotel guarantees the availability of our room block, at the above rates, this is only for reservations made on or before February 25, 2010, please call them for availability regardless of when arrangements are made.

Registration

Register early to receive the lower early bird registration rate. Enclose all registration fees with your form. Cancellations may be made through March 3, 2010 without penalty. After March 3, 2010 a \$50.00 cancellation fee will apply up to 48 hours prior to the Meeting, after which all fees are forfeit.

Exhibit Hall only passes do not include drink tickets for the Welcome Reception or a luncheon ticket. Drink tickets can be purchased at the registration desk. Provisions will be made for unregistered members to attend the business meeting, although lunch on Saturday will be served only to registrants and to those who purchase a luncheon ticket.

The Board Has A New Name

The revised Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act took effect January 1, 2010. As a result, the name of the Louisiana State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners is now **Louisiana Physical Therapy Board.**

www.laptboard.com

APTA Ramps Up Efforts in Cap Fight

This week APTA joined with more than 20 health care organizations in calling on Congress to immediately reinstate the therapy cap exceptions process for Medicare Part B outpatient therapy services. "The undersigned organizations, representing consumers, health professionals and providers, request immediate action by Congress to prevent thousands of Medicare beneficiaries from exceeding arbitrary limitations on outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services..." said the coalition in a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), and other members of Congress. APTA also issued a press release this week that notes that some beneficiaries will soon reach the \$1,860 cap, which went into effect January 1. The association has developed a FAQ document to help physical therapists determine how to proceed once a patient has exceeded the cap. Other resources related to the implementation of the therapy cap can be found on APTA's Web site.

Improves Payment APTA Improves Payment for Services



As a member, you have **free** or **significantly discounted** access to:

- ✓ An online Medicare Fee Schedule Calculator that provides payment details based on CPT code and geographic location.
- ✓ The tools you need to navigate the reimbursement maze, including the *Ingenix Coding and Payment Guide for the Physical Therapist*.
- ✓ APTA staff consultations about the issues important to you—coding, claims denials, and other payment issues.

To learn more visit
www.apta.org/reimbursement.



Not a Member Yet?

Visit www.apta.org/join
or call 800/999-2782, ext 3395 to join.

10 things YOU can do to STOP the therapy cap!

Your action today will help ensure that patients have the rehabilitation services they need tomorrow!

1. Contact your legislators via the [Legislative Action Center](#).
2. Set up a laptop in your lobby and ask your patients to take action via the [patient action center](#).
3. Start a patient petition in your clinic, hospital or facility. Send the petition to each Member of Congress from your area. A sample patient petition is available at the [therapy cap resource center](#).
4. Sign up for [Pteam](#) – The PTeam grassroots program is a vital link to APTA's success on Capitol Hill. All PTeam members receive a quarterly newsletter on legislative activity on Capitol Hill and Legislative Action Alerts on federal legislative issues. Because the therapy cap is one of APTA's priority issues, many of the Alerts and information bulletins in the coming weeks will be regarding the therapy cap. Signing up for PTeam is the quickest and easiest way to receive information regarding the status of the cap.
5. Host a Practice visit - Invite members of Congress to your practice setting to demonstrate physical therapy in action, along with the impact on patients the therapy caps will have. Learn more about hosting a practice visit by reading APTA's [Practice Visits Initiative brochure](#), or contact Melissa Manzione, APTA's Assistant Director of Grassroots and Political Affairs at melissamanzione@apta.org.
6. Let the local media (print, radio and television) know about this issue and how it will affect local rehabilitation patients. Ask to be part of health care or community focus pieces they are working on. If this option interests you, please contact Maryann Digiacomo, Associate Director, Public Relations at maryanndigiacomo@apta.org.
7. Write a Letter to the Editor on the therapy cap asking that patients write Congress requesting action be taken on the therapy cap in 2010. To view a sample Letter to the Editor, please visit the [therapy cap resource center](#).
8. Attend the Federal Advocacy Forum and Capitol Hill Day on April 25-27 in Alexandria, VA. For more information go to www.apta.org/advocacyforum
9. Attend a town hall meeting. Many legislators are holding town hall meetings in their districts to engage with their constituents in the coming weeks. For a full list of town hall meetings visit the grassroots page of the [Legislative Action Center](#).
10. Support PT-PAC. [PT-PAC](#) was formed to empower physical therapists to be more involved in the determination of federal laws and policies. PT-PAC allows the physical therapy profession to channel its financial and grassroots support to help elect candidates to Congress who are responsive to the physical therapy profession's goals and viewpoints.

Gone Campin'

If you call Seth Kaplan, PT, OCS, MHA, on June 1st this summer, someone in his office at Baton Rouge Physical Therapy – Lake will probably tell you he's unavailable because he's at summer camp! Actually, that's what Seth has been doing each summer for over 25 years now. Seth is a volunteer on the Professional Staff at Camp Dream Street, MS, an overnight summer camp for children with physical disabilities.

Seth first volunteered as a counselor for Camp Dream Street when he was a high school sophomore. For one week, he was paired individually with a specific camper and was responsible for assisting that camper with everything he needed during the week – showering, feeding, dressing, transfers, etc. But more importantly, Seth gained a new friend that week. They went swimming, fishing, played sports, ate meals with all of their other friends, played ping-pong, and spent time just getting to know each other. Seth hasn't missed a summer since then.

Camp Dream Street, MS is a five day overnight camping experience specifically tailored toward children with physical disabilities. The mission of Camp Dream Street is to allow all children, regardless of their abilities, the chance to have fun, to make new friends, to achieve, to be accepted for who and what they are, and to learn from the challenges of group life. Both the children and the staff at Camp Dream Street benefit from the life-changing experiences the camp has to offer. Dream Street is a place where children with physical disabilities are given the chance to be children – not “special” children, not children with disabilities, but just children. The camp is located in Utica, Mississippi and serves the entire Southeast region, including Louisiana. The program is provided completely free of charge to the campers and is funded solely through private donations. All Dream Street staff members volunteer their time.

After volunteering several years as a counselor, Seth went on to become the Program Director and now serves on the Board of Advisors for Camp Dream Street. He's there each summer helping to train the counselors on how to work with children with disabilities, to understand their diagnosis, to properly operate their equipment, and to provide moral support and experience to nervous new counselors. Seth remembers his years as a counselor well, and says that is why he's a physical therapist today. “Dream Street and my experiences there were monumental in guiding me towards my career path as a physical therapist,” Seth recalls. “I was exposed to therapists, social workers, and counselors that truly made a difference in the camper's lives. They showed me how to truly care for someone else.”

Seth has seen a number of his patients enjoy Dream Street as campers and witnessed the impact it can have. “You see this weight lifted off them because, at Dream Street, they are no longer different than everyone else, fighting to overcome their own obstacles. Everyone is in it together,” Seth explains. He points out that the campers often receive therapy they don't realize, “They don't go swimming because they are with the therapist. They go swimming because all of their friends are doing it and their counselor wants to play pool basketball with them, but the therapist in me sees the same results...or more!”

To find out more information about Camp Dream Street, please visit the website at www.dreamstreetms.org or contact Seth at seth@brptlake.com. Camper applications for the 2010 session (June 1 – June 5) are available on the website if you have any patients who are interested, or by contacting Cynthia Huff, the camper recruitment coordinator, at Cynthia@dreamstreetms.org. If you are interested in donating to Camp Dream Street or for any other questions about the program, please email info@dreamstreetms.org.

Congrats Seth on a job well done and a continued commitment to Camp Dream Street. Keep up the good work and don't forget the bug spray!

Scott Levy
Chairman, Board of Advisors
Camp Dream Street, MS

New Orleans District Report

Two New Orleans District meetings were held in the fall. The LSBPTE presented the Jurisprudence course at East Jefferson General Hospital in September. It was attended by over 120 PTs and PTAs.

The meeting in October was hosted by Tulane and Biomed. It was held at the Tulane-Lakeside Hospital. Guest speaker was Jacques Whitecloud, MD, FAAPMR, a physician with the department of Orthopedics, Tulane School of Medicine.



To celebrate National Physical Therapy Month in October, the New Orleans district participated in the American Cancer Association's Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk October 10, 2009. It was held on the lakefront in New Orleans. Team Physical Therapy raised almost \$2000.

Amelia Leonardi, PT



Superbowl Champions!

*Congratulations to the
Boys in Black and Gold
on their historic season!
You make us proud!*

Shreveport District Report

On October 8th, the Shreveport District's annual Hustle for Your Health 5K fun run kicked off at Bickham-Dickson Park. Seventy-seven runners participated in the race and APTA prizes were awarded to first, second, and third place finishers in each age group. A total of \$1215 was raised during the run, and this was donated to the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission. This yearly community service project helps to raise awareness of PT in the community.

On November 3, 2009, the Shreveport District hosted a meeting and Tony Alexander, RPT, spoke on types of athletic footwear. Well attended, the meeting was the last of Anna Mean's term as Shreveport District Chair and Beth Ward was elected new Shreveport District Chair.

Beth Ward, PT

Peak Sponsors Top High School Football Player Award

Peak Performance Physical Therapy served as presenting sponsor for the WAFB Warrick Dunn Award given to the Sportsline High School Football Player of the Year. Dunn, a former stand-out Catholic High School running back in the early 90's, lost his mother Officer Betty Smothers a Baton Rouge City Police Officer, in the line of duty. Dunn went on to become a star collegiate player for the Florida State Seminoles, and after that for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Atlanta Falcons of the NFL. Dunn's personal contributions to society off the field are what make him an even more outstanding and exemplary individual. His work with the 'Warrick Dunn Foundation' and 'Home for the Holidays' has touched people throughout the Baton Rouge community and across the nation.

The banquet honoring the areas top prep football athletes was held at the Crowne Plaza, January 11, 2010, and featured video highlight segments of all 9 of the finalists. Peak Performance Physical Therapy was proud to sponsor the award and partner Chris Purvis PT, ATC, MS, CSCS spoke to the crowd of approximately 400 and directed comments to the athletes about the importance of utilizing the opportunity that football offers to make a difference both in their own future and the future of those around them.

"We are huge supporters of high school athletics because we realize the valuable life lessons that the kids can gain", Purvis said, "and this award is great because it looks not only at the athletic accomplishments of the players, but it also takes into account their overall character".

Peak Performance partner Jason Greene MPT, who sat with orthopedists Chip Bankston MD, Ricardo Rodrigues MD, and Craig Greene MD, said, "It is great to see that so many people in the community take such a great interest in helping out our local athletes. WAFB's Sportsline Player of the Week is such a showcase for our local talent and this award is another way to bring attention to these deserving kids."

The 2009 WAFB Warrick Dunn Award finalists were: Will Briscoe (Central HS), Wes Briscoe (Central HS), Terrance Broadway (Capitol HS), Deuce Coon (Redemptorist HS), Collin Ellis (Dunham HS), Eric Reid (Dutchtown HS), Gavin Webster (Lutcher HS), Brady Wilson (Parkview Baptist HS), and the 2009 Award winner was Frankie Jackson (Capitol HS).

Chris Purvis PT, DPT, COMT



WAFB Warrick Dunn Award winner and Peak Performance Staff Pictured left to right are: Patrick Cook PT, CSCS, Scott Dickie PT, DPT, LMT, Sean McDaniel ATC, Warrick Dunn, Jason Greene MPT, Frankie Jackson, and Chris Purvis PT, ATC, MS, CSCS

SPRING MEETING

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2010

1:00pm—4:00pm	LPTA Board of Directors' Meeting
1:00pm	REGISTRATION OPENS
1:00pm—6:00pm	Exhibit Setup
4:00pm—5:00pm	Committee Meetings
	Clinical Instructors' Meeting
6:00pm—7:00pm	LPTA Business Meeting with Open Forum
7:00pm	EXHIBITS OPEN
7:00pm—8:30pm	WELCOME RECEPTION with Exhibitors

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2010

7:00am—7:45am	Registration
	EXHIBITS OPEN
	Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
7:45am—9:15am	Update on the Foot and Ankle
9:15am—10:45am	Exhibit Break
10:45am—11:45am	Update on the Foot and Ankle
11:45am—1:15pm	LPTA Business Meeting with Lunch
1:15pm—3:45pm	Update on the Foot and Ankle
3:45pm—4:00pm	Break
4:00pm—6:00pm	Update on the Foot and Ankle
6:00pm	PTA Meeting

Total Number of Hours on Saturday: 7 hours

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010

7:45am—9:45am	Update on the Foot and Ankle, with Continental Breakfast in room
9:45am—10:00am	Break
10:00am—1:00pm	Update on the Foot and Ankle

Total Number of Hours on Sunday: 5 hours

Have you noticed? *PT Magazine* is now called *PT in Motion*.

Louisiana Physical Therapy Association Spring Meeting

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest's Badge Name (if applicable): _____

Company: _____

Business Address: _____
Street

_____ City State Zip

Business Phone: (_____) _____

Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____
Street

_____ City State Zip

Home Phone: (_____) _____

Licensure: PT PTA PT Student PTA Student

Membership: APTA/LPTA Member Non-member

Where would you like your confirmation mailed: ____ Business ____ Home

	REGISTRATION FEES:	
	Early Bird	Regular
	Postmark by March 3	After March 3
PT Member	\$315	\$340
PT Non-Member	\$440	\$465
APTA Life Member	\$75	\$85
PT Assistant Member	\$315	\$340
PT Assistant Non-member	\$440	\$465
Student Member	\$75	\$85
Student Non-member	\$105	\$115
Spouse/Guest*	\$40	\$45
* includes social events and exhibits		
Luncheon Ticket Only (for non-registrants)	\$25	\$25
Saturday Only (PT and PTA members)	\$200	\$210
Exhibits Only Pass-Member	\$20	\$20
Exhibits Only Pass-Nonmember	\$45	\$45

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

***\$10 will be added for on-site registrations.*

Credit Card: (Circle one) American Express Discover MasterCard Visa

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Name (Please print): _____

Signature: _____

Credit card registrations may be faxed in or mail registration form with check payable to LPTA to:

Louisiana Physical Therapy Association
 8550 United Plaza Blvd., Suite 1001, Baton Rouge, LA 70809
 Phone: 225-922-4614 Fax: 225-408-4422
 Email: office@lpta.org



Check here if you have a disability and may require an accommodation. You will be contacted to discuss your special needs.

STUDENT SPEAK

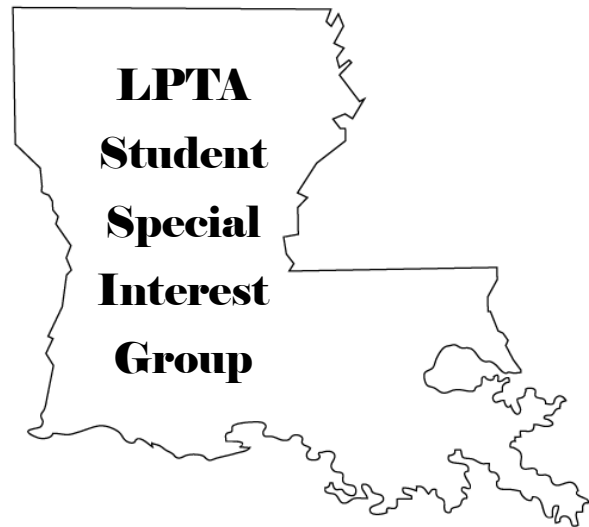
Mari Kantrow, SPT
Payton McCalmont, SPT
Officers, LPTA Student Special Interest Group

SPRING MEETING IS AROUND THE CORNER

Don't forget to join us at Diamond Jack's Casino - Friday March 19, 2010 at 4:00 for our students' only SSIG meeting. Topic for presentation TBA, but don't miss out on mixing and mingling with fellow students from PT and PTA programs from around the state!

I WANNA GET INVOLVED...WHO'S COMING WITH ME?

Student SSIG officer elections will be held at the LPTA Spring State Meeting. Positions include president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, student delegate, and director. Elections are open to all PT and PTA students. For more information, visit the student SSIG website at lpta.org/student_sig.html or email Mari Kantrow, SPT at mkantr@lsuhsc.edu.



MISSED OUT ON THE AMERICAN IDOL AUDITIONS?

No worries! Just bring your best vocals to the LPTA Student SSIG fundraiser...KARAOKE style! Activities begin Friday March 19, 2010 immediately following the opening reception. Last year's fundraiser was a hit! The vocals...well that's another story! So tune up those voices and we'll see you in March! (Proceeds will go to PT-PAC and LPTA Student SSIG fund.)



CALLING ALL LOUISIANA PT/PTA EMPLOYERS

The LPTA Student Special Interest Group wants you to help us help you. This spring, we will continue providing our biannual job listing resource to near graduation students seeking employment in Louisiana. For \$30 (LPTA members) or \$50 (non-members), your place of employment can advertise job listings in this publication. The publication will be distributed at this year's spring state meeting, emailed to students in a PDF format, and posted on the LPTA website. Information for the spring listing is due by March 1, 2010. For more information regarding this opportunity, email Payton McCalmont, SSIG president, at pmccal@lsuhsc.edu.



APTA's John Barnes on YouTube:

APTA's CEO, John Barnes, has a 4 minute video, *APTA Celebrating: 2009*, on YouTube which highlights the APTA's accomplishments in 2009. Be sure to check it out!

LPTA Spotlight: Beth Ward, PT, MPT



By Kinta Mader LeBlanc, PT, MPT

This month we say “hello” to Beth Ward, the Membership Committee Chairperson and Shreveport District Chairperson. Although she was born in Baton Rouge her family moved to Shreveport after her father graduated law school when she was only 6 months old. Beth spent her childhood in Shreveport and graduated from St. Vincent’s Academy (and still keeps in touch with some of her high school classmates regularly). The State of Tennessee is where Beth moved to next where she attended Rhodes College and received her BS in biology and psychology. Research at St. Jude’s Hospital was next in line for Beth, followed by a move to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. There she taught middle school science while her husband was in his Family Practice residency. Clarksville, Tennessee is where Beth and her husband moved next, and it was there where they started their family.

During her 12 years in Clarksville Beth chose to stay home and raise their two children while they were young, and also somehow found time to squeeze in her active membership in her children’s Parent Teachers Associations, teach aerobics, preside over the Montgomery County Master Gardeners Club, and play bridge with 3 different groups. Being the multitasking marvel that she is it is no wonder she decided to return to school to pursue her Master of Physical Therapy Degree in Shreveport with her children in tow after her divorce. Upon her graduation from LSUHSC in 2002 she worked at LSUHSC in the acute care setting where she says she truly enjoyed mentoring students in the clinical setting. In 2006 she began (and remains) working as a home health physical therapist with Gentiva Health Services. The perpetual student, Beth will complete her transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy curriculum this spring, and plans on receiving her APTA Geriatric Certification in 2011.

A dedicated member of the physical therapy profession, Beth has served as the Shreveport Public Relations District Chairperson, Shreveport District Chairperson (from 2002 to 2004, 2006 to 2008, and at present), LPTA Board of Director Member from 2006 to 2008, Membership Chairperson from 2008 to present. Among her many accomplishments in our association, Beth has organized the Hustle for Your Health Fun Run to help raise public awareness about the physical therapy profession and to help support various community causes. She also instituted the Each One Reach One membership campaign which she continues to promote. As for her children, they both live in Tennessee where her daughter, CJ, is a senior at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville majoring in ecological biology, and her son, Max, is a junior at Clarksville High School making good grades and perfecting his hobby of playing bass guitar. In closing, I think it is fitting to include Beth’s thoughts on her profession and her professional association:

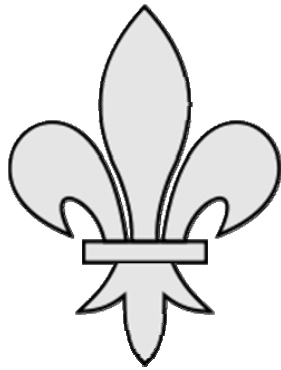
I love my profession and feel honored to be able to serve on the Board of LPTA. I value my membership and feel that all professionals should be members of their professional organization so their col-

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

lective voices can be heard and to glean the benefits of belonging. I truly enjoy sharing the passion I have for PT while mentoring students. We are blessed to be in such a positive, exciting profession that is MOVING FORWARD in the 2010's!

Thanks to Beth for her constant enthusiasm, motivation and energy! The LPTA truly appreciates all she does!



SAINTS PICS

The SAINTS are the World Champions!

What a celebration! Send us your pics showing your Who Dat Nation pride!



Information Bulletin

American Physical Therapy Association

Senate Draft of Jobs Bill Released; Therapy Cap Exceptions Process Included

Although Washington is shut down to dig out and await the next foot of snow, the Hill is still working behind the scenes. Draft text of the "jobs bill" was released early this morning. It contains critical extenders for the physical therapy profession and the patients we serve:

- Re-instatement of the therapy cap exceptions process for one year retroactive to the beginning of 2010.
- Re-instatement of the GPCI (rural payments) floor for 2010
- Extending the current hold at the 2009 Conversion Factor until September 30, 2010.

Unfortunately the House and Senate have cancelled all votes for this week; and next week is a district work period due to the President's Day holiday. Originally this legislation was suppose to be on the Senate floor by the end of this week and then to the House for action by February 28, 2010. The timeline is a little unclear, but we should have a short-term reprieve in the coming weeks.

Please stay tuned for more information.

Publicity Simplicity

Physical Therapy Day at the Capitol

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

We would like to give our thanks to Alice Quaid for once again coordinating the PT Day at the Capitol. This year's event is planned for Tuesday, April 13, beginning at 11 a.m. and ending when the Legislators finish that day's session.

Fact: Legislators are impressed when groups come and stay as long as they do. Two years ago we were there until the early evening hours, and as a result the Legislators are still talking about us! They love to see us at the Capitol! Our lobbyist, David Tatman, uses our association as an example of how to go and interact with the Legislators and do it well. What a complement!

Due to term limits there is a constant turn over in the legislature so we have to reintroduce ourselves every two years to the new members. Our goal is to build a strong relationship with the Legislators so when our lobbyist, governmental affairs committee members, and individual therapists/assistants go to represent our interests the groundwork has been established for better communication.

There will be about 8 tables set up for PT/PTAs to interact with Legislators and their staff members. This format allows us to provide education, examples of our knowledge base, and demonstrate our skill levels. In the past this interaction has left a positive effect. We especially need PTs and PTAs who are comfortable with manual skills.

New this year is the *Committee Room Run Award* which will be given to the Legislator who records the most steps with a LPTA pedometer. We need PTs and PTAs to set up the pedometers for the Legislators.

Thanks to all who have participated in the past. Their efforts help shape a positive opinion Legislators have of Physical Therapy. For more information or to notify us of your participation please contact Alice Quaid at coretouchtherapies@msn.com or the LPTA office at 225-922-4614. Come, share a little camaraderie, and fun! Please mark your calendars to be in Baton Rouge on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 starting at 11 a.m.! Your continue support for PT Legislative Day is exciting. Looking forward to seeing you!



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Reimbursement Corner

Payer Forum: LPTA is well on its way to hosting the first annual Payer Forum, tentatively this April. The purpose for the payer forum is to begin establishing relationships with payers on an association level. It is our goal to educate payers about what physical therapy is, how our practice act governs our practice, and current procedural terminology. If you have a relationship with a payer or case manager that you would like to be invited to the payer forum, please forward his/her contact information to LPTA at the following email

address: office@lpta.org, or by fax at 225-408-4422.

Medicare News: You probably are aware that the extension policy for Part B physical therapy services was not renewed and the cap has not been changed. This means that there is \$1860 limit on outpatient physical therapy and speech therapy services provided in a non-hospital-based outpatient office. We must continue to work toward removal of the arbitrary limit on physical therapy services, incidentally, arbitrarily lumped together with speech therapy, to meet the needs of the patients we care for. Additionally, without Congressional action by March 1, 2010, a 21% cut to the physician fee schedule (reimbursement) will become effective.

WHAT CAN YOU DO??

Take a moment to visit APTA's website, log in, go to Advocacy and select Legislative Action Center. Next, click the box to enter the Legislative Action Center, and it will allow you to select the Medicare issue "Stop the Therapy Cap and Medicare Payment Cuts." Select "Take Action" and it will prepare an email for you to send. Then send it!! Let your voice be heard!!!!



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