



Megan Gardner, PT, MPT, MHA

Candidate for President-Elect

Hello. My name is Megan Gardner and I am looking for your vote for President-elect of the APTANJ.

I have been a member of the APTA since I was a student. The significance of being part of the APTA and the APTANJ has become increasingly important as my career has taken new pathways over the years. I saw value in my membership for leadership opportunities when I was working in healthcare management. Now, as a seasoned clinician and former Council member, I am looking to further serve my profession and state.

I have seen the value of my membership in the APTA and APTANJ grow and change as my personal and professional needs changed over time. The APTA and APTANJ have offered opportunities for continuing education, professional development, and to grow skills and grow a professional network. I have also seen value in my membership in the local and national lobbying efforts. In NJ over the last few years, we have seen legislative wins, positive outcomes against harmful proposed reimbursement reductions, and a more measured and consistent approach to developing and maintaining relationships with legislators in Trenton. Nationally, the APTA has continued to have push a supportive legislative agenda and has most recently lobbied to reverse the Medicare cap and for improvement in reimbursement.

I proudly served the APTANJ as a delegate and for a two-year term as Chief Delegate. As delegate, I became much more aware of the work of the APTANJ Chapter and the APTA. Involvement in discussions about complex topics, hearing and communicating with people with wide ranges of opinions and working through disparate ideas to achieve consensus were all part of the role. As Chief Delegate, I served on the APTANJ Council of Directors, which makes decisions on how the APTANJ conducts business. I was so proud to be on the Council while many of our most recent important decisions were made.

The role of President requires leadership, organization, attention to detail while keeping an eye on the larger picture. One should also demonstrate a willingness to meet and hear from stakeholders to address issues. I feel many of the lessons and skills from my years as a clinician, years in healthcare management, and term as a Chief Delegate have prepared me to serve as President.

I look forward to the challenge of being APTANJ President in the coming years: reimbursement challenges, the task of getting dry needling legislation passed, and continuing to maintain the positive changes previous leaders have encouraged in the chapter.

Thank you for your consideration.