



Special Message from APT

Charting a Sustainable Future: Understanding the Rationale Behind Our Membership Dues Increase

As we celebrate the remarkable journey of growth and evolution that has defined APT in recent years, we stand at the precipice of a new phase—one that requires the collective support of our members.

After careful consideration and a thorough evaluation of our member programs and operational needs, it has become necessary to implement a modest increase in membership dues. This increase in membership dues is not only an investment in the continued growth of APT, but also a necessary step to respond to the changing landscape of the play therapy field. Importantly, it marks the first adjustment since April of 2006, underscoring our commitment to fiscal responsibility and prudent financial management.

Since 2006, APT has consistently expanded programs and services, without increasing member dues. A few of those programs are highlighted below, for a complete list of [member benefits](#), please visit the APT website.

1. **Journal Excellence:** Our commitment to providing you with the latest insights in our field led to the expansion of our journal in 2009 from two issues to four issues annually. This ensures you stay at the forefront of industry developments, enhancing your professional knowledge and practice.
2. **E-Learning Evolution:** The launch of our E-Learning Center in 2007, further enriched by the addition of conference workshops in 2012, has positioned us as a hub for continuous learning. In February 2021, we proudly initiated free monthly Continuing Education (CE) through the E-Learning Center, providing you with access to valuable educational content. Our goal is to sustain and expand this platform, ensuring you have continued access to cutting-edge educational resources.
3. **Leadership & Mentorship:** The Leadership Academy, initiated in 2005, and the Mentorship Program launched in 2023, have played pivotal roles in nurturing leadership skills and fostering professional growth within our community.
4. **Branch Engagement:** The expansion to 43 branches, accompanied by increased branch support strengthens our organizational footprint that provides members with resources, programs and opportunities at the local level.
5. **Credential Innovation & Expansion:** The creation of a new credential, the School Based-Registered Play Therapist™ (SB-RPT) in 2016, broadened our reach to those serving children in the school systems. The development of [Play Therapy Competencies](#) in 2020 increased the credibility of the prestigious Registered Play Therapist™ (RPT) and Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor™ (RPT-S) credentials.
6. **Promoting Inclusivity:** Our dedication to inclusivity is evident through initiatives such as broadening committee input, establishing a diversity task force, and recognizing the vital role of diverse perspectives. These efforts contribute to fostering growth and active participation within our community.
7. **Educational Empowerment:** The establishment of Approved Centers of Play Therapy in 2009 at universities of higher education has added significant value and credibility to the profession. Introduced in 2011, the free E-Student membership category demonstrates our dedication to supporting and nurturing the educational journey of aspiring play therapy professionals.

8. **Student Scholarships:** The introduction of Annual Conference Scholarships in 2019 and the Charles Schaefer Play Therapy Scholarship in 2022, represent our dedicated efforts to foster the growth and advancement within our community. These scholarships further our commitment to nurturing talent and supporting the professional development of the next generation.
9. **Increased Public Awareness:** To increase play therapy awareness, APT translated the free "Why Play Therapy?" brochure to multiple languages, and bridged the gap between disciplines by creating a pediatrician's brochure in 2018 and a school counselor's brochure in 2022. These brochures make information more accessible, helping diverse communities and healthcare providers understand the benefits of play therapy and its positive impact on children's mental health worldwide.

As we unite to navigate the changing landscape of play therapy, your collective support ensures that APT remains a dynamic and thriving community, poised for sustained growth and excellence. We appreciate your commitment to fostering resilience and look forward to continuing this journey together. Effective April 1, 2024, the annual membership dues for APT Members will be as outlined below:

- Professional Members: \$110
- Affiliate Members: \$60
- International Professional Members: \$80
- International Affiliate Members: \$55

Note: This increase is specific to membership dues only. Membership dues are billed separately from credentialing fees.

Thank you for your unwavering support and for being an essential part of APT's vibrant community.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Lebby, CAE, CMP
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