



2014 Award Presentations

February 5, Venetian A

Following the HPA Business Meeting (6:30 pm – 8:00 pm)

Carolyn Bloom, PT

R. Charles Harker Policy Maker Award



Carolyn has served and influenced our profession in health policy issues since 1972 when she initiated the 'Third Party Pay' Committee for the Kansas Physical Therapy Association and wrote the first handbook on billing and reimbursement issues. She was the KPTA representative to BCBS for many years, and to other private insurance companies for PT claim review. She has served on the KPTA Legislative Committee since 1985 and was a leader in PTs becoming 'licensed' in 2003, limited to full direct access from 1989 to 2013, removal of physician referral for school PT, protection of PT scope of practice to include joint manipulation and diagnosis, statutory use of the term 'doctor' and not just 'DPT' in 2011. Carolyn has testified and helped her PT students also testify before the KS House and Senate Committees on these actions and term protection. Carolyn continues to serve as the APTA PAC Ambassador to Kansas. As President of the KPTA she initiated the state Peer Assistance Program for PT/PTAs, the Kansas PAC and the KPTA Research Grant program.

As President of the Section on Health Policy, Legislation and Regulation, she helped initiate the Federal Governmental Affairs Committee and served as one of the first five members. She and Peter Kovacek acted to combine the HPLR and the Section on Administration, which is the first and only time Sections have merged in APTA, then served as the first President of the HPA Section. She continues to serve as the Federal Affairs Liaison for HPA, and has attended all but one of the annual APTA Government Affairs Forums (now Fed. Advocacy Forums) since Charlie Harker initiated these Forums in the early 1980's. (She missed one to give birth to her second son). Carolyn received the APTA's Federal Advocacy Forum's Legislative Leadership Award in 2008.

Carolyn is one of the eight Founding Members of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy which since 1985 worked to provide a national licensure exam with a uniform passing score across states, disciplinary data bank, foreign PT exam and policies, consistency in state disciplinary actions, Model Practice Act, education for PTs on state regulatory boards, and ongoing continued competence programs. Carolyn has lead the Kansas Physical Therapy Exam Committee, now the Physical Therapy Advisory Council for 15 years over multiple terms and is now helping affirm 'dry needling' as under the current Kansas scope of PT practice and paving the way for telehealth in PT practice in rural Kansas.