MNPTA President’s Message

We want to create “Meaningful Work for the Member, Important Work for the Association” – Paul Niemuth

What a Year!

2016 was a very good year for the MN Chapter of the APTA. In this month’s message, I’d like to look back at our accomplishments and recognize some of the accomplishments of both the members and the Chapter.

• In October, Craig Johnson, immediate past President of our Chapter and current Chair of the MN PT PAC, was elected to the Board of Directors for the Private Practice Section of the APTA.
• Two chapter members were awarded recognition as Emerging Leaders in 2016 by the APTA; Anne Johnson from Mayo Health System in Cannon Falls sponsored by the MN Chapter, and Audra Zastrow from CentraCare Health in Long Prairie sponsored by the APTA’s Section on Women’s Health.
• We passed two important pieces of legislation. First, PTA’s were granted a full vote in Chapter elections instead of the previous ½ vote. Second, we added the option to amend our Chapter Bylaws by electronic vote. Both of these laws will allow greater participation in the governing process of our Chapter.
• Representing the practice of Physical Therapy, we were involved at many levels around state government and payment policy. We had the opportunity to testify before House and Senate Committee Hearings on various issues seven different times. PT/PTA’s and students attended the Day on the Hill last February to meet their respective legislators to talk about physical therapy. We had representation at no less than 12 other hearings on licensing and payment policy.
• Our PAC raised over $2000 allowing us to support physical therapy friendly legislators. In addition, we had representation at the Republican and DFL House and Senate Caucus fundraisers during which we made very important connections with key legislators.
• At the Federal level, we were also very active. Eva Norman, Chair of our Federal Government Affairs Committee and also the Chair of the APTA PAC, organized participation in the Federal Governmental Affairs Advocacy Forum held in Washington DC last April. MN PT members and students representing all 8 Congressional Districts participated and met with their respective legislators about physical therapy.
• The Chapter made a commitment to APTA’s Foundation for Physical Therapy by donating a check for $3000 to support physical therapy research that will be used for scientific, clinical, and health services projects.
• Our Annual Spring Conference was a big success in its new location at the St. Paul RiverCentre. 225 PT/PTA professionals attended. We also welcomed 25 vendors to the conference to share their businesses and connect with PT professionals.
• The Continuing Education Committee sponsored six courses. By combining the Conference and Continuing Education Committees into a single Education Committee we positioned the Chapter for exceptional continuing education offerings in 2017 and beyond.
• We solidified our Strategic Plan modeled after the National APTA plan with solid, achievable goals centered around 4 Domains: Advancing the Clinician, Advancing the Association, Advancing the Profession, and Advancing Society.
• Kathleen Picard, Co-Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, was appointed by the APTA to represent the association as an Advisor to the AMA CPT Editorial Panel. As an Advisor she participated in the development of the new evaluation codes for physical therapists in 2017.
• There are many other members who have contributed to social media, membership, committee work and we want to continue to highlight and thank all of those involved.
• Finally, Association Director Jill Lein and her staff have done a wonderful job managing the Chapter office. Together, they have provided support to all the committees, managed the office resources and website, and maintained communications to keep our members connected and informed.

I couldn’t be more proud of the individuals working as volunteers and paid staff on behalf of the Chapter. I believe this talented, passionate and tireless group of professionals uphold the ideals inherent to the quote I used to begin my message: “Meaningful work for the individual, important work for the Association.” I would love to see more names on this list next year.

Thank you for a wonderful year. I look forward to greater opportunities and accomplishments for our MNPTA Chapter and members next year.

Sincerely,
Paul Niemuth, PT, DSc, OCS, ATC
MNPTA President