MNPTA President’s Message

Two Fabulous Events in February

What a great month for the MN Physical Therapy Association!

First, I had the opportunity to attend the Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) in San Antonio and specifically meetings for the Chapter Presidents. There were many topics presented and I came away even more energized about our profession and the value we bring to society. Networking opportunities with my fellow chapter Presidents confirmed that our legislative efforts and strategic plan are on the right track. It was a pleasure to represent the MN Chapter and share information with peers from around the country.

One of the other highlights was “Loons at the Alamo”, the Minnesota Chapter’s CSM Annual Member Party. This party changes its name each year, but the common theme is “Loons.” The party is co-sponsored by the MN Chapter and all 5 DPT Academic Programs in the state. With more than 200 attendees, it was a great opportunity to connect with classmates, friends, colleagues, and professors. I was thrilled to meet with so many of our members who were at CSM to present a pre-conference course, an education session, a platform or poster presentation, or were serving in some official capacity, such as a section officer. It occurred to me that we need to be better at sharing these success stories with the entire Chapter membership and I need your help doing so.

We are going to add a spot to our Chapter website that celebrates the presentations and involvement of our membership. We’ll start with the most recent CSM and continue to make it a living document for future conferences (NEXT in Boston, CSM 2018 in New Orleans…). I am asking anyone who had involvement in CSM, has a commitment at NEXT (or any other presentations/activities our membership should celebrate) to share your information with the Chapter office info@mnapta.com.

- Name
- Home town
- Work location
- Type of activity you were involved in (including title of presentation or poster)
- Name of conference or setting

Here are some examples of information we want to capture:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member's Name</th>
<th>Home Town</th>
<th>Place of Work</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Lahr</td>
<td>Sauk Center</td>
<td>CentraCare Health - Long Prairie</td>
<td>Women’s Health Section: Education Session “Specialized Practice in a Rural Setting: Diamonds in the Rough”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Schmitt</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>St. Catherine University DPT Program</td>
<td>Research Section: Membership Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake Foley</td>
<td>Richfield</td>
<td>Institute for Athletic Medicine - Highland Park</td>
<td>Received Sports Clinical Specialist Certification</td>
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The other February event that was groundbreaking was the MNPTA Legislative Day on the Hill, sponsored by our State Governmental Affairs Committee, and chaired by Matt Stoltman from Abbott Northwestern Hospital and Megan McCarthy from the Mayo Clinic DPT Program. What a fabulous event and a fabulous outcome. We had 230 members and students attend. We had meetings with 40 Senators and 66 Representatives which was an all-time high. With the recent elections, one-third of the legislators are new this year meaning there was a wonderful opportunity to teach them about physical therapy and present our legislative agenda. I think it’s important to keep that in the forefront of our membership, so as a reminder, our key legislative agenda items include:

1. Improving access to physical therapy,
2. Inclusion in student loan forgiveness,
3. PT residency funding,
4. Disability parking and granting PT’s authority to approve them,
5. Monitoring and protecting our scope of practice.

Universally, our legislators reported that we have an outstanding reputation at the capital and encouraged us to continue our strong advocacy work. Thanks to all of you who participated in this great day. Advocating for our PT Profession is one of the most important activities that a member can do.

In my last message, I had highlighted Anne Johnson and Audra Zastrow who were awarded recognition as Emerging Leaders in 2016 by the APTA. However, I left a very important honoree off this list. I’m so pleased to announce that Stephanie Weyrauch from RehabAuthority in Thief River Falls was named an Emerging Leader by the Education Section. Congratulations Stephanie. Your commitment to physical therapy education is so appreciated.

Finally, I encourage you to attend the MNPTA Annual Conference that is coming up on March 24th-25th at the St. Paul River Centre. We have outstanding programming planned along with great sponsors. The conference offers amazing networking and an opportunity to be with your peers, friends and classmates. Please join me there.

Sincerely,

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