A Message from MNPTA President Paul Niemuth

Happy New Year!

There exists a great deal of talent and accomplishment among our MNPTA members and it is important to continue to publically recognize it. Last year we created a document on our MNPTA website featuring those who published an article or presented at national PT or other conferences. [Member National Recognition](#) I’d like to continue showcasing our membership in 2018 and ask any members who will publish a paper or article, present a poster, platform, or course at the Combined Sections Meeting or any other National meeting, contact Board Member Jacque Ruen at jacquelynruen@gmail.com to share the details. In addition, we are also planning for our annual Chapter awards [Nominate Someone for a Chapter Award Here](#). This information was sent in an eblast on December 18.

As we look into 2018, I hope you are planning to attend our 2018 MNPTA Annual Conference on Saturday, April 21st at the Doubletree in St. Louis Park. The Education Committee has put together a very dynamic and varied agenda that is sure to inspire and engage our members. If you have not attended recently, this Conference promises to be very cutting edge and comprehensive. Watch for the agenda and registration information coming this week in email.

Our State Governmental Affairs Committee has been very active getting ready for the upcoming legislative session. Among our priorities are:

- Updating our PT practice act to eliminate the 90 day limit on direct access
- Allowing PT’s to authorize handicapped parking
- Working with other health care practitioners scope of practice while protecting physical therapy

One of the most important upcoming events is Physical Therapy Legislative Day on the Hill, scheduled for February 21st. On this day, we organize groups of PT’s/PTA’s/students to meet collectively with their legislator to create and renew relationships and discuss physical therapy issues. This event has a huge impact on the legislator’s awareness of physical therapy.
As Chapter President, I was asked recently to reflect on what has been the best experience for me so far. Without a doubt, it is witnessing the dedication of the MNPTA member volunteers who do the planning and work for our Chapter. This includes members of the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Committee members. I have asked various individuals why they give so much of their time and they give me two consistent answers. First, they love and are dedicated to the physical therapy profession. Second is the opportunity they have to network with other PT's/PTA's outside of their own work environment. Members have told me that some of their best friends are those they work with in various roles for our Chapter.

Our chapter is growing and making in difference in the lives of those we are privileged to serve. Thank you for a wonderful 2017 and I look forward to an exciting 2018.

Finally, below is a financial update from our board Treasurer, Dave Thoreson. Dave has been a pillar in our physical therapy community and for six years, our trusted Treasurer on MNPTA Board of Directors. As he completes his second term in June and steps down, we thank him for his dedication and wonderful contributions to our board and profession.

From Dave Thoreson, PT, MNPTA Treasurer

As we near the close of the 2017 calendar year and prepare our plan for 2018 and beyond, the Board of Directors has determined we are on track with our mission and are committed to continuance and expansion of programs and services for the benefit of the membership.

As you are well aware, having financial stability is critical for the chapter to be able to support the initiatives that are important to all members of the Association and PT's/PTA's in Minnesota. In the past couple of years, this financial stability has been challenged primarily because of the changing environment in continue education. MNPTA's Education Committee has offered a broad spectrum of continuing education courses that were well attended and supported and provided the margins to support governmental affairs, reimbursement, public relations, administrative services and membership involvement international activities.

However the CE environment has changed for us and nearly all non-profit organizations. CE no longer brings the margins we previously had
to support the programs and services previously described. Alternative solutions were needed. Over the past several years, the board has initiated efforts to increase revenues from areas outside of membership and continue education. Non-dues revenue from advertising has increased significantly. The partners program which was started several years ago, has been re-tooled and will be actively implemented in 2018. Online continue education is a new initiative that will also be launching in 2018. Through our membership committee efforts, we are challenging ourselves with a hefty 5% membership growth for 2018. These programs have helped, but not fully resolved the budget deficit we have in 2017, and projected to have in 2018.

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As we enter 2018, we the Board of Directors asks that you, a valued member of MNPTA provide support to our quest for budget neutrality without member program and service reductions in the following ways:

- Reach out to your colleagues who are currently not active members and share benefits of why you’ve chosen to be a member of the MNPTA and highly encourage them to join the Association. Invite them to legislative days, membership events; encourage them to contact the MNPTA office and ask how they can participate and get involved in the Association.
- Assist the Education Committee in identifying vendors who you use to provide equipment, supplies, and other resources and encourage these vendors to have a booth at our annual conference.
- Attend 2018 MNPTA Conference on April 21, 2018.
- Bring forth ideas for classroom and online continue education that would be of value to you and your colleagues, and plan on attending two-three MNPTA continue education offerings in 2018.
Identify ideas and opportunities for potential partnerships or relationships with organizations that bring value added services to physical therapists in Minnesota and financial benefits to the chapter.

We value your membership and look forward to your being part of the MNPTA in 2018!

Wishing you and your family a very happy new year!

Sincerely,

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