Greetings! I hope you are all enjoying your summer.

I recently attended a leadership meeting at the APTA NEXT Conference in Orlando and was struck by the many successes and accomplishments of the APTA. During the meeting, I spoke with Justin Moore, APTA's CEO about having a NEXT Conference come to Minnesota sometime in the future. The locations have already been decided for the next 4 years. But the APTA is evaluating Minneapolis for one of the following years after that. Stay tuned!

As I listened to and participated in sessions at NEXT, I saw once again the impact the APTA and our MN Chapter have on our profession such as the recent the repeal of the Medicare Cap for outpatient physical therapy, and our agreement with the Minnesota Athletic Trainers, which ended a longstanding disagreement between the two professions. I often wonder if we do a good enough job educating our members about our activities and the need for all members to be involved. I believe that maximizing our messaging should continue to be a high priority.

In a recent conversation about the APTA with a 1st year DPT student I was asked “why wouldn’t you belong”? John F Kennedy once said, “ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country”. Association membership can be reflected in the same way. Many individuals passionately contribute to the overall health and production of our APTA and MNPTA organizations. We will continue to share their stories with hopes that all physical therapists and physical therapist assistants will ask the same question – “why wouldn’t you belong?”
A few other updates to share: We'd like to thank our outgoing board members for their excellent service to the association and to their profession. Dave Thoreson is outgoing after 6 years as Association Treasurer. Aaron Rindflesch is exiting after a 2 year role as a member of the Board of Directors. Thank you to both!

In addition, Lyndsey Vandenberg, DPT who has served as the Chief Delegate for MN the House of Delegates, is stepping down from this role. Lyndsey was recognized last year as one of APTA's Emerging Leaders. In case you missed it, the article was in October's PTinMotion on page 35. Please join me in thanking Lyndsey for all of her efforts and dedicated work.

Dave Krause has been elected to the role as our new Chief Delegate and he shares the following message about the most recent House of Delegates Meeting:

The 2018 House of Delegates (HOD) annual meeting was held in Orlando, FL June 25-27. The HOD is a policy making body with roles that include directing a course of action for or articulating a position of the APTA. Eleven individuals representing MN were in attendance.

On Monday, delegates were charged with electing individuals to the APTA Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee. Tuesday and Wednesday were focused on motions. Motion highlights included:

- A charge to better define the role of PT’s and PTA’s in disaster management
- Developing strategies to address the well-being and resiliency of PT’s, PTA’s and students
- Elimination of the improvement standard in all settings and payment situations
- A strengthened position on sexual harassment
- Solidifying APTA’s commitment to patient-centered care
While the HOD is only 3 days in length, delegates start preparation months prior as motions are developed and discussed in virtual town halls and on discussion boards. Lyndsey Vandenberg, our Chief Delegate, was instrumental in organizing periodic meetings to assist in preparing MN delegates for the HOD. We thank her for her leadership as she steps down from this role. During the HOD, the MN contingent has separate strategic meetings to discuss candidates and motions. While it can be a busy 3 days, it is rewarding given the excellent team we have representing MN. If you are interested in learning more about serving as a Delegate, contact the MNPTA office.

One other bit of news to share this month, The new PT/PTA licensure requirement for MN includes a 2 hour Physical Therapy Ethics course. I am excited to share the news that the MNPTA is developing a course that will fulfill this requirement and it will be ready for launch in early August. I encourage you to take this online course through the MNPTA to support your chapter.

Paul Niemuth
Association President