

Chapter Operations Overview

With a proud heritage beginning with the genesis of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) in NYC in 1921, the New York Physical Therapy Association (NYPTA) is currently the second largest chapter in the APTA. It is composed of over 6,000 members who are physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and students. The Mission of the NYPTA is “to represent and promote the profession of physical therapy in meeting the needs and interests of members in their service to society, and to develop and advance the art and science of physical therapy including practice, education, and research.” The Chapter addresses this Mission through multiple activities and services.

Major Chapter activities include an outstanding Chapter Conference for continuing education and research presentations, award-winning Leadership Development Workshops, a Delegate Assembly to act on local and national issues, and a Lobby Day to provide a means to meet with legislators in Albany and advocate for issues pertinent to our profession. In addition, education and information sessions are conducted locally in the 10 Districts throughout the state. Important services provided by the Chapter include the Empire State Physical Therapy newsletter, weekly HotPoints e-newsletter, research grants, current information in practice and payment issues, and referral service.

Additional services are described here in conjunction with the respective units. Dedicated Chapter staff provide support for Chapter activities and services at all levels. Information about any of these activities or services is available on the Chapter’s website at www.nypta.org or by calling the Chapter Office at 800-459-4489.

Organizational Units

- **Members:** The membership consists of over 6,000 PTs, PTAs and students.
- **Districts:** The state is divided into 10 Districts to provide local programming. The Districts are Brooklyn/Staten Island, Catskill, Central, Eastern, Finger Lakes, Greater New York, Hudson Valley, Long Island, Southern Tier and Western. District Chairs coordinate local activities.
- **Board of Directors (BOD):** The Board of Directors is comprised of 10 Chapter Directors (one per District), the Executive Committee, the Speaker of the Assembly and the Chief Delegate (principal spokesperson for the Chapter to the APTA House of Delegates). It meets in the winter, spring and fall.
- **Executive Committee (EC):** The Executive Committee consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Member-at-Large elected from the Chapter Directors. It meets immediately before and after each Board meeting and once in the summer in person and monthly by conference call.
- **Delegate Assembly (DA):** The Delegate Assembly is the highest policy making body of the Chapter and consists of voting delegates (PTs and PTAs from each District) and nonvoting delegates (Executive Committee, Speaker of the Assembly, Chief Delegate and student delegates). It meets in the spring about one month before the APTA House of Delegates (HOD) meeting.

- **Chapter Staff:** The full-time personnel in the Chapter office in Albany are the Executive Director, Communications Manager, Meetings, Marketing & Membership Manager and Administrative Assistant. These individuals serve the members and provide support for the units within the Chapter and Districts.

Committees/Advisory Panels

Many actions of the Board of Directors and Delegate Assembly are based upon the vital work of the following Committees and Advisory Panels in the areas noted:

- **Archivist:** Historian for the Chapter who highlights the proud heritage of this organization.
- **Awards:** Recognizes individuals who have served the Chapter and the profession of physical therapy.
- **Ethics:** Participates in investigations of all complaints of violations of the Code of Ethics.
- **Finance:** Prepares the Chapter budget, monitors investments, and advises the BOD on matters pertaining to the Chapter's financial program.
- **Judicial/Reference:** As the Judicial Committee, it periodically reviews Chapter and District bylaws and provides counsel and advice to presenters of resolutions and motions at meetings of BOD to insure proper form and wording. As the Reference Committee, it provides counsel and advice to presenters of resolutions and motions at meetings of the Delegate Assembly to ensure proper form and wording.
- **Leadership:** Encourages new and continued leadership on the District and Chapter levels of the NYPTA and conducts leadership development activities.
- **Legislative (Advisory Panel):** Monitors all legislative activities that affect the practice of physical therapy in New York State, serves as a resource for related information and recommendations, and oversees the NYPTA Lobby Day.
- **Membership:** Promote Chapter membership recruitment and retention activities, Coordinate District membership activities.

- **Minority Affairs:** Assists public relations efforts to help recruit minority students into physical therapist and physical therapist assistant roles and minority membership and leadership in the NYPTA.
- **Nominating:** Prepares a slate of candidates for vacancies in Chapter Officer and Nominating Committee positions and for the HOD and PTA Caucus, and oversees the chapter elections at the Delegate Assembly.
- **Payment(Advisory Panel):** Monitors insurance issues affecting the practice of physical therapy in New York State and serves as a resource for related information and recommendations.
- **Physical Therapist Assistant:** Fosters communication among physical therapist assistants.
- **Political Action:** Raises funds to support our legislative agenda.
- **Practice:** Monitors the practice of physical therapy in New York State and serves as a resource for related information and recommendations, and conducts an annual Issues Forum at Chapter Conference.
- **Program:** Assists the Chapter Office staff in planning and implementing the programming for the Conference and other continuing education.
- **Public Relations:** Promotes and implements public relations activities for the NYPTA.
- **Research:** Facilitates clinical research by Chapter members through resource material and grants, and coordinates research platform and poster presentations at the Chapter Conference.

Other Units

In addition, certain other components serve the Chapter:

- **Liaisons:** Each District has liaisons who link the District and Chapter in the following areas: Legislative, Membership, Physical Therapist Assistant, Public Relations, Research, and Payment. The Chapter is linked to the APTA by a Component Federal Affairs Liaison.
- **Academic Administrators' Special Interest Group (SIG):** Provides an opportunity for PT/PTA program directors in NYS to meet, confer and give input to the BOD.
- **Alliance of Independent Physical Therapists (AIPT):** A special interest group formed to address the specific needs of private practitioners.
- **Other:** A Legal Counsel and Lobbyist provide service to the Chapter in their respective areas.