

My name is Ryann Lewis, and I am a recent graduate of Pacific University's DPT program in Oregon. I have been serving as a VA delegate for the last year. I have previously called Washington state home and now life is taking me to the state of Virginia. I previously was the 2019 Emerging Student Leader award recipient for the state of Oregon. This award allowed me to have an experience at the 2019 house of Delegates in Chicago. It was there that I had a solidification of my drive to be an active member within the APTA. My passions for delegation work include, diversity equity and inclusion, PT student measures, forward and outward focus measures, and ways to advocate for the numerous benefits of our practice. I believe that as physical therapists we have an extremely unique position to play in healthcare. We advocate for measures that helped drive the recognition of the opioid epidemic and our profession continually works for inclusivity of not just our healthcare professionals but that of our patients as well. We are advocators not just for our patients, but for our communities and society.

I am a member of the Orthopedic section as well as the Performing Arts Special Interest Group (PASIG) through the APTA. I am previously worked with members of the PASIG on group discussions with established performing arts PTs targeting concerns form new PT practitioners. Helping to bridge the gap of previous performing arts experience and how to implement a scientific/evidence-based approach into their practice, how to network, and ways to get involved within the PASIG and APTA.

I have also become involved with the FSBPT lending my voice as a military spouse to the importance of the PT compact during a couple of recorded webinars for faculty of DPT programs.

Below I have done my best to answer the requested personal statement questions.

~From your perspective, what is the biggest challenge of the profession?

I believe that currently unity of profession is our biggest challenge. I believe that it is leadership's duty for our profession to show that we can further the physical therapist's influence even outside clinical settings. I say these things is in regards to the APTA's mission statement. Purposefully, the statement is broad and seems like a large task to tackle: "Transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience." As President Sharron Dunn said, "We believe it's a forward-looking mission, but it's also a mission firmly rooted in our profession's values and its history of compassion, concern for society, and willingness to make bold moves." We need to continue to make these bold moves towards unifying the profession toward meaningful change to better our practices and communities."

One step is working on getting more of our physical therapy colleagues into the APTA. Another is continuing the outward look of motions and position statements to continue impacting that goal of improving the human experience. Many voices need to be heard to reach meaningful conclusions on how to unify such a large cross-section of professionals. We can do it.

~Why do you want to serve in the capacity in which you are running for office?

I want to maintain involvement in the APTA through collaboration with the delegation. I believe we can make fundamental changes that impact the aspects of unity that I mentioned above. The House of Delegates is a pillar of change that the APTA relies on to come to comprehensive and respectfully debated decisions that effects the profession as a whole. I want to continue to add my voice to those who too work to come to positions, charges, and missions that improve physical therapy and healthcare for every patient and practitioner.

~What experiences have you had with APTA, the chapter, or other organizations that might help you in your elected position?

I was the 2019 student delegate for the Oregon APTA chapter through the acceptance of the Emerging Student Leader Award. This experience introduced me to the processes, procedures, and regulations of the House of Delegates. I was exposed to working with round table discussions where I was a scribe for conversation relating to RC 32-19: Core values of the physical therapy profession. I was able to sit as an active observer to both sides of the conversation for and against the amendment. There are always many sides to a proposed change and it is important

to gather all the input of those voices. I was also exposed to how the reference committee runs and what documents need to be submitted to them on timelines.

For the Virginia APTA state chapter: I have served as a delegate for 202-2021, I have been elected into the PAC position where I have organized a virtual fundraiser during the pandemic and am now organizing another virtual fundraiser for this upcoming November.

I want to continue learning about the processes of the House of Delegates as a hopeful Virginia delegation member. I want to continue advocating for the profession. Thank you for your consideration.