

VPTA Delegate Information - Soper  
August 2021

Bio:

I am currently an assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy for Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). In addition to my faculty role I am the Assistant Director of Clinical Education and coordinator of the VCU residency programs. I received my Bachelor's degree in physical therapy from East Carolina University, Master's in Business Administration from Averett University, and doctorate in physical therapy from Simmon's College. Prior to joining the faculty at VCU, I worked for Sheltering Arms Rehab Hospital in Richmond VA for 28 years, serving in numerous clinical and administrative roles. I have been professionally active in the APTA throughout my career including serving as Speaker of the House of Delegates and member of the APTA Board of Directors. I served as Chief delegate for the Virginia Chapter for 4 non-sequential terms and recently concluded coordination of the work of the post-summit strategic initiative panels for the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT).

Statement:

I am running for delegate from Virginia because I believe that my experiences and knowledge will enable me to serve Virginia well in the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) House of Delegates (House).

In looking back over my prior candidate statements the primary issues I identified included transitioning to payment for value versus volume; mounting regulations for documentation and payment; challenges in both education and the workforce to address the number of patients needing care; providing physical therapy education in a cost-effective and efficient manner; and the impact of COVID 19 on our patients and communities. None of these issues have been fully addressed; however, I believe that we are attending to and making strides in addressing all of them. I would be hard-pressed to identify any one issue to bubble to the top as the *biggest* challenge because different segments of our profession would passionately proclaim that any one of them might be the most concerning. I believe that we have a responsibility to work on all fronts to address many things concurrently.

My past experiences include serving as a Virginia delegate and Chief delegate, member of the APTA Reference Committee, Speaker of the House (Speaker), and member of the APTA Board of Directors (Board). These experiences have positioned me well to serve as a delegate to the House, representing your voice and perspective with that decision making body.

Finally, I have the time and desire to serve. Serving in the House of Delegates has become a year-round responsibility, requiring ongoing preparation and involvement. I am prepared to dedicate the time and attention to prepare in advance and participate in the debate that will occur in the House.

Thank you for your consideration and I ask for your vote.