

I have been a PT for 37 years acquiring significant breadth and dept of clinical experience in multiple areas of the profession – sports medicine, orthopedic outpatient, acute care, skilled care, home health and private practice... In more recent years, I worked at FSBPT as a Content Analyst helping to prepare the national licensure examinations. From there, I transitioned to my current work in PTA education as both professor in the academic content and ACCE/Director of Clinical Education.

Our profession is not without challenges. Some affect many of us daily as individuals such as managing work-related stresses, work-life balance, and practice management concerns. Others affect the profession as a whole and are often managed through the legislative process. Recently, I read a personal story about Geneva R. Johnson, PhD, DPT (Hon), FAPTA. Although Catherine Worthingham began the drive for higher education in our profession during the World War II years, Geneva Johnson with vision continued planting seeds and nurturing them as she worked along with many on the APTA's Board of Directors and her education colleagues to campaign for higher education in our profession from the 1960's onward. She has continued pursuing the cause even well into her 80's. She has been described as a visionary, a pioneer, an influencer, a challenger, as risk taker, and not a quitter. Three of her favorite words are *passion, persistence, and professionalism*. (This story comes from "Learning to Lead in Physical Therapy" edited by Jennifer Green-Wilson and Stacey Zeigler – a great read I highly recommend!) While I do not claim to be all that she has been, I aspire to embody some of the traits attributed to her in addressing challenges of our profession.

Depending on where you are standing in your professional life somewhat determines what you see that needs to be tended to in order to grow our profession to be stronger and more effective with greater impact on your community and society as a whole. One of the biggest ongoing challenges I see is to continuously create value for our services. Our patients and our community need to experience it. Insurers need to see evidence of it. Policymakers need to support it. We in the profession need to advocate for the policies which will support our practice and the benefits we bring to the health of our society.

My aim in being a Delegate is become better informed on the issues which can enhance promoting the value of our profession and facilitate educating students as well as practicing professionals in the importance of participating in advocacy and the legislative process.

My clinical, administrative, and educational leadership experiences have helped me to develop the leadership and communication skills which will be significant assets in fulfilling this role as Delegate.

I am grateful at this phase of my professional life to have time to devote to the advocacy process and look forward to serving as your delegate.

Lucy Williams, PT, DPT, MHS, ATC, CWC