

DELEGATE

Name: Ashley Alagna

Credentials: PT, DPT

Education: Doctorate of Physical Therapy 2017

Employer and Position: Director of Rehabilitation Services, Central Wisconsin Center

1. What skills and experiences qualify you to serve as a Chapter Delegate?

I have been involved in the WPTA since my time as a student and, over that time, I have gained a wide variety of experience that I feel would be beneficial as a Chapter Delegate. Currently I volunteer for the WPTA in my role as Health and Wellness Committee Chair and by serving on the CE and Professional Development Committee. I have worked to create annual wellness activities promoting PT Day of Service. Additionally, I have promoted PT involvement in wellness fairs and activities across the state. I have also served as an alternate delegate for one year and a chapter delegate for two years. During my first term as delegate, I gained confidence to speak up on important issues affecting our profession.

2. How do you envision the role of an APTA Wisconsin Delegate?

I believe that as a delegate you are meant to be an advocate, not only for your profession, but for your state and the membership of that state. Many of the issues brought up at the House of Delegates will greatly affect the overall profession. It is important for a delegate to understand these issues and to be able to communicate their state's stance on the issues based on the opinions of the membership as a whole. It is also important for a Delegate to then be able to bring the information back to the membership once policies and bylaws have been voted upon. It is important for a delegate to have strong communication skills and a passion for improving our profession.

3. Are there particular issues facing the profession currently that will require leadership by APTA Wisconsin Delegates?

I think that one of the largest issues facing our profession today is the increased student loan burden many PT students are leaving school with. As a recent graduate myself I understand the toll that student loan debt can have on individuals. As a delegation we should push forward motions that assist students in dealing with their mounting debts. Adding to the issue of student loan debt are continually decreasing reimbursement rates for physical therapy services. We as a profession need to continue to fight back against these cuts to reimbursement. These cuts can lead to stagnant wages and reduce job opportunities which can increase the burden those with high student loan debt are facing.