

APTA Wisconsin Candidate Questions

Name and Credentials:

Bryan Cummings, PT, DPT, MS

Education:

BA, Biology, Dakota Wesleyan University

MS, Health Physical Education and Recreation (Exercise Physiology emphasis), South Dakota State University

MSPT, Des Moines University

tDPT, Evidence in Motion

Employer and Position:

New Life Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine

Co-owner, Director of Employer Services

DELEGATE

1. As an APTA Wisconsin Chapter representative at the APTA House of Delegates, how would you ensure that the voices and concerns of Chapter members are heard and considered in decision-making processes?
 - Conference attendance. I've been a regular attendee of chapter conferences during my 16 years practicing in Wisconsin. Chapter conferences provide opportunity to connect with fellow members via informal networking and hear concerns during Hot-Topic sessions.
 - Communication with the Executive Director. As the chapter Treasurer, I'm in regular communication with Amy Reiter, APTA-WI Executive Director. Amy frequently receives communication from membership on a variety of topics that are relevant to our delegates.
2. In your opinion, what are some of the most pressing issues facing the physical therapy profession today?
 - Reimbursement. CMS, and other payers continue to cut our payment and increase regulatory burdens.
 - Provider compensation vs. cost of education. Education-related debt continues to increase; thus providers are demanding higher wages. Employers are unable to provide wage increases in the presence of annual reimbursement cuts. If the situation worsens, I'm afraid we will see PT's leaving the profession, for other higher-paying jobs.
 - Physical Therapy is a Doctoring Profession...it's time we get treated like it. The entry-level degree is now a doctorate; however, we still are required to have a physician sign a Medicare plan of care, and some private insurances require referral. I'd like to see our status among third-party-payers and

government agencies be compared to other healthcare professions with clinical doctorate degrees.

3. Collaboration is key in representing a diverse constituency at the APTA House of Delegates. Can you describe a successful collaborative effort you have been a part of in the past and how you contributed to its success?

My primary role with New Life Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine, is the Director of Employer Services (New Life For Work). New Life For Work (NLFW) provides on-site, early-detection, and early-intervention services directly to employers. A collaborative relationship is required for an employer-client to experience success with a NLFW program. I've worked with over 10 different employers over 16-years. Each location is unique in environment and employee demographics. The collaboration begins with the client's key decision makers as we create an implementation plan. In my role, I'm involved in assessing an employer's risk and make recommendations regarding interventions at the departmental level and scheduling sessions to meet individual concerns. I work closely with the employer addressing concerns throughout the year. Success is evaluated in a variety of ways including total healthcare expense, recordable injuries, and employee satisfaction.

Special situations may arise when an employer desires to enhance employee benefits related to the NLFW program. One such benefit was the addition of an orthopedic clinic one day a month. I created the policies and procedures for the orthopedic clinic day and our team served as the main liaison between the employees and the orthopedist and collaborated with the orthopedist regarding conservative care and work restrictions.