

## **APTA Wisconsin Candidate Questions**

NOTE: Please use [APTA Format](#) when listing credentials.

### **Please list:**

Name and Credentials: Bryan Cummings, PT, DPT  
Education:

- BA Biology Dakota Wesleyan University
- MS HPER South Dakota State University
- MSPT Des Moines University
- tDPT EIM

Employer and Position:

- New Life Physical Therapy: Co-owner, Director of Employer Services, Director of Clinical Education.

### **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?
  - Through my over 18 years as a member of APTA-WI I have established a diverse and extensive network of APTA-WI members. Being a founding board member of the APTA-WI Private Practice SIG, has promoted lasting professional relationships where professional concerns as well as business pearls have been shared. For the past seven years I have served two terms as Treasurer and am now a Director. The board position has broadened my professional relationships beyond private practice to diverse practice settings and academic settings. In my experiences thus far, I've been approachable and accessible for our members to express their concerns.
  - Chapter meeting attendance has been a priority of mine over the past 18 years, where I've found value in networking events to discuss individual and enterprise level concerns and priorities.
2. In your opinion, what are some of the most pressing issues facing the physical therapy profession today?
  - a. Payment. A motion was passed at the 2025 APTA House of Delegates charging the APTA to make payment APTA's number one priority. I agree with this priority. The reimbursement for the primary codes used for services delivered by physical therapists have not kept up with inflation. In fact, when factoring-in inflation, we've seen a 30-40% reduction in payment over the past 20 years. Our current payment trend is not sustainable for our profession, nor does it reflect the value we bring to public health. Payment also influences staff compensation which needs to keep up with rising education costs and related student-debt. If staff compensation cannot

justify the education debt incurred, we will see declining student enrollment, staff shortages, and poor accessibility to our high value care.

- b. Elevating Doctors of Physical Therapy federal status to allow us to practice to the fullest extent of our license. Elevating our status among other health care professionals and public perception is a key factor in improving our payment and public accessibility. Elevating our status beyond an ancillary service has been a driver of several APTA HOD motions over the past few years. Currently, under CMS, we are a service, not a “physician” or even a “provider.” Until our status is elevated, we will not have true practice autonomy, nor will our reimbursement reflect our value. We are seeing improvement in various states where physical therapists are recognized as managing physicians for workers compensation claims or at least have direct access for such claims (MT, UT, ND).
- 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?
  - a. As a member of the APTA-WI PPSIG board, one of my initial roles was the recruitment of presenters and development of classes for a PPSIG track at Spring and Fall conferences. When recruiting presenters for courses, I would work with the PPSIG board, executive director, and local planning chair on topic, course delivery, costs, and marketing of the courses.
  - b. As Treasurer, I was chair of the Finance Committee. Annually, the Finance Committee, led by the Treasurer, meets to establish the budget for the following year. The hard work of the Finance Committee and the Executive Director is a collaborative effort. The most “successful” (from a collaborative standpoint) was my first year, and because of the COVID environment, was quite challenging. We had to work together to make the necessary cuts to expenses to minimize losses. Unfortunately, minimizing losses, became the trend in the following years, and we had to work together to find solutions to the “new normal.” I contributed to the realization that our conference net revenue losses were not sustainable, and related income needed to become a net positive. Through the inciteful efforts of our Executive Director and the board, changes in conferences resulted in positive income and improved the financial viability of our chapter.