

# **APTA Wisconsin Candidate Questions**

## **Name and Credentials:**

Jack Knudson-Stuhr PTA

## **Education:**

Associates degree in Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant 2007

Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Management 2024

Master degree in Healthcare Management 2025

## **Employer and Position:**

Gundersen Health System / Emplify / PTA

## **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?

I would focus on what affects the Therapists of Wisconsin that are part of the association and those that could be a member. This includes both PTs and PTAs to create a more diverse variation of thoughts and needs to create an association of more dynamic individuals. I would attempt to include everybody due to the need of nonmembers needing a place to consider being a part of for the future. As well as focusing on the members that are already part of our association and creating a stronger bond between all PT and PTA's. This would also include those in hospital base settings, acute systems, and pediatric to geriatric variations of treatment styles to help maintain a well-rounded association and minimize the feeling of being ostracized from the association.

2. In your opinion, what are some of the most pressing issues facing the physical therapy profession today?

Some of the issues that are pressing across the association including reimbursement by insurances, and the slow decreases in the association members due to the feeling of not having a voice within the association, the profession, and the healthcare field. Most insurance companies, including Medicare and Medicaid have been cutting reimbursements for PTA based care to help bridge the gap of overworked PTs, which then places the burden onto private practice and individuals and large group healthcare systems.

In our state, and diversity gap as well as the generational gap that have been seen with the possible need to help close these gaps and help create a more well-rounded association. I know being a redheaded, male does not add to the diversity of the association but growing up on the back roads of Arcadia attempting to maintain a family farm and seeing my parents pinch pennies to make ends meet and find solutions might seem like a failure yet see great potential and options for success. Diversity comes with many layers and the association should continue to build these layers to help see our future of the profession grow towards the individuals that are currently in the profession as well as the future.

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?

As a PTA Caucus delegate of the APTA I was able to collaborate with other PTA's just over a year ago to discuss the options for PTAs to become a delegate within their states and have sound discussions with our colleagues on the House of Delegates floor. To inspire and invigorate individuals of chapters that are less PTA friendly than Wisconsin is a long and tedious process. To have one on one and group discussions both with the components to discuss the need to have PTA's available for discussion with house policies was a struggle with some components, but others came to the table with open arms and strong acceptance. The need to

have strong communication within the association is needed to have a strong discussion with all individuals of each chapter and component. To focus on one area more than the others shifts the scales and minimizes our progress as a profession and an association. With our chapter's acceptance of the new bylaws to have a PTA sit as a delegate of our chapter shows leaps and bounds of what this association can do and am running to keep our future strong. I will keep us moving forward!