

APTA Wisconsin Candidate Questions

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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?

As an APTA Wisconsin Chapter representative at the APTA House of Delegates, I would work with the other delegates to advance (or defeat) motions and vote on motions that guide and shape our profession. This is an incredible responsibility, and I would be honored to serve as a delegate.

As a Wisconsin delegate, I would need to understand the unique concerns and aspirations of the PTs and PTAs that practice and teach in our state while keeping in mind the vision of our profession for the future. To accomplish this, I would focus on actively engaging in district and state activities, talking with and listening to PTs and PTAs, following the public forums (even the ones on social media), and working to keep open communication throughout the year with members. Understanding that the Chapter consists of members with varying perspectives, I would strive to represent the diversity of opinions within our Chapter. This includes balancing the needs of different practice areas, career stages, and geographical regions.

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

In my opinion, the most pressing issues facing the physical therapy profession today have not changed a lot. Reimbursement for our services at a rate that reflects the skilled level of care that PTs and PTAs provide, advocating for PTs and PTAs to practice and work at the highest level that our education allows, and educating the public on the benefits of and the advanced level of care that we can provide. The cost of education, especially for PTs, has become a potential barrier for future professionals and is an issue that I believe the APTA should continue to work on. These issues are not unique to our state, so it is essential to work collaboratively with other delegations to keep pushing initiatives forward that help to address them.

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 (then) WPTA PTA Caucus delegate and an APTA PTA Caucus Delegate, I was involved in numerous collaborative efforts with different APTA Chapters when working on motions. One of the most successful efforts I participated in involved several chapters that wanted to develop and move forward one core values document for both PTs and PTAs. Before the development of the “Core Values for the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant” document, PTs and PTAs each had separate core values documents. I was a delegate of the APTA PTA Caucus and worked with the other chapter and the reference committee to hone language and advocate for the change to one values document. There were many meetings and conversations before the motion was presented to the house so that all opinions could be heard and concerns could be accounted for so that the document was the best we could make it before it was voted on.