

APTA Wisconsin Candidate Questions

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

Please list:

Name and Credentials: Sheri Bunyan, PT, PhD

Education:

- PhD – Exercise and Rehabilitation Science, Marquette University
- MPT – Physical Therapy, St. Catherine University
- BS – Human Physiology, Northern Michigan University

Employer and Position:

- University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. What methods would you employ to solicit nominations for all open positions, ensuring a robust pool of candidates and ensuring transparency and fairness in the candidate selection process?

I want every APTA Wisconsin member, regardless of career stage or setting, to know that leadership opportunities are within reach. Developing a strong candidate pool requires more than announcing open positions. It requires ongoing member engagement, clear pathways into chapter service, and outreach beyond those already well known within the organization.

Nominations should be solicited early through established chapter channels, with clear information about the role, qualifications, time commitment, term, timeline, and nomination process. Members should have a straightforward way to nominate themselves or another member. Outreach to chapter committees, special interest groups, and current leaders can also identify members who are contributing but may not yet see themselves as candidates. Combined with mentorship and succession planning, this helps members move from engagement into leadership.

Transparency and fairness depend on a clear, consistently applied process. All candidates should receive the same information, have an equal opportunity to present their qualifications, and be considered using established criteria specific to the role. Broad outreach and an equitable process support both a stronger candidate pool and confidence in the slate presented to the membership.

2. How would you ensure effective representation of diverse perspectives and backgrounds in the slate of candidates presented to the membership?

Effective representation begins with recognizing the diversity of APTA Wisconsin's membership. Our physical therapy community includes PTs and PTAs across urban and rural settings, clinical and academic environments, specialty and general practice, career stages, and professional roles. The slate presented to members should reflect that range of experiences and perspectives.

The Nominating Committee should collaborate with chapter committees, special interest groups, and other member networks to help identify strong candidates with characteristics that may not be represented in the candidate pool. Consideration should extend beyond traditional dimensions of diversity to include geography, practice setting, years in practice, and roles such as clinician, educator, researcher, and administrator. The goal is not simply to recruit more candidates, but to ensure that the final slate reflects the full membership rather than only its most visible members.

Access also matters. Advocating for remote participation in chapter service and leadership can reduce barriers related to geography, work schedules, caregiving responsibilities, and travel. A representative slate should allow members to see candidates who reflect the many ways physical therapy is practiced throughout the state.