2018 Candidates for Chapter Positions

Vice President: Valerie Teglia, PT, DPT (Three-year term - one position open)

Director: Debi Craddock, PT, DPT, PCS; Kelley Kubota, PT, MS, NCS, CBIS; Chukwuemeka Nwigwe, PT, DPT, OCS (Three-year term, two-positions open)

Nominating Committee: Erin Hayden, PT, DPT, OCS and Cheryl Tibbetts, PT, OCS (Three-year term - two positions open)

PTA Caucus Representative: Amanda Johnston, PTA, B.S. and Jimmy Pacini, PTA (Two-year term - one regular position and one alternate position open)

34 Recommendations for Nominations were submitted by District/Special Interest Groups and Individual Members.

Vice President – 6 Individuals Recommended
1 consented 5 declined

Director – 15 Individuals Recommended
3 consented 12 declined

Nominating Committee – 9 Individuals Recommended
2 consented 7 declined

PTA Caucus Representative – 4 Individuals Recommended
2 consented 2 declined

Meet the Candidates

The Nominating Committee will present an opportunity to hear from this year’s slate of candidates at the Candidates Forum the day before CPTA Annual Conference from 6:30–7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 15. Candidates will also be introduced during the conference at the Noland Lecture and Awards Celebration on Saturday afternoon. Candidates will be wearing a candidate ribbon during conference functions to help identify them as a candidate.

Voting/Ballot

You will be able to vote for the CPTA candidates at the CPTA Conference and the election will remain open on the CPTA website until the beginning of October. You will not receive a hard copy ballot in the mail; however, they will be available upon request. You will receive notice once voting has opened. Every vote is important so vote and make sure your voice is heard.

The Candidates for Vice President and Director positions were asked to answer the following two questions when giving their personal statements:

1. What is one important issue you see in practice, education or public outreach and how would you address this with the current CPTA board?

2. What attributes and experience do you bring to the position?

Candidate for Vice President
Valerie Teglia, PT, DPT

Present Practice Position: Director of Clinical Education and Associate Professor, Mount Saint Mary’s University, Los Angeles

Education: UCLA, BS Physiologic Science, 1993; Mount Saint Mary’s University, Los Angeles, Master of Physical Therapy, 1996; Temple University, Doctor of Physical Therapy, 2005

Association Activities

District/SIG: Secretary Greater Los Angeles (GLAD) 1998-2000; Chair Elect, GLAD, 2001; Chairperson, GLAD, 2002; Chief Representative, GLAD, 2006-2009; PR Chairperson GLAD, 2010-2011; Representative, GLAD, 2002-2005, 2010, 2016-present

Chapter: Membership and Communications Committee, 2010-2012; CPTA Secretary, 2011-2015; Chapter Delegate, 2006-present and Delegation Team Leader, 2009-2012; Education Committee, 2011-present, Chairperson, 2012-2015

APTA: Neurology Section Practice Committee, 2009-2011; Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program (CCIP) Trainer, 2010-present; CCIP Credentialed Trainer Faculty, 2017; CCIP Trainer Program Applicant Reviewer, 2012; CCIP Work Group, 2013-2016; Clinical Education Leadership Summit Task Force, 2013-2014; Pediatric Section Government Affairs Committee, 2006-2007; Member: Education, Health Policy and Administration, Neurology, and Pediatrics Sections

Community/Other Organization Activities: Intergallegiate Academic Clinical Coordinators Council-Secretary, 2008-2011, Co-Chairperson, 2012-2016, Chairperson 2016-present; Homeowner Association Board of Directors, Secretary, 2009-2011; Gamma Phi Beta Alumni Association, House Corporation Board, 2000-2007, 2013-present

Candidate Statement: The most critical issue currently facing physical therapist practice is appropriate payment for services. Our services are currently undervalued both in terms of dollar amount allotted to providers and the benefit we provide to the patient. This not only impacts practice, but also negatively influences education and public perception of physical therapy. Limited payment forces business owners to adopt less than optimal practices, including shortened treatment times and treating more patients in a day, in order to keep their doors open. Paired with burdensome processes mandated by third party payers to secure payment, this also leads to practices limiting non-essential functions, like providing clinical education experiences for current students. Additionally, patient perception of physical therapy is negatively impacted when they receive treatment from practices that are pushed into using suboptimal strategies to make ends meet. As a board member, I would support focusing the resources of the CPTA to advocate for fair payment through interaction with third party payers, ongoing legislative advocacy and direct promotion of the value of physical therapy to our consumers.

As an active member of various state and national level committees and a former CPTA board member, I bring a broad base of institutional knowledge to the position of Vice President. I also bring an open-mind to consider new and innovative strategies to address the challenges our profession faces. As a Director of Clinical Education, I have the opportunity to interact with clinicians across the state, giving me an understanding of the challenges clinicians in varied practice settings and geographical areas are facing. These attributes and experiences allow me to approach the position of Vice
Candidate for Director

Debi Craddock, PT, DPT, PCS

Present Practice Position: Physical Therapy Instructor, Los Angeles County California Children's Services; Primary Instructor – Pediatric Curriculum, Mount Saint Mary’s University

Education: CSU Long Beach, BS PT, 1986; Rocky Mountain Univ. of Health Professions, MA PT, 2004; Rocky Mountain Univ. of Health Professions, DPT, 2005

Association Activities

District/SIG: California Pediatric Special Interest Group Member (PEDSIG), 2011-present, Education Committee, PEDSIG, 2011-2012; Nominating Committee, PEDSIG, 2012; Course Instructor, PEDSIG, 2012-present; Education Chairperson, PEDSIG, 2014-2015; Secretary, PEDSIG, 2013-present

Chapter: None

APTA: Academy of Pediatrics Public Relations Committee, 2007-2011; Section of Pediatrics, Half Marathon Team, 2011; SoPAC Conference Volunteer/Exercise Instructor, 2011-2013; Clinical Education SIG, Educator Toolkit Committee, 2014; SoPAC Conference Tri My Best Triathlon Volunteer, 2015; Member: Academy of Pediatric PT and Education Sections


Candidate Statement: I am extremely honored to be nominated to serve in a CPTA Director position. Our leadership has opened doors to practice improvements that will reduce healthcare costs and improve patient outcomes; however, not all clinics or education systems were prepared to capitalize on the new opportunities created. Many operate using the same strategies that served well in the past, however are quickly becoming unable to meet the demands of the future. There is much collaborative work to be done to bring clinical practice, clinical education, and reimbursement systems into alignment with the exciting vision that we have projected for the future of our profession. There are many challenges to making these changes and it is important that decisions are made with full awareness of the implications for all stakeholders. I will work diligently with the CPTA Board to survey, understand, evaluate, and communicate the potential impact of proposed initiatives to all members.

I bring to the position the unique communication and negotiation skills that developed as a result of practicing as both clinician and administrator as well as clinical and academic educator. I will help advance practice through skilled assessment of member needs and interests with sensitivity to providing resources and systems that add value to CPTA membership. I am also experienced in facilitating opportunities for interested members in making manageable and timely contributions to the advancement of physical therapy practice in California. I bring decades of grassroots volunteerism and productive work on professional committees. Because the daily demands on most members limit the time that they can contribute, I welcome the opportunity to go to work for you as we develop systems that support doctoral level practice, direct access for our patients, and the exciting use of technological advances in education, networking, and patient services.

Candidate for Director

Chukwuemeka Nwigwe, PT, DPT, OCS

Present Practice Position: Sports Fellow, Kaiser Permanente

Education: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, BS Exercise Science and Sports Study Minor, 2009; Rutgers School of Health Professions, DPT, 2012

Association Activities

District/SIG: Vice Chairperson, Greater Los Angeles (GLAD), 2015-2016; Chairperson, GLAD, 2016-present; Study Group Task Force, California Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy SIG, 2014

Chapter: Chapter Delegate, 2015-present; Membership and Communications Committee, 2016-present


Community/Other Organization Activities: Community Service involvement with Family Medicine Pathways Program, 2015; Pre-participation Physicals for Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and East Los Angeles College, 2014-2015; Presenter for 100 Black Men of Los Angeles, Inc., Mentoring Program; provided PT to athletes competing, Mayhem in Meadowland, 2014; educated and provided medical interventions for people of the village, Umuchu Associates in America, Inc., 2013; delivered daily sermon in honor of youth graduation/appreciation month, St. Andrew & Holy Communion Episcopal Church, 2013; participated in annual Breast Cancer Walk, American Cancer Society, 2011; served as an official score keeping for Golf Sectional Competition, Special Olympics of New Jersey, 2011; took part in examination, evaluation and screening of children from low-income neighborhoods and migrant farm workers, Univ. of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, 2009-2011; supported staff with event, Magee Rehabilitation, 2010; Community Service project with elderly, Univ. of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, 2010; Special Friends Day with children with special needs, Rutgers, 2008; Dr. Harley E. Flack Male Mentoring Program, Rowan Univ., 2006

Candidate Statement: It is a true honor and distinct privilege for the opportunity to serve you as Director. As the Association marches towards its centennial anniversary, I am reminded of its historic journey and recognize the effort that lies ahead to transform society and improve the human experience. If greatness of our profession is the goal, it will require innovative thinking, a passion for change and individuals rising to the call of service to achieve it. Since 2009 I have risen to the call and have served in leadership positions allowing me to better serve and steer the profession forward. I am an effective communicator, a global thinker and collaborator, accountable and passionate about making a difference. My skills will complement those of current board members and serve to expand and strengthen the diversity and vision of the board. As a board member I look to continue my involvement on the Membership and Communications Committee, working to increase awareness of our public relations branding campaign among consumers and professionals. As a residency and fellowship graduate, I can attest to the value of structured mentorship and clinical specialization. My experience will allow me to communicate best practice models for clinical education and develop resources for best clinical practice. Furthermore, my experience will allow me to increase current efforts in obtaining suitable payment for services rendered by attesting to the value of our services. Through my leadership involvement at the district level, I understand the vital importance of district involvement to the success of the board and will work to strengthen communication and collaboration efforts between districts and the board. I am ready, well prepared and possess the essential skills to serve as your Director. I welcome the opportunity and ask for your support to utilize my skills in guiding our beloved Association forward.
Candidate for Director
Kelley Kubota, PT, MS, NCS

Present Practice Position: PT Supervisor I, Acting Clinical Manager, PTIII, PTI at Acute Rehabilitation, Rancho Los Amigos, County of Los Angeles

Education: University of California, Berkeley, BA, 1990; Duke University, PT, 1994; Duke University, MS, 1994

Association Activities

District/SIG: Nominating Committee Member, Long Beach/South Bay District (LB/SB), 1998-2001; Nominating Committee Chairperson, LB/SB, 2001; Treasurer, LB/SB, 2001-2006; Public Relations Committee Member, 2005-2008; Public Relations Committee Co-Chairperson, LB/SB, 2005; Public Relations Committee Chairperson, 2006; Chief Representative, LB/SB, 2006-2012; Legislative Key Contact, LB/SB District, 2009-2012; Assembly Representative, LB/SB, 2006-2014

Chapter: CPTA Annual Conference Task Force, 2011; Chapter Delegate 2009, 2011-present; Chapter Board, Director, 2015-present; Education Committee, 2014-present; Education Committee Chairperson, 2016-present; Member of the CA Private Practice Group

APTA: Neurology Section


Candidate Statement: I am honored to be slated as a candidate for a second term as CPTA Director. Improving public recognition of physical therapy and enhancing payment and reimbursement for physical therapist services are key issues facing our profession. We have made great strides with our “Physical Therapists Improve the Way You Move” campaign. We have additional work to do to educate and demonstrate to consumers and to other healthcare providers that we are the movement specialists, uniquely qualified to help individuals address their movement dysfunction. We have distinct expertise. We must continue to look for innovative ways to increase awareness of our comprehensive educational background, skillset, and training to demonstrate our value to the healthcare system. Declining reimbursement continues to threaten our profession. Given the current climate of healthcare, we must continue to fight to maintain fair and just reimbursement. This will require a continued presence and commitment of resources by CPTA. My background as a clinician, clinical researcher, and educator, in addition to diverse leadership experience, bring a unique perspective to the Board. I continually work to advance physical therapy and actively share my enthusiasm and excitement for our profession with others. I have fully enjoyed and embraced my current role as CPTA Director by making positive contributions as the Chairperson and Board Liaison to the CPTA Education Committee and through my other Board responsibilities. I am respectful of individual differences and appreciate discussion of multiple perspectives and collaboration when arriving at decisions which best promote and advance our profession. I take pride in the quality of my work, and if I agree to take on a project, I see the project through. I would welcome the opportunity to continue my service to the CPTA at the Board level.

The Candidates for the Nominating Committee were asked to answer the following two questions when giving their personal statements:

1. What strategies would you use to motivate potential candidates to run for office?
2. What are two to three characteristics you would look for in a potential candidate for office?

Candidate for Nominating Committee
Erin Hayden, PT, DPT, OCS

Present Practice Position: Physical Therapist and Instructor of Clinical Physical Therapy, USC

Education: University of Colorado, BA Kinesiology and Music; University of Southern California, DPT, 2006

Association Activities


Chapter: Chapter Delegate, 2015-2017

APTA: SACE Item Writer, Member of the Orthopedic Section

Community/Other Organization Activities: Unrecables, LA Chapter of Disabled Sports USA; USC Performing Arts Health and Wellness Committee

Candidate Statement: I am honored to have been slated as a candidate to serve on the CPTA Nominating Committee. I have had the privilege of serving our profession at the District and SIG levels, as well as at the APTA House of Delegates. Throughout this service, I have been inspired to advocate for the physical therapy profession. I recognize and admire the passion, dedication, and professionalism of our leaders and I understand what an integral role these individuals have played within the Physical Therapy Associations.

One of my strongest assets is my ability to recognize others' strengths and determine what drives them. If an individual has the desire to serve our profession in a small or large manner, I will help find a way for them to become involved. I believe that we are “better together.” If elected, I look forward to assisting with the tradition of recognizing and developing a team to help carry out the mission of the CPTA. I am committed to help cultivate the vision/drive on the way there.

I believe the role of the Nominating Committee is to motivate and guide individuals towards their professional goals and to ensure that CPTA is moving forward towards its mission. Member engagement at any magnitude motivates potential candidates to run for office. The best strategy to help motivate potential members is providing the environment for someone to run. The three leadership characteristics that I believe are crucial when slating potential candidates are: members that will be great advocates, demonstrate a high level of integrity, and be positive teammates. These characteristics are essential to continue advancing our profession within an inter-professional health care delivery team.

Candidate for Nominating Committee
Cheryl Tibbetts, PT, OCS

Present Practice Position: CEO/Owner, Valley Physical Therapy

Education: University of California, Santa Cruz, BA Biology, 1990; University of Southern California, MPT, 1993

Association Activities


Chapter: Membership and Communication Committee Member, 2007-present; Membership and Communication Committee Chair, 2011-present; CPTA Board, Director, 2011-2016; Chapter Delegate, 2017

APTA: Member: Private Practice, Orthopedic, Health Policy and Administration, Geriatric Sections
Candidate Statement: Anyone involved in Association leadership knows it is difficult to motivate potential candidates to actually run for office. Often people do not have a clear understanding of the responsibilities/expectations of our elected positions. They also sometimes place elected leaders on a pedestal and think “I’m not as experienced, committed, knowledgeable, ________ (insert your own adjective here) as those people.” I know I thought that way before I agreed to run for the CPTA Board. Now having served two terms as a Director I understand the responsibilities/expectations and that those who are elected are no different than the rest of us, they were simply willing to run.

On the nominating committee I would look for individuals who are passionate about our profession and want to see it continue to move forward toward our vision of transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience. I would seek out those who have knowledge in areas related to the issues being faced by the CPTA. I would encourage those who have new or different ideas or may not think they have the experience needed for a Chapter elected position to volunteer for a Chapter or District Committee or even run for an elected District position.

I do not expect anyone to jump in like I did and run for District Chair as their first position, nor do I necessarily recommend doing that. I do however believe it is important to ask people to get involved, to mentor and encourage them, to show them the potential they do not necessarily see in themselves, and applaud them for a job well done when they succeed. In an environment like that people are more willing to take on challenges; our patients do it every day.

The Candidates for the PTA Caucus Representative positions were asked to answer the following two questions when giving their personal statements:

1. What advice would you give to the PTA member to work collaboratively with the PT?
2. What role do you see the PTA serving within CPTA?

Candidate for PTA Caucus Representative

Amanda Johnston, PTA, B.S.

Present Practice Position: Acting Program Director, Mesa College PTA Program
Education: San Diego State University, BS Pre-PT, 2004; San Diego Mesa College, AS PTA, 2010; Northern Arizona Univ., MED, 2017

Association Activities
District/SIG: None

Chapter: None
APTA: Education Section
Community/Other Organization Activities: Using Pilates with lower back and upper quadrant clients, San Diego DPT/PTA Seminar Preferred Relationship/Laws and Regulations

Candidate Statement: I am honored to be a candidate for the PTA Caucus Representative. As a clinician and educator, I have collaborated with many PT’s, administrators, and students and have seen successful endeavors come to fruition. At the base of any successful relationship is effective communication, including listening, speaking, and social awareness. To optimize the PT/PTA collaboration, communication must include knowledge, skills, weaknesses, and desire to learn or grow. Once open communication is established, the PT/PTA team is a very powerful asset to a patient for recovery and function and the profession for innovation. Communication also offers opportunity for cultural fluency. Interactions with all team members require cultural awareness to best serve the team, patient, association, and society. It is imperative for effective therapy services and advocacy campaigns to consider all backgrounds.

I see my potential role as PTA Caucus Representative as an opportunity to bring issues facing the PTA to the forefront and explain their importance and relationship to effective patient care. Advocacy for diversity and equality are always forefront in my mind to ensure all voices and needs are heard. I also see this as an opportunity for growth, leadership, and to demonstrate that PTAs are a valuable member in the association. I hope to be a role model of leadership, communication, and an active member in our association for PTAs, students, and patients to develop their passion for the profession of physical therapy.

Candidate for PTA Caucus Representative

James Pacini, PTA

Present Practice Position: Director of Clinical Education, Institute of Technology
Education: College of the Sequoias, PTA, 2012; Pima Medical Institute, BS PTA, 2017

Association Activities
District/SIG: San Joaquin Valley District (SJV) Assembly Representative, 2012-present
APTA: PTA Caucus Communications Committee Co-Chair, 2014-2015; Advocacy Awards Subcommittee, 2016-2017; PTA Caucus Alternate Delegate Candidate, 2017; Member: Orthopedic, Neurology, Education Sections
Community/Other Organization Activities: Institute of Technology Culture Committee, 2017

Candidate Statement: Collaboration is the key to success for the PT/PTA team. It is important for both to use open communication to achieve optimal outcomes and meet the needs of the patients. While this requires an effort from both the PT and PTA, my advice to a PTA would be to take initiative in professional development. The idea of professional development, whether it is higher education, continuing education, advocacy, or service, may look different to each individual. Regardless, the ability to demonstrate growth and engagement in current practice patterns and issues will foster a relationship with the PT staff that is rooted in collaboration.

As the largest chapter within APTA, we are provided many opportunities as members to stay engaged and to serve our profession. Even still, some other components allow increased participation from PTA members which might be worth investigating as a chapter. There has been recent growth to increase the value of PTA membership within the association and the CPTA bylaw change approved by the Assembly of Representatives in 2016 to allow PTAs to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee is a perfect example of that effort. Participation from PTAs in elected or appointed positions has had a positive impact on the profession of physical therapy at various levels. Just as we are expected to do in the clinic, a collaborative approach between the PT and PTA at every level is the best way to function as an association and serve the profession of physical therapy. We are #BetterTogether.