Vice President (Select 1)

Michael Geelhoed, PT, DPT, MTC, OCS

Present Employment: UTHSCSA
Position: Associate Professor & Director of Clinical Education
City: San Antonio
APTA Member: 21 years
TPTA Member: 21 years

I am honored to be slated as a candidate for Vice President of the TPTA. I have actively served this association in multiple roles since becoming a member as a first year PT student in 1996. I am the President of the Texas PT Foundation and have participated in the APTA House of Delegates for 11 years, including 3 years as Chief Delegate. I have been a staff PT, clinic director, clinical coordinator for a multi-site practice, and now a full-time faculty member. My academic position allows me to make 100 clinical site visits every year, giving me excellent insight into current PT practice, as well as the challenges facing PT’s and PTA’s in the state of Texas.

The TPTA Vice President needs to be active, engaged, and well-versed in the issues facing the PT profession. They also need to work effectively with the President, TPTA Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and TPTA staff. I believe I possess all of these qualities, and have proven over the past several years to be a strong leader and team player in our association.

Physical Therapy is ideally positioned to meet the triple aim of healthcare reform (improve patient experience, improve population health, decrease per capita cost) in our state and country. But this will only happen if we are diligent in our efforts to let the public and legislators know how valuable our services are, and have strong state and national professional associations that further our interests and protect our scope of practice. I believe I can augment the TPTA leadership to ensure that our association continues to move forward into the next decade, and with your help, we can strengthen our profession in Texas and beyond.

Colette Pientok, PT, DPT, OCS

Present Employment: Memorial Hermann Sports Medicine
Position:
City: Houston
APTA Member: 34 years
TPTA Member: 32 years

I am honored to have been slated as a candidate for TPTA Vice President. I have been an active TPTA member for over 30 years. The past few years have brought challenges in payment for services and patient access to physical therapy. In the past year our chapter office has undergone significant changes. At this time, we need to come together with a strong leadership team to develop our members as agents of change working toward the advancement of the physical therapy profession. I possess the experience and am prepared to be a member of this leadership team. I currently serve as treasurer of the SED and serve on both the TPTA technology task force and governance review committee. My professional association involvement grew as I served on the TPTA Board of Directors as SED district chair. This is when I was truly motivated to solidify my active
participation in the state and national associations. I have served as the district chair representative to the TPTA executive committee. In this role, I gained knowledge and insight into the operations of the association, the role of the chapter office, and the importance of an effective board and executive committee. My passion for the association and the profession was ignited once again when I accepted the role of TPTA public relations chair. I worked with members of the TPTA to educate therapists and the public on the Move Forward PT brand. The public relations committee worked to improve community recognition of the physical profession through development of annual TPTA service projects and Team TPTA. In the last 25 years I have served in many management roles. At the TPTA level I have served as a mentor and have attained fellowship status in the Tom Waugh leadership development program. My management experience has afforded me the skills required to run an effective and efficient organization including the importance of open and ongoing communication. My involvement in the profession has included serving as a TPTA Delegate at Large, serving on the APTA Best Practices in Clinical Education task force, and recent re-election to the National Consortium of Clinical Educators. My experience, continued involvement, and my passion for the advancement of the profession of physical therapy confirms I am committed and prepared to take on this leadership role. I humbly ask for your vote to allow me to serve and assist in moving the TPTA forward.

Chief Delegate (Select 1)

Janet R. Bezner, PT, DPT, PhD, FAPTA

Present Employment: Texas State University  
Position: Associate Professor  
City: Austin  
APTA Member: 36 years  
TPTA Member: 27 years

The House of Delegates (HOD), the highest policy making body of the association, has significant responsibility for determining the role of the physical therapist in practice, education and research. Since the new Vision Statement for the Physical Therapy Profession was adopted in 2013, the HOD has considered and adopted motions aimed at transforming society to optimize movement to improve the human experience. I have served as Chief Delegate for the past 2 years and the Texas Delegation has been intimately involved in several motions to ensure we achieve our new vision. For example, in the 2017 HOD, we played a role in adopting two motions defining and describing the physical therapist scope of practice, a key step in securing our role as movement experts. Over the past several years we were involved in creating and amending a position statement on the role of the physical therapist in advocacy for prevention, wellness, fitness, health promotion, and management of disease and disability (HOD P06-16-05-06).

I have served as Chief Delegate of Texas 9 times and delegate an additional 4 times. I was the APTA Vice President of Education and later the Vice President of Education and Governance for 9 years, where I functioned as APTA staff and had responsibility for ensuring the success of the HOD for the majority of the time I was a staff member. I am intimately familiar with the HOD and understand the role of both delegate and Chief Delegate and I have used my experience to increase the visibility and participation of our delegates in the planning, preparation, and implementation of the HOD. We have become more visible as a delegation, but we can be more visible and engaged. I would like to serve another term as Chief Delegate to continue our work and capitalize on the momentum we’ve created. I am excited by the opportunity to serve the chapter in the role of Chief Delegate and I would appreciate your vote.
PTA Caucus Representative (Select 1)

Deborah Nicole Volek, PTA

Present Employment: Home Health Resources
Position: 
City: Richmond
APTA Member: 17 years
TPTA Member: 17 years

PT and PTA colleagues thank you for your confidence and allowing me to represent our chapter as your PTA caucus representative during the last term. As we look forward to the future of the PTA within our profession, it is essential to be an active member, to have a positive and influential voice within the association. I feel very confident that with my leadership skills, education, experience, desire to promote our profession, to advocate for quality of services, and my past history I can be a positive influence as your PTA Caucus representative for Texas and thus I humbly ask for your vote.

During this last term, I was appointed as the PTAC nominating chair and I was invited by the APTA nominating committee to attend the Combined Section meeting of all nominating chairs in an effort to share information about emerging leaders in various sections and chapters. Along with my committee members we created full slates for the PTAC and created a round robin discussion whereby our representative could visit with our candidates in a realized and open forum.

While in this role I have reached out and invited to conference calls prior to house and engaged the Texas PTA student liaison to attend the PTAC meetings at the house of delegates.

I have continued to have an active role as an advocate included, but was not limited to, lobbying for practice relative to payer sources and patient access. I routinely contact my State Representative to keep him informed of various PT issues and concerns. During the last Texas session I was able to communicate with him during the house and provided him updates on our Patient Access Bill. I take the role of being an advocate for our profession very serious. With so many healthcare issues in our future; health care reform, changing reimbursement in all arenas, increased scrutiny of fraud and abuse, and the changing role of the PTA, the only way we can be successful is to stay informed and involved.

Serving the profession through the PTA Caucus is a role that I am extremely passionate about and schedule my time towards year-round commitment, dedicated to completion of assigned tasks, and attendance in conference calls and meetings. A vote for me as your PTA caucus representative assures responsible and committed representation. I thank all of you for this amazing opportunity to serve you and our profession and look forward to representing you as the PTA caucus representative.
Nominating Committee (Select 1)

Mitchell Guberman, PT, DPT, CMTPT, Cert DN

Present Employment: US HealthWorks Medical Group  
Position: Physical Therapist  
City: Freeport  
APTA Member: 1 year  
TPTA Member: 6 months

I am enthusiastic to accept the nomination for the Nominating Committee of the TPTA. I look to this position as a jumping off point for sustained involvement with my representative professional organization. My recent experience of attending legislative day in Austin has provided me with the motivation to serve in a more formal capacity. I feel strongly about direct access and the place of physical therapists as the experts on musculoskeletal dysfunction in healthcare. Despite our recent setback on this issue, I feel it’s of the highest priority to continue to fight for that right.

As a native Floridian, I attended the University of St. Augustine for graduate school before coming to Texas as a traveler. I’ve spent the past 6 years working in the Houston area in settings including: acute care, inpatient, outpatient orthopedic, and home health. Having experience in these various settings will help me to represent physical therapists from all sides of the profession. I received my certification for dry needling last year through Myopain seminars and feel strongly about its efficacy for treating trigger points. I currently work in an outpatient facility dealing strictly in occupational medicine where I’ve built strong relationships with other healthcare practitioners.

The skill that makes me most qualified for the Nominating Committee is my ability to communicate with people in all forums even if their views don’t mirror mine. I consider myself a huge proponent for the field of physical therapy/wellness and take every opportunity I can to educate the public on what our fellow clinicians are capable of. If given the opportunity to serve, I will represent the TPTA, the Nominating Committee, and the field of physical therapy to the best of my abilities.

Lauren Szot, PT, DPT, NCS

Present Employment: Texas Woman’s University / TIRR Memorial Hermann  
Position: Clinical Assistant Professor & Assistant Director of Clinical Education / Staff Physical Therapist  
City: Houston  
APTA Member: 12 years  
TPTA Member: 7 years

It is an honor to be considered for a position on the Nominating Committee of the TPTA. My leadership in the profession has mostly been at the local level, through my recent service as Nominating Committee Chair and 2nd Vice Co-Chair of the Southeastern District of the TPTA. I have also been involved at the state level through my service on the TPTA Annual Conference Education Committee since 2012. It has been a privilege to serve the profession in each of these experiences, and I hope to continue taking an active role in contributing to the growth of the profession as a member of the Nominating Committee.

I graduated from the TIRR Memorial Hermann Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency Program in 2011 and received my Board Certification in Neurologic Physical Therapy in 2011. I participate in clinical
practice in neurologic inpatient rehabilitation at TIRR Memorial Hermann, where I have served as mentor and faculty for the TIRR Memorial Hermann Residency Program. I am also a Clinical Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of Clinical Education at Texas Woman’s University. My role as Assistant DCE enables me to network with physical therapists and physical therapist assistants across the state, which in return allows me to identify emerging leaders in the Texas physical therapy community. I feel my breadth of experiences in clinical practice, academia, and professional leadership would serve me well as a member of the Nominating Committee. If elected to serve, I will be committed to seek nominations of qualified individuals with leadership skills who are passionate about moving our profession forward. I welcome the opportunity to serve the TPTA in this role and appreciate your support.

Delegate at Large (Select 6)

Kimberly S. Broderick, PT, SCS, OCS, ATC, CFMT, MS

**Present Employment:** Houston Methodist Orthopedics and Sports Medicine  
**Position:** Physical Therapist  
**City:** Humble  
**APTA Member:** 26 years  
**TPTA Member:** 26 years

Thank you for the honor of being nominated for the position of Delegate-At-Large to the APTA House of Delegates. Currently there are many changes and challenges in healthcare, with many more changes on the horizon. The policies set by APTA’s House of Delegates will direct how our profession will react to these changes and influence the impact of these changes on all physical therapy practitioners. Additionally, the HOD will continue to deal with issues addressed in previous HOD agendas. Our delegation will need to be composed of a wide range of practitioners representing a broad range of experiences and practices. I believe it is vital to have a balance of seasoned delegates who can recall the history of the HOD and its previous decisions as well as delegates, who can be mentored and bring **enthusiasm** and **action** to influence decisions of the HOD. The Texas delegation is primed to influence/ collaborate and lead policy and position decisions of the HOD.

I was licensed as a PT in 1993 and became a Certified Athletic Trainer in 1984. I practice in a Orthopedic and Sports Medicine setting and am faculty for our Sports Physical Therapy residency at Houston Methodist Orthopedics and Sports Medicine. My volunteer roles in the TPTA have been both at the state and district levels serving as TPTA co-chair of Membership and currently, I volunteer as an Ortho/ Sports TPTA CCU Reviewer. At the 2014 HOD, I was voted by my fellow delegates to serve as Assistant Chief Delegate. I have served greater than 8 years as either a district delegate or delegate-at-large.

I have the passion to serve, and will be an active participant in the policy making for physical therapy while representing your concerns. I am committed to invest the time needed to prepare prior to, during and after the APTA House of Delegates. I am a seasoned veteran who would like to mentor and will promise to ALSO, bring **enthusiasm** and **action** to this position. I thank you for your dedication to our profession and for your support. I would greatly appreciate your vote and, thank you for the opportunity!
Michael Geelhoed, PT, DPT, MTC, OCS

**Present Employment:** UTHSCSA  
**Position:** Associate Professor & Director of Clinical Education  
**City:** San Antonio  
**APTA Member:** 21 years  
**TPTA Member:** 21 years

I am honored to be considered for the office of Delegate at Large for the state of Texas. I have served in the APTA House of Delegates for more than a decade, as both a District Delegate and a Delegate at Large, and also served as Chief Delegate for Texas from 2012-2015. I am very well-versed in house proceedings and history, and my years of experience have enabled me to form many effective relationships with delegates from other states to facilitate business which moves our profession forward.

The 2 main responsibilities of Delegates are voting on candidates for national office, and voting on motions that come before the House that shape the future of our profession. I am proud that our Texas Delegation has had excellent success in putting forward candidates for national office, including 2 current national officers. I am also pleased that our delegation has been such an active participant in the policy-making process of the House over the last several years.

My position affords me the opportunity to visit over 100 clinical sites every year, giving me excellent insight into current PT practice, as well as the challenges facing PT’s and PTA’s in the state of Texas. If elected, I promise to make decisions reflecting the best interests of our profession so that we can continue to move forward towards our shared goals.

Denise Gobert, PT, PhD, CEEAA, NCS

**Present Employment:** Texas State University  
**Position:** Associate Professor  
**City:** Austin  
**APTA Member:** 24 years  
**TPTA Member:** 22 years

I would be honored to serve again as a state chapter Delegate-At-Large. My twenty-three-year professional involvement at both the state and national levels have prepared me for this important position therefore I view this as a wonderful opportunity to continue my service in work for which I have a passion. As a practicing physical therapist and active member of both the TPTA/APTA, I have served in numerous leadership roles including TPTA Vice President, Speaker of the Assembly, Executive Committee member, Chair of the Tom Waugh Leadership Development Program in addition to the Government Affairs, Public Relations, and Professional Development committees. I also represented our chapter in the APTA HOD for the past two years therefore I am very familiar with how it operates and our need for representation during the 2018 and 2019 APTA HOD meetings.

During the recent 2017 HOD, I am happy to report that Texas gained new momentum in advancing the interests of our members. Therefore, I would like to be a part of this effort by contributing my “To Do” list for myself during the next upcoming session under the leadership of the Chief Delegate:

- Goal # 1: Optimize constructive communications between delegates and chapter members at the “grass-roots” level. The APTA is poised to initiate several new, bold endeavors including the
purchase of new buildings to house the headquarter offices, execution of a national campaign in response to the opioid crisis and development of new definitions of scope of practice to foster innovative practice patterns despite changing payment models. Our members need to remain engaged so that we might have an active voice in the process.

- Goal #2: Continue my passion to foster and mentor new leaders who might sit at the discussion tables to include the “Texas voice” beyond our borders. I intend to be the catalyst to encourage our young professionals to actively engage in these important national conversations.

In conclusion, I feel that my long term active involvement in our profession has helped qualify me for the position of Delegate-At-Large. Therefore, I ask for your vote and stand excited about the opportunity to possibly represent and support the interests of Texas physical therapists at the national level. If elected, you can be confident that I will build on the excellent examples of past delegates and continue our outstanding Texas tradition!

**Venita Lovelace-Chandler, PT, PhD, PCS**

**Present Employment:** University of North Texas health Science Center  
**Position:** Consultant to Educational Programs  
**City:** Garland  
**APTA Member:** 46 years  
**TPTA Member:** 10 years

I am asking for your support to continue to serve as a Texas Delegate at Large. I have been honored to serve you for the past several years, and I had previous service as a delegate for the Arkansas Chapter and for the Section on Pediatrics. I served as Secretary for TPTA, and I believe I am current on the issues facing the state and on national issues that impact practice in Texas, including patient access, our role in primary care, practice collaboration of the PT and PTA, and governance. I have held elected offices for the Sections on Pediatrics, Oncology, and Education. I was a physical therapist and physical therapist assistant professor for 35 years, and still serve as an adjunct faculty member at UNTHSC and at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. I served as the pediatric content expert on the board of APTA’s Move Forward and as a CAPTE reviewer and educational consultant, and I am current on educational and practice concerns. I hold a BS degree in PT from Southwestern Medical School (1971), an MA in college teaching in pediatric PT from the University of North Carolina (1976), and a PhD from TAMU (1989). I have 46 years of experience in pediatrics, have recertified as a specialist two times, and still carry a very small caseload. I would be thrilled to serve as delegate for the next two years if elected.

**Rupal Patel, PT, PhD**

**Present Employment:** School of Physical Therapy, Texas Woman’s University  
**Position:** Associate Clinical Professor  
**City:** Houston  
**APTA Member:** 29 years  
**TPTA Member:** 29 years

It has been my privilege to serve as a TPTA Delegate to the APTA House of Delegates (House) for the past 7 years. The House sets policy and elects the APTA Board of Directors (BOD) and members of the APTA Nominating Committee (NC). This is an important responsibility and one that I take to heart as we look to find bold new ways to realize our vision of transforming society.
am passionate about shared governance, and how the APTA Board and Delegates work together to achieve our strategic plan.

I am honored and proud to represent the PT/PTAs in Texas in the APTA House. Through my service, I have gained a depth of understanding about policy efforts within APTA to keep moving our profession forward.

As a delegate I am active and engaged in HUB (online House Community) and during in-person discussions about motions that come before the House. I have worked with other delegations and the House Reference Committee to draft motion language or amendments. I have been a buddy/mentor to new Texas delegates, as I love sharing my passion for the House with newbies. I have also served as the Texas Assistant Chief Delegate, facilitating the Texas Caucus meetings during the House as needed.

I have been an active member of APTA/TPTA for 29 years serving in various capacities at the district, state and national level. At the 2017 APTA House, I was elected to the APTA Nominating Committee. I currently serve on the APTA Awards Scholarships Subcommittee, APTA Academy of Neurologic PT’s Advocacy and Consumer Affairs Committee, and HPA The Catalyst Section’s Publications Committee. I also serve on the TPTA Governance Review Task Force and the SED Governmental Affairs Committee. In the past I have served as the SED Public Relations (PR) Committee Chair, TPTA Annual Conference Planning Committee, TPTA Nominating Committee, TPTA CE Reviewer, and APTA Neurology Section PR Committee Chair.

In addition to my APTA/TPTA service, I am on the Advisory Panel for the Academy of Prevention Heath Promotion Therapies. I am passionate about health promotion and wellness and how our profession can embrace this shift in paradigm as our health care system evolves to meet population needs. I am also a mentor for the Pro Bono Incubator Grant program for Move Together, Inc. I believe if we are to transform society we have to address the health disparities in our country and abroad. I have also enjoyed serving as an Ambassador for the Global PT Day of Service, leading a service project at the local Chinese Community Center in Houston last year.

I teach in the DPT program at TWU in Houston. As an educator, I strive to stay current in physical therapy professional and practice issues so that the new generation of clinicians are informed about future trends that may impact our profession. I love mentoring students, especially in advocacy and community health promotion.

Clinically, I have practiced mainly in inpatient and outpatient neurological rehabilitation settings and also in acute care, skilled nursing, home care and long term care settings. Currently I also am involved in community based health promotion providing lifestyle modification programs to people at risk for diabetes.

I am committed, enthusiastic, vocal, and passionate about our profession and would love to continue to bring this energy and my experience and knowledge of the House to the Texas delegation.

I would be honored and humbled to have your vote! Thank You!
Colette Pientok, PT, DPT, OCS

Present Employment: Memorial Hermann Sports Medicine
Position: 
City: Houston 
APTA Member: 34 years 
TPTA Member: 32 years 

I am honored to once again be slated as a TPTA Delegate at Large candidate. I have served the profession in many roles and serving the past few years at the APTA House of Delegates has been one of the most rewarding experiences. With the changes and challenges in healthcare I would like to continue to be involved in the discussions and decisions that will lead our profession forward.

I presently manage an outpatient clinic and am closely involved with how our organization is adjusting to changing payment models and overall challenges in insurance coverage. I see patients daily that are concerned whether they can afford the physical therapy they require. With these changes there are growing opportunities for physical therapy to take the lead in promoting healthy lifestyles and working toward our vision of transforming society. As a profession we must remain up to date and intimately involved in the politics of these challenges. As a delegate I would do my best to bring your voice to the house. Throughout my years of practice and serving the organization, I have found the more you are involved the more you wish to remain involved and are committed to advancing the profession. I humbly ask for your vote to allow me to once again serve as a delegate at large to the APTA House of Delegates.

Robert Sandoval, PT, PhD

Present Employment: University of the Incarnate Word
Position: Assistant Professor, School of Physical Therapy
City: San Antonio 
APTA Member: 25 years 
TPTA Member: 24 years 

It is both an honor and a privilege to be slated for the Delegate-at-Large position at TPTA. I have been an APTA member since 1992 and a TPTA member since 1993. I have served in multiple elected and appointed capacities at TPTA. I currently serve as Chair for the Central District, Ethics Committee chair and Delegate-at-Large. The House of Delegates is the policy making body for our association. The issues debated at the HOD have the impact to shape the future of our profession. The role of delegates is to represent colleagues at the HOD, and consider the impact of motions brought for discussion on their respective clinical practices or professional lives. Additionally, delegates are charged with electing members of APTA’s Board of Directors and Executive committee. Thus, our role as delegates is to be stewards of our association, and by extension our profession. The complexity of procedural discussions and debates can be a daunting task for new members of the house. Having serve in this role since 2013 allows me to be more actively engaged in meaningful discussions pertaining to policy debates, and in electing prospective leaders. The trust to represent colleagues at a national level is not something that I take for granted. I therefore request your vote to continue advocating for our profession and peers in Texas as a Delegate-at-Large for the HOD.
Allison Smith, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT

Present Employment: Harris Health System
Position: Physical Therapist
City: Houston
APTA Member: 6 years
TPTA Member: 3 years

I am interested in running for the position of Delegate at Large because I want to influence our profession through innovative and progressive policy change within the APTA. Coworkers and colleagues who are actively involved at the local, state, and national level of the APTA have served as an inspiration for my desire to run for this position. Currently I am serving as the SED Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, through which I have gained experience fighting for policy change at the state and federal level. At the state level I’ve organized a flash action strategy to raise money for the PT PAC, participated in other PAC events, and organized a bus to take over 100 PTs from Houston to Austin for Legislative Day. At the federal level I’ve participated in PAC events and traveled to Washington D.C. to promote APTA-supported legislation with Representatives from Texas at the Federal Advocacy Forum. I think my experience gained so far as GAC Chair makes me an ideal candidate for the Delegate at Large position to change policy within the APTA, and I think serving on the House of Delegates will improve my ability to be an effective GAC Chair.

I grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin and have been making my way down south since college. I completed my undergraduate studies in health science at Purdue University while competing as an NCAA Division I swimmer. I then spent the next three years in Missouri completing the Washington University in St. Louis Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. In the fall of 2014 I finally made it to Texas! Over these past 3 years I completed the Harris Health System orthopedic physical therapy residency, became an Orthopedic Clinical Specialist, completed the OPTIM manual therapy fellowship, and became a Fellow in the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists. In addition to enhancing my clinical expertise to better serve patients and my community, these experiences afforded me invaluable mentorship opportunities that helped me grow as a clinician, teacher, and leader.

While working for policy change can be challenging and tedious at times, it is the best way to help our profession adapt and grow. To transform society and improve the human experience, we need policies in place that allow us to best serve our patients. Physical therapy can help address many of the problems facing society today such as the opioid epidemic, chronic pain, other chronic medical conditions, poor health literacy, poor diet choices, decreased physical activity…the list goes on and on. The APTA can help us address these issues by adopting policies and language that align with our vision, educating the public on what physical therapy is, and holding members to a high standard. I am passionate, driven, and committed to work for these improvements and to help keep Texas a great place to practice physical therapy.
Jessica West, PT, DPT

**Present Employment:** MD Anderson Cancer Center  
**Position:** Physical Therapist  
**City:** Houston  
**APTA Member:** 3 years  
**TPTA Member:** 3 years

I am a recent graduate of Texas Woman’s University Class of 2017 and will be starting my career as a physical therapist with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. I have an undergraduate background in political science and have been active in government advocacy and community engagement efforts throughout my life. I am passionate about our profession and strongly believe that improved public awareness and utilization of physical therapy services will improve health outcomes and transform society.

As a physical therapy student, I twice attended the APTA Federal Advocacy Forum and am well-informed about the challenges and opportunities facing our profession. I was also elected as the Southeastern District Student Liaison by my class and served for three years. In my second year of school I worked with classmates to establish PT GAP- Physical Therapy Global Access Project, a 501c3 non-profit with the mission of increasing access to physical therapy in underserved communities. Thus far, we have participated in the fundraising and organization of two international service trips attended by both students and practicing clinicians. In my third year, as a class project, I created and implemented an exercise program for the visually-impaired at the Municipal Multi-Service Center on West Gray in Houston. This project required extensive collaboration with multiple advocacy groups across the city and was successful because of our commitment to directly involve the recipients of the services during the project’s planning and execution.

In recognition of these efforts I was awarded the Kevin McIntire Scholarship by the Southeastern District in 2016, and the Professional Engagement Award by Texas Woman’s University School of Physical Therapy in 2017. I have built strong contacts within the physical therapy community and it is my goal to continue working to elevate the position of physical therapy within our communities. These experiences have increased my commitment to our profession and have given me the skills and insight necessary to guide our profession to greater standing in society.

Gail Zitterkopf, PT, DPT, CLT

**Present Employment:** Memorial Hermann Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation – Pelvic Health Center  
**Position:** Pelvic Health Program Manager  
**City:** Houston  
**APTA Member:** 17 years  
**TPTA Member:** 10 years

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Delegates at Large. I’ve had the opportunity to regularly attend the Combined Sectional Meeting and Annual conferences. In addition, I have been a gallery member in the House of Delegates and have served on the Elections Committee for the House of Delegates. These experiences have allowed me to remain current in our profession. More importantly to inform clinicians and DPT students about
changing health care policies, the barriers and successes concerning our physical therapy services, and the future direction of our profession. I believe that these opportunities to work with clinicians, students, and educators as well as my commitment to the profession would make me an excellent Delegate.

My involvement at the state and national level demonstrate my desire to contribute to the physical therapy profession and promote its advancement. In today’s ever changing political and regulatory environments, I feel that it is my professional obligation to advocate for physical therapy and ensure that we are recognized as providers of knowledgeable and skilled care. The blending of my background in clinical care coupled with my activity in both State and Federal legislative matters allows me to offer a broad brush stroke of experiences and awarded me the opportunity to serve on many diverse committees and professional organizations. I would be honored to employ my leadership skills as a Delegate in advocating for the advancement of physical therapy. It is with deep with great honor, enthusiasm, vision and dedication to our profession that I ask for your support so that I may serve as a Delegate.