

## President's Address

### INFORMATION: WHERE TO FIND IT

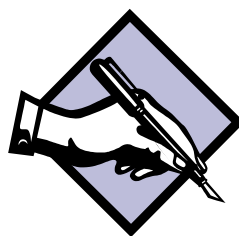
#### Inside this issue:

- How to find Members 2
- Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates 3
- APTA Advocacy Academy 4
- Save the Date!! 5
- AMBUCS 6
- Current OPTA Board Members 7
- OPTA's NEW Contact Informa- 8

What a wonderful Mid-Year meeting we had in September. Attendance was outstanding with 170 people participating in the meeting. The inaugural lecture on ethics sponsored by OPTA was presented, and from the comments I received everyone was pleased. Many comments were similar to this one: "I thought this ethics stuff was just going to be a hassle. I was surprised this information was helpful and actually, I am glad we're going to have to talk about this stuff more regularly." Hats off to OPTA 1st VP, Shawn Smith, PT for pulling together this excellent meeting and to all of the presenters at the meeting, Melissa Haddock, PT, JD, Suzanne Reese, PT, MS, Peggy DeCelle Newman, PT, MHR, and Mark Anderson, PT, PhD, ATC.

As time progresses, culture shifts and how information is delivered changes. Most of us remember when computers first became available and affordable and all of us remember the invention of the World Wide Web. The location of information changes over time, and a few thoughts on "Information: Where to find it" leapt into my consciousness since I am continually fielding e-mails and phone call's from members trying to find information.

How do you find contact information for physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students? Two loca-



tions are easily accessible. On the APTA website, ([www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)) under member services a member directory is available. You can search for APTA/OPTA members by name, chapter, and section. This directory contains information provided to APTA by our members. On the Oklahoma Board of Medical Supervision and Licensure website ([www.osbmls.state.ok.us/](http://www.osbmls.state.ok.us/)) a member search directory is available on the Oklahoma Physical Therapists and Assistants web-page. On this website you can find any Oklahoma licensed physical therapist or physical therapy assistant and typically their work address and contact information.

How do you find information regarding the current physical therapy practice act and rules, approved continuing education courses, requirements for reli-

censure, and minutes of the PT committee? Go to the Oklahoma Physical Therapists and Assistants web-page ([www.osbmls.state.ok.us/](http://www.osbmls.state.ok.us/)). This page contains meeting agendas, meeting minutes, proposed rule changes, the current physical therapy practice act and rules, and forms for approval of continuing education courses.

How do you find information about OPTA activities? Go to the OPTA website ([www.okpt.org](http://www.okpt.org)). This website is being updated as we go to print. Once online the website will contain board members and committee chair contact information, state and district meeting notices, outside course and job advertisements, and member resources. The website will also have several new sections including, legislative updates, a members only section, and online conference registration.

So, in this age of computers and information, go forth and explore.

This does not mean I don't want to hear from you, the members, but I hope this review will help you find what you are looking for in a timely manner.

Continued on page 4



# National Provider Numbers

## Important Message regarding the National Provider Number from Medicare to Medicare Providers, Billers, Clearinghouses, and Vendors

CMS plans to begin testing the new software that has been developed to use the National Provider Identifier (NPI) in the existing Medicare fee-for-service claims processing systems. After May 23, 2007 providers will be required to submit claims with ONLY an NPI.

Until then, CMS urges providers to continue submitting Medicare fee-for-service claims using either the provider legacy number alone (eg, PIN, NSC number, OSCAR number, or UPIN) or the provider legacy number with NPI. If you submit a claim at this time without the legacy number and only an NPI, you are at risk for non-payment. If you have any questions, go to the CMS Web site at: [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/06\\_implementation.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/06_implementation.asp)

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR NATIONAL PROVIDER NUMBER REMEMBER TO

*You  
already  
have  
access to a  
valuable  
benefit!*

## Finding APTA Members!

If you are a member of APTA, you have access to the online directory of other APTA members! It is simple! Just log on and enter the name of the person you are looking for. You will be provided with the person's contact information!

There are also many benefits to being a section member. For instance, I am a member of the Acute Care Section. This entitles me to subscribe to the AcutePT electronic community intended for communication to and between APTA Acute Care Section members. It is owned by the Acute Care Section and is a moderated list. Participation is limited to Section Members. Members can post questions and discuss issues online. It is a very active listserv, and has lots of great information. Similar listservs are also available to members of other Sections. For more information visit the APTA website at [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org).

Pam Troup, PT



## OPTF Golf Tournament

The OPTF golf tournament will be held on Friday March 23rd at Kickingbird golf course in Edmond.

Lunch will be served at 11:00 and we will have a shotgun start at noon.

We are in real need of hole sponsors as well as prize sponsors. We are also in need of volunteers to assist with all of these tasks.

Any volunteers can call Randy Titony at (405) 740-2887.

# OPTA Nominating Committee Seeking Candidates

The Oklahoma Physical Therapy Association Nominating Committee is seeking enthusiastic physical therapists and physical therapist assistants as candidates for statewide elections next spring. The committee of Suzanne Reese, Susan Buff and Muffin McNeil would like to present a full slate to the membership at the Annual Meeting, for the following positions:

Chief Delegate	Only PTs are eligible
Treasurer	PTs and PTAs are eligible
Second VP	Only PTs eligible
Nominating Committee	PTs and PTAs are eligible
Ethics Committee (2)	PTs and PTAs are eligible
PT Advisory Committee (3)	Only PTs are eligible



The majority of these positions only requirement is that the candidate be a member in good standing for two years. The only exception is the Chief Delegate. Candidates for this position must be a member in good standing and must have been a delegate within the last six years.

The Nominating Committee will be happy to answer any questions about these positions. You can contact the Nominating Committee at the following email addresses:

Suzanne Reese, Chair	<a href="mailto:sreese@tulsacc.edu">sreese@tulsacc.edu</a>
Susan Buff	<a href="mailto:susan.buff@valir.com">susan.buff@valir.com</a>
Muffin McNeil	<a href="mailto:muffin76pt@yahoo.com">muffin76pt@yahoo.com</a>

YOU CAN AFFECT THE FUTURE OF YOUR PROFESSION BY VOLUNTEERING TO RUN FOR AN OPEN CHAPTER OR DISTRICT POSITION.

**Chief Delegate:** a member of the Chapter BOD and executive committee. Attends BOD and chapter business meetings, leader of the Oklahoma delegation to the APTA House of Delegates and represents the Chapter at House of Delegate activities at CSM. Time commitment: approximately 2-4 hrs/mo plus 2 national meetings lasting 2-4 days.

**Second Vice President:** a member of the Chapter BOD and executive committee. Attends BOD and chapter business meetings and serves as the Chapter's Public and Professional Relations Chairperson. The 2nd VP organizes PR events, organizes and manages PT monthly activities, and seeks opportunities to promote the PT profession. Time commitment: 2-4 hrs/mo with more time prior to PT monthly and annual meetings.

**Treasurer:** a member of the Chapter BOD and executive committee. Attends BOD and chapter business meetings, serves as chair of the Finance Committee, maintains the Chapter funds including investments and checking accounts, works with the executive director in monitoring monthly financial records, coordinates the yearly audit and filing of taxes, and prepares the proposed budget for each year. Time

commitment: approximately 8-10hrs/mo.

**Nominating Committee Member:** solicits interest for open chapter positions, works with other committee members to develop the slate of nominees for the elections, attends BOD meetings as desired, 3rd year of term serves as the committee chairperson. Time commitment: approximately 20 hrs/yr.

**Ethics Committee Member:** serves as one of six members of the Chapter ethics committee who investigates and reviews complaints sent to the Chapter President. Time commitment: minimal.

**PT Advisory Committee:** OPTA submits two names to the Oklahoma Medical Board of Licensure and Supervision for appointment to the PT Advisory Committee. If appointed this indi-

## ***DISTRICT OFFICER POSITIONS OPEN:***

Both Eastern and Western District have open Director positions and should be having Chairperson elections in January. Mark Hildebrand, Eastern District Chairperson can run for a second term. The Western District Chairperson position is open. The district chairperson's and director's serve as members of the OPTA Board of Directors.



## Save the Date for APTA's Advocacy Academy and PT Day on the Hill in Washington DC

Make plans today to attend the APTA's Advocacy Academy and PT Day on the Hill in Washington DC May 23-24. The **Advocacy Academy**, formerly known as the Federal Government Affairs Forum, will feature programming for students, new advocates and advanced advocacy sessions at the Omni Shoreham Hotel followed by a **PT Day on the Hill**.

The **PT Day on the Hill** will provide participants an opportunity to meet with their members of Congress after being briefed on the current issues facing the physical therapy profession. Mark your calendars for the advocacy event with registration opening in early February. This year, the event will follow the House of Delegates meeting in Washington DC.

Keep updated on the latest news by visiting the advocacy section of APTA's website at [www.apta.org/advocacy](http://www.apta.org/advocacy). Look under the **Upcoming Events** section for registration details.

## Announcement...

The **Oklahoma Physical Therapy Association Awards Committee** is calling for nominations for both:

- CHAPTER FOUNDERS AWARD**
- OUTSTANDING PTA AWARD**

Applications are located at [www.okpt.org](http://www.okpt.org) or by contacting Laura Brookins at [laura@okpt.org](mailto:laura@okpt.org) or by phone at 405-562-1280.

*The application deadline is February 16, 2007*

## President's Address *continued...*



Have a wonderful winter season. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting on March 23-25, 2007 in Oklahoma City.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Jeffries

hope this review will help you find what you are looking for in a timely manner.

Have a wonderful winter season and I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting

March 23-25, 2007 in Oklahoma City.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Jeffries



March  
23rd - 27th  
2007

in  
Oklahoma  
City

We are  
60 Years  
Old??

**Save the Date: March 23—25, 2007**

## **OPTA's 2007 Annual Meeting**

**“Advancing Your Practice – Advancing the Profession”**

Clarion Convention Center, Oklahoma City, OK, March 23-25-2007

Scheduled Speakers include **Chris Powers**, PT, PhD on the topic “Functional Biomechanics of the Lower Quarter” and **Robert Duvall**, PT DHSC, MMSc, ATC, OCS, FAAOMPT, MTC, PCC, CSCS on the topic “Differential Diagnosis and Medical Screening for the Physical Therapist”

Plus, another speaker, to be announced at a later date, and an Ethics course to support your Oklahoma CEU requirements!

Sponsorships are available for this meeting. Please contact the OPTA office if you or your company are interested.

## **Linda John, PT named Emerging Leader**

Linda John, PT of Yukon, OK was named one of 23 recipients of APTA's *Emerging Leader Award*.

The award recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated extra-ordinary services to the profession early in their careers. Upon graduation Linda participated on the OPTA legislative committee and within 1 year was the chairperson. She also served as the membership committee chairperson for 4 years. Linda was recognized for the leadership and legislative success she has already brought to the association and her vision of the realization of direct access and additional successful legislative activities.

## **The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of OPTA**

2007 is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oklahoma Physical Therapy Association.

If you have memorabilia or memories you would like to share at the spring meeting please contact the OPTA office to arrange for display.

Help us remember our past and consider our future!

## Welcome the new OPTA Executive Director



Let me introduce Laura Brookins, Esq, OPTA’s new Executive Director. Laura brings an outstanding background to our association.

For the past two years Linda John and I have worked with Laura in her role as legal counsel for Fried.Kilpatrick.Guinn, OPTA’s lobbying firm. Last year she assisted in writing draft legislative language and has provided weekly updates on related legislative events.

Laura also serves as the executive director for the Oklahoma Association of Health Plans. She brings organization and forward thinking to our association.

Since starting on October 1<sup>st</sup> Laura has already spearheaded the revamping of the OPTA website, organized our meeting planning schedule, coordinated the opening of a new office, and identified ways to enhance communication within the board of directors and association. I ask you to join me in welcoming Laura Brookins, Esq.

Laura can be reached by e-mail at [laura@okpt.org](mailto:laura@okpt.org). New OPTA office information is located on the back page of the newsletter.

“local chapters  
secure money  
to support  
various mobility  
and access  
programs for  
individuals with  
disabilities”

## AMBUCS: Supporting Physical Therapy

In August OPTA Secretary Debbie Christian, PT, spoke at the Oklahoma City AMBUCS chapter meeting. She presented information related to national and local physical therapy activities. She fielded questions regarding direct access and state legislative activities, physical therapy education and the status of DPT programs in Oklahoma, and client services within the state. This group of individuals was very interested in state and national legislation.

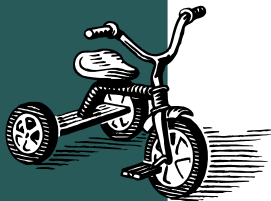
AMBUCS is a national service organization dedicated to creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities and supporting therapist education. The organization has provided over \$6 million dollars worth of scholarships to students in physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology, and audiology programs over the past 50 years.

Besides therapist scholarships, local chapters secure money to support various mobility and access programs for individuals with disabilities. The AmTryke Project is the cornerstone of the children’s mobility program with over 6,000 trykes delivered since 1994. The tricycles feature a combination of hand/foot drive enhancing the mobility options for children with disabilities.

The organization also developed a ramp building guide to increase the accessibility of homes and partnered with Prairieview Industries to provide discounts for modular ramps.

Several chapters focus on building or refurbishing of playgrounds to enhance accessibility for children. A final focus started with the Sooner chapter in Norman, OK. ASK is a program where members refurbish donated computers and distribute them to people with disabilities in the local communities.

As therapists we should applaud AMBUCS for their support of physical therapists and individuals with disabilities and be aware of their programs and resources. Information is available at [www.ambucs.com](http://www.ambucs.com).



# OPTA Publication Information

## SMOKE SIGNALS Publication Information

Oklahoma Physical Therapy Association

*A Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association*

EDITOR: Pam Troup, PT

Pam\_troup@ssmhc.com

405-272-5410

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Laura Brookins, Esq.

laura@okpt.org

405-562-1280

## OBJECTIVES & POLICY

**Smoke Signals** is a publication of the Oklahoma Physical Therapy Association, a chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association. Its purpose is to communicate chapter activities and news to the membership. The dates of publication may vary according to schedules of office Association business.

The editor reserves the right to restrict, edit, or reject any materials submitted for publication or advertising in accordance with existing or future OPTA policy. Published articles express the views of the author or contributor and do not necessarily represent official policies or views of the Association. All articles submitted must include the name, title and contact information for the author.

## ADVERTISING

**Smoke Signals** accepts paid advertising. An ad appearing in OPTA publications does not imply or constitute endorsement of those products, services or employers by the OPTA or sponsorship of an educational event. Pricing information is located on the OPTA website, [www.okpt.org](http://www.okpt.org).

SUBMIT ARTICLES and ADVERTISEMENTS TO:

Oklahoma Physical Therapy Association

Mail: P.O. Box 5354, Edmond, OK 73083

E-mail: [laura@okpt.org](mailto:laura@okpt.org)

## *Keep Alert! Join PTeam Today*

You can help by joining APTA's Advocacy network, PTeam today. PTeam members receive Action Alerts and Information Bulletins on current legislation impacting physical therapists. Action Alerts provide talking points and a link to APTA's Legislative Action Center where you can send a message directly to your member of Congress about an issue.

Information Bulletins provide updates on issues like Medicare Direct Access, the Medicare Therapy Cap, new legislation to add physical therapists to the National Public Health Service Corp to qualify for student loan forgiveness and many more issues. PTeam members also receive a quarterly newsletter with advocacy tips and updates.

To join PTeam, visit [www.apta.org/advocacy](http://www.apta.org/advocacy) and click on the Keep Alert! icon or contact Mike Matlack at [michaelmatlack@apta.org](mailto:michaelmatlack@apta.org).

## Current OPTA Board Members

### President:

Lynn Jeffries, PT, PhD, PCS  
[lynn-jeffries@ouhsc.edu](mailto:lynn-jeffries@ouhsc.edu)

### 1st Vice President:

Shawn Smith, PT  
[smsmithpt@yahoo.com](mailto:smsmithpt@yahoo.com)

### 2nd Vice President:

Cindy Merrick, PT  
[cmerick3@cox.net](mailto:cmerick3@cox.net)

### Secretary:

Debbie Christian, PT  
[debrac@nrh-ok.com](mailto:debrac@nrh-ok.com)

### Treasurer:

Liesa Persaud, PT, MPT  
[liesamarie@msn.com](mailto:liesamarie@msn.com)

### Chief Delegate:

Brenda Horn, PT  
[mmagichands@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmagichands@sbcglobal.net)

### PTA Caucus Rep:

Nancy Davis, PTA  
[nancypta@valornet.com](mailto:nancypta@valornet.com)

### Eastern District Chairperson:

Mark Hildebrand, PT  
[mhildebrand@sjmc.org](mailto:mhildebrand@sjmc.org)

### Eastern District Director:

Vickie Jurries, PTA  
[vjurries@tulsacc.edu](mailto:vjurries@tulsacc.edu)

### Western District Chairperson

Position Open

### Western District Director

Position Open

Eastern District Director Position, past due for election. Vickie Jurries, PTA continues in this position until elections occur.

**SMOKE SIGNALS**

**The Oklahoma Physical Therapy Association  
Newsletter, a Chapter of the American Physical  
Therapy Association**

**Post Office Box 5354  
Edmond, Oklahoma 73083**

**Oklahoma Physical  
Therapy Association**

Post Office Box 5354  
Edmond, Oklahoma 73083

Phone: 405-562-1280

Fax: 405-562-1281

[www.okpt.org](http://www.okpt.org)

**IMPORTANT EVENTS**

**OPTA ANNUAL MEETING:**

**MARCH 23rd — 25th, 2007**

**Clarion Convention Center, Oklahoma  
City, Oklahoma**

**OPTA MID-YEAR MEETING:**

**AUGUST 25th, 2007**

**Tulsa, Oklahoma**

**APTA/OPTA APC COURSE:**

**Pharmacology for the Physical Therapist**

**OCTOBER 27th—28th, 2007**

**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

**PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
OKLA. CITY, OK  
PERMIT NO. 926**