



# NEWSLETTER

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER  
AMERICAN PHYSICAL  
THERAPY ASSOCIATION

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## THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE – A REASON FOR CONCERN

My first act as president of the New Jersey Chapter was to reassess the problems and complexities of the future and try to put them into proper perspective. In doing so, I have been able to outline those areas that I feel require our most urgent attention and all out effort. Chiefly the areas of challenge are:

1. To have the amendments revising the current Physical Therapy Statutes signed into law;
2. To set forth a formal, printed document indicating standards by which we as a profession expect all therapists to abide;
3. To establish and maintain open communication with the intermediaries responsible for the medicare program and, when implemented, for the medicaid program.
4. To establish a school for a baccalaureate in Physical Therapy in New Jersey.
5. To prepare for implementation of the guide lines for Physical Therapy Assistants and Aides.

The more long range goals include: cooperating with the development and implementation of a school for Allied Health Professions, and regional medical programs. In addition, through continuing education programs we must prepare for the changing roles and responsibilities that we as Physical Therapists will face in the decade.

To achieve meaningful results to these and many other goals, I feel it is urgent that we consider major by-law changes concerning the structure of some of the chapter committees.

Here are examples of some committee changes which will better serve the needs of the Chapter: The Standard and Practice Committee which is currently developing guidelines for standards of practice and which is playing a vital role in our meetings with the fiscal intermediaries is presently a committee created by the Executive Committee. The Standards and Practice Committee must become a standing committee of the Board. Also, the Supportive Personnel Committee which was formed to develop the guidelines for the education, training and utilization of physical therapy assistants and aides must concern themselves on a continuing basis with the progression of this group in our profession as related to social-economic conditions, employment trends, etc. Therefore this committee also should become a standing committee of the Board.

At the first chapter meeting further explanation will be given and I will ask all district chairmen to present these and other suggested by law changes in greater depth and ask for your suggestions.

Some positive steps have been taken to date by your organization in an attempt to meet the previous areas of challenge.

1. Representatives of the New Jersey Chapter attended on June 11th a meeting with fiscal intermediaries of the State of New Jersey and the Social Security Administration to discuss the complexity of the Medicare law and the overall relationship of Physical Therapy in the Medicare program. Another meeting will be held on August 13 at which time we will pursue in depth the guidelines for establishing re-imbusement formulas.
2. I attended a meeting of the New Jersey Health Careers Service at which time a state wide program for developing a school of Allied Health Professions was discussed. I will continue to serve on a committee established to create an overall outline for the development of such a school.
3. The Vice-President, Mr. Gary Savander, has been working with Mr. Ed Meara in an attempt to devise some methods by which the Governor would review our amendments and sign them into law. If we do not succeed in our attempts, we will submit the bill again to the legislature in the fall.

The reason for my concern is not that we lack the potential to meet these challenges and to forge the future of Physical Therapy in this state ahead, but rather that there seem to be so few concerned enough to assist in the development of these many programs. The future of physical therapy may very well be decided in the next 5 to 10 years. Please don't let it be said that so few tried to do so much for so many.

This is your organization, it is your future, help!