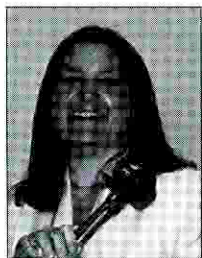




American Physical
Therapy Association
Of New Jersey

J E R S E Y Jargon

Winter 2002
/ Spring 2003



The President's View

New Jersey Becomes the 36th Direct Access State!

In This Issue...

- *Direct Access in New Jersey!*
- *Call for Award Nominations*
- *Spring Meeting 2003*
- *Candidate Statements*
- *Treasurer's Report*
- *Home Health SIG Update*
- *Professional Affairs Report*
- *Reimbursement News*
 - Medicare \$1,500 Therapy Cap
 - New Code for Unattended E-Stim
 - Horizon BC/BS & Orthonet
- *APTA Membership Application*



Spring Business &
Membership Meeting
and
Forum: *How Will Direct
Access and the New PT
Practice Act Affect Clinical
Practice in New Jersey?*

Saturday, March 29, 2003
Mercer County Community College
Conference Center - West Windsor, NJ



American Physical Therapy Association

As this issue of the *Jersey Jargon* was headed to press, we received the long-awaited news that Governor James McGreevey signed New Jersey Senate Bill S-2004, which permits consumers to directly access the services of physical therapists. Governor McGreevey signed the bill, which was sponsored by Assemblymen Anthony Impreduto (D-32) and Jeffrey Moran (R-9), and Senators Robert Singer (R-30) and Joseph Vitale (D-19), on February 13, 2003. The signing occurred while many aptanj members were in Tampa, Florida, for the APTA Combined Sections Meeting, which resulted in a great deal of excitement and national attention for the New Jersey Chapter. This is a significant step on the way to nationwide Direct Access!

The governor's signature was the culmination of a whirlwind of legislative activity, which began in Fall 2002, after many years of preparation for this opportunity. On November 7, 2002, the corresponding Assembly bill, A-2557, unanimously passed the N.J. Assembly Regulated Professions and Independent Authorities Committee, despite opposition from the New Jersey Medical Society and other physician groups. There were also obstacles to be overcome with the automobile insurance carriers. Despite the victory of Assembly Committee passage, it was obvious that our best chance for further advancement

was to negotiate with those who opposed our bill.

A meeting was held with representatives from the automobile insurance carriers in an attempt to reach consensus. Richard Stoneking, Ken Maily, our lobbyist Wendy Wolf, and I represented the aptanj. As a result of our intense negotiation and amendment language, there was no further opposition from the automobile insurance carriers.

In addition, Ken Maily, Wendy Wolf and I met, and spoke in conference call, with representatives of the New Jersey Medical Society and other physician groups. As a result of these long and sometimes difficult conversations, compromise amendment language was reached that satisfied all parties, and most importantly, eliminated physician opposition to our bill.

Though we had anticipated that the Senate Health Committee would hear S-2004 in early 2003, it was unexpectedly placed on the Committee agenda for December 9, 2002. After reaching the above-mentioned compromises, we were pleased to see that all those prepared to testify in committee were signed up to speak in favor of the amended bill, including representatives of the automobile insurance industry and the

Continued on page 3