



American Physical
Therapy Association
Of New Jersey

J E R S E Y jargon

Spring 2009



The President's View

If I Knew Then What I Know Now

In This Issue...

- [President's View](#)
- [Election Results](#)
- [Practice Committee](#)
- [NJ Student Assembly](#)
- [2009 Board Certified Specialists](#)
- [Council of Directors Reports](#)
- [Annual Conference 2009](#)
- [Counselor's Corner](#)
- [Faces of APTAnj](#)

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American Physical Therapy Association

As I embark upon my second term as President of the American Physical Therapy Association of New Jersey (APTAnj), I am struck by the element of unexpectedness that comes with this position. Having been on the APTAnj Council of Directors during the terms of two presidents who preceded before me, I thought I had a loose handle on the commitment it would take to meet the obligations of the Office of President. In fact, I can remember the "Aha!" moment when I knew that I could do this, and do it reasonably well at that. At least that was what I thought. *If I only knew then, what I know now.*

My last two years have been spent in an accelerated program of non-profit operations, legislative & public advocacy, and nurturing component / national relations. I have logged over 50,000 ground transportation miles, and probably half that many again in a plane or train. I have spent thousands of minutes on the phone with colleagues here in New Jersey as well as across the country, building relationships with physical therapists, state & federal legislators, state agencies, payers, consumers and patients. There have been many opportunities for positive communication with the stakeholders of our profession. But, there have also been times when the words did not flow quite the way I would have liked, or my message did not come across as I had intended. There have been many days when I went to bed thinking, "What did I get myself into? Can I do this better?" And, now I know what I wish I had known two years ago.

So, in the next two years I will continue to do my best to serve the members of APTAnj, the PT & PTA licensees of the Garden State,

and the profession of physical therapy. I want to see the Association flourish in this amazing age of technology and information sharing. I want to help us forge relationships with other stakeholders in healthcare who can be instrumental in the advancement of physical therapy as a doctoring profession, as well as facilitating fair payment policies for the services we provide. I look forward to fostering and growing membership by demonstrating the value of belonging to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) to those who have yet to experience the "Aha!" moment in their career that makes the cost of membership seem nominal for the benefits, or that chance meeting with an APTA colleague that leads to the job of a life time, or the continuing education program sponsored by the Association that perpetuates the skills that lead to specialty certification, or the access to information that gets you through the day treating patients that might otherwise not have an opportunity for successful outcomes.

So for those of you reading this who are APTA members, thank you for your commitment to the profession and the Association. I encourage you to share this message with your colleagues who are potential members. Invite them to find their "Aha!" moment in APTA membership, so that someday they can say, "If I knew then what know now, I would have joined sooner."

Patricia

Patricia D. Brick, PT, MS, GCS
President