



NEWS & UPDATES

February 11, 2026 - Vol. 308

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Payment Resources Workgroup

FPTA is looking for volunteers to join the Payment Resources Workgroup. This workgroup was established as part of the Strategic Plan to develop resources for members regarding payment policies. If you are interested in joining, please email Michelle Higdon at mhigdon@fpta.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Co-Pay Reform Workgroup

FPTA is looking for volunteers to join the Co-Pay Reform Workgroup. This workgroup was established as part of the Strategic Plan to research and develop language/legislation related to co-pay reform. If you are interested in joining, please email Michelle Higdon at mhigdon@fpta.org.

FPTA Annual Conference Planning Survey

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Please take time to help us plan a conference that best serves our membership. Your feedback directly guides our scheduling, programming, and CEU offerings. This survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

Take the Survey



The 2026 Nominations for **Elected Officers** and **Delegates** is now open. Positions available for election include **Secretary, Treasurer, PTA Director, Nominating Committee Member** and **Delegates to the APTA House**. Submit your nominations today! Deadline is April 17.

Nominate Now

Seeking PAC Committee Members

The FPT-PAC Committee is looking for volunteers to serve for a 1 year term. The first planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23 at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in participating, please email Michelle Higdon at mhigdon@fpta.org.

The FPT-PAC: Florida Physical Therapy Political Action Committee raises funds to assist with legislative and Advocacy efforts in the state of Florida that impact Physical Therapist Practice and patient access to Physical Therapy services.

In parallel with the APTA and PT-PAC, the purpose of the FPT-PAC shall be to promote and solicit voluntary contributions to be distributed for political expenditures to the campaign, political, and leadership committees of candidates for state office who have expressed real or potential interest in issues involving physical therapist practice in Florida, and shown commitment to the views, goals, and initiatives promoted by FPT-PAC, FPTA and APTA.



Congress passes a funding package that includes a two-year extension of telehealth flexibilities and a one-year extension of the GPCI floor

Congress voted on Tuesday, Feb. 3, to pass an appropriations package that will fund the government for the fiscal year 2026. Included in this minibus spending package, among other items, is funding for a two-year extension of Medicare telehealth flexibilities and funding for a one-year extension of the Geographic Practice Cost Index, or GPCI, floor, which boosts payments for Medicare providers in rural areas in over 50 Medicare payment localities.

[Read More](#)

APTA efforts led to changes in commercial and government payer policies that reduced administrative burden and advanced payment

Efforts from APTA members and staff led to 26 million-plus people having direct access to physical therapist services – and that's just one of the 21 regulatory policy changes APTA staff advocated for in 2025.

In 2025, APTA members and staff successfully advocated for meaningful payment reforms with commercial and government payers. Focused on increasing access to PT services, reducing administrative burden, and advancing fair payment, APTA's coordinated and strategic efforts demonstrated **APTA's ongoing commitment to advancing payment for the profession.**

[Read More](#)



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Andrew N. Loscalzo, PT, DPT, ATC

Andy has been a licensed PT for 39+ years and works predominately in private practice and home care. He is a member of the West Central District.

Professional Background

What inspired you to pursue a career in physical therapy/physical therapy assisting?

At age 19, I was changing my major to Sports Medicine/Athletic training and needed a P/T job for college tuition. I visited my hometown hospital, and they had a P.T. Aide job available, and my P.T. journey began!

[Read More about Andy](#)

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Jacksonville | June 5-7
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CALL FOR SPEAKERS

FPTA is currently seeking speakers/presenters for our 2026 Annual Conference in Orlando, Sept. 17-20. Click the link below to submit your proposal.



Deadline is March 13!

[Application](#)

Upcoming Events



Shining a light on professional excellence

LAMP

Leadership. Advocacy. Management. Practice.



APTA
Academy of Leadership
& Innovation

June 6-7, 2026
University of Miami



FPTA Members \$425 | Non-Members \$575

[More Information](#)



Feb. 27-28
2026

STUDENT CONCLAVE

Fuel the Movement

Hosted by
The Florida Gulf Coast University



FPTA Student Member - \$55
Student Non-Member - \$60
FGCU Student Attendees - \$40

Register by Feb. 12 to secure your spot and guarantee lunch and available merchandise.

[Register Now!](#)

Join the Neuro SIG for a CE Presentation titled
**"Rapid Review of Huntington's, Friedrich's Ataxia, CIDP,
NPH: What the Rehab Team Needs to Know"**

Date: Monday, April 6, 2026

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Cost: FREE

More details coming soon!

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

A poster for a Pub Night event. The background is a warm, bokeh-style image of a pub interior with hanging Edison-style light bulbs and wooden beams. The text is centered and reads: "EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT", "PUB Night", "Thursday, February 19", "5:00 - 7:00 pm", and "RockPit Brewery & Distilling". Below the venue name is the address: "10 W Illiana St. Orlando, FL 32806". In the bottom right corner of the poster is the logo for the Florida Physical Therapy Association (FPTA), which includes a map of Florida and the text "FPTA FLORIDA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION".

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT
PUB Night
Thursday, February 19
5:00 - 7:00 pm
RockPit Brewery & Distilling
10 W Illiana St.
Orlando, FL 32806



NORTHERN DISTRICT



NORTHERN DISTRICT

PT PUB NIGHT

Thursday, Feb. 26
Culhane's Irish Pub

9720 Deer Lake Ct,
Jacksonville, FL 32246

5:30 pm

Other locations:

St. Augustine & Gainesville - TBD

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

**BEACH
CLEAN UP**

**JOIN US
3/7**

Grab your friends, family, and coworkers and join WCD for a beach clean up day at Davis Island Beach.

**SATURDAY
MARCH 7TH**

**START AT
8:30 AM**

Davis Island Beach, 864 Severn Ave., Tampa, 33606

Please RSVP to Erica Disbrow; edisbrow1028@gmail.com

**WEST CENTRAL
DISTRICT**

PT Pub Night

5:30 PM

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Two Shepherds Tap Room
4813 North Grady Ave., Tampa, FL 33614

Calling all PTs and PTAs! Join us for a fun and relaxed evening of connection, good conversation, and camaraderie with fellow physical therapy professionals. We can't wait to see you there!

FLORIDA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

PAC
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The money raised for the Florida Physical Therapy Political Action Committee (FPT-PAC) will be used in our efforts to modernize the Practice Act in Florida. The Florida Practice Act governs every physical therapist and physical therapist assistant in the state. We need your support to modernize the act and remove barriers to providing physical therapy services. [Donate Today](#)

President's Circle - \$500- \$999

Jamie Dyson

Ambassador - \$250-\$499

Mark Bishop
Dan Curtis
Ketul Shah

Century Circle - \$100-\$249

Michelle Higdon
Katherine Kounnas
Kimberly McCloughan
Joan Miller
Leiselle Pilgrim

PAC Friend - \$1-\$99

Jonathan Alicea
Lenis Alicea-Yildrim
Jessica Carter Peer
Sandra Davis
Katie Hockin
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