POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS LEADERSHIP AWARD BOD Y03-05-08-20 [Initial BOD 01-03-01-01] [Policy]

Purpose

1. To recognize outstanding achievements by APTA members in advancing the Association’s Federal Government Affairs objectives and activities.

2. To increase awareness among APTA members of the objectives and importance of the Association’s efforts to advocate policies and priorities at the federal government level to preserve and promote the profession of physical therapy.

3. To increase participation among APTA members in the Association’s Federal Government Affairs activities by recognizing the involvement and contributions of their colleagues.

4. To demonstrate by practical example how physical therapists can play a significant role in influencing federal health care policy.

Criteria for Eligibility

1. Must be an active APTA member in good standing.

2. Must be a licensed physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, or physical therapist/physical therapist assistant student.

3. Must have made significant individual contributions and shown exemplary leadership in furthering the Association’s Federal Government Affairs activities including:
   A. Developing a professional relationship with a Member of Congress
   B. Hosting clinic/facility tours and briefings for Members of Congress and their staff
   C. Actively participating in congressional election campaigns
   D. Recruiting, organizing, and assisting other APTA members in becoming more effective advocates and increasing the overall effectiveness the Association’s grassroots advocacy efforts
   E. Providing information and promoting APTA advocacy efforts to other physical therapists as a benefit of Association membership
   F. Educating patients/clients and the general public about physical therapy and its role in health care through press and media activities

4. Must be a role model for other physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and physical therapist/physical therapist assistant students in advocating the profession to patients/clients, federal policy makers, and the public.

5. Current members of the APTA Board of Directors and members of the APTA Awards Committee - Advocacy Awards Subcommittee are not eligible to be nominated for this award and shall not nominate, write letters of support, or endorse an individual for this award.
Criteria for Selection

The following areas will be utilized in reviewing nominations:

1. Demonstrated success in establishing relationships with Members of Congress measured by support for legislation, ability to communicate directly with the Member.
2. Active involvement in and contributions to APTA Federal Government Affairs activities.
3. Leadership in grassroots recruiting, organizing, and coordination.
4. Leadership in local press and media education and activities.
5. Support from APTA and Component leadership.
6. Years of service to APTA and Component government affairs activities.

Procedure for Nomination

1. Nominations may be submitted via fax or e-mail to APTA’s Member Services Department by individuals or components including:
   A. Component President/Executive
   B. Federal Affairs Liaison
   C. Public Policy and Advocacy Committee Member
   D. PT-PAC Board Trustee

2. Documentation required to accompany each nomination includes:
   A. Nomination form
   B. Letter from nominator
   C. Supporting documentation and/or additional endorsements

Procedure for Review

All nominees will be reviewed by APTA’s Member Services Department. Recommendations will be developed in consultation with APTA’s Grassroots and Political Affairs Department and the Awards Committee - Advocacy Awards Subcommittee and sent to the Board of Directors for selection.

Selection Process

The award recipient will be selected by APTA’s Board of Directors.

Nature of Award

The Federal Government Affairs Leadership Award will be presented annually at the Federal Advocacy Forum in Washington, DC. The winner of the award will be recognized with the following:

1. Airfare, hotel, and expenses to attend the Federal Advocacy Forum. (If the winner is already registered to attend the Forum, his or her chapter would be able to send an additional person.)
2. An individual plaque for the recipient.
3. Inscription of the recipient’s name on a plaque to be displayed in APTA’s Government Affairs Department.
4. Recognition in PT in Motion.
5. An article in the quarterly PTeam newsletter.

Explanation of Reference Numbers:
BOD P00-00-00-00 stands for Board of Directors/month/year/page/vote in the Board of Directors Minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, BOD P11-97-06-18 means that this position can be found in the November 1997 Board of Directors minutes on Page 6 and that it was Vote 18.