Candidate Statement – Candidate for Vice President



Susan A. Appling, PT, DPT, PhD Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy

Question: What uniquely qualifies you for the role of Vice President, and how does that contribute to the association's vision, mission, and strategic plan?

Response:

The Bylaws state the role of the Vice President is to assume the duties of the President in the absence or incapacitation of the President. The Vice President serves on APTA's Executive Committee, as Chair of the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee (PPAC), Co-chair of the CEO review committee, liaison to the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), and Chair of the Physical Therapy (PTJ) Editor-in-Chief (EIC) Review and Search committee. My depth and breadth of volunteer experience across the Association for 30+ years has prepared me to be an effective, collaborative, and strategic leader. My experience to serve as Vice President includes the following:

Chair of PPAC:

- 30+ years **experience** advocating and lobbying for the physical therapy profession
- testifying before state legislatures
- participation in Capitol Hill visits
- 4 years as a PT-PAC Trustee

FSBPT liaison

- <u>Experience</u> working with FSBPT representatives on the Education Leadership Partnership (ELP) since 2017
- As fifth member of APTA's Executive Committee, participated in the annual meeting of APTA and FSBPT Boards
- Understand the importance of a good relationship between the two organizations
- My long-term relationships with the two organizations will facilitate my role as liaison.

CEO Review Committee Co-chair

- **Experience** serving on the CEO Review Committee as fifth member of the APTA's Executive Committee
- Serving on the APTA Board in 2016 when we decided to hire a new CEO
- CEO Search Board Workgroup in 2013

Chair of the PTJ EIC Review/Search Committee

- **Experience** serving on the JOSPT Board of Directors and as JOSPT Vice President
- Negotiated contracts with the JOSPT Editor-in-Chief
- Served as Chair of the Board/Staff workgroup on *PTJ* when the journal moved to external publishing.



I have **<u>experience</u>** as an engaged leader in the development of the Association's Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan.

- I was a delegate when the House adopted our Vision in 2013. "Transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience" has been our North Star since then.
- As a Board member since 2015, I helped craft our Mission statement: "Building a community that advances the profession of physical therapy to improve the health of society." Communities are built on relationships and consensus building. My Board colleagues have recognized these as strengths of mine.
- The Mission and Vision together guide the work of the Board and the Association. I have contributed to the development of last three APTA strategic plans. The strategic plan guides Board decisions regarding programs and activities of the Association.

Through my work as Chair of the Centennial Steering Committee, I have gained much appreciation for the wise words of our founders and those that followed. Florence Kendall said in her Mary McMillan Lecture, "Times have changed, problems are more complex, but unchanging are the drive, the dedication, and the faith in the future of our profession that motivated the leaders in the early years and in the decades that have followed." This statement is still true today. I have the drive, dedication, and faith to continue this journey as your Vice President.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve our Association. I am grateful to our colleagues who have supported and encouraged me to serve. I am also humbled that the Nominating Committee slated me as a candidate for Vice President. I very much want to serve as your Vice President and I ask for your vote.

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