

Candidate Statement – Candidate for Nominating Committee



Stephanie A. Weyrauch, PT, DPT, MSCI

Question: What strategies will you employ to develop a slate of candidates who provide unique value to APTA now and in the future?

Response:

To be an inclusive and welcoming organization, I believe we need to embrace the unique talents, perspectives, and experiences of our members when creating the slate for APTA national office. We must: 1) use technology to decrease barriers required to hold leadership positions, 2) collaborate with other APTA components to build a pool of candidates representative of our membership, and 3) foster relationships with new professionals, members with leadership experience outside the APTA, and non-slated candidates to further strengthen APTA's leadership pipeline.

Our association has utilized new technologies to conduct business amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This has opened opportunities to connect with members who could not engage in-person due to financial, personal, or geographic limitations. As a mother of a newborn, I was concerned that I would have to step back from some of my responsibilities within APTA Connecticut and the Private Practice Section (PPS). However, via novel technologies, I have remained engaged to the same extent I was pre-pandemic. For example, as Vice President of APTA Connecticut, I organized a bi-weekly virtual journal club to help membership stay engaged throughout the pandemic. Additionally, as PPS Nominating Committee (NC) Chair, I helped implement strategic changes to adapt and streamline our nominations process. We employed an online nomination form, decreased barriers required to nominate potential candidates, and standardized the interview and virtual campaign process. With these changes, we were able to reach a diverse group of leaders and build a slate that was more representative of the PPS membership. I plan to bring this experience to the APTA NC and work collaboratively with its current members to optimize recruitment of candidates for national office. By continuing to reduce barriers that may prevent members from considering APTA leadership, we will become a stronger organization that better reflects our membership.

Because APTA represents physical therapists and physical therapist assistants from varied practice settings and locations, it is essential that APTA NC engages with other components to share resources and best practices in order to build a collective pool of potential candidates from across our association. This partnership is in its infancy, though progress has been made with the establishment of a component NC community on the APTA HUB. I would like to contribute to the growth of this partnership by sharing the systems we developed for the PPS NC. During my 3-year term, I led a project assessing how the current PPS Board of Directors composition compared to the diversity of our membership. We used this data to assist in building our slate. I can bring this experience to the APTA NC to continue their work in creating slates that more closely reflects our membership. Board composition that is representative of our members, profession and society is key to our success as we begin the next 100 years of APTA.

By far the most rewarding aspect of serving on a Nominating Committee is connecting with members and learning about their aspirations -- why they want to serve, how their talents can enhance APTA, what their dreams are for the association, and which skills they hope to develop. I am a proud member of 5 APTA

academies/sections, and the recipient of APTA Emerging Leader Awards for two of those academies. My passions include building relationships with young professionals, supporting and mentoring members of various sections and chapters, and sparking interest in APTA service among new attendees to conferences. As a member of the APTA Retention and Recruitment for Early Career Member Task Force, I helped develop recommendations for the APTA Board to afford this group opportunities in leadership development. During my tenure on PPS NC and as Vice President of APTA Connecticut, I aimed to reach out to non-slated and non-elected candidates, helping them determine how they could further develop their leadership skills and best use their talents to serve the component in a different way.

In summary, my record of service has prepared me to serve on the APTA Nominating Committee and I am ready to contribute to the committee's work of identifying potential leaders, discerning barriers faced by members, and helping these members navigate a path to national office. I believe my unique personality and traits will strengthen the current talents on the APTA NC, so that together we can build a sustainable leadership pool for APTA national offices. I am honored to be slated for this office and look forward to engaging with you during the candidacy phase of the elections. I humbly ask for your vote.

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Contact: governancehouse@apta.org