

2023 Candidate Statement – Candidate for Director



Kelley Kubota, PT, MS
Board-Certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist

Question: What meaningful qualities do you bring to the Board of Directors that would help to achieve the APTA strategic plan?

Response:

Committed, passionate, dedicated, enthusiastic, and optimistic. I believe I can make a difference. As a clinician, clinical researcher, and advocate for the persons we serve and for our profession, service is a core part of who I am. I have thoroughly appreciated my participation on the California Physical Therapy Association Board, starting in 2015 as Director. Serving two terms as Director followed by my current position as Vice President and Speaker of the Assembly has been an honor and privilege. With this experience and two years plus on the Executive Committee, I am ready to be part of the leadership of our association. Partnering with members across our chapter demonstrated the impact of working together; expanding to the national level would be an incredible opportunity. I believe the timing is right for me to “take the leap.” My decision was based on my desire to help stimulate change and apply my strengths in collaborative problem-solving and relationship-building to address the challenges facing our profession. I continually look to enhance relationships built over many years and seek to establish new ones in an effort to improve our profession. My ability to bring people together has been demonstrated most notably by my leadership of the Task Force that successfully fundraised \$300,000 and organized coordination efforts to build the Rose Parade Float. This float honored and celebrated APTA’s Centennial and highlighted the diversity of individuals served by physical therapy. This public relations event raised international awareness of physical therapy, reaching sixty-five million persons worldwide. This responsibility also facilitated my participation on a national level as a member of the Centennial Steering Committee.

My skillset will support my role in enhancing public awareness, member engagement, and improving diversity, all components of the APTA strategic plan, as follows:

- Leading a global marketing and public education initiative (Rose Parade Float) had a powerful impact on individuals who felt seen by the way our float represented them. Sharing that physical therapy helps enhance quality of life by improving movement on an international platform was a foundational learning opportunity. I will build on this experience to educate our community on the multiple ways physical therapists and physical therapist assistants provide expertise in helping to restore movement.
- Members and prospective members must feel represented by APTA in order for our profession to thrive and continue to advance. As an association, it is our responsibility that our physical therapy community feels welcome and included. At times, I have felt like an outsider, despite participating in our profession at all levels. It can be disheartening to feel like your opinion doesn’t matter. It is important that individuals feel they are represented by our APTA leaders and that they do indeed have a voice. To be a representative for countless others is my inspiration. I pledge to be a voice for those who may not feel represented and for those who have been consistently engaged. I know I can make an impact in our physical therapy community feeling more connected.

- APTA highlighted diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as a pivot point moving forward into our next 100 years. As an Asian American, I want DEI to be more than messaging. Diversity is a broad term, and it is vitally important to recognize and respect the differences that make up our APTA community. Our association leadership should reflect those we serve as well as our physical therapy community. Our Board is beginning to look more reflective and representative of those that we serve and the make-up of our profession. We have more work to do. If elected, my presence and active participation would demonstrate that change in our association is possible.

My professional experience combined with diverse leadership experience offer a unique perspective and would complement the other individuals on the Board. Embracing our differences by focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion is essential to APTA's sustainability and success moving into the next one hundred years. I will continue to apply my **passion** and **enthusiasm** for our profession to advocate for those we serve and to work to advance our profession. I am **committed** to bringing people together, keeping people engaged, and encouraging collaboration. It is humbling and inspiring to help shape the future of our profession. Leveraging lessons learned from my float and Board experiences and having the support of an extended network place me in a position to be an immediately effective Director of our association.

I look forward to working together to improve our association and would appreciate your vote.