

East Texas District Meeting
March 25, 2021

The East Texas District was scheduled to meet February 18, 2021 via Zoom, but the snowpocalypse forced the meeting to be re-scheduled on March 25, 2021 via Zoom, when the internet was stable.

Polly Bowers-Maness, chair, thanked everyone for perseverance during this year of COVID lockdown and willingness to learn new ways of meeting and conducting our business.

Updates:

Texas legislature: HB1363 by Ina Menjares, San Antonio, has passed the House Public Health Committee dealing with PTs being able to directly access patients without a referral, an adjustment to the direct access bill. The Senate complement bill is SB455 by Bryan Hughes, Mineola, expanding list of PTs for direct access for 15 days to include all who are board certified . Currently this is not drawing any opposition.

HB 2988 by Ina Menjares, counterpart SB939/940, by Roman Gutierrez, San Antonio is the fair copays bill which designates PTs as primary care providers, Specialists so that patients can pay the less expensive primary copay.

HB4by Price, Amarillo, a telehealth bill that will allow telehealth to remain permanently. PT is specifically listed in the bill.

TPTA approached the Governor to allow PTs to be trained to become COVID vaccinators. TPTA was told thank you but the help was not needed, and we be contacted if circumstances changed.

Legislative day was cancelled due to COVID precautions.

Artis Newsome reported that he is working with a task force that is trying to get the vaccines to people who are home bound, especially in rural areas. Contact Artis if there are any who have been missed, so he can work with his contact person. Artis' cell: 903-360-4242.

Treasurer report: Viviana:

Beginning \$5033.50. \$995.67 raised for dues, \$290.00 for scholarships. Total income \$6459.17. No expenditures due to COVID. Perhaps some funds could be used to promote the district and increase membership, with possibility of acquiring a digital camera for district events. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Discussion followed: Kristi Kleinig talked about increasing student and professional engagement and requested help. The question of honoring the scholarships, the Tom Waugh scholarship(\$500.00) and the APTA forum support arose. One scholarship fund is doing well. Carla Gleaton moved that we honor the scholarships and the forum.

Seconded by Ann Huffstetter. Carla added an amendment that we would fund the college scholarships and the Tom Waugh mentee. The motion with the amendment

passed. If the forum comes up, we will discuss it then. Vivianna will prepare recommendations for expenditures for promoting the district for the next meeting.

All districts are following Robert's Rules of Order for meetings.

Elections: We need to elect a chair, treasurer and district delegate on odd-numbered years-this year. Officers will assume the position the following January 1.

Polly plans to send out a survey monkey asking for nominations and suggestions for where the district wants to go and accomplish.

The vice chair is still open.

There is one nominee for chair-Shaunda Kwiatek. Polly will ask the current delegate, Laurie Hurst, about the position of Delegate.

Strategic planning is an ongoing process by the TPTA BOD, and suggestions are most welcome.

Some districts are sharing meetings online.

Christine Melius, PT: intermurals between colleges might help people become/stay engaged with colleagues.

Kristi Kleinig, PTA: APTA students are reaching out to elementary schools.

Carla Gleaton, PT: There is talk within APTA to allow PTAs to serve in the HOD. We need to let our district and state delegates know our thoughts about PTAs serving in the HOD.

Ann Huffstetter provided a brief report of a project involving education specifically for PTAs by APTA that is ongoing by the pediatric academy.

Future district meetings: September will probably have to be Zoom; hopefully the November meeting can be face to face with the famous Taco soup in front of us, possibly also Zoomed, for those who prefer online.

The board will meet about mid summer to plan the year's activities.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Kristi Kleinig, seconded by Artis Newsome.

Our education component was "A Clinical Instructor's Guide to an Updated MACS" by Shaunda Kwiatek, PT, DPT for 1 CCU.

Respectfully,
Ann Huffstetter, PTA

District Secretary