Message from the Board Office

Greetings to all Alabama Practitioners. Hopefully your 2018 is progressing forward with health and prosperity.

As of July 2017, the updated Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Administrative Code came into effect. The new code is a streamlined 33 page document as opposed to its 66 page predecessor. Every therapist should take the time to review the new code. The board is currently evaluating the new version to address any additional changes that may be needed. As always, the board appreciates any feedback on the rules and regulations, plus ways they can assist those in the practice to better serve the public.

This past fall, the board looked at the issue of the PT Licensure Compact that currently has 15 member states. After a thorough review, the board has elected to hold off on pursuing membership in the Licensure Compact. Overall, the board saw the concept of what the compact will provide to the individual licensee as positive; however, there was a great deal of reservations on the compact in its operational status. The PT Licensure Compact is still a developing concept and is seen by the board as an organization that needs to mature more before any effort and resources are put forth in changing the Alabama Physical Therapy Practice Act to join is implemented. For the time being, the board members agreed it would be best to watch and observe the development of the Licensure Compact before Alabama pursues this option.

On January 12, Governor Kay Ivey made two appointments to the board. Alina Adams, PT was reappointed to the board as the PT Member representing the 4th Congressional district. Her new term is through October of 2022. Next, Ms. Randi Borrego, PTA was appointed to the board as PTA Member representing the southern section of the state. Her term will also run through October, 2022. Ms. Borrego’s bio is in this newsletter.

Additionally in this spring newsletter edition, you will see the notification for nominations for the PTA Member representing the northern section of our state. With the timing of this newsletter, we are now at a phase that the nominations are now open for statewide nomination for the position. If you are a PTA or know an enthusiastic PTA that would like to be considered, please nominate them. The nominations will formally close April 21st at the ALAPTA Spring Meeting at Perdido Beach.

Continued on page 2
Lastly, I close with this question to all therapists: What can we do better at the board office for you? Do you need more information on our website? Different presentation of the data on the site, what do you like; what do you dislike? Send your comments to info@pt.alabama.gov. We would like to hear from you!

With best regards,

Jeffrey Vinzant
Executive Director

Nominations for Membership on the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

Members of the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy are appointed for staggered terms of five years each, so that one member’s term expires each year. Members of the board are appointed by the Governor from a list of five persons nominated for each place on the board by the current licensees and certified to him or her by the board.

Qualifications for nominees are: (1) Be a resident and citizen of this state; (2) Have practiced physical therapy within the State of Alabama for the three years preceding his or her appointment; (3) Shall have no disciplinary action against their license for the three years preceding his or her appointment; and (4) must provide written, signed consent to serve.

The Board is currently accepting nominations of current licensees who reside in the northern section of the state (see map page 2) to fill one Physical Therapist Assistant position on the board currently filled by Dillard Nathan McGriff, PTA who is eligible for reappointment. Only physical therapists and physical therapist assistants holding a current license in Alabama are allowed to nominate licensees and vote to select five names for the position to be certified to the Governor.

Nominations, which must include a written, signed consent-to-serve letter from each nominee, must be mailed to the board’s office to be received no later than March 9, 2018.

In the event five nominations are not received from the open position district prior to the March 9, 2018 deadline, the board will request nominations from the state-at-large to be received in the board’s office no later than April 9, 2018. Nominations will then be accepted from the floor during the board’s election meeting on April 21, 2018. Anyone person nominated from the floor must provide the board with a written, signed consent-to-serve letter or be present to provide the consent-to-served verbally.

Continued on page 3
The board’s election meeting will be held on Saturday April 21, 2018 at Perdido Key Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama in conjunction with the Alabama Physical Therapy Association spring business meeting.

If you have any questions about nominations/election/appointments, please contact us at (334) 242-4064 or info@pt.alabama.gov.

Physical Therapist Assistant position open representing the northern section of the state: North of Prattville, north of Auburn. and north of Selma. Cities included: greater Birmingham area, Huntsville, Decatur, Gadsden, Tuscaloosa, Jasper, Florence, Cullman, Anniston.
2018 License Renewal

The 2018 license renewal period will begin on July 1st! Your renewal must be completed prior to midnight on September 30, 2018, to avoid the expiration of your license.

As you begin the renewal process, we are here to help you and resolve any problems, questions, and/or delays that you may encounter.

The steps below are provided to reduce delays in completing your license renewal:

1) All licensees are required to have completed 10 hours of CEU’s that meet the criteria as listed under Continuing Education at http://www.pt.alabama.gov/conted.aspx and retain the certificates.

2) After completion of the above requirements you can renew your license either online or by mail.

Online renewals – The board does NOT mail license renewal certificates! Once you have completed the online renewal process, click on the appropriate button on the receipts page to print your license renewal certificate. Also, make sure you print your receipt for your records.

You are required to list your continuing education activities during the online renewal process. If you are chosen for AUDIT, you will have 10 business days to fax or email your certificates to the board office. Fax: 334-242-3288 or Email: info@pt.alabama.gov

Renewals by Mail – You must have completed all continuing education requirements prior to renewing your license by mail. To renew by mail, you must download and complete the 2018 License Renewal form from our website www.pt.alabama.gov under forms and submit the completed form along with the license renewal fee (must be in the form of a money order or bank certified check). License renewal fees are $130.00 for PT’s and $93.00 for PTA’s. When all renewal requirements are met you will be mailed a renewal certificate from the board’s office.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for improvement, please feel free to contact the board office. We are here to serve you and make this process as smooth as possible.

Sheila Wright
Executive Assistant III
New Jurisprudence Exam Method

Many physical therapy boards have a jurisprudence exam, similar to the Alabama Law Exam (AL LAW), as a requirement for initial licensure and/or renewal. The purpose of jurisprudence requirements is to ensure that individuals understand the laws and rules governing physical therapy in the state where they are practicing. A good jurisprudence exam, such as the AL LAW, poses important questions and scenarios to help determine if the individual understands the key elements of the laws and rules.

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy is currently exploring replacing our existing AL LAW with the Alabama Jurisprudence Assessment Module (AL JAM) at some point in the future. Although the AL LAW and AL JAM are both developed by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, there are some key differences that the Board feels will make the AL JAM a superior learning tool to the AL LAW.

The first key benefit is that the AL JAM is taken online and on demand from your personal computer. Unlike the AL LAW, you don’t need to schedule an appointment and take the test at a Prometric Test Center. This also means that the AL JAM is less expensive than the current AL LAW examination. The other key benefit is the feedback provided throughout the AL JAM. If an individual answers a question incorrectly, they are provided the appropriate references to the laws and rules to review before answering the question a second time. If they still answer incorrectly, the AL JAM provides information explaining why the correct answer was correct and why the selected option was incorrect. Under the AL LAW model, someone could know enough about the laws and rules to pass, but might not recognize that they didn’t understand Alabama’s direct access requirements, appropriate direction of PTAs, and supervision of unlicensed personnel, etc. With the AL JAM, everyone will get the feedback that helps ensure that the individual understands the key elements of the laws, rules and regulations.

If you have more questions or would like to comment about the AL JAM, please contact the Board Office at (334) 242-4064 or info@pt.alabama.gov. Your feedback is welcomed.

Wiley Christian, III
Board Chair
Wellness Program Update

The Physical Therapy Board’s substance abuse program continues to function very well. Of the twelve individuals who are currently participating in the program, all have entered the program through the self-reporting process. This allows the licensee to get the needed treatment, without jeopardizing their license. All of the participants are compliant and have a mentor assigned to them. The mentor component of the program is one of the keys to it being successful. We all owe these individuals our gratitude and thanks for their time and willingness to serve in this capacity. Dr. Michael Garver, Director of the program, feels it is functioning as it was designed to and is very pleased.

Mentors are the key to preventing recidivism. A mentor is an individual who can communicate with licensees with understanding, care, and empathy. We continue to solicit individuals who themselves have had a substance abuse problem and are in recovery. These individuals will be working directly with Dr. Garver. Their identity is known only to him and not the Board. The Wellness Program needs volunteers who have had that experience, and who are willing to reach out and help their professional colleagues to complete recovery.

If you are willing and interested, please contact the Wellness Program Director, Dr. Michael Garver:

Michael Garver, DMD
19260 North Mobile Street
P.O. Box 426
Citronelle, AL 36522

Fax: (251) 866-5570
Phone: (251) 866-5585
E-mail: abptwellness@gmail.com

Nathan McGriff, PTA
Board Liaison to the Wellness Committee
Meet Randi Borrego, PTA Member

On January 10, 2018, Ms. Randi Borrego, PTA, LOF, was appointed to the board as the PTA Member representing the southern half of the state. Her term will run through October 2022.

A current resident of Spanish Fort, in Baldwin County, Randi is a 1996 graduate of the Bishop State PTA program.

After an initial career in orthopedic outpatient and in-patient hospital care for twelve years, Randi moved into direct medical equipment sales with RS Medical, a national direct medical equipment company. In 2014, Randi began working with Baker Medical in Mobile as a licensed orthotic fitter for all types of bracing, including; neck, back, knees, and ankle foot orthosis.

On the personal side, Randi is the proud mother of a 16 year old son. In what little leisure time she has, Randi enjoys walking, music, and search puzzles. On really nice weekends, trips to the beach with boating and fishing are always a must! Fall weekends always include a lot of SEC Football with family and friends. Randi’s favorite inspirational quote is “I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me”.

Please join us in welcoming Randi Borrego to the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy!
Regular Board Meetings

April 20 & 21, 2018 (Perdido Beach Resort)
June 21, 2018 (Board Office, Montgomery)
August 10 & 11, 2018 (Westin Hotel, Birmingham)
October 11, 2018 (Board Office, Montgomery)
December 13, 2018 (Board Office, Montgomery)
February 7, 2019 (Board Office, Montgomery)

(all meetings at 10:00 AM)

We invite you to join us! All Board meetings are open to the public.

Licensees!

Please keep all of your contact information up to date with the board office.

Most important information to keep us advised of:

- Name change
- Mailing address change
- E-mail address change
- Phone number change

All information can be changed by filling out the DATA UPDATE form available on our website!
**Board Members**
Wiley Christian, III  
PT, Chair  
1st Congressional District

Chad Hobbs, PT  
Secretary, 5th Congressional District

Nathan McGriff, PTA,  
Treasurer  
2nd Congressional District

Randi Borrego, PTA,  
1st Congressional District

Alina Adams, PT  
4th Congressional District

Ellen Strunk, PT  
6th Congressional District

Margaret Hemm,  
Consumer Member

**Legal Counsel**
Matt Bledsoe  
Assistant Attorney General

**Administrative Staff**
Jeffrey Vinzant,  
Executive Director

Sheila Wright,  
Executive Assistant III

April Tucker, ASA I

E-mail: info@pt.alabama.gov

**PHONE:** (334)242-4064  
**TOLL FREE:** (888)726-9743

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Visit us at

2018 ALAPTA SPRING CONFERENCE

Meet Board Members and Administrative Staff
April 20-21, Perdido Beach Resort

• Please attend our Board Meeting scheduled for 10:00 AM on Friday morning, April 20, in the Azure meeting room.

• Nominations for upcoming Board opening will be accepted from the floor at the conclusion of the ALAPTA Business meeting on Saturday, April 21.