**North Central District – APTA-WI**

**Tuesday October 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Videoconference via Zoom:** Wes Kurszewski (Chair), Chris Ashbeck (Vice Chair), Dave Smith (Secretary/Treasurer), Cindy Koehler, Karna Sandok, Heather Vogel, Ben Solheim

**CE/Presentation/Discussion:** (after business portion): as part of meeting – CE, PAC, membership discussion; needs and challenges in the post-COVID climate.

* See below for cancelled social events, CE course, and membership information
* Financial difficulties both personally and professionally; inflation, reduced or cut CE funds by employers, short staffing. Other: plentiful online offerings, apathy, generational differences with involvement/engagement/commitment
* Poor awareness and knowledge of legislative issues by most
* How to engage?
  + Direct (in-person) vs indirect (emails/websites/paper) contact with therapists. Thought is direct contact is needed.
  + Knowledgeable persons needed to discuss issues, answer questions, in-person at clinics. Needs to be a conversation vs presentation.
  + ? pay for people to engage: Jack Knudson from PAC or APTA-WI staff compared to other therapists locally in NCD.
  + Discuss what the PAC does for therapists, legislative issues and how it impacts therapists, and FAQ’s.
* Ben Solheim will form thoughts/plan/idea of what this type of engagement would look like; provided to Executive Committee in next several weeks
* Recommended that others start discussions in their departments about this issue as it relates to engagement, involvement, PAC donations, CE offerings, needs/wants

**Officer Reports:**

* Review and approval of minutes from May meeting – (on website)
* Treasurer report– Dave Smith. As of 9/30/23: $15,187. Only expenditure was for May speaker honorarium of $100

**Subcommittees/Representatives:**

* + Executive Committee
    - PAC (Political Action Committee) Social Event – August – cancelled due to low interest. See above for discussion about engagement.
    - APTA-WI Fall Conference review
      * Largest turnout post-COVID. 135 PTs, 11 PTAs, 143 students
      * Students very engaged; Cindy presented about membership at lunch
      * Excellent course content. HOT Topics session excellent
        1. Legislative issues (see below)
        2. PAC money – need recurring donations for planning
      * Future: Spring Conference format trial – similar to CSM, 1-2 hour sessions with more time to network between. Will be held at PT Program Universities. Fall Conference will be more traditional style.
      * Recordings: University settings may help as classrooms have cameras. Will have to figure out how to manage/distribute/collect fees. Significant increase fee to manage on APTA-WI website
  + Membership Committee: Cindy Koehler
    - Minocqua Social- Friday October 20 (weekend of CI Credentialing Course) – cancelled due to course cancellation per details noted below
    - Study: decline in people leaving membership from 5-6%/year to 1%, but no increase in membership.
    - State: Reaching out to new therapists/members monthly, and all students in the last three months (Cindy in charge of NCD contact)
    - Discussion about generational differences, new financial difficulties personally/employers, engagement, needs
  + Education Committee: (Chris Ashbeck – Vice Chair, Kate Bennett, Karna Sandok, Kaela Rueden, Nicki Quarne)
    - Upcoming Courses:
      * *Credential CI Course.* CANCELLED -**October 20** at The Waters in Minocqua. Liz Alfonsi, PT, DPT, ATC, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy - Concordia University Wisconsin.
      * Only 6-8 registered, need 18-20. No Northwoods therapists registered. Goal was to offer closer to Northwoods and increase engagement, Social event planned that weekend.
      * Look to offer in spring; will regroup and promote. Consider hosting in our larger membership regions if unable to get Northwoods interest.

**Old Business:**

* Legislative Updates
  + Prior Authorization Reform Legislation (LRB-4132) recently introduced at state level
    - Anticipated success for coverage of first 12 visits for acute conditions, 90 days for chronic conditions. Pain SIG charged with defining points regarding ICD codes for chronic and acute; gathering research articles.
    - Not anticipating success asking for reimbursement for time to do PARs
    - Assembly Chair at State is heavily influenced by Insurance industry
    - APTA-WI asking for personal stories from patients about suspended care, abandoned care, and issues due to PA process. Please send a copy of any letters sent to legislators to Lynn Steffes for her records.
  + Athletic Trainers bill: they want to adjust their Practice Act to remove the word “vigorous” activity from their patient care (as relates to MET levels). APTA-WI objecting due to lack of training and expertise relating to comorbidities involved in this population.
* NCD Goals/status
  + See Executive Committee minutes from February 2023. As noted above, engagement with Northwoods ongoing, recent failure with CE course and Social Event scheduled in Minocqua in October, and Woodchucks PAC-Social Event in August in Wausau. See discussion above.
  + New Executive Committee will address in January.

**New Business:**

* NCD Elections 2023. Wes is finishing second year of the 2 year maximum Chair position. Vice-Chair and Secretary are also up for election but are not required to be replaced.
  + Chris Ashbeck nominated and agreed to run for Chair (will vacate Vice Chair)
  + Dave Smith nominated and agreed to run for Secretary/Treasurer
  + Karna Sandok nominated and will consider running for Vice Chair
  + Any others interested place contact EC members soon.

**Future Meetings: Note the meetings will be held on the SECOND Tuesday of the month in February, May, and October at 5:30 pm. Our next meeting date is February 13, 2024**

**CONTACTS:**

**Chair: Wes Kurszewski** [wesley.kurszewski@gmail.com](mailto:wesley.kurszewski@gmail.com)

**Vice Chair: Chris Ashbeck** [aschbeck.chri@gmail.com](mailto:aschbeck.chri@gmail.com)

**Secretary/Treas: Dave Smith** [smith.david@marshfieldclinic.org](mailto:smith.david@marshfieldclinic.org)

**PT-PAC FUND:** <https://aptawi.org/political-action-committee/>

**Join us on Facebook: NCD of APTA WI**

Submitted by NCD Secretary Dave Smith, MPT on Monday October 16, 2023