

Laura Baldwin

Mountain District

Education: MPT, Hahnemann University (now Drexel), Philadelphia 1993; B.A. Biology, Washington & Lee University, VA 1990.

Present / Past Employment: Staff Physical Therapist, Mountain States Health Alliance (formerly Johnston Memorial Hospital), VA, 2008 – present; Investigator, Virginia Department of Health Professions, 2001- 2008; Contract Physical Therapist; NHC Home Care, TN, 2000 – 2001; PRN Physical Therapist Health South, TN 2001; PRN Physical Therapist, Mountain States Health Alliance, TN, 2000 to 2001; Physical Therapist, Christiana Care Visiting Nurse Association, DE 1999; Physical Therapist, Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills, NJ, 1996 – 1998; Contract Therapist & Clinical Instructor, Pediatric Workshop, NJ 1996 – 1997; Staff Physical Therapist, Clinical Instructor, & Guest lecturer, JFK Medical Center, NJ, 1993 - 1996.

VPTA Activity: Member, Nominating Committee; Membership Chair, Mountain District

APTA Activity: Recipient, APTA Campanella Award 1993; Member since 1991; TN Corresponding Chapter Membership

Statement: I seek the position of Delegate –Elect so that I may serve my profession and community and a give back to the APTA.

I believe a major issue facing this delegation will be fielding the implications of healthcare reform, including best practices, workforce, access, and reimbursement. The VPTA has a tradition of leadership and very qualified representation in the House of Delegates. I hope I may compliment that effort through the unique and diverse perspective I bring to issues.

As an investigator for the Virginia Department of Health Professions (which includes the Board of Physical Therapy), I worked with federal and state agencies (including Medicaid) and had had to relate regulation and policy to daily practice patterns and concerns. It gave me insight into the ramifications (both intended and unintended) of policy change not only for the profession of Physical Therapy, but others as well. In that role I had a “front lines” view of how policy and regulation impact health care delivery and practice particularly in the areas of scope of practice, supervision, reimbursement, workforce, ethics, the PT/ PTA relationship, and patient safety.

Having practiced in four states in a variety of settings, I believe I have some appreciation of how differences in state legislation and demographic perspective can impact a delegation position on national APTA issues. When I drive through other states and see other professions purport to provide “physical therapy,” I am very appreciative of having our own Board in Virginia and proud of the VPTA’s success in obtaining term protection.

While my therapy career began in more urban settings, my work in the last ten years provides me with an appreciation of the unique healthcare delivery challenges facing rural areas. I am committed to not only addressing those concerns, but also reporting back to all regions of our membership. I consider myself a generalist practitioner and my clinical background includes acute care, general outpatient and inpatient rehabilitation, home care, pediatrics, and concentrations such as vestibular rehabilitation, chronic pain, women’s health and hospice. Colleagues have told me that I articulate multiple sides of a debate well and students and patients have told

me that I “explain things” well. In the role of Delegate-Elect I would anticipate a steep learning curve. I believe that my diverse background lends itself to representing and serving the broad base of our membership well on local and national issues. I am grateful for the work that has been done by our caucus in the past and thank you for your consideration.