

Name: Sharan Zirges
Candidate for: Delegate

District: Tidewater

Professional Education (school, degree, year):

VCU- BS Rehab Counseling Services 1984
ODU – BSPT 1986
VCU – MSHA 2003
ODU – PhD (currently seeking)

Present and Past Employment (title, facility, years):

1986-1988 Staff therapist - Johnston-Willis Hospital; 1988-1989 Supervisor PT - Humana St. Luke's RehabiliCare unit; 1989-1992 Specialized Care Analyst - Division of Medical Assistance (Medicaid) North Carolina; 1992-1995 Dir. Rehab Services – HealthSouth Richmond; 1995-1997 Program Manager – Skyline Rehabilitation Company; 1997-2004 Dir. Rehab, Respiratory and Sleep Services – Riverside Medical Center; 2004 – 2008 Safe Stride Director – Gentiva Health Services; 2008 – present Team Coordinator - Sentara Obici Hospital

VPTA Activity (state/district offices/committees):

Tidewater District Chair – 2006 to 2008, 2009 - present
Tidewater Membership Chair – 2008 – 2009
Tidewater Secretary – 2009
Tidewater Nominating Committee – 2009

APTA Activity (state/district offices/committees):

Vestibular SIG Neurology section newsletter editor 2005 - 2010
Balance and Falls SIG Neurology section newsletter editor 2005 -2008

Personal Statement –

I am seeking the position of delegate to represent the membership of the VPTA in a national forum during a challenging and significant period in our profession. With the current healthcare reform agenda it is imperative that the APTA continue to move our profession to a higher level of autonomy within the healthcare environment. I am pleased with where the APTA has taken our profession in my years of participation and I believe that we are positioned to benefit tremendously from impending reform. I also believe that Vision 2020 and our movement toward making PT DPT puts physical therapy in the position of being at the top of the ladder in the area of musculoskeletal dysfunction. As a profession we must begin to acknowledge our leadership

position and act like leaders. We should work with other professions intending to infringe on our profession to establish ourselves as the leaders in musculoskeletal rehabilitation and the only doctoring profession in this realm.

Due to my involvement at the national level, I believe that I am qualified to serve in the capacity of delegate. I am also very eager to participate in the APTA at the regulatory level.

Finally, I feel that my years of experience in this profession give me an expansive view of where we have come from as a profession and where we can go. The VPTA and the APTA has developed and moved along a continuum of advancement for our profession that have been both exciting as to the prospect and frustrating due to the set backs. I have enjoyed talking to others in our profession through the years to discover where the profession is going because ultimately the way that you and I feel about our profession and the issues that we stand up for within our profession will lead us into the future. Knowing where we have come from and communicating with my peers I believe helps me to keep the vision of where we must go.