



CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY AND CONSENT FORM

NAME: Andrea Bowers

CITY/TOWN OF RESIDENCE: Birmingham, AL

APTA MEMBERSHIP: Yes

ALABAMA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP: Yes

SECTION MEMBERSHIP: (please list) Orthopedic, Sports, Education

EDUCATION: University of Florida - B.S. in Health Sciences (2006)
DPT (2009)

PREVIOUS BOARD EXPERIENCE: None

PERTINENT EXPERIENCE: ALAPTA Delegate (2017-2019)
Assistant Professor, Samford University (2015-current)
Founded FL Chapter of APTA Student SIG Student Liaison
to FL APTA (2007-2008)

PLEASE PROVIDE AN ANSWER TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FOR YOUR POSITION (500 WORDS OR LESS):

Vice President

1. What do you perceive as the most important interpersonal skills that are needed by the Vice President of the AL Chapter, APTA?
2. What do you perceive as the greatest challenge facing the profession in Alabama at this time and how can the Chapter help?

Secretary

1. What experiences and qualities make you a strong candidate for the Secretary position?
2. The Chapter is a member-driven organization. How do you feel the communication is between the membership and the Board and vice versa? How could it be improved (if necessary)?

Treasurer

1. What experiences have prepared you to serve as Chapter Treasurer?
2. What do you think the Chapter's budget priorities should be?

Delegate

1. What do you perceive as the most important interpersonal skills that are needed by the Chapter Chief Delegate or Delegate to the APTA House of Delegates?
2. What methods of communication would you utilize to "feel the pulse" of Chapter Members on relevant motions that are put before the House of Delegates, so that you can decide whether to support them?

PTA Caucus Representative

1. What do you perceive as the most important interpersonal skills that are needed by the Chapter PTA Caucus Representative?
2. What methods of communication would you utilize to "feel the pulse" of PTA Chapter Members?

Nominating Committee Member

1. What skills and experience do you have to enable you to serve on the Chapter Nominating Committee?
 2. Please describe what attributes you value in a candidate.
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Consent to Serve Statement:

I acknowledge the duties of the above position have been provided to me and I agree to serve in the position should I be slated and then elected. I am willing and able to attend all ALAPTA Meetings as requested. I agree to be responsive to electronic communications as part of conducting the business of ALAPTA.

Signed: (electronic signatures accepted)

Andria Bowers

Andrea Bowens, PT, DPT

Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopaedics

Position: Vice President

What do you perceive as the most important interpersonal skills that are needed by the Vice President of the AL Chapter, APTA?

In order to promote the vision and mission of the Alabama Chapter of the APTA, the Vice President has to be able to effectively and efficiently communicate with the Chapter leadership, members, and students. One of the most important skills related to the Vice President's responsibilities is timely communication to facilitate Chapter responsibilities. This timely communication is especially important when helping facilitate the planning of educational opportunities for the PTs, PTAs, and students in Alabama. Additionally, the timely, professional communication is important to assist the President with his or her responsibilities as an advocate and leader of our profession in the state.

What do you perceive as the greatest challenge facing the profession in Alabama at this time and how can the Chapter help?

Currently, there are several challenges facing the physical therapy profession specifically in Alabama. First, our profession is facing opposition to the efforts to promote the role of physical therapy services in the state. The failure to obtain direct access in 2019 was a difficult reality for those who worked tirelessly to advance our profession. However, I believe the chapter can continue to share facts supported by research, educate legislators about our role and value, and mobilize our greatest advocates, our patients, to help us achieve full direct access in the near future. As physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, we recognize the evidence is on our side; however, as a collective we have to educate others about how we can, as the APTA mission states, "transform society to improve the human experience." Secondly, the physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in Alabama are facing ongoing changes to insurance requirements and reimbursement across the various third-party payers. These changes affect the day-to-day operations of clinical practice, reimbursement, and ultimately the ability to find and maintain a job. The growing demands by third-party payers for specific documentation combined with changes to reimbursement models have caused undue burden on our profession. These burdens have changed the way PTs and PTAs must operate in the clinic. Additionally, the ongoing changes create confusion about expectations for each payer source, diverting clinicians' time and attention away from patient care. Thankfully, our Chapter has highly knowledgeable and skilled personnel that can help educate members about these ongoing changes. However, our Chapter needs to continue advocating for our profession to prevent reimbursement systems from negatively affecting our clinical practice, the sustainability of our profession, and our ability to provide services to those in need. With professional opposition, public misunderstanding of our roles and responsibilities, and growing administrative burdens, there are great challenges the Chapter leadership must face. Thus, our

leadership must remain steadfast to continuing advocacy and education efforts so that we can continue to protect and advance the physical therapy profession in Alabama.