Nominating Committee

2016 PPS Elections



Alan Balavender, MS, PT

I found the profession by accident, left it, and I am very fortunate to have returned! My parents were both small business owners. As the youngest of five boys, I grew up on stories about business ownership. My parents believed that having "your name on the door" meant something. While I was in high school, two of my older brothers graduated from PT school. I soon followed: same degree, same school. It was what I knew!

I left PT after five years to experience a broader scope of healthcare and be an "entrepreneur." Those eight years were great lessons in success, risk, and failure. I had the privilege of working with great people, seeing the country, and occasionally making a living!

I was drawn back to the clinical environment, missing the satisfaction of caring for people. I started working once a week at a small practice. Two years later, I purchased the clinic with the goal of creating a private practice which encouraged ownership by clinicians. Since 2000, PTSMC has grown to 17 locations in Connecticut. There are 15 partners and 180 employees. PTSMC has been fortunate to be recognized by our employees as a Top Workplace in Connecticut for the last six years.

In my opinion, the three most critical issues facing PPS in the next three years are:

- Payment: This has been and always will be one of the top concerns of private practice. The three-party system we operate in can create disconnects among the provider, customer, and entity paying for the service provided. Regardless of the evolution of payment models, it is imperative we remain engaged in the conversation at every level. We must continue to create value to all stakeholders.
- Collaboration: I believe we are living through an unprecedented, system-wide healthcare change. As private practice physical therapists, we will be offered and encouraged to consider business models and care delivery systems that look very different than they did just a few short years ago. We need to be open and proactive in creating and supporting collaborative efforts that don't compromise our principles.
- Profession Adaptation: As one who grew up in the profession that has historically been perceived as an "ancillary provider," I think our profession has made extraordinary progress. To recognize the APTA vision of "Transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience," we must accept the position of movement and musculoskeletal experts. We must be willing to work to the limits of our license and push those limits further. Physical therapists must transition from "episodic care" and take the lead in becoming our customer's "PT for Life."

Most of my career has been finding the best people, challenging, growing, and supporting them. With your vote, I would like to continue to do so as a member of the PPS Nominating Committee.