BYLAWS OF THE NEBRASKA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I. NAME AND TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION

Section 1.
The name of this organization is the Nebraska Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association. It is composed of three (3) districts, and it is known under the corporate title of "Nebraska Physical Therapy Association" in the State of Nebraska, which shall hereinafter be referred to as "The Chapter". The American Physical Therapy Association shall hereinafter be referred to as "The Association" in these bylaws.

Section 2.
The territorial jurisdiction of the Chapter is the State of Nebraska.

ARTICLE II. OBJECT

The object of the Chapter shall be the object of the Association as stated in the Association bylaws.

ARTICLE III. FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Chapter shall be the same as the functions of the Association as established in its bylaws.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Categories and Qualifications of Members
The Chapter membership categories and qualifications for Physical Therapist, Retired Physical Therapist, Life Physical Therapist, Student Physical Therapist, Physical Therapist Assistant, Retired Physical Therapist Assistant, Life Physical Therapist Assistant, and Student Physical Therapist Assistant shall be the same as those of the Association. In addition, the Chapter shall maintain a single Corresponding Member category and a single Corresponding Student Member category with rights and privileges as stated in the Association Bylaws.

Section 2. Right and Privileges of Members
The rights and privileges of the Chapter's members shall be identical to those established in the Association bylaws with the following exception:
A. To vote on all Chapter business, the following members have 1 vote: Physical Therapist, Retired Physical Therapist, Life Physical Therapist, Physical Therapist Assistant, Retired Physical Therapist Assistant and Life Physical Therapist Assistant.

Section 3. Admission to Membership
Admission to Chapter membership is by assignment by the Association's Board of Directors.

Section 4. Good Standing
A member is in good standing within the meaning of these bylaws if that member is in good standing in the Association.

Section 5. Ethics and Discipline

A. Any member of the Chapter who is suspended by the Association shall have his or her membership privileges suspended by the Chapter. Any member who is expelled from membership in the Association shall be expelled from Chapter membership.
B. Complaints shall be adjudicated in accordance with the Associations' Procedural Document on Disciplinary Action.
C. The ethical standards of the Association as defined in the Code of Ethics and Standards of Ethical Conduct shall be the ethical standards of the Chapter and shall be binding on the membership.

Section 6. Reinstatements
Individuals are reinstated to Chapter membership in accordance with the Association's Standing Rules. There shall be no reinstatement fee charged by the Chapter or districts.

ARTICLE V. DISTRICTS, AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Chapter may create districts, and special interest groups within its territorial jurisdiction.

Section 1. Districts

Districts shall be the basic organizational structure of the Chapter.

A. Name

The Nebraska Chapter shall be divided into three (3) districts: Eastern, Western and Central District.

B. Bylaws and Amendments

The bylaws and amendments to be adopted by the districts and the actions on matters of policy must be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Chapter for approval. The Executive Committee must act on these matters at the first following Executive Committee meeting. If such bylaws, amendments or matters of policy are not approved by the Executive Committee of the Chapter, the affected district may appeal to the membership of the Chapter at the next Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee must then act upon the matter as instructed by the Chapter membership. The bylaws of the district shall be in compliance with Chapter and Association bylaws. These three districts are to be within the boundaries of the territorial jurisdiction of the Chapter.

C. Formation and Dissolution

(1) A district shall be composed of five or more active members of the Chapter.

(2) District members shall consist of Chapter members who reside, work, or attend school within the boundaries of the district or an immediately adjacent district in which the member evinces the possibility of more active participation. A list of all members shall be filed with the secretary of the Chapter no longer than sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

(3) The Chapter may dissolve the districts by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Chapter present. In the voting provided that at least thirty (30) days prior to this meeting a copy of the proposal to dissolve has been mailed to all voting members.

(4) The officer of the districts shall be the chairperson, who shall be a Physical Therapist or Life Physical Therapist member. Other officers and/or chairpersons of committees will be elected if necessary.

(5) The Chapter or its districts may be dissolved by the Association as provided within the Association bylaws.

(6) In the event that the Chapter districts are dissolved, all property and records of whatsoever nature and in the possession of the District shall, after payment of the bona fide debts, be distributed in compliance with the provisions of the Chapters Articles of Incorporation and the provisions of dissolution of property and records of the Chapter as provided in the Association bylaws.

D. Finances

(1) The district allotment per district member per year shall be set by the Executive Committee.

(2) The districts shall not levy special assessments that carry punitive action or loss of good standing.

E. Other

(1) Districts shall hold a minimum of two (2) meetings annually.

(2) A written report of the district shall be presented at the annual Chapter meeting and at other times upon the request of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Special Interest Groups

Special interest groups may be established with the approval of the Chapter Executive Committee and a majority vote of the Chapter membership, but are not required to belong to an Association section of like nature or with similar interest.

A. Name

The Nebraska Chapter has approved the formation of a special interest group of students.

B. Purpose

The purpose of the student special interest group is to increase the student participation and cohesiveness in the state chapter.

C. Formation and Dissolution

The student special interest group is established, and, if dissolved, in accordance with the rules and conditions set down by the Chapter's Executive Committee.

Section 3. Limitations

Districts and Special Interest Groups are subject to the following limitations:

A. Bylaws and policies of the Association and the Chapter
B. No district or special interest group shall profess or imply that it speaks for or represents the Chapter or members other than those currently holding membership in the district or special interest group unless authorized to do so in writing by the Chapter's Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meetings

The Chapter shall hold a minimum of one (1) annual spring meeting of the Chapter membership for the conduct of business during the fiscal year. The attendance shall be limited to Chapter members and invited guests approved by the Chapter officers. Notice of meetings shall be sent to the members thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. A quorum shall consist of 75 voting members for transaction of business.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee provided that thirty (30) days' notice is given to all members. Attendance is limited to Chapter members and invited guests approved by Chapter member consent. A quorum shall consist of 75 voting members for transaction of business.

A special meeting must be called upon written petition of 50% of the membership. This is to provide an avenue for the members to ensure the Executive Committee is responding to their needs and duties.

When a decision is needed between meetings of the Chapter, a vote by electronic means will be taken. A return of 75 voting members shall be necessary for the vote to be legal.

Section 3. Meeting Minutes

All meeting minutes shall be submitted to the Association within 45 days of the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition

The Chapter Executive Committee shall consist of nine (9) members of the Chapter membership: 4 officers, 3 district chairpersons, the Chief Delegate, and 1 Physical Therapist Assistant Council Representative.

Section 2. Qualifications

Only such members of the Chapter as are provided for in the Association bylaws, Article IV, Section 2, subparagraph B (3) b. who have consented to serve, shall be eligible for election to office. Physical Therapist Assistants and Life Physical Therapist Assistants may hold office subject to the limitations specified in the Association bylaws, Article V, Section 4, sub-paragraph C.

Section 3. Terms and Vacancies

A. They shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, except for the Chief Delegate, or until their successors are elected. The Executive Committee members are not limited to the number of terms they may serve.
B. Vacancies
    (1) If before the expiration of term for which the President was elected, the President dies, moves from the state, is removed from office, resigns or becomes disqualified the Vice President will succeed the vacated office of the President.
    (2) If before the expiration of term for Vice President, the Vice President dies, moves from the state, is removed from office, resigns, or becomes disqualified for office or replaces the President, a temporary Vice President shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from one of the three
    (3) district chairpersons for the period until the next Chapter meeting at which time a Vice President will be elected by the membership to finish the remainder of the term of Vice President.
    (3) If any other elected officer dies, resigns, moves out of the state, is removed from office, or becomes disqualified, a replacement for the office shall be appointed from the membership by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Officers

The officers of the Chapter shall be:

(1) President - Chair of Panel on Professional Practice
(2) Vice President - Chair of Panel on Education
(3) Secretary - Chair of Panel on Member Services
(4) Treasurer - Chair of Panel on Finance

Respective responsibilities:

A. The President shall:
   (1) Serve as the official spokesperson of the Chapter.
   (2) Act as liaison with the Association.
   (3) Preside at all Chapter meetings.
   (4) Chair the Executive Committee.
   (5) Assist in delegating Chapter business.
   (6) Serve as chairperson for the Panel on Professional Practice.
   (7) Chair the Legislative Affairs Committee.
   (8) Serve as an advisor to the President and Executive Committee in the role as Past-President at the end of term for the period of one (1) year.
   (9) May have other duties as defined by the Chapter.

B. The Vice President shall:
   (1) Serve as chairperson for the Panel on Education
   (2) Act as ex-officio member of all Chapter committees, except the Nominating Committee and Ethics Committee.
   (3) Assume the duties of the President in the President's absence.
   (4) Shall be the Executive Committee liaison for the Nebraska Student Special Interest Group (NSSIG).
   (5) May have other duties as defined by the Chapter.

C. The Secretary shall:
   (1) Serve as chairperson for the Panel on Member Services
   (2) Be responsible for development of the agenda and content of business meetings in conjunction with the Executive Committee, Executive Secretary, and Chapter membership.
   (3) May have other duties as defined by the Chapter.

D. The Treasurer shall:
   (1) Serve as chairperson for the Panel on Finance.
   (2) Be custodian of all Chapter funds, in conjunction with the Chapter's Executive Secretary.
   (3) Receive all funds assigned to the Chapter, including but not limited to Chapter dues and special assessments.
   (4) Oversee and co-sign for disbursement of all other funds only upon approval of the Executive Committee.
   (5) Keep true and accurate records that shall be the property of the Chapter.
   (6) Submit a written financial report at the Annual Meeting and to the Executive Committee upon request.
   (7) Be bonded with the Chapter bearing the expense.
   (8) Submit a formal budget to the Chapter at the Annual Meeting.
   (9) In conjunction with the Chapter Executive Secretary, provide records to the CPA for annual audit/compilation and shall carry out recommended changes in financial procedures as suggested by the CPA in this report.
   (10) May have other duties as defined by the Chapter.

Section 5. Duties of the Executive Committee shall include but not limited to:

(1) Carrying out the mandate of the Chapter as defined by the membership.
(2) Have full power and complete authority to perform all acts and to transact all business for and on behalf of the Chapter between meetings of the Chapter according to these bylaws and of the Association bylaws and all resolutions and enactments of the membership.
(3) Further responsibilities of the Executive Committee and elected officers are defined in the Chapter Rules and Regulations.

Section 6. Conduct of Business

The Executive Committee of the Chapter shall hold a minimum of two (2) regular meetings for the conduct of business during the fiscal year and any other such meetings that are necessary shall be called by the President of the Chapter. Notice of meetings shall be sent to the members ten (10) days prior to that date of the meeting. A quorum for transaction of business at any meeting, regular or special, shall consist of a majority present. Voting by electronic means between meetings on issues may be authorized by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. A special meeting must be called upon written petition of 50% of the Executive Committee membership. This is to provide an avenue for the Executive Committee to ensure the President is responding to their needs and concerns.

ARTICLE VIII. PANELS

Section 1. Composition

A. The panels of the Chapter shall consist of:
    (1) The Panel on Professional Practice
    (2) The Panel on Education
    (3) The Panel on Member Services
    (4) The Panel on Finance
B. Officers of the Executive Committee shall chair the panels:
    (1) Panel on Professional Practice by the President
    (2) Panel on Education by the Vice President
    (3) Panel on Service by the Secretary
    (4) Panel on Finance by the Treasurer
C. Members of each panel shall be the panel chairperson and the chairpersons from each committee for which that panel is responsible.
D. Standing Committees
    (1) Ethics Committee
    The Ethics Committee shall be a three (3) person committee appointed annually by the Executive Committee at the meeting following the annual meeting. The Committee shall elect its own chairperson, and shall be charged with investigating any ethics complaints according the Association's stated procedures.
    (2) Finance Committee
    The Finance Committee shall consist of three (3) members, one of whom shall be the Treasurer, and each member shall serve a term of two (2) years. This committee shall address matters pertaining to the Chapter's financial needs, growth, and stability based on periodic review of income, expenditure, and investments. The Finance Committee may consult with financial advisors who will not be voting members of this committee. When available, the outgoing treasurer will be asked to serve as an ex-officio member for a period of one (1) year.
    (3) Nominating Committee
    The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) eligible members; one (1) member shall be elected each year, at the Annual Meeting, who shall serve a term of three (3) years, or until the election of his/her successor. The senior member of the committee shall serve as Chairperson. Any vacancies shall be filled by the Executive Committee until the next regular election at which time the vacant position shall be filled for the remainder of the term.

Section 2. Term

The term of the chairpersons shall be the same as the term of the Executive Committee, which is a two (2) year term, and the term of the other panel members shall be the same as the term of their committee chair. The number of terms is unlimited.

Section 3. Duties

A. The panel shall be responsible for identifying needs in their areas of interest requesting the establishment of task forces and/or committees to study the needs, and recommending action to the Executive Committee.

B. Each panel chairperson shall coordinate and direct all panel activities. Specific responsibilities are defined in the Chapter Rules & Regulations.
C. The Panel on Professional Practice shall be responsible for the Chapter committees of:
    (1) Practice Management Committee
    (2) Legislative Affairs Committee
    (3) Chapter Delegates
    (4) Other committees assigned by the Executive Committee.
D. The Panel on Education shall be responsible for the Chapter committees of:
    (1) Education
    (2) Continuing Education
    (3) Other committees assigned by the Executive Committee.
E. The Panel on Member Services shall be responsible for the Chapter committees of:
    (1) Public Relations Committee
    (2) Membership Committee
    (3) Other committees assigned by the Executive Committee.
F. The Panel on Finance shall be responsible for the Chapter committees of:
    (1) Finance Committee
    (2) Other committees assigned by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Vacancies
If an appointed member dies, resigns, is removed from office, moves from the state, or fails to serve, the Executive Committee shall appoint an eligible member to serve the unexpired portion of that term.

Section 5. Required Reports
Unless stated in these bylaws, each standing committee shall submit an annual report to the Chapter.

Section 6. Tenure
Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws or Rules & Regulations, chairpersons of standing committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, except for the Nominating Committee members who are elected, and shall serve a three (3) year term or until successors are nominated and assume office.

Section 7. Standing or Special Committees
Such other committees, standing or special, may be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, as the Chapter or Executive Committee deems necessary to carry on the work of the Chapter.

ARTICLE IX. CHAPTER DELEGATES TO THE ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Section 1. Election
The election of delegates will take place at the Annual Meeting. Half of the delegates will be elected per year if their membership in the APTA is in good standing. The President shall assume the alternate delegate position. The newly elected delegates will assume their roles at the close of the House of Delegates on the election year.

Section 2. Qualifications
No member may be seated in the House of Delegates unless he or she has been in any category of membership in good standing with the Association for two (2) years immediately preceding the House of Delegates. A Chapter delegate may not, in the same year, serve as a section delegate. The Chapter shall notify the Association of the names of the Chapter delegates. A PT or 1 PTA may serve as delegate but no PTA may serve as Chief Delegate.

Section 3. Length of terms
The Chief Delegate shall serve a three (3) year term. The other delegates shall serve a two (2) year term.

Section 4. Number of terms
The Chapter Delegates to the Association's House of Delegates have an unlimited number of terms.

ARTICLE X. ELECTIONS

Section 1.

A. Election for the Chapter President and Secretary shall be held at the annual meeting in even numbered years. Election for the Chapter Vice President, Treasurer, and PTA Council Representative shall be held at the annual meeting in odd numbered years. Election for the Chief Delegate shall be held at the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of qualified nominees for each office and submit the slate to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Annual Meeting immediately prior to the election.
B. Voting for officers shall be by written and secret ballot**.** The rule of the plurality shall be in effect. In the event of a tie vote, re-balloting shall be held as needed to determine the election.
C. Voting members may vote by absentee ballot by requesting an absentee ballot from the Executive Secretary at least two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting and returning the completed ballot to the Executive Secretary at least two (2) days prior to the election meeting. The Executive Secretary will deliver the absentee ballots to the Nominating Committee to be counted with the written ballots cast at the election meeting. If the member submitting an absentee ballot attends the Annual Meeting, then that absentee ballot shall be invalid. For election purposes only, absentee ballots shall count toward the quorum for a meeting. Results of the election shall be forwarded to the Association within forty-five (45) days of the election.

ARTICLE XI. FINANCE

Section 1. Fiscal year
The Chapter's fiscal year shall be the same as the Association's fiscal year from January 1 through December 31.

Section 2. Limitation on Expenditures
No officer, employee, or committee shall expend any money not provided in the budget as adopted, or spend any money in excess of the budget allotment, except by order of the Chapter's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall not commit the Chapter to any financial obligation in excess of its current financial resources.
Section 3. Dues

A. There will be Chapter dues.
   (1) Chapter dues will not exceed Association dues for any category of membership.
   Chapter dues shall be:
   Physical Therapist: $150.00
   Physical Therapist – Post-Professional Student: $25.00
   Physical Therapist Assistant: $80.00
   Life Physical Therapist: $60.00
   Life Physical Therapist Assistant: $50.00
   Student Physical Therapist and Student Physical Therapist Assistant: $25.00
   Retired Physical Therapist: $20
   Retired Physical Therapist Assistant: $15
   Corresponding: $150.00
   Corresponding Student: $25.00
B. Student Physical Therapist and Student Physical Therapist Assistant member dues are for 12 months from the time of renewal or join date. As the last day of the graduation month, the Student Physical Therapist or Student Physical Therapist Assistant member automatically converts to the Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant member category for the remainder of the 12 months of membership. Once the membership remainder expires, these new Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant members are eligible for one year of membership at 50% of the Association and chapter dues rate for a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant member.
C. All dues changes approved by the Chapter membership and approved by the Association's Board of Director’s before the Association's deadline will become effective on the first of the Association’s next fiscal year.
D. Annual Financial Report. The Chapter shall submit its annual financial statements, tax returns, and audit report to the Association when and as directed by the Association.

E. The Executive Committee may offer reduced rates for Chapter dues as an incentive to promote membership.

Section 4. Limitations on Expenditures
No officer, employee, or committee shall expend any money not provided in the budget as adopted, or spend any money in excess of the budget allotment, except by order of the Chapter's Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall not commit the Chapter to any financial obligation in excess of its current financial resources.

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION

Section 1.

A. The Chapter may be dissolved by the Association as provided within the Association bylaws.
B. The Chapter may be dissolved by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Chapter present in the voting provided that at least thirty (30) days prior to that meeting a copy of the proposed amendment to dissolve has been mailed to all voting members.
C. In the event the Chapter is dissolved, the assets shall, after payment of the bona fide debts, be distributed in compliance with the provisions of the Chapters Articles of Incorporation and the provisions of dissolution of property and records of the Chapter as provided in the Association bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1.

A. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and consistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Chapter may adopt.
B. Parliamentarian shall be the Executive Secretary of the Chapter.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

Revised or amended bylaws shall be consistent with the Articles of Incorporation of the Chapter.

A. These Bylaws may be amended or revised at a Chapter meeting when a quorum is present provided that:
    1. A copy of the proposed amendment has been sent by mail and/or electronic communication to the Chapter membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
    2. A two-thirds (2/3) vote in favor shall be required for adoption.
B. These Bylaws may be amended or revised electronically when a quorum is not present at a Chapter meeting provided that:
    1. A copy of the proposed amendment has been sent by mail and/or electronic communication to the Chapter membership at least 30 days prior to the date that ballots are to be returned.
    2. A minimum of 75 ballots has been returned.
    3. Two-thirds (2/3) of ballots returned are in favor.

Section 2.

Amendments to the Chapter bylaws become effective upon approval in writing by the Association's Board of Directors. (Exception: Changes in Chapter dues become effective on the first of the Chapter's next fiscal year following approval.)

Section 43. If the intent of an amendment is editorial or to bring the Chapter/Section's bylaws into agreement with those of the Association, the amendment shall be made as required by the Chief Delegate and shared with the Board of Directors. The Chief Delegate shall notify the Chapter membership that such amendments have been made.

ARTICLE XV. PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT COUNCIL (PTA COUNCIL) REPRESENTATIVE

Section 1. Qualifications

A. The qualifications of the representative shall be as stated in the bylaws of the APTA Board policies and procedures.
B. The Chapter shall notify the Association of the name of the Representative.

Section 2. Election and Term
At the Annual Meeting prior to the annual session of the PTA Council, all members shall elect the Representative to which the Chapter is entitled. An alternate Representative may also be elected.

Section 3. Duties of the Representative

A. To attend the annual and special meetings of the PTA Council.
B. To present to the PTA Council such matters as are ordered by the Executive Committee and/or voting body.
C. To vote at meetings of the PTA Council in accordance with instructions and /or policies of the Chapter.

ARTICLE XVI. ASSOCIATION AS HIGHER AUTHORITY

In addition to these Bylaws, the Chapter is governed by the Association Bylaws and Standing Rules, and by Association Policies.

Date of Chapter Charter: June 17, 1949
Date of Incorporation, Nebraska: December 21, 1951
Date of Nebraska Chapter APTA Bylaws: July 21, 1955
Date of Chapter Bylaw Revisions:

September 20, 1965
October 12, 1967
April 28, 1968
May 20, 1977
October 27, 1978
May 10, 1979
April 26, 1980
May 15, 1982
October 30, 1982
September 17, 1983
May 5, 1984
October 12, 1985
May 16, 1987
October 10, 1987
April 30, 1988
October 14, 1989
April 28, 1990
October 27, 1990
May 4, 1991
October 12, 1991
April 17, 1993
October 15, 1994
May 5, 1996
September 21, 2002
October 13, 2006
March 24, 2007
September 24, 2011
March 10, 2012
October 17, 2015
April 29, 2017
October 21, 2017
September 27, 2019
October 9, 2024