

## APTA President's Report – 2021-2022

This was my first year as the President and I'm thankful for how the year has turned out.

Since our last in-person conference and AGM, the world has changed. We are getting back to "normal" but we have all been affected in various ways by what has happened and so our normal probably looks a little different than it did. But here we are at the 2022 AGM.

First, I'd like to welcome any of the new members that we have in attendance. We'll recognize those of you who have never been at a conference before. If this is your first conference, please stand. Now, if you are new to APTA in the past year, please stay standing.

We're very happy to have new members. If you recall the survey that was done a couple of years ago, the demographic of APTA was heavily weighted towards older members. However, many of those older members have retired from teaching piano and many have retired from APTA as well. I suspect if we did the same survey today, the demographic would be slightly more weighted toward younger members. But our organization is still in danger of contraction, rather than growth, and this is the reason that your executive decided to hire a social media manager last year to try to increase APTA's online presence. I'll give a brief summary in a few minutes of what that has looked like but I wanted to remind you of why the executive considered this to be important.

The past year has been a busy one for the executive as we've been switching back from a mostly online presence to being back together in person. We were almost all new to planning a conference so it's been a big learning curve. We also ran seven webinars last year which proved to be a great opportunity for our members. We were able to bring in a few presenters from outside of APTA but what I'm always amazed at is the talent and experience we have within APTA and which we were able to draw from for the webinars and for the presentations this weekend.

We have a great team on the executive right now. I'm happy that we were able to find some new members for positions that opened up and we'll be voting on those positions in a little while. However, we're still short of someone for one position and that is the position of Vice President. It is true that, as someone asked recently, that the position of Vice President will lead to that of President but our team is ready and willing to help train someone. Ideally it would be someone with some experience in APTA, either connected to Extended Executive, or on the Executive, but we are willing to work around that if needed. So if you think this is something you might be interested in or you can think of someone else who might be good at it, please speak to them and to me.

Our executive has also talked on and off about how to reach out to new teachers or those training to be teachers. We welcome any suggestions you have. At some point, we'd like to figure out how to include teachers in music schools, and those at the university level. If you've ever done a google search of piano teachers in your area, as I have done, you quickly discovered that there's a lot of teachers in Alberta that have no association with anyone.

I would also like to remind you that each of our members is important to us. There are some who are able to contribute more than others but we value each and every one of our members no matter what size of a community you live in or what your musical background and experience is. That's one of the biggest reasons we can brag about APTA – everyone is welcomed. The reason for this is that we are all life-long learners, just like our Credo says. So thank you to all the members for your commitment to APTA.

There are some opportunities I hope you'll keep in mind as we start this new year. The first is scholarships. Those of you who were at the banquet last night heard Joan's enthusiasm about scholarships. Please remember that and take advantage of the scholarships that are available. If you can't use one, find someone who can and encourage that person to apply for them.

The second is Continuing Education. Sheryl Schnare is going to give us a report shortly and I'm sure she will be highlighting what opportunities there are for teachers to access the Continuing Education funds. As she presents, jot down some ideas and then plan to take advantage of what is available. We love to support teachers with all their brilliant ideas about special events for their students and for fellow teachers.

Third, the applications for the Creative Music Writing Contest for students and teachers has been a little low in the past years. We really want teachers to include composition in their studios and to give students the highlight of participating in the competition. We just heard a great concert by young students – be inspired to have some of your students participate next year.

Finally, you have the opportunity to reach out to teachers in your area and find ways to connect. Presently, we have no Extended Executive in Calgary. There's a lot of teachers represented in Calgary. We would love to see someone else take this on. And we're missing Extended Executive in other areas as well. Please consider how you can do something as simple as have a monthly Coffee Party in your area that would help to reach out to and included teachers that live quite close to you.

As we move forward in the next year, I'm looking forward to seeing how we all continue to work together and express the ideals of our organization.

Submitted by Juanita Stauffer