



February FAL Call Minutes

February 25, 2026, 8:00 PM ET

The Zoom recording can be accessed here: https://apta-org.zoom.us/rec/share/kbBbNTWBzIfEaqJ_BE9teGhHQJg0-OETNKS5ADsXyq_oLuTpdrMLwxmzXVZCc60D.HnDCakzVvr5wy3EJ

Congressional Update

Department of Education Proposed Rule: The Department of Education proposed rule limiting access to federal student loans [remains open for public comment through March 2](#). Final rule issuance is expected roughly 30–60 days later. APTA is also working through Congress and a 95+ organization coalition (with legislative, regulatory, and potential litigation strategies). Advocates are encouraged to [send their comment to the Department of Education](#) as well as [contact Congress](#).

Hill Happenings: The State of the Union emphasized lowering drug prices and advancing a major healthcare plan, increasing momentum for a congressional healthcare package. Details and path are still uncertain, but affordability is a major focus ahead of midterms. A DHS-only shutdown continues and may affect travel (TSA), with limited legislative time remaining before August.

Legislation Update: APTA is advancing [H.R. 5621](#) to include PTs in the National Health Service Corps loan repayment program; a support letter to Congress is endorsed by 40+ organizations. On telehealth, S. 3834 was reintroduced to permanently authorize PT/OT/SLP Medicare telehealth; a recent win extended pandemic-era telehealth policies (including PT/PTA) through end of 2027.

PTPAC Update

Local Candidate Support Opportunities: With primaries beginning March 3, candidates and members are increasing outreach; FALs were asked to flag supportive state legislators running for Congress and share district event opportunities.

Play Darts for PTPAC: APTA Capitol Hill Day attendees can add tickets for the Sunday PTPAC party at Flight Club during registration or modify your registration. The event is from 7:30-9:30 p.m. ET so plan your flight arrival accordingly.

Grassroots Update

Component Communications and Engagement: From guest speaker Paul Gagne, PT, DPT, and Ohio FAL, Ohio grew Key Contacts substantially by intentionally building relationships at state meetings and directly inviting engaged members to serve. Email engagement improved by using catchy subject lines, keeping messages concise and actionable, sharing wins/impact, and including photos when possible. Key Contacts do not need prior advocacy experience but must be active APTA members and willing to learn and communicate local stories.

APTA Capitol Hill Day: [APTA Capitol Hill Day](#) is April 19–21 at the Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill, walkable to the Hill (no buses planned). The housing and unofficial registration deadline is March 19, and registration may close early as capacity fills; housing links are provided in the registration confirmation email. FALs receive free registration; priority Key Contacts are funded. A logistics webinar will be held Wednesday, April 8 at 8:00 p.m. ET

and will be recorded. Pre-recorded issue videos will also be shared in advance once policy “asks” are finalized ahead of mid-March printing timelines.

Key Contact List Maintenance: FALs were asked to confirm Key Contacts and update lists by March 20 to keep records accurate and participation strong. Support is available for resending lists, providing outreach templates, and supplying names of active Advocacy Network members to fill district gaps. Updates are particularly important with a new advocacy database now in use.

The next FAL call will be Wednesday, March 25 at 8:00 p.m. ET.