



# January FAL Call Minutes

January 28, 2026, 8:00 PM ET

**The Zoom recording can be accessed here: <https://apta-org.zoom.us/rec/share/IC17AKEKicbbP0uIO-3UvstlraEC8MCbiT3BVzx8O1v1Xct-eWob4xq8-Pjult47.SUoBMIOpq8s1bWUW?startTime=1769648441000>**

## FAL Orientation

**FAL Meeting Logistics:** Monthly FAL calls are on the last Wednesday of each month, with exceptions for November and December. The minutes and meeting recording are typically sent the following day.

**Key Contact Rosters and Role:** Updated Key Contact lists will be distributed to chapter FALs. FALs are asked to reach out to Key Contacts to introduce/reintroduce themselves and confirm their interest in continuing for 2026. Key Contacts are encouraged to build district networks, know local clinics and PT/PTA programs, and participate in targeted advocacy opportunities throughout the year. Advocacy skills trainings are being planned. August Recess remains the largest push for district meetings, and FAL support is essential. Updated Key Contact lists will be sent to chapter FALs by **Thursday, February 5**, with instructions and return updated lists by **Friday, March 20**.

**Components Communication:** Communicating frequently with your component leadership and your Key Contacts is the most essential role of the FAL. FALs ensure that information is targeted, relevant, and acted upon. FALs should summarize and share relevant advocacy information with their components, using judgment to highlight issues most impactful to their component. FALs are encouraged to share emerging issues with APTA Government Affairs staff. FALs should attend component meetings throughout the year to share advocacy information; provide notes if you aren't able to attend in real time.

**APTA Grassroots Structure:** The APTA Advocacy Network includes roughly 10,000 members and is the base of APTA's advocacy efforts. Members receive action alerts, information bulletins, and newsletters, and FALs are encouraged to promote sign-ups within their components. Key Contacts support relationship-building with congressional offices, especially health legislative assistants and APTA provides opportunities to connect with the offices throughout the year.

**APTA Capitol Hill Day Format:** In even years, APTA Capitol Hill Day is held in the spring, and Key Contacts in priority districts are funded to attend. Even-year events, like this year's, are standalone, longer, and involve additional programming. Odd-year events are tied to Leadership Congress in Washington, D.C. and include shorter programming, with FALs funded to lead state delegations. Meeting scheduling is provided both years.

**APTA Capitol Hill Day 2026:** [APTA Capitol Hill Day is April 19-21, 2026](#). Registration fees apply for most participants, but FALs receive free registration. The event includes a pre-event webinar (April 8 at 8:00 p.m. ET), a full day of training and speakers, and legislator meetings on April 21, which require full-day availability. Please book return flights after 5:00 p.m. ET.

**APTA Community:** The APTA Community platform houses agendas, minutes, resources, and communication for FALs. FALs should review and update their notification settings to ensure they receive timely updates. The discussion board, library, and member directory offer centralized tools for collaboration and resource sharing.

**APTA Community Communications:** Emails will come from “mail@connectedcommunity.org,” labeled with “APTA Federal Affairs Liaisons (FALs) Council.” in the subject line. Adding the sender to an approved list helps avoid missed messages due to spam filtering. FALs are encouraged to choose daily or real-time notifications rather than weekly digests to avoid delays on time-sensitive issues.

**Position Paper Webpage:** [The position paper webpage provides](#) downloadable PDFs on all major advocacy issues and is used frequently by advocates and congressional offices. FALs and Key Contacts should become familiar with the site and use it for meetings, follow-up emails, and educational purposes.

**Sharing Information:** Chapter FALs should send updates to chapter leadership, delegates, and Key Contacts, and attend chapter meetings or submit written updates if unable to present. Section FALs should likewise communicate with section leadership and tailor updates based on section-specific interests, such as highlighting relevant legislation. FALs should share briefing memos, FAL meeting minutes, slides, and relevant breaking news with their components unless instructed otherwise for sensitive items. Training materials should also be circulated to support members’ advocacy skills.

**Download the APTA Advocacy App:** The APTA Advocacy App provides access to both action centers, visit reporting, congressional directories, PTPAC donations, APTA Advocacy Network enrollment, and mobile-friendly talking points. FALs are encouraged to report bugs or display issues.

## Regulatory Update

**Comment Letter Guidance:** Large regulatory proposals, such as the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, prompt APTA to send advocacy alerts with template letters. For those new to writing comment letters, APTA offers a [video tutorial](#) and a [detailed walkthrough](#).

**Quarterly Regulatory Webinars:** In addition to monthly meetings, the APTA regulatory team hosts quarterly webinars reviewing compliance updates, advocacy work, and common member questions. These longer sessions focus heavily on payment issues and offer continuing education credits. The first 2026 webinar is expected in early April, with details to be shared once available.

**APTA Regulatory & Payment Resources:** Check out several APTA resources including the [Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Calculator \(updated for 2026\)](#), the [new Medicare Part B webinar series](#), and updated advisories on RTM and the Quality Payment Program. Additionally, resources are available explaining Medicare participation options and upcoming updates to Medicare enrollment FAQs. Members are encouraged to request new resources whenever gaps are identified, as many existing tools were created directly in response to member feedback. Please reach out to Rachel Miller ([rachelmiller@apta.org](mailto:rachelmiller@apta.org)) for any questions or additional information.

## PTPAC Update

**Upcoming CSM Engagement:** If you’re attending the 2026 APTA CSM in Anaheim, consider attending the PTPAC event on Friday, February 13 at Golden Road Brewing (get your tickets soon as they are expected to sell out!) and visit the PTPAC booth (#1438) in the exhibit hall.

**Midterm Election Year:** Many members of Congress are seeking campaign support, and PTPAC aims to assist strategically. FALs are encouraged to monitor campaign websites, campaign social media accounts, and email lists for local fundraising events. PTPAC may provide funding for FALs or Key Contacts to attend events and help build relationships.

## Congressional Update

**Medicare Reform and MPPR Advocacy:** APTA recently submitted formal comments to the Congressional Doctors Caucus identifying top priorities for Medicare reform, including fixing MIPS, implementing annual updates, and repealing MPPR. Because only Congress can fully change the MPPR statute, APTA and partner organizations are working to introduce legislation addressing it directly.

**Possible Government Shutdown:** HHS Appropriations must pass by Friday, January 30 to avoid a partial government shutdown. The bill includes a two-year telehealth extension through December 2027, NIH funding increases, CDC funding stabilization, and workforce investments. Although a shutdown remains likely, Senate dynamics are shifting, and negotiations continue rapidly. APTA will keep members informed on any implications for federal programs, including telehealth and provider operations with an FAQ document. APTA has maintained similar resources during previous shutdowns and will continue updating as needed.

**Department of Education Proposed Rule:** On January 29, 2026, the U.S. Department of Education released a proposed rule that includes a new definition that, if enacted, would reclassify dozens of professional degree programs (including physical therapy) as “graduate degree programs” for the purposes of federal student loan borrowing limits. APTA is pursuing dual advocacy strategies: formal comments to the Department and [outreach supporting two bills addressing the issue](#). The proposed rule may negatively affect the physical therapy workforce pipeline.

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