



R. Charles Harker, Esq. Policy Maker Award Criteria & Details

Purpose

To recognize APTA members whose actions have impacted health policy

Eligibility

- Current APTA member in good standing
- All APTA membership classes are eligible
- Section membership is not required

Criteria

1. The member has demonstrated leadership in health policy making at the state or national level.
2. The member's actions have influenced or resulted in a significant policy change at the state or national level.
3. The member initiated a policy shift of broad magnitude for the profession.

Nominations

Nominations will be accompanied by at least one letter of recommendation specifically addressing the eligibility criteria for this award, and two additional letters of support.

Deadline

Nominations must be received by the Section office no later than November 1.

Selection

The Nominating Committee will review all nominations and submit the committee's recommendation to the Section's Board of Directors by December 1 for final award approval.

Where to Apply

Nominations and all related materials may be sent electronically or by mail to the HPA Section office. Current contact information is available from the website: www.aptahpa.org

Award

Recognition Plaque plus One-year Complimentary Section Membership

Presentation

Awarded annually since February of 1997 at the CSM Section on Health Policy & Administration reception.

Background

About Charlie Harker, Esq.

Charlie did his undergraduate work at Yale and received his law degree from George Washington University in Washington D.C. In 1978, Charlie was working with the Justice Department, following a long stint as a staffer on Capitol Hill, when Frank Mallon, then Director of the Government and Legal Affairs Department at the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), hired him to work at AOTA.

Frank Mallon joined the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) staff in July of 1981 as the Associate Executive Director for Professional Relations. Among Frank's early responsibilities was hiring a new director for APTA's Government Affairs Department. After reviewing numerous resumes and several interviews without success in identifying an acceptable candidate, Frank gave Charlie Harker a call about the director position. The rest is history. In 1982, Charlie Harker became Director of Government Affairs at APTA.

Charlie's contributions to APTA were many and diverse. He built a strong and extremely effective Government Affairs Department. When he arrived in 1982, the department included himself and a secretary. When Charlie died in late 1993, the Department had a seven to eight person staff that was working on federal legislation, regulation, and on state issues, particularly direct access. By the end of 1993, thirty states had direct access. Twenty-seven of these states achieved direct access while Charlie was in the Director's position.

Charlie was responsible for introducing telemarketing into APTA's political action program. With the advent of telemarketing, APTA's PAC fund grew from one that raised about \$75,000 per year to one that raised more than seven

times that amount. Through the efforts of Charlie and his staff, the solid foundation was laid for the even larger and more effective physical therapy PAC that exists today.

One of the most significant accomplishments during Charlie's tenure was securing the exemption of rehabilitation hospitals and separate rehabilitation departments from the prospective payment system that was applied to hospitals in the early 1980s. Charlie and his staff played major roles in successfully lobbying to have this exemption written into law. The exemption was critical for rehabilitation and the persons in need of rehabilitation services because there was no valid basis for implementation of a prospective payment system in rehabilitation, and to effect one would only have resulted in the loss of needed services for countless Medicare beneficiaries.

One of Charlie's early successful lobbying efforts was to ward off attempts to repeal the increase on the Medicare cap on private practice physical therapist services. During Charlie's tenure, the cap rose from \$500 to \$900. Just prior to his joining APTA, the cap had risen from \$100 to \$500. These incremental increases resulted from continuing efforts to do away with the cap altogether.

Charlie also actively participated in a coalition with other health care groups to oppose repeal of the provision recognizing Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (CORFs) as Medicare Part B providers. This effort was also successful.

Personally, Charlie handled countless regulatory brush fires that involved working with staff of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to iron out problems created for individual PTs through intermediary or carrier misinterpretation of Medicare's rules. Charlie was known as a ready, willing, and competent resource when APTA members encountered problems with the Medicare system.

The R. Charles Harker Policy-Maker Award was created in 1997 by the Section on Health Policy, Legislation & Regulation (now the Section on Health Policy & Administration) in memory of Charlie and in admiration for his numerous, significant contributions to health policy. The profession of physical therapy is stronger because of him.

Past Recipients

1997	Clem G. Eischem
1998	Royce Noland
1999	Ernie Burch
2000	Marilyn Moffat
2001	Blair Packard
2002	Luther Kloth
2003	John Palazzo
2004	Jayne Snyder
2005	Nancy Garland
2006	none awarded
2007	Justin Moore
2008	Ben Massey, Jr.