

STAFF

CATHY IZZI

How long have you served at PPTA?

I have been supporting industry and staff since 1982, with my humble beginnings in service of the American Blood Resources Association.

What do you focus on in your role as PPTA's Director, Member Services/Office Manager?

My role as metamorphosed into more of an internal operations function over the years. I administer the benefits, payroll, recruiting services and office administrative services, such as our document management system, training initiatives, office policy and procedures, office supplies, etc. My external member services role includes, in part, lead logistics coordinator for the Plasma Protein Forum, production of the Source Essentials quarterly e-newsletter, and working with Vice President, Josh Penrod in support of PPTA Source.

Tell us about your background.

I initially studied dance at the University of Maryland and was a member of small modern dance company in Bowie, Maryland. In early 1982, I had open heart surgery through the Heart Program at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda. I mention this because, as I came to work at the Association, I was involved in a Blood Study relating to transfusion-associated hepatitis. Because of that and that NIH had samples of my blood and that of my blood donors in 1984; I was invited to participate in a study to evaluate "a new test which hopefully will detect carriers of the agent which causes AIDS." Just an interesting correlation and the rest is history.

I have a wonderfully supportive husband of 28 years, and a very talented and loving son of 21 years. My husband Greg and I, along with other family, have a jazz band which gives us a creative outlet.

What is your proudest professional achievement?

After nearly 30 years between ABRA and PPTA, it is difficult to pin point a specific achievement. I would have to say that simply I am most proud of my perseverance, patience and adaptability over the years.

What is most rewarding about working in this industry?

It's all about the people: The people we work with, the people who challenge us, and the people whose lives are improved and saved with the unique therapies our members produce. 🌱

