

Leading the Way to Excellence

LOTA

news

President's Message

The events of the last few weeks have been very difficult for the whole state. The wide-spread damage from Hurricane Gustav and Hurricane Ike has once again left our state with damage and destruction. We at LOTA are eager to be available to help in any way possible. We have been contacted by AOTA and they have also offered a helping hand. Despite the interruptions of Hurricane Gustav and Ike, LOTA has been hard at work for you. Increasing membership and participation continues to be our number one goal. Our membership numbers are currently 306 and our goal for 2010 is 400. We still have work to do! The most important benefit of membership is the work LOTA does toward protecting our professional future.

This year the state legislative session was a long grueling one, but with the help of our excellent Lobbyist Kevin Hayes, Legislative Chair Mark Paxton, and LOTA members, we had another successful session. We had legislative day in June and had the wonderful opportunity to meet with different legislators and educate them about our profession. We also had many bills in the regular session that had potential to impact our profession that required monitoring and at times advocacy. See Kevin Hayes' summary of the state legislative session on page 3.

The national legislative session also had an impact on occupational therapy. The most exciting news was that the house and senate overrode the president's veto and the following improvements were made to Medicare law:

- ◆ Extends the Therapy Cap Exceptions Process for 18 months
- ◆ Replaces a 10.6% cut to Physician Fee Schedule with a 1.1% increase
- ◆ Delays Implementation of the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program
- ◆ Provides increased incentives for Physician Quality Reporting initiatives for 2009-2011
- ◆ Requires CMS to Develop Profession Specific Accreditation Standards for DMEPOS or allows the Secretary to Defer to State Regulations
- ◆ Phases in mental health co-payment parity in Medicare from 50% to 20% over several years

With all things legislative there are new items on the horizon for 2009, so keep posted to the LOTA website for more information.

Another exciting thing that LOTA has also been working on is updating and advancing our website capability through a dedicated website committee. Our plan is to have the new website ready for the Spring Conference. If you are interested in providing input or assisting in anyway, please feel free to contact me at tpottstot@bellsouth.net.

LOTA continues to work for you and meet your needs, please feel free to contact us with questions or concerns.

Toni Potts, MOT, LOTR

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LOTA

board
members

PRESIDENT: Toni Potts

17 Tulleries Garden Lane
Harvey, LA 70058
Ph: 504-349-1508
e-mail: tpottsot@bellsouth.net

Vice President—Christe Brewton

East Jefferson General Hospital
4200 Houma Blvd., 2nd Floor
Metairie, LA 70006
Ph: 504-456-5038 * Fax: 504-454-5299
e-mail: cbrewton@ejgh.org

SECRETARY: Megan Mills

37353 Mindy Way Drive
Prairieville, LA 70769
Ph: 225-413-2274 * Fax: 225-291-7051
e-mail: mblaize78@hotmail.com

TREASURER: Todd Danos

165 Willow Drive
Gretna, LA 70053
Ph: 504-842-2776* Fax: 504-842-4393
e-mail: tdanos@ochsner.org

AOTA REP: Dawn Martin

36073 Cheray Drive
Denham Springs, LA 70706
Ph: 225-665-1941
e-mail: dalbarado@yahoo.com

COTA REP: Jennifer Berlin

401 West Hampton Drive
Pineville, LA 71360
Ph: 318-640-9189 Fax: 318-229-7968
e-mail: jberlin@therapymgmt.com

Meet Our New Board Members



**Christine E. Wright, PhD, LOTR
Northwest District Chair**

Christine E. Wright, PhD, LOTR is an assistant professor of Occupational Therapy at Louisiana State University Health Science Center-Shreveport. Dr. Wright has been an adolescent and adult therapist for 15 years and a professor of occupational therapy for 8 years. Dr. Wright's research interests include pedagogical studies, diversity and cultural competence, and occupational deprivation. Dr. Wright has completed research on occupational therapy education; occupational deprivation of LGBT youth, individuals with visual impairments, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; and community services for older adults. Dr. Wright has presented her research to local, state, national, and international audiences. Dr. Wright is currently serving as Northwest District Chair for the Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association. Her goal as chair is to facilitate enthusiasm and participation within the Northwest district and highlight the Northwest district's contribution to the occupational therapy profession in Louisiana and nationwide.

**Jenn Berlin, COTA/L
COTA Representative**

Jenn Berlin has over 10 years experience with treatment of adult rehabilitation for physical disabilities. She was a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Monroe in 1996 with a BA in General Studies and an AS in Occupational Therapy. Jenn has served as a CI for OTA students, Q I auditor for an Amputee Program, Prosthetic and Orthotic's Coordinator, and has updated several instructional manuals for a Rehab Tech and Nursing Tech program for rehabilitation hospitals. She is currently a Rehab Director for TriStar Rehab, Inc. for skilled nursing facility in Louisiana.

DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS

ACADIANA — Regine Dade
CENTRAL— Vicki Bordelon
NORTHEAST - Kim Marsala
NORTHWEST - Christine Wright
SOUTH CENTRAL - Heather Lively & Vickilee Thomas
SOUTHEAST – Mandy Simon Indest

Legislative Update



LOTA members met with their state representatives at the State Capitol during the 2008 Legislative Day

The Sine Die gavel on June 23rd signaled the end of the 2008 Regular Session and concluded the third legislative session in the first six months of the year. Governor Jindal had previously called for two special sessions, the first in February to address ethics related issues and the second in March, to attend to economic and tax issues.

Although the 2008 Regular Session will long be remembered for the vote on the doubling of legislative pay and the subsequent veto by Governor Jindal, there were several bills filed during the session that impacted the LOTA directly. HB 1 which became Act 19 and provided for the ordinary operating expenses of state government was amended to cut \$1.3 million from the Community Based Program for the Early Steps Program. The LOTA along with strong grassroots from some of its members was successful in getting the entire \$1.3 million of cuts restored in the budget. Additionally, HB 318, which became Act 349, mandates health insurance coverage of prosthetic devices and prosthetic services. HB 799 which became Act 732 as originally filed caused the LOTA concern because of the language requiring prosthesis, orthosis, prosthetic services, and orthotic services which are purchased by a state agency to be provided by an accredited facility. The LOTA was successful in amending the bill to make it clear that the proposed law shall not prohibit a licensed occupational therapist from practicing within his scope of practice. There were also numerous workers compensation bills filed by both the provider and insurer side but none of those bills made it through the process.

As 2009 approaches, there is talk of a special session to address healthcare and its delivery in Louisiana which will necessitate LOTA being involved politically in those discussions. The 2009 Regular Session will convene April 27th and must adjourn by June 25th. It is important members of the LOTA that during the interim you get to know your state representative and your state senator. You can find out who your legislators are and information about them by going to www.legis.state.la.us.

Kevin Hayes, Lobbyist
Roedel Parsons

LOTA South Central District holds successful National Backpack Day at Wal-Mart.



Dominique Collins, a Zachary High School student, was the winner of a back pack filled with school supplies donated by the Zachary Wal-Mart during the Back Pack Awareness day. Pictured with Dominique is Vickilee Thomas, Co-Chairperson of the South-Central District of the Louisiana

The South Central District held an event on July 26 and 27, 2008, which provided education on the effects that heavy backpacks can have on school age children. Wal-Mart, on College Drive in Baton Rouge, LA and in Zachary, LA, graciously opened both stores to allow local occupational therapists to weigh children, and educate children and their parents on the effects of children toting heavy backpacks. This educational opportunity informed parents on the maximum weight that their child's backpack should weigh, and advised them on the correct use of backpacks. Pamphlets detailing the proper use of backpacks and the best kind of backpack to use were also distributed. Students of all ages were weighed in order to calculate 15% of their body weight, which is the most that their backpack should weigh. Some teenagers, who were taller and weighed more than their peers, were advised that their backpack should weigh no more than about 20 lbs. These children are still growing and could still suffer shoulder pain and postural deficits such as scoliosis of the spine. This event proved to be well attended and was a success.



Ashley Neighborhood Association
Post Office Box 45149
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895
Phone (225)571-0571

August 11, 2008

Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association
Post Office 14806
Baton Rouge, La. 70898

Dear Ms. Lee:

Thank you for your support of the Ashley Neighborhood Association 2nd Annual Back to School Give-a-Way on August 2, 2008. We successfully served approximately 250 children and provided tips on parental involvement, back pack strategies, and community clean-up, and guidance on language development for pre-school aged children. We are grateful for your generosity, trust, and most importantly your interest in our mission. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Randy Powe
President, Ashley Neighborhood Association

Scholarship Winner



Left to right: Toni Potts, LOTA President; Megan Dolhonde, Scholarship Recipient; Christe Brewton, LOTA Vice President and Scholarship Chair

Each year the Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association (LOTA) offers one \$1,250 scholarship to a senior occupational therapy student and two scholarships of \$625 for occupational therapy assistant students. The purpose of these scholarships is to provide financial support to students who demonstrate the following characteristics: financial need, high level of academic achievement, leadership skills and commitment to community services, and the ability to articulate values of the profession consistent with LOTA.

This year's \$1,250 scholarship was awarded to **Megan Dolhonde**, a senior Occupational therapy student at LSU in New Orleans. Presenting her certificate and check were Toni Potts, LOTA President, and Christe Brewton, LOTA Vice President and Scholarship Chair.

AOTF Scholarship Winner

Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association has funds available for scholarships through AOTA's Foundation, as well as scholarships provided directly by the state association.

This year, **Jeffery Clift**, a student at Louisiana State University Health Science Center Shreveport received a scholarship to continue his studies through AOTF.

Congratulations!

Call for Papers

LOTA Annual Spring Conference
East Jefferson General Hospital
March 27 -29, 2009
LOTA Leading the Way to Excellence

LOTA Call for Papers

The LOTA Annual Spring Conference is a time for practitioners, educators, scientist and students to share their work – work that will further the profession of occupational therapy as it seeks to contribute its knowledge to improve the lives of those who can benefit from occupational therapy services. LOTA invites you to share your innovations and experiences by submitting a proposal to present at the LOTA 2009 Annual Spring Conference.

Instructions for Submission

- Proposals may be submitted anytime through midnight central standard time **December 12, 2008**.
- All presenters for each proposal submitted must have a valid e-mail address.
- Complete required fields in all sections.
- Please make sure that you are accurate with spelling and credentials.

Proposals are to be emailed to lotassoc@aol.com or mailed and postmarked by **December 12, 2008** to: LOTA PO BOX 14806, Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

Session Formats

- Workshops: Please indicate presentation minimum and maximum time limits
- Poster: Posters will be on display during a designated time period and presenters are asked to be with their poster for the duration of the session (usually a 30 min block of time).

Audiovisual Equipment

The standard room set for all sessions (except posters) is as follows:

- 1 laptop computer
- 1 podium and 1 head table
- 1 head table microphone
- 1 projection screen
- 1 LCD projector

For complete details and a copy of the Proposal Selection Process, go to our website at www.LOTA.org

Purchase an LOTA Teeshirt today!

Price: \$15

Indicate Size needed

**Send check to LOTA, P O Box 14806,
Baton Rouge, LA 70898**



Conferences & Workshops

December Workshop—December 6-7, 2008
Baton Rouge General Medical Center—MidCity Campus
Baton Rouge, LA

Opportunity to earn 15 contact hours

Topics include:

- ◆ “Electrical Stimulation for Neurological OT Practice” by Barbara M. Doucet, PhD, OTR
- ◆ “Dysphagia” by Jane Ladmiraault, MA, CCC-SP
- ◆ “The Big O!: Understanding Occupation From a Social Justice Perspective” by Christine Wright, PhD, LOTR

Visit our website at www.LOTA.org to register on line.

LSU Health Science Center—Shreveport
Department of Occupational Therapy
January 24, 2008

Opportunity to earn 6 contact hours

“Neuro-Occupation”
by Dr. Charlotte Royeen
(See details in article on page 5)

Spring Conference—March 27-28, 2009

East Jefferson General Hospital
Metairie, Louisiana

Opportunity to earn 15 contact hours

Watch for details on the LOTA website at www.LOTA.org.