

Leading the Way to Excellence

LOTA

news

President's Message

Spring is Here! Spring brings so many things, longer days, blooming flowers, and of course the LOTA Spring Conference. Don't miss out on this year's excellent conference. Our Vice President, Christe Brewton, has done a great job in bringing quality speakers from all over the USA. We are especially excited about our Keynote address by Ed Kesgen entitled "A Sense of Perspective - Maintaining Balance in and out of the Workplace" The conference dates are April 18th and 19th at East Jefferson. Conference details can be found on page 7.

On the evening of April 18th, after a day of great continuing education, LOTA is excited to announce that there will be a Spring Fling for members at the home of our Membership Chair, Darbi Philibert. This is an exciting networking opportunity and a great way to catch up with old classmates or co-workers. We hope that you can attend. Spring Fling Details can be found on page 2.

In the last few months, LOTA has been very busy working for you. We had a successful membership campaign, but are still working very hard on increasing our membership numbers. There really is truth in the statement "strength in numbers." With a new Athletic trainer bill waiting in the wings, workers compensation legislation on the agenda, and other potential bills still unidentified, this year proves to be a very active legislative session. Our Lobbyist, Kevin Hayes, and our Legislative Chair, Mark Paxton, are working to make sure we are on top of all Occupational Therapy related legislation. Together with our membership we need to make sure our profession has a voice. Please try to attend the OT legislative day at the capitol in June. Legislative details can be found on page 4.

As your President, I attended a Leadership Workshop sponsored by AOTA in November. I was interviewed for an Advance OT article about Louisiana that appeared in the December 10th issue. I was the speaker at the southeast district meeting in January. In February, we had the quarterly board of directors meeting. And in March, I had the pleasure of meeting with members in Shreveport and also meeting with the Delgado OTA students and the LSUHSC OT students at the New Orleans Campus. I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet with everyone and get feedback on LOTA and the climate of OT in the different areas.

LOTA is continuing to "Lead the Way to EXCELLENCE" in everything we do. It is only with the support of our members that we can make a difference for Occupational Therapy in the great State of Louisiana.

Toni Potts, LOTA President

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LOTA

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members

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LOTA SPRING FLING MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL



AS A MEMBER OF
LOTA

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE
SPRING FLING
MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008
7 PM

AT THE HOME OF
DARBI PHILIBERT,
LOTA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
321 14TH STREET
NOLA 70124

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL LOTA AT
225.291.4014

CASUAL ATTIRE

DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS

ACADIANA — Regine Dade
CENTRAL— Vicki Bordelon
NORTHEAST - Kim Marsala
NORTHWEST - Debby Bison and Debbie Hall
SOUTH CENTRAL - TBA
SOUTHEAST – Mandy Simon Indest

AOTA Representative Report

Dear Louisiana Constituents,

AOTA's Representative Assembly (RA) is gearing up for its annual meeting in Long Beach, California from April 8th through the 11th. All of the reports are already available on AOTA's Web site www.aota.org in Leadership & Governance, Representative Assembly, RA Meeting (<http://www.aota.org/Govern/RA/RAMeetings.aspx>). Also, in the March 10th OT Practice , most of the motions are listed for this upcoming RA meeting. Some of the topics to be debated include the three member motions below as well as motions to create a voluntary fieldwork credentialing program (COE), health care reform (Speaker), and OTA initiatives (President & OTA Representative). This is an exciting and busy time for the Representative Assembly!

I also want to welcome Jane Ryan, LOTR who has filled the RA Alternate Representative position for Louisiana . She is eager to help me by attending some of the district meetings concerning the RA Report.

At the district meeting, we discussed the following:

MOTION 1: We move that the Speaker, in consultation with the President, establish an ad hoc committee to develop core competencies for entry-level occupational therapists for practice related to physical rehabilitation of the upper extremity, across diverse contexts and the lifespan. The ad hoc committee would include at least one member representative of the Physical Disabilities Special Interest Section (PDSIS) Hand Subsection, one practitioner who specializes in upper extremity rehabilitation, one practitioner in general physical disabilities rehabilitation, one educator, and a certified hand therapist recommended by the American Society of Hand Therapists (ASHT) who is both an ASHT and an AOTA member. The ad hoc committee shall consult with representatives from ASHT and the Hand Therapy Certification Commission in the course of its deliberations. Collaboration with the Commission on Education (COE) and the AOTA ad hoc committee developing the model curriculum shall also occur to ensure the sharing of information and recommendations from the core competencies on physical rehabilitation of the upper extremity ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee will present a final report with recommendations to the 2009 RA meeting.

MOTION 2: We move that the Representative Assembly recommend to the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) to reconsider the possibility for OTAs to participate in OT educational programs as Academic Fieldwork Coordinators.

MOTION 3: We move that the President of AOTA establish a task force to categorize our current library holdings and charge this task force to submit a report to the Board within 12 months, recommending which items need to be prioritized in the process of transferring to a more durable digital/electronic form and properly archived/preserved in order to avoid losing our unique body of knowledge. The report should also include recommendations for prioritization due to the item's unique contribution to our body of knowledge, high risk for loss, estimated cost of properly preserving, and equipment/resources already available to begin transferring to a more durable media.

We want to hear from you in order to be able to better represent your concerns and questions. Remember, we are your Louisiana representatives and have voice at the national level! Please feel free to e-mail us with your feedback, or simply complete the Zoomerang survey at:

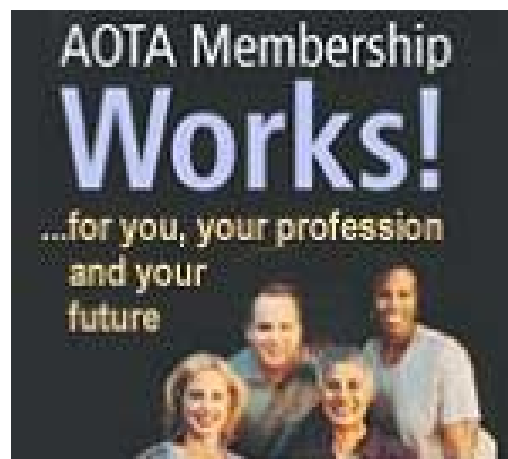
<http://www.aota.org/Govern/RA/RAFeedback.aspx>
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AOTA members are always welcome to sit and observe the RA meeting so join us. I would love to see you at AOTA Conference in sunny California and please know we appreciate your membership in AOTA.

Name of Representative

Dawn Albarado Martin, LOTR
dalbarado@yahoo.com

Name of Alternate Representative
Jane Ryan, LOTR



Letter from Mark Paxton, Legislative Chair

Greetings LOTA Members,

Please let me first introduce myself. My name is Mark Paxton, LOTR. I am currently serving as the Legislative Chair for the Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association (LOTA). I would like to update everyone on the Legislative issues that Louisiana Occupational Therapists have been facing for the past year and what your association has been doing to address them.

Last year, the Louisiana Athletic Trainers Association (LATA) attempted to have legislation passed in Louisiana that would have allowed them to change from a certification to a license. The bill would have also allowed the term 'Athlete' within their Practice Act to be changed to anyone disabled or injured. This could have potentially expanded their scope of practice to patients traditionally treated by Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists. LOTA feels very strongly that a change such as this would not benefit the patient who expects to be treated by medical professionals who are trained to treat their deficits. Fortunately, with the combined efforts of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association Lobbyist, LOTA's Lobbyist, your LOTA board members and dedicated LOTA members, this bill was defeated and never reached the floor for debate. Unfortunately, this victory is not the end of our challenges. There is a concerted effort nationally by the National Athletic Trainers Association to have federal laws changed to allow them to expand their scope of practice.

Currently, several states' OT and PT associations are dealing with the same issues. In fact, New Jersey just recently passed a bill that expands the Athletic Trainers scope of practice to redefine an athlete as 'an individual who participates in strenuous physical exercise, physical conditioning or a sport'. This will effectively expand their practice beyond High School, College and Professional Athletes to anyone who injures themselves participating in leisure sports or exercise. New Jersey also has active bills that would greatly expand the scope of practice for Chiropractors in their state which could potentially infringe upon OT practice, along with many other disciplines. In Louisiana, the LATA has submitted a notice of intent to the State Legislature with the primary intent of changing their certification to a license, however, there is verbiage within the notice of intent that leaves their practice act open to other changes. There is also movement about to present a Workman's Comp. reform bill this year which would affect many OTs.

I urge you to contact your state and federal representatives to voice your concerns. Finding your representatives is as easy as searching for federal and state legislative websites and typing in your zip code.

LOTA will continue to monitor legislation that will affect the profession of Occupational Therapy within the State of Louisiana and fight to preserve excellent care for our patients, but we need your help. There is strength in numbers so LOTA needs strong membership to have our voices heard. If you are close to renewal, please renew. If you have an OT friend who is not a member of LOTA, forward this e-mail to them and encourage them to join. Thank you for all your support and efforts and continue to Lead the Way to Excellence.

Sincerely

Mark D. Paxton, LOTR

Legislative Day - June 4th

Commission of Continuing Competency and Professional Development (CCCPD)

Dear State Occupational Therapy Association Member,

As a President of the Iowa Occupational Therapy Association and a member of the Commission of Continuing Competence and Professional Development (CCCPD), I would like to share some information related to AOTA board and specialty certification. I would like to thank your association President for allowing me space on your state webpage and/or newsletter.

In May 2004, the CCCPD was charged by the AOTA Representative Assembly (RA) to develop new Board Certifications in Gerontology, Mental Health, Pediatrics, and Physical Rehabilitation; and Specialty Certifications in Driving and Community Mobility; Environmental Modification; Feeding, Eating, and Swallowing; and Low Vision. Panels made up of volunteers with expertise in each of the areas were established to work on the development of the certifications. Literature review, interviews, surveys, focus groups, expert consultation, and observation were used to develop the final competencies and indicators that make up the requirements for each certification.

You may ask "why should I become board or specialty certified?" As you know, the practice of occupational therapy is changing on a daily basis. The current practice environment requires more and more that practitioners be able to communicate the immediate effectiveness of their interventions and demonstrate continuous professional growth. Through its Board and Specialty Certification programs, AOTA provides formal recognition for practitioners who have engaged in a voluntary process of ongoing professional development and who are able to translate that development into improved client outcomes. Board and specialty certification provides you with an advantage in marketing yourself to employers and marketing your services to clients. Moreover this program allows you to show payers that you possess the specialized and advanced knowledge and skills they want provided to their clients. Potential benefits which may be realized by the practitioner through obtaining board or specialty certification could include: an increase in client referrals, a promotion or raise in pay for services, formal recognition by peers and other stakeholders, as well as improved client outcomes. Perhaps first and foremost, advanced and specialty certification is a process which promotes increased skills and professional development and offers personal satisfaction.

Board certification recognizes advanced achievement by occupational therapists in the broad areas of practice (Gerontology, Physical Rehabilitation, Pediatrics & Mental Health). This certification aims to create a community of occupational therapists who share a commitment to ongoing continuing competence and the development of the profession. Further, board certification can assist occupational therapists in ongoing professional development in the areas of best practice, education, and research in occupational therapy.

Specialty certification, available to occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants was developed to acknowledge the specific skills in specialized areas of practice (Driving & Community Mobility, Feeding, Eating & Swallowing, Low Vision, & Environmental Modification). These specialized credentials assist practitioners in competing in the ever changing healthcare marketplace.

The board and specialty certification process were developed based upon the AOTA standards of continuing competence (knowledge, critical reasoning, interpersonal skills, performance skills & ethical

(Continued on page 6)

CCCPD

(Continued from page 5)

reasoning). The certification programs are based upon continuing competence, or the building of capacity to meet identified competencies. I believe it is important to note that what a profession can be is dependent on its members. What your state can be is dependent on the actions and activities of you as a state association member!

Applying for board/specialty certification is a process. It is something that will take time, but it is time well spent on your professional development as well as the ongoing development of our profession. To apply, practitioners develop a reflective portfolio based on competencies and indicators specified in the application handbook. Honestly, we think that many practitioners will be surprised to note that much of their work day to day will meet the competencies and indicators required for the application process.

We are excited to share with you news of an upcoming FREE seminar on board/specialty certification on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at the AOTA Conference in Long Beach. You must register for this seminar but there is no charge. The registration form can be found online or in the AOTA conference program which was mailed to members. The session will take place from noon-6:30 pm. At the free seminar sponsored by CCCPD, participants will learn about the board and specialty certification process, be able to ask questions about the process, hear and exchange tips to earning certification, and participants can even bring their professional development materials to see how what they've completed to date can be used to meet the required documentation for the board/specialty certification application process.

Want to know more? We urge you to attend the free seminar and to visit the AOTA website. Just click on professional development where you can download the application handbook for all the board and specialty certifications without any charge, and stay tuned to the AOTA website where a board/specialty certification Blog is soon to be unveiled. Do you have more questions about the process? Please email prodev@aota.org <<mailto:prodev@aota.org>> .

Hope to see you in Long Beach!

Christine Urish, PhD, OTR/L, BCMH,

President, Iowa Occupational Therapy Association

AOTA - CCCPD Member

OT IN THE NEWS

Adrienne Landry Lay has had the honor of being chosen as the creator of the 2008 design for the Earth Day Network's international Earth Day logo. Earth Day is celebrated April 22 throughout the world.

Adrienne's clothing designs focuses on positive statements and graphics for the environment, children, and improving our future. Her popular slogan, "THINK FEEL ACT CHANGE (tm)", is meaningful and motivational for one's own causes. Other featured designs include, "PROTECT MY PLAYGROUND (tm)", and "BE THE GLOBAL CHANGE (tm)". Her inspiration comes from her desire for her family and friends to live in a safe, healthy, and harmonious environment.

She is a LOTR and the owner of RAZASPEAKS.com. She also has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and is a Certified Life Care Planner. She lives in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana with her husband and twin boys, her greatest creations.

Conferences & Workshops

Spring Conference—April 18-19, 2008

**East Jefferson General Hospital
Metairie, Louisiana**

Opportunity to earn 15 contact hours

Featuring . . .

- ◆ Keynote Address—“A Sense of Perspective—Maintaining Balance In and Out of the Workplace” by Ed J. Kesgen, Ph.D.
- ◆ “Occupational Therapy’s Role in Rebuilding Lives of Clinicians and Clients Following Disaster” by Kelly L. Alig, MA, LOTR, Shannon W. Mangum, MPS, LOTR and Jo F. Thompson, MA, CTRS
- ◆ “Evidence Based Interventions for Neurorehabilitation” by Barbara Mollere Doucet, Ph.D., OTR
- ◆ “Governmental Update and Discussion of Setting Up our Own Board” by Kevin Hayes, LOTA Lobbyist
- ◆ “Therapeutic Benefits of Using Yoga with Children” by Ann Strensaas, MS, OTR/L
- ◆ “Managing an OT Department—the Basics” by Todd Danos, LOTR
- ◆ “Improving Self-Regulation Strategies” by Ann Strensaas, MS, OTR/L
- ◆ “Career Ladder as a Professional Development Tool in OT” by Sharon Pattison, LOTR and Mandy Indest, LOTR
- ◆ “Developing the Underlying Skills Necessary for Good Handwriting” by Ann Strensaas, MS, OTR/L
- ◆ “Leadership Strategies for Occupational Therapy Practice” by Toni Potts, MOT, LOTR

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



Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association

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