



The Viewpoint

Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon

Fall 2009

Annual Conference Starts Next Week!

Haven't sent in your registration form? Don't worry you still have time ... your mailed registration form had to be post-marked by today, Saturday, October 10th. But, you can still fax it in anytime up until Midnight on Sunday, October 11th. You can also still register online until Monday, October 12th around 12 noon PST. If you don't make any of these dates ... that's ok too. You can register on-site (there is a \$50.00 onsite registration fee) next week at the start of Conference at St. Vincent's Hospital. This year's Conference is full of great Workshops, Governor Barbara Roberts will be the Keynote Speaker, you can join an SIS meeting, attend the OT Licencing Board meeting, there are lots of CEU's to be earned – including Pain CEU's as required by May 2010 license renewal. Great food, lots of Vendors, perfect place to network and meet other OT's and OTA's. Have questions? Email them to otao@otao.com. The schedule is on page 4 – hope to see you there!

Message from OTAO President, Sybil Fisher

Are you comfortable with change? I don't mean loose coins in your pocket either. Are you an embracer or a fighter of a shift in the norm? Well, no matter how you approach change...it's a comin'.

The time change is comin'...yep. The Fall is comin'...yep. Those are all easy. Predictable shifts in our daily routines facilitated by external forces are the kind of change we are accustomed to. Those kind of changes are more easily adjusted to. The change that is coming is the unknown. We've all heard health care reform is coming but how many of us know what that looks like? I'm not sure our senators and congress people know what that looks like...but guess what? They will be forming that change. People who are business owners, manufacturers and only a few health care workers, who decided to serve the public by working in public office will be the ones making the decisions.

So do we sit back and let them decide and then wait and see what comes of it? Heck no! It is our job...it is YOUR job, to reach out and educate. Here is our prime time to teach "What is Occupational Therapy" to our public leaders. OTAO is working to develop a strategy and then hit them with our best shot.

We need to speak about the ages we serve, the conditions we serve, the contexts we serve, the skills we own and the skills we teach. We need to speak loudly.

We are entering the last few months of 2009. Backpack Day, school has started back up, annual conference is around the corner and our pain requirement is approaching fast (May 2010). Our licensing board has been placed on a list for suspension with possible consolidation with other health boards. This will mean much less personalized service, and much slower service. Occupational Therapy as a profession is stepping into change and even if the path is not clear, all of us need to be on that path.

So stay tuned. Get aboard. Speak up. Initiate education. Bring ideas. Rally the troops. It's time to end 2009 with a bang!

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Guidelines for contributions: News and feature articles are welcomed. Submitted articles should be practiced-related, accuracy of information is the responsibility of the authors. Publication of articles is primarily for informational and educational purposes and not for promoting or endorsing one particular technique, procedure or philosophy over another. OTAO disclaims any liability or responsibility for individual use of applications or procedures or techniques described. Subject matter presented in "Letters to the Editor" column reflects the personal opinion of the author(s) and is not meant to represent the policy or opinion of OTAO. Photos should be black and white, at least 3x5 in, with good definition of detail. **Deadline for receipt of articles is the 20th of the month preceding the desired month of publication.** Submitted materials cannot be returned. Copies of the newsletter are available from the Executive Office for \$10.00

Subscription Rates: Subscription is a benefit of OTAO members and is included in yearly membership rates.

Change of Address: Should be provided to OTAO via mail or E-mail as provided above, or done online by the Member. Newsletters are mailed 3rd class and will not be forwarded by the post office. Yearly membership is renewed in July; applications must be received by November 1 for members to be included in the annual membership directory.

Advertising: All ads should be submitted to: Desiree Keplinger, OTAO, PO Box 7133, Aloha OR 97007, or via email at: otao@otao.com, by the 15th of the month preceding the desired month of publication. OTAO is not responsible for statements made by its advertisers; unless so stated, publication of advertisements does not reflect an official endorsement of the OTAO. Prepayment must be received prior to inclusion of advertisement. Advertising rates can be viewed at: www.otao.com/Advertising

Occupational Therapy Licensing Board Update

The Occupational Therapy Licensing Board held a strategic planning meeting on Sept. 25, 2009. Their next regular meeting is set for Nov. 6 in Portland. The board will be providing 1 hour of CE at the OTAO conference during their presentation on current topics on Friday, October 16th, from 11:15 - 12:15. Board members and the Director will also be available to answer your questions during the conference.

Please note if you do not find the Director in the office, there are now 7 mandatory furlough days each year for the next two years. State employees are not covered by state liability insurance and are not to work these days. Please keep this in mind if you are not able to contact Felicia Holgate, Board Director.

The Board will be providing information about new legislation which includes fingerprinting authority, mandatory duty to report child abuse, mandatory reporting of illegal or unprofessional conduct and other topics as well as information about the May 1, 2010 online renewals. There was also be a yearly customer satisfaction survey sent by e-mail in Sept. This is required for the legislature for all state agencies, but comments are used by the board to improve its services.

**Contact Info for the
Occupational Therapy Licensing Board:**

Physical Address	Hours of Operation	How to Reach
800 NE Oregon St., Suite 407 Portland, Oregon 97232	Monday-Friday 8:00am - 5:00 pm	Felicia Holgate, Executive Director Email: Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us Phone: 971-673-0198 Fax: 971-673-0226

Lobbyist's Update

by John McCulley

Erosion continues to plague the state budget as evidenced by the latest figures released on August 27. The revenue forecast indicated a reduction of slightly more than \$130 million since the Legislature adopted the biennial budget last June.

But the good news is that there are still 22 months left in the budget period and state economists believe recovery is on the way. Nonetheless, concerns abound about the timing and length of the recovery, especially since Oregon has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. And it is jobs that create the tax revenues that fund government services.

Adding to the uncertainty is the current effort to gather enough signatures to refer to voters the permanent tax hikes adopted by the Legislature. Supporters of the referral have until September 25 to submit at least 55,179 valid signatures to refer both the corporate tax and personal income tax increases. All indications are that the referral effort will be successful and a vote on the Legislature's action is set for January 26, 2010, just days before the Legislature is set to begin a short special session.

Hanging in the balance is \$733 million that the tax increases were estimated to deliver to the state general fund. Should Oregon voters reject the added taxes, the Legislature will face some tough budget decisions.

All this fiscal uncertainty is one reason Governor Kulongoski issued an executive order to create a citizen work group to examine how government operates. Of particular interest to OTA members is thought the Governor floated last May, namely, does the state need an Occupational Therapy Licensing Board? Should the board be suspended or consolidated with another board?

In the grand scheme of a \$55 billion dollar all funds budget, it seems ridiculous to expend time and energy on a health licensing agency that uses absolutely no general fund dollars, has a total budget of \$362,000 and offers protection to the public. The OTLB isn't the only board that might be affected so I am joining other health care lobbyists to develop a strategy on how to get the Governor's work group to focus their efforts in places that truly make fiscal sense.

Another revenue forecast will come in November and future forecasts follow an every-three-month schedule. So we don't have to wait too long to see what the trend looks like.

Stay tuned.

OTAO Legislative Committee Update

Hello from the Legislative Team! As you all know, Healthcare Reform is at the top of everyone’s political agenda these days. We invite you to join us in participating in AOTA’s Capitol Hill Day on October 5th, 2009. We know that going to Washington DC is somewhat impractical; so we invite you to contact your Oregon Senators and District Representatives on the 5th (or another convenient day for you) and let them know what you want in a healthcare reform package. If you don’t know who your representative is, go to <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr> and type in your address.

Points to make during your contact include: Any required benefits package that includes rehabilitation should also include occupational therapy as a key service. Prevention should be promoted through the use of services to improve and change lifestyles and behaviors, including occupational therapy, as well as tests and exams that identify the problems. Extreme caution should be used to protect access to all services for children, particularly services for children through the school system and through special education. Adequate mental health and long-term care services should be included in any benefits package.

Regardless of our personal opinions on this hot topic, it is important that we advocate for OT services on behalf of our consumers and our colleagues. In addition to Healthcare Reform, the Medicare Home Health Flexibility Act (HR1094), the Medicare Independent Living Act (HR3184), and the Medicare Therapy Cap repeal are just a few items currently on the table that have the potential to impact our profession. To learn more about AOTA’s position on these issues, go to AOTA’s Legislative Action Center.

If you have received your OTAO conference flyer, you know that the Legislative Team is offering a session called “Politics for Fun”. Join us for a fun game of jeopardy and learn how to participate in the public policy process. Hope to see you there!

- the OTAO Legislative Team.

OTAO Annual Conference Schedule

<u>Friday, October 16th</u>	<u>Saturday, October 17th</u>	<u>Sunday, October 18th</u>
7:30-8:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast	7:30-8:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast & Vendors	7:45-8:00 Registration
8:00-11:00 Workshops	8:00-11:00 Workshops	8:00-9:30 OTAO’s President Breakfast & Annual Meeting
11:15-12:15 OT Licensing Board Meeting	10:00-11:15 Vendor Viewing	10:00-12:00 Workshops
12:15-1:15 Box Lunch	11:15-1:00 Keynote Speaker	
1:30-5:00 Workshops	1:30-2:00 Vendor Viewing	
5:00-7:00 Pacific University Alumni Event	1:45-5:00 Workshops	
	4:15-5:15 SIS Sessions	
	5:00-5:15 Vendor Viewing & Raffle	
	5:30-8:30 Awards Banquet and Silent/Live Auction	

Auction Donations:

Donations are welcome and wanted at the Conference Registration Table Friday & Saturday mornings.

See included Flyer for details

Student Update

By Summer Ireland, OTS, Pacific University

Daytime breeze becomes crisper, nights get cooler, leaves start to change color; sounds like fall. And with fall comes back-to-school, for the young and old, alike.

Autumn is an exciting time for the Pacific University School of Occupational Therapy. It's been a delight to meet and welcome our new class of MOT 1 students, and do our best to assist them in settling into the atmosphere. The MOT 2's are back in the saddle after a short summer break, and are starting to prepare for beginning level II fieldwork. It's been great to see the familiar faces of the MOT 3 class, who have been out on level II fieldwork rotations since last January! They're briefly on campus before heading out for their final level II rotation. Then comes the season of emerging practice projects, and the home stretch to graduation this coming spring!

Five MOT 2 students recently participated in Stroke Camp Northwest (SCNW). The camp promotes supported communication strategies and recreational activities for persons living with aphasia, and also offers caregiver support sessions, all in a scenic Mt Hood setting. SCNW is an interdisciplinary program between Pacific University and Portland State University, and currently involves occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech/language pathology students, as well as faculty in all three disciplines. Associate Professor Sandra Rogers was part of the team who received a Carter Foundation Grant of \$10,000 from Rosalynn Carter in March. The award recognized the outstanding work done at SCNW each August.

On the faculty front, the School of Occupational Therapy is pleased to announce the appointment of Sean Roush (OTD, OTR/L) as a full-time faculty member and assistant professor. Among his many talents, Sean will contribute his expertise in mental health practice and research. Sean earned his BS in OT at Pacific University in 1997, and was one of the first occupational therapy practitioners hired in the Yamhill County Health and Human Services Abacas program in McMinnville. In 2007, Sean received his Occupational

Therapy Doctorate from Creighton University. He was awarded OTAO's Therapist of the Year Award in 2008 due in large part to his dedication to cutting edge research and program development in early identification and intervention with early psychosis. Additionally, Sean redesigned Pacific's online OT Re-entry course in 2008, of which he also teaches. Dr. Roush is expected to join the faculty on a full time basis by January, 2010.

Other faculty news includes: Linda Hunt, (Ph.D., OTR/L) became a Fellow of the AOTA, recognized at the AOTA conference in Houston, Texas in April. Her outstanding contributions to our national association, particularly in regards to her work and contributions in driver rehabilitation, helped to earn her this fellowship. Sandra Rogers, (Ph.D., OTR/L) received Pacific University's "President's Award for Excellence in Professional Education" in April. This is the highest award for teaching in Pacific's professional programs among the Colleges of Education, Health Professions, and Optometry. Tiffany Boggis (MBA, OTR/L) was promoted to Associate Professor, and John White, (Ph.D., OTR/L) was promoted to full Professor.

GET INVOLVED!

OTAO Needs You!

The Occupational Therapy Association would like to keep growing . . .

As a member, you are the best advertising there is.

Tell a Friend about OTAO and help us grow!

They can join online at:

www.otao.com

Reminders:

- ◆ Job Listings are posted online, and visible to all, go to www.otao.com and click on Jobs in the left-hand column
- ◆ Membership rates for OTAO have not increased. They remain at:
OT \$70.00
OTA \$50.00
OT Student \$30.00
Join Now and Save on Conference Registration!
- ◆ If you would like to continue to receive the Viewpoint, and you are not already a member, you must join OTAO
- ◆ Check out the Events Calendar for upcoming CE opportunities including:
OTAO Conference October 16-18
Jan Davis Workshop November 7-8
- ◆ Members can find past editions of the Webletter and the Viewpoint online by logging in and going to Newsletters & Forms

Membership Benefits:

- ◆ Quarterly newsletter
- ◆ Monthly (or bi-monthly) Webletter
- ◆ Dedicated Lobbyist working on behalf of Occupational Therapy's best interest
- ◆ OTAO-sponsored Continuing Education at discounted prices
- ◆ Online access to members-only options on the OTAO website, like forums and CE listings
- ◆ Access to research grant and scholarship money – applicants must be members of OTAO to qualify.
- ◆ Substantial discounted registration fees for Annual OTAO Conference
- ◆ Networking, SIS and Regional Reps
- ◆ Ability to make a difference in our great profession ... get involved and join OTAO
- ◆ Membership renewal is annual from the date you join

Want to Help Support Future OTs?!?

Donate to the Annual OTA0 Auction

**All proceeds benefit the student scholarship fund
at Pacific University**

Suggested items include:

**Jewelry ~ Gift Certificates ~ Themed Baskets ~ Sporting Equipment ~
Art ~ Event Packages ~ Weekend Get-Away Packages ~ Fine Wine
(Only new or mint condition items please!)**

Include estimated value and starting bid

****All donations are tax deductible****

Please ship items to:

524 NW Skyline Crest, Portland, OR 97229

By September 1, 2009

Questions/Information:

Carrie Akers @ carrieakers@hotmail.com

or Elizabeth Irwin @ elizabeth.a.irwin@gmail.com

Note:

**If you are unable to ship your item,
please inform co-chairs of what you will be bringing
by the deadline date**