



# The Viewpoint

Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon

Fall 2010

## Message from the President ... Sara Pickett

### What Is Excellence?

The OTAO State Conference is coming up in October. This year it is going to be in the beautiful city of Sisters, an area that in recent years has prided itself on being an excellent place to visit and or live. The conference's theme is on Striving For Excellence. What does that mean? Is it being responsible in our profession to try and help our clients to be as functionally capable as they can be? Is it being an evidence-based clinician, always looking for the research to validate what we know is right, or taking the time to try and document what we do so that research can continue forward?

Is it going to conferences and exploring what we can take away from the experience that will inspire us during the next year?

One of the biggest comments from attendees to the state conferences has been that they found the opportunity to connect with other OTs to be inspiring.

Is it taking the time to connect to other OT professionals outside our own little world to expand our view, and therefore potentially our knowledge base as well as our passion?

There was an opinion article in the paper the other day which was talking about staying connected to people, "facetime", that we are social creatures and the communication technology, however magnificently helpful and necessary, does not truly substitute for the uplifting social experience when two people get together and talk. It is those times where the opportunity for excellence emerges.

## Conference Is Coming .... Still Time to Register!

**G**uilty of procrastination? Don't worry, there is still time to register to attend the 2010 Annual OTAO Conference in Sisters, Oregon! Have your registration post-marked by October 9<sup>th</sup> (and received by October 11<sup>th</sup>) and you avoid the \$50.00 on-site registration fee. But, even if you miss that date, you can register on-site and still take advantage of all the great workshops that have been pulled together by this year's Conference Committee. You can earn as many as 17½ CEU's with full conference registration

depending on your workshop choices! What a bargain at only \$280.00 for OT Members, \$265.00 for OTA Members, and \$150.00 for OT Student Members.

Here is a link to the [Conference Brochure](#), in case you need it, which includes all the workshop descriptions as well as the registration form. Fill it out and fax it to (503) 690-1819 right away, or better yet, go online to [www.otao.com](http://www.otao.com) and register right away. After October 9<sup>th</sup> the prices are increased by \$50.00.

*Continued on Page 2*

---

### Inside this Issue

Messages from OTAO Presidents . . . . .	1/2
OTLB Update . . . . .	2
Lobbyist/Legislative Committee . . . . .	3/4

Viewpoint Editor . . . . .	3
OTAO Board . . . . .	4
AOTA Update . . . . .	5/6

**Submitting items for the Viewpoint:**

 **Fax:**  
(503) 690-1819

 **E-mail:**  
[otao@otao.com](mailto:otao@otao.com)

 **Mail:**  
OTAO  
PO Box 7133  
Aloha OR 97007

Printed on recycled paper, the Viewpoint is published by the Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon. Editor: Desiree Keplinger, PO Box 7133, Aloha OR 97007, Phone: (503) 658-6384, Fax: (503) 690-1819, E-mail: [otao@otao.com](mailto:otao@otao.com)

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:otao@otao.com), by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.otao.com/Advertising)

Continuation of President's Article (from page 1)

For something to be considered being of excellence, there has to be a lot of hard work behind the scenes. It is the end product that people view as being excellent. Excellent products do not happen by themselves; it takes someone becoming part of the solution, not part of the problem, to change a situation around and start it on the road to excellence.

OTAO continues to strive towards excellence in supporting members and the profession of Occupational Therapy on the state and national levels.

The strategic plan for the upcoming year that the OTAO board agreed upon at the July meeting is in alignment with the AOTA plan for continuing **excellence** within the profession through advocacy, legislation, promotion of evidence-based practices and research.

This includes continuing the great relationships with our licensing board, Pacific University and now Linn-Benton Community College to increase the recognition of the profession within the entire state.

So join us while we strive for **excellence** in the coming months and make Occupational Therapy a profession that defines the word EXCELLENCE.

Take care, Sara

**Occupational Therapy Licensing Board Update**

The Occupational Therapy Licensing Board's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2010 in Sisters, Or. The Board will also be at the OTAO Conference. Please contact the Director if you have any questions.

Keep in mind: – 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.

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: <a href="mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us">Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us</a> Phone: 971-673-0198 Fax: 971-673-0226

## **Lobbyist's Update**

by John McCulley

Health related licensing board discussion continues

On September 15 representatives of all the health related licensing boards met to discuss possible changes to how the boards operate. The group received reports from seven different committees, each addressing an aspect of board operations.

Some of the issues presented may involve legislation for consideration during the 2011 session. Others may be accomplished internally and still others will require further evaluation.

Among the items receiving the most positive response were those related to changing how the boards prepare their biennial budget. The current system often requires more than 200 pages of material to satisfy the administrative and legislative bean counters. The recommended change would reduce that to the 10 pages data necessary to explain the board's financial performance and to describe the budget request. Such a change would save countless hours for board staff and would be especially valuable to small boards like the OTLB.

There also will be a review of a single portal for obtaining licensee fingerprints rather than having each board have a fingerprinting process. Plans are to establish a pilot program working with the Oregon State Police. In addition, there was positive response to the idea of using technology to electronically submit fingerprints for background checks.

Legal fees are a major expense for many boards. Here the boards had differing opinions on some of the suggestions offered. There was mixed feedback to the concept of a fund built from the contributions of all boards that would be used for a major case that would affect all boards. Having a retainer with the Department of Justice instead of fee for service received the support of some. But all agreed that the most help would come from the ability of each board to have adequate reserves to pay for unanticipated legal expenses.

Other topics presented by the committees included investigations, information technology and board training. A summary of all of this information was submitted to the House Health Care Committee on September 23.

Now comes identification of what changes are need in law to implement some of the ideas that have consensus among the boards. I will share that legislation as soon as a draft is made available.

### **NEW VIEWPOINT EDITOR!**

Effective 2010 Winter Edition, the Viewpoint will have a new Editor ... Welcome Lizzie Scanlon!

Lizzie Scanlon, once the editor of her high school yearbook, has dusted off that old hat and is donning it for OTA as the editor of Viewpoint. Lizzie graduated with distinction from Pacific University in May. During her student career, she was active in the Student OT Association Executive Board and School of OT Advisory Board. These experiences afforded her insight into the workings and future of her profession. She learned the value of contributing to state and national organizations and interacting with full grown OTs outside of the clinic.

After falling in love with the state, Lizzie moved to Oregon in 2007 after graduating with a B.S. in Human Development. Currently, Lizzie works as an outpatient OT with older adults in independent and assisted living facilities. She recently began to assist with the Interdisciplinary Diabetes Clinic at Pacific University. She, like many of her OT peers, has a variety of interests outside the profession too. Dabbling in beading, knitting, and sewing, she's crafty. She also can be found hiking a trail, running the waterfront, or holding a yoga pose. Lizzie looks forward to adding work with OTA to this list of passions and pursuits.

### **Legislative Committee:**

Submitted by: Karen Hass, Co-chairs, OTAO Legislative Committee

### **Welcome New Legislative Co-Chairs!**

We would like to give a very big welcome to OTAO's newest Legislative Co-chairs, Chrissy Van Osdol and Rachel Gligorea! We also owe a VERY big thanks to Tiffany Boggis and Julie Seitz for giving their time and dedication as co-chairs of the OTAO Legislative Committee. With all your hard work and enthusiasm we have been able to build a strong platform for Oregon Occupational therapists to be supported by their state association and represented in Salem. It truly has been a busy, exciting, and productive first term for the legislative Committee!!

We are looking forward to the upcoming 2011 Legislative Session and will keep you updated on any bills that may affect occupational therapy and its practitioners. We also plan to return to Salem this winter for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Legislators Day! We will let you know as soon as a date is set and encourage all practitioners to come! This is your chance to spread the word about occupational therapy and meet your representatives! In the mean time, please visit the OTAO homepage at [www.otao.com](http://www.otao.com) for updates and to view our *Legislative Advocacy Packet* for ways to get involved.

Please visit the OTAO homepage at [www.otao.com](http://www.otao.com) and view our *Legislative Advocacy Packet* for ways to get involved. Special thanks to Felicia Holgate, John McCulley and Pacific University for making the day such a great success!

---

---

### **2010-2011 OTAO Board**

President . . . . . Sara Pickett  
Past President . . . . . Sybil Fisher  
Vice President . . . . . Sandra Pelham-Foster  
Secretary . . . . . Trisha Ostrander  
Treasurer . . . . . Jan Cuciti  
AOTA Representative . . . . . Sean Roush  
Trustee . . . . . Elizabeth Irwin  
Office Manager . . . . . Desiree Keplinger  
Board Development Chair . . . . . Sybil Fisher  
Continuing Ed Co-Chair . . . . . Erin Taylor  
Continuing Ed Co-Chair . . . . . Bridget McCarthy  
Historian . . . . . Jean Vann

Legislative Co-Chair . . . . . Karen Hass  
Legislative Co-Chair . . . . . Christine Van Osdol  
Legislative Co-Chair . . . . . Rachel Gligorea  
Marketing Co-Chair . . . . . Amanda Moore  
Marketing Co-Chair . . . . . Sarah Foidel  
Newsletter Editor . . . . . Lizzie Scanlon  
Research Chair . . . . . Maggie Hotch  
Scholarship Chair . . . . . Linda Smith  
Faculty Rep . . . . . Sandra Pelham-Foster  
Student Rep . . . . . Victoria Eaton  
All contact info can be found at:  
[www.otao.com](http://www.otao.com)

## AOTA Update

### By Sean Roush, OTD, OTR/L

There are two major current opportunities to make your voice heard in the governance of our profession. The first is Call For Comment On ACOTE Standards which must be completed by October 15, 2010:

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) is inviting comment from all communities of interest regarding potential issues raised by stakeholders for revisions to the ACOTE Accreditation Standards for: (1) Doctoral- Degree-Level Educational Programs for the Occupational Therapist; (2) Masters-Degree-Level Educational Programs for the Occupational Therapist; and (3) Educational Programs for Occupational Therapy Assistant. Feedback on these issues will guide the development of the draft Standards revisions, which will be disseminated in February 2011. To submit your comment, please click on the link below to the Web-based survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CallforComment-1>

The second is the Review of the Definition of Occupational Therapy Practice for the AOTA Model Practice Act which must be completed by October 29, 2010:

In June 2010, AOTA's State Affairs Group sought comments for the revision of the Definition of Occupational Therapy Practice in the AOTA Model Practice Act. The definition was last revised in 2004. AOTA's State Affairs Group has revised the definition based on comments provided from the Association's leadership, external stakeholders, and the membership on the existing model definition. We are now seeking comments on the revised version of the definition. Click here to read more about the process and to submit your comments: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22B6PWLFFCA>.

Some of the highlights of the most recent Representative Assembly (RA) session, which was conducted at the April 2010 AOTA Conference in Orlando, include:

**Motions 3 and 4** were adopted, which approved the revised AOTA *Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics and Ethics Standards* (2010) and rescinded *Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics* (2005), *Core Values and Attitudes of Occupational Therapy Practice* and *Guidelines to the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics*, since the newly approved Standards document was intended to combine and replace the latter three documents.

**Motions 5 and 6** were adopted, which approved the official documents, *Occupational Therapy Services in the Promotion of Psychological and Social Aspects of Mental Health* (Revised 2010) and *Specialized Knowledge and Skills in Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Intervention in Occupational Therapy Practice* (2010).

**Motion 7** to approve the *Guidelines for Re-Entry into the Field of Occupational Therapy* was adopted as amended, which added language to the document as follows: For practitioners who have been out of practice more than 3 years: Within the parameters present in a practitioner's workplace setting and applicable state regulations, complete a minimum of 30 hours of documented supervised practice in occupational therapy within the 12 months prior to anticipated reentry *or within 30 days of initiating employment as a practitioner providing occupational therapy services*.

**Motion 8** was adopted, approving the revised *AOTA Standards for Continuing Competency*.

**Motion 9** to accept the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Member Participation and a substitute motion were each defeated. Two related motions were adopted as amended. The first charges the President and Speaker of the RA to jointly appoint an ad hoc committee composed of the following people: Commission Chairs (4), SISC Chair, RA Speaker, an RA member, a member from the current Participation Ad Hoc committee, 2 members at-large, a member of ASAP, an ASD Steering Committee member, an OTA member, an officer of Association, and a Chairperson to continue to explore opportunities for both procedural and organizational changes designed to respond to the concerns raised by the President in the recently defeated **Participation Review motion** with feedback from the AOTA membership with an interim report for fall and final report with recommended action to the Assembly in the Spring 2011. The second charges the

Recognitions and Nominations Committees to go beyond preparing annual slates for AOTA elected positions and recognizing achievements of members; and assist in populating ad hoc committees, identifying potential volunteers via the Coordinated On-line Opportunities for Leadership (COOL), recruiting potential leaders, and overseeing new Association initiatives to cultivate and train leaders. Implementation plan to be developed by Nominations and Recognition Committees for Spring 2011 RA. Eight policy revisions recommended by the BPPC were approved and two additional motions were considered: **Vice Speaker Report Motion** was approved, charging the President to direct the Executive Director to revise the Model Practice Act to reflect that state licensure requirements apply to occupational therapy practitioners engaged in education, research, administration and/or consultation. This motion was the result of last year's charge to the RA Coordinating Council (RACC) to make recommendations regarding whether education, research, administration and consultation constituted practice.

Complete minutes and information on activities of the Representative Assembly can be found at: <http://www.aota.org/Governance/RA/PastMeetings.aspx>.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the OTA Conference and hope to hear from you as I prepare for the RA fall on-line session to be conducted November 8<sup>th</sup> – November 19<sup>th</sup> and the live session at the April 2011 AOTA Conference in Philadelphia. Please don't hesitate to contact me at [rous4634@pacificu.edu](mailto:rous4634@pacificu.edu) if there are any issues you'd like to see the RA address in its upcoming sessions or if you have any questions about the RA.

## GET INVOLVED!

### OTA 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 OTA and help us grow!

They can join online at:  
[www.ota.com](http://www.ota.com)

### Membership Benefits:

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