



# THE VIEWPOINT

Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon Quarterly Newsletter • Summer 2011

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## Go Live! A New Look for OTAO

Through months of hard work, the marketing chairs are excited to announce the launch of our new website in mid-July 2011. Our new site, at the same address, [www.otao.com](http://www.otao.com), is powered by Af-finiscape which specializes in state associations, including several other OT state organizations. The change will hopefully inspire members (and gather new members) in a site that will be easily accessible and modern.

The old favorites will still be available—newsletters, calendars, and member directory. However, the site will support more specialized, focused communication with members. “Smart searches” allow OTAO to easily email members divided into interest groups, committees,

and areas of practice. The new site will also expand special interest sections, provide a dynamic calendar of events, and has the possibility of an online store. The site will be “searchable” and we anticipate members will be able to sort not only by specialty but by region, allowing for greater networking. The new site will represent the power of our OT community and create new connections. Please visit this site and send us feedback via email or Facebook about the look, feel, and ease of access.

Additionally, our new Career Center is up and running. The Career Center is a central organized place for companies to post jobs- and receive a national audience. Occupational therapists looking for a

new job can post a resume, and employers have a streamlined way to reach OTs across the state. Email blasts go out monthly to members, or the list is available through the web site.

April marked OT month. Many OTs decorated bulletin boards and passed out flyers at work to promote occupational therapy services. Others gathered together for community service. Please, continue posting on Facebook and sharing all your achievements and ideas. Keep thinking of ways to educate health professionals and consumers about the importance of OT.

Sarah Foidel, OTR/L  
Amanda Moore, OTR/L  
Marketing Co-Chairs

## Confessions of an OT: Assuming I’m an OTAO Member Makes an...

Because I’ve been receiving OTAO newsletters annually with conference brochures and attending OTAO State Conferences as a member, I was sure that my OTAO membership was current. Logging in to the OTAO website I learned that my membership had lapsed in 2008. I was incensed! How dare they accuse me of not paying dues

for 3 years? I know I had paid my dues “recently”. Checking my bank records and then double-checking my bank records revealed that my “recent payment” had actually been in 2008.

Moral of story--All licensed OTs and OTAs get an annual Viewpoint with OTAO State conference bro-

chure. To check membership status, log on to [www.otao.com](http://www.otao.com).

And so, how much do I owe?

**Helen Christians, OT/L  
OTAO Member  
Conference Planning Committee  
Member**

## Trustee Update: Albany/Corvallis Begins Second Wednesday CE Series

As members may or may not know, Albany/Corvallis has been the OTAO region of focus for 2010-2011. The goal for this region is to build membership and camaraderie within the local professional community.

Until recently, practitioners in this community relied on the annual conference to keep them connected with OTAO and their fellow colleagues. This is no longer the case. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Regional Representative Murray Lein and local practitioner Pam-Hood-Szivek, Albany/Corvallis is more

active than ever! With Murray's administrative organization and Pam's coordination of speakers and venue, the OTAO Second Wednesday CE Series came to fruition. This series combines a community connections networking meeting with a one hour CE event to keep practitioners updated and educated.

The first event was held April 13th, featuring Ann Custer, the OTA program director at Linn-Benton Community College. She shared program details and OTA education updates. May featured yet another successful event with speaker

Joan L. Clapper, MA, OTR/L on Feldenkrais in occupational therapy. On June 8th practitioners attended a third meeting with presenter Rosemary Ayres, SLP on augmentative communication.

Though the Second Wednesday CE Series is held in Corvallis, all OTAO members and fellow practitioners are welcome to attend. Look for OTAO emails or check the calendar on the association website for details. Nice work, Murray and Pam!

Liz Johnson, MOT, OTR/L  
OTAO Trustee

## Welcoming more OTA Students to Oregon and Linn Benton

The Linn Benton Community College OTA program just accepted applications for the second cohort of 24 students as our first year students finish up spring term. We welcome four part-time lab instructors to our team for the hands-on skills lab portion of the program in each area of practice: Sue Byers-Connon, COTA (geriatrics), Eric Bowling, COTA, MSW (mental health), Mashelle Painter, COTA, BS (pediatrics) and Amy Shouts, COTA (physical disabilities). Curriculum revisions for the incoming class are in place and we look forward to accredita-

tion site visit this fall from ACOTE. Ann Custer and I appreciate the support of the OT community in Oregon as we develop the program. With that, we have more opportunities for involvement:

- fieldwork educators, both OTs and COTAs:
- Student OT Association advisor

Contact Maggie Hotch  
[maggie.hotch@linnbenton.edu](mailto:maggie.hotch@linnbenton.edu) for details.

We have one CE opportunity available on October 14th, 2011 (statewide inservice

day) from 9am-3pm for fieldwork educators in school systems. Attend on campus or online with our distance education delivery system. Please contact Maggie for details.

We look forward to seeing everyone at conference in the fall where some of our students will be doing poster presentations on Cultural Competency.

Maggie Hotch, MOT, OTR/L  
LBCC OTA Program Fieldwork Coordinator

### Upcoming Events and Deadlines

<p><b>August 19:</b> OTLB Meeting Contact Felicia Holgate: <a href="mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us">Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us</a></p>	<p>Conference Dates: <b>September 30:</b> final date submission for poster sessions (contact: <a href="mailto:janhc@easystreet.net">janhc@easystreet.net</a>) <b>August 11:</b> early bird vendor registration (email: <a href="mailto:2011OTAOconference@gmail.com">2011OTAOconference@gmail.com</a>) <b>September 30:</b> award nomination deadline <b>October 11:</b> final deadline for vendor registration <b>October 15:</b> early bird registration ends <b>October 28-29:</b> OTAO Annual Conference</p>	<p><b>Submit an article</b> for publication or an idea to make the newsletter a useful and engaging benefit of membership. Contact Lizzie Scanlon: <a href="mailto:egscanlon@gmail.com">egscanlon@gmail.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>Mid-July</b> visit the new website, <a href="http://www.OTAO.com">www.OTAO.com</a></p>	<p>Silent Auction items are accepted anytime, including day of conference, contact: <a href="mailto:2011OTAOconference@gmail.com">2011OTAOconference@gmail.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>October 14:</b> CE event for fieldwork educators in school systems. Attend on campus or online. Contact Maggie Hotch: <a href="mailto:maggie.hotch@linnbenton.edu">maggie.hotch@linnbenton.edu</a></p>

## A Message from the President: Philadelphia in April, ATOA Conference in Full Bloom

Six thousand practitioners, students, and academics crowded the scene, apparently the biggest conference since 1996 in Chicago. Philly, with the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall a few blocks from the conference, is beautiful. The Reading (as in Monopoly) Terminal has been turned into shoppes that serve food, chocolates and such. I am not a Philly Cheese Steak fan, I tried it twice, with and without "the whiz". I also wonder about soft pretzels—what's the point? Friday night, all the Oregon occupational therapists we could find went out for a night on fun bonding. Next year, we need you to join us!

On Tuesday, State Association Presidents (ASAP) met for an exciting and exhilarating day that flew by—I wish we all had more time to talk about each state. We discussed the role of state associations, in connection with or in addition to, the national organization. We agreed membership in a state association offers local, more immediate connections with professionals, an issue that directly affects jobs and day-to-day interactions of therapists. The national association may be looked upon more in global terms of the profession and related policies. At the lunch group, the question was

posed whether states further away from AOTA headquarters had more interaction in the state association. Membership was discussed. We noted that people will get involved when there is an issue that is important to them or when they see inherent value in the membership be it through peer to peer interaction, job security, or sense of being part of a larger whole. The Representative Assembly was going on at the same time, discussing policies issues, and our own Sean Roush made a suggestion on how to maintain communication between the state level and the national level.

The Welcoming Ceremony and Keynote Address was a lavish affair with the Representative Assembly and State Association Presidents marching into the seating area in front of AOTA members who had been members 50 years or more! The four of them were wonderful! I don't know if I can make it that long! We were dancing in the aisles as an all male group sang to get us energized for the Keynote Address, Shondra Schilling, mother of a boy with Asperger's Syndrome and author of *The Best Kind of Different*. She met occupational therapists at her son's school and, more importantly, at a summer camp

where he thrives. She reminded us of the unique and important profession we have as occupational therapists. The reception as part of the Expo was fun, where again, I decided I am not fond of Philly Cheese Steak. (Have they heard of vegetables?)

Friday saw the Presidential Address "High Definition Occupational Therapy's Competitive Edge: Personal Excellence is the Key". President, Florence Clark, PhD, DTR/L, FAOTA used history and the role of competition in our lives to discuss the concept of Avarte: Excellence, or the act of living to one's full potential. Healthy competition with others, not to conquer them, but to mutually grow and develop moves us forward as a profession that is front and center in health care reform. To quote Nelson Mandela, "we are not afraid of our weakness or inadequacies, but we are afraid of our strengths". We fear an inability to handle the success that comes from living to our potential. She then gave image of sleeping giants. We have the skills, we have the knowledge, and we need to show the passion. We can still be nice people, but we need to wake up. Giants, awake!

Sara Pickett, DTR/L  
OTA President

## OT Licensing Board

The next Licensing Board meeting is set for Friday, August 19, in Portland.

The Board had a planning meeting recently and is looking at the following:

- Semi Independence of the Board (rather than consolidation)
- Use of discipline matrix including

- use of civil penalties
- Legal/ethics exam
- Requiring current NBCOT certification for licensing
- Background checks (fingerprinting, LEADS Law Enforcement Data System)
- Tele Health (especially between states)

- Encouraging management skills

Please contact the director, Felicia Holgate [Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us](mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us) with questions, comments, or thoughts on these topics.

Felicia Holgate, DTR/L  
Oregon OT Licensing Board Director

## Professionals Prepared to Meet the Needs of Older Adults

People are living longer than ever before and the Baby Boomers have begun to retire. At present older adults account for approximately 26% of all physician visits, 35% of all hospital stays, 34% of all prescriptions, 38% of emergency medical service responses, and 90% of all nursing-home care. These numbers are expected to increase as the percentage of older adults increases. This growing number of older adults creates an increased need for skilled, educated professionals in gerontology.

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**“Aside from the science of aging, research demonstrates that best practice for older adults requires interdisciplinary teamwork, which requires skills in communication.”**

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Research in aging and health is exploding. We now know that life long learning and engagement in activities that challenge the brain, may preserve cognitive capacity in old age. Exercise may be critical for brain health and muscle mass can be developed at any age with an exercise program. Aside from the science of aging, research demonstrates that best practice for older adults requires interdisciplinary teamwork, which requires skills in communication. This communication includes listening to the narrative story of how the client has lived, and how they want to continue their life story. The challenge is for OTs to learn this new research and incorporate the new research and skill development into everyday practice.

Last week, occupational therapy students at Pacific University had the enlightening experience of meeting community residing older adults in the Activity Card Sort to learn about the activities they perform. This tool provides a loose structure to allow an interviewer to explore occupations he or she completes, no longer completes, or would like to com-

plete. Many of these older adults had more activities in the “still perform” pile than in the “no longer do” pile. For example, students learned that a 93 year-old woman ballroom dances competitively. Another recently took up playing a musical instrument. Students left with a different view of aging, active aging. Healthcare providers must continue their education in the study of aging to best serve this ever-changing population.

Furthermore, communication between healthcare team members is imperative. reductions in hospital readmissions have been identified by Congress and President Obama as a source for reducing Medicare spending. The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) reported that in 2005, 17.6% of hospital admissions resulted in readmissions within 30 days of discharge, 11.3% within 15 days, and 6.2% within 7 days. In addition, variation in readmission rates by hospital and geographic region suggests that some hospitals and geographic areas are better than others at containing readmission rates.

People who are readmitted to the hospital tend to be older and have multiple chronic illnesses. Some policy researchers and health care practitioners assert that the relatively high readmission rates for older adults with chronic illness may be due to various factors, such as (1) an inadequate relay of information by hospital discharge planners to patients, caregivers, and post-acute care providers; (2) poor patient compliance with care instructions; (3) inadequate follow-up care from post-acute and long-term care providers; (4) insuf-

ficient reliance on family caregivers; (5) the deterioration of a patient’s clinical condition; and (6) medical errors.

To meet these needs and learn how you can become a leader of change in the workplace, Pacific University has started a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology for Healthcare Professionals. Consider this program to increase your value to your organization and open new doors to advancement. The curriculum is developed to so that students can continue their full time roles and remain productive members of their department while advancing their specialization. Students are mentored in how to develop and establish programs that serve an aging population and adhere to Medicare requirements, and are modeled on best practice. Improve your patient outcomes by applying the most current research. Knowledge and skills in gerontology develops leaders in practice and is a primary objective of this program. Courses are offered all online and provide required professional continuing education credits to maintain licensure.

It is clear that all health care professionals need to be educated and trained in the care of older adults. For further information contact Linda Hunt, PhD at [lhunt@pacificu.edu](mailto:lhunt@pacificu.edu) or 503 352-7354 or 503 803-3963. Visit the website at <http://www.pacificu.edu/gerontology>.

Linda Hunt, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA  
Professor, Pacific University School of Occupational Therapy  
Director, Graduate Certificate Gerontology for Healthcare Professionals

## Legislature Scoop: Autism, OT Licensing Board, and State Hospital

The Legislature enters "shut down" mode with some major decisions to make, most notably on the state budget. Lawmakers received good news on May 12 when the state revenue forecast indicated that there would be \$128.8 million more revenue available for the 2011-13 biennium than previously thought. Governor Kitzhaber wants to use those dollars in human services programs and the legislature agrees for the most part. One example of that was \$3.5 million in funding added back to the OHSU budget for CDCRC programs after the Governor's budget had cut \$4 million from that program. Part of the budget discussion includes a health care transformation bill, HB 3650. The bill directs the Oregon Health Authority to proceed with the development of coordinated care organizations, streamlining delivery of services, creation of standards for patient and alternative payment methods for health services. It further establishes a process to study the impacts of defensive medicine on the health care system. HB 3650 is still in the Ways and Means Committee.

On bills of specific interest to OTAO, the legislation related to insurance reimbursement for treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders appears to be dead. After a flurry of activity, the primary bill,

SB 555, earned a fiscal impact of about \$26 million for the upcoming two year budget period and more in the 2013-15 biennium. That figure, although disputed by the bill's supporters, was the death knell for the legislation. I encourage OTAO to seek representation on future work groups that will develop a bill for the next legislative session.

SB 140, the OTLB's, housekeeping legislation has passed both the Senate and House and is on its way to the Governor. Another health care board bill worthy of attention is SB 97, a measure that would have licensing boards work with the Oregon Health Authority and interested parties to develop standards for continuing education in cultural competence. The bill also directs the boards and interested parties to study how to incorporate cultural competence within continuing education programs. SB 97 died on a 30-30 vote in the House.

It's been a relatively quiet session in the scope of practice area. The only bill considered on the topic was SB 225 which establishes a study of what other states do in this area. The House Health Care Committee decided not to take action on the bill and it won't pass this session. The PT's introduced a bill to clarify how the

words "physical therapy" should be used. It was strongly opposed by the chiropractors and went nowhere. And a bill to change how the word "doctor" is used passed with some clarifying language and with the agreement that the entire statute needs review. That review will be coordinated by the Oregon Medical Association and will involve all the professions that have an interest in this area.

In the area of mental health, most attention has been focused on legislation related to Oregon State Hospital patients who come under the jurisdiction of the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB). One bill seeks to limit the number of people entering the hospital using the guilty except for insanity plea (HB 3100). Another would change how patients subject to PSRB would leave hospital (SB 420). HB 3100 was approved by the Ways and Means Subcommittee and SB 420 is still in the Ways and Means Committee.

My thanks to all OTAO members who were a huge support this session including Karen Hass, Sandra Pelham-Foster, and Maggie Hotch.

John McCaulley  
OTAO Lobbyist

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**"Legislation related to insurance reimbursement for treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders appears to be dead...I encourage OTAO to seek representation on future work groups that will develop a bill for the next legislative session."**

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## ADTA Representative Assembly

The ADTA representative Assembly met in Philadelphia during the ADTA Conference in April. Oregon was well represented with Sean Roush, DTD, OTR/L taking the role of Assistant Task Group leader in the Procedural & Organizational Change Ad Hoc Committee task group. In all, 34 items of business were debated and voted upon. Highlights included:

- A motion to establish the Kielhofner Emerging Leader Award was approved.

- The revised *Definition of Occupational Therapy Practice* for the *ADTA Model Practice Act* was approved as amended.
- Two motions to create baccalaureate OTA education were defeated.
- A motion to remove social justice from the *Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics and Ethics Standards (2010)* was defeated.
- The *Societal Statement on Health Literacy* was approved as amended.

- A motion to accept the recommendations of the Procedural & Organizational Change Ad Hoc Committee was defeated.
- A motion was approved to establish an ad hoc committee to evaluate the operations and functions of the RA and to incorporate the intent of the recommendations of the Procedural & Organizational Change Ad Hoc Committee.

(continued on page 6)

## Annual Conference: Restoration, Re-Creation, and Rehabilitation

**“We have switched from a 2.5 to a 2-day conference to give you the gift of time on Sunday while providing many learning and networking opportunities.”**

DTAO’s Annual Conference, “Restoration, Re-creation, & Rehabilitation in our Current HealthCare Climate” is happening October 28-29, 2011 at the Embassy Suites Washington Square in Tigard (just southwest of Portland).

As Conference Co-Chair, along with Sally -Ann Defriez and a totally amazing conference committee, we are striving to put on a conference that will further clinical skills in most practice areas, let you know what DTAO is doing for you, and to provide information as to what is happening with occupational therapy at the state and national levels. And, as DTAO Treasurer, I’m in the background

stating that we have to create value (all the while tracking expenses).

We have switched from a 2.5 to a 2-day conference to give you the gift of time on Sunday while providing as many learning and networking opportunities as in past years. Twenty four sessions divided into four tracks means six hours of learning offered each day. Old favorites are included: a keynote speaker, the President’s Lunch, silent auction, and vendors. New additions are a presentation from the OT Licensing Board, poster sessions, and even a scavenger hunt! Plenty of networking opportunities wedged with an Appetizer Social on Friday and Awards Banquet/Auction on Saturday.

be having a sit-down meal for the President’s Lunch on Friday, lots of appetizers Friday night, a box lunch on Saturday while you peruse posters and vendors, and then our banquet on Saturday. Anyone who has worked with caterers knows how quickly this adds up.

And so, to all our speakers who have so graciously offered to share their time and talent, we thank you. We know that the stipend only touches what you are giving. To our conference committee—you guys rock! We are small in number so far, but mighty with ideas and energy. To our volunteers who have yet to volunteer, we welcome you with ready arms. We all are part of something wonderful.

Check out our brochure and know that we truly plan for this conference to be a huge success. Register early so you get the sessions that you want. If you would like to volunteer, please just let us know.

Jan Cuciti, OTR/L, MBA  
DTAO Treasurer

Each year we have a silent auction to support our state’s OT students with scholarships.

We are looking for new, handmade, or valuable/gently-used items to entice bidders. Donation items can be as small as a five dollar coffee card or as big as a weekend getaway. If you, someone you know, or a group of your friends or coworkers, would like contribute an item for our silent auction please contact OliviaBass at [2011DTAOconference@gmail.com](mailto:2011DTAOconference@gmail.com).

All donations are tax deductible! Receipts and tax ID numbers provided upon receipt of donation.

Let’s examine the value—activities and courses from 8 am to 8 pm. As you look at our conference brochure, conservatively estimate the cost of a CEU at \$25/hour. You’ll get 15 CEU’s, even if you only stay until 5:30 each day. Now, take into account the food. We will

## AOTA Representative Assembly

*(continued from page 6)*

A motion was approved to establish an ad hoc committee to examine the utilization of consumers of OT services in the operations and functions of AOTA.

The Procedural & Organizational Change Ad Hoc Committee recommendations dominated discussion during the session. Many different opinions as to how the recommended changes would affect the operations of AOTA and representation of member’s needs were considered. In the end, the motion was defeated by a narrow vote. A new ad hoc committee was created to evaluate current operations

of the Representative Assembly to determine whether or not improvements could be made within the existing structure to meet the intents of the prior ad hoc committees. Members appointed to this new ad hoc committee include:

- Janet Delany, past COP Chair and RACC member – Ad Hoc Committee Chairperson
- Denise Chisholm, past Agenda Chair RA
- Francie Baxter, RACC Chair and Vice-Speaker RA
- Rhonda Edwards, RA seated delegate
- Cristina Reyes Smith, RA seated delegate (new member)

- Susan Robosan-Burt, RA seated delegate
  - Debi Hinerfeld, Emerging Leaders Program and RA delegate
  - Rebecca Argabrite Grove, incoming BPPC Chair, TG leader for Procedural and Organizational Change Ad Hoc Recommendations Motion
  - Laurel Radley, AOTA Staff Liaison
- If you have opinions regarding the current structure of the Representative Assembly or other issues you would like to communicate to AOTA, please contact Sean Roush [rous4634@pacificu.edu](mailto:rous4634@pacificu.edu).

Sean Roush, DTD, OTR/L  
Oregon Representative, AOTA RA



## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF OREGON

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### Award Nomination Information

Know an OT or OTA who makes a difference in our profession? Know a non-OT/OTA who has worked on behalf of our profession? Why not nominate them for one of the following awards:

#### Award of Merit

To express OTAO recognition of an OT/OTA member for their contribution to the advancement of the Occupational Therapy profession during the past 2-9 years.

#### Kudos Award

To express OTAO recognition of an OT/OTA/OT student member for their contribution to the field of Occupational Therapy during the past year.

#### Grace Black Award of Honor

To express special recognition to an OT/OTA member of OTAO for long term contributions made to the advancement of the Occupational Therapy profession.

#### Award of Appreciation

To express the appreciation of OTAO to an individual or group of Non-OT's who have contributed to the advancement and/or recognition of the Occupational Therapy profession.

#### President's Award

To express special recognition to an OTAO member who has contributed/supported the OTAO President in their leadership role.

#### Service Award

To recognize individual members of OTAO who have provided service to the Association through time or task-limited activities.

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Award nomination forms are available on the OTAO website by clicking on the award name. Go to [www.otao.com](http://www.otao.com), log on, then choose AwardNominations (along left side). All nomination forms can be submitted at any time throughout the year, but they must be completed and returned no later than September 30th.

Completed forms can be faxed to: (503) 690-1819

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Pickett at: [otsgp@aol.com](mailto:otsgp@aol.com) or send your inquiry to the Office Manager at [otao@otao.com](mailto:otao@otao.com)



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**Conference Brochure  
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Printed on recycled paper, the Viewpoint is published by the Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon. Editor: Lizzie Scanlon, MOT, OTR/L, PO Box 7133, Aloha OR 97007, Phone: (503) 658-6384, Fax: (503) 690-1819, E-mail: egscanlon@gmail.com

**Guidelines for contributions:** News and feature articles are welcomed. Submitted articles should be practice 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 (contact the editor for details). 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 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 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.