

# WYOTA Newsletter



307.789.6754

January 2006  
Volume 2, Issue 1

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome to 2006:

The January issue of the WyOTA Newsletter is made available to all Occupational Therapists licensed to practice Occupational Therapy in Wyoming along with the members of the Association. I hope that you enjoy the information included in this issue and if you are not a member consider joining. If you are already a member of WyOTA, thank-you and we look forward to working with you during 2006.

This is an exciting time for the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association and its members. The Association is using technology and the internet as a method for communication with members and providing them with access to information and colleagues. The new WyOTA Website should be available by February 1<sup>st</sup>, so visit the website and let us know what you think.

As the President of the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association, it is my

responsibility to see that issues and concerns of the members and professionals working in Wyoming are addressed, so please contact me with any issue you feel need to be addressed by the Association. The Mission of the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association is "to promote and enhance the profession of Occupational Therapy". The Board is committed to the mission statement, but needs everyone's assistance and guidance to be successful.

WyOTA needs you and I believe you need WyOTA. Get involved and support your professional state and national level associations. Working together we can make a difference.

Hope to hear from you soon.

*Sheri Montgomery, OTR/L*  
President of WyOTA

### Special Interest Topics:

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION

Remember to renew your WyOTA membership. Membership fees will increase to \$35.00 effective February 1, 2006. The fee increase is based on the needs of the association and the expansion of our website.

Please send your membership renewals and new applications to:

Ashley Hufty, WyOTA Secretary at PO Box 2103, Cody, WY 82414

If you have any questions, Ashley can be reached at [ahufty@asha.edu](mailto:ahufty@asha.edu) or by phone at 307.587.6183.

An application is available in this issue of the newsletter.

## Meet with the Legislators for Dinner

This year the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association will co-sponsor a legislative dinner and mixer along with other healthcare provider associations. This is a first for our association and an exciting opportunity for us to promote our profession.

The Health Care Provider's Legislators Pasta Dinner often referred to, as the "Pasta Bowl" will be held at the Hitching Post Hotel in Cheyenne on February 15<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to attend this event and discuss Occupational Therapy and related issues with the legislators who are attending.

What more could you ask for? Free dinner and great conversation. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Sheri Montgomery at [fmontgom@wyoming.com](mailto:fmontgom@wyoming.com).

*Remember to renew your membership before February 1, 2006 to save!*

*Mark you calendar for the 2006 annual Wyoming Occupational Therapy Conference, August 2-5, 2006*



## WyOTA's Website

At the fall 2005 meeting of the WyOTA Board, the Board voted to redesign the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association's website. The Board requested proposals from 30 website designers and met by conference call in late November to select the company or individual who would be contracted with to redesign and maintain the WyOTA website. Dave Lerner's company WyomingNetwork.com based in Cheyenne was selected to provide this service. Board members have been working with Dave and his web designer to create a very user friendly website for members of WyOTA and others who access the website for useful information.

Previews of the new site look great and allow easy access to great information. Once the site is completed and online individuals will be able to access current information related to the profession, view employment opportunities, view continuing education opportunities, link to related websites, request library materials from the WyOTA Website, download association documents, register for the Annual WyOTA Conference and pay using Paypal, download the WyOTA Quarterly Newsletter, and join or renew your membership, again using Paypal. As the website expands, the Board hopes to implement a program where members can share information or ask questions of other members of WyOTA by posting messages through the website.

The Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association is moving into the world of technology and hope that this transition will meet the needs of the members by providing necessary information and a forum for professional interaction and exchange. Of course if you prefer to receive information in an alternate fashion, your Association will accommodate your request.

Look for the new website to be available in early February 2006. Go to [www.wyota.org](http://www.wyota.org).

## The Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association

Would like to recognize and thank Julie Hardee, OTR/L for her leadership and direction in the establishment of the WyOTA website.

Julie volunteered her time and skills to establish the first website for WyOTA.

Her insight and dedication was the driving force behind the association's transition to the world of technology.

Thank You Julie for your hard work and dedication to the profession.

## AOTA Language Improves Cap Solution in

In the wee hours of Monday, December 19, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (S.1932) by a 212-206 vote, which included a proposal to fix the cap on outpatient occupational therapy.

In a great victory for AOTA and consumers, the compromise bill, produced by a conference between Republican leaders in the Senate and House, provides for an interim cap solution that allows patients to apply to receive medically necessary beyond the cap level. This approach follows the alternative promoted by AOTA but is limited to only one year. More legislative action would be needed next year to address 2007.

Also, adopting AOTA language, the bill recommends additional "edits" in the Medicare payment system with the insertion of AOTA's wording that any edits must be

"clinically appropriate." The bill also includes a leveling of physician fee payment amounts for 2006 and 2007, which in turn increases Part B payments for therapy and extends the implementation of the inpatient rehabilitation facility "75%" rule to allow a one-year extension through 2007 for implementation at the 60% level.

But the tough side of the bill makes massive cuts to Medicaid, which may have a direct impact on occupational therapy services. The bill proposes patient co-payment increases for certain Medicaid beneficiaries.

The bill is expected to reach the Senate floor today and requires only 51 votes for passage. The outcome is expected to be close, since Republican moderates might oppose it because of the cuts to Medicaid and other programs, while few if any Democrats will support it.

## Representative Assembly Meeting

The 2006 Representative Assembly will hold their annual meeting prior to the 2006 Annual AOTA Conference, April 26-28th in South Carolina. You are invited to provide your input regarding the issues being considered by accessing the information through the AOTA Website at [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org). Remember you need to be an AOTA member to provide input and you will be asked for your membership number prior to gaining access to this page of the website.

Look for more information to be posted on the WyOTA Website with questions that Jean would like you to respond to. This information will be available in March and can be accessed on the RA section.

Please contact Jean at any time with any issues the Representative Assembly needs to consider to meet your professional needs.

Jean Owsley, OTR/L, RA Member  
1219 JOHNSON STREET  
THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443  
307-921-9928

[jeanowsley@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanowsley@hotmail.com)

*If you are an AOTA member, LOG ON and give your opinions. If you are not a member, call, email, or write.*



**AOTA Annual  
Conference and  
Business Meeting is  
scheduled for  
April 25-28<sup>th</sup> in  
Charlotte, North  
Carolina**

*AOTA is there to  
serve its members  
and their needs.*

## WyOTA Conference Update

The 2006 Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association's Annual Conference and Business Meeting will be held August 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup> in Rock Springs at Western Wyoming Community College. This year's conference has been extended to four days to accommodate the exciting offerings. Attendees will have their choice of pediatric and school-based courses including a two-day NDT handling course, two-day Yoga, or three separate one day courses in Brain Gym for the Classroom, Feeding for Infants and Children, and Infant Massage. For the adult population, three separate two-day courses will be offered. These include aquatics, home modification and an ergonomics course that will result in a certification.

The cost for attendees will vary for members, non-members, and students. Student rates are \$200, non-members are \$380, and members are \$330. For any individuals who wish to attend only for one day, the cost will be \$100. Those who choose to take the aquatic course will be charged an additional \$50 to cover fees and related costs. These costs are significantly reduced from what the companies would normally charge participants!

Dorm rooms will be available for \$20.00 per person and secured hotel rooms range from \$85.00 to \$109.00 per night. Further information regarding hotels and lodging will be included in the conference brochure tentatively scheduled to be mailed in March.

The Sweetwater County Fair coincides with the conference and has a concert schedule for each night of the conference. Additionally, a welcoming booth will be set-up at the fair for all attendees. Sweetwater County has many other local attractions for the entire family including Flaming Gorge Dam and Reservoir, Red Canyon Lodge, the Wild Horse Tour, sand dunes and Boar's Tusk, and the Green River for fishing and whitewater rafting to name a few.

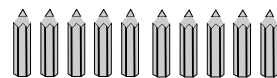
An email account will be set-up for any questions or comments regarding the conference. That address will provided at a later date or look to the WyOTA website for updates and contact information. The committee is very excited about all of the opportunities for learning and fun for the 2006 WyOTA Conference and can't wait to see you.

Did you know that there are many unique opportunities to share your skills and knowledge as an Occupational Therapist?

Recently, AOTA invited Occupational Therapists to contact their Governor, Senator or Representative requesting that they be nominated as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging.

This was an opportunity for Occupational Therapists to voice their opinions and share their knowledge with others on issues that face or will face the aging citizens in the United States. What a great place for Occupational Therapists to have input and share ideas.

Look for additional opportunities like this on the WyOTA website or in the WyOTA Newsletter.



## WyOTA Board Elections to be Held in August

The Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association is seeking individuals who are interested in serving as the President-elect, Vice President and Treasurer of the Association. These are an excellent opportunity to use your leadership skills and work with other Occupational Therapist to enhance the profession within Wyoming. The positions of Vice President and Treasurer are two-year positions, while the position of President-Elect is a one-year position followed by a two-year term as President.

WyOTA and AOTA will provide you with training and assistance to help make this position a positive experience for you.

Consider running for any of these positions. Being involved in your professional organization is a great opportunities to develop leadership skills, while having lot's of fun. If you are interested, please contact any WyOTA Board member.

**Take the challenge get involved!**



*WyOTA builds on the member's ideas and suggestions.*

## 2006 State Legislative Session

The 2006 Wyoming State Legislative Session will begin in mid February 2006. This year's session is a budget session and will focus on distribution of state funds for the next two years. Everyone should be hearing lots about how the moneys should be spend and what should be done with any excess moneys.

Bills presently posted on the Legislative Website have been reviewed and few will have any impact on Occupational Therapy. Two Bills that may be of interest to the profession are Senate File SF0014 Mental Health Insurance Parity, which mandates coverage for specified mental illnesses under health insurance policies issued in the state. Sounds like an excellent idea to follow and see that comes from it. The second bill is House Bill HB0012, which provides funding of developmental preschool programs. This Bill is will be watch closely, as many Occupational Therapists in Wyoming work in these programs.

**Look to the WyOTA website for updated information and details as they come available.**

## News From WYOTA Lending Library

The WyOTA lending library continues to ask for your help in locating missing and overdue books. Please check your bookshelves to see if you have any materials might belong to the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association's Lending Library. Postcards have been mailed to the last borrower on record as a reminder to return materials. Books should be returned via mail to:

WyOTA Lending Library  
C/O Charlie L. Baumer, Vice President  
638 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greybull, WY 82426

Thank you for you help in rounding up the missing items.  
If you have a suggestion for an item to be added, please share with Charlie



*Remember April is  
National  
Occupational  
Therapy Month-  
Celebrate in your  
community.*

## Updates on WyOTA Activities and Efforts

The following is a list of some of the activities WyOTA has participated in during the previous year. We want to share this information and would love suggestions for additional areas to address or become involved.

- ✓ Working with the Division of Developmental Disability on home modification and specialized equipment guidelines
- ✓ Worked with Wyoming Medicaid to ensure continued coverage of services for Occupational Therapy
- ✓ Commented on proposed revisions to the Wyoming Worker's Safety and Compensation Rules and Regulations
- ✓ Discussed coverage for Occupational Therapy with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming Representatives
- ✓ Enhanced the WyOTA Website- more is to come!
- ✓ Explored the development of a display board to promote Occupational Therapy and related activities of the profession
- ✓ Supported an article in the Casper Tribune and other newspapers in the state related to Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy month
- ✓ Maintained a balance budget for the Association
- ✓ Supported an Occupational Therapist to be a member of the Rehabilitation Panel for Worker's Compensation
- ✓ Contacted legislators to express opinions related to legislative activities and bills proposed during the 2005 Wyoming Legislative session
- ✓ Presented testimony related to Occupational Therapy and the IDEA rules and regulation revisions in Laramie
- ✓ Received a grant from the State Department of Education to support our annual conference
- ✓ Met with the Presidents of the Wyoming Physical Therapy Association and the Wyoming Speech and Hearing Association to establish a tri-alliance and enhance working relations
- ✓ Updated and added to the Lending Library
- ✓ Provided information related to Occupational Therapy to Wyoming Legislators
- ✓ Established a contractual agreement with [www.Care2Learn.com](http://www.Care2Learn.com)
- ✓ Offered scholarships to students and other interested individuals to attend our annual conference
- ✓ Updated federal tax status and incorporation status with the state.



*Do you have an issue or project for WyOTA to address?  
If you have a problem or concern regarding the profession or an area of practice, chances are there are others with the same concern. Share this information with the leaders of WyOTA, so we can work together to enhance the profession and our practice skills.*



## Through With Chew Week Campaign

Wyoming's third annual Through With Chew Week is February 12-18, 2006, with the Great American Spit Out occurring on February 16. Established in 1989 by the American Academy of Otolaryngology as a public education campaign on spit tobacco, Wyoming's Through With Chew program is here to help you quit spit for life!

Take the opportunity during Through With Chew Week to help your clients quit spit tobacco and improve their health and their lives. Through With Chew Week is not only about an individual quitting spit tobacco for a day or a week, but also about a community striving to become tobacco free.

Spit tobacco use is prevalent in Wyoming, with over fourteen percent of Wyoming's males using spit tobacco— that is almost double the national average. Spit tobacco causes the disfiguring and deadly, oral cancer, in addition to numerous other serious health problems. According to the Centers for Disease Control, oral cancer is the sixth-leading cancer in men, with 30,000 cases per year, and most cases are caused by spit tobacco use. About one person dies every hour from the disease. Oral cancer is one of the most difficult cancers to diagnose, treat and cure. Only half diagnosed survive longer than five years. (Hurt, R.D. (2001) Mayo Foundation for Medical Education & Research.)

What can you do as an Occupational Therapist to help clients quit spit tobacco? The most important thing you can do is administer the 5 A's!

- Ask your client if they use.
- Advise your client strongly to quit.
- Assess and determine his/her willingness to quit.
- Assist the client in quitting (tell them to call 1-877-WYO-QUIT, or go to [www.throughwithchew.com](http://www.throughwithchew.com) to find a local tobacco program for your free Quit Spit Kit.)
- Arrange follow up for your client to discuss tobacco cessation.

By calling 1-877-WYO-QUIT, clients can community resources and ways to receive free Nicotine Replacement Therapy, increasing the chances of a successful quit attempt. Any healthcare provider interested in receiving free training on how to perform the 5 A's, contact Susan Jenkins with Wyoming's Screen and Intervene Program, at 307-686-3699 or [scjenkins@vcn.com](mailto:scjenkins@vcn.com).

Through the week of February 12-18, 2006 make a choice to improve your health or the health of your clients, and become tobacco free!

### Celebrate National Occupational Therapy Month During the month of April

This is a great time to share your skills and knowledge with others in your community. Get together with your peers and host a community event, produce radio spots, or write an article for the local paper. What every you do will help others to become more aware of Occupational Therapy!



## Board Members Contact Information

### **WyOTA CONTACT**

#### **BUSINESS ADDRESS**

313 Herschler Avenue  
Evanston, Wyoming  
82930

#### **PHONE:**

307.789.6754

#### **We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

**[www.wyota.org](http://www.wyota.org)**

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Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association  
313 Herschler Avenue  
Evanston, WY 82930

## 2005 Representative Assembly Online Meeting Highlights

The following is a brief summary of some-but certainly not all- of the 26 actions taken by the 2005 Representative Assembly (RA) Online Meeting conducted from October 25, 2005 through November 10, 2005. The RA is the Congress of AOTA and is responsible for setting policy for the profession. The online meeting is conducted every fall and allows the Assembly to conduct Association business in a timely manner. The RA's next meeting will be face-to-face in Charlotte, NC, April 25–28, 2006.

### Societal Issues

- After a lively debate, passed the concept statement on *The Role of Occupational Therapy in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery*. Edits will be made by the Commission on Practice (COP) regarding the term OT practitioner prior to dissemination.
- The Obesity statement also had a lot of discussion and it was referred back to the authors to incorporate many of the ideas expressed by the representatives. It will be brought back to the face-to-face meeting in April 2006 for approval.
- The revised Policy 1.48 Emergency was adopted. It outlines in detail how the Association would conduct business if an emergency existed for more than 2 business days.

### Official Statements and Policies

- Adopted after many questions the Commission on Education's (COE) *Role Competencies for a Fieldwork Educator*. This will serve as a companion document to the *Role Competencies for Academic Fieldwork Coordinator*.
- Rescinded the statement *Fundamental Concepts of Occupational Therapy: Occupation, Purposeful Activity, and Function*. These terms are now defined in the *Occupational Therapy Practice Framework*, the *Scope of Practice*, and the *Model Practice Definition*.
- The Nominating Committee's statement on Neutrality was adopted and will be used in the 2006 General Elections to ensure a fair and impartial election.

### Ethics

- The Assembly adopted the procedure recommended by the Ethics Commission (EC) to hear appeals from Board members.
- EC also recommended Bylaw language that will be inserted in the 2007 revision.

### Advocacy Related to Private Insurance Policies

- As part of a multi-tiered approach, the proposal to do an in-depth member needs assessment as the first step in developing a long-range plan for private insurance advocacy, was approved.

### Governance

- The new policy on Collaboration was adopted. It will be placed in the 2005 Association Policy Manual.
- Many of the RA's SOPs and Job Descriptions were revised and adopted as well as new nominating forms for the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Vice Speaker, and Credentials Review and Accountability Committee (CRAC) Chairperson.

**WYOMING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

**Educational Level**

\_\_\_\_ Associate  
Management  
\_\_\_\_ Bachelor  
\_\_\_\_ Master  
\_\_\_\_ Doctorate

**Practice Specialty**

\_\_\_\_ Administration &  
\_\_\_\_ Developmental Delayed  
\_\_\_\_ Education  
\_\_\_\_ Gerontology  
\_\_\_\_ Home & Community Health  
\_\_\_\_ Mental Health  
\_\_\_\_ Pediatrics  
\_\_\_\_ Physical Dysfunction  
\_\_\_\_ School System  
\_\_\_\_ Sensory  
\_\_\_\_ Technology  
\_\_\_\_ Work Program

**Professional Level Fees**

\_\_\_\_ Student                    \$15.00  
\_\_\_\_ OTA                        \$35.00  
\_\_\_\_ OT                         \$35.00  
\_\_\_\_ Non-OT                    \$35.00  
Integration

**AOTA Membership Number**

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a mentor for a fellow WyOTA member.  
I would be willing to serve as an officer of WyOTA.  
I would be willing to serve on a committee.  
I would like assistance from WyOTA in the following area:

Conference suggestions:

**Make checks payable to WyOTA**

Return form and payment to:  
Ashley Hufty, Secretary of WyOTA  
PO Box 2103, Cody, WY 82414  
ahufty@asha.edu    307.587.6183



## Representative Assembly Elections To Be Held

### ADVANTAGES TO BEING A REPRESENTATIVE By Current Representatives in the Assembly

- You have the opportunity to meet, network, and work with leaders in the profession.
- You are privy to what is happening on a national level and have input into the decision making process.
- You have the opportunity to meet, speak, and work with OT/OTAs in your state and represent their concerns and issues at a national level.
- You work closely with your state association.
- You have a better understanding of "the state of the union" and the rationale behind why we do what we do.
- You learn what federal actions may affect the profession, both the good and the bad.
- You learn what issues are facing OT/OTAs outside of your state and actively participate in solving those issues.
- You get to be part of the solution, not just part of a problem.
- You are actively involved in moving the profession forward.
- You promote membership in both AOTA and your state association.
- You have the opportunity to develop and enhance professional and personal skills by virtue of the tasks assigned to you by the RA.
- You can use the experiences and people you have met in RA functions to open additional professional doors.

### Call for Nominations for Representative and Alternate Representative

Candidates for the positions of Representative and Alternate Representative are being sought for election in 2006. The election will be conducted by AOTA in the spring with the duly elected Representatives and Alternate Representatives assuming their duties on July 1, 2006.

Representatives and Alternate Representatives are elected for a 3-year term of office and may serve two consecutive terms. To be eligible to run for Representative or Alternate Representative from a state/election area, a person must:

1. Be an OT or OTA.
2. Candidates must be a member in good standing of the state association, AOTA, and a voting member of the state/election area to be represented at the time of the election and throughout the term of office.
3. Candidates must maintain any state/election area regulatory requirements necessary to identify him/herself as an OT or OTA throughout the term of office.
4. Have at least 2 years' experience working in official capacities in local, state, or national occupational therapy associations.
5. Have access to a computer and knowledge of computer-based systems.

The duties of a Representative and Alternate Representative are:

1. To represent the Association members in their state/election area.
2. To identify and clarify issues of concern within the state/election area and initiate action on behalf of the constituents if indicated.
3. To communicate the results of deliberations to the constituents.
4. To possibly serve as chair of ad hoc or standing committees of the Assembly.
5. To possibly be elected as an Official of the Assembly, if qualified.

Anyone wishing to run for Representative or Alternate Representative is urged to contact Sheri Montgomery at [fmontgom@wyoming.com](mailto:fmontgom@wyoming.com). Deadline for the receipt of nominations is February 1, 2006.