

# WYOTA Newsletter



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## Special Interest Topics:

- Representative Assembly Report
- WyOTA Board Position Open
- Election Time

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

As we enter into the Dog Day's of summer, fair season, and last minute summer vacations, we all know that winter is just around the corner. I can see snow on the mountains as I drive to some of my client's home, though I must admit the snow never seems to disappear. I am very grateful for the summer and the warmth that comes from the longer days.

I'm sure that your clients are also enjoying the summer months and the many activities that come with the season. Many of your clients are able to participate in these activities as a result of your involvement with them. That is a wonderful outcome of the profession of Occupational Therapy. As Occupational Therapists we recognize the importance of function and we look at the interests and occupations of our clients.

Not only do each of us work to improve the quality of life for our clients, but also we value and recognize the importance of participating in continuing education and

networking opportunities. As we grow professionally, our clients benefit. Our increased knowledge has a direct affect on the successes of our clients. This year the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association's Annual Conference will offer a variety of topics, identified by you as areas of interest. The diversity of the courses offered allows for all therapists, no matter what area of practice, to gain valuable knowledge and skills.

Have you registered for this year's conference? Remember this is the single most important event sponsored by your professional association and your support provides the needed fund to continue with many other projects that enhance the profession of Occupational Therapy in Wyoming. So come and join us in Rock Springs, network with colleagues, gain valuable knowledge and have a great time.

See ya soon!

*Sheri Montgomery,*  
President of WyOTA

## 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Have your registered for the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association's 2006 Annual Conference?

There is still time to register to be part of the many educational opportunities planned. The conference committee has been working hard to develop a program that meets the needs of all therapists in Wyoming. Check out the many offering and opportunities to develop relationships with your colleagues.

Check out the conference information on the WyOTA Website. If you have questions, call Heather Lyman at 307-389-8511.

## Nominations Accepted for Association Award

Do you know a therapist or community member who WyOTA could recognize for their contributions to the profession of Occupational Therapy?

WyOTA presents a variety of awards during the Annual Business Meeting and Conference. The Board is presently seeking nominations for the following WyOTA Awards:

- ✓ Outstanding Therapist
- ✓ Community Advocate
- ✓ Service Awards

If you would like to nominate someone for recognition, please contact Sheri Montgomery at 307-789-6754 or by email at [fmontgom@wyoming.com](mailto:fmontgom@wyoming.com).

*Your support of  
WyOTA is greatly  
appreciated.*

***Great Job Conference Committee! The  
program looks great.***



## State and National Elections Coming Soon

2006 is a huge election year in the state of Wyoming. This year the majority of State House and Senate Representatives are elected and yes there are many additional State level positions being considered. This is an excellent opportunity for all of us to take the time to visit with local candidates to share our profession and our legislative needs.

Consider getting together with colleagues in your area and inviting a candidate to coffee to explore their political agenda and their knowledge of occupational therapy. Discuss the impact of the proposed legislation on occupational therapy with every candidate available. Use this information and knowledge to make an educated decision when voting.

Let's all take a legislative candidate to coffee and share our profession!

## WyOTA Website Update

The Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association is an excellent source for information about the profession of Occupational Therapy. Educational opportunities and job openings are posted from outside organizations. Information about the current activities and projects of the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association and the American Occupational Therapy Association are available. The website offers links to related websites, too.

Members can access membership applications, scholarship applications, and other official documents of the Association can be downloaded for reference and professional use. Please provide the Board with any suggestions to further improve the website and provide information that you would find beneficial.

## Professional Association Member

Dear Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association Member:

Who controls the future of occupational therapy? You do! By supporting **both the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association and AOTA** with your membership, you are investing in the organizations that keep our profession strong. AOTA and WyOTA monitor legislative and regulations that affect our profession and your ability to practice; advocate on your behalf; and represent occupational therapy to legislators, policymakers, insurers and sources that refer our services.

You may ask, "Why is it important to belong to both my state association and AOTA?" The answer is that, as a professional, you derive significant and unique benefits from each.

WyOTA is on the front lines when it comes to promoting and advocating for our profession at the state level, including ensuring strong licensure laws and regulations. It also provides you with local networking opportunities and nearby continuing education. Here, your connections are closer to home, your attention is more focused on local or regional issues, and opportunities to assume volunteer and leadership roles in your profession are quite accessible.

### **But your professional future also depends on a strong national association.**

Membership in the **American Occupational Therapy Association** provides you with tangible benefits that support you in your work...valued periodicals like *OT Practice* and the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*; significant savings on books, products, and continuing education; access to the answers you need- when you call, visit the Web site, or turn to your colleagues through open access to 11 Special Interest Sections (SISs) and their listservs. On your behalf and on behalf of the profession, AOTA fosters the tenets of evidence-based practice, works to achieve payment for your services participants in initiatives such as then White House Conference on Aging, raises public awareness about the profession through activities like OT month and National School Backpack Awareness Day, reaches out to policymakers to preserve the vital role of occupational therapy, offers an extensive menu of continuing education and networking opportunities, and collaborates with other national organizations to achieve mutual objectives.

The collaboration between WyOTA and AOTA carries our message to our state capital and to Capital Hill as we work together to represent the needs of our profession and to protect the clients we serve. With your support, AOTA and WyOTA will speak with a strong committed voice. It's a voice that cannot be ignored when it is backed by large numbers of members.

As our profession reaches toward its centennial celebration, your state association and AOTA will continue to complement each other's efforts to ensure a future that is bright for occupational Therapy and for those we serve. We need your support...your membership...to be successful.

Thank you for your active support of our profession through your membership in WyOTA. If you are not currently a member of AOTA, we urge you to visit [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org) and join today. Or call us at 1-800-SAY\_AOTA to speak with a membership service representative.

Sincerely,  
*M. Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA*  
President, AOTA

*Best of luck to the graduating class of 2006- Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants programs in Casper.*

*Encourage fellow therapists to become a member of WyOTA and receive \$5.00 WyOTA credit good for membership or conference fees.*



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION

Did you know that you could renew your Wyoming Occupational Therapy Membership on the web? Go to [www.wyota.org](http://www.wyota.org), complete the membership application and pay using PayPal. Its fast, easy and a great way to support Occupational Therapy in Wyoming!

## Representative Assembly Election Results

Congratulations to Jean Owsley, OTR/L for being re-elected to serve as a member of the AOTA Representative Assembly. Jean will be serving a second three year term in this volunteer position.

Please feel free to contact Jean to discuss any issue that you would like to be addressed by AOTA. She can assist you with the development of a Resolution or Motion to present to the 2007 RA meeting in St. Louis, Missouri.

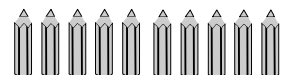
## WyOTA Board Position Open

The Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association will be holding elections for several Board positions. During the Annual Business Meeting, scheduled during the conference in Rock Springs, elections will be held for the positions of Vice President and Treasurer. If you are interested in serving in one of these leadership positions, please contact any Board member. Job descriptions are available from Sheri Montgomery at [fmontgom@wyoming.com](mailto:fmontgom@wyoming.com).

*Take the challenge become a leader in the profession.*

## Employment Opportunity

**The Wyoming State Hospital in Evanston, Wyoming is looking for an Occupational Therapist. If you are interested in working in Psych setting, please check the WyOTA website for additional information. Evanston offers a great deal of recreational opportunities and is about 75 minutes from Salt Lake City, Utah.**





**Wyoming  
Occupational  
Therapy  
Association**

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

See us at:

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

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**Comment Period Open for Proposed Waiver Changes**

*The Developmental Disabilities Division has posted draft changes to the Rules and Regulations governing the Medicaid Waiver Program for all programs. The comment period will close soon. If you provide services to individuals who are current or potential recipients of Waiver services, it would be beneficial for you to review the changes recommended. Copies of the documents are available by contacting the Developmental Disabilities Division. This is your opportunity to comment on the Official Documents and provide information to the Division as to how they would affect the quality of services and care provided to individuals in Wyoming.*