

WYOTA Newsletter



307.789.6754

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Winter is here!

I must apologize for the lateness of this issue of the WyOTA Newsletter. Time slipped by and before I knew it November had arrived. I have been busy selling a condo, building new second home, remodeling our present home and planning a wedding for my daughter. Seems like Occupational Therapy has gotten pushed to the back burner!

But things are beginning to slow down and all of those projects will soon be complete. So, I look at the winter months as an opportunity to gain professional skills and knowledge. I love to spend my spare time reviewing new research, looking

at new products, and just reviewing my professional skills. It seems to be the perfect time to prepare for the upcoming year.

Let me know if you have read any good articles or books I should check out. I would also love suggestions for the pediatric presenter for the 2007 Conference. Just drop me an email if you have a request or suggestion.

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family well and that you all have a safe and delightful holiday. I look forward to visiting with all of you soon and until January- Good Bye!

Sheri Montgomery, OTR/L
President of WyOTA

2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Plans for the 2007 Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference and Business Meeting are underway!

Penny Moyer, AOTA President will be open the conference as the Keynote Speaker. The conference will be held September 20-22, 2007 at the Best Western in Lander.

Presenters are being secured and the topics to be covered are based on input from you. There will be at least two 2-day presentations covering both pediatric and adult topics.

Special Interest Topics:

- 2007 Conference Announcement
- WyOTA Board Position Openings
- Hot Topics for the winter months

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*Your support of
WyOTA is greatly
appreciated.*

New Foundation Established

During the 2006 Annual Business meeting, it was recommended that the Board seek approval and the establishment of an "Educational Foundation" which would meet the 501(3)c status with the IRS. This process has been initiated and the application is currently at the

IRS office for review and final determination if approval is to occur. If this application is successful, WyOTA would be able to apply for many more grants, as a non-profit educational organization. The goal of this process is to enable the association to obtain grants to fund conferences and presenters and provide a savings to the members and other interested individuals. Keep your fingers crossed!

Great Job Conference Committee! The courses were outstanding.



National Certification Recognition

Recently the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association was contacted by leaders of other professional associations in the state to determine the interest of Occupational Therapists in establishing discussion with legislators regarding revision of the proposal to provide educators who become nationally certified to receive a \$4000.00 on-time bonus from the state. The thought was "Why were other professionals who provide services within the school setting not extended the same offer?"

Currently, efforts are underway to extend this offer to all professionals and yes that includes Occupational Therapists. Information has been sent to the Education Committee, which shares our educational background and requirements for licensure. When compared to the requirements being outlined for teachers to become nationally certified, we meet or exceed the standards, plus we must be nationally certified to practice within Wyoming!

We will keep you updated on this topic as things progress, but consider talking with your legislators to let them know that Occupational Therapists are highly qualified professionals who provide direct and indirect services to student within the school environment and that we too would like to have the opportunity to receive this recognition, just as educators do.

WyOTA Website Update

Have you checked out the WyOTA website at www.wyota.org. There is new information posted monthly and lots of links to important professional websites. The website has lots of visitors and we want to hear what you think. Email the web designer for suggestions, comments or anything you would like to see posted.

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.

Check it out for Conference information and membership renewal. It's fast easy and keeping pace with the profession!



Wyoming State Training School Occupational Therapist (TH02 – 10506)

A Great Place to Work, A Great Place to Learn

Performs professional occupational therapy services to clients with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injury. Work as part of an interdisciplinary team in order to provide holistic care for the individual.

**We offer a competitive wage and
excellent benefit package.**

**Hiring Range is \$3723.00 – \$4434.00 per month.
(up to \$5,586.00 per month including total compensation
package)**

Qualifications: Must be licensed or eligible for licensure as an Occupational Therapist in the State of Wyoming. A background information check, including the taking of fingerprints, will be completed through the Wyoming Department of Criminal Investigation, the Department of Family Services and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for every successful applicant.

For information or applications contact the Personnel Department
Wyoming State Training School
8204 State Highway 789, Lander, WY 82520
307-335-6785 EOE/ADA

Legislative Time Again

Did you know that the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association sent information packets to all state level candidates running in the November General Elections. Information about Occupational Therapy along with the brochure “Grip and Grin” was sent to over 150 candidates. WE hope that you take the time to congratulate your newly elected officials and make sure to mention that you are and Occupational Therapist.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION

Did you know that you could renew your Wyoming Occupational Therapy Membership on the web? Go to 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

The Fall 2006 on-line meeting of the Representative Assembly is underway. Check out what is being discussed by going to the member's only section of the AOTA website. You are free to comments on any topic posted. Be part of the Assembly!

Also, 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.

AOTA Model Practice Act Approved

AOTA's Board of Directors recently approved revisions to the *AOTA Model Occupational Therapy Practice Act*. If you are interested in accessing this document go to AOTA's website where it will be posted in the member's only section. You can download the complete document and use as a valuable reference.

Go to:

<http://www.aota.org/members/area4/links/links06.asp?PLACE=/members/area4/links/LINK06.asp>

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TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.



**Wyoming
Occupational
Therapy
Association**

**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

Board Members Contact Information

Sheri Montgomery, President
313 Herschler Avenue
Evanston, WY 82930
789-6754
fmontgom@wyoming.com

Charlie Baumer, Vice President
638 South 4th Street
Greybull, WY 82426
765-2823
cbaumer@nbhh.com

Heather Lyman, Treasurer
3017 White Mountain Blvd
Rock Springs, 82901
389-8511
dogsrswy@yahoo.com

Ashli Hufty, Secretary
PO Box 2103
Cody, WY 82414
307.587.6183
ahufty@asha.edu

Jean Owsley, AOTA Representative
1219 Johnson St
Thermopolis, WY 82443
921-9928
jeanowsley@hotmail.com

Sheri Montgomery, Conference
313 Herschler Avenue
Evanston, WY 82930
789-6754
fmontgom@wyoming.com

Darla England, OTA Representative
105 West Laramie Street
Gillette, WY 82716
682-3848
dengland@ccsd.k12.wy.us

Diane Nein, Placement /Mentor Chair
14 Hayes Drive
Wheatland, WY 82201
322-2803
otnein@yahoo.com

Are you interested in developing Professional Leadership skills?

Do you want to do something new and exciting?

Tired of the same old thing day after day?

Want to make a difference in the profession of Occupational Therapy?

Need a challenge?

WYOTA CAN HELP! VOLUNTEER TO SERVE AS AN OFFICER OR COMMITTEE CHAIR.
THE ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT TO CONTINUE TO BE
SUCCESSFUL. CONTACT SHERI MONTGOMERY AT [FMONTGOM@WYOMING.COM](mailto:fmontgom@wyoming.com) IF YOU
ARE INTERESTED IN STEPPING UP TO THE CHALLENGE. IT'S ALL FUN!