

# WYOTA Newsletter



307.789.6754

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Where has the time gone? I must apologize for the lateness of this issue of the WyOTA Newsletter. It was mid April before I knew it and I hadn't gotten the newsletter out. Sorry, but as a wise therapist once said, "Better late than never!"

I had the opportunity to attend the 2006 AOTA conference in Charlotte and heard that several others attended. The conference was exciting and well attended. The keynote speaker during the opening ceremonies was uplifting and really seemed to understand what Occupational Therapy was. It was exciting to see the attendee laughing and even dancing in the aisles.

What else is happening in the profession, well this issue of the newsletter should help to provide some of this information. As what is happening in Wyoming, conference plans are well underway and the program looks very exciting, in fact I can't decide what sessions to attend! I know that the Sweetwater County fair is well known for the

entertainment so plan on combining fun with education this summer. Student scholarship applications and registrations for the conference can be found on the WyOTA Website. PayPal . Many of should be available soon.

I know that I am looking forward to the summer and the chance to spend time with friends and family. Many of us have significant changes happening in their family lives, with kids leaving for college, getting married or just looking for a summer job. I hope that everyone remembers to include leisure into your activities of daily living.

Thanks for everything you do for the profession of Occupational Therapy. I hope that you took the opportunity to promote OT with others at your work site.

See ya soon!

*Sheri Montgomery,*  
President of WvOTA

## 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2006 WyOTA Annual Conference Committee has been busy at work. This years Annual Conference is expanded and will be held August 2-5, 2006 in Rock Springs. The Conference Committee have secured excellent presenter and have scheduled the conference around the County Fair. This is a great opportunity to bring your family and enjoy the many events and learning opportunities. Check out the conference brochure at [www.wyota.org](http://www.wyota.org). This year you can pay for the conference registration using PayPal. Remember to invite your colleagues to participate in this year's conference; there is something for everyone.

### Special Interest Topics:

- Representative Assembly Report
- WyOTA Board Position Open
- National Legislative Information

### Individual Highlights:

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## Association Award To Be Presented at Annual Conference

Do you know a therapist or community member who deserves recognition 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).

*Remember your membership supports the activities of the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association.*



### What's in a Website?

Have you checked out the new Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association website. If you have, you are one of over 1500 visitors last month to our website. Our new web design company, provides the Board with information related to the use of WyOTA website. This information will help the Board to revise and redesign the website to best serve it's members and the community who access the information on the site. It is exciting to see how many times the site is viewed and know that Occupational Therapy is being viewed on the web.

Check us out!

***Special Thanks to the 2006 Conference Committee for all their hard work. The conference content looks wonderful!***

## US Legislative Budget Update

The House of Representative is scheduled to come back into town on April 24<sup>th</sup>, and is expecting to vote on the FY 2007 Budget Resolution. Go to the link below to read about what the Senate has done to increase discretionary funds to support vital healthcare and education programs, and what the House has the opportunity to do once they return to town later this month.

<http://capwiz.com/aota/issues/alert/?alertid=8678496&type=CO>

## National Elections and AOT PAC

As the 2006 elections approach, many requests to meet with and support new candidates for the United States House of Representatives and Senate are received. The American Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee reviews these requests and ultimately makes the decision whether to support new candidates. However, we are dependent on state presidents and therapists to provide us with important information on these candidates.

Please be aware that AOTA Federal Affairs Staff could soon contact WyOTA formally to provide an informal assessment of candidates for federal office.

Also understand we are not looking for a formal endorsement from the State Association and local therapists. This may not be appropriate under law. Rather, we want to know if there has been any contact or relationship with the candidate (e.g., from the state legislature), if anyone has a personal relationship with

the candidate, or if anyone is aware of any stands on health care or education that AOT PAC should be aware of.

Federal candidates many times come from their state government and may have worked on issues that impacted occupational therapy on the state level. AOTA is interested in learning of any interaction federal candidates may have had with you and your state association.

Continue to be on the look out for future correspondence from AOTA's Federal Affairs Staff. We look forward to working with you in helping to elect friends of occupational therapy.

*We wish the students success  
and growth in as they enter the  
professional world.*

*Good Luck to the Graduating  
Classes of 2006*

## Summer Camp Opportunity

Uinta County School District #4 and the Wyoming Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities will be sponsoring a three-day camp experience for youth who have a diagnosis of seizures.

Applications for Camp Carpe Diem continue to be accepted. Camp Carpe Diem will be held at the Youth Camp in Uinta County June 22-24, 2006, youth ages 8-21 who have a diagnosis of a seizure disorder are invited to attend this event.

Activities scheduled during Camp Carpe Diem include arts and crafts, hiking, group leadership experiences, self-advocacy skill development, as well as activities to assist the participants gain a better understanding of this medical condition. Medical staff will be staying at Camp Carpe Diem and school staff and volunteers will be directing the programs and activities.

Camp Carpe Diem is being funded in part through a grant provided by the Wyoming Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, so there is not cost to participants. If you know of any youth who would benefit from this camping experience, might be interested in finding out additional information or would like to register for Camp Carpe Diem, please contact Sheri Montgomery at 307-782-3136, extension 261. Early registration will be greatly appreciated.

This is a fun summer opportunity for many youth.  
Come and join us for the fun!

*Encourage a 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 can 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 Summary

The 2006 Representative Assembly was held in Charlotte, North Carolina April 25<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>. Some very interesting topics were debated and discussed. The key issues discussed by the RA and facing the profession are:

### Focus on Education & Research

- Student recruitment- Diversity, OTA
- Training programs for department chairs, program directors to support early scientists
- Link new scientists with funding scientists
- Educate about and assure alignment with research funding/priorities
- Explore/Develop resources for OT fieldwork

### Focus on Societal Issues

- Societal Statement on Obesity
- Societal Statement on Health Disparities
- Association active in Health and Human Services initiatives related to health disparities
- Health & Wellness, Caregiver Support Needs, Cultural Competency

### Focus on the OTA

- Visibility of the Roster of Honor Award for OTAs
- Explore alternative titles for OTA
- Progress report regarding 2004 OTA related Commission on Practice report
- Clarification of roles and function of OTA Representative to the RA
- OTA Ad hoc Committee

### Focus on Mental Health

- OT in Mental Health Practice policy statement
- Evidence-based literature review of OT practice in mental health
- Ad Hoc to determine Qualified Mental health Provider barriers and

strategies

### Focus on Governance

- Retain current membership practice emblem
- Ethics Commission retain relationship as RA body
- Inclusion of Resource Advisor to the Board
- Evaluation of transitional support
- Evaluation of Governance Restructuring

### Constituent Motions/New Business

- Motion1- Incontinence and pelvic floor disorders and the impact on participation
- Motion 3- Wound Management and the impact of wound on participation
- Feasibility of specialty certification in seating and wheeled mobility
- Language to support use of credentials when in practice outside defined OT Model Practice Act
- AOTA position to oppose federal legislation that makes it a crime to provide healthcare based on citizenship or residency status

### Focus on the Future

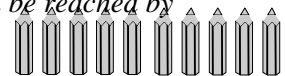
- Centennial Vision Statement 2017  
*"We envision that Occupational Therapy is a powerful, widely recognized, science-driven and evidence-based profession with a globally connected and diverse workforce meeting society's occupational needs."*

Centennial Commission- Maintain the Momentum!

Please contact me at any time with these or other issues the Representative Assembly needs to consider to meet your professional needs.

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

*If you are an AOTA member, **LOG ON** and give your opinions.... If you are not a member, call, email, or write to Jean Owsley and she will be happy to fill you in and offer your opinion to the group discussion. Jean can be reached by email at [jeanowsley@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanowsley@hotmail.com)*



## WyOTA Board Position Open

The Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association is looking for a Legislative Chairperson. If you are interested in the activities of our governmental leaders then this volunteer position is perfect for you.

Additional Board positions will be elected during the August Business Meeting of WyOTA. If you are interested in serving in a leadership position, please contact any Board member.

WyOTA and AOTA will provide you with training and assistance to help make this position successful for you and the membership. This is a great opportunity to develop leadership skills, while having lot's of fun. If you are interested, please contact any WyOTA Board member.



WyOTA builds on the member's ideas and suggestions.

## Physical Therapists Contact AOTA

Recently AOTA contact the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association to inform the therapists that the Wyoming Physical Therapy Association had contacted their offices to obtain suggested wording accepted by Occupational Therapist in regard to revision in Physical Therapy Practice Acts. It would appear that the Physical Therapists in Wyoming are exploring the possibilities of revising their practices. Look to the web and emails for more information and how you might help to ensure that our opinions are heard in the 2007 Legislative Session.

## Carbon County School District #1 Seeks OT

Carbon County School District #1, in Rawlins, WY is looking for full time Occupational Therapist.

Position Description: Evaluates and diagnoses specified deficits of students within the school district from referrals. Designs, develops, and delivers services prescribed in Individualized Education Plan for students.

Qualifications: Possess at a minimum a bachelor's degree with course work supporting position, possess or be a candidate for license in the State of Wyoming – National Board Certification for Occupation Therapist.

To apply you may obtain an application from our website.  
[www.rawlins.crb1.k12.wy.us](http://www.rawlins.crb1.k12.wy.us).



## Assistant / Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy

The Department of Occupational Therapy in the School of Medicine & Health Science, University of North Dakota, is seeking two individuals for full-time (12 month) faculty positions and one individual to serve as a full-time (12 month) professional level coordinator starting in the summer of 2006.

Candidates will have the opportunity to be an integral part of an occupational therapy program, which grants the entry-level Master of Occupational Therapy degree. The faculty positions are at the University of North Dakota. Responsibilities include teaching in areas(s) of expertise, supervision of student research, student advisement, pursuing independent research, and participation in professional and university service as required. The campus is located in Grand Forks, ND, a city of 50,000 which is situated about 300 miles northwest of Minneapolis MN and 150 miles south of Winnipeg, Canada.

The professional level coordinator's position is for the program in Casper, Wyoming, which is a mirror image satellite program of the University of North Dakota Occupational Therapy Program. Students at this site earn a MOT degree from the University of North Dakota. The Professional Level Coordinator is expected to act as a liaison to facilitate communication between faculty on both campuses and with the departmental chairperson who is on the UND campus. This individual is also expected to coordinate program and curriculum activities and supervise support staff for the UND Master of Occupational Therapy Program-Casper College site. Additional responsibilities include teaching in areas(s) of expertise, supervision of student research, student advisement, pursuing independent research, and participation in professional and university service as required. The campus is located in Casper, Wyoming; the second largest city in Wyoming with a population of close to 50,000. Casper is central to Wyoming and the Rocky Mountains

**Qualifications:** Degree in Occupational Therapy and a master's degree is required. Earned PH.D. in occupational therapy or a related field is preferred. Consideration will be given to a candidate with a master's degree if the candidate is willing to pursue a doctoral degree in occupational therapy or a related field. Candidates for the faculty positions must be licensed or eligible for licensure in ND and the Professional Level Coordinator must be licensed or eligible for licensure in Wyoming. Three years clinical experience in occupational therapy is required and experience in higher education is preferred. Preference for the faculty positions will be give to candidates with experience in physical disabilities – including hand therapy, gerontology, medical sciences, administration / leadership, research, and community practice.

The candidate for the Professional Level Coordinator is expected to have good communication and administration skills and the ability to serve as a liaison between the two programs.

**Salary/Rank:** Appointment at the rank of Assistant/Associate Professor is dependent on qualifications and experience. Salary is commensurate with rank and experience.

Application review will begin May 30th and remain open until the positions are filled.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of application, curriculum vita, and the names and phone numbers of three references to:

Dr. Gail Bass, Search Committee Chair  
Occupational Therapy Department, University of North Dakota  
Box 7126  
Grand Forks, ND 58202-7126  
Phone: 701-777-2897  
Email: [gabass@medicine.nodak.edu](mailto:gabass@medicine.nodak.edu)



## Legislative Information

The 2006 Wyoming Legislative Session has officially ended, but that doesn't mean nothing is happening at the capital. This is the time of the year when legislators begin to plan their activities for the 2007 Session. Committee will be meeting to discuss a variety of issue and out of these committee bills and items for action will arise.

Now is a great time to meet with your local representatives and discuss those issues, which are important to you, as well as those

which might affect the profession of Occupational Therapy. We all need to be looking at proposed bills to see if amendments should be requested resulting on positive outcomes for our profession.

Contact with your representatives and other elected officials. Invite elected officials to an open house, lunch with your peers, or out for a cup of coffee. Provide them with information about Occupational Therapy and how you might be able to assist them with review and input of issues being discussed by the legislature. Ask them to help you better understand those issues, which will be presented in the future and how you might best provide your input for consideration. You can access your legislator's contact information and committee member's information at: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/email/email.htm>

## The Diversity in Aging Coalition

Coordinated by SAGE • 305 Seventh Avenue, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor • New York, NY 10001 •  
212.741.2247

Dear Friend:

The 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) took place this past December. Past conferences have resulted in groundbreaking programs such as Medicare and the Older Americans Act. The 2005 conference has the potential to be history making as well by recognizing for the first time disenfranchised and vulnerable senior populations -- but only if we get involved!

### **The Issue → Vulnerable Senior Populations**

The delegates to the 2005 conference recognized that programs and policies need to address the increasing diversity of older people. Seniors of differing race, gender, gender identity, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, language, class, disability and national origin often face significant barriers to accessing basic services solely because of their different-ness or status as a minority senior population.

### **The Danger → Invisibility**

Unfortunately, there is a danger that the needs of vulnerable or minority seniors will be played down -- or entirely left out -- of the final recommendations to the President and Congress. It is vital that diversity in all its forms retain a prominent position in the final report -- so that the lack of services for our nation's increasingly diverse senior population can be addressed and fixed!

**You Can Act!** Here's what you can do to help:

1. **CONTACT YOUR GOVERNOR:** Every state's Governor has been asked by the WHCoA's Policy Committee to give recommendations for the final report **by April 15. Write your Governor right away. Ask that their comment's to the WHCoA Policy Committee highlight as a major concern in your state the needs of vulnerable and minority senior populations.**
2. **CONTACT YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE AGING** and let them know that if diversity is important to them, they need to contact their governor now.
3. **WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER** (and send it to your local officials, especially the ones that are active in senior issues!)
4. **CONTACT THE WHCoA's POLICY COMMITTEE:** Send letters to all the members of the WHCoA's Policy Committee by May 19 (contact info is attached). This committee is responsible for producing and approving the final report to the President and Congress.
5. **HELP SPREAD THE WORD!** Get your friends and colleagues to help by asking them to write letters too! Reach out to your professional organizations and enlist their help!

We need as many people to get involved as possible, so please consider writing as many letters as your arm will allow! Please also let us know what action you take. Send or email us at:

SAGE, c/o Tom Doyle, 305 Seventh Avenue, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10001, or  
[tdoyle@sageusa.org](mailto:tdoyle@sageusa.org).

Together we can create a better aging future for everyone!

Sincerely,  
Tom Doyle

*What can WyOTA do to  
make your job more  
successful?*

*The Mission of  
WyOTA is to promote  
and enhance the  
profession of  
Occupational  
Therapy.*



**Wyoming  
Occupational  
Therapy  
Association**

**WyOTA  
CONTACT**

**BUSINESS ADDRESS**

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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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