

# WYOTA Newsletter



307.778.2568  
July 2007  
Volume 3, Issue 3

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

WyOTA Members:

First, thank you for allowing me to serve you as President of WyOTA. I realize that I will have large shoes to fill although Sheri will continue to serve Wyoming Occupational Therapist in her current position as AOTA Secretary. I was able to attend the Affiliation of State Association Presidents meeting in St Louis during the AOTA annual conference. This allowed me to network with other Presidents and to learn about issues that state associations as well as AOTA have been addressing. In addition there was leadership training provided to all of the presidents.

As I filled the call to finish Sheri's presidency term, I realized

again that there tends to be a handful of people that rotate through various leadership roles within the state. As I spoke with other state presidents I realized that this was an issue in most states. My mission as President is to increase the pool of members willing to take on volunteer roles in WyOTA. We have so many talented and innovative therapists in this state. If all these talents are combined there is nothing that WyOTA can't do to promote occupational therapy in Wyoming.

I look forward to talking with you at conference in September and welcome your phone calls or e-mails prior to that.

*Sarah King, OT/L*  
President of WyOTA

### Special Interest Topics:

2007 Conference Preview  
WyOTA Happenings  
OT Trivia

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## DO YOU KNOW THE FACTS?

Here are few trivia questions about Occupational Therapy in Wyoming. Can you answer them?

1. What year did WyOTA become incorporated?
2. Which US President commissioned an OT to assist him?
3. What year do Occupational Therapists gain licensure in the state of Wyoming?
4. Which Wyoming US Senator collaborated with AOTA to develop his bill(s)?
5. What are the most common types of ganglion Cysts?
6. Name the Indiana OT famous for turning around injury stats and cutting Workers' Compensation costs drastically in Fortune 500 companies.
7. Who is the first Occupational Therapist licensed in the state of Wyoming?
8. What Wyoming Legislator help to draft our licensure bill?

## 2007 RA Highlights

The following is a brief summary of some-but certainly not all- of the 118 actions taken by the 2007 AOTA Representative Assembly (RA) at their April 18-21, 2007 meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. For more details, contact Jean Owsley, OTR/L, Wyoming RA at [jeanowsley@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanowsley@hotmail.com).

### Motions from Members

After careful consideration from all viewpoints, Motion 5, which asked for a moratorium on accrediting entry-level doctoral programs and limit accreditation to only master's entry-level, was defeated. Motion 1, which asked for an ad hoc committee to review the assumptions of Resolution J (post baccalaureate master's entry), was also defeated. However, a substitute motion for this was adopted charging the President "to form an ad hoc committee consisting of representation from practice, education, ethics, and accreditation to summarize and analyze the impact of two points of entry (masters and doctoral) for occupational therapists on the future of the profession and the clients we serve." Motion 2 on pre-professional training in early intervention (EI) was defeated but substitute motions were adopted including an ad hoc committee to analyze how educational content prepares OT practitioners in EI, AOTA staff to investigate state statutes and regulations on EI training requirements, and conduction of an EI evidence-based literature review by the end of FY09. Motion 3, to expand the full text availability of AJOT, and Motion 4, to make more volumes of AJOT available full text online as a member privilege as well as for purchase by nonmembers such as virtual libraries in universities, research centers, and online databases were adopted. The RA also adopted new business motions on distinguishable currency for visually impaired, universal design, and United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The motion on a mentoring database was defeated but a mentoring motion on the formation of effective mentoring relationships and self-advocacy was adopted.

### Education and Fieldwork

The COE papers on *Philosophy of Occupational Education* and *A Descriptive Review of Occupational Therapy Education* were adopted. The RA considered many motions on fieldwork including charging COE to collaborate toward inclusion of a description of model fieldwork in the OT and OTA model curricula; charging COE to develop a proposal for voluntary credentialing program for fieldwork educators; and charging CCCPD to initiate a feasibility study for the development of a specialty certification program for fieldwork educators.

### Mental Health

The President was charged to establish an ad hoc committee to establish core competencies for mental health occupational therapy practice. The eight-member committee will include representation from COE, COP, MHSIS, the Mental Health Board Certification review panel, ACOTE, and at-large membership (OT, OTA, OT student). There were also charges to implement the preparatory action items outlined in the 2007 Qualified Mental Health Practitioners Ad Hoc report that can be initiated consistent with the Strategic Plan and within the resources of the Association and develop a comprehensive, multiyear plan to address the long term initiatives needed to advance the role of occupational therapy in mental health services and systems.

### Societal Issues and Centennial Vision

The new societal statements on Family Caregiving and Stress and Stress Disorders were therapy profession. The RACC was also charged to develop a societal statement on play.

### Occupational Therapy Assistants

The proposed language in the *Model Practice Act* as guidance to state regulators that will allow OTs and OTAs to use their professional credentials when not practicing occupational therapy passed. Additionally, language was reinserted into the 2007 Bylaws to maintain the OTA Director on the Board. The members at the 2007 AOTA Annual Business Meeting in St. Louis adopted these Bylaws.

### Practice

The COP papers entitled *Specialized Knowledge and Skills in Feeding, Eating, and Swallowing for Occupational Therapy Practice* and *Obesity and Occupational Therapy Position Paper* were adopted. The President was charged to develop an action plan for implementation of the recommendations AOTA Board Task Force on Health and Wellness. The plan should include specific steps and priorities allowing those actions that can be implemented immediately, as well fiscal implications and timelines for implementation. OT Practice to develop an "exemplar" series to highlight occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants engaging in "participation" focused evaluation and interventions across the continuum of rehabilitation and disability.



Dear Occupational Therapists,

**National School Backpack Awareness Day** is coming up soon. This year's event is September 19, 2007, and AOTA needs your help! Backpack Awareness Day is unique among AOTA's awareness initiatives because it shows the public in a hands-on way the services and benefits of occupational therapy.

Backpack Awareness Day events leave a lasting impact on their participants and do much to improve the image of our profession. Holding these events is crucial to increasing respect and awareness for occupational therapy.

**Will you join your colleagues in hosting a Backpack Day event?**

We need your help to get this message out to everyone in the occupational therapy community. For a Backpack Awareness Day planning guide, please point your Web browser to <http://www.promoteot.org/documents/BKEventPlanner2007.pdf>.

**We are also asking that each event be registered with AOTA so that we may track where events are held.** To register your event, please go to <http://www.promoteot.org/documents/Pre-eventinformationform.doc> and then e-mail the form to [praota@aota.org](mailto:praota@aota.org).

The first 100 registrants will receive free temporary tattoos of the Backpack mascot bug, Lumina, to hand out to students, as well as free commemorative posters. **Sign up now and remember to "Pack it light, wear it right!"**

Sincerely,

Rob Black  
Senior Press Officer,  
American Occupational Therapy Association

*Do you know of a therapist or individual who should be recognized by WyOTA? If so, please share this information with Sarah King, so WyOTA can honor them during the 2007 Annual Conference.*





The Wyoming Workers' Safety and Compensation Division has contacted the Association to seek an individual who is interested in serving on the Rehab Panel. This is an excellent opportunity to develop new skills, guide policy and promote your

March 15, 2007

Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association  
Sheri Montgomery  
313 Herschler Avenue  
Evanston, WY 82930

Dear Ms. Montgomery,

The purpose of this letter is to solicit from the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association any one who is interested in serving on the Rehabilitation Panel as established by rule and regulation of the Wyoming Workers' Safety and Compensation Division. The regulation is as follows:

*Section 2. Rehabilitation Panel. The Administrator shall establish a Rehabilitation Panel to provide guidance to the Division in making recommendations and establishing utilization guidelines, which shall address the appropriateness and reasonableness for the care and treatment of injured workers, for use in auditing and adjudicating physical, occupational and speech therapy claims. Membership on the panel is limited to those therapists that have a current license to practice in the state of Wyoming; are in good standing with the applicable state regulatory bodies, and have demonstrated special competence and interest in industrial health. Recruitment of the panel members will be by the Administrator who will solicit expressions of interest in serving on the panel from each therapy discipline's state association. This panel may include, but is not limited to members of Wyoming Physical Therapy Association, Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association, and/or Wyoming Speech-Language-Hearing Association.*

I would appreciate it if you could communicate to your members the Division is seeking an individual to serve on the Panel. The panel meets once a month to conduct review of cases for the Division. If anyone is interested please have him or her submit a resume to my attention. If you have any questions concerning this matter please feel free to contact me at (307) 777-7159. Thanks for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Child  
Administrator

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:  
[www.wyota.org](http://www.wyota.org)

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## 2007 WyOTA Annual Conference

The 2007 WyOTA Conference and Business Meeting will be held in Lander, Wyoming September 20-22<sup>nd</sup> at the Lander Best Western.

The Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association Conference Committee has been developed an extensive and comprehensive educational program for the 2007 Annual Conference. This year we have added a pre-conference workshop, which is being sponsored by the University of North Dakota-Casper College staff, in celebration of their 15 years of providing Occupational Therapy education in Wyoming. The presentation is entitled [Gaining Strength, Recognition and Confidence Through the Use of Evidence-Based Practice in OT](#) will be presented by Jan Stube, Ph.D., OTR/L & Anne Haskins, M.A., OTR/L.

Penny Moyers, President of the American Occupational Therapy Association will provide a keynote presentation, [Leading the Centennial Vision](#) on Thursday evening, followed by a Welcome Social.

Friday and Saturday will be packed full of learning opportunity. Karen Kangas' presentation is entitled [Seating In Pediatric Practice: Current Assessment, Treatment, and Application Strategies as well as Equipment Needed for Increased Function in Multiple Environments for Children challenged with delays or disability. Foundations in Physical Agent Modalities: An Evidence Based Approach to Facilitating Occupational Performance](#) will be presented by Alfred G. Bracciano, EdD, OTR, FAOTA.

Don't forget the anniversary celebration for UND on Friday evening and take some time to visit the exhibitors who will be attending and supporting WyOTA. Please plan to attend this very important professional event.