

# WYOTA Newsletter



307.789.6754

April 2007  
Volume 3, Issue 2

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

April 2007

With spring come change and regeneration and it is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. This will be the last letter I will be writing to the members of WyOTA as President.

I was recently elected to serve as the Secretary of the American Occupational Therapy Association. This is a huge honor and I am both excited and anxious about the level of involvement I will be participating in during the next three years.

When I was approached by the AOTA Nomination Committee to consider becoming a candidate for a national office, I was taken back by the confidence and encouragement I received from many fellow therapists. I looked to at the opportunity as a chance to reflect on my skills, assess the needs of AOTA and the therapists who are represented by AOTA. During the process of completing the "paperwork", I discovered a great deal about myself and the importance of having wonderful therapists to rely on.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Has your membership expired? If so, please take the time to complete the enclosed membership application or complete the online membership application at [www.wyota.org](http://www.wyota.org).

WyOTA looks forward to supporting the issues that are of importance to you. The membership fee of \$35.00 has many benefits, including a discount cost for the annual conference, lobbying efforts at the state and national level, and a lending library of professional materials.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Yes these wonderful therapists are each of you who I have had the opportunity to work with and learn from. I can't tell you how much I appreciate and respect every therapist in Wyoming and you can be assured that I am always bragging about what great professionals we have here in Wyoming!

I feel confident that WyOTA will continue to grow and serve the therapists in Wyoming well, as Sarah King has agreed to serve as your new President. Sarah brings a great many skills and a vast bank of resources to the position. She will be a great leader for the association and the profession as we move into the future. Sarah will assume the position of President effect April 14<sup>th</sup>. Please join me in offering her your support.

I leave you in great hands and I am not leaving the state, just the taking a step aside for a short period of time, to expand my skills and bring more back to Wyoming. Thanks making my job so easy and for all the skills and knowledge I have gained serving you and the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association.

Keep in touch.  
*Sheri Montgomery, OTR/L*  
Outgoing President of WyOTA

## Success at the Pasta Bowl for Legislators

In January, WyOTA cosponsored with 15 other healthcare organizations, the annual Legislative Pasta Bowl. This event was timely and very successful for the Occupational Therapists who attended. Free food and drinks and the opportunity to interact with most Wyoming Legislators allow those who attended the time to discuss Occupational Therapy with a large number of elected officials.

Fortunately for WyOTA, this event was held just prior to the committee hearing regarding licensure for the Athletic Trainers, which directly affected our Practice Act. Participating in this event made it very easy to openly discuss the concerns and present the recommendations of WyOTA.

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

## Casper College Celebrates OT Month



April 14<sup>th</sup> was a special day at Casper College as the students celebrated Occupational Therapy month by hosting a mini-conference, which included lunch and lots of opportunities to network.

The event obtained media coverage and was noted on two local television stations and the Casper Tribune.

GREAT JOB!

## UND DISTANT LEARNING MASTER'S PROGRAM

The University of North Dakota (UND) Department of Occupational Therapy offers a completely online master's of occupational therapy (MOT) degree opportunity to help the practicing clinician remain competitive for long-term employment in a changing industry.

This program is designed for practicing occupational therapists nation-wide with a baccalaureate degree in OT meeting the UND-MOT admission criteria. The objective of the t-MOT is to augment knowledge previously acquired in a baccalaureate OT degree program.

The length of the UND t-MOT program is 2 years with students taking 3-6 credits each semester. After completion of all required courses the student will graduate with a Master's of Occupational Therapy (MOT) Degree from UND, School of Medicine and Health Sciences. New classes start in July with applications due April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

For more information on this innovative online MOT curriculum provided in a supportive environment, contact the OT Department by telephone at (701) 777-2209 or visit our website at [www.med.und.nodak.edu/depts/ot/index.html](http://www.med.und.nodak.edu/depts/ot/index.html)

## Excitement in the Wyoming Legislative Session

The 2007 Wyoming Legislative session proved to be exciting for the Occupational Therapists in Wyoming. Despite a review of the bills proposed for consideration, both the Board of Occupational Therapy and the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association scrambled to ensure that the Occupational Therapy Practice Act remained unchanged.

Early in the 2007 Legislative session, Vicki Spires, Licensure Board Administrator, discovered that the Athletic Trainers were seeking licensure and had filed a bill that opened the Occupational Therapy Practice Act, which was re-written to include their profession. Thank goodness for the excellent work of Vicki, the Licensure Board and the WyOTA Board, worked together to have this bill withdrawn.

WyOTA, AOTA and the Licensure Board worked together with the Wyoming Physical Therapy Association to provide information related to our position to the Athletic Trainers and the legislators. Emails, phone calls, and written letters were exchanged between all groups and the end result was the withdrawal of the original bill involving our profession and the submission of a substitute bill, which provided licensure for Athletic Trainers as a stand alone profession.

Information was posted on the WyOTA website which provided members and other interested individuals with current information related to this event. Fortunately the efforts of all involved lead to a favorable outcome and we were able to protect our Practice Act. We were ready to directly contact therapists in the state and ask them to call their legislators and we know that each of you would have stepped up to the plate in support of Occupational Therapy.

On behalf of WyOTA and AOTA, special thanks goes out to those who contacted their legislators and attended the Legislative Pasta Bowl. Without your assistance this challenge would have been much more difficult to overcome.

## Representative Assembly Meeting

The 2007 Representative Assembly will hold their annual meeting prior to the 2007 Annual AOTA Conference, April 20-23<sup>rd</sup> in St Louis, Missouri. 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 AOTA Website. 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.

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*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 20-23, 2007 in  
St. Louis.**



March 15, 2007

Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association  
Sheri Montgomery, President  
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

**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!

**WyOTA  
CONTACT**

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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.

Again this year there will be two tracks held consecutively. Al Bracciano, OTR/L. FAOTA, Associate Professor at Creighton University will present the adult track. Al will discuss physical agent modalities as they relate to wound healing, x-rays, biomechanics and function.

The pediatric track will be presented by Karen Kangas, OTR/L and will focus on all the aspects for seating, including seating needed for postural management of the child, as well as seating for the child's development of postural control. Determining what type of seating "matches" what activity is important to each child's participation within the activity, while understanding the neurophysiology of seating, and applying its sensory integration is critical to the seat supporting activity rather than preventing it.

UND-Casper College Occupational Therapy Program will be hosting a pre-conference workshop at no cost. The topic will be and will be hosted Thursday at the Lander Best Western. The UND-Casper College Occupational Therapy program will be celebrating their 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and will be sponsoring the social event during the Conference. Plan to attend this event and thank everyone at UND and Casper College for the support of our profession and the events they are hosting at the 2007 WyOTA Annual Conference.

# Select an Additional Presentational to Conference

The staff at University of North Dakota Occupational Therapy program have requested that WyOTA seek input from its members to select a topic for presentation at the 2007 WyOTA Annual Conference. This presentation will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2007 at the Best Western Inn in Lander, Wyoming. Please review these two topics and share your preference by emailing Sheri Montgomery at [fmontgom@wyoming.com](mailto:fmontgom@wyoming.com) as soon as possible.

## Choice 1

**Title: Gaining Strength, Recognition and Confidence Through the Use of Evidence-Based Practice in OT**

**Session presenters: Jan Stube Ph.D., OTR/L & Anne Haskins, M.A., OTR/L**

Over the past 15 to 20 years, evidence-based practice (EBP) within occupational therapy has been growing as a practice standard. There is strong and persuasive evidence in the professional literature for EBP to become an integral part of OT practice in order to support and promote the efficacy of our services and to enhance client outcomes. The purpose of this session would be to provide an overview of evidence-based practice (i.e., its origins, evolving definitions, evidence and modes of access, and clinical trends within OT) in order to stimulate small group discussion about current clinical practice, the value of EBP, and ultimately to provide participants with a greater understanding of the potential value of EBP for ethical, client-centered care.

## Choice 2

**Title: Application of the OT Framework to clinical practice.**

**Presenters: Sonia Zimmerman, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA and Deb Byram Hanson, MA, OTR/L**

The AOTA Framework for OT Practice is designed to present both the domain and process of occupational therapy as a framework for practice. The role of the OT professional emphasizes engaging in occupation as an important element of health and well-being. This workshop is designed to introduce the practicing therapist to the Framework for OT Practice and includes opportunities to apply the constructs and revised language to patient examples from everyday practice scenarios.