

WYOTA Newsletter



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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

January 2007

Welcome to a new year and to this first issue of the WyOTA Newsletter. This new year should prove to be a successful year for the profession of Occupational Therapy at the state and national level.

AOTA is working hard to keep the profession in the forefront. Issues surrounding reimbursement are being addressed at a national level with good success. Check out the AOTA One-Minute Update at www.aota.org. You can find lots of current information on this section of the website.

I would like to encourage you to share your concerns and issues with the leaders of the profession, whether it is at the state or national level. You can make changes nationally, but introducing motions at the 2007 Representative Assembly. If you have issues that you would like to have considered by the legislative branch of AOTA, contact Jean Owsley and she can assist you in the process. You might be surprised by the

interest from other states and professionals resulting in a positive change for the profession.

At a state level, there may be some issues that need to be addressed through our state legislators. These include reimbursement for equipment, monitoring of other profession's practice acts, and increased involvement with the waiver programs and worker's compensation.

Let me know what other issues are of importance to you and your practice. My goal as a member of the WyOTA Board is to address the issues of the therapists in Wyoming.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Sheri Montgomery, OTR/L
President of WyOTA

P.S. I would greatly appreciate your vote in the AOTA Elections for the position of Secretary. AOTA Members can vote by going to www.aota.org and enter the member's only section. Please cast your votes and thank you for your support.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Are you a member of WyOTA or 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.

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!

Special Interest Topics:

- 2007 Conference Preview
- WyOTA Happenings
- Tobacco Quit Line

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Healthcare Provider's Pasta Party for Legislators

*Remember April is
Occupational Therapy
Month- Plan an event!*

Again this year the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association will co-sponsor a legislative dinner and mixer along with other healthcare provider associations. Last year was the first for our association and it proved to be an exciting opportunity for us to promote our profession, despite the weather.

The Health Care Provider's Legislators Pasta Dinner often referred to, as the "Pasta Bowl" will be held at the Hitching Post Hotel, Coach Rooms in Cheyenne,

.....
.....Thursday, January 25th from 6:00-8:00 PM. You are invited to attend this event and discuss Occupational Therapy and related issues with the legislators who are attending.

What more could you ask for? Free dinner and great conversation. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Sheri Montgomery at fmontgom@wyoming.com.



WyOTA's Website

Did you know that you can access a variety of information and resources on the WyOTA Website?

Employment opportunities and educational courses, as well as the WyOTA Newsletters, policies and procedures are posted for the members to access. Take some time and check it out. New information is being added each month, so mark your calendar to check it out each month.

Conference information will be posted on the website as soon as it becomes available.

Visit your professional association at www.wyota.org.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS INFORMATION, RESOURCES, & TRAINING SURVEY

Often agencies contact the leadership of WyOTA seeking information and resources. Recent the American Easter Seals Association, contact WyOTA to request distribution of a survey addressing transportation needs in the state. The purpose of the survey is to identify (a) the kinds of information and resources front-line staff currently use to help customers, (b) the kinds of information and resources they would like to have, (c) the types of training they currently receive, and (d) the methods of training they prefer.

If you have questions about this survey or would like to complete the information, please contact Carol Maus, Project Co-Director, at cmaus@easterseals.com or Amy Conrick, Project Coordinator, at conrick@ctaa.org.

**AOTA Annual
Conference and
Business Meeting is
scheduled for
April 20-23, 2007 in
St. Louis.**

*AOTA is there to
serve its members
and their needs.*



**Cheyenne Regional
Medical Center**



At Cheyenne Regional Medical Center we are passionate about moving healthcare forward. We have 218 licensed beds and 1700 employees.

- Our 19-bed Rehabilitation Unit includes an in-house apartment that facilitates independent living as well as a 12-bed Transitional Unit.
- We have a dedicated therapy staff that offers home evaluations, community activities and specialized stroke education for our patients.
- The unit has a strong neurological emphasis--many of our staff are certified in brain injury care.
- It is our goal to provide high quality, comprehensive rehabilitation services to our patients.

We are currently seeking:	We offer:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Occupational Therapists• Speech Therapists• Physical Therapists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competitive Salary & Great Benefits• Sign on and Relocation Bonuses• Paid Travel for Visit & Interview

The Allure of the West! Cheyenne, Wyoming

- State capital, with a population of 55,000
- 30 minutes from Medicine Bow National Forest
- Ranked #1 in Kiplinger's for the lowest taxes paid per household
- 90 miles north of Denver, Colorado

Contact:
Employment Opportunities
214 East 23rd Street • Cheyenne, WY 82001
phone: 307-633-7752 • fax: 307-432-3178
www.crmcwyo.org

Representative Assembly Meeting

The 2007 Representative Assembly will hold their annual meeting prior to the 2007 Annual AOTA Conference, April 20-23rd 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. 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 WyOTA Website with questions that Jean would like you to respond to. 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.

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

jeanowsley@hotmail.com

*If you are an AOTA member, **LOG ON**
and give your opinions. If you are not a
member, call, email, or write.*



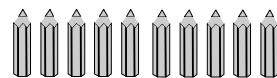
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TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Victory on the Cap for Medicare

As one of its final actions before adjourning for the year, Congress passed legislation extending the current exceptions process on the Medicare outpatient therapy cap. The extension lasts until January 1, 2008.

This victory is the result of a great deal of hard work on the part of members and staff of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), and consumers. The cap provision was included in H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. AOTA staff is currently preparing a full analysis of the legislation, which will be available soon.

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard on this important issue.



WyOTA Board Elections to be Held in August

The Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association is seeking individuals who are interested in serving as the President and Secretary of the Association. These are an excellent opportunity to use your leadership skills and work with other Occupational Therapist to enhance the profession within Wyoming. The positions are two-year positions. WyOTA and AOTA will provide you with training and assistance to help make this position a positive experience for you.

Consider running for any of these positions. Being involved in your professional organization is a great opportunities to develop leadership skills, while having lot's of fun. If you are interested, please contact any WyOTA Board member.

Take the challenge get involved!

WyOTA builds on the member's ideas and suggestions.

2007 State Legislative Session

The 2007 Wyoming State Legislative Session will began several weeks ago. This year's session is an action session and will focus on bills and action items proposed by committees and individual legislator.

Bills presently posted on the Legislative Website have been reviewed and few will have any impact on Occupational Therapy. There is an effort by several groups to expand the National Certification classification for educators to include support staff such as Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist and Psychologist who are nationally certified.

WyOTA is supporting this effort, as many school-based therapist would benefit. Should this effort be successful, Occupational Therapist would be considered eligible for the funds established for educators who become Nationally Certified. The funds are significant and would be a nice one-time bonus.

Look to the Legislative website for updated information and details as they become available.

WyOTA Annual Conference

The 2007 WyOTA Conference and Business Meeting will be held in Lander Wyoming, September 20-22nd 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 focus on sensory processing and interventions for the therapist, educator and parent.

Details of the pediatric course are being finalized and will be available soon on the WyOTA Website.





Wyoming's Through With Chew Week

February 18-24, 2007

Great American Spitout

Thursday, February 22, 2007

Wyoming Through With Chew, a program of the Wyoming Department of Health, announces that February 18-24, 2007 is *Through With Chew Week*, with the *Great American Spitout* taking place on February 22, 2007. Healthcare providers can help their patients quit spit tobacco!

Healthcare providers have large influence over patients deciding to quit.

Ask: Make sure that patients' intake forms include information about spit tobacco use. Ensure that patients' status of using tobacco, including spit tobacco, is recorded at every visit.

Advise: Advise patients that quitting tobacco is the most important thing they can do for their health.

Assess: Determine whether patients are willing to quit. If they are, provide resources for patients to quit (referrals to quitlines/quitnet; see below.) If patient is not willing to quit, help determine barriers to quitting.

Assist: Help spit tobacco users form a plan to quit. Provide information on nicotine replacement therapies and quitline/quitnet information.

Arrange: Encourage follow-up visits to discuss success, relapse or changing pharmacotherapies.

Wyoming Through With Chew is concerned with a spit tobacco problem in Wyoming that is more than most states in the nation. Almost twice as many men use spit tobacco in Wyoming when compared to other states, while young women chew in V

Adding to the concern are new "spitless" tobacco products, which are about to enter the market. Philip Morris and RJ Reynolds, the two largest manufacturers of cigarettes, are both introducing new products. Wyoming Through With Chew is concerned about an increase in marketing to smokers, suggesting smokeless tobacco is an option that does not cause serious harms to health, especially when it is known to cause

cancer of the mouth, gums, and throat, and contributes to cardiovascular disease. The time to act is now to protect the health of our youth and our families so that Wyoming is not reacting to an increasing problem in the future.

Please support Wyoming's *Through With Chew Week* by encouraging your patients to quit. If you would like fliers, brochures, materials, or Quit Spit Kits, please contact Sarah Mikesell Growney at 307-587-6146, or sarah@throughwithchew.com.

1-800-QUIT-Now or wy.quitnet.com



Sponsored by the Wyoming Department of Health, Substance Abuse Division, with funds from the Wyoming Tobacco Settlement.

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!



2006 Representative Assembly Online Meeting Highlights

The following are some-but certainly not all-of the 21 actions taken by the seventh annual Representative Assembly (RA) Online Meeting held October 24 – November 7. The RA is the “Congress” of AOTA and is responsible for setting policy for the profession. Representatives meet online every fall to conduct Association business in a timely manner.

Student Initiatives

The Assembly of Student Delegates brought forward two motions for the RA’s consideration. The motion to establish an ad hoc committee to study and develop a plan for fostering leadership in new practitioners at a state and national level was adopted. A report is due back at the 2007 face-to-face RA meeting in St. Louis. Their second motion to establish an ad hoc committee for mentor relationships for students and new practitioners was postponed until the 2007 face-to-face RA meeting. There was a lot of discussion on this motion, and in the end, it was felt it needed the benefit of additional information and task group discussion before voting. Congratulations to the ASD for being such wonderful participants in our democratic process.

Professional Practice

- Adopted the Commission on Practice’s (COP) statement, *OT Services for Individuals who have Experienced Domestic Violence*.
- A new definition for what constitutes an official document of AOTA was approved. It states AOTA official documents are “those documents constructed by the Association and approved by the Association for the use of the Association and its membership.”

AOTA Governance and Policies

- The AOTA Specialties Board felt their name did not adequately represent both the Board Certification and Specialty Certification components so they recommended “Board for Advanced and Specialty Certification” (BASC). This was approved.
- New campaign guidelines for the general election were adopted that incorporates technology such as Web sites, blogs, and email.
- A new policy on the use of language related to OT and OTA Roles and responsibilities in Association publications was adopted.
- There was a beginning debate on some of the proposed changes to the Bylaws. All of the proposed changes to the Bylaws will be posted online for membership review in February 2007. Then at the face-to-face meeting in St. Louis, the RA will debate and approve a final draft. This will be forwarded to the members at the 2007 AOTA Annual Business Meeting for a vote. If you are in St. Louis, plan on attending both events and join the RA in celebrating its 30th Anniversary.

*Do you have an issue or project for WyOTA to address?
If you have a problem or concern regarding the profession or an area of
practice, chances are there are others with the same concern. Share this
information with the leaders of WyOTA, so we can work together to enhance the
profession and our practice skills.*

**WYOMING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
EMPLOYER: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
PHONE CONTACT: _____

Educational Level

____ Associate
Management

____ Bachelor

____ Master

____ Doctorate

Practice Specialty

____ Administration &

____ Developmental Delayed

____ Education

____ Gerontology

____ Home & Community Health

____ Mental Health

____ Pediatrics

____ Physical Dysfunction

____ School System

____ Sensory

____ Technology

____ Work Program

Professional Level Fees

____ Student \$15.00

____ OTA \$35.00

____ OT \$35.00

____ Non-OT \$35.00

Integration

AOTA Membership Number

I would like to become a mentor for a fellow WyOTA member.

I would be willing to serve as an officer of WyOTA.

I would be willing to serve on a committee.

I would like assistance from WyOTA in the following area:

Conference suggestions:

Make checks payable to WyOTA

Sheri Montgomery, OTR/L

313 Herschler Avenue; Evanston, Wyoming 82930

307-789-6754 fmontgom@wyoming.com

Board Members Contact Information

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Diane Nein, Placement/Mentor
Chair
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wyota.org

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Please update your email
with us at