

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR DISTRICT?

North District: Karen Allen Hislop will be hosting a strategic planning meeting at 10:00 on Saturday, February 21. For information contact Karen at karenstherapy@comcast.net.

South District: The South District is hosting a Spring Conference on Saturday, March 7th in Fairhope, AL. Dr. Rebecca Estes will be presenting information on "CarFit". For details contact Tracy O'Connor at (251) 434-3925.

Central District: The Central District welcomed Laura Carrigan as one of the co-chairs this last August. She succeeded Beth Barstow, who has since been elected to the AOTA RA position for Alabama. Laura joins Chris Eidson as co-chair of the Central District. The Central District represents the most heavily populated area in our state, and is also the district with the largest percentage of occupational therapy practitioners. The district kicked off the new year with a free

CEU offering at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Birmingham. The event was well attended and feedback from those in attendance was remarkably positive. The Central District is committed to offering at least two CEU offerings of this length (three units) per year, free to members. The social event in the fall looks to become an annual event now too.

ALOTA membership numbers continue to increase as evidenced by the totals for the last quarter: 129 student members and 213 therapist members. In addition, the new practitioner rate has resulted in the retention of student members after graduation. ALOTA's recent alliance with Restore Management Company is sure to result in further growth of our organization. Encourage your colleagues to join to support and protect occupational therapy practice in Alabama!

WHAT YOU CAN FIND ON THE ALOTA WEBSITE

There are job postings, and listings of great continuing education opportunities around the area. For continuing education events offered by ALOTA, you can register and pay dues on-line with a credit card, debit card, or checking account. Just another innovation that ALOTA is bringing to you!

LETTER FROM AOTA PRESIDENT

"We have achieved key legislative victories that have been vital to maintaining payment and recognition for occupational therapy services. Our work on a national outcomes database still continues and will have great impact in substantiating the benefits of occupational therapy to consumers, insurers and policymakers... Your membership in AOTA is essential now more than ever." — Penny Moyers-Cleveland

Read the complete letter on the ALOTA website, www.alota.org

WE NEED YOUR STORIES

BlueCross BlueShield is currently not reimbursing for many services provided by occupational therapy practitioners. Our reimbursement chair is working hard to get this changed. If you have provided services or had the opportunity to provide services to a client, but the services were not reimbursed, please submit your story. Make sure you include what the service/treatment was, why it is occupational therapy specific, and why another healthcare professional could not provide the same quality or type of service/treatment.

Stephanie Wadsworth
stephanie.wadsworth@alota.org

What do ALOTA members need from their Public Awareness Chairperson? Let me know!
R.J. Higginbotham
rjhigg44@yahoo.com

LOOK on the ALOTA website for new membership rates for new practitioners!

ALOTA IS ON FACEBOOK

ALOTA NEWS

SPRING 2009

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ALOTA PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! This is an exciting time for occupational therapy in the state of Alabama. ALOTA has been busy planning spring and fall conferences, as well as gearing up for the upcoming legislative session. Last fall ALOTA approved our strategic plan and we have been making good progress towards our goals through the dedication of our board members. We recently had a board meeting in Birmingham where 16 members of the board were in

attendance, and good ideas were in abundance! In the next few months, your board members will be busy updating our website, monitoring legislative sessions, planning and implementing a "meet and greet" day with legislative representatives, and providing continuing education opportunities at district meetings and spring conference on April 4th. Many of us will also be representing Alabama at AOTA's annual conference in April.

It continues to be a pleasure to serve the occupational therapy practitioners in this state through our organization. I am excited to see where this year will take us and look forward to seeing all of you at our spring conference!

Valley McCurry
ALOTA President

valley.mccurry@alota.org

2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS IN FEBRUARY

Last year was a busy year for ALOTA from a government affairs perspective. Our lobbyist, Jay Murrill with the Perkins Group, worked with the Executive Board of ALOTA and with other agencies to get occupational therapy included in an exemption in the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners rule for use of lasers and other modalities affecting living tissue. ALOTA also actively lobbied against proposed changes in regulatory statutes for athletic trainers that had the potential to negatively affect healthcare consumers in our state. 2009 is already shaping up to be a busy year as well.

The off-session has been a busy one. We have had continuing dialogue with representatives from the Alabama Athletic Trainers Association (ALATA) in efforts to find agreeable language for changes in their practice act. As these proposed changes have the potential to affect healthcare consumers presently being served by occupational therapists, this is an issue that we are monitoring closely. Look for updates on our website (www.alota.org) throughout the legislative session.

We are working on other things in government affairs as well. We listened to you at our fall

conference last year when you charged us with proactively lobbying our government to create positive change in our state. Along with many other local and state agencies and organizations, we are actively lobbying for the Riley Ward Alabama Autism Support Act. Passage of the act will create the Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council as a means to better coordinate services throughout the state for individuals with autism and autism-spectrum disorders. Be sure to check the website throughout the early winter and spring for more details.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **ALOTA group now on Facebook**
- **Restore Therapy now offering ALOTA membership as employee benefit**
- **Spring conference is in Birmingham this year, on April 4th**
- **OT makes US News and World Report's 'Best Careers' list**

WWW.ALOTA.ORG

Alabama Occupational Therapy Association
(ALOTA)
204 Wild Timber Parkway
Pelham, AL 35124



**SPRING CONFERENCE
IS IN BIRMINGHAM THIS YEAR!
SEE INSIDE FOR MORE DETAILS**

The Alabama Occupational Therapy Association (ALOTA) is a members-only organization consisting of occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, occupational therapy students, and corporate sponsors. ALOTA is the state-based professional organization and public voice for the occupational therapy profession within Alabama. ALOTA is a state affiliate of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the national professional association. ALOTA and AOTA share the common goals of working to advance the profession of occupational therapy, the public's awareness of and access to needed occupational therapy services, and the contributions of occupational therapy to health, wellness, productivity and quality of life.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY?

The 2009 Representative Assembly Meeting is scheduled to begin March 30th. As a cost saving measure, this year's meeting will be conducted online. This move gives all AOTA members the ability to follow the meeting via OT Connections. There are 5 motions that are up for discussion and vote.

Motion 1: Definition of OT/OTA Roles within the Model Practice Act and All Other Relevant Documents

Motion 2: Specialized Knowledge and Skills Paper for Occupational Therapy in Oncology

Motion 3: Title Change for Occupational Therapy Assistants

Motion 4: Develop Model Requirements for Re-Entry/Re-Licensure

Motion 5: Ensure Broad Practice Area Representation within the AOTA Board of Directors

As you can see from the motion titles, they are all very important issues that will affect each of us. **I NEED YOUR INPUT.** Details and descriptions of these motions will be posted in OT Connections. Additionally, online surveys will be available designed to give me concrete feedback from Alabama occupational therapy practitioners. *I represent you.* Based on your feedback, I place my vote for each

motion. If you have not signed up for OT Connections, I would encourage you to join. I will send a blast email to all members when the motions and surveys are posted. If you have questions about AOTA, how you can become involved, or the Representative Assembly, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Beth Barstow, AOTA RA to Alabama
bbarstow@uab.edu

Donna Wooster, AOTA Alternate RA to Alabama
dawooster@uasouthal.edu

"I SLEPT AND I DREAMED THAT LIFE IS ALL JOY, I WOKE AND I SAW THAT LIFE IS ALL SERVICE. I SERVED AND I SAW THAT SERVICE IS JOY."

— MOTHER TERESA



Alabama Occupational Therapy Spring Conference 2009

April 4, 2009

University of Alabama Birmingham

School of Health Professions

1705 University Boulevard, Birmingham, Alabama 35294

8:00-8:30	Registration
8:30-9:30	ALOTA Business Meeting Valley McCurry, MBA, OTR/L, ALOTA President
9:30-10:30	Get on Board with the Centennial Vision Beth Barstow, MS, OTR/L, SCLV Alabama AOTA Representative Penny Moyers-Cleveland, EdD, OTR/L, BCMH, FAOTA
10:30-11:00	Break and Vendor
11:00-12:00	Keynote Address: Aging and Vision Loss: Science Informs Practice and Policy John E. Crews, DPA Senior Scientist, Vision Health Initiative Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:00	How Emerging Home Automation Technologies Are Improving the Functional Capabilities of Individuals with Disabilities Kevin Braswell, Owner and Founder of Smart Solution
1:00-2:00	Identification of Patients at Risk for Vision Problems within the Pediatric Population Kristine Hopkins, OD and Leslie Box Simms, MS, OTR/L
2:00-2:15	Break and Vendors
2:15-3:15	Introduction to Health Information Literacy Beverly Rossini, MLIS and Geneva Bush Staggs, MSLS, University of South Alabama
2:15-3:15	Teaching ADL's for Patients with Spinal Cord Injuries Sarah Logon, MOT, OTR/L and Polly H. Hopkins, MOT, OTR/L, Therapy Manager Shepherd Center, Atlanta, GA
3:15-3:30	Break and Vendors
3:30-4:30	Positive Strategies for Managing Behaviors in the Testing/Therapy Session Elizabeth McMahon Griffith, PhD, Psychologist Civitan International Research Center, Sparks Center
3:30-4:30	Physical Activity and Pain Management Outcomes of a Pilot Study with Adults Having Cerebral Palsy Laura K. Vogtle, PhD, OTR/, Professor, UAB and Laurie Malone, PhD, Lakeshore Foundation

SIX (6) CONTACT HOURS AVAILABLE

ALOTA Spring Conference 2009 Registration

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please indicate any disability related accommodations required in the space below:

Registration Deadline: March 20, 2009

Cost: \$30.00 for ALOTA Member, \$60.00 for Non-members, and \$15.00 for Students

Make checks payable to: ALOTA

Mail check to: Jewell Dickson P.O. Box 6115 Montgomery, AL 36106

You can also register for the conference, find directions, and hotel information at

WWW.ALOTA.ORG

Questions? E-mail or call jewell.dickson@alota.org or 334-229-8410