

ALOTA Fall Board Meeting  
September 11, 2021  
The Lodge at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores, Alabama

- I. Call to Order: 12:41
- II. Establishment of quorum, introduction of guests
- III. Rachel Ashcraft, Rachel Gahan, Andrea Hunter, Laura Smith, Megan Sortino, Marissa Garrett, Tara Thompson, RJ Higginbotham, Candra Taylor, Kimberly Varn, Mia Tigue, Dewayne Hamilton, Diana Labrador, Valley McCurry, Casey Brock, Alyssa Ritenour, Carl Robinson, Ashton Mayo
- IV. Review and approval of minutes from previous meeting
  - a. Approved
- V. Old Business/New Business:
  - a. Post conference survey will be sent out after this weekend for feedback
    - i. Please send your feedback. We need to make improvement on the whole process. This will shape next year's conference.
  - b. Bylaws will be listed/posted and send out email for voted on October 15
    - i. Setting up comment section for feedback
  - c. District Meet Event: Sandcastle Showdown Social
  - d. COTA membership
    - i. From Laura S. regarding COTA membership and attendance to conference: I would love to discuss with the board/council ideas about how to get more OTA students/new grads to the conference. I have discussed this with Rachel casually via email, so I'll try to give my background information and data and then ask for input. My first year I was able to bring about students to conference but it was at a much lower student price and it was offered as a way to complete part of an assignment. This year I don't have any attending that I know of-I need to change the assignment for next year to make conference look like a more reasonable option, but the cost was also a factor this year. The other outlier information is that conference is earlier this year and we haven't even had SOTA elections yet and these students barely understand the basics at this point (it's only the 4th week of their first semester). The main problem with getting participation in conference from the OTA program is that once admitted (after prerequisites), they are in and out in 3 semesters. So fall conference is in their first semester of OTA school, and they are graduating in August and are either starting new jobs and possibly don't have time off or are not employed and have no money either way by the time their "second" September rolls around and they are not considered a student at that point. I would love to hear the options of everyone about what we could possibly offer to capture this population. My thoughts are for there to be an option for a "4th semester" student option for those students who had just finished in August to attend at the student rate (is there any wiggle room on this rate? It might be cost prohibitive for OTA students) when they finally would understand and be able to participate more at the

conference, and/or also a new grad option for ALOTA for 1-2 years possibly? After since a good number of our students are just landing PRN jobs and not full time jobs. Doesn't AOTA have a new grad rate that is for 1-3 years after graduation? Am I dreaming this? I did a poll in my last two groups on facebook and 54 students replied to my poll. They all unanimously answered that they would attend if it was less expensive/there was a new grad rate. I got less of a response on what would be a fair price, but I heard \$75 student/\$100-150 new grad would be fair.

- ii. Suggestions included:
  - 1. Looking at doing a student rate for new grads (membership and conference)
  - 2. Sending out information through the school before the student start via email and mail
  - 3. Paying per day option for conference
    - a. Can be a challenge due to attrition. So potentially could be offered students only.
- iii. Send out a proposal to vote for next board meeting.
  - 1. Gather more data

#### VI. Officer/Committee Reports:

- a. VP
  - i. Spring Conference... coming soon
    - 1. Montgomery
    - 2. Looking at Tuskegee University to host
    - 3. Building a bridge with Tuskegee University and the Wiregrass District
- b. Government Affairs
  - i. It was a successful year legislatively, given that ALOTA was able to lobby a practice act revision that now includes provisions for being able to refer in the event of practitioner impairment.
  - ii. OT Pact to be addressed next year
  - iii. Thank you to Jay for all you do for ALOTA and the Occupational Therapy profession in the state of Alabama!
- c. Secretary
  - i. Journal Club Update
    - 1. Awaiting approval from AOTA APP for attach 1 CEU to each activity. Hopefully will be available this fall.
- d. Treasurer
  - i. Financial Report
    - 1. Contact [treasurer@alota.org](mailto:treasurer@alota.org) for more information
- e. Membership

- i. Working with student reps to clean up membership records
    - ii. Just received updated list from ABCOT of OTs in Alabama
    - iii. 440 members with an additional 44 members in the grace period of renewal
  - f. Recognitions
    - i. Successful awards ceremony last night. Thank you Casey for all your hard work.
    - ii. OTA Student scholarships will be opening prior to Spring Conference.
      - 1. TBA: Opening of applications
  - g. Social Media
    - i. Representative not present.
  - h. RA Update
    - i. Please see attached document of the latest update from the AOTA RA
  - i. District Chairs
    - i. North
    - ii. NorthCentral
      - 1. Welcome Kelly, as the new NorthCentral Co-Chair
    - iii. Central
      - 1. Welcome Diana, as the new Central Co-Chair
    - iv. EastCentral
    - v. South
      - 1. Looking for speakers to do a virtual event
        - a. Mental health first aid training by Dr. Marjorie Scaffa.
      - 2. Welcome Kimberly, as the new South Co-Chair!
    - vi. Wiregrass
      - 1. Welcome Ashton, as the new Wiregrass Chair!
  - j. Student Reps
- VII. Adjourn: 13:05