



RIOTA News

Volume 39 Issue 1

RIOTA
Moving Forward
Making a Difference

Message from the President:

Dear Fellow Members,

Summer is winding down and autumn is on its way! The new school year is around the corner and we receive the kind gift of a fresh start- a new year for RIOTA! When starting a new year, it is helpful to look back at the previous year to identify our successes but also look at areas where we can do better!

In looking back over the last year, I would like to personally thank the RIOTA board for their tireless work and dedication to the organization over the last year. They balanced work, their personal lives, and professional volunteering with RIOTA. Volunteering for RIOTA takes time, energy and enthusiasm. Their hard work makes it possible to meet the needs of the organization; I could not do this job with out them It has been a pleasure working with you all. Along with hard work we have enjoyed quite a few good laughs. Thank you for all of your efforts.

There are several board members I would like to recognize individually:

Trish McGee, has served two consecutive terms as secretary for RIOTA. Her term has ended and we are very grateful for all your hard work as secretary over these past 4 years and look forward to continuing to work with you as the Educational Coordinator.

Lisa Edwards, has served as the RIOTA representative to the AOTA Representative Assembly (RA) over the last three years. She has represented us well, providing Rhode Island AOTA members with a voice during all voting initiatives that AOTA presented to the RA at national conference. We wish you best of luck on your next endeavors!

Ann Harwood & Erin Sullivan, have served as the Pediatric SIG Co-Chairs over the last two years. They have worked tirelessly to provide up to date, evidence-based, and occupation based educational sessions. Thank you both for your hard work! Erin we are happy that you have decided to continue on as the nominations chair for the 2010-2011 RIOTA Board. Ann we look forward to hearing about your future endeavors.

Sue Kobus served as the newsletter editor for the past year, we appreciate your fresh perspective and new ideas on the newsletter. Thank you for your service to RIOTA!

Sue Higgins, has served as the RIOTA treasurer for three years. She is leaving her term early to take on new endeavors with AOTA. We appreciate her hard work and dedication over her three years of service and wish her luck in her new position at AOTA with the Commission on Education.

Here are some of the great things our organization has accomplished over the last year:

- An increase in the number of continuing education meeting hours
- Updating the Bylaws to achieve cost savings and efficiency
- RIOTA worked to further develop and expand our relationship with Rebuilding Together
- Continue to monitor state and federal legislation impacting the practice of occupational therapy in RI

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Contact Us:

 riota@riota.org

 or

 (401) 345-8356

 www.riota.org

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**The American
Occupational Therapy
Association, Inc.**

RIOTA Executive Board

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Natalie Leland, PhD, OTR/L,
BCG
president@riota.org

Vice President

Brett Brumbaugh, MS,
OTR/L
vicepresident@riota.org

Treasurer

Debbie Bertwell, COTA/L
treasurer@riota.org

Secretary

Keri Kinniburgh, COTA/L
secretary@riota.org

AOTA Representative

Amy Battles-Borkowski,
COTA/L
rira@riota.org

Alternate Representative

Empty
altrep@riota.org

Communications Chair

Rachel Vitello, OTR/L
riotanews@riota.org

Newsletter Editor

Lori A. Cillino, MEd. OTR/L
riotanews@riota.org

Nominations Chair

Erin Sullivan, MS, OTR/L
nominationschair@riota.org

COTA Liaison

Annaliza Lewerk, COTA/L
cota@riota.org

Public Relations

Amy Battles-Borkowski,
COTA/L
publicrelations@riota.org

Volunteer Chair

Elizabeth Lima, MS, OTR/L
riotavolunteer@riota.org

RIOTA Historian

Trish McGee, MS, OTR/L
history@riota.org

Reimbursement Chair

Lori A. Cillino, MEd. OTR/L
reimbursement@riota.org

Education Resource

Coordinator
Trish McGee, MS, OTR/L
edcoordinator@riota.org

Pediatric Special Interest

Group Co-Chairs
Stacey Lehrer MEd, OTR/L,
ATP
Michaela Turbitt, MS OTR/L
pediatricSIG@riota.org

Mental Health Special

Interest Group Chair
Brett Brumbaugh, MS,
OTR/L
mentalhealth@riota.org

Adult Special Interest

Group Co-Chairs
Keri Kinniburgh, COTA/L
Trish McGee, MS, OTR/L
adultSIG@riota.org

The Representative Assembly

Hello, I would like to introduce myself; my name is Amy Battles-Borkowski, COTA/L. I am the new RA for the state of Rhode Island. I am honored that I was nominated for this position, as I am honored to serve you in the Representative Assembly. As a COTA I have worked in a variety of settings including an inpatient Geriatric Psychiatric unit, an Adult Psychiatric unit, and a Skilled Nursing Facility. I have been an active member of the RIOTA board for one year, serving as Public Relations Representative. I have been a member of RIOTA and AOTA for 3 years. At this point I am orienting to my new position as RA. The first Assembly meeting I will be attending will be held on-line in November. At this time the motions are still being prepared. If you have any concerns and would like to add input to the motions being considered, please let me know and we can work to prepare a formal motion for consideration. When the final motions are announced I will send an email blast through RIOTA

encouraging all of you to review them. Please do not hesitate to share your opinions with me. I can always be reached by e-mail at RIRA@RIOTA.org. I will voice your opinions to the assembly.

It was recently announced that a new AOTA Procedural and Organizational Change Ad Hoc Committee has been formed. This Committee was formed to create a new motion to replace the Recommendations for Association and Professional Participation that was defeated last spring. Feedback and recommendations from this committee will be shared with AOTA membership at the spring 2011 RA meeting. You can keep up to date on ideas, discussions and member feedback online at <http://otconnections.aota.org/>.

During my term I look forward to hearing from you all. I hope to meet many of you in the community or at RIOTA events.

Message from the President ~ continued

Represented Rhode Island at National Conference

Maintained cost of membership despite national trends to increase membership

Achieved financial stability

Increasing opportunities for members to volunteers and get involved

Just like any group, nothing is perfect, here are some of the areas we can work on making better, which is completely possible. First, we can increase our membership and involvement at both the state and national levels. Our organization serves as a support for the work we all do everyday, this can be stronger by holding both state and national memberships. **We are all overwhelmed with life demands including work and personal responsibilities, it is a constant challenge to get through the day in one piece (Does this sound familiar to anyone?). I personally struggle with how to achieve all the daily demands of life in a 24 hour period!** Having said that I can not stress enough the importance of professional membership! It is imperative that we all join together and become members of RIOTA and AOTA. The benefits of membership at the state and national level are numerous, including: networking, continuing education, and advocacy!

During a period of hyper-change in health care there is safety in numbers. Past Presidents of RIOTA, including myself, have talked about the fear we have surrounding the future of our profession as well as the need for grassroots advocacy to represent occupational therapists. Whether you work in the area of mental health, early intervention, school systems, private practice, acute care, skilled nursing, long term care, or an emerging practice area policy changes are coming which can impact our practice. The trends in Federal and State policy, in the midst of these tough economic times, have the potential for significant funding cutbacks which can impact who we serve, how, and when we treat our clients, as well as the potential for other professionals to encroach on our practice.

Of the many issues that we need to pay attention to, here are several key issues:

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has proposed cuts to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule - which will cut funding to occupational therapy services under the physician fee schedule.
- State budgets across the country are being cut, including Medicaid budgets! This can impact service provision across the lifespan for those receiving service through Medicaid
- Other professions continue to put forth legislation across the country which infringes upon what we as occupational therapy practitioners

I used to read about these changes and think to myself, well what can I do, I am only one person? I have learned one person can do a lot! Actions that you can take to help address these issues impacting out practice- **FIRST BECOME A RIOTA MEMBER AND AN AOTA MEMBER.** Both AOTA and RIOTA have individual advocating for our profession at the state and national level when legislation is being proposed which may impact our practice. Your membership helps make that possible! Second, get involved. In the Spring newsletter I challenged each and every OT practitioner in the state to give two hours to RIOTA over the next 365 days. Giving just two hours to the profession can make a difference. Third, contact your legislators, regarding the policy issues impacting out practice. The most important thing I have learned when meeting with Policy makers is that they need the patient stories, they have staff that give them the latest research on the legislation, but they need to hear the patient stories,- that is what you can contribute! You can tell them about the patient that you work with, who is their constituent, and how this new legislation will impact their quality of life, function, or ability to achieve independence. AOTA has a whole section on their website for members on how to communicate with legislators and how to be effective in sharing stories about your patients and your practice!! Membership does work!

In a shift from activism, a "You can do it!" to exciting beginnings let me introduce the newest members of RIOTA Board along with our newly elected Vice President and Secretary.

Deb Bertwell the interim RIOTA treasurer role

Amy Battles-Borkowski has been appointed by AOTA to serve as the RI AOTA RA rep.

Stacey Lehrer and Michaela Turbitt are our new Pediatric special interest group Co-Chairs.

Brett Brumbaugh has been elected Vice President

Keri Kinniburgh Secretary

There are many opportunities to get involved with RIOTA, either on a short term one time project basis, one year basis, or on a two year term basis. Come join us! Each and everyone one of you has great ideas, talent and wonderful energy! Contact me with questions about getting involved!

We have an exciting year ahead! Check the RIOTA website regularly for updates on monthly meetings and please feel free to come to the monthly board meetings!! Board meetings are open to the membership and we welcome your attendance!

Happy Fall!

Natalie

Special Interest Group Updates

Pediatric Special Interest Group Update

Welcome to another year of pediatrics events. Hope everybody had a great summer! We wanted to take this opportunity to briefly introduce ourselves, the new co-chairs of the Pediatrics Special Interest Group. Stacey Lehrer is the OT at Cornerstone School, a private special education school for students with severe/profound disabilities, and also runs the school's adapted aquatics and Special Olympics programs. She also works part-time as a consultant for UCPR with their Home-Based Therapeutic Services Program. Michaela Turbitt is an occupational therapist in the outpatient program at Hasbro Children's Hospital. She has previous experience in private and public school settings, as well as early intervention.

We would like to hear from all of you about topics you'd be interested in seeing this year. Following are some possibilities for upcoming topics:

- Aquatics/aquatic therapy

- Vision therapy
- Assistive technology
- Recreation
- Family involvement
- Spasticity management
- Problem solving/ brainstorming sessions for new treatment ideas



Would you be interested in these topics? What else would you like to see? Please send your thoughts and suggestions to us at pediatrisig@riota.org. We will be sending out information soon about the date for the first meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Stacey Lehrer and Michaela Turbitt

Physical Disabilities Special Interest Group Update

We hope everyone had a great summer and enjoyed the perfect beach weather!

While good things must come to an end, we are excited to announce some upcoming events for the fall of 2010!

On Saturday, September 25th, Jennifer Kaldenberg, MSA, OTR/L, SCLV, CLVT will present a full day workshop on vision. Jennifer is the Director of Occupational Therapy Services at New England Eye in Boston, MA. This workshop will include anatomy and diseases of the eye and assessment and intervention of visual impairments.

The workshop will take place in the Media Presentation Room at the New England Institute of Technology in Warwick, RI from 9-4pm. The workshop will cost \$50 for RIOTA members and \$150 for non-RIOTA members.

We are also pleased to announce that Stacey Johnson, OTR/L, ATP from Southern New England Rehabilitation Center will present on wheelchair seating and positioning on November 16th.

For more information, please stay tuned for the e-mail flyers advertising these upcoming events.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you! If you have suggestions for future topics or would like to present at one of our special interest group meetings, please contact us!



Trish McGee, MS, OTR/L

Keri Kinniburgh, COTA/L

Physical Disabilities Special Interest Group Co-Chairs



Mental Health Special Interest Group Update

Hello, RIOTA Members!

We are happy to announce that the RIOTA Mental Health Special Group is sponsoring NAMI Walks for the Mind of America, NAMI's signature walkathon event, that will be held at Roger Williams Park Carousel on Saturday, October 2, 2010. NAMI, the Nation's Voice on Mental Illness, formerly the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, is the largest education, support and advocacy organization that serves the needs of all those whose lives are touched by these illnesses. This includes persons with mental illness, their families, friends, employers, the law enforcement community and policy makers. The NAMI organization is composed of approximately 1100 local affiliates, 50 state offices and a national office.

The goals of the NAMI Walks program are: to fight the stigma that surrounds mental illness, to build awareness of the fact that the mental health system in this country needs to be improved, and to raise funds for NAMI so that it can continue its mission. The RIOTA Mental Health Special Interest Group will be walking as a team, and we would like to ask your participation in this event! If you would like to join us, you can visit the team's page, and sign up, at <http://www.nami.org/namiwalks10/RHI/riota>. Also, if you would like further information about NAMI, or NAMI Walks, please visit <http://www.nami.org/> and www.namirhodeisland.org/.

We will have an informational meeting on September 7th at 6:30 pm at NEIT.

Please join us!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brett Brumbaugh, at mentalhealth@riota.org.

Thank you!

Brett Brumbaugh, MS, OTR/L
RIOTA Mental Health Special Interest Group Chair

RIOTA Calendar

RIOTA Executive Board Meetings
All meetings are at 6pm

Sept 13 NE Tech - Rm CT316

Oct 4

Nov 8

Dec 13- board holiday party

January 10

Feb 7

March 14

April 11

May 9- conference prep meeting

June 13

May 14- 3rd annual RIOTA conference

Sept 7th: Mental Health SIG: Namiwalks Information Session

Sept 25th: Phys Dis SIG: Low Vision Training

Nov. 16th: Phys Dis SIG: Wheelchair Seating and Positioning



**RIOTA is accepting
 call for papers for
 our 3rd Annual
 Conference
 on May 14th, 2011!
 See www.riota.org
 for more information!**



CBS Therapy

Currently hiring OTR's for School Placements and/or Early Intervention

JOIN THE HOMETOWN TEAM!

CBS Therapy is a Rhode Island based therapy company owned by practicing speech-language pathologists which seeks to provide the latest research based clinical interventions as well as culturally appropriate evaluations. We work with SLP's, OT's and PT's.

Being a local, Rhode Island based company, we are able to provide the best in choice of placement, support, benefits and compensation for our Ocean State Employees. We understand Rhode Island and we are able to exceed the expectations of our Rhode Island clinicians. We have all types of positions ranging from per diem to Full Time. The populations we serve are from Early Intervention to High School. Please give us a call and join the hometown team!

For information regarding current career opportunities please call 401-270-9991

CBS Therapy

134 Thurbers Ave., Suite 220A

Providence, RI 02905

401-270-9991

www.cbstherapy.com

Spotlight on Schools:



New England Tech OTA students collaborated with The Sensational Child in North Kingstown and Generations Adult Day Center in North Providence for a marketing project. The students 'competed' to design therapeutic spaces in each facility and help describe how occupational therapy could be introduced as a service on site. The community participants were so impressed they decided to use components of each presentation that related to their site, so all of the students 'won' and we hope occupational therapy will be much more of a presence in these settings in the near future!

Rehab Education's Continuing Ed Courses Near You!

Kinesio®Taping (KT1/KT2) — a KTA Approved Course

Faculty: Rosemary Schrauth, OTR, CLT, CKTI

- Saturday Sept 11-Sunday Sept 12, 2010: Providence, RI area
- Saturday Oct 16-Sunday Oct 17, 2010: Hackensack, NJ

Joint & Soft Tissue Mobilization from the Hand to the Elbow

Faculty: Joanne Wagenbrenner, PT, MOMT, CHT

- Saturday Sept 25-Sunday Sept 26, 2010: Boston

Simplifying Management of the Wrist and Elbow

Faculty: Shrikiant J. Chinchalkar, OTR, CHT

- Sunday Oct 3-Monday Oct 4, 2010: Englewood, NJ

Orthopedic Therapy of the Shoulder

Faculty: Martin J. Kelley, PT, DPT, OCS

- Sunday Oct 24- Monday Oct 25, 2010: Englewood, NJ

Advanced Physical Agent Modalities (30 contact hours)

Faculty: Sara Shapiro, MPH, PT

- 4 days: Nov 13-14 and Nov 20-21, 2010: Somerville, NJ

Management of Common Hand Injuries

Faculty: Shrikiant J. Chinchalkar, OTR, CHT

- Saturday May 21- Sunday May 22, 2011: Northern NJ

NEW! Interactive Online Courses Earn 14 Contacts hours from the comfort of your home. 4-week online class combines multi-media presentations, select readings, and assignments, with instructor moderated online interactions via discussion boards and postings. Faculty: Victoria Priganc, PhD, OTR, CHT, CLT

* **Hand Therapy 101** (Oct 15-Nov 12, 2010)

* **A Comprehensive Understanding of the Distal UE** (Sept 15-Oct 12, 2010)

Details/registration, list of Live CE Courses in 2010-2011, and catalog of self-study courses online at www.RehabEd.com



Rehab Education LLC
845-368-2458 * info@RehabEd.com

RIOTA BUDGET 2010/2011

Revenue	Budgeted	Actual
Dues	\$7,000.00	\$0.00
Non-member fees	\$100.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$100.00	\$0.00
Fundraising	\$100.00	\$0.00
Advertising	\$600.00	\$0.00
Conference		
Registration	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Exhibitors	\$1,400.00	\$0.00
Sponsorship	\$100.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$11,900.00	\$0.00
Beginning Cash	\$11,683.44	\$11,683.44
TOTAL AVAILABLE	\$23,583.44	\$11,683.44
Less Buffer and Savings	(\$5,000.00)	(\$5,000.00)
ACTUAL AVAILABLE CASH	\$18,583.44	\$6,683.44

Expenses	Budgeted	Actual
Lobbyist	(\$2,500.00)	\$0.00
Newsletter (printing and postage)	(\$750.00)	\$0.00
Admin Assistant	(\$3,600.00)	\$0.00
Ed Coordination	(\$500.00)	\$0.00
Natl. Association Conf	(\$1,000.00)	\$0.00
Public Relations	(\$100.00)	\$0.00
Phone	(\$100.00)	\$0.00
Exec Board Mtgs.	(\$50.00)	\$0.00
Website	(\$500.00)	\$0.00
Accountant	(\$250.00)	\$0.00
Administrative		
(incl. any postage not incl. elsewhere)	(\$100.00)	\$0.00
Charitable Donations	(\$100.00)	\$0.00
Conference		
Facility	\$0.00	\$0.00
Food	(\$2,500.00)	\$0.00
Copying	(\$500.00)	\$0.00
Postage	(\$450.00)	\$0.00
Insurance	(\$500.00)	\$0.00
Keynote	(\$2,000.00)	\$0.00
Tech Support	(\$150.00)	\$0.00
Supplies	(\$400.00)	\$0.00
Misc.	(\$100.00)	\$0.00
bonus A A	(\$500.00)	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	(\$16,650.00)	\$0.00
AMOUNT AVAILABLE	\$1,933.44	\$6,683.44
Plus Savings	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
TOTAL ACTUAL	\$6,933.44	\$11,683.44



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Street: _____ City, State: _____
Zip Code (+4) _____ Telephone (H): _____
E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

****RIOTA will use email for most correspondence, including newsletter****

If you prefer to receive correspondence via mail, please contact a board member who will make arrangements with you.

Employer: _____
Work Address: _____
Work City/State: _____ Work Zip: _____
Telephone (W): _____ Fax: _____
Practice Area: _____ Position: _____
Specialty Area: _____

We would like to request your assistance in a variety of areas. Please check below if you would be interested in serving on any of the following committees:

- () Newsletter () Public Relations () Pediatric SIG () Mental Health SIG () Phys Dis.
() Legislative () Education/Resource

() Other Special Interest Group(s): _____

Do you have any suggestions for improving RIOTA? _____

Suggestions for topics/speakers: _____

- () OTR -one year membership-..... \$60.00
() OTR -two year membership-.....\$110.00
() COTA -one year membership-\$50.00
() COTA -two year membership-\$90.00
() Associate/Retired\$40.00

() Student..... FREE

Total from above: _____

Voluntary donation for Lobbying/PAC efforts: _____

TOTAL: _____

All memberships will be annual September 1 - August 31

If you require any special accommodations to participate in RIOTA activities, please notify

Natalie Leland Email: president@riota.org

Please make check payable to RIOTA and mail with application to
RIOTA

PO Box 8585

Warwick, RI 02888-0599

Check to see if your HR department will reimburse this membership fee.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

JOIN US!!
Look for the Rhode Island
Occupational Therapy
Association page on Facebook!
"Like" us to keep up on the
latest happenings and OT
related discussions!!



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P.O. Box 8585

Warwick, RI 02888-0599