

# **RIOTA Executive Board Meeting**

**Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Present:** Marc Viera, Beth Horne, Karen Morgenstein, Brian Robertson, Meghan Franklin, Beth Smith, Gina Alston, Sue Higgins, Rachel Vitello, Kara Morgado, Selene Gemmell, Lisa Edwards, Bob Pezzullo, Trish McGee, Michelle Lamoureux

Meeting called to order by Gina Alston, President of RIOTA, following the distributions of agendas.

## **Introductions (\*officers taking position as of 7/1/07)**

Selene Gemmell – Nominations Chair\*  
Trish McGee – Educational Resource Coordinator & Secretary  
Marc Viera – COTA Liaison\*  
Beth Horne – Public Relations  
Sue Higgins – Historian  
Rachel Vitello – Newsletter Editor\*  
Michelle Lamoureux – Website Editor  
Kara Morgado – Public Relations  
Reimbursement Chair – Ann Harwood\* (Absent)  
Lisa Edwards – RA Rep\*  
Becky Simon – Alt. RA Rep\* (Absent)  
Meghan Franklin – Mental Health Special Interest Group Chair  
Beth Smith – Pediatrics Special Interest Group Chair

## **Candidates for Voting Positions**

President – Karen Albright Morgenstein  
Treasurer – James Agostinucci & Sue Higgins

## **NDT Opportunity (Karen Morgenstein)**

Karen spoke about the possibility of utilizing NEIT's NDT learning books/tapes by Jan Davis as an educational opportunity for those interested and fundraising event for RIOTA.

NEIT has 3 books/tapes to utilize as a series, or RIOTA could just offer 1 book as an educational opportunity since the information would take approximately 6-8hrs to review. Details still need to be finalized regarding breaking the info up into 2 different nights or having the event on a Saturday.

Each book offers 15 contact hrs at \$75 / person. Cost still needs to be finalized.

Karen and Trish agreed to research this further with the potential of the NDT tapes being a special event for RIOTA members in the fall.

### **Advertising Policy (Gina Alston)**

#### Current Policy

\$75 for ¼ page; \$100 for ½ page; \$150 for full page – ad gets sent via mass e-mail & newsletter; there is a lag-time for membership benefit of 1 week before ad gets posted on the RIOTA website. Recently, there have been a few complaints from RIOTA members regarding the content of ads placed in that the ads are not OT specific.

The RIOTA Board decided to limit ad content that is sent to members via email to OT specific jobs or educational opportunities. Website and newsletter ads can include any other advertising as this is used for fundraising efforts for RIOTA.

### **Website & Newsletter Updates (Michelle)**

Michelle indicated that she has received a few complaints about the lag time of the ad going on the RIOTA website.

The RIOTA board decided to continue the delay as a member benefit and to increase the price of ad if advertiser wants ad to go directly to the website.

Michelle also indicated that there is an issue with the system currently used by RIOTA to receive funds for ads. Currently Michelle or Becky wait to receive the ad check, then post the ad. Advertisers have indicated that they want the ad posted immediately. Michelle indicated she will research “Pay Pal” or an alternative online pay system to alleviate this issue.

Michelle indicated that the DOH list needs to be updated. Gina agreed to update the list in time for the September membership drive. (List received few days after this meeting- Gina sent DOH attachment to both Jeanette Gilbert, administrative asst and Michelle Lamoureux, website editor.)

Michelle asked if RIOTA’s “Incorporation Papers” are up-to-date. Gina indicated she will contact Becky about this. (After contacting Becky, Gina found out that incorporation papers are up to date and all set. Papers kept in archives- see Sue Higgins, historian, for more information.)

### **Summer Retreat (Gina Alston)**

The summer retreat will be held at Becky Simon’s house in Coventry, RI on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> 2007 from 9-4pm.

The agenda for the summer retreat involves strategic planning, mission statement development and fundraising opportunities.

All present tonight can attend retreat except for Sue Higgins.

### **RIOTA Fall Events**

September General Membership Mtg (Week of 9/23) – Yoga – sponsored by Futures.

November General Membership Mtg (date TBA) – “Handwriting Without Tears” by Keith Kline– sponsored by Kim Gilbert.

December General Membership Mtg (date TBA) – (?) NDT Educational Opportunity.

March General Membership Mtg (date TBA) – (?) “Osteoporosis & You” program – Lori Colasanto, OTR/L – St. Joe’s.  
April General Membership Mtg (date TBA) – OT Month Party.

### **Mental Health SIG** (Megan Franklin)

Meghan is looking forward to setting up a meeting with Rep. Patrick Kennedy’s health care liaison to educate about the role of OT in mental health.

Meghan also indicated that she is excited that AOTA’s new President has a background in Mental Health and Physical Disabilities.

Potential Speaker “Working with Families Around Mental Illness.”

Meghan asked to update the membership form to include a spot for interest in Mental Health. Michelle will update.

Meghan indicated she is still working on the “Zoomerang” survey tool for RIOTA to utilize as a method for determining what drives membership involvement.

### **Pediatrics SIG** (Beth Smith)

May 31<sup>st</sup> from 3-5pm – “Belated OT Month” drop in at TechACCESS.

June 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm – Amy Laurent’s Emotional Regulation Presentation at the Warwick Public Library.

FYI – Laura Barker’s “Ready Approach” Conference is coming to Providence the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in December. Conference cost is \$395 for 2 days.

September 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm – Emily Lennon “Hippotherapy.”

Beth is also researching having a feeding and wheelchair meeting next year as well.

### **Reimbursement News** (Lisa Edwards)

Lisa spoke about the latest AOTA reimbursement briefing.

The CMS approved codes for DMA for orthotics & prosthetics are available with an attached fee schedule.

Time is running out to obtain an NPI number! May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007 is the compliance date to obtain an NPI number for large health plans and providers. Small health plans and providers have until 5/23/08. The NPI number will improve the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and other Federal health programs and private health programs, and the effectiveness and efficiency of the health care industry in general by simplifying the administration of the health care system and enabling the efficient electronic transmission of certain health information. The NPI page is

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvidentStand/01\\_Overview.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvidentStand/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage)).

The OT Scope of Practice Issues newsletters for April and May 2007 are available online at:

<http://www.aota.org/members/area4/links/link13asp?Place=?members/area/links/link13asp>. You can also subscribe at [scope@aota.org](mailto:scope@aota.org).

### **COTA Liaison Update (Marc Viera)**

Marc indicated he is interested in constructing a survey for members regarding the relationship between the OT and COTA; whether members believe COTAs are underutilized in Rhode Island; and how to improve communication between OTs and COTAs.

### **Other News**

Karen Morgenstein spoke about looking forward to her new role as President (if elected) and her main priority is to increase awareness of OT and RIOTA through advertising and also spoke about the possibility of obtaining CEU's for volunteer opportunities for members.

Beth Smith spoke about a potential service project idea. The "Garden of Visually Impaired" is a circular garden built about 5 feet high with rocks and strong smells. The possibility of partnering with the "Impossible Dream" or a mall could help bring this project to reality.

Lisa Edwards indicated that she will research whether RIOTA members can obtain CEU's from attending the Summer Retreat.

Sue Higgins spoke about her upcoming trip to Mexico from July 8<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.

14 OTs and 1 COTA will be attending – mostly RIOTA members. The goal is to build a sensory room and an adaptive playground for those children and families with disabilities.

Fundraiser for trip – Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 8-11am at Dave's Bar and Grill.

\$11 per person to help buy supplies once in Mexico.

All are welcome at Fundraiser; if you are unable to attend, please make out a check to "OT Without Borders" and mail to Sue Higgins at NEIT.

The board agreed to continue to apply to RI State Police & WPD for raffle events.

Student Letters – Gina will ask Jen to e-mail Trish the current student letter to revise. The letter will be sent out in August to all students asking them to join RIOTA.

Gina asked that for all upcoming events/speakers, ask to include the agenda for auditing purposes. It was discussed to actually copy the agenda to the back of the certificate handed out at the event. The board agreed to this current policy.

Gina will send a copy of the certificate to Trish for her records.

Gina indicated that there will be no June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. The next time the board will meet will be at the Summer Retreat on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at Becky Simon's house.