

RIOTA News

Volume 39 Issue 1

RIOTA Moving Forward Making a Difference

Message from the Presidents:

Dear RIOTA Member,

“Change” has been the key word for our profession, and our society, in 2009. It has produced powerful grassroots advocacy from AOTA and your state association. Change is not over. Much lies ahead in 2010, and we will stay on the front lines for you.

The advocacy of your associations is crucial. It has a direct impact on your daily life, your daily practice, and your ability to make a good living as an occupational therapy practitioner. It is about your job, your ethics, the best use of your knowledge—living occupational therapy to its fullest.

Without AOTA:

Occupational therapy would not be recognized by public and private insurance programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, IDEA, workers’ compensation, and TRICARE.

500 occupational therapists, assistants, and students would not have brought the message of occupational therapy as part of the solution to health care to Capitol Hill this fall.

Proposals to expand occupational therapy’s role in home health would not have been brought forward.

Patient protections and training programs would not include occupational therapy.

Key occupational therapy areas of practice, like orthotics, could have been decimated.

Without state associations:

The occupational therapy profession would not be regulated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Most states have licensure laws.

Other professions could restrict occupational therapy’s scope of practice. Licensure laws assert and protect our scope of practice.

New autism insurance coverage laws might not include occupational therapy services.

Cuts to Medicaid funding for school-based services and other community services would go unchallenged.

State health care programs might not include occupational therapy.

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Contact Us:

riota@riota.org

or

(401) 345-8356

www.riota.org



The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

RIOTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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	<u>COTA Liaison</u> Annaliza Lewerk, COTA/L cota@riota.org		

Health Ed Presents:

Understanding and Differentiating the Autism Spectrum in Children and Adolescents

by John Ortiz, PhD

March 9, 2010

Worcester, MA

March 10, 2010

Peabody, MA

March 11, 2010

Braintree, MA

March 12, 2010

Warwick, RI

Visit www.health-ed.com or call 800.839.4584 for more information

Special Interest Group Updates

Physical Disabilities Special Interest Group Update

We hope you and your family enjoyed a great holiday season!



We had a busy fall hosting three SIG meetings! Susan Steiner, OTR/L, CST-D presented The Importance of Fascia in the Body: the Diaphragm Technique from CranioSacral Therapy. Susan's event was filled to capacity and we look forward to her presenting at future RIOTA events. Also, Natalie Leland, PhD, OTR/L, BCG, RIOTA President, along with Jennifer Kaldenberg, MSA, OTR/L, SCLV, CLVT and Sue Berger, MS, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA, presented An Overview of the AOTA Board and Specialty Certification Process. RIOTA members who attended this meeting requested an additional workshop this summer to assist in developing their portfolio. Once this date is set, an e-mail will be sent to all RIOTA members and posted on the website. Finally, Stacy Johnson, OTR/L, ATP from Southern New England Rehabilitation Center presented The Clients' Seating Needs vs. Reimbursement – a Balancing Act. It was great to see a few new faces at this event!

We have a few events on tap for this upcoming spring/summer. Stay tuned to RIOTA's website for dates and additional information on Jan Davis' Acute Care NDT Workshop! This interactive workshop will take place over 2 weekend days. Participants will earn **15 contact hours** for approximately **\$115.00**. A great bargain! Also, RIOTA's annual OT Month party will be held on April 5th! Don't miss a chance to network with fellow Occupational Therapy practitioners while celebrating our profession!

As always, we are interested in your suggestions about future event topics and/or potential speakers for RIOTA. Please contact us if you are interested!

Keri Kinniburgh, COTA/L adultssig@riota.org

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

Physical Disabilities SIG Co-Chairs

Mental Health Special Interest Group Update

March: Working with children who have psychiatric disabilities

Date: TBD

(joint meeting with Peds SIG)

April: Mental Health Issues in the Geriatric Population

Date: TBA

May: Mental Health Issues post CVA

Date: TBA

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, ideas or suggestions regarding the Mental Health Special Interest Group.

Please stay tuned for further information regarding the dates & times of upcoming meetings.

Thank you,

Brett Brumbaugh

mentalhealth@riota.org

PEDS Special Interest Group

In a joint effort with the Mental Health special interest group section we will be combining groups for a discussion on "Working with Children with Mental Health Issues". Stay tuned for the March date and location. We hope to see OT's in attendance from school systems, hospitals, and private settings to share in this pertinent discussion. As a school based therapist it is important to form a relationship with your districts psychologist. They can be a great resource to assist in problem solving social, emotional and behavioral concerns. We look forward to presenting this topic to our membership. Hope to see you there.

Ann Harwod

Erin Sullivan

peditricsig@riota.org



The Representative Assembly + Food

Something for everyone!

As we all find ourselves with much to do, but little time, I thought I would give you a few months notice for the annual RA meeting. It will be held on **Monday, March 1st at NEIT at 6 PM.**

As far as the FOOD part of the title, I will be trying something different this year. I appreciate all the constituents that came out last year to discuss the AOTA agenda items prior to our annual RA meeting; however, I would always like to see some new faces. So, in hopes of getting to you through your stomachs, I have a plan for food. We will be having some light catering before the meeting- no, I am not cooking so you are all safe for now. You may remember last year's RIOTA conference, the food was great! This year, I am in charge of catering again (along with RA and vendors... many hats... perhaps you might want to wear one?) I digress. The bid for catering is still not solidified, but when it is, I will be having a small sampling of the RIOTA conference menu at the annual RA meeting. I am hoping this might entice a few more attendees for that day.

So, please mark your calendars for the RA meeting on **Monday, March 1st at NEIT at 6 PM.** Also, please mark **Saturday, May 8th for RIOTA's Second Annual Conference at NEIT.**

I look forward to seeing and hearing from all of you regarding any new ideas, plans, concerns or comments that you wish to have brought up at my last RA meeting. My position runs through May of 2010. I will be aggressively looking for new candidates to carry on this torch.

Volunteerism--What have you done for your Associations lately?

Lisa Edwards OTR/L

RI Rep to AOTA



2010 Continuing Ed Courses in New England

All You Ever Wanted to Know About Physical Exam of the Major Joints of the Upper Extremity

Faculty: Ken Flowers PT, CHT/ Phil McClure, PhD, PT, OCS

- Saturday March 13 - Sunday March 14 : Boston area (Methuen)

Joint Mobilizations for the Upper Extremity

Karen Westervelt, PT, MS, PGDipHSc, OCS, ATC / Sonya Worth, PT, PGDipHSc, OCS

- Saturday April 10: Boston area (Framingham)
- Saturday May 22: Lewiston, ME

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

Faculty: Rosemary Schrauth, OTR, CLT, CKTI • Saturday Sept 11- Sunday Sept 12: Providence, RI area

Joint & Soft Tissue Mobilization from the Hand to the Elbow

Faculty: Joanne Wagenbrenner, PT, MOMT, CHT

- TBA, Fall 2010: Boston, MA

NEW! Interactive Online Courses

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

- * **A Comprehensive Understanding of the Distal UE** (March 8-April 4)
- * **Hand Therapy 101** (April 23-May 20)

Details/registration, list of new online courses and 2010 Live Course schedule available online at www.RehabEd.com

Rehab Education LLC

845-368-2458 * info@RehabEd.com

Rhode Island State Conference 2010

Announcing RIOTA's 2nd Annual State Conference!



Mark your calendars for
May 8th, 2010!

"Promotion of Health in Practice:
Prevent, Acquire, Restore"

Download our conference brochure and save by registering for
early bird registration postmarked before March 27th.

[Conference brochure 2010](#)

Click here to view additional information including [bios of our presenters](#) and
[abstracts of of the presentations](#)

For questions about conference please contact the emails below:

Vendors: vendors@riota.org

Presenters: presenters@riota.org

Volunteers: conferencevolunteer@riota.org

Attendees/Registration: registration@riota.org

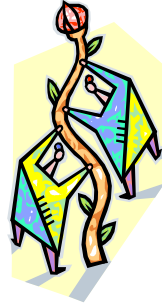


Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteer with RIOTA & Rebuilding Together this April!

I would like to extend a warm thank you to all practitioners and students who participated in the Rebuilding together day last spring. RIOTA will be teaming up with Rebuilding Together again this April and is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to make this day a success!

An overarching goal for our state association is to increase RIOTA involvement in volunteer activities. Along with the Rebuilding Together event, we hope to offer practitioners and students more volunteer opportunities in the future. Please look for email blasts regarding specific dates for the April event.



If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at:

riotavolunteer@riota.org.

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

Message from the Presidents ~ continued

It is important for you to be a part of both AOTA a your state association. Joining both associations provides you with career protection, provides you with a voice, and protects what you value most—the identity and authenticity of occupational therapy and its ability to meet society’s needs. Not joining leaves the work undone, the challenges unmet, and the profession disadvantaged.

“Not joining leaves the work undone, the challenges unmet, and the profession disadvantaged.”

In this time when state budgets are being prepared with significant cuts to services, when the federal government may be implementing an entire new approach to health care reform, when many other professions are willing to say they do what occupational therapy does, none of us can afford to be bystanders. Make sure your voice is heard. Make sure your profession is preserved

for the future. Make sure your livelihood continues to support you and your family.

If you are not a member of both AOTA and your state association, join now. Don’t stay on the sidelines. The challenges and struggles will continue. Occupational therapy’s success depends on your participation.

Say yes. Be involved. Make a difference. Thank you for your support.

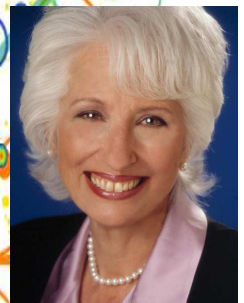
Penelope Moyers Cleveland, EdD, OTR/L, BCMH, FAOTA
AOTA President

Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
AOTA President-Elect

Natalie Leland, PhD, OTR/L, BCG
RIOTA President



Penelope Moyers Cleveland



Florence Clark



RIOTA Calendar

Executive board meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month at 6pm at New England Tech (OT suite) unless otherwise specified. All RIOTA members are welcome and encouraged to sit in on Board Meetings.

February 24, 2010 PEDS takes a fieldtrip to Conerstone School at 6:30pm. This presentation on Positioning, Mobility and Equipment will be lead by Lori Lapre PTA. Please RSVP for this event as space is limited.

March 1, 2010 RA meeting 5:30pm, with Lisa Edwards OTR/L

Driving Rehab, 6:30pm presented by Linda Curry MS, OTR/L, CDRS at New England Tech, Food & Drink, plus: earn 2 contact hours for attending

April 5, 2010 Executive Board Meeting 6:00pm at New England Tech

April 12, 2010 OT Month Party: Dr. Guilmette speaking on "Family Dynamics: Helping or Hindering?". More Details soon to come!

May 3, 2010 Conference Prep Meeting 6:00pm at New England Tech

May 8, 2010 [Conference 2010!](#)

June 7, 2010 Executive Board Meeting 6:00pm at New England Tech

All RIOTA presentations/meetings are free to RIOTA members (unless otherwise specified).

Non-members will be charged a \$25 fee.

RIOTA welcomes all New & returning Members & Students:

Jennifer Anderson
Susan Boutin
Christine Brewster
Ann Burkhardt
Sherry Campbell-Tremblay
Jennifer Cote
Brian Dennis
Cheryl Gaucher
Susan Geisser
Cherylee Iannetta
Joanne Jones
Joanne Knowles
Susan Kobus
Sandra Lamchick
Annaliza Lewerk
Elizabeth Lima
Patricia McBurney
Lindsey Procaccini
Cathy Rapoport
Alicia Sanchez



Life Care at Home of RI is seeking a PRN OT in the Cranston, Providence area for a growing Home Care Elite-Home Health Agency.

Please contact Deborah at
401-383-2250

Email Deborah_Giordano@lcca.com

or fax resumes to 401-383-2260.

Spotlight on Schools:



New England Institute of Technology is pleased to announce that the new class of MSOT students is entering in March! The first and only Masters level program in RI, this program provides a true bridge for COTAs who wish to become OTRs in less than three years!

The OT department is so excited for this new beginning. Please feel free to contact Nancy Dooley, Carol Doehler, or Rebecca Simon with any questions you may have (401-739-5000).



www.RIOTA.org

Visit us on the web for :

updates,

continuing education

opportunities,

job postings,

up to date RIOTA calendar,

volunteer opportunities.

And more!!



What's happening in your OT world?

What are your concerns about our profession?

Stumped on how to treat a patient?

Join RIOTA and connect with other OT's for answers, ideas, or just someone to bounce your ideas around with.

Membership information on the website

Don't miss our

OT month Party on

Monday, April 12

Stay tuned for more details!!