

Fall 2007

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President's Message

Dear Fellow Members,

The gauntlet has been passed and I find myself here, wondering what to say to you about my two days in office.

The first thing I would like to do as president is to thank the officers who are leaving their posts.

Gina Alston has been a steady and vivacious leader who has accomplished so much in her two years as president. Gina, you will certainly be a hard act to follow.

Becky Simon took the reins of the treasurer's position and has been extremely efficient in turning it into a very professional tool for us to use. So typical of you Becky.

Linda Curry has been our wonderful Representative to the Assembly for many, many years and has served us so faithfully throughout that time. Thank goodness you were there for us Linda. Thank you all so much, we appreciate your dedication and look forward to hearing about your future endeavors.

We have also had a change in many of our other positions.

Michelle Lamoureux is resigning from both her positions. She has been our Newsletter Editor for eons and our Website Manager since we've had a website. Thank you Michelle for your many hours of cutting and pasting, as well as, your persistence in getting us to "fork-up" submissions by deadline.

Jen Cosgrove is leaving as Nominations Chair. Jen pursued many to get nominations for our positions. And it worked. Between her efforts and Gina's, we are running with a FULL board this year! We can't even remember the last time that happened. Thank you Jen. It has been an honor to work along side all of you on the RIOTA board and my hope is that we continue to have your brilliant minds at the table for years to come.

As I am writing this for a July 15th deadline, the board has not yet met for their annual summer 'retreat'. The full board will be meeting on August 4th. Becky has graciously offered the use of her home for our full day event. We will be buckling down to develop a mission statement, update our strategic plan, review the annual budget and look at fundraising and community outreach opportunities. In attendance at this wild function will be:

President-Karen Albright Morgenstein
President Emeritus- Gina Alston
Vice President-Natalie Leland Wiatrowski
Secretary and Educational Resource Coordinator- Trish McGee
Treasurer- Susan Higgins
Representative to the Assembly- Lisa Edwards
Representative Alternate- Becky Simon
Pediatrics SIG Chair- Beth Smith
Mental Health SIG Chair- Meghan Franklin
Newsletter Editor and Website Editor- Rachel Vitello
COTA Liaison- Marc Viera

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Contact Us:
riota@riota.org
or
(401) 345-8356
.....

AOA[®]
State Affiliate

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

RIOTA Executive Board

President

Karen Morgenstein, COTA/L
president@riota.org

President Emeritus

Gina Alston, OTR/L

Vice President

Natalie Leland Wiatrowski, MS, OTR/L
vicepresident@riota.org

Treasurer

Sue Higgins, MA, OTR/L
treasurer@riota.org

Secretary

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

AOTA Representative

Lisa Edwards, OTR/L
rira@riota.org

Alternate Representative

Rebecca Simon, MS, OTR/L
altrep@riota.org

Newsletter Editor

Rachel Vitello, OTR/L
riotanews@riota.org

Reimbursement Chairperson

Ann Harwood, OTR/L
reimbursement@riota.org

COTA Liaison

Marc Viera, COTA/L
cota@riota.org

Public Relations

Bethany Horne, COTA/L
and Kara Morgado
publicrelations@riota.org

Consumer Relations

Brian Robertson, OTA/G
consumerrelations@riota.org

RIOTA Historian

Sue Higgins, MA, OTR/L
history@riota.org

Education Resource

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

Pediatric Special Interest

Group Chairperson
Elizabeth Smith, MS, OTR/L
pediatricsig@riota.org

Nominations Chairperson

Selene Gemmell, COTA/L
nominationschair@riota.org

Mental Health Special

Interest Group Chairperson
Meghan Franklin, MS, OTR/L
mentalhealth@riota.org

Therapy Missions 2008

Therapy Missions, formerly known as Occupational Therapy without Borders is sponsoring another mission trip to Juarez, Mexico in February and June/July of 2008. The dates for February are set for the 16th to the 23rd. The June/July trip dates are still being worked out and will probably be for 9 or 10 days. One of our prime goals is traveling to the Villa Integra in June/July is to help the community build an adaptive playground.

I am excited and completely overwhelmed with the generosity I have experienced since beginning the first mission trip to Juarez, Mexico. This region of close to 2 million people has only 12 physical therapists and 6 occupational therapists that have been formally trained in their respective professions. While many provide therapy, the training is usually on the job or "life learned" such as is found when a parent raises a child with a disability.

From my previous letter of invitation, you knew that I had intended to develop an opportunity to bring trained professionals together and travel to parts of the world where therapy services are non-existent or scarce. We have found a community rehabilitation program, run by families and one trained therapist! The "other" therapist is extremely dedicated to learning therapy and does an outstanding job working with the families and the disabled community members.

We traveled to Integra Villa for two weeks this past July. During our stay we were able to implement many new concepts and ideas for the development of their programs. We learned to make needed equipment out of cardboard, wood and PVC piping and constructed several seating devices for young children out of buckets. We committed ourselves to work with the resources available to the community while being cognizant of the financial restraints most families lived with.

I renewed my spirit as an occupational therapist whose training allowed me to think about ways to provide freedom of choice for occupations that gave meaning to the children, adults and their families. Disability limited the children's and adults' access to occupations. We found a way to break down the obstacles and build new possibilities. The work we accomplished made us laugh, rejoice, and cry. Each day formed a new emotion for everyone on the trip.

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Public Relations Chairs- Bethany Horne and Kara Morgado
 Nominations Chair- Selene Gemmell
 Reimbursement Chair- Ann Harwood

One of the issues we will be looking at over the next year is membership enrollment and involvement. This is an issue with our national organization and with RIOTA. As a young therapist, I felt little need to belong to organizations. It all seemed so complicated and beyond my abilities to actively participate. I especially did not want to show up where I didn't know anyone. I had a job, I did not need to "network" (of course, that word didn't exist back then), I always figured someone else would step up and take care of anything that needed doing, and any educational lectures I wanted to go to, I could pay a nominal fee to attend. Since that time, I've become undeniably older and arguably wiser, and there are some things I know for sure:

- It is an honor to serve in Occupational Therapy professional organizations
- There are places for all types of talents and strengths wherever you go
- Occupational Therapy Practitioners are a compassionate and giving group
- It feels great to do something for someone else without consideration for reward
- I wish I had started getting involved in professional service much earlier in my career
- I still feel more comfortable going places where I know someone

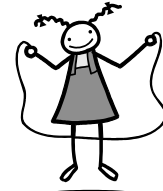
We have often spoken and written to the members about what the organization can do for them. I would like to see what talents and kindnesses we have out there in our membership and get our people involved in giving back. I think it would be wonderful to get our organization involved in more outreach opportunities. We have a lot to offer, its fun, and it allows people the opportunity to get to know each other better. It is often difficult to strike up a comfortable friendliness while sitting in a lecture facing straight ahead. I think outreach opportunities would also allow more avenues for people in the community to know who we are and what we are about. I know that people are busy, very busy. But we all make time for what we truly feel is important. We make time for friends, for

socializing, and for play. Maybe we don't have as much time for this as we would like, but if we are motivated, somehow, we find the time. I would like to find some motivators for RIOTA, something important but also friendly, social and fun. What could our members find time for? I'm not talking about a daily, weekly or even monthly commitment. But could you volunteer once a year for Habitat for Humanity? Once every 3 months at a soup kitchen or food pantry? Could you help an elderly person with yard work? Could you get involved with Special Olympics? Could you walk for Autism or Breast Cancer? Could you sit at a table and hand out water for the walkers at a benefit walk? What if you had the company of other members to be with as you volunteered? Would that make it easier? These are the questions bouncing around in my head. I will bring this up at the annual retreat with the rest of the board but I would also love to hear from you. Do you have a special connection to an organization that needs help? Do you have a wonderful idea for OT month or Backpack Awareness? Have you been looking for a way to give back? Do you want to get more involved but just don't know how? Let me know.

Until next time,
 Karen Albright Morgenstein



| Welcome New RIOTA Members | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Karyn Allain | Sarah Lockhart |
| Lee Brennan | Kara-Lynn Morgado |
| Nicole Cipriani | Patricia Northrup |
| Kathleen Corr | Elizabeth Rego |
| Brian Dennis | Maryellen Robinson |
| M. Kenyon Densley | Stephanie Rogers |
| Lucille Garcia | Brenda Smith |
| Shayne Hemingway | Brenda Stewart |
| Rebecca Klockars | Deborah Vittner |



Pediatric Special Interest Group Members,

This year looks to be another exciting year full of interesting and informative topics. *Emily Lennon* from Meeting Street School has agreed to start off the school year by telling us about her experiences as a Level 2 Hippotherapist. Please join us at the Warwick Public Library on Wednesday, September 19th from 6:30-8:30 PM.

Part II of the Hippotherapy meeting will be held at Lend a Hand Horse Farm in Cranston, RI on October 15th. *Jessica Moses*, the owner of the farm and a German occupational therapist, has agreed to let us observe a few therapeutic riding lessons. Please RSVP at pediatricSIG@riota.org for this meeting so that I know how many people to expect. We will meet in the parking lot of the stable at 5:15 PM. The address is 151 Laten Knight Road, Cranston.

Faith Paradis has also agreed to set up another TechACCESS event to share the latest software and technology with us! She is also working on inviting wheel chair vendors to show us the latest in power mobility. The event will be held in *March 2008*.

Please keep an eye out for additional meetings to be held throughout the year!

Beth Smith
Pediatric Special Interest Group Chair

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Anyone interested in bringing their expertise to our mission is invited to come to the February trip or the June/July trip with Therapy Missions. Several of our team who traveled with me this summer will be returning in February, so this week has only a few openings left. We are looking for people who seek a challenge, believe in their profession, and are willing to work with people of all walks of life. This mission is as much professional as personal.

Anyone interested should send me an e-mail. I will respond in the order in which I receive your messages and inform you of the costs and determine with you if this trip is right for you. We are limiting the number of therapists who will go to each trip so that we can manage housing and transportation during our stay. The entire trip will cost each participant approximately \$900.00 including airfare, food and hotel costs. Consider the opportunity and let me know if this is something you would be interested in doing.

I look forward to talking to you soon; and until then remember this:

Be the change you want to see in the World!

~Ghandi

Carol Doehler
President
Therapy Missions

**Cranston Department of
Senior Services**

**Adult Day Services Division is
seeking experienced Occupational
Therapist to administer therapy
session to clients
two sessions per month**

**For more information or if
interested please call 780-6243
or e-mail
rcastiglione@cranstonri.org**

Did You Know?

OT Without Borders

A group named 'Therapy Missions' visited Juarez, Mexico during the weeks of July 8th to July 21st to provide children and families with needed services. They organized parent educational sessions focused on seating and positioning, sensory play, feeding and adaptive equipment and made equipment such as wheelchair cushions, adapted seats, splints, belts and vests, etc. The group also conducted home visits as well as individual meetings with beneficiaries and their families to promote occupation and independence. Look for more details about their trip in our next newsletter. See page 4 for next years trip.

Therapists and friends involved in 'Therapy Missions' trip to Mexico:

Occupational Therapists:

- Carol Doehler
- Susan Higgins
- Natalie Leland Wiatrowski
- Sue Guilmain
- Selene Gemmell
- Brian Robertson
- Meghan Franklin
- Shayne Hemingway
- Casey Lipinski
- Lucy Garcia
- Katie McCarthy
- Brett Brumbaugh

Physical Therapist:

Janet Jacobs

Children:

- Michaela Doehler
- Katie Lamendola
- Devan Hunter

Photographer:

Justine Santos



RIOTA Gives Back

RIOTA will be starting up community outreach endeavors. Look for our upcoming volunteer section on our website.

Look for opportunities to volunteer with your fellow RIOTA members, give back to the community, have fun getting to know colleagues, network and help others in need.

Coming soon to www.riota.org!!!

Rebecca Simon, RIOTA Alternate Representative and former Treasurer, co-authored the vocational assessment chapter in the Occupational Therapy Assessment Tools: An Annotated Index 3rd edition, published by the American Occupational Therapy Association in April.



Trish McGee, Secretary & Education Coordinator, and her husband are expecting their first child in October

Karen Morgenstein, RIOTA President, and Susan Higgins, Treasurer & Historian, have received the 2007 Who's Who of America's Teachers Award. This is Susan's first and Karen's fourth.

Congratulations!!!!

GOOD NEWS

Share your own news!!!!

We want to hear fellow RIOTA members' news.
Email riotanews@riota.org to share your good news.

RHODE ISLAND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

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 Mental Health SIG Pediatric SIG Legislative
- Education/Resource Other Special Interest Group(s): _____

Do you have any suggestions for improving RIOTA? _____

Suggestions for topics/speakers: _____

- OTR -one year membership-..... \$55.00
- OTR -two year membership-..... \$100.00
- COTA -one year membership- \$45.00
- COTA -two year membership- \$80.00
- Associate/Retired \$35.00
- Student..... FREE

Total from above: _____
Voluntary donation for Lobbying/PAC efforts: _____
TOTAL: _____

*** All memberships will be annual Sept 1-Aug 31 starting Sept 2007. Membership dues received outside the September Membership Drive will be PRO-RATED at the time of initiation. Please contact TREASURER@riota.org or call (401)345-8356 To find out payment due.*

*If you require any special accommodations to participate in RIOTA activities, please notify
Karen Morgenstein
Email: kmorgenstein@New England Tech .edu*

**Please make check payable to RIOTA and mail with application to
RIOTA
PO Box 8585
Warwick, RI 02888-0599**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

RIOTA Calendar

Executive board meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month at 5:30pm at New England Tech (OT suite) unless otherwise specified. All members are welcome to sit in on Board Meetings.

September 10, 2007 Executive Board Meeting 5:30pm at New England Tech

September 19, 2007 Hippotherapy presentation 6:30pm at Warwick Public Library

September 24, 2007 General Membership Meeting: Instilling Volunteerism in Everyday Practice 6pm at New England Tech

October 15, 2007 Executive Board Meeting 5:30pm at New England Tech

October 15, 2007 Hippotherapy demonstration 5:15pm at Lend a Hand Horse Farm in Cranston, RI

November 5, 2007 Executive Board Meeting 5:30pm at New England Tech

November 13, 2007 "Handwriting Without Tears" presentation Time (TBA) at Warwick Public Library

December 10, 2007 Holiday Party Details coming soon.

January 14, 2008 Executive Board Meeting 5:30pm at New England Tech

February 11, 2008 Executive Board Meeting 5:30pm at New England Tech

March 10, 2008 Executive Board Meeting 5:30pm at New England Tech

March 2008 Tech Access Open House Details coming soon

April 2008 OT Month Party. Details coming soon.

May 12, 2008 Executive Board Meeting 5:30pm at New England Tech

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING MEMBERSHIP!!!

ALL MEMBERSHIPS WILL EXPIRE AUG 31st. PLEASE BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DURING THE SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. YOUR SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED!!

Anyone who signs up after Sept 30th will receive a pro-rated rate which will carry their membership through Aug 31, 2008

Please use the enclosed membership form or visit us online at www.riota.org to print your membership form.

For directions to New England Tech and the Warwick Library go to our website at www.riota.org

Please note: RIOTA membership meetings are \$10 for RIOTA members & \$25 for non-members.



MOVING FORWARD

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Therapy Works

Therapy Works of Lincoln, RI is seeking occupational therapist for school-based (Sept-June) position.

*RI License Required.
New grads welcome.*

Full time, Part time, Per Diem hours available.

Please contact Kim Gilbert, OTR/L at kmg@vitalcareri.com or 401-726-4970 for more details or to schedule an interview.

T-shirt Contest

Are you artistic? Submit an entry to our T-shirt contest. The winner will be picked at our annual Holiday party. Please give us your best design so that RIOTA members can represent RIOTA and Occupational Therapy at statewide events. The winner will receive a free 1 year membership to RIOTA and a free T-shirt!!!

Please send by December 1st to:

RIOTA
c/o Bethany Horne
PO Box 8585
Warwick, RI 02888-0599

Or email your submission to publicrelations@riota.org