

RIOTA NEWS



MOVING FORWARD

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Fall 2009

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Contact Us:

riota@riota.org
or
(401) 345-8356

www.riota.org



President's Message

Dear New and Returning RIOTA members,

September is here again; another year has passed and it is time for all of us to renew or initiate our memberships to RIOTA. **As a member of RIOTA you have access to monthly continuing education programming, discounted rates at our annual conference, email blasts notifying members of job openings and upcoming professional events.** In addition to these benefits your membership provides RIOTA with the support to continue to advocate for our profession at the state level. Throughout the country we hear from other state presidents who have had to face encroachment issues from other professions. We rely on RIOTA to stay abreast of these issues and be ready to act when legislation is proposed in Rhode Island that may impact our service delivery and our practice as Occupational Therapy Practitioners!

As the incoming president, I am looking forward to serving the association over the next two

years, although I must admit I have very large shoes to fill. Karen Morgenstein ended her term and set the bar high for the incoming president.

Under her leadership, the Rhode Island Occupational Therapy Association has been very busy- hosting monthly continuing education sessions, planning and hosting an all day conference last spring, coordinating our annual Rebuilding Together day in April, staying up to date with proposed state and federal legislation, and expanding special interest group programming.

In addition to following through on these projects established under Karen's leadership and keeping up to date with potential legislative issues, over the next two years the RIOTA board has established three overarching goals which will guide our term to meet the needs of its members:

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RIOTA[®]
State Affiliate

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

RIOTA Executive Board

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Page 2

President

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

President Emeritus

Karen Morgenstein, COTA/L

Vice President

Empty
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

Communications Chair

Rachel Vitello, OTR/L
riotanews@riota.org

Nominations Chair

Empty
nominationschair@riota.org

COTA Liaison

Annaliza Lewerk, COTA/L
cota@riota.org

Public Relations

Amy Battles-Borkowski,
publicrelations@riota.org

Consumer Relations

Amy Battles-Borkowski,
consumerrelations@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

Ann Harwood, OTR/L
Erin Sullivan, MS, OTR/L
pediatricSIG@riota.org

Mental Health Special

Interest Group Chair

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

Adult Special Interest

Group Chair

Keri Kinniburgh, COTA/L
adultSIG@riota.org

CBS Therapy

134 Thurbers Ave, Suite 220A
Providence, RI 02905

Currently Hiring OTR's

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 Bilingual SLP's, 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 Adult.

Join the Hometown Team!

For information regarding current career opportunities please call 401-952-4160

Representative Assembly Update

Hello Rhode Island Constituents. I would like to mention a few quick items regarding some potential changes in my usual plan for collecting your opinions prior to the AOTA conference.

AOTA has not yet determined if the RA will be meeting in April prior to conference, or, if like 2009's meeting, we will be online for 3 weeks in March. Therefore, I would like to plan for an early gathering this upcoming year.

RIOTA will be planning an RA meeting in MARCH of 2010 (yes, we are planning for 2010 already). Keep an eye out for reminder Emails early next year.

This is my last year as your RI Rep to AOTA. I am eager to mentor any potential candidates during this last year of my term. It is a 3 year term, and the time commitment is very manageable. The position is a voting position on the RIOTA board as well. I feel strongly that a new candidate would be best groomed by being active on the RIOTA board for this upcoming year as an introduction to the system and its members.

Please let me know if you or any of your peers would be interested in hearing a bit more about this role. Volunteering your time and energy to your profession is hard work- but very rewarding when you see what an impact you, as one individual, can make on the profession overall. Please consider volunteering your time in AOTA or RIOTA this year, and in the future. The profession needs your energy and attention to move toward the centennial vision and to manage the up coming health care reform at a national level.

**AOTA Representative
Lisa Edwards, OTR/L**



(President's Message Continued from page 1)

- To increase opportunities for involvement among existing members and increase new membership.
- To increase RIOTA involvement in volunteer activities.
- To increase the variety of continuing education programs through monthly seminars and an annual conference.

Without your membership, we can not meet the needs of the practitioners of Rhode Island. I encourage you to become a member or renew your membership. The times in health care are changing quickly and we need to come together as a state organization to make sure that we are represented as these changes occur.

I look forward to seeing you at our events throughout the year!

Sincerely,
Natalie Leland-Wiatrowski PhD, OTR/L, BCG



Special Interest Group Update

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Pediatric Special Interest Group Update

Welcome Back fellow PEDS Early Intervention and School Based Therapists. We are busy developing our meeting topics for this year based on those suggestions submitted at our last meeting in May. Thank you to those who took the time to make suggestions. Input and participation is a large part of who RIOTA is, so please stay involved. Our first meeting will be at the Warwick Public Library on Sept 28th at 6:30pm. The title is "OT on a Shoestring Budget". This will be a great topic to start the school year off as we all begin to packing our "bag of tricks" for the year. If you have an easy to make item or idea please forward them to us. Also please bring your favorite therapeutic activity, game or piece of equipment to share with the group. Thank you and see you then!



Erin Sullivan & Ann Harwood
pediatricsig@riota.org
Pediatric Special Interest Group Co-Chairs

Mental Health Special Interest Group Update

All meetings are from 6:00-7:30 pm unless otherwise specified.

September 21: Using the Allen Cognitive Model (Sue Higgins, MS OTR/L)

October 19: Mental Illness and the Family (Jean Marandola, RN, NAMI Family to Family Trainer)

November 16: Community Mental Health Practice and Occupational Therapy (Richard Sabo, MSW, Director of RI Community Mental Health Programs)

December 14: Journal Group

Adult Special Interest Group

Welcome to another fun and exciting year of RIOTA Physical Disabilities events!

We are pleased to announce that our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 29th from 6 to 8 pm at the New England Institute of Technology. Susan Steiner, OTR/L, CST-D will present The Importance of Fascia in the Body: The Diaphragm Technique from CranioSacral Therapy. This presentation will include both a lecture and "hands on" lab tutorial. Susan has over 25 years of experience as an Occupational Therapist, owning a private practice in Providence which specializes in CranioSacral Therapy for adults and children. Susan is also an instructor for the Upledger Institute for CranioSacral Therapy and SomatoEmotional Release. Please join us for this informative event!

Also, we are pleased to announce that Stacey Johnson, OTR/L, ATP from Southern New England Rehabilitation Center will present Wheelchair Seating Needs vs. Reimbursement on Tuesday, November 10th from 6 to 8pm at the New England Institute of Technology. Please stay tuned for more information about this event!

RIOTA events are free to RIOTA members and \$25 for non-members. Don't miss out on your opportunity to earn 2 contact hours/PDUs per event! This is an excellent RIOTA member benefit!

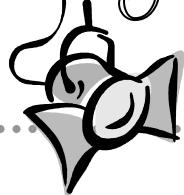
As always, we are interested in your suggestions about future event topics and/or potential speakers for RIOTA. Please feel free to contact us if you are interested!

Keri Kinniburgh, COTA/L
Trish McGee, MS, OTR/L
Physical Disabilities Special Interest Group Co-Chairs

Keri Kinniburgh, COTA/L
adultsig@riota.org

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

Spotlight on Schools



Michael Nardone from CCRI and Rebecca Simon from NE Tech would like to extend their thanks to the wonderful fieldwork educators and facilities who have supported students in the past year.

These sites provide the essential components to assist in the transition from student to practitioner. The supervisors are the role models who pass on their skill and love of the profession to each new generation of practitioners!

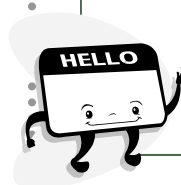
Both Colleges are seeking suggestions for 'non-traditional' level I sites as our profession moves toward its goal of meeting the challenges of the Centennial Vision.

As always, the Coordinators welcome new sites who wish to become providers of fieldwork education. Please contact Michael (mnardone1@ccri.edu) or Rebecca (RSimon@neit.edu) if you are interested.

**Save the Date for
RIOTA's 2nd
State
Conference!**

Saturday, May 8th, 2010!

**Hope to see
you there!**



WELCOME ALL NEW,

RETURNING

MEMBERS AND STUDENTS!

Become a RIOTA Member!

Benefits to Joining RIOTA:

- Earn CEU's free of charge at the variety of continuing education opportunities offered through RIOTA and receive reduced tuition to RIOTA's annual conference
 - Support our efforts to lobby for you locally and on Capitol Hill
 - Access to local job opportunities exclusive to RIOTA members
- As a RIOTA member, you are able to post a job opportunity one liner free of charge
 - Opportunities to network and get to know other OT's in the state
 - Receive RIOTANews, RIOTA's newsletter, three times a year
- Receive up to date information regarding legislation/regulations, licensure etc. affecting occupational therapy
- Join RIOTA to become part of the planning for the future of occupational therapy in the state of Rhode Island
 - Becoming an active member of RIOTA looks great on your resume!

RIOTA Calendar

Executive board meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month at 6:00pm at New England Tech (OT suite).

All members are welcome to sit in on Board Meetings. Please note all meeting are free for RIOTA members and \$25 for non-members unless otherwise specified.

September 14, 2009 Executive Board Meeting 6:00pm at New England Tech

September 21, 2009 Mental Health SIG Meeting: Using the Allen Cognitive Model 6:00pm at New England Tech—Hall of Fame Room

September 28, 2009 Pediatric SIG Meeting: OT on a Shoestring Budget 6:30pm at the Warwick Public Library

September 29, 2009 Physical Disabilities SIG Meeting: The Importance of Fascia in the Body: The Diaphragm Technique from CranioSacral Therapy 6:00 pm at New England Tech

October 5, 2009 Executive Board Meeting 6:00pm at New England Tech

October 19, 2009 Mental Health SIG Meeting: Mental Illness and the Family 6:00pm Site TBA

November 2, 2009 Executive Board Meeting 6:00pm at New England Tech

November 10, 2009 Physical Disabilities SIG Meeting: Wheelchair Seating Needs vs. Reimbursement 6:00pm at New England Tech

November 16, 2009 Mental Health SIG Meeting: Community Mental Health Practice and Occupational Therapy 6:00pm Site TBA

December 7, 2009 RIOTA Holiday Party: Details to come!

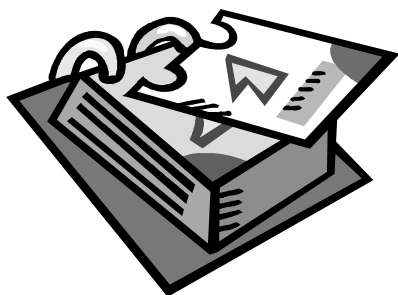
December 14, 2009 Mental Health SIG Meeting: Journal Group 6:00pm Site TBA

January 4, 2010 Executive Board Meeting 6:00pm at New England Tech

February 1, 2010 Executive Board Meeting 6:00pm at New England Tech

March 1, 2010 Executive Board Meeting 6:00pm at New England Tech

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



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 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-Wiatrowski 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!!



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Rhode Island Occupational Therapy Association
P.O. Box 8585
Warwick, RI 02888-0599