

RIOTA NEWS



MOVING FORWARD

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Spring 2008

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President's Message

Dear Members,

If you ever get a chance to go to an AOTA National Conference, take it. And if you ever get a chance to go as president of your state association, definitely take it. It is both tiring and energizing at the same time. Monday's meetings were from 6-9:30PM, Tuesday's 7:45 AM to 5:30 PM and 7:45 PM to 9:30 PM, and Wednesday 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Most of the presidents from around the United States were represented and spent time learning ways to make our state associations stronger. We looked at issues experienced by all state associations, national initiatives, leadership development, marketing strategies, Occupational Therapy Mental Health issues, membership challenges, strategic planning, resources, running non-profit organizations, voting on motions and networking during lunch breaks with other state presidents.

One of the issues discussed was encroachment. There are many states who recently have had to fight scope of practice challenges. Some fights were won and some were lost. These challenges are coming from many areas and we were advised that we should expect scope of practice challenges from audiologists, athletic trainers, developmental therapists, optometrists, orthotists and prosthetists, physical therapists, physicians, recreational therapists, speech language pathologists, and wheelchair suppliers and manufacturers. We are told, "In some cases at the state level these groups seek to prevent Occupational Therapists from providing certain types of evaluations or interventions. In other cases, state health professional associations are seeking to expand their scope of practice to provide services that have been within the traditional domain of Occupational Therapy. Therefore, state association, with the assistance of individual practitioners, need to be

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

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Mental Health Special Interest Group Chairperson

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WANTED!

**PHYSICAL
DISABILITIES
SPECIAL
INTEREST
GROUP!**

Hello RIOTA Members!

My name is Keri Kinniburgh and I am a COTA at Southern New England Rehabilitation Center at St. Joseph Hospital for Specialty Care in Providence. I would like to announce the formation of a Physical Disabilities Special Interest Group in the Fall of 2008. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to be a part of this special interest group and/or have any suggestions regarding topics and guest speakers.

Thank you!

Keri (KeriKin@aol.com)

(President's Message Continued from page 1)

prepared to respond." We will make sure that our state lobbyist is made aware of all possible challenges and I encourage all members to be aware of these encroachment issues. Do keep us informed of any knowledge you have of these issues so that we, with support from the AOTA State Affairs Group, can be ready to respond.

There are funding issues arising as well. We will be monitoring State Health Care Reform, Medicaid Issues, State Child Health Insurance Program and Workers' Compensation. Our current Reimbursement Chair is moving to the position of Pediatric SIS Co-Chair. Anyone who has interest in funding issues and the protection of Rhode Island Occupational Therapists' right to be paid for services would be heartily welcomed to join us as part of the board.

I learned a lot while in Long Beach. Got a lot of ideas to try in our state and also received training to be an Event Coordinator for CarFit with AAA and AARP. We will be looking to get people trained as CarFit Technicians so we can offer this valuable program to seniors in Rhode Island.

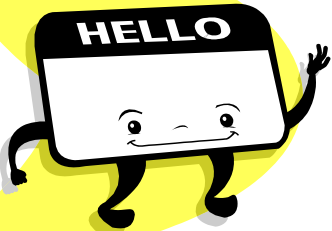
It was an exhausting but exhilarating trip and hopefully it will elicit many new initiatives at the state level for our members and the people we service in Rhode Island. We would love to include you.

Until Next Time,

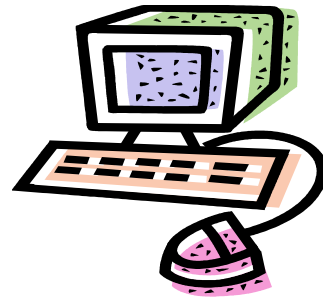
Karen Albright Morgenstein
President

Welcome New
& Returning
RIOTA Members

Shiloh Carlow
Sandra Colozzo
Lise Faulise
Linda Gatewood
Joanne Hellested
Kristi Langslet
Stephanie Pinto
Paul Rubolotta
Dianne Theroux
Virginia Wilson



Visit us on the web for updates,
continuing education
opportunities, job postings,
RIOTA's calendar, volunteer
opportunities, etc.



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Pediatric Special Interest Group Update

Pediatric Special Interest Group Update

The Pediatric Special Interest Group has had another great year and there is still one more event left! Please join us on May 19th at 6:30 PM at the Warwick Public Library. The meeting will be a forum to discuss the *Early Intervention to School System Transition*. A representative from Discovery Toys will be available to answer questions about their products and take orders. Please join us for this important meeting and have fun too!

I am sad to report that this will be my last year as Pediatric SIG Chair. The last three years have been so much fun and it has been a wonderful learning experience. I want to thank you all for taking the time out of your busy schedules to come to the meetings and making the Pediatric SIG such a success! I would also like to thank the Executive Board for all of their support, encouragement and funding. And last but not least, I would like to thank the presenters that have contributed their time and expertise in order to enhance our knowledge of current trends in pediatrics.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Smith, MS OTR/L

Pediatric SIG Meeting



Topic: Transition from Early Intervention to the Schools

When: Monday, **May 19th** 6:30-8-30PM

Where: Warwick Public Library, Sandy Lane

Thank You

Thank you to Erin Sullivan and Ann Harwood who stepped up to be co-chairs of the Pediatric Special Interest Group Section beginning in July.



Distinctive

We're at the **summit** and **climbing**

We think you will be a great addition to our Occupational Therapy team. Hopefully, you'll agree.

Located in the heart of Providence, RI, named one of the best places to live in the US, The Miriam Hospital offers the excitement of the city and the warmth of a community atmosphere. You'll also find great careers and an unsurpassed standard of excellence.

We're one of only three hospitals in the country to receive the distinctive Magnet designation for the third time, and the first in New England to achieve this feat. As a private 247-bed, not-for-profit, acute care general hospital, we provide a broad range of medical and surgical services and serve as a major teaching affiliate of Brown Medical School.



*3 Time
Magnet
Designation*

Occupational Therapists

In this role, you will be responsible for performing evaluations and implementing treatment programs to patients of all ages. Efforts will be based on the patient's functional, cognitive, and perceptual limitations.

Qualified candidate must have a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy from an accredited college or university and be a licensed Occupational Therapist in the state of Rhode Island.

We invite you to explore a career with The Miriam Hospital. Log onto www.LifespanCareers.org to search our current opening and to apply. If we can help you further please contact us at (401) 793 - 2990. EOE.



The Miriam Hospital

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RA Update

ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM AND HUMOR

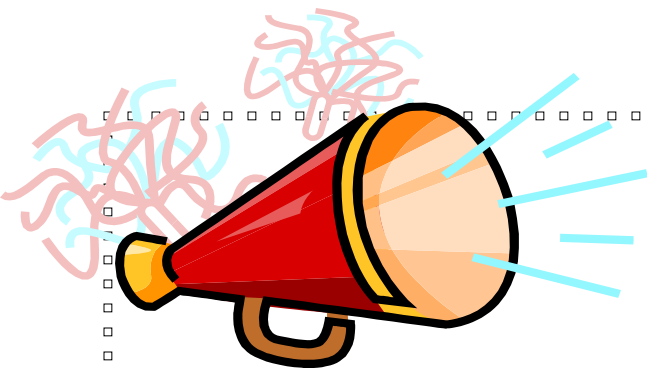
Yes, this is the article about my time in the Representative Assembly in Long Beach California. While there were indeed closed Executive Sessions, and we did need to approach the "CRAC Chair" in order to be excused to the restroom, we did still manage to fit in a lot of humor and levity into our sessions. There were Tiaras, Mardi Gras beads, bubbles, and confetti; at one point the Speaker of the Assembly, albeit briefly, donned a King's Crown! This group of dedicated clinicians, educators and researchers comprised a formidable Assembly. I was there too. It seemed somehow surreal at times. I was chit chatting with AOTA President, Penny Moyers- Cleveland. The experience was both humbling and rewarding at the same time.

This year, as I am certain in previous years, your Representative Assembly worked long and hard, and long again to be sure your voices were heard, your best interests attended to, and most importantly your profession strengthened in the process. I found this Assembly processes fascinating. Things like Roberts Rules of Parliament, Executive sessions, Quorums, and majority votes were common place. I learned quickly to 'speak' by stating, "Edwards, Rhode Island. I speak in favor/opposed to" before all discussions. The process was intimidating and at times out of my comfort zone. However, as President Penny Moyers-Cleveland stated, (did I mention I chit chatted with her!) we must all step out of our

comfort zone if we are to move OT towards our Centennial Vision (AOTA, Presidential Address, 2008). She was *invigorated*. I am *invigorated*. And now it is my job, as your RI RA, to *invigorate* you. Our President also used the phrase, "we must be *unreasonable*". I have had the pleasure of working with many of you over my 18 years of practice, and I know you can be *invigorated*, outspoken and at times, when needed, *unreasonable* in your defense of our Profession. I challenge myself, and all of you to step up, be *unreasonable* in your pursuits to move OT in to our appropriate place as a primary player in the future of health care in our country.

This challenge may seem overwhelming or unattainable to some; however, if we can each do our part we can generate enough momentum to move this mountain. In the same vein as 'going green', we can't do it all at once. We need to have a vision (our centennial vision), have force/momentum (*unreasonableness of many*), and have direction (Presidential Address, 2008). This is within our reach- NOW. One of the areas I learned most about was the AOTPAAC (AOTA's Political Action Committee). Previously, my lack of knowledge, coupled with my distain for all things political kept me from making informed decisions about my support of our profession. I have always wanted to see OT advance, but I was not supporting it in this one critical area. I have now set this as a goal for myself as your RA: to continue to educate both myself and as many of you as I can reach to support AOTPAAC in its invaluable work, particularly in this, AOTPAAC's 30th anniversary year. The decision to donate/support is NOT a political statement in support of any one party, candidate or bill. Your donation/support goes 100% towards the strengthening and advancement of Occupational Therapy as we move forward. You can make a general donation, or specify a particular area you wish to support. I will be glad to discuss AOTPAAC with anyone who wants more information.

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We want to hear from you!

We want to hear fellow RIOTA members' news. Email **riotanews@riota.org** to share your good news, announcements, achievements, etc.! Share ideas on how you celebrate OT month or promote OT on a daily basis!

I suppose you might be wondering if I will ever get to the summary of motions that we discussed at our RIOTA April meeting. I will give you a bullet summary of some of the key areas here; a full summary is coming soon via email or web address, so keep a look out for that information as I get it.

- AOTA's Societal Statement on Livable Communities – Adopted
- Preserve our unique body of knowledge- Adopted
- OTA's as field work coordinators for Master's and Doctoral level programs- Defeated
- Change from certification to Associates Degrees- Adopted
- New OT Framework Document – Adopted
- Core Competencies for Entry Level Upper Extremity curriculum- Defeated with 3 substitute motions
- Educational tools for employers and payers, use of

exemplary programs presently strong in UE core courses as models)
 COOL- Creation of online opportunities for leadership- Adopted

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience if you have any questions or comments on this year's Representative Assembly meeting. I look forward to your feedback for the quickly approaching 2008 Online Assembly Meeting. Finally, I would like to thank all of the RI AOTA members for allowing me to represent you in the 2008 Representative Assembly. Edwards, Rhode Island
LisaAedwards@comcast.net
RIRA@RIOTA.org

Good News!

- ◇ *Congrats to Lisa Edwards, RIOTA's AOTA Representative, for finishing her MBA with a specialty in Leadership from NYIT in February 2008*
- ◇ *RIOTA would also like to give Kudos to Natalie Leland Wiatrowski, RIOTA's vice president, for her MANY hours of emails, phone calls and planning for our first upcoming volunteer program with Rebuilding Together, which many of you have graciously volunteered on April 26th. Thank you to all who have volunteered!*
- ◇ *Our NDT continuing education video series in May filled up quickly so we will be offering a second one in the future, be on the look out for this opportunity if you would like to attend.*

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.

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

May 19, 2008 Pediatrics SIG Meeting: Early Intervention to the Schools System Transition.
6:30pm at Warwick Public Library

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

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

THANK YOU



Thank you to Lisa Edwards, Carol Doehler, & Brenda Smith for assisting with our Rebuilding Together prep day. (Not shown Nate Lewis and Jeff Wiatrowski- thank you for your roofing effort). We hope to see other RIOTA members April 26th for the big day!"

TherapyWorks

Position available for OTR supervisor in school setting.

Full time for 2008-2009 school year.

Experience required.

Benefit package available.

Interviews planned for May 2008.

Join an excellent Team!

Please contact Kim Gilbert at TherapyWorks
by phone #726-4970 or fax #726-7774