



# The Viewpoint

Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon

Winter 2008

## Message from the President

Happy Holidays! I hope this Viewpoint finds you enjoying the holiday seasons whether you are awaiting a celebration or have already finished. I thought about listing out all the activities and events we've done the past few months, but I have more important things to tell you. At the beginning of November we had an OTAO member contact our board regarding the PT licensing board (PTLB) rules working to adopt a definition of "Physical Therapy Intervention". Now, inside this issue, our Legislative team has laid out in detail the sequence of events, so I won't go repeating their play by play. What I want to do is get you stop and chew on some thoughts. I hope to get you thinking about not only the obvious, but the less obvious thoughts as well.

The slapping you across the face facts are that the PTLB almost adopted language that when read, spelled out what you and I would read as a definition of Occupational Therapy. The easy facts are after excellent teamwork amongst your OTAO board, your OTAO lobbyist, the OTLB, Pacific University School of OT and AOTA, we succeeded in getting 6 words included in their definition that made their "functional training" related to physical movement and mobility.

The obvious thought there is that we should all breathe deeply and feel better about the future of OT in Oregon. What would be the less obvious thought? What facts are in between the lines that you should ponder? I want you to ponder due diligence. What does that mean? An

online dictionary defines it as "the amount of reasonable investigation that must be made by a prudent person to determine whether an investment or business arrangement makes sense and to determine whether it is likely that the information he or she has contains omissions or misstatements".

I had a wise friend and PT colleague recommend I speak with the Oregon Physical Therapy Association (OPTA) before our first hearing at the PTLB to talk it out; to see where they were coming from and let them know how we were feeling. Now doesn't that seem quite simple? We were so fired up over defending our territory, we had not thought of

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**Deadline for receipt of articles is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the desired month of publication.** Submitted materials cannot be returned. Copies of the newsletter are available from the Executive Office for \$10.00

**Subscription Rates:** Subscription is a benefit of OTAO members and is included in yearly membership rates.

**Change of Address:** Should be provided to OTAO via mail or E-mail as provided above, or done online by the Member. Newsletters are mailed 3<sup>rd</sup> class and will not be forwarded by the post office. Yearly membership is renewed in July; applications must be received by November 1 for members to be included

in the annual membership directory.

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### Message from the President (continued from Page 1)

territory, we had not thought of talking it out. Many of us work very closely with Physical Therapists and some of us, like myself, have close friends who are PT's so it was excellent advice to speak to them.

I felt a close parallel during this experience to how we deal with relationship disagreements. Here are friends of mine who are saying words in a way that were offensive to me (and every other OT who read the language). Were they saying it out of disrespect? Were they saying it just to spite us? No, I do not believe they were. They felt there were not trying to expand their scope of practice and had not seen the language as offensive in any way. (now ignore the obvious OT reaction to that...we are talking about the less obvious...hang with me). Back to the relationship metaphor. In many close relationships, communication is key. Respectful communication usually has better outcomes with lesser regrets and less hard feelings than direct and harsh communication. This was the same in our political and professional relationship with our cousins working in PT.

In the end, our willingness to work closely with and compromise with the PT's, I think helped us achieve our goal. We were on the brink of entering an adversarial time with our close allies. That could have changed the rehab picture all over Oregon in small and large ways.

So not only am I thankful for a good outcome in that the PT definition more clearly defines what PT's do and no longer sounds like what an OT does, but I am thankful for our partners in rehab and the continued strong, collaborative relationship we will keep as we venture into health care reform in the future.

Here's to great teamwork, due diligence, collaborative colleagues and here's to a strong OT Community, which we have growing right in our back yard, at OTAO.

Cheers!

Sybil

## Lobbyist's Update by John McCulley

### Election Review and 2009 Session Preview

Post-election headlines from around the state all sound a similar theme – Democrats rule Oregon. From the top to the bottom of the ballot, Democrats compiled victory after victory.

Most notably Oregon House speaker Jeff Merkley defeated incumbent U.S. Senator Gordon Smith. State Senator Kurt Schrader won the open congressional seat being vacated by Congresswoman Darlene Hooley and Democrats won all the statewide races for Secretary of State, State Treasurer and Attorney General.

In the Oregon Legislature, Democrats picked up five seats in the House to move to a 36–24 advantage. Republicans gained one seat (Bend) in the Senate, leaving an 18–12 advantage for Democrats.

A couple weeks before the election, some were anticipating greater gains for the House D's. In the end, three Republican incumbents lost (Burley in Bend; Flores in Clackamas; and Lim in Gresham) and the Democrats picked up two open seats formerly held by Republicans, east Multnomah and Hood River counties and in the Gresham/Troutdale area.

Dave Hunt of Gladstone will be the new Speaker of the House. Dave helped engineer the Democrat's take over of the House in 2006 and as House Majority Leader was the strategist behind the 2008 campaigns. Mary Nolan of Portland will be the new Majority Leader. She was the House Co-Chair of the Ways and Means Committee during the last session.

The new speaker is viewed as a moderate and he recruited middle of the road candidates many of whom now make up the House Democratic caucus.

In the Senate, Peter Courtney of Salem will serve his fourth term as Senate President. Sen. Richard Devlin of Tualatin will be the Senate Majority leader.

Budget issues will top the Legislature's agenda, as it usually does. But this session will be marked by rising unemployment and lower tax receipts meaning significant pressure on state budgets. The Governor presents his budget on December 1 and already the legislature is facing a shortfall of \$1.3 billion to funds current programs at their existing levels.

The budget could impact how legislators will address comprehensive health care reform, transportation improvements, state hospital construction and a host of other programs. Agencies already have been directed to reduce budgets for the current biennium and present other reduction plans for 2009–11.

On the other side of the ledger, there will be efforts to increase revenue. With super majorities in both the House and Senate, Democrats do not need any Republicans to pass tax increases. Sin taxes will be high on the list so anticipate a run at raising beer taxes and the cigarette tax. Raising the minimum tax corporations pay is at the top of many legislator's "to-do" lists along with a tax on health care providers.

The 2009 Session begins on January 12. And plans are underway to have another short session in February 2010, before asking voters to amend the constitution to allow for annual legislative sessions.

## Legislative Committee Update by Karen Hass, Julie Seitz & Tiffany Boggis

At the annual OTA/O conference in Salem we took a group to the Capital building and were greeted with a real treat. Our Lobbyist John McCulley arranged for a tour of the House floor with Representative Kevin Cameron. Representative Cameron and John both answered questions about their roles and the legislative process in Oregon. We were also joined by Charlotte Maloney, an occupational therapist that is very active in the Archimedes movement and Oregon health care reform. At lunch she gave a very informative explanation about these movements. If you would like to know more about the Archimedes movement please go to <http://www.archimedesmovement.org/>. We would like to thank John McCulley, Representative Cameron, Charlotte Maloney and all who joined us for helping make the trip to the Capital a great success!



House Floor Tour

The Physical Therapy Licensing Board has recently opened their Administrative Rules in an attempt to define what “Physical Therapy Intervention” is. In doing so, some of the language they used resembled what we do as Occupational Therapists. Together with AOTA, OTLB, PTLB to strike out language *movement and mobility*” prior to home management, work, and Fisher, Tiffany Boggis, and Julie hearing our testimony the PTLB discussions between OTA/O, AOTA, John McCulley, and OTLB we decided to ask the PTLB to reconsider their decision. PTLB held a special phone conference on November 24<sup>th</sup> where they further discussed the issue and allowed us to voice our concerns once again. Unfortunately, the PTLB voted 4 to 2 against adopting the suggested changes. Third time is a charm as they say, because with a little help from our Lobbyist and an influential member of OPTA we were given yet another chance to state our case to the PTLB on December 4<sup>th</sup>. This time all 5 members voted to accept our proposed language. A big thanks to OTLB, Pacific University, and AOTA for assisting us in this accomplishment!

Teamwork!



You can find this definition at [www.ptbaord.state.or.us](http://www.ptbaord.state.or.us) . and Pacific University we put together a letter urging the regarding IADL’s and add the language “*related to physical*” their statements pertaining to functional training in self-care, ADL’s. This was presented along with testimony from Sybil Seitz at the Rule Making Hearing on November 14<sup>th</sup>. After decided to keep the original definition. After multiple



Finally, on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, we are returning to the State Capital Building and would like to invite you to join us. We are taking over the hallways and inviting our state legislators so we can educate them on the great things we do as OT’s! Take the day off and come join us!



### Conference 2008

The OTAO Board would like to thank the 2008 Conference Committee: Sara Pickett, Diane Adams, Kara Ford, Margaret Hotch, Jan Reid, Michelle Swanger, LeAnne Skinner, April Walker, Sue Wimmer, and Kris Wright, for a Job-Well-Done!



Below is the wrap-up article from the Conference Committee, followed by some great pictures, on the next page, that were taken during the 3-day event.

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The OTAO 2008 Conference held in Salem at the Convention Center was deemed a success by most of the attendees, presenters, vendors, the auction event and the convention center itself who thought we all “were the nicest people.”

The vendor turnout was at maximum capacity this year and many were very happy with the location site and accessibility throughout the convention. Many Therapists commented on the variety of new technology and services available and appreciated being able to glean information during break sessions.

Salem Convention Center allowed for many venues including the aforementioned accessibility of the vendors throughout the convention, a convenient setting for the formal awards banquet as well as for the Saturday keynote speaker, viewing area for the auction, and the President’s breakfast meeting on Sunday, all of which included great food options. An example of this was that early Saturday afternoon participants were able to view auction items before the formal event of the evening. The student scholarship fund was duly rewarded this year through generous donations at the live and silent auction. This will enhance the education of future therapists and leaders in the field of Occupational Therapy.

Many positive comments were made regarding the expertise of the presenters and the wide range of topics that were offered at the conference this year. More than one attendee was heard saying that they looked forward to returning to work on Monday with the information they gained from the conference. One innovation this year were the two fieldtrips to the State Capitol where attendees got to tour and meet with legislators and to The Easter Seals Children’s Therapy Center where they were able to tour the facility. The Capitol event has led to a legislature day occurring at the end of January where OT’s are expected to take the Capitol by storm.

We were honored this year by two guest speakers the first of which was Dr. Christine Urish whose presentation on the AOTA Board Specialty Certification many people felt should be presented again. Her enlightening information on the process of engaging in evidence based practice in mental health and other fields was also well received.

Because of the licensing requirements to receive 7 CEUs in pain a wide variety of pain courses were offered daily. Dr. Joyce Engel’s keynote presentation and Sunday morning session demonstrated the commitment to research and finding treatment solutions in an area where precision is difficult.

Our own OTAO Sybil Fisher got rave reviews on her UE evaluation presentations as well as continuing to lead us forward in the organization. All presenters were well received by the attendees and many sessions were requested to be repeated.

Forums were very successful especially the COTA forum which was held for the first time this year and had 19 participants eager to be further involved in their profession.

The conference committee wants to say they thoroughly enjoyed being given the opportunity to host this years Conference in Salem and hope that everyone wound up on a path to well being. See ya next year in Portland! --Sara Pickett, Conference Chair



### OTAO Scholarship Auction 2008



Boy, did we hear that a lot! Thanks to all the hard work, and the great items available for the auction, OTAO raised over \$3,000 at the 2008 Auction! Thank you to everyone who generously donated items, as well as those who bought all the goodies, such as many types of hand-crafted art and jewelry pieces by local artists and variety of other gift certificates and gift baskets from Oregon businesses. You all brought your checkbook (or your credit card) and you helped raise a lot of money for OT scholarships!



### 2008 Conference Fun



Registration Team



2008 Conference Team



Vendor Booths



OTAO & OTLB

Tiffany & John (Lobbyist)



Keynote Speaker  
Joyce Engel

Sybil & Lisa ... Conference 2009!



**Jobs Announcements**

Details on the website – [www.otao.com](http://www.otao.com) :

***Therapeutic Associates***

- Certified Hand Specialist

***Child Development & Rehabilitation Center***

***at OHSU***

- Occupational Therapy Discipline Director
- Pediatric Occupational Therapist

***Seattle's Children***

- Occupational Therapist

**THIS JUST POSTED ...**

***Forward Stride***

- Part-time Physical or Occupational Therapist

**Important Date!**

**Occupational Therapy at the Capital**

**Thursday - January 29th**

January 2009						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Come join OTAO & get the word out about OT

**Continuing Ed Links**

**Click here for great opportunities**

**Roots of Literacy Play & Language**

[www.health-ed.com](http://www.health-ed.com)

**Infinity Rehab's 2009 Symposium**

[www.InfinityRehabUniversity.com](http://www.InfinityRehabUniversity.com)

**2008 Pain Management Symposium:  
Current Concepts in the Treatment of  
Chronic Pain**

[www.dptseminars.com/401.html](http://www.dptseminars.com/401.html)

**Myofascial Release**

[www.MyofascialRelease.com](http://www.MyofascialRelease.com)

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**Occupational Therapy Licensing Board Information**

The next meeting of the Licensing Board is:

Friday, Feb. 7, 2009

Portland State Office Building

800 NE Oregon St

Room 445

Portland OR 97232

Contact Felicia Holgate ([Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us](mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us))

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**OTAO 2008-09 – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**Nominations must be received\* by February 16, 2009 to be on Ballots**

**President-Elect**

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Nominee

**Vice-President**

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Nominee

**Treasurer-Elect**

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Nominee

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**\* Nominations can be returned by fax, e-mail or mail:**

Fax: (503) 533-5400 \*\*\* E-mail: [otao@otao.com](mailto:otao@otao.com) \*\*\* mail: OTAO, PO Box 7133, Aloha OR 97007

**About the Positions:**

**President-Elect:**

This position is a one-year term, followed immediately by a two-year term as President. The first year begins July 1, 2009 and ends June 30, 2010, during which this person will work closely with the President and prepare to take over the duties of President beginning July 1, 2010. The President is responsible for managing the operations of the Association, providing guidance to the Board and the Association's leadership in meeting the needs of its members and managing the Office Manager position. The President facilitates diverse conversations, assists in problem solving and looks for creative and innovative ways to grow and develop the Association's service. The term of office will be two years with eligibility for re-election, but may not serve more than two consecutive terms in this office. The position continues on for two years as a Past President position on the Board following the conclusion of the President's active term of office. The President-Elect position is a non-voting member of the OTAO Board of Directors, and must attend all scheduled Board meetings. Upon assuming the position of President, the position becomes a voting member of the OTAO Board of Directors, must attend all Board Meetings, and shall submit an article to the newsletter on a quarterly basis.

**Vice-President:**

This position has a two-year term which begins July 1, 2009 and ends June 30, 2011. The following are the duties the Vice-President is responsible for, as outlined in the OTAO By-Laws. The VP shall actively assist the President in the discharge of all duties and shall discharge the duties of the President in the President's absence, or in the event of a vacancy in that office, shall fill the expired term. The VP is an ex-officio member of all standing committees, be responsible for coordinating the biennial review of the Bylaws, coordinate and monitor the review of Policies and Procedures. The VP will coordinate the review of the Strategic Plan and facilitate the development of annual action plans to support the OTAO objectives and coordinate and monitor OTAO Standard Operating Procedures. The Vice President position is a voting member of OTAO and must attend all scheduled Board Meetings.

**Treasurer-Elect:**

During the one year term as Treasurer-Elect, this person will work closely with the current Treasurer and prepare to take over the duties of Treasurer. The Treasurer is responsible for tracking the financial status of OTAO including revenues, expenses and special funds. Assists the Board in developing its annual budget, provides membership with information including where monies are allocated, where funds are distributed and financial status for further strategic planning. The Treasurer-Elect shall be a member of OTAO with a minimum of one year clinical experience. The one year term of office will begin on July 1, 2009 and end on June 30, 2010. It will be immediately followed by a two year term as Treasurer beginning July 1, 2010. The Treasurer-Elect shall not be prohibited from serving in another capacity on the Board during the Treasurer-Elect year of service. This position is a non-voting member of OTAO and the Treasurer Elect attends all scheduled Board Meetings. The Treasurer position is a voting member of OTAO and must attend all scheduled Board Meetings. An annual Treasurer's report is prepared and presented at the annual Conference.