



The Viewpoint

Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon

Winter 2009

Annual Conference Has Excellent Turn-Out!

The 2009 OTAO Annual Conference was held October 16-18 at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center and had a great turn-out. Altogether we had more than **185** occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and students attend! If not an all-time record, it sure is for the nearly 10 years I've been with OTAO!

Legislative Day – Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Open up your schedule, if you can, to join us for Legislator's Day at the Salem State Capitol Building. OTAO, the OT Licensing Board (OTLB), and Pacific University School of OT, are joining forces to storm the capital on Tuesday February 16th from 9:00 – 3:00 to educate our legislators about the benefits of occupational therapy, provide opportunity for all to learn more about the public policy process, and to express our opinions about health care reform in the State of Oregon.

Happenings:

1. Third year OT students from Pacific University will display booths in the lobby re: the benefits of OT
2. Tours of the Capital Building offered by John McCulley, OTAO Lobbyist
3. Guidance provided to attend legislative sessions and committee hearings to learn more about the public policy process
4. Felicia Holgate, Executive Director OTLB, will be on-site to answer licensing and public policy questions
5. Opportunity to meet with your legislators to share your opinions on health reform and issues pertinent to occupational therapy
6. Brochures (developed by AOTA) titled "Grip and Grin" provided for you to share with your legislators in relation to methods of handshaking to prevent injury

Happenings occur throughout the day. Come when you please, leave when you please. Participate at whatever level you please.

The OTAO Legislator Committee co-chairs can assist in identifying current public policy issues that could affect occupational therapy practice and tips on how to approach your legislators prior to attendance or during attendance. Feel free to contact any one of us in advance at the email addresses listed below. We are happy to accommodate!

We look forward to sharing with you to make this event a success!

OTAO Co-Chairs Legislative Committee
Tiffany Boggis: boggisd@pacificu.edu
Julie Seitz: photojulie81@hotmail.com
Karen Hass: Karen.A.Hass@gmail.com

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Submitting items for the Viewpoint:



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Guidelines for contributions: News and feature articles are welcomed. Submitted articles should be practiced-related, accuracy of information is the responsibility of the authors. Publication of articles is primarily for informational and educational purposes and not for promoting or endorsing one particular technique, procedure or philosophy over another. OTAO disclaims any liability or responsibility for individual use of applications or procedures or techniques described. Subject matter presented in "Letters to the Editor" column reflects the personal opinion of the author(s) and is not meant to represent the policy or opinion of OTAO. Photos should be black and white, at least 3x5 in, with good definition of detail. **Deadline for receipt of articles is the 20th 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 3rd 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.

Advertising: All ads should be submitted to: Desiree Keplinger, OTAO, PO Box 7133, Aloha OR 97007, or via email at: otao@otao.com, by the 15th of the month preceding the desired month of publication. OTAO is not responsible for statements made by its advertisers; unless so stated, publication of advertisements does not reflect an official endorsement of the OTAO. Prepayment must be received prior to inclusion of advertisement. Advertising rates can be viewed at: www.otao.com/Advertising

Occupational Therapy Licensing Board Update

The Occupational Therapy Licensing Board sent a paper mailing to nearly 1700 licensees in Oregon. Over 200 hundred paper newsletters were returned. It is your responsibility to keep the Board current on your contact information. A postcard is being sent in February giving you information on how to renew online. Renewals will start in March 2010 and are due with the required CE by May 1, 2010. Send any changes or questions by e-mail to Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us. We confirm them by return E-mail. Happy New Year

Just a reminder – Please note if you do not find the Director in the office, there are now 7 mandatory furlough days each year for the next two years. State employees are not covered by state liability insurance and are not to work these days. Please keep this in mind if you are not able to contact Felicia Holgate, Board Director.

Contact Info for the Occupational Therapy Licensing Board:

Physical Address	Hours of Operation	How to Reach
800 NE Oregon St., Suite 407 Portland, Oregon 97232	Monday-Friday 8:00am - 5:00 pm	Felicia Holgate, Executive Director Email: Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us Phone: 971-673-0198 Fax: 971-673-0226

Lobbyist's Update by John McCulley

All eyes in the Legislature are on January 26, 2010, the date of the election on the tax increases approved during the 2009 session. If the measures fail, Legislators will need to find about \$730 million to maintain a balanced budget through June 30, 2011.

In preparation for the need to reduce spending, state agencies have outlined their reduction priorities. Agencies with the largest budgets, Department of Human Services, Education and Public Safety, naturally will face the biggest dollar cuts. Both five and ten percent reductions are offered. The public can review the agency's "Budget Reduction Options" at the Legislative Fiscal Office website:
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/lfo>

One issue that won't be on the Legislature's plate in February is restructuring state health licensing boards. You may recall that in May, Governor Kulongoski spoke to the Portland City Club and, among other things, suggested that we could improve state government by suspending operation of the Occupational Therapy Licensing Board. That was followed in June with a letter from the Governor to legislative leaders outlining the elimination, consolidation or suspension of many government boards and other bodies.

Then this fall, the Governor created a seven member "Reset Cabinet" to explore how to re-invent state government, including a review of state licensing boards. Even though members of the cabinet believe they were tasked with bigger issues than evaluating the operation of state licensing boards and commissions, clearly the Governor's office still has such reinvention in their vision.

Since then, I've joined with other affected parties to try to understand what the Governor has in mind. Even though there are no general fund dollars involved with the health care boards, Governor Kulongoski seeks efficiency at all levels of government, according to his staff.

A group of us recently met with the Governor's chief of staff and his health policy advisor to clarify what is planned. First, we learned nothing will happen during the February session. We also were told that the Reset Cabinet will indeed look at boards and commissions as part of their overall mission. All of us expressed concern that the Reset Cabinet meets secretly which makes it difficult for affected professionals to provide input. One member of our group suggested review of the many previous studies on improving boards and commissions.

It will be interesting to see what happens during the next few months as the Reset Cabinet continues its work and as Governor Kulongoski finishes his last term. Will the next Governor continue to challenge the operation of the Occupational Therapy Licensing Board and others? Stay tuned.

Marketing Update:

by Amanda Moore and Sally Stauffer

It's the time of year to reflect on our OTOA Marketing Committee accomplishments of 2009. Among our accomplishments this year, we developed a new membership brochure that the OTLB has included in mailings to newly licensed OTs and COTAs in OR. The marketing committee has also been busy producing Continuing Education fliers to inform OTs in the state of pain CEs as well as other educational events. Our new logo is now printed on window decals and 4-in-1 tool kits and for sale at conference, and soon on the website. And lastly, OTOA is now on Facebook, so if you want to stay connected to events and your OTOA community, find us and "friend" us!

OTAO 2009-10 – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Nominations must be received* by March 16, 2010 to be on Ballots

Secretary

Nominee

Trustee

Nominee

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

Fax: (503) 533-5400

E-mail: otao@otao.com

Mail: OTAO, PO Box 7133, Aloha OR 97007

About the Positions:

Secretary:

This position is a two-year term and begins July 1, 2010 and ends June 30, 2012. The Secretary is a voting member of the OTAO Board of Directors, and must attend all scheduled Board meetings. The Secretary is responsible for recording and distributing the minutes of meetings of the board of directors within one week of such meetings. In addition, the Secretary maintains a book of minutes, give all notices required by OTAO bylaws, is responsible for roll call and determining a quorum at Board meetings, and performs all other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

Trustee:

This position is a two-year term which begins July 1, 2010 and ends June 30, 2012. The Trustee is a voting member of OTAO and the Trustee attends all scheduled Board Meetings. The Trustee shall function as an advocate for members in the seven designated regional areas, function as a liaison between the board of directors and the members of the Corporation, and be responsible for identifying a regional representative in each regional area.

Conference 2009 Wrap-Up
by Lisa Bodry

When I was asked to write an article about this year's OT Conference I was true to form...I procrastinated. Well today is the deadline so here I go.

I don't know what I was afraid of (except for the "writing" part) because if anyone should be able to talk about the OT Conference it should probably be me.

Over the past 9 years I have coordinated this weekend event 4 times. Although some people may still be skeptical about my recent announcement, it is true, I have officially retired from running the conference. It has been quite a ride, but it is time to pass the reigns off to fresh eyes as we move forward into a new decade. I decided that my last comments about the conference should be a resounding THANK YOU to the people who were by my side through it all.

I laugh when I think back to when it all started. It was 2000 and I was attending the conference in Medford. As most people know you cannot stand next to Ellen Downes without getting caught up in the excitement. It was then that I declared that I would run the conference, not just the following year, but every other year when it came to Portland.

Little did I know what I was getting myself into.

Well with Ellen's mentoring I proceeded to put together a team and begin the process. I created a check list, consulted the guidelines and went by the seat of my pants most of the time.

The key to success, I realized after 4 seasons, is to have the right people on the team doing the right job. I could not have asked for a better group of people to plan the conference with me then my 4 teams (Amy Anderson, Vicky Horton, Joan Knapp, Linda Kiggins, Laura Beeler, Genevieve de Renne, Trish Dyer, Sue Dumolt, Michelle Kropf, Elisha Miller, Marcia Loggins, Charlene Tritt, Gail Kohler-Perkins, Chris Heideman, Pauline Petterson, Angela Milstead, Terry Rose, Julie Kesting, Lindsey Allen, Olivia Norris, Katie O'Day, Carrie Akers, Liz Irwin, Stacey Moret, Desiree Keplinger and Ellen Downes). Everyone contributed their specific talents and made it look effortless. Even though I was on the team I still don't know how they completed this massive task.

One of the greatest joys over the years has been the feedback we received from people attending. For the most part it has been filled with joy. No matter where we were (Embassy Suites Hotel, The Edgefield, The DoubleTree Hotel and Providence St. Vincent Medical Center) or who the keynote speaker was (Winnie Dunn, Barbara Kornblaugh, Charles Christiansen and Barbara Roberts) we seemed to always hear, "this is the best conference ever!" Needless to say we got better over the years hiding the craziness behind the scenes. I would recommend any of these places and keynote speakers again for future events.

Finally, I would like to say, "it has been a great ride!" I cannot thank Ellen and the past / present OTA/O Presidents (Karen Foley, Robert Love and Sybil Fisher) enough for their constant support and encouragement. After hours of phone calls, e-mails and in-person conversations I would have to say our association is truly blessed to have such a supportive network of individuals.

As we enter 2010 I am looking forward to attending the conference in Sisters and for the first time in 9 years NOT thinking about what the theme should be for 2011!!!!!!

Thank you to all Conference supporters,
Lisa Bodry

GET INVOLVED!

OTAO Needs You!

The Occupational Therapy
Association would like
to keep growing . . .

As a member, you are the best
advertising there is.

Tell a Friend about OTAO
and help us grow!

They can join online at:
www.otao.com

HUGE CE Event:

Still need to get your Pain CEU's?

OT Practice Guidelines for Pain Management

When? Saturday, Feb 27th, 10:00-5:00 PM

Who? Speaker: Margo Adler Trainee, MA, OTR/L

Sponsored by: School of Occupational Therapy

Where? Pacific University

College of Health Professions

222 SE 8th Ave. Suite 363

Hillsboro, OR 97123

What? Meets the **State pain management CE**

requirement that must be completed prior
to 2010 license renewal

Price? \$95.00 (includes refreshments; lunch on own)

CEU? 6 CEU's (approved by OTLB)

More Info?

Kelly Hering 503-352-7345 or

khering@pacificu.edu

Reminders:

- ◆ Job Listings are posted online, and visible to all, go to www.otao.com and click on Jobs in the left-hand column
- ◆ Membership rates for OTAO have not increased. They remain at:

OT	\$70.00
OTA	\$50.00
OT Student	\$30.00

 Join Now and Save on Conference Registration!
- ◆ If you would like to continue to receive the Viewpoint, and you are not already a member, you must join OTAO
- ◆ Check out the Events Calendar for upcoming CE opportunities as well as our online Continuing Ed page
- ◆ Mark your Calendars Now:
2010 OTAO Conference . . . October 15-17
- ◆ Members can find past editions of the Webletter and the Viewpoint online by logging in and going to Newsletters & Forms

Membership Benefits:

- ◆ Quarterly newsletter
- ◆ Monthly (or bi-monthly) Webletter
- ◆ Dedicated Lobbyist working on behalf of Occupational Therapy's best interest
- ◆ OTAO-sponsored Continuing Education at discounted prices
- ◆ Online access to members-only options on the OTAO website, like forums and CE listings
- ◆ Access to research grant and scholarship money – applicants must be members of OTAO to qualify.
- ◆ Substantial discounted registration fees for Annual OTAO Conference
- ◆ Networking, SIS and Regional Reps
- ◆ Ability to make a difference in our great profession ... get involved and join OTAO
- ◆ Membership renewal is annual from the date you join