

RIOTA NEWS

Moving Forward, Making a Difference

Message from the President:

Dear RIOTA Members:

Happy New Year!

The beginning of a new year is a wonderful time for thoughtful reflection on what is valuable and meaningful enough to spend our precious time pursuing.

I ask you to consider participation, or continued participation, in the following areas of local activity to promote the profession and perfect your practice:

Membership:

It is not too late to join for the 2011-2012 year. Your contribution entitles you to a wide variety of networking and continuing education opportunities that are high quality, local and affordable. Help to guide the practice of OT in RI by your participation in this organization.

Research:

We are in a position to support research by allowing students and practicing colleagues to invite us to complete surveys to provide valuable information about our practice of occupational therapy. The information shared gives the research community first hand information about the work that we do.

Continuing Education:

The Special Interest Groups in the areas of pediatrics, physical disabilities and mental health provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information.

Advocacy & Ethical Practice:

The increased demand for OT services, changing reimbursement/regulations and the economic climate have all contributed to questions and concerns in the areas of practice, competence and supervision. RIOTA is working to support practitioners by providing resources to assist in guiding practice in the most positive and responsible direction possible. Be part of the group that other statewide associations, state government offices and employers look to for input about the practice of occupational therapy.

I hope to see you May 19th, at the 4th annual RIOTA Conference, "Occupational Therapy in a Time of Transition".

Kim M. Gilbert, OTR/L

"Be the change you wish to see in the world"
-Gandhi

Executive Board

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Kim M. Gilbert, OTR/L
president@riota.org

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

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Keri Kinniburgh, COTA/L
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AOTA Representative

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Elizabeth Lima, MS, OTR/L
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RIOTA Historian

Open position
history@riota.org

Nominations Chair

Kathy O'Neill, COTA/L
nominationschair@riota.org

Educational Resource Coordinator

Open position
edcoordinator@riota.org

Pediatric Special Interest Group Co-Chairs

Stacey Lehrer, MEd, OTR/L, ATP
Michaela Turbitt, 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

Save the Date!!

RIOTA's 4th Annual Conference

May 19, 2012

New England Tech

East Greenwich, RI

Hope to see you there!!

Representative Assembly Update

What is the Representative Assembly?

For those who do not know the role of the RA, it is the Congress of AOTA. Each state has a representative who is the voice of their constituents' opinions concerning AOTA issues. Every year motions are proposed that affect practice and AOTA governance. Contacting your representative is a way that you can be sure that your opinion about a motion is communicated to AOTA. Your state representative can also help you write a motion. This motion could be creating a new position paper about an area of practice or changing an existing document. Examples of motions that were presented at last year's RA meeting included changing the entry level practice requirements for a COTA to bachelor level and introducing membership for \$1 for first time AOTA members. Both of these motions were voted against, but they generated lively debate, and brought to the forefront some compelling issues. In response to the \$1 membership motion, a new ad hoc committee was developed to create strategies to build AOTA membership.

AOTA general elections are being held until February 28th, please consider voting.

Upcoming Spring RA meeting at AOTA conference and meeting in March to get feedback from AOTA members about motions

I will be leading a meeting in March to get your input on the Spring RA motions. Last year everyone provided feedback as I described this year's motions; this allowed for a lively conversation and debate. I do not know what the motions will be at this time. I am anxiously waiting. I have not heard whether there will be any amended version of the restructuring of the RA this year. Last year that was the hot debate.

For those of you who provide proof that you enrolled in the COOL database, I will provide a small Goody Bag! Also refreshments will be served!

AOTA Representative
Amy Battles-Borkowski COTA/L

rira@riota.org

Special Interest Group Updates

The Pediatric Special Interest Group got off to a great start this year. In October, Bill Lonardo from Orthopedic Appliance showed us what is new in upper extremity splinting. In November, Dr. Greg Waldorf and occupational therapist Rebecca Collins presented on the multidisciplinary approach to vision related learning difficulties that is used at the office of Drs. Hamel and Waldorf. We had a large turnout for this event, and Dr. Waldorf and Rebecca were gracious enough to change their location to accommodate the large number of members wishing to attend. In December, we had a round table discussion about various standardized assessments that are being used by pediatric clinicians. This was a great opportunity for clinicians to share the pros and cons of each assessment, and even learn about some new assessments. Student members enjoyed learning about the variety of assessments available for each setting.

During the last few months, we have also remained in close contact with the Rhode Island Department of Education regarding the new Rhode Island Model Teacher Evaluation that is in the process of gradual implementation. Many members contacted us regarding how this new evaluation system would affect OTs working in the schools, and we were happy to assist in this area.

We are looking forward to the spring, which brings O.T. month in April and our annual state conference in May. Please see the calendar below for additional events scheduled for February and March. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us at pediatricsig@riota.org with any questions, concerns, or ideas for potential meeting topics.

Stacey Lehrer, M.Ed, OTR/L, ATP

Michaela Turbitt, M.S., OTR/L



Occupational Therapy in Mental Health Settings: Where are we and where are we going?

This meeting will involve a facilitated discussion of the current trends in occupational therapy mental health, including a review of the literature and evidence-based practices. Please feel free to bring any journal articles you feel might be relevant or helpful to share.

Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:30–8:00pm
NEIT—East Greenwich campus (Room N309)
Please RSVP to mentalhealth@riota.org



Inside Mental Illness

This presentation, designed by NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) Rhode Island, will explore myths and misconceptions about mental illness, including a discussion about the impact of stigma. This presentation will provide an introduction to mood and thought disorders. Individuals living with mental illness will share their lived experience.



Tuesday, March 20th 6:30–8:00pm
NEIT—East Greenwich campus (Room N309)
Please RSVP to mentalhealth@riota.org

Harbor House: A Port in the Storm

The recently established Harbor House, is the first independent Clubhouse open to all Rhode Islanders. It is a “safe harbor for those living with mental illnesses who seek community, understanding, and a productive life.” Members can engage with each other to regain their confidence, experience productive employment, and re-enter society. Ralph Lord, Executive Director of Harbor House, and clubhouse members will discuss the mission, work, and value of this new organization to the Rhode Island community. For more information, visit www.harborhouse-ri.org.



Tuesday, April 17th 6:30–8:00pm
NEIT—East Greenwich campus (Room TBA)
Please RSVP to mentalhealth@riota.org

RIOTA CALENDAR

**all meetings will be held @ NEIT-East Greenwich Campus
unless otherwise indicated**

Thursday February 16th Pediatrics SIG: Online Resources 6:30pm–8:00pm (Room N310)

Tuesday, February 28th Mental Health SIG: OT in Mental Health Setting 6:30pm–8:00pm (Room N309)

Wednesday March 7th Pediatrics SIG: Collaborating with Families 6:30pm–8:00pm
Warwick Public Library; Large Meeting Room

Tuesday April 17th Mental Health SIG: Harbor House 6:30pm–8:00pm (Room TBA)

Saturday April 28th Rebuilding Together (Time & Location TBA)

Spotlight on Schools



Students from NEIT's Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Technology program, as well as students from the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) degree program, recently attended the national American Occupational Therapy Association/National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy AOTA/NBCOT annual student conclave held November 11-12, 2011, at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. Over 500 students from around the country along with administration from AOTA were in attendance.



Nicole Pawelczyk, a 6th quarter New England Tech OTA student, spoke on a panel regarding fieldwork to a group of approximately 100 students. Heather Meyer, a 2011 graduate from the Associate in Science degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology program, participated on a new grad panel and addressed more than 100 students.

NEIT's Occupational Therapy faculty members Leanne Yinusa-Nyahkoon, Joanne Jones, Rebecca Simon, Cynthia Fuchs, Nancy Dooley and Marsha Cordiero also participated and presented at the event.

Rebecca Simon MS, OTR/L
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Pictured above from left to right:

Lucille Garcia, MSOT student; Karen Bolger-Acevedo and Gabby Klensch, OTA students; Florence Clark, AOTA President; Lauren Tilley and Michelle Boulay, OTA students

RIOTA & Rebuilding Together Save the date!

Saturday, April 28th has been set as 2012's National Rebuilding Together Day. Rebuilding Together is the nation's leading nonprofit working to preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize communities. The organization believes in a safe and healthy home for every person. This means disabled and aging homeowners should be able to remain in their homes for as long as possible. This will be the fifth year that RIOTA partners with the Newport County Board of Realtors to renovate homes in the community. Over 30 RIOTA members and students participated in last spring's Rebuilding Together event. If you are interested in participating in this year's event, please contact Elizabeth Lima at riotavolunteer@riota.org and check your email for details regarding an informational meeting to be held later this winter. What a wonderful volunteer experience for RIOTA members and an even better way to celebrate Occupational Therapy month this year! We look forward to collaborating with you!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Lima, MS, OTR/L
Volunteer Chair
riotavolunteer@riota.org



RIOTA currently has the following open positions:

Educational Resource Coordinator:

Plan and implement educational opportunities for members on a wide variety of practice and interest areas through general membership meetings and other educational opportunities as determined by the executive board; Coordinate all speakers and presentations including audiovisual aids, computer needs, handouts, location, and food and beverage needs; Encourage involvement in community career days and other opportunities that will assist RIOTA in advocating for the Occupational Therapy profession, such as the Health Partnership Council; Develop and submit annual budget for approval of executive board.

Adult Special Interest Group Co-Chair:

Coordinate and implement special interest section programming for adult SIS meetings and events; Coordinate all speakers and presentations including audiovisual aids, computer needs, handouts, location, and food and beverage needs; Develop and submit annual budget for approval of executive board.

BRISTOL COUNTY REHABILITATION SERVICES, INC.

Seeking full-time/part-time Occupational Therapist/Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant
For school-based services Tiverton/Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

Please forward resume to bcsotpt@yahoo.com or fax to 401-619-1988

Dementia Capable Care:

- *One-Day Foundation Course*
- *Two-Day Foundation and Dementia Therapy Applications Course*

AOTA approved for up to 14 contact hours.

Over 5,000 professionals, including many occupational therapists, have attended and learned advanced evaluation and treatment skills, effective treatment planning using the Allen Cognitive Levels and Theory of Retrogenesis, how to document and code for maximum reimbursement, and more. Day One establishes a framework for promoting best abilities. Day Two focuses on application of new skills.



dementia care specialists
a CPI specialized offering

Worcester, MA • March 30–31

Hilton Garden Inn Worcester
35 Major Taylor Blvd.

Course Fee: *One-Day Foundation Course* – \$149;
Two-Day Foundation and Dementia Therapy Applications Course – \$448
Group discounts available • AOTA Approved • Contact Hours: up to 14

DS143

For complete course information or to register, visit crisisprevention.com/dcs or call 877.816.4524.

JOIN US!!

Look for the Rhode Island Occupational Therapy Association page on Facebook & www.RIOTA.org to keep up on the latest happening and OT related discussions!!