

NORTH DAKOTA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION



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A Message from the NDOTA President:

Greetings OT's!

I hope that 2021 has treated you well so far and you are able to remain healthy and safe. As NDOTA begins this year we look forward to how we can create great things within our organization. NDOTA strives to help our members remain informed on upcoming events, pending legislation and the need for your continued support. We begin 2021 looking for ways to entice new members to join NDOTA and maintain our current members. We were able to hold our 2020 Fall Conference with social distancing and we look forward to our Fall conference in October 2021. We will be hosting webinars in honor of OT month and want to continue to be able to provide OT's in ND great speakers and education opportunities. A new project for NDOTA is a community project grant, which previously, we donated items to the Limitless Fashion Show, provided sponsorship to Prairie Grit for a summer camp activity and sponsored an Amtryke to a deserving child. As 2020 passed we realized discussed our community project grant and felt that this should go to those most impacted by COVID, which we feel are those residents in LTC facilities. We are finalizing plans to determine how we can provide the most benefits to this population. This year also brings us to a new legislative session, which over 500 bills were introduced into the House of Representatives and 344 Senate. We are lucky to have a great lobbyist, Levi Andrist, to keep accountability on all the legislation and those items that will have an impact on our future as OT's. If we do not advocate for our profession, who will? This is another reason we need your support of NDOTA, is to allow us to keep our contract with Levi and to ensure our future is never put in jeopardy as professionals. I am setting a 2021 challenge to entice many of you to join our organization, so we can continue providing education, community support and legislation to all OT's in the state. If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding NDOTA, please feel free to reach out to me at: sheri_lynn277@hotmail.com or 701-771-8949.

We look forward to seeing you in 2021!

Kind regards,

Sheri Martin



VP of Education:

Greetings to you all!

As we move into 2021, we have high hopes to continue providing great education opportunities for our NDOTA members. 2020 provided challenges to us all, but thankfully we were still able to plan some successful education events. Our annual fall conference was offered in person with social distancing provided, and I am happy to say it went wonderfully! Thank you to all who attended, and those who helped make the weekend a great opportunity to meet up with colleagues and learn from each other. Our speakers included fellow occupational therapist Alysia Budd, who presented on dyslexia, and Julie Landsiedel, FNP. Julie presented on health and wellness information geared towards patient care, along with stress management.

This spring, we plan to have several virtual opportunities for CEUs. We have 2 opportunities scheduled at this time. We are excited to present Animal Assisted Occupational Therapy by Julie Sandvig, OTD, MS, OTR/L on March 27 9-10:30am by Zoom.

We are looking forward to seeing Michelle Peake, owner of Peake OT, who specializes in pain management and myofascial release. Zoom presentation is scheduled for Saturday, April 10, 2021, from 9-10:30am.

Save the date for our annual fall conference which is scheduled for October 8-9, 2021. Speakers are still to be determined.

And finally, we would like to announce an exciting learning opportunity for April 2022! April is not only OT Month, but Autism Month. NDOTA has begun the initial steps to organize a weekend event collaborating with local supportive services focusing on Autism Awareness. We are proud to host Dr. Temple Grandin as the keynote speaker! Dr. Grandin has been a huge advocate towards autism awareness, and we are lucky to have her come to North Dakota! Save the date for April 1, 2022.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events!

Shawna Wing, MS, OTR/L

VP of Legislation and Practice:

Dear fellow advocates,

The 67th legislative assembly is under way with a total of 844 bills introduced. North Dakota rolled out a new virtual system for hearing and giving testimony for bills, so that advocates can join while maintaining social distancing guidelines.

We have been keeping track of how this session's bills may affect North Dakota occupational therapy professionals. The bills we have been tracking include the continuation of Medicaid Expansion, the consolidation of Department of Health and Department of Human Services, and expanding telehealth coverage to phone services if video is unavailable to a patient. The aftereffects of COVID-19 is present within some bills introduced; the most notable bill includes a protection of liability for healthcare professionals as a result of COVID-19. We will continue to monitor as these bills are heard and edited.

Many states are considering becoming a part of the OT Licensure Compact this legislative session. In addition, North Dakota will be considering medicine, nursing, and physical therapy licensure compacts. Although NDOTA Board of Members did not go forward with an attempt join the compact, we are monitoring how the process is completed for future consideration.

Thank you for your continued support of occupational therapy in North Dakota through your membership dues to NDOTA. Stay safe and warm!

Sincerely,

Megan Boucher, M.A., OTR/L

AOTA Representative Assembly (RA) Updates

Greetings! Thank-you for this opportunity to share a few of several updates from the RA.

The AOTA RA approved the new Code of Ethics document unanimously, which was a year and a half endeavor. President Hildenbrand expressed appreciation for better language addressing civility. Here is the link to the new approved document for those who are AOTA members.

<https://www.aota.org/-/media/corporate/files/secure/governance/ra/2020-fall-meeting/code-of-ethics/code-of-ethics-2020-20200930.pdf>

Motion 3 from the fall meeting to create a doctoral capstone coordinator with the Academic Leadership Council passed unanimously as well; thank-you to those who offered input.

Motion 1 Feasibility Study of the Recommendations Regarding Occupational Therapy Assistant Practice also passed.

There is a new OT Practice Framework [OTPF] (4th edition), which has several changes. For example, it has more inclusive and descriptive language and more clarified use of terms (e.g. occupation and activity). Also, "preparatory methods and tasks" was replaced with "interventions to support occupations." Tables were developed to describe concepts more (e.g. clients, performance skills, etc). Here is the reference to the new OTPF where you can view all the changes, which are summarized on pages 3 and 4:

- American Occupational Therapy Association. (2020). Occupational therapy practice framework: Domain and process – Fourth edition. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 74(suppl 2), 7412410010. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.74S2001>

I am currently engaged in an RA work group to do an environmental scan of evidence/resources related to a Call to Action to create an Official Document for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice that will guide practitioners who are working in IP teams across practice settings. AOTA does have an official document for IP Education, which speaks to faculty and students; however, it does not have an official document that speaks to practitioners across practice settings. I would be interested in your perceptions about this.

Spring Schedule:

- RA online, asynchronous task groups meet March 15-19
- RA task groups meet synchronous On March 23 to finalize work and motions
- Member input survey on RA motions and requests is available April 11-30
 - *Please, see RA motions and survey link on AOTA website in April; your responses are very helpful to me and our discussions and voting)
- Spring RA Online Meeting via Zoom is May 10

I would greatly appreciate hearing perceptions about any RA-related issues/motions coming up this spring.

Thank-you all for your professional engagement!

Cindy (Sclinda) Janssen

North Dakota Representative to the AOTA Representative Assembly

Sclinda.janssen@und.edu

701-215-2758

Red River District

Hello NDOTA Red River District members!

While the past year hasn't been great for gathering and networking, I hope this upcoming year is better. Please "like" the Facebook group NDOTA Red River District Group Page to better connect with other OT enthusiasts in this region. I would love this group to be a source of networking, support, and mentorship and would love any ideas people have to get started! I also invite anyone that may want to work with me to plan various events throughout the year. Don't hesitate to reach out!

Cherie Graves

Cherie.graves@und.edu

North Dakota Pi Theta Epsilon Update

On Saturday, January 23rd the University of North Dakota and the University of Mary hosted their annual Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) student conference. PTE is a student honor group on both campuses that focuses on promoting scholarship and research among its members. Four phenomenal speakers shared their knowledge about their specific practice areas at the conference. Lainie Donahue, OTR/L spoke about her experience working in mental health at MSHS Wadena. The second speaker was Casey Pfister, OTR/L who spoke about occupational therapy's role in community reintegration. She currently does this work through Craig Hospital. The next speaker was Johanna Felleman, OTR/L who spoke about her experience in the NICU at Lutheran Medical Center in Denver, CO. Lastly, Lee Sowada, DPT spoke about pelvic health and currently works at the facility she opened in Gillette, WY called Elevated Pelvic Health. Due to the new online format, this conference was available to students in a wide area and received attendance from students at the UND Grand Forks and Casper campuses, the U Mary, NDSCS, and Casper College. NDOTA helped make this event possible by providing a generous donation to cover various costs. NDOTA helped make this event possible by providing a generous donation to cover various costs.

Board Openings:

Positions open on NDOTA Board of Management:

- VP of Legislation and Practice- 2-year term
- Treasurer- 2-year term
- President Elect- 1-year term, then taking over President duties the following 2-year term
- District Chair: Wells Fargo District (Fargo Area)

If you have questions on job duties, please email:

ndotacommunications@gmail.com

Membership Update

Current membership as of February 5th, 2021:

- OTA: 9
- OTR: 97
- OTS: 108

Members per district:

- Farwest: 59
- Wells Fargo: 36
- Northwest Pioneers: 14
- Red River: 96

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