

VOTA VOICE

Virginia Occupational Therapy Association

Volume 5, Issue 2

President's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

First and foremost, let me take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your commitment and dedication to both the profession of occupational therapy and to the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association. As President-Elect, I recently had the opportunity to represent the members of this great Commonwealth with Grace Williams during the annual ASAP meeting at the national conference in Orlando. The ideas and information being shared from leaders all across the nation was truly energizing. All were working together to meet the unique professional needs of his/her state while also contributing toward the achievement of AOTA's centennial vision of becoming a globally connected and diverse workforce, building a greater, more recognized public image, and enhancing the provision of member services.

As noted in the newly distributed membership letter, "change" has been the key word for our profession, and our society over the past year. With proposed state budget cuts to services, national healthcare reform, and the attempts of other professions to encroach upon the OT scope of practice, change is not over. We must continue to work together, as members within our own state association and as part of the global OT community to

advocate for our profession, enhance our public image, protect our careers, and preserve our identity.

Benjamin Franklin once stated that "without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning." As I begin my term as President of VOTA in July, I ask all of you for your support and active voice in ensuring the continual growth and progress of occupational therapy throughout this time of change. It is necessary, in order to steadily improve our association to achieve enhanced member services and succeed in meeting the evolving needs of our profession.

The first step toward progress is filling the vacancies within our State Board. A foundation of strong leadership is essential to a successful organization managing change. There are currently five positions open and 479 members of VOTA.

Please consider filling one of these positions today! Now is the time to represent your peers, make your voice heard, and be a leader for the future of occupational therapy.

The second step is remaining involved not just at the state level, but at the national level as well. If you are not a member of both AOTA and VOTA, join now! Don't stay on the sidelines. The challenges and struggles will continue. The success of occupational therapy depends on your participation.

I look forward to serving the state association over the next two years as President and hope to usher in continued growth and progress with your support and involvement.

Sincerely,

Amanda

Amanda Leo

President, Virginia Occupational Therapy Association



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Legislative Update: Countersigning OTA

Are you confused about how often OT's must countersign OTA notes? As VOTA's legal counsel, I am starting to receive more and more questions on this topic.

The bottom line is that Board of Medicine regulations require the supervising OT to countersign OTA patient documentation every 10th treatment session or 30 calendar days, whichever occurs first.

The key sections of the regulations are as follows:

The occupational therapist providing clinical supervision shall meet with the occupa-

tional therapy assistant to review and evaluate treatment and progress of the individual patients at least once every tenth treatment session or 30 calendar days, whichever occurs first.

The occupational therapy assistant shall document in the patient record any aspects of the initial evaluation, treatment plan, discharge summary, or other notes on patient care performed by the assistant. The supervising occupational therapist shall

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Occupational Therapy Advisory Board Update

The members of the Occupational Therapy Advisory Board would like to thank all Virginia occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants who have contacted us with questions re. COTA licensure. Many of these communications have focused on scope of practice and the interpretation of the new OT/COTA licensure law that became effective

in March 2010. Members of VOTA should note the following information:

1. No profession under the auspices of the Board of Medicine has all the details about what they can or cannot do in their practice act. The burden of knowing what one can do and not do is on the licensee. Each pro-

fession's scope of practice is a fluid, dynamic statement and can change from day to day or year to year based on new developments in that field. If aspects of our scope of practice were rigid then practitioners would be concerned that they were not flexible enough for the realities of everyday practice.

(continued on page 12)

Legislative Update...continued.

countersign such documentation in the patient record at the time of the review and evaluation required in subsection B of this section.

It is important to note that these regulations do not require notes to be countersigned every single day. When the OT and OTA meet, the supervising OT is expected to review and sign off on ALL of the notes since the last review (either individually or in a single entry).

Of course, nothing prevents an OT from signing notes more frequently. And some well-respected OT's and OTA's feel that the best professional practice is for notes to be signed every single day. But, from a regulatory standpoint, this is not necessary.

Alexander Macaulay

Reminder: VOTA members may receive up to 2 hours of free legal consultation per year. I am happy to help with any questions you may have! Please email me at alex@macbur.com.

School System Symposium Success

Thanks to the efforts of the Williamsburg therapy services team, The 17th Annual School System Symposium entitled: Collaborative Partnerships: Meeting the Needs of Disadvantaged Students was held on March 6th, 2010 at Warhill High School in Williamsburg. Tish Howard, PhD, Washington Mills Principal, Fairfax County Public Schools, presented the keynote address on "Leveling the Academic and Social Playing Field for All Children." She was followed by 15 breakout and 3 poster presentations lead by 29 presenters including presentations from faculty and students at James Madison University. Ninety-two occupational and physical therapists participated in the day long

training, gaining valuable ideas and information regarding school based practice to bring back to their schools.

The results of the feedback survey revealed that 100% of individuals responding to survey questions thought that the Symposium "measured up to expectations." In addition, 100% indicated that the Symposium's "level of instruction was suitable to their learning needs." Comments made by participants indicated that the symposium is a cost effective way to acquire

relevant and appropriate continuing education in the area of school based practice, that topics presented are varied, current, well referenced, and evidence based, and that presenters are engaging and highly knowledgeable in their topic areas.

Patricia Laverdure



A Farewell Tribute

Kathryn Lawrence-Dragas

June 8, 1969- December 17, 2009

Kathryn Gayle Lawrence Dragas, 40, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009. A native of Norfolk, Kathryn was an occupational therapist at the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters for 14 years. In an effort to honor and celebrate the life she led and console the friends, family and colleagues she has left behind, VOTA members were asked to share their favorite memories of Kathryn and their experience as part of her very special "dash." Here is what our members had to share:

"It didn't take long when first meeting Kathryn to realize that there was truly something rare and special about her. She had an amazing way of making you feel comfortable and genuinely cared about. Her gentle spirit could warm up a room with just a word or a smile. I had the pleasure of working with Kathryn on both state and district VOTA activities, and even got to know her briefly on a more personal level. I feel blessed to have known her. A light went out in this world when we lost her."

- Paula Naudziunas

"One of my fondest memories of Kathryn was when I was filling in for registration at the Kempsville Office. Kathryn was so welcoming with her beautiful smile. We started talking about ice cream and how much we loved home made ice cream. The next morning she brought me some. She was always thinking about someone else and how she could make them feel important. She truly was a bright shining star!"

- Carol Bodner, CHKD

"Kathryn was such a passionate, generous, involved and caring person. She bought her nieces and nephews *dozens* of OT t-shirts; she served the VOTA as a committed secretary; and was so supportive of my daughter Kimberly's horse show career. Kimberly was touched deeply by her passing also, as Kathryn was one of the enthusiastic OTs who Kimberly admired. We will both miss her greatly."

- Holly Brown, OTR/L, Fundraising chair, VOTA

"I knew Kathryn as a fellow classmate, research partner, colleague, and dear friend. I miss her greatly, but feel fortunate that I can still hear the sound of her infectious hearty laughter, as if I just heard it yesterday. A funny memory we were recalling as classmates recently was how Kathryn could make any food easily portable. We remember with fondness how she would often pull out an entire ear of corn to eat in Neuroanatomy class!"

- Fiona Bessey-Bushnell, VCU Class of 2001

"She was a beautiful person inside and out.....so kind, caring, and thoughtful. She and I had so many laughs together and sharing life experiences. She adored her husband and loved her sweet dog Dutchess! She was a one of a kind soul.....so sweet and fun with

"I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning to the end.
He noted that first came the date of her birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years.
For that dash represents all the time
That she spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth"

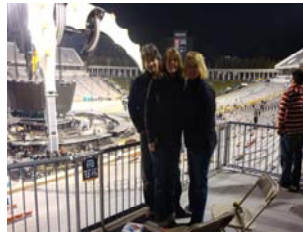
~Excerpt from *The Dash Poem* - by Linda Ellis

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A Farewell Tribute....Continued.

lots of adventure.

I have attached 4 photo's of the last time we were together which was at the U2 concert in Charlottesville , VA last October. We had a blast together laughing, talking, and totally enjoying the U2 concert together. She and Bill were so kind to invite me and we had so much fun together! :) There is a picture of Kathryn and I, she and Bill, the three of us and the last picture is of her and Bill along with her brother, John and his wife Lynelle.



Kathryn had remembered one of our conversations together from way back when I had mentioned that one of my favorite bands is U2 and I had never seen them in concert. So when they were in VA she arranged tickets for us all.....what a gem! :) I remember her calling me at work and she was worried that she was bugging me at work for a personal gig and I was soooo excited when she told me that she had U2 concert tickets for us! Yeah! We were both laughing together and making plans of where to meet in downtown Charlottesville, hotel arrangements, dinner together, etc. We had so much fun that night. She was so thoughtful that way.....those little unexpected surprises that made you smile. Kathryn, I miss you beautiful girl! You are one of life's treasures and I am so blessed to have known you! Hugs & Love”

-Alex Fackrell

“Kathryn, you were my unexpected partner in crime! We became quick and easy friends from the first time we met at a VOTA meeting. We soon became steady carpool buddies on the rides up to Richmond and Charlottesville, with leisurely lunches on the trips back. This ultimately led to our monthly lunch “catch-ups” on break when you were at the Princess Anne office and I was on campus, as well as our facebook chats and random phone calls. You were always so brilliant and positive and encouraging. Whenever I had a big career decision to make, you were one of the first people I called for advice, ultimately talking me into anything I feared was a challenge beyond my reach. You assured me I could be a great professor, you convinced me that presenting at conference “would be no big deal” and most recently you passionately talked me into running for VOTA President by reminding what a positive role model I would create for my daughter. When I waivered still a bit, you said “Oh you just have to do it! And I'll be your official Chief of Staff!!” Knowing that you supported and believed in me made me feel confident and secure. I hope you know what an inspiration and joy you were to be around. I last saw you at conference and I will forever cherish the memory of your laughter, smile, and beautiful glow. I miss you friend.”

-Amanda Leo

“I got to know Kathryn several years ago when I began working with the VOTA.

She always had a kind word, a helping hand and a warm smile to offer. I looked forward to catching up with her and hearing about what was going on in her life. She was such a sweet and gentle soul and I will miss her. My condolences to her family and friends on such a tremendous loss, may you find peace and comfort.”

-Robin Morrison

In summary, please remember not to dwell on any sadness when you recall the dates above. Instead, take the time to share your own thoughts and memories of the beautiful woman who lived and loved all the days in between.

Proposed Changes to VOTA Bylaws... A Summary

The following is a summary of the primary changes proposed to the VOTA Bylaws scheduled to be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting held during the upcoming fall 2010 conference.

The entire document is available for review by members on the VOTA website <http://www.vaota.org> along with the opportunity to post public comment on the proposed changes.

2008 Bylaws:

Article III. Membership

Section I. Membership Categories. VOTA shall have the following membership categories:

- A. Occupational Therapist (“OT”)
- B. Occupational Therapy Assistant (“OTA”)
- C. Occupational Therapy Student (“OT Student”)
- D. Sustaining
- E. Senior
- F. Occupational Therapy Aide (“OT Aide”)
- G. Associate

Proposed 2010 Bylaws:

Article III. Membership

Section I. Membership Categories. VOTA shall have the following membership categories:

- A. Occupational Therapist (“OT”)
- B. Occupational Therapy Assistant (“OTA”)

- C. Occupational Therapy Student (“OT Student”)
- D. Senior
- E. Organizational
- F. Associate

The proposed Bylaws will eliminate the OT Aide and Sustaining membership categories. The OT Aide will continue to qualify for membership under the Associate category. Despite elimination of the Sustaining Member category, any member who contributes at least 30% more than required membership dues in his or her designated category will receive public recognition.

The proposed Bylaws will create a new Organizational Member category.

Please read Section 2 and 3 below for a summary of the Associate and Organizational membership requirements, as well as the corresponding rights and privileges of members in good standing associated with each.

Section 2. Membership Requirements

E. Organizational: An organization, institution, or agency interested in occupational therapy may be an Organizational Member.

F. Associate: Any individual involved in a healthcare profession and committed to obtaining continuing education, career enhancement, or opportunities for teamwork through VOTA who does not meet the requirements for membership categories

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Proposed Bylaws Changes...con't.

A,B,C,D or E of this section may be an Associate Member

Section 4. Rights and Privileges of Members in Good Standing.

Organizational Members may:

1. Attend and participate in all VOTA meetings;
2. Designate a representative to serve on any committee except the Executive Committee; and
3. Receive member benefits such as newsletters, mailings, and discounts on continuing education and products.

Associate Members may:

1. Attend and participate in all VOTA meetings;
2. Serve on any committee except the Executive Committee; and
3. Receive VOTA member benefits such as members only access on the Association website, newsletters, mailings, and discounts on continuing education and products.

Amanda Leo
VOTA President



VOTA VOICE in Education

Shenandoah University

Eighteen students and five faculty attended the AOTA Annual Conference and Expo in Orlando this past April. What an exciting time! We attended multiple sessions, the Expo, and (who could forget!) the energizing Opening Ceremony. Our alumni reception held during the conference re-connected us with a number of former students who are doing great things all around the country. Congratulations to Leslie Davidson for her successful workshop during the conference.

Since the end of the Spring semester, we have launched 25 students out for their Level II Fieldwork experiences. They are spread out across the region gaining that essential hands-on training that will finalize their formal education. We wish them well during these experiences. Thanks goes to all of our VOTA members who are able to serve as fieldwork educators. Your willingness to serve in this role is truly a wonderful contribution to our profession. This summer, Shenandoah University will be upgrading its technology software and welcoming a new faculty person. Dr. Michael Pizzi will be join-

ing our faculty in a full-time position. Michael is coming to us from New York and is a renowned expert in health and wellness and hospice care. We look forward to introducing him to the Virginia community.

Deborah Marr, ScD, OTR/L

Students

Do you know about AOTA's Student Membership Circle? Earn school rewards by enticing every student in your program to join AOTA! Go to www.aota.org to find out more.



VOTA VOICE in Education

Virginia Commonwealth University

Students at VCU

Success and transitions! On May 22, 2010 our Graduate II students attended the School of Allied Health Professions presentation ceremony for completing their didactic course work. Their last semester of school was full of community service/ adaptive projects for their psychosocial, activities, administration, and research practicum classes. Now **36 students are entering Fieldwork II** for the summer and fall of 2010. Placements are here in Richmond, Virginia and as far away as California! They are excited to be out in the real world of OT to complete their learning about occupational therapy! **A huge thank you to all who support Fieldwork education!**

On June 1, 2010 we welcomed 42 new MSOT students to campus. This year's class is made up of 5 men and 37 women. We love seeing more men entering the profession! Thirty-three of the students are Virginia residents. The other 9 hail from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The mean age of this year's class is 24, but the age range spans from 19 to 39. They come to us

from a wide variety of undergraduate institutions including Boston University, the College of Charleston, Drake University, Elon University (2), James Madison University (6), NC State, Old Dominion University, Ohio University, Radford (2), Temple University, the University of Florida, the University of Georgia (3), the University of Washington, UNC-Charlotte, Virginia Tech (6), Virginia State, and from the Monroe Park Campus of VCU (12). It is always fascinating to hear how these students "discovered" OT. Some have had an interest that goes back as far as middle school and others pursued careers in various job sectors only to find some years later that OT is where they belonged all along! OT attracts people from such a rich group of backgrounds. Their college majors are diverse ranging from the "hard sciences" of Chemistry, Physics and Atmospheric Sciences, to Business, Health and Exercise Sciences, "social sciences" of Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology, and Studio Art. You have to love a profession that encompasses individuals with so many unique backgrounds! Together this group of 42 new students will form life-long bonds as they embark on their next two and a half years of OT school together! Good luck to them in

their Nature of OT class and Anatomy!

After a summer off to work and refuel, 44 of our Grad II students will return to campus in the fall to complete their 2nd year of the program, including another fieldwork I experience. We are always looking for new fieldwork sites, so please contact Jayne Shepherd if you are interested in a fieldwork student (jshepherd@vcu.edu or 804-828-1564).

Faculty Happenings:

This year at the AOTA conference in Orlando, 5 faculty members presented their research, and many co-presented with newly graduated or currently enrolled students. In addition, many of our current and former OTD students presented at conference. We had a VCU alumni dinner in an Italian "singing" restaurant (Bergamos) and enjoyed the company of 15 alumni from classes ranging from 1980 to 2009!! It was great to reconnect and to learn how OT careers and family life have evolved over the years. While there, we were able to see Dr. Stacey Reynolds who is currently working on a K12 research grant at the University of Florida while still employed by VCU. She looked very tan and relaxed and is enjoying her work. It was also a treat to see her son, Daniel who is growing taller and is now in the 3rd grade.

VOTA VOICE in Education

Dr. Jodi Teitelman had two co-presentations at the annual Southern Gerontological Society Conference held in Richmond this year during April while Jayne Shepherd traveled to Iowa to present to the Department of Education. Dr. Shelly Lane and Dr. Marie Anzalone have presented to numerous groups across the country on Sensory Processing and Neurophysiology while Dr. Tony Gentry has presented on assistive technology and cognition to a variety of groups.

Congratulations to Dr. Marie Anzalone who was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship by the University College Cork in Ireland. The award is a Research Lectureship and she will be collaborating with the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy as they develop a clinical doctorate with some online instruction (hopefully joining OTD students here at VCU in a Clinical Reasoning Course in the Fall of 2011). The Research component of the Fellowship will be focused on working with Irish OTs as they begin to nationalize their early intervention program. Marie will go to Ireland for 6 months in the Spring of 2011.

Dr. Tony Gentry is currently at-

tending a conference of relief agencies in the Dominican Republic that is coordinating plans for physical rehab interventions in Haiti. He will be spending two days in the field learning how to apply a new \$5 amputee prosthesis (on actual patients!). This is through a Physicians for Peace program. Tony continues to present, write, apply for grants, and research information about Assistive Technology for Cognition.

Grant submissions are also on the agendas of Dr. Al Copolillo, (our new chair for almost a year!) and Dr. Shelly Lane, (our former chair, and Director of Research for the School of Allied Health Professions). Meanwhile, Dr. Dianne Simons, Dr. Jodi Teitelman and myself continue to keep the fires going for entry level admissions, accreditation (coming in 2012); and fieldwork.

Our OTD program expects to graduate 5 new students at the end of the summer when they complete their analysis of their Capstone Leadership Projects. We are continuing to accept applicants to the OTD program for fall. Please contact Dr. Shelly Lane, Director of Post Professional Programs at sjlane@vcu.edu or 804-

828-6523 if you have questions or need information.

Jayne Shepherd, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA

James Madison University

Given the stretch of 90 degree days that Harrisonburg experienced in April it feels like it should be late July by now rather than the beginning of June. There has been a lot of exciting activity going on in our program. The class of 2009 graduated in December and are all employed in OT positions throughout the country. All 18 members of this class passed the NBCOT exam on their first attempt, which is as good as it gets. The class of 2010 is finishing their final didactic course on public policy and recently took a road trip to Bethesda on June 2 to visit the American Occupational Therapy Association and meet many AOTA employees who are vital to the success of our profession. Students met with executive director Fred Somers, conference planner Frank Gainer, political affairs manager Tim Nanof, AOTF executive director Charles Christiansen, and Wilma West Library librarian Mindy Buckner. Students in the class of 2010 will move onto their level II affiliations beginning in early July and are anticipating their graduation in December. Several members of this class have al-

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VOTA VOICE in Education

James Madison University

ready submitted call for paper proposals, based on their research studies, for the 2010 fall VOTA conference scheduled for October. The class of 2011 is finishing an administration/management class and will be off for the balance of the summer. Our newly admitted class of 22 students begins their JMU OT

experience when they participate in orientation on June 10, with classes starting on June 14.

Elizabeth Richardson, Ms, OTR/L, JMU Level II Fieldwork Coordinator has been busy with continued development of an occupational therapy clinic that will be supported by the Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services (IIHHS) at JMU. This clinic will provide pediatric OT services to children and is slated to open by the end of 2010.

Elizabeth developed this concept through a business venture class that she enrolled in and participated further in its planning with Emily Budd and Allison Titus, two members of the JMU MOT class of 2009.

Jeff Loveland would like to thank the VOTA community for the cards and messages that he received during his mother's illness and eventual passing on May 10, 2010. Your concern and support is very much appreciated.

Jeffery Loveland, OTD, MS OTR/L

AOTA REP RAP: Updates from the Representative Assembly

The business of the 34th spring meeting of the Representative Assembly is presented here in summary. Task groups met online through OT Connections April 5-9, 2010 and face-to-face on April 28, 2010. The Assembly met face-to-face on April 29, 2010.

Business of the RA 2010

Motion 1, requesting that the CCCPD consider recommendation and evidence of need and demand for a Specialty Certification in School System practice, was defeated. A substitute motion was amended and adopted, which charges the CCCPD to implement a Phase I Exploratory Panel to determine member interest in and need for such a certification.

Motion 2, supporting Level II Fieldwork Supervision of Occupational Therapy Assistant Students by Occupational Therapy Assistants in Skilled Nursing Facilities, was defeated. Two related motions were adopted, charging the COE and COP to examine issues related to OTA FW in SNFs and charging the president to work with the SNF community to promote OTA FW in these settings.

Motions 3 and 4 were adopted, which approved the revised AOTA *Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics and Ethics Standards* (2010) and rescinded *Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics* (2005), *Core Values and Attitudes of Occupational Therapy Practice* and *Guidelines to the Occupational Therapy*

Code of Ethics, since the newly approved Standards document was intended to combine and replace the latter three documents.

Motions 5 and 6 were adopted, which approved the official documents, *Occupational Therapy Services in the Promotion of Psychological and Social Aspects of Mental Health* (Revised 2010) and *Specialized Knowledge and Skills in Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Intervention in Occupational Therapy Practice* (2010).

Motion 7 to approve the *Guidelines for Re-Entry into the Field of Occupational Therapy* was adopted as amended, which added language to

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AOTA REP RAP: con't.

the document as follows:

For practitioners who have been out of practice more than 3 years: Within the parameters present in a practitioner's workplace setting and applicable state regulations, complete a minimum of 30 hours of documented supervised practice in occupational therapy within the 12 months prior to anticipated reentry *or within 30 days of initiating employment as a practitioner providing occupational therapy services.*

Motion 8 was adopted, approving the revised *AOTA Standards for Continuing Competency*.

Motion 9 to accept the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Member Participation and a substitute motion were each defeated. Two related motions were adopted as amended. The first charges the President and Speaker of the RA to jointly appoint an ad hoc committees composed of the following people: Commission Chairs (4), SISC Chair, RA Speaker, an RA member, a member from the current Participation Ad Hoc committee, 2 members at-large, a member of ASAP, an ASD Steering Committee member, an OTA member, an officer of Association, and a Chairperson to continue to explore opportunities for both procedural and organizational changes designed to respond to the concerns raised by

the President in the recently defeated Participation Review motion with feedback from the AOTA membership with an interim report for fall and final report with recommended action to the Assembly in the Spring 2011. The second charges the Recognitions and Nominations Committees to go beyond preparing annual slates for AOTA elected positions and recognizing achievements of members; and assist in populating ad hoc committees, identifying potential volunteers via the COOL, recruiting potential leaders, and overseeing new Association initiatives to cultivate and train leaders. Implementation plan to be developed by Nominations and Recognition Committees for Spring 2011 RA.

Eight policy revisions recommended by the BPPC were approved and two additional motions were considered:

Vice Speaker Report Motion was approved, charging the President to direct the Executive Director to revise the Model Practice Act to reflect that state licensure requirements apply to occupational therapy practitioners engaged in education, research, administration and/or consultation. This motion was the result of last year's charge to the RA

Coordinating Council (RACC) to make recommendations regarding whether education, research, administration and consultation constituted practice.

Honorary Membership for Retired OTs was defeated; as written, it was found to be too complex and expensive to pursue at this time.

The minutes and approved official documents are available in their entirety on the AOTA Web site at www.aota.org by clicking on AOTA Leadership & Governance.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent your interests as AOTA members and practitioners. Should you have questions regarding 2010 RA business, ideas for drafting and submitting motions for 2011 RA business, or simply want to provide feedback to AOTA or to your Virginia RA team, please feel free to contact us. We are happy to hear directly from you.

Warmest regards,

Rebecca E. Argabrite Grove

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Occupational Therapy: Living Life To Its Fullest



**2231 Oak Bay Lane
Richmond, Virginia 23233**

OT Advisory Board Update...con't.

2. No member of the Virginia Board of Medicine or Occupational Therapy Advisory Board can further interpret the laws and regulations for licensees. The laws and regulations are written by the General Assembly for all to understand and follow. As practitioners are seeking clarification of our scope of practice, The BOM cannot remove risk for a licensee in their efforts to follow the laws and regulations governing their profession. The BOM or OT Advisory Board cannot interpret the laws and regulations further nor provide legal advice since this is the role for an attorney. Discussing clinical issues with a licensee

usually helps the practitioner to think out loud and allows them to come to a decision that is comfortable for them in their setting. Members of the BOM or OT Advisory cannot tell occupational therapy practitioners what to do regarding the OT/COTA licensure law.

3. The Virginia Board of Medicine was not responsible for the COTA regulations since it was a process that was jointly shared with the OT Advisory Board and leaders of VOTA. Both parties agreed on what the wording of specific OTA supervisory issues were going to be and responded to comments from practitioners across

the state. At no time was the scope of practice in our law/regulation questioned or examined for content or considered for change. Modifications to our scope of practice can be made but this will require another legislative action by VOTA through the BOM and will require General assembly approval.

All members of the Occupational Therapy Advisory Board appreciate hearing from OT practitioners from across the Commonwealth and we invite you to contact us in the future as necessary.

Jeff Loveland,
Chair- OT Advisory Board
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