



Do not be afraid. Be engaged.

Opening the Practice Act

IOTA is leading what is being called the single most important thing to affect every occupational therapy practitioner in Idaho – *we are in the process of revising the Idaho Occupational Therapy Practice Act*. With input from our legislative consultant John Watts, District 11 Representative Carlos Bilbao, executive director Linda Jackson and occupational therapy practitioners from every practice area, a members' copy of the proposed Practice Act is now being drafted through the Legislative Services Office. Some key points of the legislation are:

- The new Practice Act will provide a more contemporary definition of occupational therapy. This definition will assist service providers in reimbursement and scope of practice issues.
- The new Practice Act will better define the role and supervision of Aides in occupational therapy practice. This will reemphasize the professional education and skilled training that OT practitioners acquire and maintain. It will also make the role of the Occupational Therapy Assistant more vital.
- The new Practice Act will require continuing education for license renewal. This will protect the client and increase the level of professionalism of the provider.
- The new Practice Act will create the self-regulating Occupational Therapy Licensure Board (OTLB) of Idaho that is separate from the Board of Medicine (BOM). This will allow occupational therapy practitioners to be the guiding voice and authority for creating and implementing regulations that govern occupational therapy practice. Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, the individuals most knowledgeable about evidence based practice and current trends in the delivery of occupational therapy services, will have full autonomy to determine licensing and renewal rules, guidelines for supervision and make decisions regarding discipline and continuing competency.

According to the legislative steering committee, the most misunderstood aspect of the legislation is the proposal to become a self-regulating Board. Please be assured that this does not leave the medical model behind. Asked for an explanation, Chuck Willmarth, Director, AOTA State Affairs said, "The type of state regulation doesn't really impact how OT ordered by physicians (or others) or how payers view OT. I think the difference will be in the authority the board has to investigate violations of the law and to proactively develop regulations." He went on to describe how in Louisiana it took the OT board of advisors nearly 4 years to get some supervision regulations through the regulatory process since they are under the medical board.

Last year in Idaho, the OTLB recommended a disciplinary action that was overturned by the Board of Medicine. The practitioner in question was able to continue practice even though his or her peers sought injunction. This is a current example of how the OTLB is used as an advisory committee instead of a regulating authority within the BOM.

An older, yet significant example comes from when aides were added into the OT Practice Act by the Idaho School Districts. The notification was approved by the BOM before the OTLB and IOTA were advised that the legislation was being proposed. Had the OTLB been self-regulating, they would have involved earlier. Better relationships would have been built, and most importantly, the roles and responsibilities of occupational therapy assistants could have been better differentiated from the role of an aide in the delivery of occupational therapy in school based settings.

As OT professionals, we know that occupational therapy services are being delivered in more settings than ever before. It is our responsibility to protect our clients and ourselves by ensuring the appropriate regulations are in place. We believe that is best accomplished with a self-regulating board.

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Executive Board

District Chairs

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OTS

RA Representative & Past President

Ludee Vermaas
M.Ed., OTR/L

Executive Director

Linda Jackson



Annual Meeting Luncheon: Saturday, October 18 at the Holiday Inn Airport, Boise
IOTA continues to grow to serve you. Currently, 242 occupational therapy practitioners call themselves members. Thank you for your investment in your future. Join us at the Annual Meeting to learn more about the accomplishments, goals and objectives of the only Idaho association dedicated to advancing the OT profession. The luncheon is free with conference registration or tickets may be purchased separately online at www.id-ota.com for \$20.00. Information: (208) 388-4682.

Proposal to increase membership investment

The IOTA Bylaws require that changes to the membership dues schedule be approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting. This year, the Executive Board is seeking to raise dues to \$85/OT and \$65/OTA.

According to Treasurer Eric Burback OTR/L, CHT, this is news that no one wants to hear. But our growing association needs your support to attain our strategic goals and most importantly to ensure success as we work with our legislative consultants to revise the Occupational Therapy Practice Act and Rules Governing Occupational Therapy in Idaho.

In accordance with Article XI. Dues, Section 2. Amount, the membership will be asked to approve that dues be increased to \$85/OT and \$65/OTA effective January 1, 2009. Please see the enclosed insert for a complete review of this proposal.

Auction benefits lobby fund

One of the highlights of the IOTA Annual Conference is the Annual Silent Auction and Social Hour. This year we will mingle with our exhibitors and bid on our favorite items on Friday, October 17, 5:15 to 7:30 PM.

This is a great way meet with your friends and colleagues in a social setting even if you aren't attending the conference! Everyone is welcome. Please join us.

Do you have an item to donate? Please call (208) 388-4682 to arrange for a pick-up.

Executive Board welcomes new members

New members join the IOTA Executive Board (EB) as the administration changes in October. The newly elected officers are:

- Aine Keith-Brain, OTR/L—Vice President
- Sarah Oftedal, OTR/L—Treasurer
- Bryan Gee, OTD, OTR/L—Reimbursement Chair
- Nicolas Zohner, OTS —Student Representative

They join:

- Farrell Lindley, MOTR/L, President
- Aileen Ellis, COTA/L, Secretary
- Becki Stephens, OTR/L, SIS & Continuing Education Chair
- Ludee Vermaas, M.Ed., OTR/L, RA Delegate

Leaving the EB in October are Karla Brown, OTR/L; Eric Burback, OTR/L, CHT; Sarah Mennear, OTS; and Jill Walker Satren, OTR/L, CHT. IOTA extends our sincere appreciation for their service.

Executive Board looks to fill two positions

IOTA is currently recruiting for the positions of President-elect and Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Representative.

The President Elect holds a strategic planning position. The incumbent encourages leadership development through involvement on the annual conference and continuing education committees. This individual also provides counsel to the President and Executive Director as they prepare for their tenure as president.

The OTA Representative provides a voice for all occupational therapy assistants to the EB. This position serves as a co-chairman of the Nominating Committee.

If you are interested in learning more, or would like to nominate yourself or a colleague, please call (208) 388-4682.

JUST ADDED!

Practice Act Info Session

Please join us for a continental breakfast on Saturday, October 18, 7:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center. We will hold a comprehensive review of the proposed revisions to the Idaho Occupational Therapy Practice Act.

John Watts, IOTA Legislative Consultant and Lobbyist and Linda Jackson, Executive Director will lead us through the revisions, take questions and facilitate discussion for your grassroots involvement in this important legislation.

Reservations are not required, but appreciated. Please call: (208) 388-4682 Cost: \$10.00 or free with conference registration.

Social & Silent Auction

Friday, October 17
5:15 to 7:30 PM
Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center
3300 Vista, Boise, Idaho

Donation: \$10.00 at the door.
Free with conference registration.
Call 208.861.2310 for information.

Legislative Luncheon: Friday, October 17, 11:45 AM at the Holiday Inn Airport, Boise

Join your colleagues for our first legislative luncheon even if you are not registered for the conference! We will hear from Chris Metzler, Director, AOTA Federal Affairs, John Watts, Partner, Veritas Advisors and IOTA Legislative Consultant, and Idaho Representative Carlos Bilbao, District 11. Tickets are free with conference registration or \$35.00 if purchased separately. Call (208) 388-4682 or visit www.id-ota.com to learn more.

President's report

It has been an amazing year! A lot of our accomplishments have happened behind the scenes, working with small groups to promote occupational therapy in Idaho. You've heard about our major accomplishments many times: The Therapy Services Rule with Medicaid that allows independent providers of OT to bill Medicaid directly and the successful completion of all requirements to become an AOTA Approved Provider for continuing education. But our smaller accomplishments are no less significant for they represent the beginning of a greater presence for occupational therapy and IOTA in the regulatory landscape for health care in Idaho.

Yes, I am speaking about our work to revise the Idaho Occupational Therapy Practice Act. This work has led us to meet and form relationships with state agencies, other associations and legislators. It is so important that we continue to promote OT as a skilled discipline delivered by well-educated professionals. It is rewarding to see their "Aha" moment when they understand what the timely and appropriate delivery of OT services means for them and their clients. We must come together now and make sure that we have the resources to complete this mission. I ask you today to vote yes to increase your membership investment so that we can continue this work on your behalf.

Another great accomplishment this year has been the establishment of our first formal Continuing Education Committee led by the Annual Conference Committee. It's been overshadowed by our legislative work, but this committee has put together a first class conference that applies to OT practitioners in all practice areas: *OT in TBI and Neurological Injuries*. These injuries are often undiagnosed, especially in children. Enroll today so you can be sure that you are not overlooking the best treatment for your clients. Your registration will show your appreciation for our committee's dedication and great work.

Finally, thank you for letting me serve as president this past year. I feel we are just getting started and I am honored to be given your confidence to continue to lead for another year. I hope that you will answer when I ask you to do just a little more for occupational therapy in Idaho. Thank you.



Farrell Lindley, MOTR/L

Job descriptions to change for EB members

The Executive Board is asking IOTA members to adjust the duties of the President Elect, Vice President and OTA Representative by approving two amendments to the bylaws at the IOTA Annual Meeting.

The first amendment will help facilitate more effective participation for the OTA Representative. *Motion: Approve amending Article III. Officers, Section 5. Duties, H. OTA Representative as follows:*

- 3. Shall coordinate one or more activities for OTAs such as a conference call, online forum or listserv, or continuing education activity.*
- 4. Shall be a member of the nominating committee.*

The second amendment will allow the President Elect a more strategic role in leadership development and adjust the Vice President's role accordingly. *Motion: Approve amending Article III. Officers, Section 5. Duties, as follows:*

B. President Elect

- 1. Shall attend the annual ASAP (Affiliation of State Association Presidents) training for the office of President.*
- 2. Shall shadow the President to become familiar with IOTA standard operating procedures, legislative issues, and education and awareness programs and provide counsel as needed.*
- 3. In conjunction with the President, shall prioritize, initiate and oversee the Strategic Plan in an effort ensure a smooth transition process.*
- 4. Shall gain background information about*

IOTA, its members and issues by attending District and SIS meetings, promoting IOTA, and identifying and grooming future leaders.

5. Shall be a member of the Nominations Committee.

6. Shall be a voting member of the Executive Board.

C. Vice President

1. Shall discharge the duties of the President in his/her absence.

2. Shall succeed to the Presidency for the remaining portion of the term upon death, resignation, removal or disqualification of the President.

3. Shall serve as the district chair coordinator and provide information on current trends throughout the State to the Executive Board.

4. Shall be the Chair of the Nominations Committee.

5. Shall be a voting member of the Executive Board.

VOTE

Annual Meeting
October 18
12:15 p.m.



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OT Insight

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Welcome New Members!

- Kendra Lenzi, OTR/L
- Elizabeth Fanslow Givogue, OTR/L
- Douglas Anderson, COTA/L
- Patricia Rodriguez, OTR/L
- Margo Clark, OTR/L
- Susan Pahlas, COTA/L
- Theodore Peterson, OTR/L
- Emily Walther, MS, OTR/L
- Elisa Girona, OTR/L
- Mathew Dowding, OTR/L
- Cynthia Griggs, OTR/L, CHT
- Joanne Trammel, OTR/L
- Nicolas Zohner, OTS
- Shannon Paulson, MOTR/L
- Dayna Willbanks, OTR/L
- Lisa Triolo, OTR/L
- Lacey Osgood, OTR/L
- Katie Edmonds, OTR/L
- Kathryn Peet, OTS
- Melanie Ford, OTR/L
- James King, OTR/L
- Aubree Herrick, OTR/L
- Doris Teter, OTR/L
- Kelly Johnson, MOTR/L
- Lori Wheelwright, OTR/L
- Brian McCullough, OTR/L

Win this handmade quilt!



Tickets
\$5

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donated by
Mary Keith

All contributions will benefit IOTA Education and Awareness activities. Drawing will be held Friday, October 17.

Name: _____

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Need not be present to win.

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Please call 208-892-8888 for further information.