Join Us in Montpelier for the
2019 VOTA Conference!
Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
100 State St
Montpelier, VT 05602
Saturday March 16, 2019
8-4:30pm

Please share this mailing with non-VOTA members, friends, family and those in the general public. Easy way to promote our profession and state association!

AOTA Vision 2025

Occupational Therapy maximizes health, well-being and quality of life for all people, populations and communities by providing effective solutions to facilitate participation in everyday living.
2019 VOTA Conference

March 16, 2019

Capitol Plaza Hotel
Montpelier VT

Registration starts at 8:00am

Keynote presented by Chuck Willmarth, CAE
Associate Chief Officer, Health Policy and State Affairs
American Occupational Therapy Association

Beginning at 9:00am

Adult and Pediatric focused educational sessions from 10-4:00pm

Business Meeting and State of OT in VT presented during lunch

President's Reception to follow conference. Appetizers provided. Cash bar.

Cost:

All Day OTR Member $90/ OTR Non Member $140
All Day COTA Member $70/ COTA Non Member $105
All Day Student/Non-practicing $35
Other All Day Attendee $140

There will be online registration via our new website.

Check in soon to see our new website: www.vermontot.org
A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Caren Maslowsky, OTR/L

Happy New Year! I hope you are looking forward to 2019 as much as we are. This year, we have carefully considered feedback from our members regarding what YOU want from VOTA at our annual conference. As your President, it is part of my responsibility to help us remain informed on current events in Occupational Therapy and the climate of healthcare, in general.

That being said, it is my pleasure to announce the Keynote Speaker for the March 16, 2019, VOTA conference will be Chuck Willmarth, Associate Chief Officer, Health Policy and State Affairs, at AOTA. Pediatric O.T.’s in Vermont have concerns about Medicaid and caseload requirements. We, the Board, have listened. From my personal interactions with Chuck, I can assure you he is knowledgeable, caring and well worth your time to attend.

With the implementation of CMS 1696-F pending on October 1, 2019, [cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/medicare-issues-fiscal-year-2019-payment-policy-changes-skilled-nursing-facilities], there are many questions, and frankly anxious uncertainty, on the minds of SNF practitioners. Myself, I entered our profession in 1998, directly after implementation of RUGS. What a time to be a new grad! What I want to assure you is this: Occupational Therapy is a valuable and necessary service. There will most certainly be some waves to ride in the adjustment period. We will need to be creative to find opportunities to expand our practice settings, especially to reclaim our roots in community and mental health. As a profession, we are not going anywhere but up!

Now, more about the fun stuff! Capitol Plaza Hotel & Conference Center in Montpelier will be our host and chef for an amazing meeting of the best O.T. minds in Vermont! Discounted rooms are available Friday night in the VOTA block. The format is similar to last year’s, pairing one pediatric session opposite a topic of adult or general interest, to provide choices to everyone. Topics include: Group Dynamics in Adult O.T.; School Based Strategies: Supporting Sensory Motor, Fine Motor, Visual Perceptual, and Visual Motor Integration Skills in the Classroom; COPD Management; and Evidence-Based Practice, all by quality OT’s and OTA’s. The extremely successful Practice Area groups will continue to offer stimulating discussion and networking opportunities. If you’re like me, you learn best with hands-on experiential learning. We’ve added a workshop to make an iPad holder using repurposed materials. And of course, everyone likes vendors with job openings and free samples!

Thank you for your patience during our transition to the Wild Apricot software platform. Registration will be open on the new website soon. Be sure your membership dues are current to benefit from reduced tuition. Please contact a Board member if your organization would be interested in being a sponsor. Looking forward to seeing you in March at the Annual Meeting.

Be well,
Caren
Time to submit your application for the annual Diane Aja Scholarship!

**Anyone interested in attending AOTA’s annual conference needs to apply!!!!**

This is an annual award for an active VOTA member to receive AOTA member rate admission fee to the annual AOTA Conference April 4-7, 2019 in New Orleans, LA.

An article must be submitted after the conference including photos.

Please visit our website to submit your application: https://www.vermontot.org/diane-aja

Answer the following questions and submit via email or via our online submission form:

1. Tell us about yourself, including the strengths and talents that would contribute to the growth of VOTA.
2. Describe one goal for professional development as an OT provider, and how you would use the experience to further this objective, were you selected to attend the national conference.
3. Recently there has been local and national focus on healthcare accessibility. Factors especially affecting Vermont are the opioid crisis and shortage of primary care providers. AOTA has made this an area of focus as well. What role do you see occupational therapy playing to address ONE of those issues for needs of VT communities?

**Deadline is February 15th, so our winner can be announced at our annual VOTA Conference on March 16, 2018.**

---

**Board Member Position Available!**

Please consider running for the position of Public Relations!

Email otvermont@gmail.com for further details.
A message from our Vermont Representative to AOTA—Ela Dupont

Summary of the RA Fall Online Meeting November 5–12, 2018

- The Representative Assembly (RA) met online from November 5–12, 2018. There was a request to suspend the rule (#10) requiring RA members with voice and no vote to post “voice/no vote” each time they engaged (posted) in debate. The motion to suspend this rule was defeated, and the Rules of the Day were adopted as originally posted.

- The outcome of voting on action items included in the meeting agenda was as follows:

  - **Motion to Update Policy E.6 Entry-Level Education of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants**: Postponed. A motion to postpone action until Spring 2019 was adopted following discussion that additional information was needed prior to making a decision on the educational point of entry.

  - **Approval of Dual-Entry of Practice for OT and OTA Education (Ad Hoc Committee)**: Adopted. This motion will establish an ad hoc committee to gather information to adequately inform members of the RA in order to discuss and vote on educational point of entry for the OT and OTA.

  - **Survey to Obtain Data as to Level of Constituent Support of Entry Level**: Adopted. This motion requires that the Speaker request the Board of Directors to authorize a survey regarding level of support from stakeholders for a single point of education entry for the OT and OTA.

  - **Preparing for the Faculty Workforce of the Future**: Adopted. This motion will establish an ad hoc committee to examine the current and future OT and OTA faculty workforce for the purpose of making a fully informed decision about the capacity of delivering entry-level education at the OTD level and baccalaureate level.

  - **Motion to Modify Article III Section 4 of the Official Bylaws of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. Related to Conditions for Membership Revocation**: Defeated. This motion was defeated following discussion that it was important to maintain a fair process of membership termination that includes the right of the member to present evidence to protect her or himself.

Consulting Position:

School Based OTR Needed: High School in Manchester, VT.

OTR Coverage for 3-4 Students weekly beginning immediately until at least mid-March; may continue to June.

1099 Compensation. Contact Mary Diaz at mdiaz@burrburton.org for consideration.
An update from our legislative chair, Todd Patterson:

Tricare Proposed Rule for Assistants as Providers

The Department of Defense published a proposed rule to “add certified or licensed physical therapy assistants (PTAs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) as Tricare-authorized providers.” The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2018 required the Department of Defense to add OTAs and PTAs as providers and this proposed rule is the next step in this process. Under the proposed rule, supervision requirements for OTAs and PTAs are the same as under Medicare. AOTA will be further analyzing the proposed rule and will be commenting ahead of the deadline in February. **OTA services provided to TRICARE recipients will not be reimbursed until this process is complete.** Please watch www.aota.org for further information.

AOTA: Rehab Research Recommendations to the National Institutes of Health

These meetings continue AOTA’s emphasis on engaging specific NIH Institutes to urge them to enhance their rehabilitation research efforts, which will increase the number of OT researchers participating in health services research and expand external recognition of OT’s role in changing health care systems to improve patient outcomes. [https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/Congressional-Affairs/Legislative-Issues-Update/2018/AOTA-Urges-NIH-To-Focus-On-Rehab-Research.aspx](https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/Congressional-Affairs/Legislative-Issues-Update/2018/AOTA-Urges-NIH-To-Focus-On-Rehab-Research.aspx)

Occupational Therapy in New Law to Address the Opioid Epidemic

The Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act (HR6) was passed by the House and Senate earlier in the fall.

Occupational therapy’s inclusion in the SUPPORT Act is due to the work of AOTA and its members throughout the development and passage of this legislation. AOTA worked with Congress to ensure that legislation would improve access to appropriate pain management services for people with acute and chronic pain and emphasized the role of OT in treating pain non-pharmacologically. [https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/Congressional-Affairs/Legislative-Issues-Update/2018/occupational-therapy-included-new-law-opioid-epidemic-pain-management.aspx](https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/Congressional-Affairs/Legislative-Issues-Update/2018/occupational-therapy-included-new-law-opioid-epidemic-pain-management.aspx)

AOTA Preparation Recommendations for Medicare B reimbursement changes for OTA/PTA services

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 - BBA18 requires services furnished “in whole or in part” by a therapy assistant to be paid at 85% of the applicable Part B payment amount for the service, **effective January 1, 2022**. (For more on this, visit [https://bit.ly/2NWeOkc](https://bit.ly/2NWeOkc)). For this reason, CMS has established two additional therapy modifiers for use as a payment modifier on the claim line—one for occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) and another for physical therapist assistants (PTAs). The new therapy payment modifiers for services furnished by OTAs and PTAs are required on claims beginning January 1, 2020. However, payment reductions will not be effective until 2022 under BBA18.

Continue your VOTA Membership!

Encourage co-workers and friends who are Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapist Assistants to consider becoming a member of our organization.

Please apply on our website or request an application form from our membership chair to sign up for a 1 or 3 year membership with VOTA.

Questions?
Please contact:
Viki Delmas
email: vikidelmas@yahoo.com

OT 3 Years: $110
OTA 3 Years: $70
Student/Retired/Non practicing: $15
OT 1 year: $40
OTA 1 year: $25