

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER



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Conference 2024

09/07/2024

“INCLUSIVITY IN
EVERYDAY LIVING”



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

ALYSON STOVER, MOT, JD, OTR/L, BCP
AOTA PRESIDENT

Newsletter created &
edited by:

Morgan Martinez, OTS & Dana Boyle, OTS
Co-communication Chairs for NMOTA
Contact us: communications@nmota.org

Conference 2024

BY: ALONDRA JIMENEZ COTA/L, CONFERENCE CHAIR

“INCLUSIVITY IN EVERYDAY LIVING”

Join us for the 2024 Annual NMOTA Conference on Saturday, September 7th, 2024, at the UNM Continuing Education Building.

The annual NMOTA Conference will look a little different this year. NMOTA leadership has responded to budgetary and time constraints by arranging a ONE-DAY conference at the UNM Continuing Education Center.

This year's conference theme is, "Inclusivity in Everyday Living," which promises thought-provoking discussions and valuable insights. We are delighted to announce Alyson Stover, President of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), as the keynote speaker. Her expertise and leadership in the occupational therapy profession will elevate our understanding and inspire meaningful dialogue.

Prepare for a dynamic one-day conference experience. From the engaging conference keynote session to exploring innovative solutions at vendor tables, and attending informative breakout sessions, your day will be filled with insightful perspectives. Cap it off with the Soiree at 4:30 pm, featuring networking opportunities, appetizers, and thought-provoking poster presentations.



PICTURED: NMOTA BOARD AT 2023 CONFERENCE

Become a Conference Sponsor and meet NM OTs and OTAs

Turquoise and Silver Sponsorships are still available

https://nmota.org/Sponsor_NMOTA_Conference

See our Agenda & Register Now:

<https://nmota.org/meetinginfo.php?id=1&ts=1716340713>

VP NOTICES

BY: MELODYE THOMAS, OTR/L
VICE PRESIDENT

School-based Therapy Collegial Conferencing:

Several therapists in New Mexico are seeking a method to collaborate with others in the state.

If you are interested in such a collaboration, email vicepresident@NMOTA.org

Are you a Mental Health Occupational Therapist?

MH OT's across the nation are forming an Interstate Mental Health OT Consortium as a way for MH OTs to come together and collaborate. If you have questions or comments for the consortium, please email vicepresident@NMOTA.org

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY: SUE SHELLEY, OTR/L
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR BEING A PART OF THE NEW MEXICO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

Currently we have 312 active members. Active membership connects OT practitioners to our mission and to our law-makers. This is important so that we can advocate for laws like the OT scope of practice act.

Benefits of membership include:

- **Engagement:** NMOTA provides opportunities to network, professional opportunities, and builds friendship/community.
- **Representation:** NMOTA lobbies, testifies, presents, and advocates for the distinct value of the Occupational Therapy profession.
- **Awareness:** NMOTA educates, raises awareness, and promotes the profession of Occupational Therapy.
- **Leadership:** NMOTA is an all volunteer organization led by OTs, COTAs, and OT students dedicated to a job well done of operating a membership association.

CEU COMMITTEE INFORMATION

BY: MARY THELANDER HILL, MOT OTR/L ATP
CONTINUING EDUCATION CHAIR AND WEBMASTER

The continuing education committee's primary goal will be to consolidate all information for presentations at conferences into documents that are accessible to conference attendees and to the NM Board of Examiners for Occupational Therapy so that we get very swift approval of CEUs.

The CEU committee and Conference Committee are planning a 1-day conference with at least 7 CEUs. Our national, regional, and local speakers have prepared informative round-tables, presentations and posters.

- See our Agenda & Register Now:
 - <https://nmota.org/meetinginfo.php?id=1&ts=1716340713>
- Sponsor Conference and Meet the OT Practitioner Community:
 - https://nmota.org/Sponsor_NMOTA_Conference

NM OT LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

We have some exciting news! Colin T. Baugh was appointed to serve on the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) as Position No. 4 – Bernalillo County.

Colin is a proud New Mexican, a proud OT, and a proud member of both NMOTA and AOTA. Colin is a full-time school-based therapist with LSG and Associates. This is wonderful exposure for us as a profession. Thank you, Colin, for serving on the MRGCD!



PICTURED: COLIN T. BAUGH, OTR/L

COMMUNICATIONS MESSAGE

By Dana Boyle & Morgan Martinez, Communication Committee Co-Chairs

As Co-Chairs of the Communication Committee, we've been honored to serve you over the past year. Our collaborative efforts have focused on enhancing engagement and connectivity within our OT/OTA community.

Throughout our term, we've developed 35 impactful posts on both Facebook & Instagram, along with numerous engaging social media story updates. Additionally, we worked hard to inform members about upcoming events through email blasts and sharing relevant news on our social media platforms. We've developed two newsletters, promoted & participated in our annual conference and legislative day.



We also highlighted research projects & promoted community fundraisers and OT/OTA events. This past year, we tried to keep our online community as informed and as inspired as possible. As our term draws to a close, we are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve alongside the dedicated NMOTA board and community. It's been a truly fulfilling experience, and we look forward to witnessing the continued success of the association in the hands of our wonderful board. We both graduated from UNM MOT program in May and have started our fieldwork II rotations. We look forward to becoming practitioners in this amazing Field.

TOP PICTURED:
DANA BOYLE & MORGAN MARTINEZ

AOTA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY UPDATES

BY: CARMEN MCCLELLAND, MOT OTR/L
NEW MEXICO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE TO AOTA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

RA meeting update, AOTA update from conference March 21st-24th, 2024:

2024 AOTA conference was a wonderful success! New Mexicans gathered from across the state to catch up over appetizers and a really good espresso martini.

2025 AOTA conference will be held in Philadelphia from April 3-5 to celebrate Vision 2025,

I hope to see you there.

AOTA has a new president-elect, Dr. Arameh Anvarizadeh. I've already planted the seed for her to speak at our conference in the next 1-2 years. Fingers crossed she remembers when it's time to formally ask her. AOTA also has a new executive director, Dr. Katie Jordan.

AOTA annual business meeting will be held this summer on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm Eastern Time. At this meeting, there will be voting on changes to the proposed bylaws. For those of you that remember the bylaw debacle from 2 years ago, this is slightly different. You can vote on each amendment/article. You can read both a summary of the proposed amendments and a draft of the proposed bylaws on the AOTA website.

One last bit of exciting news... **AOT PAC raised \$41,000 at the 2024 conference!** This is incredibly important for positioning OT at the federal level.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

BY: JESSICA SALAZAR, OTR/L



PICTURED:
UNM OTS, ENMU OTAS,
&
NMOTA BOARD MEMBERS

2024 LEGISLATIVE DAY

On January 31st, 2024, students and faculty from the University of New Mexico and Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell, and community practitioners participated in the in-person Occupational Therapy Legislative Day at the Roundhouse. This year was the first time the event has been in-person at the Roundhouse in Santa Fe since 2020. Students, faculty, and community practitioners gathered together to listen to Jessica Salazar (Legislative Chair), Mary Thelander (Webmaster and Legislative Committee Member), and Linda Siegle (NMOTA Lobbyist) talk about the importance of legislative advocacy for the profession of Occupational Therapy.

Additionally, Linda Siegle discussed important legislation that could impact occupational therapists in the state. Afterwards, participants educated New Mexico state legislators and the public about the distinct value of Occupational Therapy and how clients across New Mexico benefit from our services. Additionally, practitioners and students that were unable to attend this year's Legislative Day had the option of attending virtually and received one free CEU.

We Thank Linda Siegle

We want to give a big thank you to all members as your dues support our lobbyist, Linda Siegle. In the past month, we have had to call on Linda to help statewide DD Waiver agencies better navigate the current climate.



PICTURED: JESSICA SALAZAR,
UNM OTS, ENMU OTAS, & NMOTA BOARD
MEMBERS

Website Notifications

This spring, NMOTA selected a new web-hosting provider, Star Chapter, for multiple reasons and member benefits:

- Seamless membership renewals
- Member Access to a “Member’s Only” area for job postings, training announcements, and connecting with other OTPs
- Consolidation of web-hosting and conference hosting into 1 provider (less expensive for the Association and more streamlined)

We believe this move will be both a long-term cost savings, as well as an investment in communication across our different specialties and state. If you are a member, please log-into the member’s area using the e-mail associated with your NMOTA account. If you are not a member, join now.

If there is any problem or concern with your NMOTA account, please contact membership@nmota.org

Carolyn’s Causes Mini-Grant

To honor the memory of Carolyn Rustvold, a gifted pediatric OT in our community, whose life was taken, NMOTA is hosting information about the Carolyn’s Causes Mini-Grant.

To honor Carolyn’s memory, Carolyn’s Causes funds mini-grants to help pay for specialty training, equipment, supplies or other items that may help people in New Mexico function in their daily activities.

Who can apply:

Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, Educators, Parents, families, students, people who have difficulty completing their activities in some way, or other therapists (SLP, PT...). Carolyn’s Causes decides on grants based on the need, the amount, and the qualifications of the person asking for the grant.

There is no deadline.

For More Information: visit

www.nmota.org/Carolyn_s_Causes_Mini-Grant

Contact Carolyn's Causes

Mail To: Carolyn’s Causes, c/o Kay Thurman
10528 Ridge Top Ct. NW; Albuquerque, NM 87114

Check out our new look, post in the member forum, and more at:

www.nmota.org

Please note: NMOTA hosts this information as a service to the community.

NMOTA does not respond to requests for the mini-grant or have any influence on the mini-grant decision.