

REVISTA OT

A NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

VOL 35 NO. 2 / Spring 2022 EDITION



HAPPY OT MONTH!

TOTA *at*
ACTA | **INSPIRE**
2022 Annual Conference & Expo

MARCH 31 - APRIL 3, 2022

TOTA.org

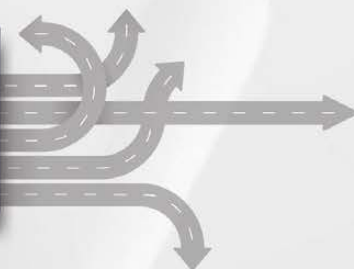
2022 TOTAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**NOV
11-12**

ACCEPTING PROPOSALS THROUGH APRIL 30TH!

JOURNEY
forward



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TOTA LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

The next regular Legislative Session or the 88th session will begin on January 10, 2023 and end on May 29, 2023. TOTA's Day at the Capitol will occur during the next regular session in 2023. Until then we will be working on the legislative agenda and keeping you informed through our website, emails, and district leadership.

Make your TOTA membership work for you by engaging with your local representatives and candidates on issues that are important to you and your practice as occupational therapy practitioners and students. Make sure your voice is heard.

Please let us know what questions you have or how we can assist you in getting to know our elected leaders. Thank you for all you do for patients and clients in Texas!

John Luna: johnlunaotr@gmail.com
TOTA Staff: info@tota.org

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Click here to make a nomination!

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE APPLICATION EXTENDED THROUGH APRIL 5TH

CLICK HERE TO APPLY>



Revista OT is posted online three times a year by the Texas Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., 1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 516W, Austin, TX 78723.

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REVISTA OT: Spring Edition 2022

2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION IS LIVE!

Exhibitor and Advertising Information

Live Exhibit Dates:

November 11-12, 2022 (with a Virtual-Only option)

Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center
3100 Town Center Trail, Denton, TX 76201

The TOTA Annual Conference provides the ideal place and time to promote your products/services to the OT community. We are planning a LIVE event this year. Policies and procedures will be based on Local, State, and CDC guidelines. Our goal is to have a full, enriching and safe experience for conference attendees, exhibitors and employees.

Please see our Prospectus for all exhibitor and advertising options. And note that we have an Virtual-Only option for those who cannot join us in person. Once you have read the details and decided on the booth and sponsorship you would like, please click on the Exhibitor/Advertising Registration Form below to begin your online registration process. *In the event that the on-site conference will have to be canceled due to COVID-19, you will receive a full refund.*

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO AND TO ACCESS THE 2022 PROSPECTUS



Letter from the President

Jason Stark, OT, MHA – TOTA President



Jason Stark, OT, MHA
TOTA President

Happy OT Month! After years of practicing positive psychology in major corporations and with people from more than 100 countries, David Pollay learned a simple, universal truth: **engaging in fulfilling activities daily is what truly leads to happiness.** This aligns directly with what our profession is about and is a great way to celebrate OT month.

In his book *The Three Promises*, Pollay explains how making three simple promises to yourself every day can create a life filled with joy, career satisfaction, and the power to positively impact other people's lives.

Find Joy Every Day
Do What you Love
Make a Difference

What an opportunity we all have with our chosen profession to fulfill these promises daily. I encourage you all to think about each of the promises and answer the following questions:

What brings you joy?
What do you love?
How do you make a difference?

Sometimes the answers to these questions are different at work, when volunteering, or at home. It is important to distinguish between the three. I encourage you all to bring the three promises to whatever setting you are in and understand your answers as you make a difference in the lives of the patients, communities, and students we serve.

When we know the why behind what we do, it propels us to be our best selves while doing it. TOTA is continuing the work to be the best organization to serve the OTs in Texas as we answer these questions and fulfill our promises to you.



Judith Joseph, Executive Director



Judith Joseph, OTR,
MA, CDRS, TOTA
Executive Director

I AM NOT A MEMBER because [CLICK HERE TO ANSWER](#)

Are we strong enough to withstand threats to the occupational therapy scope of practice in Texas?

Will we be able to respond effectively to the needs of the OT community with so few members?

Will TOTA be able to continue providing guidance and references on how to advocate for change in specific practice areas?

How will we collaborate with AOTA State Affairs leaders and provide TOTA members with current resources to support advocacy efforts in Texas if the association ceases to exist?

According to the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiner's (TBOTE) website, there are approximately 11,560 occupational therapists and 6,550 occupational therapy assistants are currently licensed by the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners. As the executive director of this association, my great concern is that, at the time of the writing of this article, there are only 645 occupational therapists and 145 occupational therapy assistants. These numbers do not reflect our fifteen honorary life members or the 906 student members. How is it possible that our student members outnumber licensed practitioners?

Every week I answer phone calls and emails from practitioners who are not members of TOTA. The calls range from trying to renew their license to requests for TOTA to respond to practice concerns in home health, school systems, telehealth access, dry needling, occupational therapy assistant supervision, possible ethical violations, documentation requirements, and continuing education. Although TOTA's mission is, in part, to be responsive to the professional development, information needs, and educational requirements of its members; I find it important to respond to phone calls and emails from non-members. The hope is that providing information to non-members, it will induce them to transition into new members.

For many years, TOTA has reached out to licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants to determine why they are not members. Marketing and recruitment attempts have included promotional brochures, discounts on continuing education events, implementation

of a membership management system, a redesigned website, offering monthly membership payment options, and increasing our presence on social media. During the 2021 annual conference, we created a promotional video which to date has been viewed only 255 times.

Despite the increased number of licensed practitioners in Texas, TOTA membership remains stagnant and appears to be on the decline. How do we communicate the importance of having representation through your professional association? TOTA employs a lobbyist and during the 2021 legislative session we were able to monitor and comment on over 100 bills that could have impacted occupational therapy practice. Through our lobbyists, we were able to meet with more than a dozen key legislators and express the concerns of the OT community.

We cannot compete with the countless continuing education (CE) platforms and conferences that provide CE offerings for advanced practitioners but, with your help, we can work with other specialized practice organizations to host advanced practice events. In 2021, TOTA hosted its second conference focused on policy, research, and best practices for service delivery in schools. We are collaborating with the Texas Society for Hand Therapy to bring specialized training to the 2022 Annual Conference. There are many opportunities for improvement, and we are in a great position to implement new initiatives.

Help us be the change you want to see, help provide the services and support you want from your state association. TOTA is a non-profit professional association and remains dedicated to [our mission](#).

I hope you will consider the value of your professional association and [become a member today](#). Your membership and participation can make a significant impact on what we are able to accomplish as a much larger group of occupational therapy professionals. One of my favorite quotes is from congresswoman Shirley Chisholm,

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."

But what if there is no one to bring the folding chair?

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Education:	Megan Taylor
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	William Sit
OTA Representative	Layman Miller
Student Representatives	Jennifer Sanchez-Morales (OT)

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TOTA 2022 Elections – Deadline Approaching April 30

For more information regarding requirements, open positions, and important deadlines, please visit the State and District Offices page.

[CLICK HERE](#)

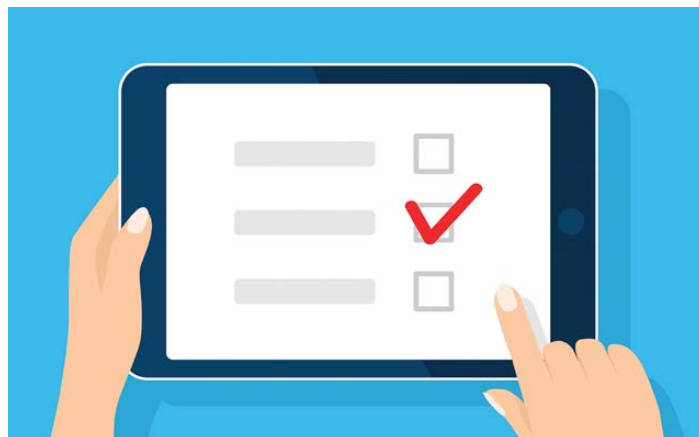
Voting will occur from June 1 to June 30, 2022. If you have questions regarding nominations or elections, please contact the nominating committee at elections@tota.org.

The 2022 Nominating Committee:

Ricky Joseph - Chair	Julie Hebert
Cecilia Fierro	Erik Johnson
Lorinda Harris	Leonard Sobel

TOTA Mental/Behavioral Health Adhoc Committee

tota.org



The TOTA Mental/Behavioral Health Adhoc committee needs your help in completing a survey of OT practitioners who are currently practicing in mental/behavioral health settings.

The purpose of the survey questionnaire is to establish and defend our unique approach based on the use of occupation-focused performance of daily occupations to improve the quantity and quality of clients' lives who have mental/behavioral problems. If we can establish our unique role(s) to ourselves and articulate that uniqueness to other mental/behavioral professionals, then we can develop best practices through collaboration using accepted current models and frameworks.

We need to identify and demonstrate that we do have a unique, valued, and studied approach using occupation-based performance that can be provided by occupational therapy practitioners to Texas-based clients with mental/behavioral problems.

There are two surveys one for those who work with adults and one for those who work with children and youth.

ADULT SURVEY LINK

<https://forms.gle/VdhFE6LkSpjktvg6>

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SURVEY LINK

<https://forms.gle/h4MJyVjaHi48TFk4A>

Committee Members

Clarissa Medrano, OTR, MOT, MBWP – Chair
Claudette Fette, Ph.D., OTR, CRC
Sharon Hennigan, OTR, MA, CCM, CHT
John Luna, OTD, OTR
Ricky Joseph, Ph.D., MA-HRM, OTR
Kathlyn Reed, Ph.D., OTR, MLIS, FAOTA
Sandra Whisner, PhD, OTR

What Is Your Goal?

Megan Taylor, OTR, OTD



Megan Taylor,
OTR, OTD
TOTA Education Chair

When you join TOTA or visit our website, what is your goal?

Is it learning or serving? We have opportunities for both!

Learning Opportunities

TOTA is committed to offering high-quality CE events. Our CE reviewers are members who ensure 3 things required for high-quality CE: 1) that presenters are qualified, 2) that content is relevant to occupational therapy practice, and 3) that content meets the standards for continuing education established by the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE). What does this mean for you?

- TOTA offers numerous statewide and district-sponsored CE events.
- Many CE events are offered to members FREE of charge or at reduced rates.
- TBOTE accepts all CE events pre-approved by TOTA or AOTA for your license renewal.
- TOTA-approved courses are easily accessible at <https://www.tota.org/approved-courses>.

Save the Date: Plan on attending our 2022 TOTA Annual Conference November 11-12, 2022, in Denton for more outstanding CE events as we "jOURney forward."

Serving Opportunities

TOTA sends out a "Call for Reviewers" seeking members to serve as peer reviewers for conference proposals and CE events. We are so thankful for our CE reviewers who volunteer their time to make sure courses pre-approved by TOTA are appropriate in content and quality for occupational therapy practitioners in Texas. What a great way to serve our profession and state!

The 2022 TOTA Annual Conference theme is jOURney forward, and the "Call for Proposals" is open. Be a presenter and serve our profession by sharing evidence-based practice and research. Proposals are being accepted until April 30, 2022.

[tota.org](https://www.tota.org)

A banner for the 2022 TOTA Annual Conference. On the left, the text "2022 CALL FOR PROPOSALS" is displayed, with "2022" in large, stylized red and black numbers. Below this, a black bar contains the text "DEADLINE TO SUBMIT -- APRIL 30th" in white. On the right, there is a graphic of a winding road with dashed white lines, leading towards the text "JOURNEY forward" in a stylized font, with "JOURNEY" in red and "forward" in black. Below this, it says "November 11-12 • Denton, TX" in red.

Notifying Members and Inviting Member Comment on Proposed Changes to the TOTA Bylaws

tota.org

On January 30, 2022 the elected board of TOTA unanimously voted in support of two motions that would result in changes to the current TOTA bylaws. Consistent with Article XIV, Section 1 of the TOTA bylaws, proposed changes to the bylaws will be presented to the membership for vote and TOTA Policy 8.1, information concerning bylaw changes will be submitted to membership for review sixty days prior to vote. To provide comment or ask questions on the proposed changes, please contact Jason Stark, President at totapresident@tota.org. Comments and questions will be accepted until noon on May 27, 2022. The vote on the proposed changes will occur in connection with the officer election ballot from June 1 – 30, 2022.

Motion 1: Addition of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee as a Standing Committee

Submitted by Kira Beal, Gulf Coast East District Chair and seconded by Monica Clark, Alamo South district Chair

Background and Rationale: The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Ad Hoc Committee was established in July 2020. According to Article VIII, Section 2 of the TOTA Bylaws, ad hoc committees are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board to address specific tasks and then disbanded after presenting a final report. In contrast, standing committees are established to ensure the welfare of TOTA and fulfill its purposes over the life of the organization (Article VIII, Section 1 of the TOTA Bylaws). The proposed DEI Standing Committee addresses issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion that cannot be provided within the existing structure of the TOTA standing committees outlined in the bylaws. The purpose of this committee is to transform TOTA into a fully integrated and inclusive OT community with a long-term commitment to address disparities within the organization and achieve an equitable occupational experience for all members not presently addressed by existing standing committees within TOTA. Focus and action of the DEI committee will include, but will not be limited to, assuring diversity through the representation of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC), as well as, those who experience discrimination due to age, disability, socio-economic status, faith, gender identity, and/or sexual orientation.

Proposed Bylaw Changes:

Current Bylaw	Proposed New Bylaw
Article VIII, Section 1. There shall be six (6) committees established to ensure the welfare of TOTA and to fulfill its purposes. The President appoints the Chair, with confirmation of the Board, who serves concurrently with the President's term of office. Members are recommended by the Board or selected by the Chair with confirmation of the Board. <i>[Lists the current 6 standing committees and the primary responsibility of each in 1-2 sentences]</i>	Article VIII, Section 1. There shall be seven (7) committees established to ensure the welfare of TOTA. The President appoints the Chair, with confirmation of the Board, who serves concurrently with the President's term of office. Members are recommended by the Board or selected by the Chair with confirmation of the Board. <i>[Existing standing committees remain as currently written]</i> 7. Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. i. Shall have responsibility for overseeing that all activities of the TOTA are consistent with promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion for all members of the Association. ii. Shall provide resources, such as educational materials, to TOTA officers and committees for the purposes of promoting diversity equity, and inclusion for all members of the association.

continued on next page

Motion 4: Removal of the District Treasurer Position

Submitted by Shari Felton, TOTA Treasurer and seconded by Guili Krug, Capital Centex District Chair

Background and Rationale:

TOTA hired an outside accounting firm to review our policies and procedure. Based on one of their recommendations the district checking accounts were closed as it was determined a more centralized system would be more secure and efficient with the increase in the use of electronic transactions. Without district level checking accounts the State treasurer reviewed the need for the office of district treasurers and concluded that there was no longer a reason for that position to remain.

Proposed Bylaw Changes:

Current Bylaw	Proposed New Bylaw
Article IX, Section 4. The District shall have a minimum of four (4) elected officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.	Article IX, Section 4. The District shall have a minimum of three (3) elected officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.
Article IX, Section 8. The District Chair and Treasurer will be elected in one (1) year. The Secretary and Vice Chair will be elected in the alternate year. Half of the Districts will vote for the Chair and Treasurer in even years, the other half in odd years.	Article IX, Section 8. The District Chair will be elected in one (1) year. The Secretary and Vice Chair will be elected in the alternate year. Half of the Districts will vote for the Chair in even years, the other half in odd years.
Article IX, Section 9. When the Vice-Chair is unable to assume the office of Chair, the Treasurer assumes the office of Chair until a special election is held for Chair and Vice-Chair. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Vice-Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer; the Chair shall appoint, with the confirmation of the local Board, a replacement to complete the term of office.	Article IX, Section 9. When the Vice-Chair is unable to assume the office of Chair, the Secretary assumes the office of Chair until a special election is held for Chair and Vice-Chair. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Vice-Chair, or Secretary; the Chair shall appoint, with the confirmation of the local Board, a replacement to complete the term of office.



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Staying Informed and Staying Engaged as an OTA

Layman Darnell Miller, COTA



Layman Darnell Miller,
COTA, TOTA State OTA
Representative

Staying informed and staying engaged are necessary for the occupational therapy assistant (OTA) in today's changing healthcare environment. This is especially true with the Medicare Part B Payment Differential, which took effect January 1, 2022.

The Part B payment differential is a component of the 2018 Balanced Budget Act, where the CO Modifier was introduced. According to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the CO modifier consists of an OTA's portion or whole OT intervention delivered as an outpatient service. The Bipartisan Budget Act further highlights that Medicare Part B services provided by the OTA will only be 85% reimbursable of the total amount billed. Medicare Part B reimburses outpatient rehab services and for skilled nursing facility (SNF) residents whose Part A benefits have expired.

A significant number of OTAs work at skilled nursing facilities. According to AOTA's Work Survey (2019), approximately 43.1% of OTAs work SNFs as of 2018, a 12.8% decrease since 2014. These percentages reflect the impact of this CO modifier on more than half of practicing OTAs in SNFs. An OTA's role is essential in SNFs. They allow the evaluating therapists time to evaluate residents and the performance of administrative and supervisory duties working at a skilled nursing facility. Although this decision focuses on the OTA, it impacts the occupational therapist (OT), the clients, and the facilities where they work.

Marcos Quintanilla, COTA and Rehab Director at a local skilled nursing facility in the Rio Grande Valley, reported that his employer was prepared for the change, resulting in a smoother transition when the change took effect in January. The most significant difference has been the evaluating OT providing more OT intervention for the Part B residents. In the past, treatment was delegated primarily to the OTAs.

Quintanilla expressed that his primary concern is the decrease of the Medicare Part A population, which historically occurs in the summer months. The facility typically screens and picks up qualified Part B patients to help offset the Part A census decline. This census decline could result in reduced work hours for the OTA since they would not be treating these Part B patients.

So, what can you do? If not already a member, become a member of TOTA and contribute to the TOTAPAC. Encourage your friends and colleagues to become members. The intra-professional collaboration between the OTA and the OT is essential. Both play a vital role in skilled nursing facilities. There is strength in numbers. Contact your state and national representatives and let them know how their decisions affect you and the clients you serve.

Another way to get involved is to attend this year's TOTA Annual Conference in Denton, TX. An OTA Forum will be hosted to provide you the opportunity to voice your concerns, exchange ideas, and collaborate with your peers across the state. Please share this information with your colleagues. If you are being affected by this Medicare change, let us here at TOTA know. Your story is powerful.

References

AOTA (2019). *Workforce and salary survey. Primary work setting*. AOTA.org <https://library.aota.org/AOTA-Workforce-Salary-Survey-2019/AOTA-Workforce-Salary-Survey-2019/14>

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (2021, November, 11). *Billing examples using CQ/CO modifiers for services furnished in whole or in part by PTAs and OTAs*. CMS.gov <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/therapy-services/billing-examples-using-cqco-modifiers-services-furnished-whole-or-part-ptas-and-otas>

The History of the TOTA Newsletter / Revista

Esther Bell, MA, OTR, FAOTA - OT Centennial

PART 1



Esther Bell, MA, OTR,
FAOTA – OT Centennial

When the question was raised as to when the TOTA newsletter was first titled *REVISTA*, it set off a lot of searching. Kitty Reed searched her amazing sources such as our archives, while Esther Bell searched resources of newsletters, minutes, and conference programs stored in her home. Finally, with much effort, the date was narrowed down to between 1986 and 87. The 1986 newsletters were still called *The Newsletter*. The archives had no 1987 issues of newsletters, but in Esther Bell's archives was a March 1987 newsletter with the title *REVISTA*. Chuck Christiansen was the newsletter editor at that time. In that issue was a letter to the editor expressing pleasure with the January 1987 *REVISTA*'s new format and overall new look. She also asked the reason for the name change. The editor responded that the new title was a "distinctively and culturally appropriate name." He further noted, "Editors typically want their publication to have a distinctive personality...Many Texans speak Spanish and the language is an integral part of the culture of this geographical area."

This searching was a walk down memory lane for Esther Bell because she had served with so many of the people identified. That started an attempt to create a list of all of the newsletter editors who could be identified. What we now have is a correct list from 1958, Alice Curd, to Jackie Low, the current editor.

In addition to the list of names, a number of interesting facts were unearthed. Newsletter editors were not always included in board meetings or executive committee meetings, as they were called prior to 1974. At that time, bylaws changes created a Board of Directors rather than an Executive Committee. How was the newsletter editor selected? In 1958 the Secretary was automatically the newsletter editor. By 1966 this was no longer the case. Usually, the editor was appointed by the president. At times, the president asked for a board vote on the recommendation for a person to be appointed. There were no set terms of service. In the early days, most persons serving lasted no more than 4 to 5 years. Before computers and the internet, producing a newsletter was tedious.

In 1971, a unique management of the process was tried. Mrs. Lucille Burnworth, who was not an occupational therapist, was selected as editor. She worked with a newsletter committee of OTRs. It is assumed that this committee gave professional credence to articles and identified important issues for occupational therapists. The minutes state that "Since Mrs. Burnworth will be producing this newsletter on her own time, it was agreed unanimously by the Executive Committee that she be paid \$10 per issue for her efforts." This was the method for two and half years. However, in July 1974, several statements in the board minutes suggested it was not working well. One of the district reports included the statement that they were going to start their own newsletter until such time as a state newsletter was available again. There was also a report from the Committee on Membership Services that one of the greatest needs for members was a newsletter. At the meeting in July 1974, the Executive Committee took steps to correct the apparent problem of no regular newsletter. Linda Vaclavic was appointed as managing editor and T. Sammie Wilson was appointed editor. The following detailed directions were established:

Deadlines for information will be established and will include:

- a. Letter from President
- b. Letter from Councils
- c. Letter from Committees
- d. Placement Committee lists job opportunities
- e. Report on district activities
- f. Notification of educational meetings
- g. Student reports from the six schools
- h. Delegates' report
- i. General articles
- j. Change of address form

continued on next page

The managing editor was charged with obtaining pricing for having the newsletter printed, including extra costs for ballots and pictures and for addressing the newsletters. After one issue, these costs were to be submitted for budgeting purposes.

The method of producing the newsletter is also a source of interest, although we do not have many facts. An article prepared for the 1996 60th anniversary of TOTA stated that the newsletter was a round-robin letter containing reviews of articles, craft suggestions, publicity suggestions in 1936 and 1937. By 1938, the "official" newsletter was started. It can be certain it was done on a manual typewriter at someone's home. This pattern may have been used in the 1950s. As electric typewriters came into common use, the task became easier. However, looking at the minutes from 1963 to 1975, it is apparent that the quality of the typewriters varied considerably. Some of the minutes in 1966 were very difficult to read. In 1973, minutes were still copied on a mimeograph machine - purple stuff-(NOTE - the purple stuff is spirit master printing. Mimeographing was a later and improved technology) but no newsletters done on mimeo have been found in that era. A 1945 newsletter on mimeo was located. TOTA

owned a "ditto machine" which was sold because it was no longer used. (What year was that?) The quality of the printing on newsletters was not consistently good, but it was better than the printed minutes. It can be assumed that, from then on, the final printing of the newsletter went to an outside printing source. The minutes of the July 1974 meeting included a charge to the managing editor to obtain estimated costs of printing commercially. From that point on, commercial printers were used. The inclusion of pictures and the quality of the printing suggested outside printing sources. From 1970 through 1980, there were 235 members, so the costs of printing and distribution by a commercial printer were low.

Esther Bell

Note: This article is a work in progress. We hope to have more details gathered on production and identify how often the newsletter was published in those years. Another tracking will be the content of the newsletter over the years. This should provide some interesting details about layout, articles and the state of the profession in those years so long ago. We welcome any input anyone reading this may have about past TOTA newsletters.

In Memoriam

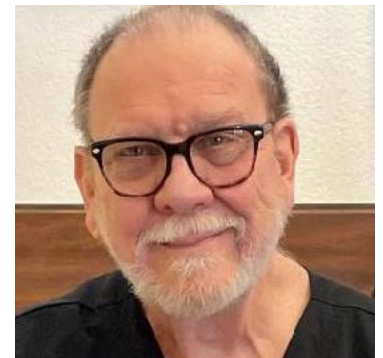
Gary Arthur Wade

FEBRUARY 1, 1946 – MARCH 15, 2022

Gary Arthur Wade, 76 years old, of Loveland, Colorado passed away very peacefully on 3/15/22 at his home. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Diana Pendleton Wade; his beautiful daughter, Jennifer Lynn Rose and her terrific husband Michael of Longmont, Colorado; and two incredible granddaughters, Abigail Elise Rose of Des Moines, Iowa, and Sarah Elizabeth Rose of Longmont, Colorado.

Gary was born in Peoria, Illinois to William David Wade and June A. McDaniel who pre-deceased him by a number of years. He had one brother, Bill. Gary received a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Illinois, and a Master of Education from Prairie View A & M University of Texas. He served in the United States Army from 1969 to 1975, spending two years of active duty working with soldiers injured in the Viet Nam War at Fitzsimons General Hospital in Denver, Colorado. He was honorably discharged, having attained the rank of Captain. In 2001, after 30 years of service

as an Occupational Therapist and faculty member at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas, Gary retired, and he and Diana moved to Loveland, Colorado to be near their daughter and her family.

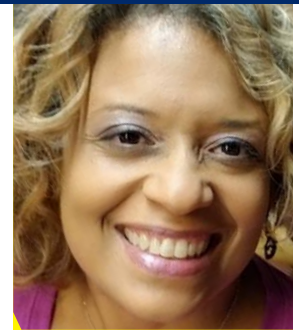


Gary was a talented photographer, avid lover of music of all genres, and a life-long reader. He was a strong, wise, loyal and honorable man. His 60-year love affair with his wife Diana and the intense pride he had for his daughter and granddaughters were the hallmarks of his life.

The family will privately celebrate Gary, each wearing one of his trademark headbands, as they place his ashes in the columbarium while listening to "If I Should Fall Behind" by Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band. They ask that you raise a glass of good red wine, or drink a robust cup of hazelnut coffee in Gary's honor.

TEA's Initiative to Include Occupational Therapy School Districts

Vicki Thomas, COTA



Vicki Thomas, COTA

The Texas Education Agency (TEA), after working with the Texas Workforce Commission, identified occupational therapy as a course gap in their Health Science Career program. In the fall of 2021, Dale Fowler, the statewide Career and Technical Education (CTE) Coordinator for TEA, sought OT practitioners to develop occupational therapy courses for their secondary programs. A volunteer committee was formed. Members were OTs Angela Atkins, Kesli Coffelt, and Jorjann Davis, OTA, Vicki Thomas, and OTD student, Mary Holmes. Work settings of the volunteers included academia, hospital, school-based, and student. Kristi Archer, CTE Instructional Specialist, guided the committee who met weekly (with the exception of the holidays) to complete a proposal for the inclusion of occupational therapy into the program. Two proposed courses, Occupational Therapy I and Occupational Therapy II, were developed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for high school students who desired to either to work as a tech in an OT setting or advance to a higher level of learning by enrolling in an OT or OTA program. The course material is designed to not only to educate the students about the OT profession, but also on the OT process of treating clients. Through classroom assignments, research projects, hands-on labs, etc., the students develop the skills necessary to obtain a certificate as a Certified Medical Assistant. If students desire to pursue a career as an OT or OTA, the committee felt the OTI and OTII courses will provide these students with a solid understanding the OT profession and a foundation appropriate for applying to an OT/OTA program. The final proposal was submitted for review in January. If approved, these courses will be available for public school districts in Texas to add to their CTE choices for high school students.

"Student Resources." *Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education*. 2021. <https://acoteonline.org/students-public/>.

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). 2021. "TX School Directory". <https://acoteonline.org/schools/region/TX/pg/2/?cn-cat-in%5B0%5D&cn-cat-in%5B1%5D=6&cn-cat-in%5B2%5D=15&cn-region=TX>.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. 2021. "Occupational Outlook Handbook: Occupational Therapists". Accessed December 16, 2021. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapists.htm>.

Lin, Vernon, Zhang, Ziaoming, and Dixon, Pamela. 2015. "Occupational Therapy Workforce in the United States: Forecasting Nationwide Shortages." *American Academy of Physical Rehabilitation* 7, 9: 946-954.

Projections Central. 2021. "Labor Market Projections". Accessed December 16, 2021. <https://projectionscentral.org/Projections/LongTerm>.

Texas Education Agency (TEA). "Teacher FTE Counts and Course Enrollment Reports: 2020-2021". Accessed December 16, 2021. <https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/adhocrpt/adfte.html>.

Texas Workforce Commission (TWS). 2021. "Statewide Targeted Occupations". Accessed December 16, 2021. <https://www.twc.texas.gov/partners/target-occupations>

TOTA 2022 Call for State and District Board of Directors Nominations

2022 TOTA Elections

State Board:

President

Treasurer

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

District Positions:

Alamo South	Capital Centex	Great Plains West	Gulf Coast East	Rio Grande	Trinity North
Chair	Vice-Chair	Chair	Vice-Chair	Chair	Vice-Chair
Treasurer	Secretary	Treasurer	Secretary	Treasurer	Secretary

TOTA invites all members to submit nominations for the 2022-2023 leadership positions to be elected. Occupational therapy assistants are encouraged to run for elected office and are eligible to be nominated for all positions. Self-Nominations are allowed. Refer to the [website](#) for eligibility requirements.

TOTA 2022 Call For Proposals - DEADLINE APRIL 30, 2022.

All topic areas with relevance to occupational therapy will be considered. Proposals from occupational therapists, assistants and students are welcome, as are proposals from related professions. Occupational therapy continuing education is defined as professional development activities that are directly relevant to the profession of occupational therapy. We encourage you to incorporate the conference theme into your proposal and presentation.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

Join or Renew Now!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

Membership is available to occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, students, and organizations. Currently over 1800 practitioners and students support their profession through membership in TOTA! The partnership with our members is vital to supporting our collective efforts.

Benefits of TOTA Membership Include:

- Networking opportunities
- Access to the online TOTA membership database
- Leadership and volunteer positions
- Discounts on CE events, including the annual conference
- Free monthly district CE events
- Educational scholarships
- Share research surveys on our site
- Access to Revista OT newsletter and archives
- We monitor legislation and give testimony
- We monitor state agency rules
- Ongoing public relations and marketing campaign
- Much more!!!

Upcoming Events

April 7, 2022

Putting Your License in the Retired Status
6-7 pm
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84694375624>
Meeting ID: 846 9437 5624

April 19, 2022

Gulf Coast East
District Meeting
The Art of Sexuality and Disability

April 30, 2022

Deadline for State
and District Position
Nominations

November 11-12, 2022

TOTA Annual Conference

For up-to-date calendar of events, please visit the TOTA website at: www.tota.org

Thank you to our members for helping make TOTA great!

Greetings from GCE District!

Kira Beal, OTR, EdD, OTD, CLT
GCE District Chair
GCEDTOTA@gmail.com



Happy OT Month!

Your Gulf Coast East officers are excited to bring activities for both practitioners and students during OT Month. Hopefully by now you have received an email regarding the events. A speaker will present a CEU opportunity. Members in other districts are welcome to participate in the CEU event. We are most excited about having a networking activity and community service project.

We hope that you all will consider participating in our Painting with a Twist social event. There will be both a south location (Medical Center/Midtown) and a north location (Woodlands area) with an additional virtual option. More details are in the email sent to district members.

In addition, we will have a Toiletry Drive friendly competition for students. The OT or OTA program that donates the most items from April 1st through April 30th wins. The winner decides where the donations will go. We hope to continue this sort of competitive drive for various occasions. OT practitioners can also participate by donating items to the OT or OTA programs of their choice or bringing items to the social event.

The Gulf Coast East District is rocking and rolling with ideas to put forth to the members. I had the pleasure of appointing individuals to positions within our district to fulfill a need until the elections. These individuals, along with those continuing to serve in our district, have already been proactive and are a joy to work with. New officer and committee chairs for the district are as follows:

Vice Chair: Renee Shepherd (formerly OTA rep)
Secretary: Sabrina Starks-Tarble
Development Chair: Sue Ram

We still have a need for the someone go serve as education chair. If you are interested, please send an email to GCEDTOTA@gmail.com.

Thank you to all who filled out the survey. If you have not yet done so, it is still open. The link is: https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezYuQMg5PFEakD4. Make sure you read emails as well as check the calendar on the TOTA website for the latest updates. Also, be sure to read the TOTA Tidbits weekly for the latest and greatest news. We look forward to seeing you all soon in person or via Zoom.

Trinity North



Keegan McKay, OTR, MOT, OTD
Trinity North District Chair

Trinity North had a very successful ending to 2021 with several informative continuing education offerings from district members in the latter part of the year. We would like to thank Rene' Wren and Gwen Morris, both instructors at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in Dallas, for sharing their immense knowledge of psychosocial interventions and orthosis fabrication respectively. With the transition to presenting continuing education via Zoom, the whole state of Texas, and not just our district, have had opportunities to participate in these presentations using the TOTA's Learning Management System.

Our momentum continued into 2022, with Melissa Morgan from Parker University providing us insight into the important topic of "Period Poverty." The conversation was enlightening and helped participants understand a concept that has become a critical social justice issue. Our March offering will be presented by Camille Ko and Jennifer Martin, both from Texas Woman's University. They will be educating us on client-centered approaches for those in the LGBTQ+ community. We thank them and all continuing education presenters for giving their time to share their expertise with us.

In addition to continuing education offerings, Trinity North District committee members have been brainstorming ideas for events at the district level. As planning continues, please be on the lookout for opportunities to provide input on what activities you would like to see in our district and how you can be a part of both planning and participating in these events. We look forward to continuing to serve our members in 2022.

DISTRICT BEAT

TOTA HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Esther Bell, OTR, FAOTA (1998)
*Robert K. Bing, EdD, OTR, FAOTA [b. 1929-d. 2003]
O. Jayne Bowman, PhD, OT (2020)
*Lenore Brannon, OTR [b. 1898-d. 1986]
Cindy Brosig (2021)
Reggie Michael Campbell, OTR, MS, FAOTA (2016)
*F. Catherine Currie, OTR [b. 1915-d. 1998]
Donald Davidson, OTR (2001)
Harriett Davidson, MA, OTR (2015)
*Dorothy Jocelia Denn, OTR [b. 1912-d. 1999]
Ruth Dodds OTR (2020)
Virginia Chandler Dykes, OTR (1989)
Grace Gilkeson, PhD, OTR, FAOTA (1995)
*Nancy Griffin, EdD, OTR [b. 1936-d. 2014] (2000)
Gayle Hersch, PhD, OTR (2017)
*Margaret Hope Keeney, OTR [b. 1913-d. 2003]
*Lucile Land Lacy, OTR [b. 1901-d. 1994]
Jaclyn F. Low, OTR, PhD, FAOTA (2014)
*Cruz Antonia Mattei, OTR [b. 1924-d. 2011]
*Eileen S. McKee, OTR [b. 1923-d. 2010]
*Lillian Hoyle Parent, MA, OTR, FAOTA [b. 1921-d. 2016]
Suzanne Peloquin, OTR, PhD, FAOTA (2012)
*Ruth Whipple Pershing, OTR [b. 1923-d. 1998]
Jean Polichino, OTR, MS, FAOTA (2020)
*Sophie Lin Rydin, PhD, OTR [b. 1950-d.1970]
Caroline Ann Smalley Polliard, OTR (2000)
*Patricia Ann Truchon Ramm, OTR [b. 1928-d. 2007] (1990)
Kathlyn L. Reed, PhD, OTR, FAOTA, MLIS (2010)
*Irene Greer Robertson, OTR [b. 1921-d. 1996]
*Sophie Rydin, PhD, OT [b.1950-d.2020] (2020 Awarded posthumously)
Gretchen M. Schmaltz, OTR (2002)
*Jane Foliart Sims, OTR [b. 1900-d. 1990]
*Geraldine Ann Skinner, OTR [b. 1924-d. 1991] (1989)
Leonard Sobel, OTR, MOT (2020)
*Pearl Jones Tennyson, OTR [b. 1904-d. 1993]
*Lynn C. Tupper, OTR, MPH, MOT [b. 1947-d. 2015](2013)
*Luanna S. Vana, OTR [b. 1918-d. 2008]
*Fannie Vanderkooi, OTR [b. 1894-d. 1990]
*Cary Starke Westhause [b. 1932-d. 2001] (1994)
*Virginia White, PhD, OTR, FAOTA [b. 1921-d. 2018](2008)
*Rena Worthington, OTR [b. 1909-d. 2002]

*Deceased

Updated: 12/10/2018, 3/13/2020, 11/15/2020, 3/16/2021, 2/22/22

TOTA MEMBER

Thank You TOTA Members and Happy OT Month

On behalf of the TOTA Board of Directors, Kami Lusson, and Heather Logan, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for your continued membership and support. Over the past year, your membership and commitment have enabled us to:

- Raise awareness about OT's role in mental and behavioral health.
- Host the OT and PT Service Delivery in Schools Virtual Conference.
- Host the TOTA Annual Conference in Houston.
- Offer free virtual and on-demand continuing education sessions through our learning management system.
- Meet with Texas legislators during the 87th legislative session.
- Provide public testimony in Austin in support of the Interstate Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.
- Provide information to members TOTA Tidbits and Revista.
- Develop opportunities for our student members.
- Maintain the website and association management system.
- And much more.

There is so much more we can accomplish, but TOTA needs your help to encourage the 17,210 plus licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants who are not members of TOTA to join us in protecting and advocating for occupational therapy practice in Texas.

The truth is TOTA's very existence relies on the support of people like you and we will not survive if our members discontinue membership and we are unable to recruit new practitioners to join.

Sincerely,

Judi Joseph
TOTA Executive Director