

February 2008

Report of the Vice President to the Representative Assembly (RA)

Florence Clark, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

A.1. Centennial Commission Activities October 2007–January 2008

Activities of Commissioners and their groups

➤ **Town Hall Meetings**

President Penny Moyers conducted two Town Hall meetings at the University of Washington and University of Puget Sound for September 6th with more than 110 students, faculty, and practitioners in attendance. President Moyers spoke about the Centennial Vision (CV) and Leadership and solicited feedback and questions from the groups. The response was very positive.

Maureen Peterson and Fred Somers conducted a Town Hall Meeting at the University of Pittsburgh in September. They had the opportunity to speak to 100 students from four area schools, as well as approx 40–50 practitioners from POTA’s District II. Additionally, they met individually with faculty members to learn about their research interests and activities.

Executive Director, Fred Somers and Chief Professional Affairs Officer, Maureen Peterson held a Town Hall Meeting at Seton Hall University in November 2007. They had the opportunity to meet with faculty and students, as well as present the Centennial Vision to local practitioners at the actual Town Meeting.

➤ **ASD**

- At the ASD delegate meeting, delegates now plan to follow Florence Clark’s updates on the CV with an open dialogue on how SOTAs are contributing to the CV and what “doable” projects they would undertake.
- The Student Forum at the conference will consist of presentations by doctoral students from USC on innovative approaches to addressing the six practice areas identified in the Centennial Vision.

➤ **Program Directors**

President Moyers has appointed two Program Director Ad Hoc groups.

- The **first Ad Hoc group** has been charged to identify key recommendations to address the faculty shortages. The key objectives identified in the Centennial Vision can only be achieved if our academic programs are able to produce a

diverse and prepared workforce ready to address society's changing needs. The available data indicate that there is currently a vacancy rate exceeding 10% amongst full time faculty members in occupational therapy educational programs. In addition, the profession is experiencing a growth in new program applications at the same time that many of the experienced faculty members are approaching retirement.

Specifically, the Committee is being asked to address the following two key issues:

- (1) How can the profession develop a pool of qualified faculty members to fill the existing and projected needs?
- (2) How can the profession plan for the future to ensure that the needs of the profession for qualified faculty and academic leaders are being met on an ongoing basis?

- The **second Ad Hoc group** has been charged to identify key recommendations to address the challenges facing the academic programs related to achieving and maintaining excellence in national examination pass rates. In order to meet the key objectives identified in the Centennial Vision, it is essential that our graduates are able to successfully pass the national certification exam.

Specifically, the Committee is being asked to address the following two key issues:

- (1) How can the profession help faculty and program directors facilitate excellent student performance on the national examination?
- (2) How can the profession address the challenges being faced by programs with low average first time/ new graduate pass rates?

➤ **RA**

- Response to **Centennial Vision (RA2007C119)**—As directed by the President and Speaker, all AOTA groups and committees are to evaluate their current tasks underway/pending and determine which are consistent with the Centennial Vision and prioritize tasks accordingly. All committees of the RACC reported back to the Vice Speaker.

The following is a summary of the work by the various commissions in relation to the Centennial Vision: (Progress has been coordinated by Vice Speaker Murphy-Fischer)

- ❖ **Commission on Practice (COP)** has spent the past year immersed in writing the 2nd edition of the *OT Practice Framework*, which addresses the vision by providing an over arching framework that outlines the domain and process of occupational therapy. This document supports the understanding and the practice of occupational therapy as an evidence-based and science-driven profession meeting society's occupational needs. COP provides articles to *OT Practice* called Practice Perks. The 2008 series of Practice Perks will focus on

practice-related issues, and the authors have been asked to consider the Centennial Vision as a central focus of the article. COP considers the scope and content of the Centennial Vision when managing all the practice-related documents it considers.

- ❖ **Commission on Continuing Competence and Professional Development (CCCPD)**- maintains that everything that it does relates to the Centennial Vision in that it has adopted a secondary vision statement as follows:

CCCPD- Phase I feasibility studies and our certification programs are "science-driven" and "evidence-based." The board certification programs help the profession to be "widely recognized." The board certification areas address "society's occupational needs."

CCCPD examined at each of the eight elements of the Centennial Vision and were able to articulate a contribution related to each of the elements. It is addressing the emerging practice areas articulated in the Centennial Vision power point.

- ❖ **Ethics Commission (EC)**, in response to the 6 areas of practice included in the Centennial Vision, will:

- Monitor ethical trends in all practice areas.
- Provide educational content based on trends and members queries in all practice areas.
- Develop FAQ responses based on queries from members.
- Provide consultation around legislative issues where ethical concerns may relate to the practice areas.
- Write advisory opinions on identified issues within the 6 practice areas as needs to assist in applying ethical standards.
- Promote professional conduct through enforcement of Ethical Standards.

- ❖ **Special Interest Section Council (SISC)** articulated their ongoing primary priority task list with the Centennial Vision. Each SIS is responsible for the following tasks:

- 4 quarterly publications (newsletter), daily monitoring of listservs, 1 CE topic, 1 article for *OT Practice*, 1 Annual conference Program and Business meeting, Participation in annual conference proposal reviews of official draft documents, 1 round table at conference and development of Fact sheets. All of the March 2008 quarterlies will focus on the Centennial Vision in each practice area.

➤ **ASAP**

- The Leadership Development Institute for Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP) was held at the AOTA National Office January 10–11, 2008.
- ASAP continued to converse through monthly steering committee conference calls on issues such as the annual meeting agenda planning.

Measuring and reporting outcomes for the Centennial Vision

- The Centennial Vision Tracking System created by VP Clark and her assistants uses CV Board of Directors Priorities and the broad Strategic Directions identified in the visioning process as an over-arching “framework” for collecting data from the field and recording achievements that mark progress in realizing the Vision. Data are continuously updated in the system.
- Each Commissioner has agreed to report back to VP Clark on an every other month basis relative to communicate CV activities and accomplishments.
- The first report has been assembled by VP Clark and her assistants and will soon be available on the CV Web page.

Dissemination

- AOTA leaders (both volunteer and those employed by AOTA) delivered over twenty Centennial Vision presentations throughout 2007 and will do even more this year.
- President Moyers will be presenting on the Centennial Vision at two Universities: TWU and Duquesne University on January 25th and February 1.

CV Power Point Presentations

- VP Clark along with staff have created a brief narrated PowerPoint that will be available on the CV Web page for use by members and non-members.

A.2 General Centennial Vision Related Activities

Maureen Peterson, Chief Professional Affairs Officer, delivered the keynote address at the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association on the Centennial Vision; approximately 200 VOTA members attended. Ms. Peterson also gave a *Centennial Vision* presentation to a Howard University class of occupational therapy students.

Christina Metzler, Chief Public Affairs Officer, delivered the keynote address at the Missouri Occupational Therapy State Association conference, with a focus on the Centennial Vision.

Fred Somers, Executive Director, Maureen Peterson, and Laurel Radley, Associate Professional Affairs Director, met with the Executive Director of the *International Council on Active Aging (ICAA)* to explore potential areas of collaboration. This organization focused on aging and wellness. Laurel Radley also attended ICAA’s *Strategy Meeting* on September 25, 2007. The “introduction” was brokered by SISC Chairperson, Pam Toto.

On November 29, 2007 AOTA conducted an open “town hall” meeting for occupational therapists and occupational therapist assistants working in the Veteran’s Administration (VA) via conference call. The meeting was led and facilitated by Christina Metzler, Chief Public Affairs Officer, and Tim Nanof, legislative representative. Staff participating in

the call included Fred Somers, Maureen Peterson, Dan Jones and Laurel Radley. Discussions focused on ways in which AOTA can best support its members in the VA. A 2nd VA / AOTA “town hall” conference call was held January 28, 2008. The attendance was almost double for this “town hall.” Discussions focused on issues related to shortages, pay equity, professional development and the need for training specific to poly trauma, vision, musculoskeletal injuries, cognition, evidence based practice and driving. These are important areas to address so that occupational therapy practitioners employed in the VA can better meet the needs of veterans.

Senior staff, along with Policy staff will meet with VA officials in February to discuss issues that have bubbled to the surface during the “town halls”, as well as possibilities for collaborative activities with AOTA.

Director Janice Burke was interviewed for a Centennial Vision Web article on linking research, education, and practice.

➤ **Leadership**

As part of an overall association leadership initiative, on January 11th and 12th, 2008, a Leadership Development Institute for state presidents was successfully launched. The purpose of this investment is to provide leadership training to existing state leaders and to enhance the emergence of strong leaders within the profession. AOTA hired the association management consulting firm *Leadership Outfitters, Inc.* to conduct the Institute. The Leadership Outfitters’ team has extensive experience in training and organizational development.

Sixteen current state association leaders attended the institute, along with four staff members. President Moyers participated in the institute with the state leaders, where she also shared her insights and knowledge about leadership. Topics covered included:

Accepting the Leadership Challenge

Effective Team Communication

Understanding, Motivating, and Rewarding Volunteers

Planning for the Future: Finding and Mentoring New Leaders

Change Happens: What’s Next and How Can You Be Ready?

Brand Image vs. Brand Identity: It’s All About the Experience

Mission and Vision: Who Are You and Where Are You Going?

Personal Leadership Development: What’s Next?

AOTA and AOTF is once again jointly sponsoring a Leadership Mentoring Program; this year’s program is for program directors from both professional and assistant level academic programs. The purpose of this 2nd *Mentoring Circle* is to address the critical need to systematically enhance the emergence of strong occupational therapy leaders within the academic community, while at the same time building the profession’s capacity to influence and lead. This Leadership Mentoring Program has been tailored for occupational therapy program directors who are eager to move forward in their academic careers, handle administrative and programmatic challenges at the next level, and take on increased leadership roles within the academic community. Seventeen leadership

fellowships were awarded by AOTA & AOTF; the “circle” launched on January 18th and 19th, 2008 in Denver. Catherine Nielson is the “catalyst mentor”, with Ellie Gilfoyle as the facilitator.

➤ **Conference Related**

VP Clark collaborated with the Chief Professional Affairs Officer to assemble speakers for the Centennial Vision panel at the 2008 Conference. The session is entitled, “*Practitioners Poised for the Future*”; last year the Centennial Vision conference panel broadly addressed the Vision; this year practitioners will be featured, who are making significant headway in bring about its reality.

The 2009 Conference theme will be *linking research, education and practice*.

Centennial Vision Articles, OT Practice

- *Molly Asks: Debi Hinerfeld (promoting the Vision in the Georgia State OT Association)*
By Molly Strzelecki, September 24, 2007
- *Molly Asks: Patrick Bloom (promoting the Vision)*
By Molly Strzelecki, October 22, 2007
- *Molly Asks: Fred Somers: How AOTA and the members can promote the Vision,*
January 21, 2008.
- April 9 issue: an OTA Exchange on how OTAs can promote the vision.
- July 9 issue: a feature on moving ahead with the vision.

➤ **Board Centennial Vision Priorities**

❖ ***Image Building Campaign***

AOTA continues to work internally with the public relations and marketing company, *Breakwhitelight*, making progress towards developing ideas for the “sparkling set of words” that will be used to brand occupational therapy. The process includes research, market surveys and analysis of survey results.

AOTA continues to collaborate with AARP and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) on initiatives related to home modification and aging in place. Carla Chase, EdD, OTR represented AOTA at the NAHB Remodeler’s Show in Las Vegas on October 9, 2007, where representatives from the three organizations presented “*Partners in Remodeling for Aging in Place.*” Similar presentations will be given at the International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence (ICADI) in February 2008, AOTA’s Annual Conference in April 2008, and a future AARP conference.

Members of AOTA leadership, including President Moyers, Executive Director Somers, and Mary Warren, MS, OTR/L, SCLV, FAOTA, participated in a Low Vision Summit on November 28–29, 2007. The summit brought together representatives from AOTA, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the

American Optometric Association, and the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. A proposed model of comprehensive low vision rehabilitation services and future collaborations between the organizations were discussed.

A *Reuters* article, posted December 6, 2007, interviewed and quoted occupational therapist Robbie Winget, who initiated use of the Nintendo Wii as a treatment tool for people recovering from stroke, spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury. Unfortunately, Mr. Winget was mistakenly identified as a physical therapist in the article's title.

U.S. News & World Report named "occupational therapy" one of the 31 "Best Careers of 2008." *U.S. News* describes occupational therapy as a "challenging career that's best for creative, practical people who find satisfaction in small successes."

Time prominently featured occupational therapy in an article on sensory processing disorder. The article identifies A. Jean Ayres as a pioneer of sensory integration. The article also quotes Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR/L and references both her research and her book, *Sensational Kids*.

The *New York Times* published an article on January 15, 2008 that extensively covered the role of occupational therapy in treating traumatic brain injury. Occupational therapist Jodi Levin is interviewed and quoted, and her treatment of several patients with TBI is described.

❖ ***Advocacy to Ensure Funding for OT***

For the first time in about five years membership broke the 38,000 mark, ending at 38,143. Since June 2007, student memberships continue to drive overall growth but we have also seen modest increase in both occupational therapy practitioner memberships.

AOTA celebrated a huge victory in December, when the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) agreed to eliminate a requirement that would have mandated an additional certification for occupational therapists performing wheelchair evaluations for higher-end power devices. This victory is the result of over two years of advocacy by AOTA. AOTA also achieved inclusion of qualifications standards for Medicare that reflect contemporary education, support all practitioners and students, and provide solid ground for advocacy to promote occupational therapy further in Medicare.

AOTA was successful in securing a six month extension of the exceptions process for Medicare Part B therapy caps with the passage of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007. This act also prevented the scheduled 10.1% cut to the Physician Fee Schedule that provides payment to occupational therapy. The

therapy cap and fee schedule fight will surely continue in 2008, as the extension expires June 30, 2008.

In service of expanding roles for occupational therapy, AOTA staff has been working on Capitol Hill to educate champions on mental health and working with other organizations to improve recognition of the profession. Staff has secured an opportunity to present at the annual conference of the National Council on Community Behavioral Healthcare in Boston in May. The presentation will focus on how centers can use occupational therapy in mental health.

Efforts continue in educating Congress on the role of occupational therapy with veterans has been supported by two town hall meetings AOTA has sponsored to hear from those working in the VA health care system. The first call had 25 participants; the second call in January had nearly 50 participants. In addition Penny Moyers met with VA healthcare officials in February.

❖ ***Linking Research, Education and Practice***

The Final report of the Linking Research, Education and Practice Ad Hoc Committee was submitted to the Board of Directors in September 2007 for presentation at the Board's October 2007 meeting. The report recommends the promotion of “**practice scholarship**” through the journals, conference and academic programs. Selected updates on progress relative to recommendations include:

The American Journal of Occupational Therapy (AJOT)

- A series of articles reporting the findings from the EB literature review on Driving and Community Mobility for Older Adults is scheduled for publication in the March/April 2008 issue of *AJOT*.
 - All articles include a ‘translation’ section on implications for education, research and practice
- Conversations have taken place with Mary Corcoran about review authors from the EB literature review on OT and children and adolescents with SI/SPD developing a series of articles (similar to Driving) for submission to *AJOT*. This is in process with the goal of submitting articles to *AJOT* prior to the end of Dr. Corcoran’s term of office.
- Guidelines for the Narrative Summary for *AJOT* Article have been revised.

OT Practice

- Evidence Perks: Three Evidence Perks have been published since September 2007 highlighting EB resources. Two additional Perks are scheduled for publication prior to the end of FY 08. All Perks are designed to link EB related resources to practice and education. In addition, there is a concerted effort to cover the six broad practice areas. Topics of Perks and publication dates include:
 - National Library of Medicine (Sept 2007)
 - AARP (online research databases) (Oct 2007)

- Institute on Work and Health (Dec 2007)
- SAMSHA (Feb 2008)
- Reviewing Table of Contents of journals to find evidence (May 2008)
- Feature Articles
 - Using AOTA's CAT and CAP series to link evidence to practice: supporting the integration of research evidence, practitioner expertise, and client perspectives in the clinical decision making process (March/April 2008)
 - Qualitative Research and EBP (June 2008)
- **SIS Quarterlies:** As a follow-up to meeting with three incoming SIS Standing Committees (GSIS, TSIS, EDSIS), work is in progress to collaborate on articles that provides EBP information in a user-friendly format with emphasis on translating EB published findings into practice (June 2008 TSIS Quarterly). GSIS and EDSIS are scheduled for FY 09.
- **Conference**
 - The **2009 Conference** theme will be *Linking Education, Research, and Practice*. We will be infusing this content throughout the *2009 Call for Papers*.
 - We will have at least two bulletin boards set up in the Poster Area where attendees can leave messages about their research interests. We can highlight this in the *Conference Program Announcement* and the *Conference Program Guide*.
 - We will be reorganizing the way speakers submit proposals for Research Platforms that will be more user friendly and make it much easier to submit.
 - We will be giving the submitters an option—at time of the submission of their proposal—if they want an interactive session or a didactic session. We will have to be limited in the interactive sessions due to space constraints.
 - Most if not all SISs have committed to have a research or evidence component linked with a practice topic for their SIS Workshop at the 2009 Annual Conference. This will be reflected in the Call for Papers proposal
 - **2008 conference:** *Occupational Therapy: Finding, Synthesizing and Applying Clinical Evidence* (AOTA staff, EB consultant, Cochrane Collaboration/Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, OT Practitioner who is currently involved with Cochrane review.
 - EB Review on OT Interventions for Individuals with Work-Related Injuries/Clinical Conditions

❖ **Research Agenda**

The Research Advisory Panel (RAP) was constituted in October 2007 and has met via conference call to begin its initial task towards the alignment of the AOTA / AOTF “research priorities” with those of the federal funding agencies. The RAP has decided that our current priorities are not in alignment with major federal funders. A document designating the priorities in words that correspond to those used by the NIH and other funding bodies is being drafted by a sub-group of the ARAP and is expected for review early in 2008.

Interviews are being conducted for the AOTA Director of Research position.

❖ ***Model Curriculum***

Progress to date: The Committees have met via regular conference calls and one face to face meeting in 2007–2008. The focus of these meetings has been as follows:

- Review of the literature and approaches utilized in other professions to develop a model curriculum.
- Defining the “model curriculum”.
- Identifying the stakeholders and their needs.
- Reviewing of the Vision and other key documents.
- Identifying key “threads” and “content” that will ensure that academic programs address the needs of graduates for the 21st century.
- Meetings with key stakeholders including PRODEC, OTAPDEC and the SIS Steering Committee.

Future Steps

- The final draft of the model curriculum with an exemplar will be prepared by both groups for distribution prior to the April conference.
- The Chairs will give a report at Program Directors meetings at national conference.
- Feedback will be solicited from all interested stakeholders via list serves, global e-mails and forums.
- The committees will incorporate feedback into the final product with a targeted date of completion for the October Board meeting.

❖ ***Outcomes Database***

In follow-up to the Board approval of the report from the Phase I Ad Hoc and subsequent charges, staff have been meeting on an ongoing basis and have completed the following activities: a Web-based demo with CREcare (outcomes management company) to obtain additional information about AM-PAC (measurement tool) and the company's business operations; a site visit to APTA for demonstration of their online outcome system; a Web-based demo of FOTO outcome database; a Web-based demo to obtain additional information about Cedaron documentation and outcome software and system.

President Moyers has been apprised of progress to date and activities related to organizing a Phase II Ad Hoc Group are in progress. At the suggestion of President Moyers, staff is currently gathering information about current trends in

Health Information Systems and implications related to the development of an outcomes database.

The Phase II Ad Hoc is expected to be appointed early in 2008. This group will make a final recommendation to the Board as to our next steps and selection of a company with whom to work; the final decision will also be informed by trends in Health Care Information Systems.

A.3. General Activities of the Vice President

VP Clark delivered the keynote address at the inaugural *AOTA/NBCOT National Student Conclave*, held November 17–18, 2007, in Pittsburgh, PA. VP Clark’s address emphasized the vital role students can play in accomplishing the Centennial Vision and provided practical suggestions for what students can do now. The Student Conclave was an enormous success, attended by over 560 occupational therapy and occupational therapy students attending from 29 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

Vice President Clark is participating on the *AJOT* Editor Search Committee.

VP Clark continued to network with various associations. On November 27–29, 2007, VP Clark represented AOTA at the 2007 National Prevention and Health Promotion Summit held by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Motivated by the keynote address delivered by Leland R. Kaiser, Ph.D., VP Clark composed a press release describing her experience and that of other AOTA members at this conference,

VP Clark communicated the Centennial Vision to various constituents with her presentation of “AOTA’s Centennial Vision: What it is, Why it’s Right” as well as other topics promoting the Centennial Vision. Most of the Board members have been oriented to the Centennial Vision and have been delivering Centennial Vision presentations using VP Clark’s power points as well as those of others collected in an AOTA Sharepoint as a resource.

Events/audiences and presentations scheduled for VP Clark on the Centennial Vision have included and will include:

- Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association–October 2007
- The AOTA / NBCOT National Student Conclave–November 2007
- University of Findlay, Ohio–February 2008
- AOTA Annual Conference–April 2008
- OTAC Conference keynote speaker–October 2008