TOTA would like to thank you for attending the 2017 Mountain Central Conference. We hope you had fun and look forward to seeing you November 2-4, 2018!
2017. Whew... What a year.

I would like to briefly share with you the events and challenges your association experienced in 2017:

Jan 2017 – Texas 85th Legislative Session (see last issue of Revista for details)
- SB317 - Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE) Sunset Bill
  - Threats were made to dissolve our board and move OT licensing to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) or a health occupations board
  - Final outcome signed by Governor: Continuation of our licensing board as TBOTE under ECPTOTE for 12 additional years
- SB1 - General Appropriation Act
  - Pertaining to Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
  - HHSC is required to report complaints related to access to care
  - Medicaid Therapy Rate Reductions
  - Medicaid OTA rate reductions
- HB2502 – Occupational Therapy practitioners as “non-physician mental health professionals”
  - Died in the Public Health Committee
- SB589 - Licensing regulating behavioral analysts (ABA Therapists)
  - Excludes them from performing services within the OT scope of practice

Jan 2017 – Mary Hennigan, TOTA Executive Director, announces retirement
- Executive Director Search Committee initiates an extensive search to fill her position

May 2017 – TOTA launches a new website and partnership with membership management company, MemberClicks

Aug 2017 – Judith Joseph accepts as the position of TOTA Executive Director
- Mary Hennigan retires
- Debbie Mincher resigns as Membership Services Coordinator
- TOTA ED and Board Members assist in the transition
- New Accounting Firm
- Contract with a Bookkeeper
- Merged accounting into a more streamlined system
- Accounting system is integrated with new membership management company merchant services
- New processes discussed and implemented based on recommendations from professional advisers

Continued on page 3
Aug 23 2017 – Hurricane Harvey Strikes – Devastation throughout Texas
  o Occupational Therapy Benevolence Endowment (OT-BE)
  o Reggie Campbell and Monica Clark create an ad-hoc committee
  o Corporation is formed and registered in Texas
  o IRS approves 501c3, donations are Tax Deductible!

Nov 2017 – MCC Texas Conference commenced the weekend before Thanksgiving
  o Centennial Celebration – 100 years
  o Record breaking attendance
  o Record breaking poster presentations
  o Overall attendance exceeded 1,000 including vendors

Again, wow... what a year!
We laid the foundation in 2017 and your TOTA Board recently met in January 2018 to continue working for you, the occupational therapy practitioner!

2018 – ARE YOU READY?
What to expect:
  o Day at the Capitol Feb 22, expect record breaking attendance
  o A public educational campaign – OT’s role in mental / behavioral health
  o A statewide collaborative effort to collect data related to Medicaid Access to Care
  o Improved communication with our members
  o Monthly payment plan (installments) for membership dues
  o Expanded services for our membership and venders
  o Expanded Comprehensive Approved Provider Program for Continuing Education
  o A Fantastic, Energetic 2018 MCC Conference Scheduled for Nov 2, 2018
  o John Luna, newly appointed President of TOTA PAC and TOTA Chair of Legislative Affairs, initiates new campaign for fundraising and communication.

CAREER CORNER:
Membership Services Coordinator, TOTA
Location: Austin, Texas  |  Position: Part-time.
Experience: At least 2 years’ experience in customer service, public relations, or trade association services.
Education/Training: Baccalaureate degree or related work experience

GENERAL DUTIES:
• Answer and/or route telephone calls, mail, and e-mail inquiries.
• Process membership activities through the association’s management software system.
• Process member payments and refunds.
• Process items for sale by TOTA.
• Coordinate with the Mountain Central Committee the conference Call for Papers.
• Process conference registrations and materials.
• Manage association member database.
• Produce Revista OT, state and district publications and notices.
• Proof and oversee production of all printed materials, including: Revista OT, District mailouts, Workshop brochures, election ballots, membership drive letter and invoices
• Assist with the coordination of odd-year Day at the Capitol event.

QUALIFICATIONS:
• The ability to interact in a pleasant, cheerful, helpful manner with the public.
• The ability to maintain work responsibilities in an organized, efficient manner.
• The ability to maintain online membership database
• The ability to proof-read materials for accuracy and errors.
• The ability to use Adobe Acrobat for the creation, editing and electronic transmission of files.
• The ability to manage stress during periods of high demand.
• The ability to work independently.

Send resume to: membership@tota.org

AWARD NOMINATIONS

TOTA is pleased to recognize therapists, educators, students and friends of Occupational Therapy for their excellent work for their patients and their profession.

To recognize the contribution of an individual or a facility please complete the application at the link below.

E-mail the completed application to membership@tota.org.

Awards are given every year at the annual business meeting at the Mountain Central Conference.

2018 award nominations are due October 5, 2018.

CLICK HERE TO SUMBIT A NOMINATION TODAY!

BOARD NOMINATIONS

The TOTA Bylaws provide for a Board of Directors comprised of officers and a district chair from each of the 6 districts. The president appoints 6 council positions. The board meets quarterly. Officers include president (some years a president-elect), vice-president, secretary, treasurer, 6 district chairs of 6 geographical districts, and the councils which are: Budget and Finance, Education, Development, Standards and Practice, Legislative and Political Affairs, and Membership.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR BOARD NOMINATIONS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WRAP-UP REPORT

M ore than 800 occupational therapy practitioners, students, vendors, friends of occupational therapy, and speakers from other professions gathered in Austin, TX to celebrate 100 years of occupational therapy at TOTA’s 2017 Mountain Central Conference. Attendees came from all over Texas and Louisiana by way of the LSU SOTA group. Based on this year’s record attendance, Austin proved to be a great location. The conference team was expanded and we are very thankful to the many people who contributed their time and knowledge to make MCC 2018 a success.

The work began with Mary Hennigan, TOTA’s Executive Director for more than sixteen years and Debbie Mincher, member services coordinator of eleven years, both of whom retired in 2017. Their retirements required the core conference committee to take on additional responsibilities. Evie Harness, Kami Lusson, Francie Baxter, and I worked to plan the program, coordinate with hotel staff, communicate with vendors, and transport various supplies and equipment in our vehicles. Teri Powers coordinated the student volunteers and volunteered at the registration desk from Thursday night until Sunday afternoon. A huge thank you goes to our sixty plus student volunteers. After a computer glitch lost the volunteer forms, the volunteers responded to my email and accepted their assignments. Estrella Barrera and Susan Jeantete, along with a team of Austin Community College students, served as hospitality co-chairs and stuffed conference bags. They also created the amazing table decorations for the exhibit hall.

TOTA’s new website was launched in May, 2018 with Anna Heartling leading the project. She volunteered countless hours to make changes and adjustments to meet the needs of the conference and assist members with registration. Prior to conference, Francie Baxter assembled a team of volunteers to review a record number of submissions for presentations. This year the poster sessions were expanded. Judy Skarbek, gave voice to the silent auction benefiting TOTF which raised over $1,000. Judy Skarbek and Len Sobel were also our volunteer photographers. Special thanks go out to Justine Boyer of Barking Pixel who provided additional services and added to the success of this conference. I would also like to thank all the amazing educators and employers who allowed so many members to attend the conference this year.

This year’s Art Dilly lecture was very special as members of Art’s family were present to accept a posthumous award from TOTA and TBOTE. The conference issue of Revista OT included articles honoring Art Dilly who passed away in 2017. The keynote speaker, Lou Figueroa, was truly inspirational. His story of perseverance was engaging and spoke to value of occupational therapy in physical rehabilitation and mental health.

Another conference highlight was TOTF’s Breakfast with a Scholar presenter, Helen Cohen. Helen recreated her AOTA 2015 Slagle lecture, “A Career in Inquiry.” Helen describes herself as a clinician-scientist and encouraged all of us to ask questions. My favorite quote from this lecture was, “Everyone you meet knows something you don’t know.”

Finally, I hope all of you are marking your calendars for the 2018 MCC Conference scheduled for November 2-4 in Sugar Land, Texas. Expect some new and exciting events! We listened to your feedback and will apply some of your suggestions. We are making plans for a smoother registration, more product vendors, and more coffee.

REVISTA OT CONFERENCE WRAP-UP AND MORE... | AUSTIN, TX
DAY AT THE CAPITOL
FEBRUARY 22, 2018

JOIN US

ORIENTATION: 10:00 AM

LOCATION:
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE CENTER – STATE CAPITAL
1100 CONGRESS AVENUE - E2.002  AUSTIN, TX  78701
DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OTD)

A post-professional degree plan offering Bachelor’s-to-OTD and Master’s-to-OTD options

The program enables practicing OTs to complete a course of study that will prepare them to assume leadership roles, management positions, and/or to serve as clinical faculty.

The program is primarily online with two visits to the Galveston, Texas, campus for on-site learning; it can be completed in six to seven semesters while maintaining active clinical practice.

For more information please contact: Sharon McEachern PPOTD.admissions@utmb.edu or (409) 772-3062.

shp.utmb.edu/OccupationalTherapy
FROM YOUR OTA REPRESENTATIVE

Now is an important time for assistants to be taking advantage of their membership in TOTA. The Medicaid rate cuts have gone into effect. As of December 1, 2017, reimbursement for therapy assistants has been reduced to 85 percent of the reimbursement rate paid to a licensed therapist. Starting September 1, 2018 reimbursement rates for assistants will decrease to 70 percent of the rate paid to a licensed therapist.

There are many concerns regarding the changes, and TOTA has been a strong supporter of the occupational therapy assistants along the way. Therefore, it is vital that we as assistants remain involved and engaged in our professional association as it will allow TOTA to continue to support occupational therapy assistants in all areas.

Assistants are a significant part of the occupational therapy field. There are currently approximately 5,000 occupational therapy assistants licensed in Texas. With so many licenses, it is vital that we make sure our TOTA memberships and our peers’ TOTA memberships stay current as we will best succeed if every licensed practitioner in the state joins together and fights for our amazing profession and the clients we serve.

On February 22nd, TOTA will be holding another Day at the Capital. This is the perfect time for us to be able to speak directly to our legislators about how the Medicaid changes have such a profound impact on our profession. Please join us if you can!

Kellly Parmet, OTA, TOTA OTA Representative

FROM YOUR OTA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

My name is Nikita Gandhi and I was recently appointed as your OTA student representative. I am very excited to be part of the TOTA board and represent OTA students across Texas. I hope to increase awareness of the importance of TOTA membership for students and future practitioners and help build a good network for OTA students. Please feel free to contact me at ngandhi06@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions. I look forward to representing and working with you all. Thank you!

Nikita Gandhi, TOTA OTA Student Representative

#NEWYEARNEWME!
By Hillary Clearman, OTR, MOT

NewYearNewMe! That’s the phrase the millennials are using to hash tag their new year’s resolutions and their goals to make this next year the best year they have ever had.

Last year, the membership saw its new updated website, and saw it’s record-beating MCC attendance of 800 plus! The membership provided awards to over 33 individuals that have demonstrated hard work and determination to serve the OT profession, and the consumer it serves. Although TOTA had an amazing 2017-year, we are excited to say that TOTA also has New Year resolutions and goals to make it the best year yet.

As your membership chair, we are looking for new and exciting ways of increasing your benefits of being a member and looking to better serve you. We are also looking to revamp conference and make it fun, exciting, and of course educational. You will not want to miss out this year on what TOTA has to offer!

Go to your district meetings and contact your district membership chair with your ideas, wants, and needs. After all, we are a collaborative team to make TOTA the best it’s ever been. #NewYearNewTOTA.

CALL FOR PAPERS
DEADLINE MAY 21, 2018
Watch for new form at www.tota.org!
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Empowering Human Potential
TOTA Website

Remedy Therapy Staffing
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ClinicSource Therapy Practice
Networking Banquet Table

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TOTA Website

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Texas Tech University Health Science Center
Texas Women’s University – Dallas
Texas Women’s University – Denton
Texas Women’s University – Houston
The University of Texas Medical Branch
UT Health San Antonio
University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences

Participating Companies

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Centre for Neuro Skills (#816)
CHRISTUS Health (#806)
Circle of Life (#616)
ClinicSource Therapy Practice Management Software (#122)
Cobb Pediatric Therapy Services (#125)
Ensign Services (#507)
Epic Pediatric Therapy (#604)
Forman Therapy Services (#614)
Hendrick Medical Center (#713)
Houston Methodist (#513)
KidsCare Therapy (#517)
Killeen Independent School District (#511)
Legacy Healthcare Services (#705)
Maxim Healthcare (#119)
Pathfinder Pediatric Home Care, Inc. (#120)
Pediatrics Plus (#614)
Real OT Solutions (#503)
RehabCare / Kindred Hospital Rehab Services (#808)
Rehab Synergies (#505)
Reliant Pediatric Therapy Services (#127)
Sage Care Therapy (#802)
Specialized Assessment & Consulting / Pediatric Home Therapy (#509)
TTUHSC School of Health Professionals (#608)
Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (#121)
Texas Society for Hand Therapy (#515)
Texas Women’s University (#610)
Therapy 2000 (#610)
Therapy Staff (#612)
University Health System (#711)
University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (#123)
UT Tyler Bridge Program (#709)
VIVA Pediatrics (#118)
Zaner-Bloser (#715)

Conference Bag Giveaways and Inserts / Silent Auction
ClinicSource Therapy Practice Management Software
Cook Children’s Health Care System
Education Resources Inc.
Ensign Services
Hanger Clinic
MGA Pediatric Homecare
Maxim Healthcare
OTVest
Occupational Therapy Tooklit
Remedy Therapy Staffing
Reliant Pediatric Therapy Services
Rhythm Band Instruments LLC
SLACK Incorporated
Specialized Assessment & Consulting / Pediatric Home Therapy
TWU – Texas Women’s University

TOTA Marketplace
Lance Custom Designs
Texas AFWC Consortium (foyer table)
2017 TOTA AWARDS
By Hillary Clearman, OTR, MOT

Every year at our Mountain Central Conference TOTA recognizes those outstanding individuals that demonstrate leadership, hard work, and dedication to the occupational therapy profession. TOTA finds the importance of taking time to honor these individuals for their volunteer work and passion to make the world of OT the best it can be. Congratulations to TOTA’s awardees from the year 2017!

Our Letters of Appreciation went out to the following for their service to TOTA: Lea Weiss, Shubhangi Sharma, Riccio Alvarenga, Gerry Nichols, Bridgett Piernik, Autumn Clegg, Joyce Pfeiderer, Steve Carter, Deborah Ridener, Debbie Micher, and Mary Hennigan. Our Interdisciplinary Award went out to UT Health San Antonio ALSA Clinic. Our Clinical Excellence award went to Lawrence St. Health Care Center and Lone Star College-Tomball OTA program. TOTA’s Clinical Educator of the Year was presented to DeAnna Scapperotti. We had two Academic Educators of the Year, Dr. Tina Fletcher and Rocio Alvarenga. TOTA’s Distinguished Service award was awarded to Anna Haertling. Our Honorary Life Membership award was given to Dr. Gayle Hersch. Our OTA of the Year was DeAnna Scapperotti. Our OT of the Year was presented to Serena Speaker. Last, but definitely not least TOTA’s Roster of Merit was awarded to Timothy Reistetter.

TOTA would like to thank these individuals for continuing to serve TOTA, the OT profession, and its consumers. We would not be where we are today if it were not for the individuals mentioned above. We encourage other OT practitioners to nominate their colleagues and recognize them on the state level. These individuals deserve to be celebrated and honored.

For information on how to nominate please email membership@tota.org.
2017 MOUNTAIN CENTRAL CONFERENCE WRAP-UP
CALL FOR TOTA OT HISTORY
By Kitty Reed, PhD, OTR, FAOTA, MLIS

Calling OT Hoarders of TOTA Stuff. Your help is needed to fill in gaps in our history files. Yes, we have an archives collection and have had one since 1990 at the Moody Library, University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Yes, we can afford the cost, which is free. The ad hoc archives committee (Esther Bell, Kitty Reed, and Judi Joseph) has been updating the collection by moving many of the files from office in Austin to Galveston.

We need, for example, conference programs before 1990, copies of the Revista newsletter before 1990, copies of minutes from the 1960s and 1970s and material from any of the Districts.

The archives collection helps us keep track of our history back to founding in 1936. For example, how do you know many people have served as TOTA president? The answer is 30, including two vice presidents who completed the terms of elected presidents. Another example, when did TOTA start giving out awards? The answer is 1964. The first was OTR (OT) of the Year awarded to Lucile Lacy, a former president. The Recognitions (or Awards) Committee was established in 1983. So, if you are a “collector of all things important” and have items you would like to donate, please contact Esther Bell (pebell@aol.com) or Kitty Reed (kireed3@juno.com). Tell us what you have and we will make arrangements for transport.

TOTA Corporate Member

Texas Woman’s University
Denton, TX

EXPLORE THE BENEFITS OF TOTA CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS

Two levels of memberships are available and benefits include: Ad placement in Revista OT; discounts on Revista ads and Career Corner job postings; two Mailing Lists per year; a subscription to Revista OT, and special recognition signage at TOTA MCC. Visit http://tota.org/corpmem.html for complete information and the membership form.
ALAMO SOUTH DISTRICT UPDATE

By Ricky Joseph, PhD, MA-HRM, OTR – Alamo South District Chair

Greetings from the Alamo South District of TOTA. We look forward to an exciting and productive year in which we advance the profession of occupational therapy and engage with our community in new and dynamic ways. We celebrate the outstanding Mountain Central Conference and would like to thank the conference planners and all who supported such a well-attended event. Many of the Alamo South District attendees commented favorably on the excellent venue and requested that this venue be used again in coming years. We congratulate the UT Health San Antonio ALS Clinic for receiving the TOTA Interdisciplinary Team Award. Our former ASD secretary, Dr. Autumn Clegg is the occupational therapist on that team. We also recognize the many therapists and students who presented during the Mountain Central Conference. Your demonstrated dedication to your profession benefits all the OT practitioners in Texas.

I welcome two new members of the ASD board: Theresa Prudencio, our new development chair, and Thelma Montemayor, our new cluster representative for Corpus Christi.

The ASD board met in December to finalize the 2018 CE calendar. Education chair Paul Martinez is currently busy confirming our speakers. The Calendar is as follows:

- **FEBRUARY 17**
  - Autism Assessment and Treatment

- **APRIL 14**
  - Occupation Based Assessments Overview

- **JUNE 9**
  - Assessment and Intervention in Mental Health

- **AUGUST 11**
  - The Role of Occupational Therapy in Cancer Treatment

We would like to invite all of the TOTA members in the Alamo South District to take advantage of the CE offering. As usual, these programs will be presented at the UT Health San Antonio Department of Occupational Therapy in the Research & Administration Building, 8403 Floyd Curl Dr. San Antonio, TX 78229. Mega Meeting links are as follow:

- **Laredo Cluster**, led by Terri R. Gonzalez, meets at Laredo Medical Center, Tower-A Room E3559, 1700 E. Saunders Ave, Laredo, TX 78041

- **Lower Rio Grande Valley Cluster**, led by Layman D. Miller, meets at Ramiro R. Casso Nursing and Allied Health Campus, 1101 E. Vermont, McAllen, TX 78503

- The location of our Corpus Christi Cluster, led by Thelma Montemayor, will be announced via Evite prior to the February CE meeting.

Please take advantage of the CE offerings and general membership meetings, make use of the TOTA Website to stay current, and resolve to be active and make a difference in your profession this year. Have a great year.

CAPITAL CENTEX DISTRICT UPDATE

By Leslie Smart, OTR, DSc

Capitol Centex district members enjoyed participating in this year’s conference in Austin. Many thanks to Capital Centex district board members Estrella Barrera (district secretary) and Susan Jeantete (district vice-chair) for co-chairing this year’s MCC hospitality committee. We were thrilled that our very own Serena Speaker (district education chair) was selected as OT of the year. Natalie Spencer (district OTA representative) organized an OTA meet-up and is looking forward to continuing the tradition at future conferences. Susan Jeantete not only presented her course, Leaping Into Evidence-Based Practice, she also won a quilt in the raffle. Christene Maas (district standards and practice chair) was a co-presenter for Occupational Adaptation Practice Models Across Lifespan and Contexts and her daughter served on the color guard with her Girl Scout troop.

At the Austin Independent School District’s Back to School Bash on August 12, 2017, Capital Centex District TOTA set up a booth to educate families on proper fitting and use of backpacks. Led by Fred Alvarado (district membership chair) and Susan Jeantete, the group of volunteers fitted and educated over 300 students. Of the 26 volunteers, 20 were students from Austin Community College and University of St. Augustine. Many thanks to Fred for his years of commitment to this event. Students and others have an opportunity to volunteer for an excellent cause and the event also educates the public about our profession.
TRINITY NORTH DISTRICT UPDATE
By William Sit, PhD, OTR, CSIPT, CKTP, CFWED, CIMP

The Trinity North District is proud to continue offering high quality educational opportunities to practitioners at four sites across the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Our primary location at Texas Woman's University is in the heart of the Dallas medical district and accommodates a great turnout from practitioners who work at nearby facilities. Our three virtual sites are located in Fort Worth, Tyler, and Denton. We welcome all area practitioners to join us bimonthly at any of our locations. Recent topics have included vestibular rehabilitation, amputation and mirror therapy, legislation update, and OTA supervision. Topics for upcoming meetings on Thursdays will be listed on our website.

Those who would like to join us at the Trinity North District primary location can enjoy free parking and a provided meal. The address for the primary location is:

Texas Woman's University
5500 Southwestern Medical Ave.
Room 3620
Dallas, TX 75235-7299

Those who are unable to join us at our primary location have the option to choose from three virtual sites for their convenience. Attendees at the Fort Worth virtual site can also enjoy free parking at the main therapy gym. The meeting is held in the Education room just off the main therapy gym. Texas Rehab Hospital located in the Fort Worth Hospital district across the parking lot from Harris Methodist and Cooks Children Hospitals and down the street from Plaza Medical Center and Baylor All Saints. The Fort Worth virtual site address is:

Texas Rehab Hospital of Fort Worth
425 Alabama Ave
Fort Worth, TX 76104

Our second “North-Side” virtual site is hosted by the Texas Woman’s University School of Occupational Therapy in Denton, Texas. After 5:00pm you can park for free in the MCL parking lot behind the building off College Street and enter through the back door. To avoid the stairs, park in one of the lots on Vine Street to access the ramp. Take the elevator from the lobby to the 8th floor, exit the elevators and walk past the OT office and turn left. Room 803 is next to the stairwell exit. The address for the North-Side virtual site is:

Texas Woman’s University
1314 N. Bell Avenue
Room 803
Denton, TX 76209

Our third “East-side” virtual site is hosted by Tyler Junior College. You can park anywhere in the faculty or student lot after regular class hours. The address is:

Robt. M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Bldg lot
1424 S. Fleishel, Tyler 75701
Room 1.132.

Meeting attendees may enjoy a social hour from 5pm-6pm and a CE presentation from 6pm-7:30pm. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings!

Updates:
Trinity North District member Tina Fletcher received the TOTA Academic Educator of the Year Award at the TOTA 2017 Mountain Central Conference in Austin, Texas.

From the Education Chair
By Sophie L. Rydin, OT, PhD

If you were among the 801 attendees at the TOTA Central Annual Conference in November in Austin Texas, you were surely amazed with 117 excellent educational sessions. Topics included pediatrics, mental health, physical disabilities, research, legislature, technologies, and some emerging areas such as managing the stem cell population and life style therapy. You probably enjoyed the opportunity to network with 438 students and 379 clinicians and visit the 52 vendors in the exhibit hall. Other highlights of the conference were the silent auction and the book signing events with Doctors Kitty Reed, Suzanne Peloquin and Cynthia Evetts.

Through the use of video conferencing tools such as Megameeting to broadcast district meetings and CE presentations across districts and to many remote clusters, we are reaching more members and helping them earn CE hours. If you are interested in hosting a virtual meeting for a group of OT practitioners in your area, please contact the chair of your district.

We are always recruiting presenters for the CE events at the district meetings and the TOTA annual conference. If you would like to share your expertise in your area of clinical practice, scholarly studies, or evidence-based practice, please contact the district or education chair in your district. You can also submit your proposal for a conference presentation when you receive the “Call for Paper” email announcement in April.

Continued on page 16
The Student Occupational Therapy Association at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center volunteers and serves various populations within the community.

SOTA members assist with Night Out With Loving Sitters (Night OWLS), a program that provides respite for parents of children with special needs and their siblings.

SOTA members also assist with High Point Village School Enrichment Classes and Mosaic, two organizations that provide services to individuals with intellectual disabilities. SOTA members volunteer at the annual Fall Festival held at The Children’s Home of Lubbock, a residential foster care program, by assisting with the petting zoo area and overall organization of the event.

During the Fall semester, SOTA members contributed to various drives. Members donated blankets, hygiene items, and socks to Silver Star, a program of all-inclusive care or the elderly. Members also donated hygiene and cleaning supplies to LIFE/RUN, an advocacy organization with innovative services and programs designed for individuals with disabilities.

TTUHSC SOTA members accumulated approximately 807 hours of volunteering in the Fall 2017 semester. Fundraising efforts by SOTA made it possible to send 46 members to the TOTA Mountain Central Conference.

Save the dates of November 2 – 4, 201 and make plans to attend the TOTA Conference in the Marriott Town Square in Sugar Land, Texas. Check out the TOTA website to see all the superb CE presentations in your district, attend the next district meeting to earn CE credits, network with students and clinicians, and participate in the district activities to support OT month in April. You can do more to help us recruit new members by sharing my article and information about membership benefits with your OT colleagues who are not TOTA members. Bring them with you to the district meetings.

As usual, feel free to contact me at sophie.rydin@hcss.com, or 713-201-1270 with any questions or suggestions.
Hurricane Harvey's unprecedented devastation across the Texas Gulf Coast, from Rockport to Houston and Port Arthur into Louisiana, was shared in the news around the world. Hurricane Harvey's metrics are staggering. As a Category 4 hurricane with 130 mph winds and 51.3 inches of rain, Harvey claimed 82 lives, lead to 10,000 federal rescues, 738,000 people registering for assistance with (FEMA), sent 37,000 people to shelters in Texas, damaged 203,000 homes, ruined a million vehicles beyond repair, and has been projected to cost of $180 billion dollars in damages (https://www.thebalance.com/hurricane-harvey-facts-damage-costs-4150082).

Economic metrics used to report the extent of devastation that follows natural disasters such as Hurricane Harvey are never able to measure the extent of heartache and hopelessness one must feel when every meaningful occupation of daily living is impacted. Leaders in the Texas Occupational Therapy Association, within days following Hurricane Harvey, heard and began to answer the call in the words of Dr. Maya Angelo “to be a rainbow in some else’s cloud” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nYXFletWH4). Calls from OT practitioners from Texas and across the country seeking ways to support OT colleagues impacted by Harvey, led TOTA leaders to explore how to best serve OT colleagues and insure the delivery of occupational therapy service.

If you ever questioned the value of being a member of your state professional association, read on to discover the power of community in serving others.

The Texas Occupational Therapy Association, a professional community, deployed resources to serve members and the profession. Using member supported TOTA website resources, a link was created (http://www.tota.org/hurricane-harvey-relief) to provide a means by which occupational therapy practitioners and students personally impacted by Harvey could connect with colleagues seeking to support those in need. In researching resources to support Texas occupational therapy practitioners impacted by Harvey, Robin Clearman, President of TOTA discovered, despite compassionate concern, neither TOTA, TOTF, AOTA, or AOTF’s missions or organizational infrastructure was prepared to provide long term support for those impacted by natural disasters or significant (occupational) challenges.

“None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.”
– Mother Teresa

After discussing options with TOTA Board and others, a group of concerned members supported the recommendation to establish a not for profit 501C3 Occupational Therapy Benevolence Endowment.
The group determined that an independent not for profit corporation with a specific mission of benevolence would best serve those in need and contributors to the endowment. To facilitate the development of the infrastructure needed to implement a benevolence endowment, TOTA established a Hurricane Harvey Ad-Hoc Committee. The Ad-Hoc Committee was charged to make recommendations for policy and procedures to support the delivery of occupational therapy services following natural disasters, such as Hurricane Harvey.

The TOTA Hurricane Harvey Ad-Hoc Committee has, to date, conducted two conference call meetings to establish a strategic plan by which to make recommendations to the TOTA and the OT-BE newly appointed officers. In November 2017, an application to recognize Occupational Therapy Benevolence Endowment as a 501C3 not for profit corporation was made. The Occupational Therapy Benevolence Endowment was officially recognized by the state of Texas as a not for profit 501C3, January 2018.

TOTA leaders volunteered their expertise to serve as OT-BE officers until bylaws are written. Texas OT-BE officers include: Monica Clark, president, Robin Clearman, treasurer, and Sophie Rydin, secretary. The stated purpose of OT-BE is as follows: “The Occupational Therapy Benevolent Endowment (OT-BE) is a not for profit, benevolent corporation established to support occupational therapy (OT) practitioners and / or their ability to deliver OT services in time of significant life crisis. The OT BE funded initiatives allow OT practitioners, OT public supporters, and their families the opportunity to give back to the OT community and support the delivery of OT services in Texas.” Occupational therapy practitioners across Texas, students from University of Texas San Antonio and as far away as Wisconsin Madison College have contributed funds to support occupational therapy practitioners’ Hurricane Harvey Recovery efforts.

The occupational therapy community of support following the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey serves to demonstrate the value and power of community in service to others. The actions of Texas Occupational Therapy Association in face of a national disaster can serve a model for other states when faced with disasters that impact the ability to deliver occupational therapy services. No one organization or government agency can serve all the needs of those impacted by natural disasters, but collectively in community with others we can develop strategies that enable consumers and providers of occupational therapy services to engage in occupations of meaning.

If you are a member of TOTA, thank you for your service to the OT community. If you know of others who are not yet members, please share this article with them to demonstrate the power and value of the Texas Occupational Therapy Association community. For more information on how to join the TOTA community and/or contribute to the OT-BE in service to those impacted by Hurricane Harvey, see www.tota.org and https://otbe.org

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

Past TOTA leadership long ago recognized the value of a network of leadership across the state when it established six TOTA districts. TOTA members from each of the six districts accepted the invitation to serve on the Hurricane Harvey Ad-Hoc Committee. The TOTA Hurricane Harvey Ad-Hoc Committee is chaired by Reggie Michael Campbell with members from each of the districts. Members include: Alamo South: Dr. Monica Clark, Carin Cornelius, Marta Perez Dixon; Capital Centex: Heather Doreck, Maria Garza; Great Plains West: Cindy Brosig; Gulf Coast East: Shirley Marin; Rio Grande: Dr. Gretchen Schmalz; and Trinity North: Sara Borsh.

“I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.” – Albert Schweitzer
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