

AOTA Representative Assembly Spring Meeting Summary

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Association

Representative Assembly

- “The Representative Assembly (RA) is the policy-making body of the Association and your link to action on professional issues and concerns” (AOTA, 2008).
 - Establish policy that affects profession direction
 - Represent membership needs

Alabama Representation

- Beth Barstow- Representative to the RA
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- Donna Wooster- Alternate representative to the RA
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Meetings

- 2 annual meetings:
 - Online- fall
 - Face-to-face- spring
- Purpose:
 - Review, amend, defeat, enact policies based on motions
 - Motions from AOTA members, AOTA leadership

Where?

- Meeting Reports

- <http://www.aota.org/Governance/RA/Online.aspx>

- Online Meeting

- OTConnections- Public Groups, ***“2009 Spring Representative Assembly Meeting”***

- <http://OTconnections.aota.org/>



2009 Spring Meeting Member Motions

Motion 1

Definition of OT/OTA
Roles Within the Model
Practice Act and All
Other Relevant
Documents

Motion 2

Specialized Knowledge
and Skills Paper for
Occupational Therapists
in Oncology

2009 Spring Meeting Member Motions

Motion 3

Title Change for
Occupational Therapy
Assistants

Motion 4

Develop Model
Requirements for Re-
Entry/Re-Licensure

2009 Spring Meeting Member Motions

Motion 5

Ensure Broad Practice
Area Representation
Within the AOTA Board
of Directors

Motion 6

Building Diversity in
Occupational Therapy to
Meet the Centennial
Vision

Meeting Outcome

- **Motion 1-** Definition of OT/OTA Roles Within the Model Practice Act and All Other Relevant Documents
 - Motion was defeated, Substitute Motion

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 1

- Although the original Motion 1 addressed occupational therapy roles, upon considerable discussion, including clarification from one of the motion originators, **the underlying issue was determined to be what constitutes the practice of occupational therapy.** Is the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant who is an **educator, researcher, administrator, or consultant practicing occupational therapy,** or are they only using their knowledge as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant to fulfill their job responsibilities?

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 1

- The RA approved rescinding the Roles document in 2004 because it was found to be too restrictive and limiting to reflect the broad scope of practice possibilities for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. However, that rescinded document did include language about occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants as educators, researchers, and administrators. Because the scope of occupational therapy practice continues to evolve, the **Task Group was opposed to limiting, restricting, or prescribing practice.**

Substitute Motion 1

- On behalf of Task Group 1, I move to charge the Representative Assembly Coordinating Council (RACC) to explore if education, research, administration and consultation are considered the practice of occupational therapy for the purposes of state regulation with a report and recommendations at or before the 2010 Spring Representative Assembly Meeting.

Meeting Outcome

- **Motion 2-** Specialized Knowledge and Skills Paper for Occupational Therapists in Oncology
 - Motion was defeated, Substitute Motion

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 2

- “Knowledge and Skills papers were developed in response to a need to articulate “special” knowledge and skills related to specialty areas of practice **when such information was not readily available in our occupational therapy texts.**”
- Current Knowledge and Skills papers (in process) address areas of emerging practice, **areas where there are credentialing requirements or areas where there are concerns about scope or domain of practice.**

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 2

- A Knowledge and Skills paper would take 18-24 months to prepare.
- Continuing education initiatives, journal articles, texts, and other learning opportunities **better serve professional development needs.**
- There is **abundant descriptive literature** about the contribution of occupational therapy in oncology.

Substitute Motion 2

- **Motion:** On behalf of Task Group 3, I charge the President to direct the Executive Director to **develop a timeline and cost estimate for the development of evidence-based products on occupational therapy in oncology** with a report & recommendations at or before the 2009 Fall Representative Assembly Meeting.

Meeting Outcome

- **Motion 3-** Title Change for Occupational Therapy Assistants
 - Motion defeated, No substitute Motion

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 3

- This issue has been evaluated a number of times, in particular as recently as 2007.
There has not been and does not appear to be consensus for changing the name of occupational therapy assistant

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 3

- In March of 2006, a motion A.5. 2006C334: Explore Alternative Titles for OTAs to Recognize Their Education was considered by the RA. At that time, AOTA State Affairs Group was charged to research the title, education/training, and description of other assistant and technical-level personnel within the health professions. The State Affairs report was presented to the RA as part of the President's Report to the RA for its April 2007 meeting. That report detailed the costs for a name change and the implications for other organizations including NBCOT and ACOTE. In presenting that report to the RA, President Baum supported the report's conclusion that a name change could incur fiscal, legal and staff burdens. President Baum noted in her Report that "Implementation of a title change for occupational therapy assistants would require significant resources.... Dedicating resources to implement a title change at this time would require substantial changes in priorities and would redirect resources from other initiatives."

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 3

- In regard to the present 2009 motion for consideration of a name change, **input from the member survey on Zoomerang as well as substantial input from the state associations indicates limited support for a name change.** The state association presidents through a formal report to the RA also indicated significant financial and legal implications of this motion, including opening the state's practice acts.

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 3

- ASAP stated in communication to the RA that “(a)mending the practice act for a title change is an enormous investment of resources (volunteer effort, attention, dollars, lobbyist effort and credibility) **that would open the associations and the profession to significant risk.**” (March 15, 2009).
- The Task Group also considered additional and more current information about costs of changing. The Task Group also had a robust discussion about whether the change from “assistant” to “associate” would actually produce the impact expected by the makers of the motion. **The Task Group discussed that many classification systems, such as state employment or bargaining group definitions, are based on education rather than title.**

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 3

- The Task Group thoroughly discussed and debated the matter but voted to defeat the motion and **not offer a substitute. The lack of support from members and ASAP, the lack of data to support the impact of a name change as well as the expected costs do not argue for changing the name.**

Meeting Outcome

- **Motion 4-** Develop Model Requirements for Re-Entry/Re-Licensure
 - Motion defeated, Motion Amended

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 4

- Consultation with the CCCPD Chair indicated that the Commission could finish its work in this motion at its Fall 2009 meeting, in time for consideration at the RA Fall 2009 meeting. **These guidelines could then serve as a resource for AOTA members and staff in developing model regulations. The tightened time frame makes these guidelines available more quickly.**
- The development of model regulations for incorporation into the State Model Practice Act would be a **recommended action item** of the CCCPD Fall 2009 report, as this is a separate activity to be resourced and to be completed by the AOTA State Affairs group.

Substitute Motion 4

- On behalf of Task Group 5, I move to charge the Commission on Competence Continuing and Professional Development (CCCPD) **to develop guidelines for return to practice (re-entry)**. The guidelines would be **available to** state associations and state regulatory boards seeking to establish or amend re-entry/re-licensure requirements, and to AOTA staff in the development of regulations appropriate for incorporation in the Occupational Therapy Model Practice Act and Model Regulation. The CCCPD will present a final report at or before the 2009 fall Representative Assembly (RA) meeting.

Meeting Outcome

- **Motion 5-** Ensure Broad Practice Area Representation Within the AOTA Board of Directors
 - Motion Defeated

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 5

- Statistics show that the number of **clinicians relative to the number of academicians is tending to increase** since the institution of the Director Model.
- It appears that many academicians have some clinical responsibilities and many **clinicians function in an academic capacity at times, giving them the ability to represent both areas.**

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 5

- Given the environment where **recruiting candidates for these positions has at times been challenging**, we feel that it would be inappropriate to place **unnecessary restrictions** on any grouping of OT professionals who have the desire and qualification to run for a position.
- The BOD is designed to **direct operations of the association, while in contrast the RA develops and enacts policies. Diversity across practice areas is recognizable within the RA.** The Speaker of the RA was recently added to the Board composition providing representational input.

Meeting Outcome

- **Motion 6-** Building Diversity in Occupational Therapy to Meet the Centennial Vision
 - Motion Defeated

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 6

- While we appreciate the intent of this motion, it appears that **work on diversity issues is well underway.**
- **Reporting** is current and readily available.
- **Statistics** are current and available through AOTA.
- **Recruitment initiatives** are currently underway.
- **Diversity is at the heart of the Centennial Vision and not likely to be ignored** by AOTA or the membership.

Rationale for Defeat of Motion 6

- The Centennial Vision is guiding all actions of the Association at every level.
- There has been some success reported in recruitment of students from diverse backgrounds.
- We can, through our publications, membership initiatives, publicity etc. emphasize our commitment to diversity.

Additionally...

- Motion originated by SISSC
 - Develop Equal & Consistent System for Soliciting Member Feedback for RA
 - Motion Defeated

- Motion Originated by COE
 - International Fieldwork Collaboration Program
 - Motion Defeated, Substitute Motion- current materials to be posted on the AOTA website

Additionally...

- Motion originated by BPPC
 - Amendments to the 2007 Bylaws
 - Motion adopted

- Motion originated by vice speaker
 - AOTA Autism Societal Statement
 - Motion adopted, statement accepted