

Vermont Occupational Therapy Association

**Join Us in South Burlington for the
2018 VOTA Conference!**

Trader Duke's Hotel (Marriott)

1117 Williston Road
S. Burlington, Vermont 05403
(802) 658-0250

EARN 6.5 Contact Hours!



**Winter Quarterly
2018**

**Visit our website to find links to register via mail, Eventbrite or
Paypal: www.vermontot.org Our home page has links to all
sources of registration!**

February 17, 2018 registration begins at 7:30

Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes are our guest speakers who will talk to attendees about their story of survival after the tragic Boston Marathon Bombing and how OT helped to change their lives.



AOTA Vision 2025

Occupational Therapy maximizes health, well-being and quality of life for all people, populations and communities by providing effective solutions to facilitate participation in everyday living.

VOTA Officers:

- President: Caren Maslowsky (interim)
- Vice President: Karen Fiekers
- Secretary: Jennifer Oxford
- Treasurer: Barbara Winters
- Newsletter Chair: Kristen Jackson
- Membership Chair: Viki Delmas
- Legislative Chair: Todd Patterson
- Public Relations: Lesley Bardins
- RA Rep: Karen Downey

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Conference at a Glance

7:30-8:00 Registration

8:00-8:30 Welcome

8:30-9:30 Keynote Address - Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes

9:30-9:45 Question and Answer with Jessica
Kensky and Patrick Downes

10:00-10:45
Role of OT in Concussion Management:
Nicola Hawko, OTR/L Lindsey Schneider, OTR/L Kristine O'Malley, OTR/L

Meditation and Mindfulness for Therapists:
Michelle Bonang, OTR/L, RCYT-30

11:00-11:45 Networking by Practice Area

11:45-12:45 Lunch Annual Board Meeting

1:00-1:45 Feeding Presentation- Deb Sharpe, OTR/L(VT I-Team) Mary-Kara Comeau, MS, CCC- SLP, CLC (UVM Medical Center)
Alana Lowry, MS, CCC-SLP, CLC (UVM Medical Center)
Rebecca Grimm, OTR (VT I-Team Early Intervention Project and VNA)
Lindsay Fitzpatrick, OTR/L (UVM Medical Center).

Functional Positioning for the Geriatric Patient Part 1
Laurie Cecci, OTR/L Regional Clinical Director, Genesis
Rehab Services/Eastern Territory/New England
Division Heidi Amaral, PT

2:00-2:45 Feeding Presentation - Chayah Lichtig, OTR

Positioning for the Geriatric Patient Part 2 Laurie Cecci, OTR/L Regional
Clinical Director, Genesis Rehab Services/Eastern Territory/New England Integrated Services Central Vermont) Karen Rogers, Ma, CCC- SLP (New England Speech and Feeding
Services) Rebecca Grimm, OTR (VT I-Team Early Intervention Project and VNA) Division Heidi Amaral, PT

3:00-3:45 Driving 101 for the Generalist OT
Heather Zuk, OTR/L, Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist and
Vermont Driving Instructor

Tips for Working with New American Families
Miriam Ehtesham-Cating

4:00-4:30 Wrap up/ Survey



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Caren Maslowsky, OTR/L

Winter in Vermont brings to mind images of snow capped mountains sprinkled with skiers and snow-boarders, horse-drawn sleigh rides, and ice fishing. If you're an Occupational Therapy professional, winter in Vermont means STATE CONFERENCE!! Time to come out of hibernation to meet up with your colleagues, stimulate your minds with new treatment ideas, and knock out a chunk of continuing education credits before the March 31 National Certification Board and Vermont state licensure July deadlines.



2017 has brought some changes in leadership for VOTA. I have stepped up from my position as Public Relations Chair to assume the post of Interim President, as Megan Aikers unexpectedly stepped down in October. We thank Megan for her leadership over the past couple of years, and we wish her well.

Your Executive Board has been working diligently to plan an exciting and diverse offering of seminars, vendors, and networking opportunities at the 2018 state conference. Not to mention a delicious Trader Duke's buffet lunch! You won't want to miss **Keynote speakers, Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes**, share with you their Boston Marathon bombing survivor inspirational story, and meet their award-winning service dog, Rescue. Jessica will also hold a book signing for her new children's book, "[Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship](#)," Invite your PT friends and amputee clients to register to hear the Keynote only address and personally meet Jessica and Patrick. Hands-on positioning, feeding, adaptive sports, and low vision aides are just some of the opportunities. New this year is a networking breakout by practice area to address specific needs of your specialty. Come support student posters and thank our sponsors for supporting occupational therapy in Vermont.

We will choose the Diane Aja Scholarship winner at the Annual Meeting on February 17. If you are a VOTA member and want to try for a chance to win an AOTA 2018 registration scholarship, be sure to visit www.vermontot.org and email your application to otvermont@gmail.com by February 15.

Your state organization is an important avenue for the promotion and protection of our profession. With reimbursement changes and scope of practice issues looming in the near future, now is the time to renew your membership to show our Vermont legislature that we have a strong backing in our member ranks. Be sure to read updates from our Legislative Chair and AOTA Representative Assembly delegate to stay informed on what's happening at the state and national levels.

Every member who commits a small amount of time to the work at hand strengthens our chances at developing new O.T. programs in Vermont, as well as new career opportunities to draw talent to our beautiful state. This year, consider serving on a committee or a Board member, and be part of exciting new developments in O.T. We are accepting nominations for President, Treasurer and Public Relations Chair. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting.

Which leads me to point out our new VOTA FACEBOOK PAGE. Thank you to Leslie Bardin, a new OTR grad, for her help to make this live. We're moving VOTA into the digital age with an improved website and Eventbrite conference registration. Remember, unless you have paid your 2018 dues effective January 1, *it's time to renew now!* Save time and money at the conference registration line.

I am honored to serve as your Interim President. Looking forward to getting to know you better as the year progresses. Hope to see you all in February in South Burlington.

Be well,

Caren

Time to submit your application for the annual Diane Aja Scholarship!

Anyone interested in attending AOTA's annual conference needs to apply!!!!



This is an annual award for an active VOTA member to receive AOTA member rate admission fee to the annual AOTA Conference April 19-22, 2018 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

An article must be submitted after the conference including photos.

Please visit our website to submit your application: <https://www.vermontot.org/diane-aja>

Answer the following questions and submit via email or via our online submission form:

1. Tell us about yourself, including the strengths and talents that would contribute to the growth of VOTA.
2. Describe one goal for professional development as an OT provider, and how you would use the experience to further this objective, were you selected to attend the national conference.
3. Recently there has been local and national focus on healthcare accessibility. Factors especially affecting Vermont are the opioid crisis and shortage of primary care providers. AOTA has made this an area of focus as well. What role do you see occupational therapy playing to address ONE of those issues for needs of VT communities?

Deadline is February 15th, so our winner can be announced at our annual VOTA Conference on February 17, 2018.

Executive Board Member Position Available!

Please consider running for the position of Treasurer!

This person manages all finances involved to ensure VOTA's sustainability.

Email otvermont@gmail.com for further details.



A message from our Vermont Representative to AOTA–

Karen Downey (kdowney@bsdvt.org)

There is progress on the development of the Occupational Therapy Assistant 2 year program at Vermont Technical College. Ela Dupont, John Dupont, Karen Fiekers, Linda Kogut and I have been part of the VOTA Ad Hoc OTA Higher Education Committee that was created in Sept 2016. We have met with Patricia Moulton, President of Vermont Technical College and outlined the need for Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants in Vermont based on the difficulty in finding qualified staff to fill open positions of employment in home health, hospitals, schools and sub-acute care facilities across Vermont. We are presently gathering documentation and exploring start up funding for this higher education program. We are in contact with members of the Vermont House of Representative Commerce and Economic Development Committee who support the development of 2 year professional programs for a more skilled workforce in Vermont.

There has been great progress in the development of a basic level entry OT Doctorate program at the University of Vermont College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Another VOTA Ad Hoc Committee has meet twice with Asso. Dean Sarah Abrams to discuss the planning of this program- projected start in 2019-2020. There is a need to identify Vermont fieldwork placements for both the OTA and OT programs.

Maria Smith, an OT student from Clarkson University, in Potsdam, NY has taken on a Capstone Project to assist VOTA in developing a North Country OT digital networking project, to connect OTs in Vermont, northern New York, New Hampshire and southern Quebec. This project's purpose is for OTs to share professional information across the OT practice areas to solve clinical problems, share continuing education and employment opportunities and assist OT students in finding fieldwork placements. There will be more information about the this Capstone Project at the 2018 VOTA Conference.

Your VOTA Membership is the best way to support Occupational Therapy in Vermont!

Greetings! 2018 is here and I sincerely hope it is off to a great start.

The new year is a time for renewal, not just of mind and body but of membership as well! If you are reading this email, your membership in the Vermont Occupational Therapy Association (VOTA) is up for renewal. Membership rates are the same as in previous years with a savings offered for 3 year memberships. I have attached a membership form to this email, feel free to print off to send on payment and share with colleagues, or go to our website www.vermontot.org and renew online...we now accept Paypal!!! If you have already renewed your membership, thank you. You will be receiving a welcome email with your membership number soon.

Did you know that there is a team of professionals working hard to bring OTR and COTA programs to Vermont? Do you know how new legislation will impact your practice? What is the best way to reach out to colleagues for networking and idea-sharing? Did you know that less than 25% of Occupational Therapy professionals registered in Vermont are members of VOTA? Many new things are in the works for the Occupational Therapy community around Vermont and membership in VOTA can help keep you informed. Join us in expanding our numbers to bring greater value to your membership by encouraging your colleagues to join VOTA and make this year one of our best yet!

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the VOTA Conference on February 17th in South Burlington at the Trader Duke's Hotel (formerly Doubletree). Keynote speakers Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downs will present their story of surviving the Boston Marathon bombing and the role of OT in regaining their independence. Information is available on the website with further details on presentations, CEUs and registration. Lunch is included in Conference Registration.

Best wishes for a successful and happy 2018!

Viki Delmas OTR/L Membership Chair

An update from our legislative chair, Todd Patterson:

Current State Legislative Trends, not specific to VT:

- Scope of practice bills- Athletic Trainers, Drama and Dance Therapy, Music Therapy etc
- OT as AMH- Allied Mental Health Professional- independent involvement and billing allowances
- Changes in Medicaid reimbursement
- Alcoholism and substance abuse practitioners- licensure and standards of practice
- Telehealth- inclusion of eligible professions

Current Federal Regulatory Trends:

- Therapy CAP to be reinstated in 2018- access to OT services could be impacted if congress fails to act- Action needed to repeal the CAP!
- Bill to identify OTAs as Tricare providers signed into law
- CPT code changes for Cognitive Intervention taking place 2018
- Pain Management survey will no longer impact inpatient hospital CMS reimbursement
- Medicare final rules- 4 ways they will impact OT services



<https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/Federal-Reg-Affairs/News.aspx>

<https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/Congressional-Affairs/Legislative-Issues-Update.aspx>

JOB OPPORTUNITY

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST OPPORTUNITY

Our region is beautiful and is surrounded by mountains and lakes for those who like outdoor activities. We are roughly 2 hours from Burlington, Vermont, 1 hour from Sherbrooke, Quebec, 2 hours from Montreal and 4 hours from Boston.

North Country Hospital is a rural hospital located in Northern Vermont, with a progressive outpatient department, small inpatient department, school and skilled nursing contracts.

We are seeking a Full Time, Occupational Therapist at North Country Hospital. The Occupational Therapist organizes and conducts occupational therapy programs in the hospital outpatient and inpatient settings, schools (early education through High School), and Nursing Homes.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

OT- Minimum of bachelor of health science in occupational therapy. Must be licensed, or applying, to practice Occupational Therapy in the State of Vermont. Must be well versed in all aspects of occupational therapy including rehabilitation of people of all ages. Strong analytical assessment skills, independent decision making abilities with interdisciplinary team collaboration and excellent skills in documentation required. 1-2 years' experience preferred, but a highly motivated new graduate with exposure to a variety of clinical experiences will be considered.

Interested candidates may apply
Online at www.northcountryhospital.org
For additional information contact:
Tina Royer, Recruitment Coordinator
Human Resources
North Country Hospital
189 Prouty Drive,
Newport, VT 05855
802-334-3210 Ext. 407
Email: troyer@nchsi.org



VOTA

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The mission of the Vermont Occupational Therapy Association (VOTA) is to promote and advance occupational therapy practice, research, legislation, and education, and to support occupational therapy practitioners in Vermont. The Association serves its members by providing support services, acting as a public advocate of occupational therapy, and participating in cooperative interaction to meet the needs of the professional and the public.

**Please visit our new
website:**

www.vermontot.org

VOTA Membership



Continue your VOTA Membership!

Encourage co-workers and friends who are Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapist Assistants to consider becoming a member of our organization.

Please apply on our website or request an application form from our membership chair to sign up for a 1 or 3 year membership with VOTA.

Questions?

Please contact:

Viki Delmas

email: vikidelmas@yahoo.com





Vermont Occupational
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