



It was so much fun to see conference on March 25th! of networking, and interesting you to everyone who attended and day. A special thanks to the members of the VOTA Conference Planning Committee who planned and orchestrated the event. We appreciate your hard work!

so many people at our There was a great turnout, lots educational presentations. Thank brought your wonderful energy to the

In other news, April was Occupational Therapy Month! This is a time to celebrate and reflect on all the work OTs and OTAs are doing in our communities. If you have a story to share about how occupational therapy is changing lives, AOTA is collecting them here. This month AOTA will also be hosting their annual conference in Kansas City. This conference is a great time to connect with other OTs and OTAs and re-energize. Every year VOTA provides one scholarship that covers admission to the conference for a VOTA member. This year's recipient has already been chosen (congratulations Allison Peterson!) but if you think you might be interested in attending AOTA 2024 in Orlando, Florida, don't forget to apply for the scholarship when it opens next year.

Over the next few months VOTA will be planning out our coming year. Our new bylaws, passed at the annual business meeting, are now in effect and we will begin the process of adjusting our standard operating procedures, welcoming new board members, and developing goals for 2024 and beyond. As always, if you see ways that VOTA can support you or support occupational therapy practice in Vermont please let us know.

Thank you for the work you do and happy Occupational Therapy Month!

Sincerely,

Lindsay Thrall, MOT, OTR/L



The Vermont Pediatric Feeding Consortium is a group of pediatric OTs, SLPs and RDs that has been working hard to develop resources for professionals who work with the Pediatric Feeding Disorders. One of the Consortium's outcomes was the development of a School Based Feeding Record and Plan. This is an interdisciplinary document intended to help coordinate and plan a safe and effective feeding program for students with complex feeding needs in the school environment.

A subcommittee of the consortium has also developed a presentation describing what a pediatric feeding disorder is and why the diagnosis is important for children with the disorder. This presentation was given at Pediatric Grand Rounds as well as for a group of Maternal and Child Health Nurses. A Pediatric Feeding Disorder Screener developed by Feeding Matters, will hopefully be used as part of the intake for early intervention. The implementation of the screener may yield more referrals to OTs and SLPs for feeding therapy. We have also been discussing the lack of qualified feeding therapists in the State of Vermont. Our next step is to look into trainings for therapists who want to do more feeding therapy in their practices. The Consortium welcomes new members so if you are interested in joining, email either Meg Denton at [mvdenton3@gmail.com](mailto:mvdenton3@gmail.com) or Kelli Borgman at [Kelli.Borgman@partner.vermont.gov](mailto:Kelli.Borgman@partner.vermont.gov)

**Interested in taking a UVM OTD student for a Level II fieldwork placement between May, 2024 – December, 2024? If so, please contact the UVM OTD Academic Fieldwork, Dr. Kimberly Krebs at [kimberly.krebs@med.uvm.edu](mailto:kimberly.krebs@med.uvm.edu).**



Along with providing adapted trikes, AMBUCS has also provided scholarships for future Occupational Therapists! VT AMBUCS needs your help to Sponsor 3 students!

The Vermont AMBUCS Chapter has sponsored one student annually in the past. This year we have several OT students already applying. Our Vermont AMBUCS Chapter has an opportunity to sponsor 3 therapy students by making a \$600 donation to national AMBUCS for this purpose.

Please help us raise these funds by May 28, 2023. Your Donation of \$25 or \$35 or more can help us achieve our \$600 goal!

To Make A Donation Go to VT AMBUCS <https://www.vtambucs.org>

\*\* The VOTA Executive Board approved this message and thanks you for your consideration.



Notes from Vermont's NBCOT Ambassador:

- Starting in 2027, NBCOT is instituting a new rule in which members must renew certification within 3 cycles. Those who let their 'R' or 'C' lapse after 3 cycles will be required to take the certification exam again.  
(3 cycles = 9 - 10 years)
- If you earn more than the required 36 CAUs toward registration, you can apply CAUs earned in the last year toward the next renewal cycle.
- CE Broker is a service available through NBCOT which keeps track of continuing education requirements earned.
- Did you know that the NBCOT Navigator offers free continuing education on topics ranging for Driving and Community Mobility, Coronavirus, Falls Prevention, Fine Motor Delay, Dementia, Ergonomics, Spinal Cord Injury, and Telehealth?
- Proquest is a cool database allowing users to access current evidence based practice articles.

Reach out with any questions!

Submitted by:

Kristie Kapusta, OTR/L

kristie.kapusta@gmail.com



**Occupation:  
Centering  
Compassion,  
Universal  
Personhood,  
Activities  
That  
Integrate  
Opportunities,  
New  
And  
Long-standing.**

**Thoroughly  
Honoring  
Everyone's  
Reality,  
Actualizing  
Participants'  
Yearnings.**

~ Thomas Hartigan ~

## Todd Patterson, OTR, 2023 Outstanding Occupational Therapist



### Todd Patterson, OTR, 2023 Outstanding Occupational Therapist

Todd has demonstrated outstanding skill and leadership as an Occupational Therapist in the areas of adult rehabilitation and long term care. Todd completed his OT degree at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada, and has held a variety of clinical and administrative positions serving adults in New York, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Todd served for many years in managerial/administrative roles with Genesis Health Care, University of Vermont Home Health and Hospice, most recently as the Executive Director of The Residence at Shelburne Bay. Todd also served for 3 terms as Legislative Chair for the Vermont Occupational Therapy Association. Todd is highly respected and warmly regarded by his Vermont Occupational Therapy colleagues.

## Melissa (Missy) Hellyer, COTA/L, 2023 Outstanding Occupational Therapy



Missy graduated from Champlain College Occupational Therapy Assistant program in 2001. Between 2001 and 2008 she worked both full and part time in several skilled nursing facilities in Rehab and in 2020 joined Bayada full time as well as taking on per diem hours at Birchwood Terrace. She is a highly skilled and respected therapist in Chittenden County and has been an active VOTA member for many years. Missy has been a co-facilitator for the Reimbursement Issues in SNF & Home Health Focus Groups at several VOTA Conferences. Missy is a hard-working, knowledgeable, and compassionate COTA, consistently advocating for OT across Vermont.



Aging in Place

committee hasn't met  
have been shared

members. We are waiting to  
Aging and Independent Living which

the new 2 year CAPABLE Grant, which will include an OT position. CAPABLE is a person-directed, home-based program that addresses both function and healthcare expenses. The four to five-month program integrates services from an occupational therapist (OT), a registered nurse (RN), and a handy worker who work together with the older adult to set goals and direct action plans that change behaviors to improve health, independence, and safety. Participants learn new skills, exercises, and how to work with additional tools/equipment/home modifications to improve function and safety. CAPABLE focuses on prevention and problem-solving, building skills that can be used in the future.

The Committee is also exploring ways for VOTA to become part of the UVM Center on Aging Gerontology Symposium which will be held on May 15th this year at the Burlington DoubleTree Hotel. If you are interested in joining this committee or have ideas of how Vermont OT can increase involvement in programs for older adults, please contact Karen Downey, OTR/L, at [votatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:votatreasurer@gmail.com)

Committee Update -This

in person, however emails

frequently amongst committee

hear from the VT Department of

health care agency will be implementing



## Did you Know?

Your Vermont Occupational Therapy Association has the highest number of members in the history of your organization. We currently have 125 members including a few organization/team memberships.

Organization/Team memberships are where there are 5 interested OTs who can join paying one combined (and discounted) fee and get a job (or other) advertisement placed on the VOTA website.

On our VOTA website there are many great photos to check out from our 2023 VOTA Conference held in March.

We had 64 attendees at this years conference, there were thirteen great sponsors at three different sponsorship levels, three conference donors, and ten different excellent presenters bringing the knowledge to you and to Vermont. Thank you all!

VOTA donated to the UVM OTD program to help send a second student to the AOTA Conference held last month in Kansas City. New VOTA merch will soon available for purchase with our new logo.

Your VOTA board and others have been advocating for the OT Compact to come before the legislature. Looks like it could come up in the next session. Please consider adding your advocacy to bring this to fruition. Help make it easier for OTs to practice here and across neighboring and other states.

# THANK YOU TO THE 2023 VOTA CONFERENCE SPONSORS

## Gold Level



The University of Vermont



Silver Level



Bronze Level



802 Books and Taxes

## Conference Donors



**All Brains Belong VT**  
Neuroinclusive Healthcare & Community



During our annual business meeting at the VOTA Conference, March 25, 2023, membership in attendance voted a new slate of officers. Here is your Executive Board:

President: Lindsay Thrall, OTR/L

Vice President: Chelsea Vaillancourt, OTR/L

Treasurer: Karen Downey, OTR/L

Secretary: Johanne Champigny, OTR/L

Membership: Nicole DeVoid, OTR/L

Legislative Chair: Hannah Bloom, OTR/L

Newsletter: Amy Maxwell, OTR/L

Representative AOTA: Ela Dupont, OTR/L

Public Relations: Kristen Jackson, OTR/L