



VERMONT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

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An Update from your President

Dear VOTA Members,

Happy New Year! I hope you were all able to enjoy some quality time with friends and family over the holiday season. The VOTA board has already been hard at work this year because the legislative session started January 3rd and our compact bill was first up on the schedule! Multiple VOTA board members testified on the benefits of the compact, as well as our bill sponsor and fellow occupational therapist Mary-Katherine Stone. On January 10th, the bill passed out of the House Committee on Health Care with a vote of 10 in favor and one absent. It will go to Ways and Means next, and then to the house floor for a vote. It's not too early to [contact your representative](#) and voice your support! We will be in touch with further updates and calls to action as this process continues to unfold.

In other news, we are working to prepare for our annual conference at Lake Morey Resort on Saturday, April 6th. We have a wonderful keynote speaker, Annie Brewster, from the [Health Story Collaborative](#) joining us and it should be a great time to learn and connect with other professionals in your field. The call for papers is open and I encourage anyone who has ever thought about presenting to give it a try! It is always fun and interesting to hear about the work happening in Vermont. I look forward to seeing many of you there. (continued on page 2)



Thank you all for the commitment you make to the occupational therapy profession through your VOTA membership. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2024!

Lindsay Thrall, MOT, OTR/L
President, Vermont Occupational Therapy Association



Diane Aja Scholarship

If you are an active VOTA member who is interested in attending the 2024 AOTA Annual Conference, consider applying for the Diane Aja Scholarship

[Click here to learn more about the 2024 AOTA Annual Conference](#)

Please answer the following questions by **February 15th, 2024** and submit via email to votapublicrelations@gmail.com

1. Tell us about yourself, including the strengths and talents that have and will contribute to the growth of VOTA.
2. Describe one goal for professional development as an Occupational Therapy Practitioner (OTP), and how you would use the experience to further this objective, were you selected to attend the annual conference.
3. AOTA's 2024 Annual Conference title "Inspire" gives us a chance to think about what inspires us in our profession each day. As an OTP in Vermont please share ways in which you feel inspired. Please describe ways you work to inspire your clients each day. What are the ways in which meaningful occupations and evidence-based interventions inspire you as an OTP?



VOTA Aging in Place Committee

This committee will continue to focus on sharing information about Vermont OT adult services to improve functional skills, accessibility, and safety. Recently, there is a request from Vermont Center for Independent Living for increasing OT home-based services for their peer advocates. This committee gathers information about and advocates for grant-funded OT positions here in Vermont. Members of this committee have been involved with Falls Free Vermont Coalition as well.

If you are interested in being part of this committee, please contact Karen Downey, OTR at votatreasurer@gmail.com



Everyday Advocacy through AOTA

Take Action with Policy Makers

Advocacy issues currently in focus include:



- Promoting and protecting quality therapy services, reimbursement, and the role of OT practitioners working in post-acute care setting
- Facilitating the OT licensure compact
- Increasing access to OT services in behavioral health
- Improving the diversity of the OT workforce
- Permanently expanding OT telehealth services

For more information and/or to contact policy makers, use the following link: aota.org/advocacy/issues



School Based OT and OTA Open Positions

Interested in school based practice?

There are school based OT and OTA open positions listed on the School Spring website. School Spring is a much used website by Vermont School Districts to post employment opportunities in Vermont public schools.

Use the following link if interested: <https://www.schoolspring.com/jobs>

Occupational Therapists Needed to Assist with Data Collection for SP3D

Are you interested in helping with the development of the most comprehensive measure of sensory processing and occupational performance to date?

We are seeking professionals in occupational therapy to participate in an important study to create a nationally-standardized assessment. If you qualify, you would be compensated at a very competitive rate for your participation in the development of the **Sensory Processing Three Dimensions (SP3D) Scale**.

The SP3D was created by **Dr. Lucy Jane Miller, OTR/L, Dr. Sarah Schoen, OTR/L, and Dr. Shelley Mulligan, OTR/L in affiliation with the STAR Institute**. It is a play-based performance assessment designed to assess sensory processing abilities in **children and adults ages three and up**. Data collectors for this project are occupational therapy professionals familiar with sensory integration theory and sensory processing challenges. Your contribution will help validate this high-quality assessment tool.

Eligible data collectors will have one or more of the following:

- Access to **diverse** neurotypical child, teen, or adult populations
 - Access to individuals who meet the criteria for sensory processing disorder
 - Access to individuals who have received a clinical diagnosis of ASD, ADHD, Speech Language Disorder, Developmental Disorder, or Other Physical/Mental/Emotional/Behavioral Disorders.
 - Experience administering individual performance assessments such as the SIPT, BOT-2, PDMS-2, or TAPS-4
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Data collectors are expected to **train for a minimum of 10 compensated hours** to administer and score the SP3D before beginning data collection and must commit to collecting at least 10 complete cases.

If you are interested in collecting data for the SP3D or would like more information, please contact us at SP3D@wpspublish.com.

We hope to hear from you and look forward to the possibility of working together!



Meet our Members

Unfortunately there were no submissions this quarter. If you would like to be featured in the upcoming VOTA newsletter, please respond to the following points/questions and submit your response via email to votanewsletter@gmail.com

1. Name and picture
2. Number of years you have been an OT practitioner or student
3. Current position, including location
4. Any special projects, interests, or board positions served.



Upcoming Meetings and Workgroups

Monthly **Pediatric Committee** Zoom meetings are held from 4-5pm on the 4th Thursday each month from January to May, and September to November (we take December and the summer months off). The next meeting is planned for Jan. 25, 2024 from 4-5PM. Please come for all or part of the meeting.

If you would like to be added to the monthly Pediatric Committee meeting email list for Zoom invites, meeting minutes, and other information, please contact Karen Downey, OTR at votatreasurer@gmail.com.

There is an upcoming workgroup to develop a draft for **Vermont School-based Fieldwork** Student Manual(s). If you would like to help with the development of this draft, there will be an in-person meeting held Jan. 30, 2024 at UVM OTD starting at 4:30pm. Contact Karen Downey for more info on location and parking.



Additionally, Hannah Kinney and Karen Downey have started to draft updated guidelines for Vermont OT School-based Practice. If you would like to be part of this effort, please contact Karen Downey at votatreasurer@gmail.com



There is an experienced pediatric school-based OT who has recently moved to Waitsfield, Vermont. If you know of any open OT positions in birth to 3 or school-based services, please contact Karen Downey for more information.



Call for Presenters

VOTA is looking for presenters for our upcoming Annual Conference at Lake Morey resort on Saturday, April 6th, 2024.

If you are interested in becoming a presenter, please complete the call for papers form (see link below) as soon as possible. The conference planning committee will review submissions and reach out by Monday, January 22, 2024.

Please complete the [VOTA Call for Papers form](#) and send back to Chelsea Vaillancourt, MS, OTR/L at votavp@gmail.com.

We look forward to reviewing your submissions!



See Page 7 for more information regarding the 2024 VOTA Annual Conference!





Save the Date

Join us for our VOTA Annual Conference on
Saturday April 6th, 2024
At the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee Vermont



VOTA Welcomes Annie Brewster from Health Story Collaborative to Keynote this event and share about using storytelling as a therapeutic tool to help patients navigate illness, trauma, and loss.

Rooms are available to reserve if you would like to expand your experience and witness the beauty of Lake Morey. You may be lucky to see Lake Morey's year round nesting Bald Eagles during your stay on the lake. Contact Chelsea at votavp@gmail.com if you would like to reserve one of our booked rooms.

Keep an eye out for more details coming soon about our additional sessions and registration opening. We will be offering both in person and online registration.

VOTA Membership

Applications

Encourage co-workers and friends who are Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants to consider becoming a member of our organization. Please apply on our website or request an application form from our membership chair, Nicole Devoid at votamembership@gmail.com. Rates are as follows:

3 year subscription: \$140 OTR, \$95 OTA

1 year subscription: \$50 OTR, \$35 OTA, \$15 for inactive practitioners and students

1 year subscription for a team of up to 5 members: \$200

Advertise open occupational therapy positions on our website

For \$150.00, VOTA will post your open positions and include space for a logo, for 90 days. This includes our website, newsletter and social media (instagram, twitter and Facebook). To have your advertisement included in our newsletter you must submit within 15 days of the following deadlines:

March 22nd (For April 2024) and June 21st (For July 2024)

Payment can be done by Purchase Order and Check sent to:

Vermont Occupational Therapy Association, PO Box 925, Richmond, Vermont 05477

Please contact informationvota@gmail.com for more information.

Be sure to follow VOTA on your Social Media Accounts

Facebook: Vermont Occupational Therapy Association

Instagram: [vermontoccupationaltherapy](https://www.instagram.com/vermontoccupationaltherapy)

Twitter: @802OT

LinkedIn: VermontOT802



AOTA Vision 2025

As an inclusive profession, occupational therapy maximizes health, well-being, and quality of life for all people, populations, and communities through effective solutions that facilitate participation in everyday living.

VOTA Mission Statement

The mission of the Vermont Occupational Therapy Association is to promote and advance occupational therapy practice, research, legislation, education and to support occupational therapy practitioners in Vermont. The association serves its membership 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.

VOTA Inclusive Statement

We are an all-inclusive non-profit organization who accepts individuals of all abilities without bias toward race, ethnicity, gender or beliefs.