

ANNUAL REPORT  
CONNECTICUT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION  
1967 - 1968

1. Total membership and classifications:

a. Active	80
b. Associate	13
c. Life	3
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	96

2. Programs: General Membership Meetings included dinner, business meeting and program. It is felt that having dinner together helps to unite the group and improves attendance.

In August, 1967, letters were sent to twelve therapists in the Association asking their assistance in planning the Membership Meetings for the coming year. From the responses to these letters the following programs were arranged:

- a. September 7, 1967 - Host - V.A. Hospital, Newington  
Chairman - Mrs. Irene Herden, OTR  
Speaker - Philip Morse, Ph.D  
Subject - "Group Dynamics"
- b. November 16, 1967 - Host - Uncas-On-Thames Hospital, Norwich  
Chairman - Clotilda Mateny, OTR  
Speaker - Harold W. Schell, M.D.  
Subject - "Philosophical Ideas Involving Cancer Patients"
- c. January 9, 1968 - Host - Newington Crippled Children's Hospital  
Chairman - Mary Fiorentino, OTR  
Speaker - Josephine Moore, Ph.D  
Subject - "Basic Neurophysiological Technics and Their Effect on Therapy"  
(This was a joint Conn. P.T. & O.T. Assoc. Meeting)
- d. February 8, 1968 - Host - Connecticut Mental Health Center  
Chairman - Delvina Gross, OTR  
Speaker - June Mazer, OTR  
Subject - "The Occupational Therapist as a Mental Health Professional"
- e. March 14, 1968 - Host - Manchester Memorial Hospital  
Chairman - Mrs. Diana Schwartz, OTR  
Speaker - Wimberly Edwards, OTR  
Subject - "Economic Security and the Occupational Therapist"
- f. April 25, 1968 - Host - New Haven Area Rehabilitation Center  
Chairman - Margaret Smith OTR  
Speaker - Antje Price, OTR  
Subject - "Perceptual Motor Evaluation and Training"
- g. Annual Membership Meeting (afternoon and evening)  
May 9, 1968 - Host - Hartford Hospital  
Chairman - Mrs. Janet Small, OTR
  - 1) Speaker - Gene Eliasoph, S.W.  
Subject - "Psychodrama with a Demonstration"
  - 2) Panel - O.T.A. Training Directors, O.T.A. Students and potential O.T.A. Employers  
Subject - "A New Assistive Device"

3. Regional Meetings of Allied Professions:

- a. State of Connecticut Department of Health - June 5 & 6 - The Volunteer Venture  
Subject - "Recreation is for People"
- b. Connecticut Health League

- c. Connecticut Medical Society's Section of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
Annual Meeting - Speaker - Harold Sterling, M.D.
- d. Connecticut Health Careers Council
- e. Workshop on "Comprehensive Home Care" at the University of Connecticut -  
(O.T. Ass'n. was invited after the fact and then only to  
audit, not as a participant)

4. Standing Committees:

- a. Ways & Means - The State Dues for Active Membership were raised from \$4 to \$10.00 (1968-1969) with the hope that this will eliminate the necessity for constant fund raising which taxes only the more active members.
- b. Historian: A subscription to the "New England Newsclip Agency, Inc." was started on a trial basis in Feb. 1968 for two purposes:
  - 1) to increase the amount of material being fed into the Historian's files.
  - 2) to check on just how much publicity is being given to occupational therapy in Conn. newspapers.
 During Feb., March and April approximately a dozen clippings from Conn. newspapers were received from the Agency.
- c. Newsletter: Two issues of the Newsletter were published and distributed to the Membership. Included in these issues were abstracts of lectures, conferences, workshops and other information, as well as suggested equipment items, listing of job openings in the State, and new programs in O.T. Depts. within the State.
- d. Legislative: Activities have been primarily concerned with investigation of implications of the Amendments to the Labor Relations Law of the State of Connecticut as passed by the 1967 General Assembly.  
The investigations thus far have included a meeting with the Physical Therapy Associations Legislative Chairman, and arrangements to have the Chairman of AOTA's Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Security discuss Collective Bargaining with our membership. In addition, policy statements made by other health professions on a national level, regarding their position on Collective bargaining, have been acquired through this AOTA Committee.  
Our next step in this investigation appears to be to seek legal consultation.
- e. Recruitment:
  - 1) OTR's have spoken to over 300 people at various meetings. These have included high school students as well as older women, who may return to employment.
  - 2) The film "Target" was shown to one group.
  - 3) Standard follow-up letters were sent to 45 high school students. At least two are known to have enrolled in O.T. Schools.
  - 4) A portable recruitment display is being considered for fabrication.
- f. Membership & Corresponding Secretary
  - 1) Approximately 105 notices for the Sept. meeting were sent to 1966-67 Active & Associate Members.
  - 2) Request for Payment of Dues Notices was included in Oct., Nov., and Jan. mailings.
  - 3) Letters inviting therapists, new to the State, to attend current meetings and to join the Association were mailed each month.
- g. Program: (See Item 2)
- h. Publicity: Inactive this year (to be combined with another Committee next year.)
- i. International: Inactive; tentative appointment made in May.

J. Certified O.T. Assistants Committee:

During this year the final plans for an Occupational Therapy Assistants Course, at Hartford Hospital, were completed by Mrs. Walter Small, OTR, the Course Director. In July, 1968, the first twelve trainees graduated. The President of Conn. O.T. Assoc. sent the graduates a letter of welcome to the profession and to the Conn. O.T. Assoc.

A background statement re: the Conn. O.T. Association's view of the development leading up to the initiation of the Assistant's Training Course was submitted to Mrs. Walter Small, OTR, for her report to the AOTA Survey Team.

k. Medicare:

The Chairman has been actively engaged in informing home health facilities in the State as to the qualifications of a registered Occupational Therapist, and the correct interpretation of adequate coverage for individual facilities.

l. Placement:

A "Jobs Available" file was established and made available to the Membership at each meeting. Letters received by individual therapists, with regard to job inquiries, are forwarded and answered by the Placement Chairman.

m. Council on Practice:

Three State members were appointed to form a local committee, and their names were forwarded to the Chairman of Region I of the Council on Practice.

5. We do not have a Medical Advisory Board or Council.

6. We do not have a scholarship or loan fund established to date. The Recruitment Chairman has requested that the feasibility of this idea be thoroughly investigated in the coming year.

7. Services to Members:

- a. Placement: The Placement Chairman keeps a list of available positions, and new therapists in the community are referred to her for information re: openings.
- b. Guidance in Organization: We do not have a formal service but we offer volunteer assistance when such service is requested.
- c. Closer Contact with AOTA: One or two meetings each year are designed to better inform the Connecticut O.T. Association's membership of AOTA's services, personnel and rationale on current issues, (e.g., Wimberly Edwards re: Collective Bargaining, and June Mazer, OTR, Consultant on Psychiatric Rehabilitation).
- d. State Newsletter: - Two issues, Fall and Spring (See Item 4-c).
- e. Refresher Courses: As yet, we have not taken direct action on this important matter; however, we are in the talking stages.
- f. Consultation: We do not have a formal service; however, a number of our members have signified verbal willingness to give the necessary supervision to facilities where O.T. Assistants may be employed.

8. Our Association is not incorporated.

9. Major problems of the Association and Attempts at Correction.

- a. Geographic distribution and contact problem: The State Membership and distribution do not lend themselves to regional meetings and yet we attract less than 50% of the Membership to Meetings.

## Solutions:

1. Dinner meetings have helped increase the attendance.
  2. Rotating the meetings and responsibility for the program has involved inactive members.
  3. Setting a specific night of the month has helped to insure attendance.
  4. We are considering experimenting and setting a constant, central meeting place, and offering simple, repetitive, written and diagrammed instructions to help instill the habit!
- b. 1) Publicity - (See Items 4b and 4h)
- 2) Recruitment -  
 Problem: Getting a true reading of Membership participation.  
 Solution: Speaker Report Forms have been printed on postal cards and distributed to O.T. Departments with the hope that this will facilitate reporting.
- 3) Personnel Policies -  
 Problem: Increased requests for summer placement for possible O.T. recruits.  
 Solution: (Recommendation to be followed up) The Placement Chairman is to survey local institutions in the State to request their cooperation in listing potential summer placements.
- 4) Legal Aspects: (See Item 4d)
- c. Administrative:  
 Problem: Lack of time  
 Solution: (Retirement?)
- d. Fund raising (See Item 4a)

10. Other Pertinent Information: Our Constitution and By-Laws have been re-written and are to be submitted to the Membership by late August or early September. Action is to be taken at our September Meeting (The July 1, 1968 memorandum from Florence S. Cromwell, OTR, President, AOTA, may necessitate postponement).

11. Educational Opportunities Sponsored or Co-sponsored:  
 None.

Respectfully submitted

Clari Bare, OTR  
 Pres. Connecticut O. T. Association  
 August, 1968