

SW MiOTA Chapter Meeting Summary 9/12/13

Attendance was 36! Kathy Paul gave an informative talk on Falls Prevention, thank you, Kathy! (If anyone else has a topic or area of expertise that they would be willing to share for the greater good, please contact me.)

1. Good news: the Friends of Occupational Therapy in Michigan Political Action Committee has been re-activated. This is extremely important so that issues of concern to occupational therapy practitioners can be represented to our lawmakers at the state level. Donations can be sent to Friends of Occupational Therapy in Michigan PAC, P.O. Box 20363, Kalamazoo, MI 49019-20363. Donations must be made by an individual (not company or business). Anyone who donates at least \$100 by 12/31/13 will be listed as a member of the PAC Board of Directors for 2014. The PAC is also taking donations (gift baskets, gadgets, time shares, etc--use your imagination!) for a silent auction to be held at the annual MiOTA meeting.

Contact Debra Lindstrom (debra.lindstrom@wmich.edu, 269-387-7239) or Jackie West-Frasier (jaclyn.west-frasier@wmich.edu) for more information.

2. Other updates: Autism Bill--need to make sure outpatient OT is a reimbursable service for children ages 0-5 (currently not in the bill). Need to include OT as a reimbursable service in telemedicine guidelines. Continued monitoring of the Office of Regulatory Re-Invention to make sure OT is NOT de-regulated in Michigan. New: BCBS will start paying for the oral-motor code in private practice as of October 15 and it looks like charges from prior this year can be manually pushed through. For information on all these areas, contact Denise Hoffman (dhoffmanot@gmail.com).

Also contact Denise Hoffman if you are from the Saginaw Valley area or have a business there. MiOTA is looking for people to contact the state senator from that area.

3. As you can see, there are many important things going on and we need numbers to demonstrate to our lawmakers that OT is a strong and united front worth fighting for! Please join MiOTA and/or support our PAC. You can print a membership application from the MiOTA website. Membership forms will also be put at the Western Michigan OT Department front desk.

<http://mi-ota.com/>

4. Finally due to the Barb Rider Colloquium, the annual MiOTA meeting this fall and the holiday season, our next meeting will be held the second half of January. Look for an email/flyer a few weeks ahead.

Thank you for those who attended and shared information!

Have a great fall!

Christine Vlietstra MS, OTRL
for the Southwest Michigan chapter of MiOTA
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