

## SW Chapter Meeting Summary 020513

Greetings to All,

Good to see most of you at the first meeting of the "re-started" Southwest Michigan chapter of MiOTA. Some of you copied on the email were not able to attend, but have expressed interest in coming or learning more. Please feel free to forward this information to anyone else who may want this information.

We had 28 people attend the first meeting! Thank you to Barb Rider and Fred Sammons for hosting, Nancy Krolkowski for presenting, Peggy McCourry and Debra Lindstrom for donating gift cards for the raffle, and Ben Atchison for providing PDU certificates for attendees. Overall things went well, and we have thought of a few minor things we can improve upon for next time. If you have any suggestions, topics or ideas for future meetings, please reply to this email. For example, Fred had a suggestion for an educational type workshop to be tied to the meetings, probably right before the networking time.

At the meeting, Nancy Krolkowski shared about MiOTA and what the organization means to the well-being of our profession in Michigan. It is an especially critical time for OTs as parts of the Affordable Care Act are being written, and we need the numbers and dollars to make sure OT is well represented and has a voice before what is being proposed becomes law.

If you haven't joined MiOTA now would be a great time. In a short time, once the new website is up and running, membership dues will be increasing. Copied on this email are Kirsten Matthews and Cheryl Chapko who would be happy to assist you in becoming a member.

Additionally Deb Lindstrom and Jackie West-Frasier are working on creating an PAC for occupational therapy which will be able to take donations to make sure OTs are heard in Lansing. More information to come as the PAC is put into place.

Next meeting tentatively planned for Wed, May 1. Details to come at a later date.

This is a new email address just for this group. (I decided it would be easier to keep it separate from my personal emails and also facilitate passing on email duties to another person if the need should arise down the road.) We may create a Facebook page for this group, which will also allow me to set up an "event" to facilitate RSVPs, etc. We won't be sending out more emails to until just before the next meeting, but please respond if for some reason you don't want to be on this email list about the Southwest chapter of MiOTA.

Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely,

Christine Vlietstra

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2013 21:16:20 -0500