

## SW Chapter Meeting Summary 022514

Dear Occupational Therapy Practitioners in the Southwest Michigan area:

Thank you to those who were able to attend the meeting at the Rider-Sammons Residence on 2/25/14.

- 1) Dr. Deb Lindstrom gave an update on the Friends of Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee. Please continue to support and donate our PAC as it is an important way we can promote our profession and protect and even expand our practice in this state. It is a necessity for OTs to be a player in the political game. 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).
- 2) If you are not a member, please join the Michigan Occupational Therapy Association. Historically and currently only about 10% of the OT practitioners in Michigan belong to our state's professional organization. Increasing this number is crucial to give OTs both the credibility and funding to protect and improve our ability to serve clients here in Michigan. MiOTA advocates on behalf of all occupational therapists, yet is only supported by 10%. Membership applications are available on the MiOTA website. <http://miota.org/Miota/>
- 3) A couple political updates: This past year through both MiOTA and the PAC, we have been able to remove OT from the list of potential professions to be de-regulated. However we need to continue to fight to keep our OT board, a key piece to the continued process of defining OT licensure in Michigan. Additionally, work continues in the pediatric/autism area to get OTs in as a reimbursable profession.
- 4) Dr. Lindstrom also gave an informative presentation on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Next meeting is tentatively planned for the earlier half of May. Details will be sent out about a month prior to the date. We hope to start offering topics of practical interest to OTs delivered by some of our members who have expertise in different areas. We have had a few volunteers, and anyone who would like to share their knowledge please feel free to contact me.

Attendees of the meeting on 2/15/14 will be sent a CEU certificate via email soon. Thanks to Dr. Atchison and the Western Michigan University OT Department for providing these.

Respectfully,  
Christine Vlietstra