



First Advisory Council Meeting

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This was a year of firsts for OTAC including the first Advisory Council Meeting held the day before the OTAC Conference on October 5, 2006 in Costa Mesa. Diana Su-Erickson, the Vice President of OTAC, facilitated the meeting while Lora Woo, the Secretary of OTAC, kept minutes of the stimulating topics and recommendations discussed by the committee.

The eleven member committee included representatives invited by each of the five Regional Directors. Representing Region 1 was Jill Peck-Murray and Christine Vicino. Representing Region 2 was Valerie Adams, Heather Kitching, Pamela Roberts, and Bobbie Jean Tanberg. The central coast was represented by Shari Curtis and Stephanie Foster from Region 3. Nancy Currey, Sue Hussey, and Sylvia Ikeda-Shirinzad traveled all the way from the northern most Region 5.

A summary of the thoughts, ideas and

recommendations made by the committee will be reported at the Board of Directors meeting in December. The Board will then use this information when making decisions for the members. The first topic discussed included parity for OT's working in schools as well as how to support the efforts of the School Based Task Force and the committee working to revise the Guidelines published by the Department of Education for occupational therapists and physical therapists in public schools. Other major topics included the need for making changes in licensure to include OTA's as licensed instead of certificated. In addition, it was discussed that the advanced practice requirement originally included in the bill is no longer necessary to confirm entry-level proficiency.

You do not need to be a member of the Advisory Council to share your opinions regarding what should be the priorities for OTAC. Contact your Regional Director at any time by e-mail or phone with your suggestions. **OTAC**