



About OTAC

The Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) is a nonprofit 501(C)(6) established in 1976 and governed by a volunteer board of directors with support from its paid team.

In addition, OTAC's vision, mission, core values, and strategic plan are guided and supported through the work of its volunteer committees. There are currently more than 18,000 current licensed occupational therapy practitioners in California.



P.O. Box 276567
Sacramento, CA 95827

Phone: 916/567-7000
Fax: 916/567-7001

E-mail: info@otaonline.org
Web site: www.otaonline.org

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OTAC PRESIDENT'S TAKE 10

President Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH
VLOG MESSAGE SCRIPT – Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Hello everyone! I hope you're staying safe and healthy. I recognize these times are extremely challenging and uncertain; and I want you all to know that as an OT community, we can support each other through this. At OTAC, some of the ways we are working to provide support and value to the practitioners and students in California is through our monthly Town Hall series. Our next one is scheduled for August 27th, and we will have a panel of Black OTs share with us their experiences within the professional and educational settings, and allow us to reflect on how we can make changes in our own environments.

Networking Offerings

We are also hosting monthly meet and greets within each region, hosted by your Regional Directors. This is an opportunity to connect with OTAC leaders around what is happening in your areas and within the state.

Advocacy Efforts

You may have also seen emails from AOTA and OTAC around advocating for OT reimbursement for Medicare services. A proposal by CMS released recently suggested cutting OT reimbursement by 9%, and so we need all of us contacting our national elected officials to make our voices heard.

Educational Offerings

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you all that the OTAC School-Based Symposium is on September 12th, and it is featuring some amazing speakers, including Erna Blanche and Bonnie Nakasuji. There will also be an "Ask the Experts" panel available for attendees to participate in, hosted by Lisa Test and Region 4 Director, Erin Dolin. Be sure to register now for this awesome symposium.

Annual Conference

And once again, I want to remind you all that the OTAC Annual Conference will be hosted in early October, and will be entirely virtual. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Gordon Giles, and this year's theme is centered on building COMMUNITY. I can't think of a more powerful or meaningful theme, and you'll be hearing me referencing "community" throughout this year.

OTAC Community

Lastly, I do have some sad news as it relates to our OTAC community. Ivan Altamura, our long-time lobbyist and friend, passed away suddenly over the weekend. This has really hit our OTAC community hard, and in speaking with many OTAC leaders who knew Ivan, I have repeatedly heard words and phrases to describe him like "skilled, appreciative, supporting, encouraging, gentle, visionary, diplomatic, friendly, approachable, collaborative, dedicated."

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OTAC PRESIDENT'S TAKE 5

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His appreciation for OT likely stems from years of spending summers at the rehabilitation hospital where his mother was a nurse. He worked hard to really understand OT and the needs of the profession and our practitioners and students, and for those of us who've constantly had to explain what OT is, you know that's no easy feat.

What I'll remember the most about Ivan is his pragmatic optimism, and his laugh. As part of our OT and OTAC Community, I ask that you all keep his family in your thoughts.

With that, please stay safe, be well, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our monthly events, our school-based symposium and annual conference.

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