

Illinois Occupational Therapy Association

Annual Board Report: September 2020 - August 2021

Compiled October 2021



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ILOTA Executive Board Members

ILOTA Executive Board Members September 2020 - August 2021

- **President:** Anne Kiraly-Alvarez
- **Director of Advocacy:** Carol Michels
- **Director of Communications:** Molly Bathje
- **Director of Finance:** Moira Bushell
- **Director of Membership:** Christy Rojas
- **Secretary:** Nancy Beck (through November 2020) / Robin Jones (December 2020 through present)
- **Executive Director:** Tracy Repmann (through September 2020) / George Buckley (hired September 2020)

ILOTA Executive Board Members September 2021 - Present

- **President:** Anne Kiraly-Alvarez
- **President-Elect:** Beverly Menninger
- **Director of Advocacy:** Brenda Koverman
- **Director of Communications:** Molly Bathje
- **Director of Finance:** Moira Bushell
- **Director of Membership:** Christy Rojas
- **Secretary:** Robin Jones
- **Executive Director:** George Buckley

Purpose of ILOTA Annual Report

This report is intended to highlight the efforts of ILOTA throughout the past fiscal year. It is not intended to serve as a comprehensive list of all activities performed by ILOTA board members and volunteers. For a more complete listing of ILOTA board member activities, please refer to previous quarterly board reports and board meeting minutes, which can be viewed at <https://www.ilota.org/board-meetings-and-minutes>.

Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023

Focus Area 1: Inclusion and Diversity	
1.1	Increase opportunities for members to engage in various volunteer and educational events related to inclusion and diversity
1.2	Develop equitable representation and advocacy throughout the state
1.3	Ensure diverse representation in all communications
1.4	Promote diverse membership on the board and sub-committees
1.5	Improve accessibility of ILOTA communications, events, and education
Focus Area 2: Membership	
2.1	Increase member engagement in SIS groups/committees
2.2	Provide relevant and meaningful CE opportunities as a membership benefit
2.3	Increase CE opportunities throughout the year through the LMS
2.4	Develop methods to increase membership
2.5	Develop methods for maintaining membership
Focus Area 3: Organization and Structure	
3.1	Create standardized structure for responding to advocacy issues
3.2	Clarify policies, procedures, and position descriptions for all ILOTA Executive and Full Board members
3.3	Standardize budget processes for all events
3.4	Update/reformat website in collaboration with DOC
Focus Area 4 : Communication	
4.1	Improve communication and responsiveness of ILOTA to legislative events
4.2	Improve financial transparency communication to ILOTA members
4.3	Develop collaborative alliances with other states and professions
4.4	Communicate most important aspects and updates about ILOTA to members using all communication tools

Continuing Education Offerings

- **Ongoing/Virtual:** “Ethics in Occupational Therapy” Webinar - *155 registrants*
- **September 12, 2020:** “ILOTA Mentor Development 2020 - Mentorship: Building Relationships, Deepening Connections, and Increasing Impact” - *34 registrants*
- **October 2020:** 2020 ILOTA Virtual Annual Conference - *349 registrants*
- **January 2021:** Physical Agent Modalities CE Course - *24 registrants*
- **February 1, 2021:** ILOTA Live Virtual Event: "Advancing OT Through Advocacy and the Legislative Process" - *76 registrants*
- **March 6-12, 2021:** ILOTA Student Conclave - *114 registrants*
- **March 18, 2021:** ILOTA Live Virtual Event: "Connecting with Caregivers: Occupational Therapy’s Role in Enhancing Caregiver Self-Efficacy" - *85 registrants*
- **March 22, 2021:** ILOTA Live Virtual Event: "Understanding Ergonomics and its Application to Occupational Therapy Practice" - *64 registrants*
- **April 2021 - OT Month Events:**
 - **April 1, 2021:** ILOTA Town Hall
 - **April 11, 2021:** Zoom Art Studio with Mallory Siska
 - **April 13, 2021:** Meditation Minutes with Bridget Hahn
 - **April 23, 2021:** Indian Culinary Experience with Divya Sood
 - **April 22, 2021:** ILOTA School-Based Special Interest Section (SIS) Town Hall
 - **April 28, 2021:** ILOTA Live Virtual Event: Panel Discussion on Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: Domain and Process, 4th Edition - *41 registrants*
- **May 17, 2021:** ILOTA Live Virtual Event: "Reframing Pediatric Occupational Therapy – What does it really mean to be holistic?" - *25 registrants*
- **May 22, 2021:** ILOTA Live Virtual Event: "Defining & Facilitating Best Practice in Occupational Therapy in Early Intervention in Illinois" - *28 registrants*
- **June 2021:** Physical Agent Modalities CE Course - *24 registrants*
- **July 10, 2021:** ILOTA Live Virtual Event: "Promoting Occupational Performance Across the Covid-19 Continuum" - *14 registrants*
- **August 11, 2021:** ILOTA Live Virtual Event: "OT Voices: Rethinking and Rewiring our Thoughts About Injustice" - *32 registrants*

Advocacy

Summary of Advocacy Efforts and Issues:

- The Director of Advocacy has engaged in ongoing communication with ILOTA Lobbyist & ILOTPAC related to legislative/advocacy issues including telehealth and OT compact.
- Initiated use of the Advocacy Advisory Group to connect with experts in various practice areas for support around legislative/advocacy issues.
- Director of Advocacy maintained a seat on the ILOTPAC executive board
- Collaborated with ILOTA Lobbyist to create a document to organize general assembly bills impacting OT practices. Created “Need to Know” General Assembly timeline and information related to advocacy issues.

Outreach:

- Attended campaign fundraiser for Meg Cappel
- Presented to a local university OT program about advocacy
- Worked with Public Policy Coordinator to send out letters to OTs in legislative areas seeking volunteers to lead advocacy in their areas.

Telehealth:

- Supported various advocacy actions to support telehealth including sending out requests for witness slips, sending letters to ILOTA members encouraging them to contact their legislators, and providing templates for seeking legislative support.
- Sent letters of appreciation to supporters of the Telehealth Bill once passed

School-based Practice:

- Supported an OT doctoral capstone student project on school-based advocacy
- Held town halls around advocating for educational licensure for school OTs
- Joined the AOTA State Leaders in School Practice Community of Practice to advocate for school OTs
- Represented ILOTA in the AOTA Path to School Leadership Roundtable
- Supported school SIS Co-Chair participation in “Back to School” event hosted by State Representative Dag Avelar at Irene King School in Romeoville in partnership with ILOTPAC and Midwestern OTD students.

OT Licensure Compact:

- Lobbyist requested legislation for the OT Licensure Compact to initiate conversations with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Communication

Social Media:

- **Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/ilota1918>): 2,563 followers (Increase of 266 over past year)
- **Instagram** (<https://www.instagram.com/ilota1918/>): 699 followers (Increase of 408 over past year)

Blog:

- <https://ilotatech.wordpress.com/blog/>
- Posting at least twice monthly
- Average of 101 visitors per month

Newsletter:

- www.ilota.org/communique-first-page
- Published 4 issues of the “Communique”

Website:

- www.ilota.org
- Ongoing audits and updates made
- Working on rolling out a new website

Membership

Membership Numbers (as of October 1, 2021)

OT	497	Retired/Disabled	10
OTA	71	Student	459
New OT Practitioner	27	Multi-state Association Membership	14
New OTA Practitioner	10	Honorary Lifetime Member	3
Total			1091

Licensed OT Practitioners in Illinois (as of August 2021)

OT	7938
OTA	3252

Finance

2020 - 2021 Income:

Income Type	Actual	Budget	Difference
Membership	67,717	60,000	7,717
CE	22,285	35,000	-12,715
Conference	31,373	20,000	11,373
Other	2,992.96	6,300	-3,307.04
Total	124,367.96	121,300	3,067.96

2020 - 2021 Expenses:

Expense Type	Actual	Budget	Difference
Operating	111,552.35	113,800	-2,247.65
Direct Costs	19,884.35	29,000	-9,115.65
Total	131,436.70	142,800	-11,363.30

2020 - 2021 Net Income:

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Net Income	-7,068.74	-21,500	14,431.26

Bank Account Balance (as of 9/15/2021)

- Checking \$49,473.60
- Debit \$4,218.20
- Total \$53,691.80

Additional Reserve Funds (as of 8/31/2021)

- \$5,000 in 5 year CD
- \$5,014.86 in Higher Yield Savings Account

Awards

2020 ILOTA Award Recipients

- **Honorary Lifetime Members:** Clem Carder, COTA/L, LMT, CKTI & Gail Fisher, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
- **Award of Merit:** Linda Olson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
- **OTA of the Year:** Abigail Swidergal, COTA & Joni Kamstra, COTA
- **OT of the Year:** Kelsey Watters, OTR/L
- **Public Awareness Award:** Laura Van Pumbyrouck, PhD, OTR/L
- *To view award descriptions, all previous ILOTA Award recipients, and/or to nominate someone for an award, please visit www.ilota.org/awards*

AOTF ILOTA Endowed Scholarship Recipient

- **2021:** Annie Mokate
- *Scholarships are awarded to OT and OTA students in good standing attending an accredited occupational therapy educational program located in the state of Illinois and who are members of the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association. For more information, please visit www.aotf.org/Scholarships*

Acknowledgements

ILOTA would like to thank all ILOTA members, prospective members, board members, committee members, staff, and volunteers for contributing to and participating in all ILOTA efforts of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The planning and execution of these efforts would not have been successful without the time and energy of all those involved. We appreciate everyone's dedication to supporting ILOTA's mission and vision. Thank you!