



**ILLINOIS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION  
FULL BOARD MEETING AGENDA  
August 16, 2025 Location: Zoom Meeting**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>
<p>Beverly Menninger – President            Lauren Stone Kelly – Director of Communications            Brenda Koverman – Director of Advocacy            Dalmina Aria – Director of Finance            Sarah Mugavero – Director of Finance-Elect            George Buckley - Executive Director            Cassandra Jackson – Bylaws Coordinator            Ashley Stoffel – Archives Co-Coordinator            Hannah Kaytonah - Nominations Coordinator            Jacqueline Doolittle – Board Recruitment Coordinator            Sarah Zera - CE Coordinator            Kate Barrett – CE Approval Co-Coordinator            Dalmina Arias – Student Conclave Co-Coordinator            Nancy Richman – Reimbursement Coordinator            La'Taria Overstreet – Professional Development Coordinator            Jennifer Summers - Networking Coordinator            Erin Luy – Newsletter Coordinator            Brian Wojcicki -- Lobbyist            Gail Fisher – Awards Coordinator</p>	<p>Jen Lim – Website Coordinator            Samantha Smith – Secretary            Lisa Mahaffey – AOTA Representative            Kathy Preissner – Archives Co-Coordinator            Luther King – Director of Membership            Jennifer Richert – CE Approval Co-Coordinator            Emily Harstad– Student Conclave Co-Coordinator            Emma Penn - Public Policy Coordinator            Stephanie Reichard – Social Media Coordinator            Katie Little – Blog Coordinator            Phyllis Hughes - Fieldwork Coordinator            Bridget Hahn - Community Outreach Coordinator            Mia St. Clair - Accessibility Coordinator            John Dudzik – Leadership Development Committee Chair            Stephanie McCammon – Conference Co-Coordinator            Maud Makoni – Conference Co-Coordinator + Orthopedic &amp; Upper Extremity Rehab SIS Co-Coordinator            Piper Hansen – Academic Education SIS Co-Coordinator            Emily Daniels – OTA SIS Co-Coordinator            Pooja Patel – Gerontology SIS Coordinator            Monika Robinson – Home and Community Health SIS Co-Coordinator</p>
<p><b>SIS Coordinators:</b>            Alison Hanlon – Early Intervention SIS Co-Coordinator            Nancy Richman - Administration and Management SIS Co-Coordinator            Frank Czuba– Administration and Management SIS Co-Coordinator            Joy Hyzny – Assistive Technology SIS Co-Coordinator            Kathleen Ellis – Assistive Technology SIS Co-Coordinator</p>	<p>Ruby Loera – Home and Community Health SIS Co-Coordinator            Ruby Loera – OTA SIS Co-Coordinator            Maddy Nave - Mental Health SIS Co-Coordinator            Ryan Thomure – Mental Health SIS Co-Coordinator            Alexandra Wax – Neurorehabilitation SIS Co-Coordinator            Katie Fierstein – Neurorehabilitation SIS Co-Coordinator</p>

Rita Moore – Developmental Disabilities SIS Coordinator Clare Giuffrida – Early Intervention SIS Co-Coordinator Lillian Chen-Byerley – JEDI SIS Coordinator Laura Carlos - Orthopedic & Upper Extremity Rehab SIS Co-Coordinator Kyra Bariller - Sensory Integration and Processing SIS Co-Coordinator	Alison Baker – Pediatrics SIS Co-Coordinator Ashley Hettlinger – Pediatrics SIS Co-Coordinator Lara Barros – School-Based Practice SIS Co-Coordinator Michelle Van Acker – School-Based Practice SIS Co-Coordinator Samantha Holzschu – Sensory Integration and Processing SIS Co-Coordinator
<b>Guests:</b> Abi Swidergal Claudia Cirrincione	

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Action Items &amp; Person Responsible</b>
<b>Call to Order</b>	Beverly called the meeting to order at 9:02am.	
<b>Roll Call</b>	See members/guests present above.	
<b>Welcome and Introduction of New Board Members and Guests</b>	Jacqueline Doolittle – ILOTA Board Recruitment Coordinator	
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	Motion to approve the May 17, 2025 ILOTA Full Board Meeting Minutes. <b>(See attached)</b> Motion passed. <b>(MOTION 2025-08-01)</b>	
<b>President’s Report: Beverly Menninger</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ILOTA District discussion ( Liz ) – <i>ILOTA District (re)formation to increase membership, retention, participation in more areas of the state. Historically had 11, moved away in favor of SIS’s. Exploring if reestablishing is needed, and how to do it more successfully than in past. 64 responses to survey in favor. Looking for feedback and volunteers for pilot program. Gail mentioned in past having a spring conference and rotating conference locations including more mid and down-state; recommends reaching out to academic programs downstate to connect. Claudia notes she and Luther attended advisory meeting of Lewis &amp; Clark College and they are very open to connect to ILOTA.</i></li> </ul>	

	<p><i>Kyra Barillier notes there is a gap for people working in southern IL that ILOTA could fill. Liz notes volunteers might help create and run more events during 6 month pilot program -hoping for 3 in-person events. Start date not identified yet; working on identifying volunteers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Governance Task Force update – looking at structure of organization and organizational chart; shared chart in-progress to get feedback before taking to executive board. Looking to add VP and Director of Education; Director of Governmental Affairs instead of Director of Advocacy. Creation of some new coordinator roles, removal/reassigned coordinator roles. Discussion and feedback taken for consideration. President discussed next steps in process.</i></li> <li>• <i>IDFPR OT Licensure Board – Abi reports; new board is in place. Communication from new member sites, but reciprocation is difficult. No meetings scheduled yet – plan for September but date not set.</i></li> <li>• <i>AOTA Affiliation Agreement review – have had agreement, last signed in 2000. Agreement to have associations affiliated with AOTA. Board will review and due in October. AOTA is preparing answers to questions, more information to come.</i></li> <li>• <i>Website feedback request – putting together a survey and will be sending out in near future.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Advocacy and Legislative Affairs: Brenda Koverman</b></p>	<p>Current Initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Loan forgiveness for community MH workers-SB1273-will probably continue into next legislative session.</li> <li>2. OT Practice Act direct access language revision-HB3769-will need to follow up in next legislative session.</li> <li>3. Temporary license authorization-HB1365-likey to pass-was sent to governor on 6/24/2025.</li> <li>4. Behavioral Analyst bill and practice act. A meeting should be scheduled in the fall to continue discussions. Additionally, Frank C relayed a 2<sup>nd</sup> question regarding OTAs and Brenda recommended that he contact Pooja and discuss at the next meeting.</li> </ol>	

5. Compact act-a decision is pending regarding adding this back as a legislative priority. A history of efforts are available in past 3 years of Director of Advocacy (DoA) board reports that may be useful.
6. Equine bill-Abi S has questions about this bill and Brenda recommended that it be reviewed in the fall or winter.
7. EIC initiative-EIC is proposing a letter be sent to EI bureau chief regarding administrative burden of specific billing task. EI SIS plans to meet to discuss and make recommendations to DoA.
8. EI-Letter sent about proposed rate increase-Likely reimbursement differential between OT & PT. Further action TBD by EI SIS, DoA & Brian
9. Transportation needs initiative with IPTA-Divya S. taking lead and is organizing date with PT, SLP and Sara Zera. Also, someone will need to take Brenda's place on this interdisciplinary committee.
10. Advocacy task force for OTs role in mental health-Legislative talking points document completed and sent to George, LVP (ILOTPAC) and Pooja
11. Capstone Student-Brenda is working with a MWU student on advocacy project related to state associations. Pooja may take over; Brenda leaves this up to Monika R and Pooja.
12. State licensure board – The board is full, and members are identified on the website. ILOTA has fulfilled its obligation and now it is the responsibility of the board liaison and the board members to set up meetings.
13. Conference presentation-Nancy initiated an accepted online proposal and Brenda suggested contacting Pooja to present. Additionally, Brenda will discuss at Board meeting: whether legislative presentation should be considered integral to the annual OT conference as an in-person event.

**Agenda items for discussion:**

1. Legislative session at annual conference – *presentation will be virtual this year. Full board discussed if there should be a legislative event every year at in-person conference. Feedback and discussion from attendees for consideration.*
2. Concluding thoughts on director of advocacy tenure-prioritization of legislative initiatives and reading reports – *new team will be left to prioritize list and what to work on in upcoming year.*

*Brian provided overview of legislative update that will be included in next newsletter.*

<p><b>Director of Communications</b>  <b>Report: Lauren Stone Kelly</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate issue being edited and should be out within a few weeks.</li> <li>• Website audit ongoing. Working on a membership survey to help guide the process.</li> <li>• Blog - looking for more submissions. Great place to start if you aren't ready for a newsletter article, or if you want to share a proud moment or event.</li> <li>• Social media - keep sending requests to <a href="mailto:socialmedia@ilota.org">socialmedia@ilota.org</a> We are trialing a sub account and may be reaching out in the future if we decide to do more.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Director of Finance</b>  <b>Report: Dalmina Aria</b></p>	<p>1) Financial Update</p> <p><u>Account Balances as of 8/12/25 11:00 PM:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Checking: \$156,996.68</li> <li>○ Debit: \$3,658.59</li> <li>○ CD: \$5,458.15</li> <li>○ Money Market: \$81,994.14</li> <li>○ Total: 248,107.56</li> </ul> <p><u>See attached documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Profit &amp; Loss Report for July 2025</li> </ul> <p>2) ILOTA Annual Conference – <i>co-chairs are busy planning with the committee. Keynote speaker and plenary session announced and information on website. In progress of finalizing course schedule; 90 confirmed sessions overall; registration coming soon.</i></p> <p>3) Cultural Competency CEU – <i>created to meet licensure requirements; cultural competence being used because that is the language in the licensure requirements, and acknowledge that other terms are preferred based on research. Will be posted on website soon for members.</i></p> <p>CEU Update (Sarah Zera) – <i>policy for student led CE events in final editing stage, coming soon. In-person CE events happening, call for southern members to join committee to expand offerings to more geographic areas. Next session at Rush in Chicago on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Looking for more ways to provide CEUs and expand offerings.</i></p>	

**Director of Membership Report: Luther King**

Membership report:

1. Ongoing collaboration with AOTA PAC Ambassador, Claudia Cincirrone to connect with practitioners in the southern part of the state
  - Met with Advisory Board of Lewis and Clark College -*great discussion and program director supportive of value of membership and importance of professional advocacy*
  - Emails are being sent to various institutions – *very well received, excited to engage; road trip to visit sites in planning*
  - Opportunities for in-person meet & greets are being considered – *Brenda requests ILOTPAC included in visits and discussions*
2. Actively reaching out to various OT clinical sites via email to engage with practitioners
  - Meeting with practitioners of Cook County Hospital September 10

BE	BF
Category	August 13, 2025
Admin	3
Associate	10
Honorary Lifetime	8
Multistate	28
OT New Practition	136
OTA New Practitio	30
OTA	88
OTA monthly	27
OT	718
OT Monthly	83
Retiree	16
Student	435
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1582</b>
	33

Frank shared Christine Watt from southern Illinois, now program director at GVSU

<p><b>Updates from SIS Coordinators and Committee Coordinators</b></p>	<p><b>Bridget Hahn – Community Outreach Coordinator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update: The ILOTA Community Outreach committee has launched the Promote OT Challenge in IL.</li> </ul> <p><b>Laura Carlos + Maud Makoni – Orthopedic &amp; Upper Extremity Rehab SIS Co-Coordinators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update: The Ortho/UE SIS is co-sponsoring a fundraiser with the PEDS SIS Tuesday August 26th: Baseball event/ Schaumburg Boomers at 6pm. Email was sent to the body earlier this month and it was also posted on social media.</li> </ul> <p><b>Maud Makoni + Stephanie McCammon – Conference Co-Coordinators</b> (Dalmina Arias to report):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee has been meeting every other week and on schedule</li> <li>• We have secured our keynote and plenary speakers and shared with members via email</li> <li>• Currently we have approximately 90 proposals accepted that includes short courses, platform and poster sessions and virtual presentations</li> <li>• We are in progress for finalizing course schedule</li> <li>• Exhibitors and sponsors registration forms to be sent out August 12<sup>th</sup> by end of day</li> <li>• Registration is on schedule to open early to mid-September</li> </ul> <p><b>Ruby Loera – OTA SIS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosting casual virtual gathering monthly since April (kicked off from OT month) for OTA students with 1-2 student attendance at each to cultivate a space for community building.</li> <li>• Collecting data via survey and previous virtual gatherings with most common topics including a Roundtable of practicing COTAS in various settings or general support with fieldwork and NBCOT preparation.</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No gathering this month to reset and review priorities then will proceed in September. Plan to use more of the social media platforms to advertise ahead and of course share with the OTA program directors.</li> </ul>	
<b>Secretary Report: Samantha Smith</b>	You may reference past minutes posted on the ILOTA website. Thank you for sending your updates and agenda items, please continue to submit to me prior to meetings so that I am able to send out the Agenda in a timely manner for everyone's review.	
<b>Upcoming Meeting</b>	ILOTA Full Board Meeting – November TBD	
<b>Other Business</b>	<p><i>Lillian updated on DEI committee – no meetings, no interest in joining; sending out communications to interest list. Brain Mapping &amp; Therapeutics Society – doing presentations at annual world conference – free admission for students. New neuroscience book in works and advocating for best practice for OTPs</i></p> <p><i>George shared location of public resources on website; comments on need to update some pages on website made.</i></p> <p><i>Joy asked if anyone joined AOTA meeting on Big Beautiful Bill – several board members confirmed attendance; Recording can be accessed on AOTA's website; asked about advocacy happening locally and Lillian provided some information and offer to share more info if anyone is interested (reach out to her).</i></p> <p><i>Gail reminded everyone that awards nominations due August 31<sup>st</sup> and will be presented at conference in November</i></p>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bev, seconded by Joy. Adjourned at 10:34AM.	

Minutes prepared by Lauren Stone Kelly – Director of Communications .