MiOTA, Southwest Chapter Meeting 5/3/16 Summary

Attendance of 16 at the Rider-Sammons Residence.

The meeting started with 30 minutes of networking and dinner, then:

1. Update shared by Christine from information provided by Denise Hoffman on the Michigan Occupational Therapy Lobby Day on April 21.
	1. Great turnout of 70 OTs, OTAs, and students.
	2. Able to meet with over 22 legislators to share about our profession.
2. Announcement that ad hoc committees are needed for Flint lead concerns, Telehealth, and the community behavior health initiative. For information or to help, please contact Jennifer Friesma at frieseje@gvsu.edu .
3. Kelly Machnik added that we need to make sure OT is included as Michigan is a test state for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC). Since the meeting, I just got an email blast from MiOTA about contacting your legislators about this. For more information, you can contact Kelly at kellyamachnik@gmail.com .
4. Important: the state OT board is meeting on 5/24/16 to discuss rules, licensure, and continuing education. Unfortunately there is concern again from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (or LARA) about the need for OT licensure. Please stay tuned as OT practitioners and other supporters of OT may be needed to attend and provide comment to educate LARA.
5. Remember you can donate to the Friends of OT in Michigan, our PAC. Your donation, no matter how much makes a difference for our profession. Contact Deb at debra.lindstrom@wmich.edu or go to the MiOTA website for a donation form. This is a critical year with elections coming up, and to make a difference in this year’s election, the contributions are needed now. (Typically donations are made at the MiOTA conference and that will be too late for the elections.)
6. As usual, keep an eye on the MiOTA website for information, [www.miota.org](http://www.miota.org) . To become a member, click on the Membership tab, scroll down to the bottom of the page for a link to the membership application. How to donate to our PAC can be found under the Advocacy tab.
7. Holly Grieves, with the assistance of OT students Shelby Baker and Amanda Bigalke, gave an interesting and information presentation on LSVT BIG for people with Parkinson’s disease. We were able to learn how the program works by experiencing the BIG exercises as well as learned how the treatment has made a positive impact in both gross and fine motor skills to improve function in people with Parkinson’s.
8. May is a great time to renew or join MiOTA. **Right now memberships are 20% off!** (ie. Regular OT membership is $80 instead of $100.)

Attendees of the meeting on 5/3/16 will receive a PDU certificate. I have already received mine from Holly Mauk/MiOTA. Please let me know if you don’t get one. Holly Grieves is also planning to send the promised links out to attendees soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine