MiOTA: Southwest Chapter Meeting 9/26/19 Summary

Attendance of **25** at the Rider-Sammons Residence from 6:00-7:30 pm. Thank you again to our gracious hosts, Barb and Fred!

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

1. Cathleen Johnson, MiOTA Membership Director, provided an update of some potential changes to the General Rules for Occupational Therapy. If passed, these will affect OT practice in Michigan. One change will allow an OTA to initiate treatment before the OT evaluation is complete. The other proposal will change which group handles cases of practitioner misconduct.

**Public hearing will be held on Friday, October 4 at 9 am in Lansing. MiOTA and AOTA have some serious concerns about the changes proposed and encourage anyone interested to attend the public hearing.**

**Public Hearing for the Occupational Therapists – General Rules ORR 2018-034 LR. Location: G. Mennen Williams Building, Auditorium, 525 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing.**

2. Carla Chase, Chair of the Western Michigan University OT Department, shared an invitation for all alumni and friends of WMU to attend an early 100 year WMU OT celebration event during the MiOTA Annual Conference in Frankenmuth. It will be from 7-9 pm on Friday, October 11 at Frankenmuth Brewery. Please stop by!

She also shared about the Barb Rider Colloquium on Friday, October 25, 8:30-4. Topic is the Role of Occupational Therapy in Pain Management. To register or for more info: <https://wmich.edu/ridercolloquium>

3. Sue Haasch shared her story as a retired occupational therapist and her journey to finding the right place to volunteer and share her unique skill set with those in need. After a short stint working with kindergarteners in a local school district, she began to work with Senior Services both as a driver providing rides to those in need and as part of the Tuesday Toolmen team. Tuesday Toolmen has been around since the 1990s and provides simple home modifications such as ramps, grab bars, and repairs to keep seniors safe and independent in their homes. Home safety assessments are definitely part of keeping these seniors safe! She has found fulfillment in knowing she has made a difference as well as created new friendships among the other volunteers and the clients she has served. Thank you, Sue for sharing your interesting and inspiring volunteer journey!

4. Another attendee shared about <https://www.smart911.com/> . This is a link where you can go and fill in personal information that will help emergency responders in the case that you need to call 911 but are unable or don’t have time to provide information such as address, medications, health conditions, etc. Especially since most people use mobile phones instead of land lines, this critical information may save your life!

5. Reminder to check the MiOTA website for updated information relevant to occupational therapy in Michigan, [www.miota.org](http://www.miota.org). To become a member, use this link: <https://mms.miota.org/members/newmem/registration.php?orgcode=MOTA&>

4. Free MiOTA webinars/a benefit of membership! Here is the link to the MiOTA webinars: <https://www.miota.org/webinar_list.php>

Attendees who are MiOTA members will receive a PDU certificate by email from Joanna at the MiOTA office.

Please contact me if you do not receive your certificate within the next 1-2 weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine