

BACKGROUND

- Exploring options for creating a State Conference that replicates the AOTA Annual Conference Experience
- AOTA's Annual Conference & Expo is the place where occupational therapy students and practitioners gather to collaborate, make connections, and experience educational and leadership opportunities (American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), 2016).
- Conference expenses, including registration, travel, and accommodations, can limit practitioner and student access to a national conference. In addition, many practitioners may find it challenging to take time off from their work. Despite these challenges, the knowledge gained at an AOTA annual conference should not be missed.

RATIONALE

- Honorat (2015) indicated that a benefit of attending national conference is the opportunity to share knowledge and inspiration gained from conference attendance. For example the author states:
 - Do an in-service on relevant materials from Conference for those who were not able to attend. Start a project on a topic discussed in Conference that interested you.
- Creating a venue for sharing that knowledge was the inspiration behind the "AOTA Re-Boot" experience.

Honorat, D. (2015). Keys for a successful first conference. OT Practice, 20(2), 19-20.



STEPS TO TAKE

- Establish special conference committee including members who attended the national conference to help facilitate planning and organizational structure.
- Start by identifying local OT students and practitioners who presented at the recent AOTA annual conference using your conference brochure or online resources.
- Request that they once again share their presentation at the local level.
- The committee then develops an outline for the type of presentations and topics to be covered such as poster sessions, short courses, and round table discussions.
- It is recommended that the conference also include updates from the state president, legislative chair, and the state RA representative, all relating to the information shared at the AOTA annual conference.
- Build in opportunities to view videos from conference including opening address, presidential address are offered.
- In addition there are opportunities for updates on AOTA membership as well as State Membership
- The "Re-Boot" makes the AOTA Annual Conference accessible to local practitioners.

CONFERENCE BROCHURE IDEAS



**SPRING
CONFERENCE
2015**

NASHVILLE AT HOME



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:15-9:00: Registration & Vendors
9:00-9:45: Centennial Vision
9:45-10:00: Break & Vendors
10:00-11:00: Short Courses
11:00-12:00: Poster Session
12:00-1:30: Awards Ceremony, Lunch & Vendors
1:30-2:30: Hot Topics & State of the State Address
2:30-2:45: Break & Vendors
2:45-3:45: Round Table Discussions
3:45-4:00: Closing Remarks & Certificates available
4:30-7:00: Post Conference Celebration & Networking



**SPRING CONFERENCE
2017**

*Centennial Celebration:
Philadelphia Re-boot
Bringing National Topics
Closer to Home*

MORNING SHORT COURSE

Participants will have the opportunity to choose from various topics presented at the AOTA Conference for one hour focused sessions. We will update the MeOTA web-site as new topics are added.

ROUND TABLE SESSIONS

We will have afternoon round table discussions that will facilitate conversation and updates in the areas of Pediatrics, Legislation, Rehab, Disability, and Participation, Leadership, Hand Therapy, and Mental Health.

Each round table will have a facilitator and participants will have the opportunity to share current ideas and concerns regarding the topic area of each round table. We will also share updates and highlights from conference in each of these topic areas.

POSTER SESSION

This poster session will feature a number of posters presented by Maine MeOTA members at AOTA.

Topics include: case based learning for fieldwork competence, support for fieldwork educators, working with homeless teens, sensory integration, community partnership and evidence based practice, interprofessional practice, health and wellness, updating the Kohlman Evaluation of living skills, sexual health for adolescents, and many other topics. Participants will have an opportunity to visit posters of interest and converse with presenters.