



2022 NCOTA Election Candidate Statements

Elected Positions

President (elect) (Select 1)

Nominee: Robert Houde, COTA/L

As a COTA, Regional Manager, and Rehab Director for the last decade in multiple states including North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana and Massachusetts. I have witnessed the changes in demands and stressors placed on all occupational therapy practitioners whether from corporate entities, lack of staffing, reduction in reimbursement, scarcity of resources, and COVID. Moreover, as financial scrutiny on our industry increases, now more than ever, we must utilize evidence based practice to demonstrate the skill of our services. I also understand first-hand what "fitness" of a practitioner looks like and why it is vital. I understand that our guiding principles; altruism, equality, freedom, justice, dignity, truth, and prudence are more than ideas we memorize, but necessarily are the foundation from which we must construct our practice for it to be sound.

It is extremely important that we apply our guiding principles and code of ethics judiciously while remaining fair, firm and consistent with any person currently licensed or seeking licensure. As a credentialed documentation auditor, I have written numerous rebuttal letters and participated in many ALJ hearings, as well as disciplinary investigations throughout my career. I understand the process and import of disciplinary action as well as the gravity of its outcome.

As a proud member of the OT community, I take the responsibility of representing our industry earnestly and will bring to the position of President-Elect the seriousness and focus it deserves. Also, In addition to my Applied Science degree, I have a BA in Political Science from Clemson University. As a result, I am well versed in the ways of organizational dynamics and human relations. As President-Elect of the NCO TA I will contribute a wealth of experience from not only the therapy world but also the business world - as my wife and I own multiple successful businesses. Lastly, besides running therapy departments I have created and run a 501c3 non-profit "The Periodic Table LLC". Our mission is to end the cycle of homelessness, utilizing a housing first model.

Like the NCOTA my goal in every aspect of life is to serve the public interest - there is no greater cause and there is no greater reward. The more we routinely act from a position of responsibility, the greater the value we bring to those around us. I believe every person, without exception, deserves dignity and the right to live a life of fulfillment. In closing, the words of Albert Schweitzer who posited:

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

Vice President (Select 1)

Nominee: Bethany Pritchett

Bethany began her career as an Occupational Therapy Assistant in 2001, and then received her MS in Occupational Therapy in 2013 from WSSU. Bethany has a diverse clinical background beginning in pediatrics, which evolved into a specialization in treating dysfunction in the older adult, and prepared her well for a career as a clinical leader in long term care. Bethany currently serves as Regional Director of Operations for Legacy Healthcare Services, and she is described by her teammates as "a leader with a selfless heart that is always striving to put her residents, employees, and customers first. She is driven, well organized and has a passion for what we do. These skills and her exceptional communication and customer service skills make her an exceptional candidate for this role." She also has a passion for student collaboration, taking special interest in new graduate development among OT practitioners here in NC, and promoting our profession in the continuum of care. She loves the field and looks forward to being involved in NCOTA

Treasurer (Select 1)

Nominee: No candidates

Legal and Political Chair (Select 1)

Nominee: Clarice Grote

I am excited to be considered for the legal and political chair for NCOTA. I plan to bring my experience as a Medicare policy specialist and advocate to help advance the profession in this state. Prior to moving to North Carolina I served as the Director of Practice for the Missouri Occupational Therapy Association where I planned and hosted two state advocacy days, hosted an interdisciplinary town hall for candidates running for state office, and spearheaded the successful effort to pass the OT licensure compact in MO. Additionally, I served as the advocacy and policy coordinator for AOTA's Home and Community Health Special Interest Section from 2018-2021. I look forward to the opportunity to continue advocating for occupational therapy and NCOTA members.

Nominee: Amy Siegler

Amy has been helping the current legal and political chair, and helped her design the co-chair position. It's a lot to take on as one person. I have passions with regards to advocacy and policy changes. I have worked with changing rules for Telehealth with regard to NC Medicaid before being involved with this position. I want to continue to support OT, NCOTA, and this chair as we continue to make a positive impact within our community.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair (Select 1)

Nominee: No candidates