

## ***Position Statements***

### ***Position of President:***

***John W. Jennings, MBA, OTR/L***

Fellow members of The Oklahoma Occupational Therapy Association, Please know that I am humbled by your nomination for me to run for the Office of President of OKOTA. It has been a privilege to serve you in the past, and if elected, I accept the challenge to continue serving you and our profession in the future.

There are three focal points that I believe need to be continued to be addressed by the President and the members of your Executive Board.

First, continue to support and strive to meet the Centennial Visions of AOTA and OKOTA

Second, with the support of AOTA continue to monitor those challenges that arise in a competitive health care environment that could reduce our opportunities to practice the profession of occupational therapy to its' greatest potential.

And third, increase the member body of OKOTA. Our greatest threat to our profession is apathy. A strong member body is better able to fend off threats.

You have a strong executive board that is committed to the success of our profession in the State of Oklahoma. If it is your wish by your vote, I am committed to continuing to serve you to the best of my abilities.

### ***Position of Secretary:***

***Fonda Scott, BLS, COTA/L***

I worked as a COTA/L in various settings in the state of Oklahoma for sixteen years this year. My background in the therapy world includes inpatient rehab, outpatient rehab, and currently I work in home health as a private contractor. As well as those duties I have been an adjunct professor for nine years at OCCC in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program teaching various OTA classes worked one year as the student fieldwork coordinator. Also current I serve on the Adjunct Advisory Committee for OCCC for the Health Profession Division. I served four years as the OTECO president as well as various other offices within that organization. Currently, I assist as co-sponsor for the SOTA club at OCCC OTA program. I served as a short term head of the development committee for OKOTA then accepted the nomination for the position of secretary of OKOTA. As well as the AAS in OTA I also received my Bachelor of Liberal Studies from OU in 2007. I am a member of AOTA and OKOTA.

***Position of Occupational Therapy Assistant Representative:  
Debbie Smart, COTA/L***

**Summary of Qualifications**

- COTA/L for fourteen years in a variety of settings (passion for pediatrics)
- Prior OTA representative for OOTA (before OKOTA)
- Prior OTA representative for OT Advisory Board on the Oklahoma Medical Board of Licensure and Supervision (served as Co-Chair and Chair on this board)
- Motivated and positive attitude
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent organization, writing and presentation skills
- Experience supervising Fieldwork I and Fieldwork II OTA students
- High standards of personal and professional integrity
- Willing to devote time to the advancement of the profession of OT
- LOVE, LOVE, LOVE being a COTA/L

**Future of the profession and/or the OKOTA**

- Belief OKOTA can work together with all those in the profession to promote OKOTA and occupational therapy in every possible way incorporating AOTA's brand: Living Life To Its Fullest
- Belief OKOTA can work together with all those in the profession to promote and achieve the Centennial Vision of AOTA (We envision that occupational therapy is a powerful, widely-recognized, science-driven and evidence-based profession with a globally connected and diverse workforce meeting society's occupational needs.)
- Belief that OKOTA can continue to grow stronger making the profession stronger and making OKOTA the best professional organization in the State of Oklahoma

***Position of Student Representative:***

***Sydney Mann, OTS***

I am pleased to accept the nomination of student representative for OKOTA. My name is Sydney Mann and I am 23 years old and have lived in Norman, Oklahoma my entire life. I am the middle child of three girls and a "mother" to my amazing dog Gus. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, traveling, exercising, and gardening.

My passion for the field of occupational therapy began when I turned sixteen and began working with a young woman who has severe cerebral palsy. I worked as Amy's habilitation-training specialist for four years until I was hired as a Direct Care Specialist at the J.D. McCarty Center for Children with Developmental Disabilities (JDMC). I worked at JDMC for 2.5 years and then resigned my position when I began the occupational therapy program at the OUHSC. My personal future goals include working to become the best occupational therapist I can be over the next 2.5 years. Additionally, I plan to participate in a pediatric grant at the end of next year. The grant will provide me the opportunity to work with pediatric patients for a year after I graduate. As a result, I hope to return to JDMC as an occupational therapist and work with some of the same children I worked with as a Direct Care Specialist. My long term goals also include obtaining a doctoral degree in occupational therapy.

I am really excited about the opportunity to be involved in OKOTA. Being involved in OKOTA will provide me the chance to meet new people, introduce occupational therapy students to OKOTA, and to promote OKOTA to other occupational therapists and the community. It is especially exciting to me to be involved in an occupational therapy organization, my true educational and professional passion.

***Katherine Wilson, OTS***

My name is Katherine Wilson, and I am a first year student getting my Masters of Occupational Therapy at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. I am an Allied Health Student Ambassador and have a 4.0 GPA. Through my position as an Ambassador, I assist with student recruitment, alumni relations, and public relations. I regularly attend SOTA (Student Occupational Therapy Association) meetings on my campus. I would love to be the student representative for OKOTA in order to start my relationship with OKOTA that will continue throughout my professional life. I hope to bring new, fresh ideas from a student's perspective to the experienced perspectives of the current board members. I also hope to bridge the gap between the OT student and the entry-level practitioner striving to remain involved in OKOTA. Thank you for considering me for this position. I know I would thoroughly enjoy it.