

President Report
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Occupational therapy practitioners know the value of encouraging active participation in life. Applying that occupational therapy value for participation to organizations means that active participation is the heart of membership.

During the years I was completing my terminal degree, I was an OOTA member but did not participate actively in events. While attending a summer OOTA leadership conference, I realized that even though I wasn't active, OOTA had been – continuing to represent the profession to the people of Oklahoma. I speculated on the number of hours that other members had held office, chaired, and served on committees, while I was busy with other aspects of my career. I decided that at the next opportunity to serve OOTA, I would give back some of the “professional sweat equity” that I owed the organization.

Since then, my small amount of effort for OOTA has been rewarded many times over. I have deepened my knowledge, resources, relationships, and skills through my active participation.

When we renew our OOTA membership, we have the opportunity to choose our service to the association. I'm pleased to report that the 2007-2008 membership renewals resulted in 79 volunteer offers to advance the work of OOTA.

Ours is a small profession. We all know what it's like to feel outnumbered by other professionals in our work settings; to be the only one representing our philosophy on the significance of occupations. Anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, “A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

If it's time for you to join a growing group of thoughtful people changing the world one occupation at a time - if now is the time for you to repay OOTA's efforts with some professional sweat equity, OOTA committee chairs and officers ready to help you get started at your chosen level of participation to keep OOTA running and fulfilling our strategic plan.

We welcome new and renewing members with the promise that the work of OOTA will continue. Only with your active participation, can OOTA fulfill its vision, mission, and plan. Your active participation lies at the heart of membership.