

# OREGON Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

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[www.oregon.gov/otlb](http://www.oregon.gov/otlb) Director: [Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us](mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us) January 2013



# NEWSLETTER

## OTLB BOARD MEMBERS:

Alan King, OTR/L, Chair  
Robert Bond, Public Member, Vice Chair  
Open - Public Member

Mashelle Painter, BS, COTA  
Linda Harthun Smith, OTR/L

Staff: Felicia Holgate, Director

Nancy Schuberg, Office Specialist, 10 hours/week

Please update your email & contact information to keep current with important news.  
Your e-mail is kept confidential. You can provide a public e-mail if you wish.

**Mission Statement: To protect the public by supervising occupational therapy practice.  
The Board is charged with assuring safe & ethical delivery of occupational therapy services**

The next board meeting will be held in Portland on Friday, Feb. 8, 2012 at the Portland State Office Building Room 445. Please contact the Director for an Agenda.

## **Work of the Board**

Discipline cases are always the most important agenda item at Board meetings. Should the Board allow an Occupational Therapist to work as an OT in Oregon? If they do give a license, what restrictions are appropriate? Will the restrictions on a licensee be sufficient to protect the public? What action is appropriate when a therapist has a second DUI or an arrest for theft but not during work? What if the applicant or licensee lied about previous crimes or arrests? All these decisions must be made on a case by case basis and take a lot of discussion.

The Board is working on several discipline issues: a discipline matrix, using civil penalties, Law Enforcement Data checks, and starting a new Law/Ethics exam.

The **legislative session** starts in February and there will be many bills for the Board to follow. In some cases the Licensing Board may provide information or testify at legislative committees, such as bills that deal with discipline and how the board functions. However, in other cases, as Board members appointed by the Governor, the Licensing Board only takes a position if the Governor approves. It is the role of the Board to provide information and not to lobby.

## Your OTA Association's work with the Legislature

Your Association lobbies on your behalf. The new lobbyist is **Bill Cross**. The members of the committee are **Rachel Gligorea**, **Summer Ireland** and **Chrissy Van Osdol**. They will be working hard as the session starts in February. Anyone wishing to help should write to the legislative committee at [otaolegislativcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:otaolegislativcommittee@gmail.com). Legislators want to know the position of the profession, and that is through OTA. Thank you to **Sara Pickett** your OTA President and members of the OTA Board for this important work.

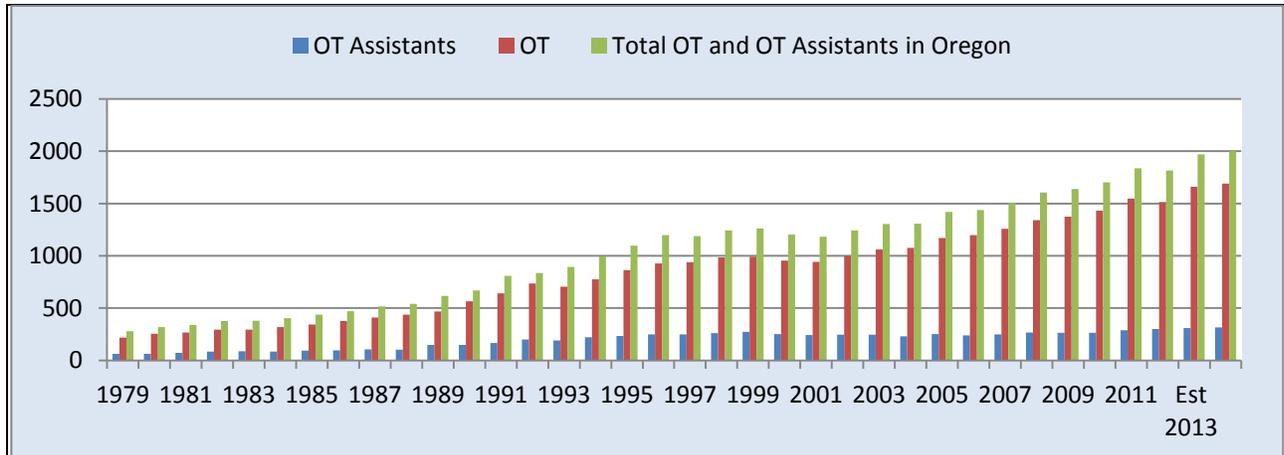
**OTA LEGISLATIVE NIGHT** Thursday Jan. 17, 2013 at 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Mall 205 McMenamins Pub 9010 SE Washington Street Portland, Or 97019

OTA will provide CE for this night. The purpose of this session is to have OTA members learn about the legislative process and meet with OTA's new lobbyist. The committee plans to have regular meetings during the legislative session.

On Thursday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> the OT students from Pacific University and the OT Assistant students from Linn Benton CC will meet at the State Capitol to learn about the legislative process. OTA is also offering CE to any therapist for education received that day in Salem as you meet your legislator, attend hearings, and learn about the legislative process. Please check the OTA web site at [www.ota.com](http://www.ota.com) or e-mail the committee at [otaolegislativcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:otaolegislativcommittee@gmail.com).

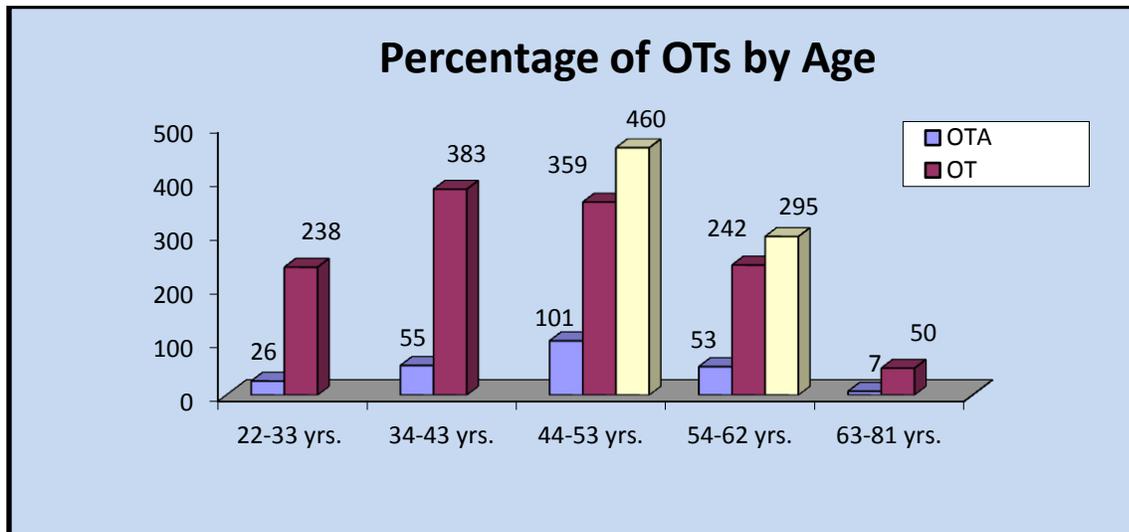
## License numbers continue to grow



There are now over 1800 licensees, of which 300 are OT Assistants. When the OT school at Mt. Hood existed there were 273 OT Assistants in Oregon. That number dropped to 241 Assistants. Now with the first graduates from Linn Benton CC there are 304 OT Assistants.

The age of OTs in Oregon will affect the profession in the next decade. Over half of the Oregon licensed OTs are 50 year and older. Depending on the economy, there may be many OTs retiring in the next 5 – 10 years. At what age therapists retire will also depend on personal circumstances.

Because therapists love OT, many who “retire” from work, still maintain their license. They want to continue to help support the profession and they are not ready to give up their license. Many of them also end up going back to work, at least on a part-time basis.



For every renewal period in the last 10 years, twelve percent, or over 200 licensees, do not renew. Why? Usually the OT is moving out of state or they have not been working and do not want to continue to keep up with their CE. Many others are being licensed by endorsement, coming from other states. Review the chart below to see how applicants are being licensed.

	<b>Renewed May 2012</b>	<b>Initial June – Dec 2012</b>	<b>By Endorsement June – Dec 2012</b>
OT	1373	49	23
OTA	246	30	89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1619</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>112</b>

The chart above shows that in June there were 1619 therapists who renewed. Six months later, by December:

- There were 79 new applicants who just graduated and passed the NBCOT exam
- There were 112 applicants by endorsement from other states

During the year, the Board continues to issue an average of about 25 licenses each month. Of the new graduates getting an Initial license, 45% are from Pacific University, School of OT and 53% are from Linn Benton Community College in Lebanon.

The Board still works hard after renewals issuing new licenses.

## **SUPERVISION for Licensed OT Assistants**

All OT Assistants working in Oregon by law must have a supervising OTR for licensing purposes and have a supervision form filed with the Board office. Check <http://www.oregon.gov/otlb/Pages/Supervision.aspx> for more information. There was a session on supervision held during the OTA conference and from the questions we continue to receive there is still confusion about what is required. Here are Q and A on the topic [http://www.oregon.gov/otlb/docs/OT\\_Assistants.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/otlb/docs/OT_Assistants.pdf)



### **CHECK THE WEB SITE [www.oregon.gov/otlb](http://www.oregon.gov/otlb) FIRST FOR INFORMATION**

If you have a **name change**: Scan and e-mail to [Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us](mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us) or FAX a copy of the legal document to 971-673-0226. Make sure it shows the change, exactly how the name reads and address changes.

If you need a **license verification** sent to another state please just e-mail giving the exact address where it needs to go to [Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us](mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us). There is No charge.

For any other changes in contact information, send an e-mail to [Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us](mailto:Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us) Please check the **web site** at [www.oregon.gov/otlb](http://www.oregon.gov/otlb) for answers to your questions. There is a section on **Information Requests and Issues, Questions and Topics**.

**Tobacco Free State Properties:** In January, state offices are tobacco-free, helping reduce tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke on state properties achieving the goal even more certain. You can get more information at: [www.healthoregon.org/tobacco-free-state-properties](http://www.healthoregon.org/tobacco-free-state-properties).

***Occupational Therapy:  
Living life to Its Fullest***