



# The Networker

The Official Newsletter of the Network for Lesbian, Gay,  
and Bisexual Concerns in Occupational Therapy

VOLUME 7/NUMBER 2/JULY 2000

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

by Margarett Shelton

WE NEED YOUR  
HELP!!  
PLEASE SUPPORT  
THE NETWORK  
BY  
SENDING IN  
YOUR  
RENEWAL  
DONATION

Greetings to you all! For those of you who missed AOTA and the Network meeting there, you missed a **lot** of business. For those of you who were there, thanks for hanging in there. You'll find an amended version of the bylaws in this newsletter (amended at Conference). There are introductions from new members of the Steering Committee – Gerard Mounic, Co-chair, Michael Nardone, Treasurer; Juliet Cooke, Secretary (Mary Beth has taken over the position of Newsletter Editor), and Ken Dechman, Webmaster. Yes, we have a web site, thanks to Mary Beth's hard work, and soon it will be linked through AOTA. This issue also contains greetings from the other members of the Steering Committee.

One of the things those who attended AOTA started to think about was how the Network sustains viability. There are several ways it is doing this: there is the quarterly newsletter, there is the website, and there is the meeting at the Annual Conference. These represent some of the more tangible manifestations of the group's viability. How do we sustain viability in terms of our mission and purpose? Are you letting students know about the Network? When you publish or present, do you identify yourself as a member of the Network? Have you considered writing something for inclusion in the newsletter, or have you considered using the newsletter as a forum for dialogue and discussion?

There is another aspect of viability that we need to address here, and that is the cost of remaining viable. We count on member donations to print and mail out the newsletter and to pay for two conference calls among members of the Steering Committee each year. The newsletter is the most costly of these expenses. We are seriously low on funds due to lack of member donations. In April, the bylaws were amended to define a member of the Network as one who is current with his/her annual donation. If you have not made a donation to the Network within the past year, chances are this will be the last newsletter you receive, at least by mail. We thank you for your continued support and your belief that the Network should remain viable.

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Annual Meeting  
at AOTA Conference  
in Seattle

**DISCUSSION:**  
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include Trans-  
gendered persons?

*Summer Reading List*

On behalf of the Steering Committee,  
Margarette



**Network for Lesbian,  
Gay and Bisexual  
Concerns in  
Occupational Therapy**

“The Mission of the Network is to create the means for members of the occupational therapy professional community who are committed to advancing understanding of sexual orientation issues to identify, support and mentor one another and to promote research in occupational therapy.”

**Co-Chair**

Margarette Shelton (01)  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

**Co-Chair**

Gerard Mounic (02)  
New York, NY

**Vice-Chair**

Randy Bratsven (01)  
Houston, TX

**Membership**

Gloria Lucker (01)  
Buffalo, NY

**Secretary**

Juliet Cooke (02)  
Philadelphia, PA

**Treasurer**

Michael Nardone (02)  
Westerly, RI

**Newsletter Editor**

Mary Beth Kadlec (02)  
Medford, MA

**Webmaster**

Ken Dechman (02)  
Ghent, NY

**FROM THE CO-CHAIR**

*by Gerard Mounic*

Three months ago, I had the great pleasure and opportunity to serve as ASCOTA representative to the AOTA's national conference in Seattle, WA. During my stay there, I learned a great deal about my profession, its members, and the direction our professional organization was to take. I also had the great fortune, to stumble upon a meeting of the Network for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns in Occupational Therapy; an organization I was unfamiliar with, but whose existence I was very happy to hear of!!

I have worked for the last 15 years as an aircraft dispatcher at LaGuardia airport in New York City. Unsatisfied with the personal rewards my job offered, I volunteered at a local hospital and was introduced to the field of occupational therapy. I quickly became in awe of the professionals I encountered and took the necessary steps to become a part of this field. I have just completed my last semester at York College in New York, and am about to complete the final stages of my level 2 fieldwork assignment.

I am a great believer in making myself a part of issues that matter to me. During my career at LaGuardia, I was directly involved in the restructuring of transportation rules for physically challenged passengers as determined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. At York College, I became class President and led several projects that will lead to formal presentations at this year's New York State Occupational Therapy Association State conference. I also became part of the Student Liaison Steering Committee of NYSOTA, Manhattan District and was instrumental in increasing student membership from all New York City occupational therapy programs.

Although I am proud of my achievements, I am even more proud of the fact that I was able to achieve these results and gain the respect of my colleagues without having to hide my sexuality. It is with great pleasure that I have accepted the nomination for Co-Chair of the Network and I look forward to the opportunity of working with all the members.

**FROM MEMBERSHIP**

*by Gloria Lucker*

Greetings from your Network Membership Chair!

It was great to be back in Seattle, a return to the scene of my first Network meeting. The group gathered in Seattle this year was vibrant with great ideas and a real commitment to our participation in our profession.

Please keep me up-to-date with your address changes. It costs us extra postage every time we have to forward a Newsletter to you after you move. You can email address changes to me and I will correct the list.

And, speaking of money, have you updated your membership and sent us some money to cover the cost of mailing the Newsletter?

Have a great summer,  
Gloria  
(GloriaOTAS@aol.com)

**The Networker**

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for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual  
Concerns in Occupational Therapy  
VOLUME 7/NUMBER 2/JULY 2000

The Networker is published  
quarterly  
by the Network Steering  
Committee.

Subscription Price: The Networker is  
sent to all members.

**Membership is defined as  
making a donation in any amount.**

To join, send application on page 6 to  
The Network  
167 High Street, Westerly, RI 02891

**FROM THE VICE-CHAIR**  
*by Randy Bratsven*

Houston's heat and humidity signal that summer months are upon us. Pride Events abound across the country. Personally I am halfway through my MA in Cross-Cultural Studies and the coursework for the second half is going to be more applied than theory focused. Cross-Cultural Studies is the integrated study of the social studies and humanities with a concentration in conflict resolution (read – mediation). I am not sure what the end result is going to be but have a year left to sort it out. As I catch up with periodicals and other assorted readings around the house, it strikes me that as a community we have made significant progress. : The Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association provides insightful articles for reading, the unique health needs of gays and lesbians have been recognized as an area for study by the US Department of Health and Human Services, and the US Senate has managed to pass a Hate Crimes Bill. On the other side of the socio-political spectrum the US Supreme Court has upheld that the Boy Scouts can exclude gays as homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the values that the values the Boy Scouts seek to instill. Work still to be done. The NETWORK is in need of your support: if you have not sent a contribution lately, now would be a great time or if you feel the need to send in an article even better. Enjoy the summer and I hope that each of you can set aside the time to spend with family and friends, participate in a Pride Event or just escape the routine for a weekend.

**FROM THE TREASURER**  
*by Michael Nardone*

I am a graduate of Boston University-Sargent College and have been an occupational therapist for 25 years. This is the second time I am serving on the Network Steering Committee, having served previously as Vice-Chair for a three year period. I am a past president of the Rhode Island OT Association (1988-1992), and a past Representative from RI to the AOTA Representative Assembly (1992-1998). At the 1993 RA meeting in Seattle, along with my colleagues Frank Gainer and Richard Allison, I introduced the motion to include "sexual orientation" in the non-discrimination clause in the AOTA bylaws. This, along with being appointed to the Multicultural Task Force by then President Mary Evert, are "great moments" in my professional life.

My clinical background has included experience in acute care, hand and burn rehabilitation, oncology, women's health and management of student training programs. Currently, I am assistant professor and fieldwork coordinator in the Occupational Therapy program at the University for Hartford, West Hartford, CT.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

<b>Opening balance:</b>	<b>\$918.68</b>	May 2000
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>100.00</b>	Web design/implementation
	<b>422.93</b>	March Newsletter
	<b>111.01</b>	Steering Committee Conf. Call
<b>Income</b>	<b>185.00</b>	Membership donations
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$469.74</b>	July 10, 2000

**FROM THE WEBMASTER**  
*by Ken Dechman*

The Network website is online and under development! Please visit the site and send me comments or suggestions for anything you would like to see on the site. The address is **networklgbot.freesevers.com**

Current plans are to post the newsletter there and to have a listserv to discuss topics of interest, perhaps even to debate items on the agenda for the next meeting in Philadelphia prior to conference.

We are also trying to get AOTA to provide a link to our website from AOTA's site.

Send any comments to **kdechman@taconic.net**

For those of you who don't know me, I live in the Hudson Valley region of New York State with my partner of twelve years. We are both ex-New Yorkers who escaped to the country! I manage the satellite operations for Sunnyview Hospital (Schenectady) at a rural center in Ghent, NY. Prior to that, I worked as a staff OT on the head injury unit at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston. I'm a graduate of Tufts University.

**FROM THE SECRETARY**  
*by Juliet Cooke*

I am currently a third year Masters' student at Thomas Jefferson University after a 13 year career as an HIV case manager. I live in Philadelphia suburbs with my significant other, our amazing daughter, and assorted pets, who all hope I get a real grown up OT job soon.

Juliet Cooke  
(juliet@netaxs.com or JCC02@jefferson.edu)

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM ANNUAL LGB NETWORK  
MEETING IN SEATTLE!!**  
*by Mary Beth Kadlec*

The annual meeting of the Network for LGB Concerns in O.T. was held on Saturday, April 1, 2000 at the AOTA Conference in Seattle, Washington. Approximately 44 new and old members participated in the busy yet lively meeting. Margarett Shelton, Co-Chair, facilitated the meeting since Phyllis Ehrlich, Co-Chair, had completed her term. The agenda was very full with many business items including: 1) review and amendment of By-Laws, 2) response to Jeanne Jackson's AJOT article, 3) Treasurer Report, 4) Membership Report, 5) elections of Steering Committee, and 6) Scholarship Report.

Review of the By-Laws began by discussing the ways in which the membership thinks that The Network is fulfilling the Mission of the group. Suggestions included ways to "promote scholarship" through the submission of programs or proposals for the annual AOTA conference "Call for Papers". In addition, a lengthy discussion transpired about the inclusion of "Transgender" to the LGB Network (see article in this newsletter), and amending the definition of Network "member" (see By-Laws).

Jeanne Jackson received a hate letter from an AOTA member in response to her AJOT article entitled "Understanding the experience of noninclusive occupational therapy clinics: Lesbians' perspectives" (Volume 54, Number 1, pp.26-35). Penny Kyler attended the annual meeting and provided the response that was sent by AOTA: AOTA has a policy that we do not discriminate against ourselves within the profession. Jeanne will not respond to the letter and that Diana Bailey will call AJOT editor, Betty Hasselkus, and indicate the Network's pleasure at her printing the article.

Treasurer, Membership and Scholarship Reports are included in this newsletter, as are the names and introductions of the new and remaining Steering Committee. Welcome to the new members! We look forward to an exciting year of providing ongoing support for one another and increasing our visibility.

***SHOULD THE LGB NETWORK INCLUDE TRANSGENDERED PERSONS?***  
*by Mary Beth Kadlec*

As part of the discussion of the By-Laws at the annual Network meeting, it was proposed that the LGB Network include "Transgender" to the name, thereby including transgendered persons in the Network. After much discussion, it was decided to table the discussion with a recommendation that the membership become educated about issues related to being transgendered including having transgendered persons be a part of the discussion. All members are invited to contact the Steering Committee with information and opinions to advance the discussion. One way that this can be facilitated is through having more active discussions through the web site once a listserv is up and running.

***PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND IN  
YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!!!  
SEND YOUR ANNUAL DONATION  
WITH THE FORM ON PAGE SIX  
TO THE ADDRESS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FORM.***

# SUMMER READING LIST

Summer is the time for light reading and travel. Well, here are some suggestions:

## **Collections:**

Women on the Verge: Lesbian Tales of Power and Play by Susan Fox Rogers © 1999  
Collections of personal accounts of women in the outdoors.

Lesbian Bedtime Stories collected by Terry Woodrow © 1989  
The stories are coded so that you can read them all or just read what you are interested in.

## **Fiction:**

Reel Time by Julia Willis

The Case of the Not-So-Nice Nurse  
The Case of the Good-For-Nothing Girlfriend  
A Ghost in the Closet  
By Mabel Maney  
Nancy Clue, Cherry Aimless and their friends solve dastardly mysteries! It's camp and healthcare related!

Murder at the Nightwood Bar by Katherine V. Forrest © 1987  
A Kate Delafield Mystery

Give my Secrets Back by Kate Allen © 1995  
An Alison Kane Mystery

In my recent wanderings, I came across a website that would be helpful when travelling, "Columbia fun maps, mapping the gay and lesbian world. Try:  
[www.funmaps.com](http://www.funmaps.com)

And, I came across a reference guide to the Internet:  
Gay and Lesbian Online: Your indispensable guide to cruising the queer web  
By Jeff Dawson

**FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

*by Mary Beth Kadlec*

The current issue of The Networker has been specifically designed to introduce the newly elected Steering Committee Members and provide the membership with the revised By-Laws (see attachment). Due to the seriousness of the financial status of the Network, we are publishing an abbreviated Networker until we are able to build financial reserves to support the operations of the organization.

The Network has taken steps to decrease costs of publishing The Networker, which is our greatest expense. Ken Dechman, Web Master, has volunteered to format The Networker, whereas in the past, the formatting was provided by a paid consultant. In addition, our goal is for the membership to access and print the newsletter from the web site.

**\*\*\*\*\*Those members who are current with his/her annual donation (By-Laws, 4/00) will receive The Networker in the mail. We will stop sending The Networker to members who are not current with his/her donation. You will receive one more notification prior to termination of membership. \*\*\*\*\***

**\*Please complete the form below and send in your donation. We rely on you to support the visibility, connection and opportunities provided by the Network.**

You are also invited to sponsor an occupational therapy program by paying the donation for an Institution. Your support enables students to have access to this great organization!

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

- New Application to join the Network  
 Renewal donation (please note changes in your information)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(WHERE YOU WANT CORRESPONDENCE AND THE NETWORKER SENT)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ AOTA Member # \_\_\_\_\_  
(We let AOTA know how many AOTA members we have on our list to gain their continued support for the Network.)

Please check one of the categories below:

*Membership is defined as those who have given a donation.*

Check your donation:

- OTR** (Suggested donation \$15)       **COTA** (Suggested donation \$15)  
 **Student** (Suggested donation \$10)       **Institution** (Suggested donation \$20)

- I would like my name on the distributed list.  
(Distributed to Network members only, for networking among ourselves.)  
 I would like my name on the NON-distributed list.  
(You will receive the newsletter and will not appear on the distributed member list.)

*Please make check payable to "NETWORK" and mail to:* Michael Nardone  
167 High Street  
Westerly, RI 02891

If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please drop a postcard or an e-mail to Gloria Lucker, Membership, to let her know. (68 Chatham Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14216 or GloriaOTAS@aol.com)