

1. What is the biggest proposed change to the bylaws?

A: Our biggest proposal is to transition away from our current model of districts into special interest sections, similar to the special interest sections offered with AOTA membership.

2. What additional changes are being proposed?

A: We have updated language throughout the bylaws to reflect our current practices - such as the removal of language regarding items sent through the mail, updating the technology terms throughout the bylaws, etc. Additionally, we have added language reflecting the addition of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee as well as our Student Membership Subcommittee.

We also updated membership levels and combined auxiliary and associate membership into one level - now, anyone with an out-of-state OT association membership OR someone who supports OT and would like to be a member can join at the auxiliary level. Because of the proposed SIS transition, voting and elections had to be modified as well. Going forward, all SIS chairs will be voted on and serve on the same 2-year cycle.

3. Why are we proposing the change to special interest sections?

A: IOTA leadership feels this change would give members more opportunities to connect with fellow practitioners from their specialties/areas of practice.

Additionally, district directors in the past have expressed their difficulty connecting with practitioners/presenters outside their specialty area, and feel that they are not always able to provide their district members with continuing education opportunities that reflect their interests.

4. Will there still be continuing education opportunities throughout the year?

A: Yes. Each special interest section will have either a chair or co-chairs, and these chairs will plan continuing education opportunities throughout the year just as district directors did. In addition, our new website platform allows for the creation of forums, similar to communOT, where practitioners in a special interest section can post questions, resources, opportunities, etc.

5. What are the proposed special interest sections?

A: IOTA has proposed 5 special interest sections:

- i. Children & Youth
- ii. Rehabilitation & Disability
- iii. Productive Aging
- iv. Mental Health
- v. Academic Education

A: IOTA leadership also envisions and encourages the formation of specialized groups out of these special interest sections, such as a group for Certified Hand Therapists in the Rehabilitation & Disability SIS, a group for Early Intervention practitioners in the Children & Youth SIS, etc.

6. What happens if members vote no to this proposed bylaw change?

A: If members do not vote in favor of this bylaw change, IOTA will continue to run on a district model.

7. When is the vote on these proposed changes?

A: According to the bylaws, members have 30 days to read and comment on proposed bylaw changes before voting. We will open the electronic vote for these bylaw changes on Wednesday, October 26th. Voting will be open for 2 weeks and close on Wednesday, November 9th.

8. Why are we voting electronically as compared to past in-person voting?

A: IOTA leadership feels that in-person voting at fall conference limits how many members can vote. The in-person vote at conference can also be challenging when determining if a voter is an IOTA member or not.

9. How will SIS chairs be named?

A: Just like district directors, SIS chairs will be elected to their position by IOTA membership and serve a 2-year term. All SIS chairs will follow the same term cycle (i.e. all will be elected at the same time every 2 years).

10. Who do I contact for more information or if I have further questions/comments/concerns?

A: Please contact our executive board at execboard@inota.com. Members of our board of directors will send your email to the most appropriate person.