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This special issue highlights AATA's many accomplishments of the year: record success in passage of pro-art therapy legislation, increased continuing education offerings online and at conference, and improved awareness and educational tools for the profession. These achievements would not be possible without the support of our members, partners, and other industry professionals. We look forward to continuing this

important work together in 2018! The AATA wishes our readers a safe and happy holiday season. Our regular publication will resume Thursday, January 4, 2018.

A Show of Solidarity for the Arts in America



Donna Betts, PhD, ATR-BC, AATA President

From March 30: It's a critical time for the arts and healthcare across the USA. In solidarity with Americans for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and dozens of related organizations, the AATA was a proud National Partner for the 30th annual [Arts Advocacy Day](#), March 20 and 21, 2017, in Washington, DC. Executive Director Cynthia Woodruff and I represented the AATA at the event's National Arts Action Summit. Hosted by [Americans for the Arts](#) (AftA) in partnership with over 85 cultural and civic groups, we joined together with a record 700 enthusiastic participants – and we were noticed! [The New York Times](#) and the [Washington Post](#) reported on this [most well-attended](#) Arts Advocacy Day to date." **READ MORE**



Maryland Insurance Reimbursement Bill Approved Unanimously



AATA



From April 20: On Tuesday April 18, H.B. 298, Health Insurance - Licensed Clinical Professional Art Therapists – Reimbursement, was approved by Governor Larry Hogan! The bill passed unanimously through the House (2/24/17) with a vote of 136 to 0 and the Senate (3/28/17) with a vote of 47 to 0 following favorable reports by the House Health and Government Operations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. The bill goes into effect on October 1, 2017 and will provide private insurance reimbursement for art therapy services provided by licensed

clinical professional art therapists on an equal basis with other mental health professions licensed by the state of Maryland. **READ MORE**

Arizona Governor Signs State Hiring and Title Protection Bill for Art Therapists into Law: A Chapter's Journey



AATA

From May 4: On Monday evening, May 1, Arizona Governor Douglas Ducey signed SB 1434, art therapy services; contracting requirements, into law. The bill authorizes the state to contract with art therapists who hold active art therapy certification for services provided through the state mental hospital, the state's program of services for persons with disabilities, and state supported hospitals. Additionally, it defines art therapy for purposes of state law and provides title protection to prevent anyone other than those holding national credentials as art therapists from calling themselves art therapists. This success for the art therapy profession is thanks to the hard and dedicated work by the Arizona Art Therapy Association (AZATA). **READ MORE**



Oregon Art Therapy Licensure Bill Signed into Law



AATA

From June 1: Oregon House Bill 2434, which provides art therapy licensing and title protection for credentialed professionals, was signed into law by Governor Kate Brown on May 25, 2017. The bill passed the Senate on May 15, twenty-three to seven, and the House on May 17, forty-seven to twelve. For more details on the history of the bill, visit the Oregon State Legislature website or LegiScan. This accomplishment for the profession was achieved thanks to the dedicated work of AATA members in Oregon who worked closely with the AATA national team and advocates in other states. Mary Andrus, DAT, ATR-BC, LPC took on a leadership role in Oregon's



licensure efforts and shares her experience throughout the process in the following interview. [READ MORE](#)

Mental Health Awareness Month 2017 & Related Efforts



Donna Betts, PhD, ATR-BC, AATA President

From June 8: May was Mental Health Awareness Month across the United States, and the AATA and several of our state chapters participated in events to raise awareness of the importance of mental health care and the role of art therapists. We continued our collaboration with SAMHSA for Children's National Mental Health Awareness Day (May 4), this year as a Change Agent Supporter, and the AATA was represented at key briefings on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, throughout the month.



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The AATA Launches New Public Website



AATA

From July 13: The AATA is proud to announce the launch of our new and improved public website! We've made it easier to navigate and added several new resources and features to assist you in finding information about art therapy and advancing your art therapy career. We encourage you to explore some of the site's newest pages.

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AATA Releases New Video Series



AATA National Office



From July 20: The AATA has recently released several videos to help you answer the questions, "What is art therapy?" and "How does art therapy work?" These videos, meant to raise awareness for the profession by focusing on broad and specific topics related to the field, can be shared with clients, employers, legislators, educators, and anyone else who may benefit from learning more. They represent the first in a series of videos that the AATA will continue to release through the next few months.

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Delaware Governor Signs Art Therapy Licensure Bill



AATA National Office

From Sept. 14: The American Art Therapy Association is pleased to announce that the art therapy licensure bill Senate Bill 43 was signed into law on September 8, 2017. AATA Executive Director Cynthia Woodruff attended the bill signing ceremony and says, "The AATA is proud of our members Jennifer August, Nicole Luther, and others who worked hard to achieve this success for the profession. It was exhilarating to celebrate this successful legislation with art therapists in Dover, Delaware!" As described in the DE General Assembly summary, "The Art Therapy Practice Act will serve and protect the public by defining the scope of practice of art therapy; setting minimum standards of qualification, education, training, and experience for art therapists; and



maintaining certain standards in the delivery of art therapy services.”
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AATA Releases Voices of Art Therapy Story Library



AATA National Office

From Oct. 12: The AATA is proud to announce the new [Story Library](#) on our website! Thank you to all who have responded to our call for stories through our *Voices of Art Therapy* outreach. The nearly thirty stories and companion artwork beautifully describe memorable moments in art therapists' careers. **If you have not already done so, [submit your story](#) today!**



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AATA President Delivers Remarks at Press Conference Unveiling Second Lady Karen Pence's Initiative



AATA National Office

From Oct. 19: On October 18, 2017, the AATA joined the Second Lady Karen Pence in a press conference to unveil her initiative – Art Therapy: Healing with HeART – hosted by the art therapy program at Florida State University. See [AATA's official press release here](#). The audio of Karen Pence's remarks is [available here](#), and the full footage of the event can be [viewed here](#). **Find below the transcript of the remarks shared by AATA President Donna Betts, PhD, ATR-BC.** [READ MORE](#)

The AATA Supports the Affirmation and Healthy Development Across the Lifespan of Individuals within LGBTQIA Communities



AATA Board of Directors

From Nov. 2: On October 29, 2017, the Board of Directors ratified a Statement Affirming Healthy Development Across the Lifespan of Individuals within LGBTQIA Communities. The AATA's stance is in alignment with statements made previously by major medical and mental health organizations, and is in keeping with our Association's values and ethical principles. [READ MORE](#)

The AATA's Art Therapy Today includes a digest of the most important news selected for the AATA from thousands of sources. Guest articles may be submitted to Clara Keane at ckeane@arttherapy.org. Publication of any guest article is at the sole discretion of the AATA. The opinions expressed and/or contents of guest articles, advertisements, and external links included in any AATA publication do not represent the positions or policies of the AATA. The AATA makes no warranty or representation concerning the accuracy of such content.

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