

FATA's Spring Newsletter

Spring is Here!

Don't forget, restorative practices are imperative for our self-care and our work with clients/patients.

Consider eco-art therapy. Take your clients/patients and yourself outside to enjoy the weather!

Eco-Art is a psychological discipline that combines eco-therapy with art therapy. Both Art Therapy and Applied Ecopsychology [thinking, feeling, and relating to Earth's Wisdom...] are expressive modalities that seek the same outcome as conventional talk therapy- self-discovery, personal insight, conflict resolution, and inner healing- but go beyond a purely rational discussion of the issues troubling [us] (Sweeney, 2013).

With the beautiful weather and spring air, let's enjoy being present and in nature.

Sweeney, T. (2013). Eco-Art Therapy: Creating activities that let Earth teach. Amazon.



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FATA Updates from the Board

Dear FATA Members

Welcome to our latest newsletter, where we try to keep you updated and informed on all things art therapy in Florida! Read about our latest accomplishments this year and ways you can volunteer and support.

The Florida Art Therapy Association is always on a mission to educate communities on how Art Therapy can support the journey to their healing. Through Stars of Hope, the Florida Art Therapy Association collaborated with the Michigan Association of Art Therapy in January to support Oxford High School in Michigan's school shooting that occurred in November 2021. The city of Coral Springs and Parkland came together at Carmela's Coffee and Eagles' Haven (local community center) to provide support to the community of Michigan through creating messages and images of hope.



On February 14, 2022 Stars of Hope and the Florida Art Therapy Association continue to collaborate to remember the lives that were lost on February 14, 2018 at Parkland's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Families were given the opportunity to create art as the community continues to heal. Check out our "Ask us about Art Therapy" hat. People actually asked !

FATA Bylaws

During the 2021-2022 year, the FATA board worked diligently, in collaboration with the AATA national office, to update the FATA bylaws. The process illuminated the need for AATA to offer a bylaw template for chapters across the country. Because bylaws contain important legal and procedural guidelines, revisions require a vote at an all-member meeting.

As such, the FATA board has paused the bylaw update until AATA's template can be utilized. Then, when the bylaws are fully prepared, they can be brought for discussion and approval to the FATA chapter at-large. Stay tuned!

Engagement and Elections:

Have you wondered how you can feel more connected to what FATA is doing? Have great ideas you'd like to see FATA do in the future? Interested in how you can be better supported by FATA, and support other art therapists in Florida? If so, keep an eye out for this exact opportunity! Elections for the 2022-2024 board will begin in October.

You can also join one of the FATA committees. It's a great way to network around the state. One of our current committee members even secured a job through her FATA service! We invite you to get engaged!

Sincerely Your FATA Board,

President

Alicia Ballestas, MA, ATR-BC

President Elect

Franchesca Lastra Vicente, MS, ATR-BC, LMHC

Secretary

Amy Bucciarelli, ATR-BC, LMHC

Treasurer

Victoria Beck, MA, ATR-BC

Update from the Treasurer

For the 2021-2022 year, FATA was pleased to offer the first and hopefully annual BIPOC Scholarship to an Art Therapy Graduate student. We also had an opportunity for a student and professional scholarship to pay for the AATA conference fee, but unfortunately we only awarded this scholarship to a student this year as we did not have any professionals apply. Look out for this opportunity again this upcoming year as we would love to be able to offer this to a deserving professional as well!

Not only have we been giving out money, but we also received some money from AATA for supplies for the Surfside efforts in conjunction with Stars of Hope. Most recently, the Governing Affairs Committee has been working to create educational folders that will be going out to our legislators. We look forward to collaborating with you, our members, to continue with our legislative efforts!



Government Affairs Committee:

Florida Art Therapy Licensure Efforts

Would you like to help in educating Florida House Representatives on what art therapy is and how it can be helpful to Floridians across our state?

We will be contacting FATA members this summer to ask for your support in meeting in person with your state representative to provide them with important information on FATA and all the important achievements we have made with your help.

The FATA Government Affairs committee (GAC) is moving forward with pursuing state licensure for art therapists in Florida. We have an organized plan to work toward licensure over the next two years and will need your help starting this summer in your legislator's district office! Having a state license for art therapists is essential for many reasons. First, recognition as a legitimate profession provides the opportunity to enjoy the benefits. Some advantages are more freedom in billing for services, providing services as a mental health profession, and working with other mental health professionals as equal partners in treating clients.

The GAC has made strides in meeting and connecting with the Florida 491 Board of Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers. We have successfully educated and moved our mission forward in getting the board's support in moving an art therapy bill through the Florida State legislature. We have done our homework and spoke to many professionals, and are working closely with the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) and other chapters who have been through this process.

We also have a Florida house representative willing to sponsor our bill for the next legislative session. We will need support from both sides of the aisle in helping to move this bill forward. After meeting with state legislators and the 491 board, we see that education on what we do as art therapists is missing most. This is simple for us, however, for state legislators, there are questions. Our goal for this summer is to meet with 60 Florida house members in person to define what art therapy is and how it has provided care to causes that the representatives feel close to that they support. Some examples of these causes may include veterans with PTSD or traumatic brain injuries, children and adults with autism, the elderly, and specific settings such as disaster response sites, schools, and medical and psychiatric hospitals.



Government Affairs Committee:

Florida Art Therapy Licensure Efforts

We plan to offer training on talking points so that you feel comfortable discussing these topics with your legislator. In addition, we will try to match art therapists in the districts so you won't go in alone. The FATA board and Government Affairs Committee is dedicated to assisting you in this process and answering your questions. Remember, this is not selling the Art Therapy licensure bill. It is building rapport and showing them who art therapists are.

Another important reason to pursue a Florida State license is a change in the law. After 2025 a newly graduated art therapist from a master's program in art therapy will not be able to become a licensed mental health counselor or marriage and family therapist in the State of Florida. Many of you may currently have these credentials allowing you to practice art therapy under another related professional license. In addition, after 2025, all university counseling programs that offer counseling classes will need to be CACREP accredited. Most M.A. or M.S. art therapy programs do not hold this accreditation. This law change will significantly impact the number of art therapists who will want to practice in our state. We feel it is important to recognize the need for continued growth of our profession in Florida since many folks desperately need services.

Below is our marketing plan to educate our state legislators:

1. Legislative talking points class on **June 2, 2022** at **7 pm** to learn how to present the information and answer questions.
2. GAC committee will contact FATA members by phone and email to assist in setting up appointments for in-person meetings with your district state representative.
3. Once an appointment time is established, the GAC committee will mail you a professional folder with the FATA logo with the following information.
 - a. A definition of what art therapy is.
 - b. A journal article, book chapters, or other significant information on the topic the Representative is affiliated with.
 - c. A brochure with art therapy accomplishments across the state.
4. The meeting with your Representative: Once the meeting is conducted and you present information, you will be provided a follow-up thank you certificate and a simple response document providing a chance to share your feedback on how the legislator received the message. For example, was the interaction positive? Did the representative recognize the benefits of art therapy? What kinds of questions did the Representative ask?
5. Once we have a sponsored Bill #, we then can move forward reaching out to our members and asking Representatives for their support and vote for our bill in the next legislative session.

Any questions on licensure efforts or how you can help?

Please feel free to reach out any time with questions

Joseph Scarce Ph. D. ATR-BC
Florida Art Therapy Association
Government Affairs Chair
floridaarttherapygac@gmail.com

The FATA Government Affairs committee will be providing training with talking points for state legislators soon. We are preparing for a state licensure bill to be sponsored in the next legislative session and believe that further educating our representatives will help in moving the bill forward. Please feel free to contact the Government Affairs Chair with questions.

Joseph Scarce, GAC Chair.
floridaarttherapygac@gmail.com

LET'S PASS THE ART THERAPY BILL!



JOIN ZOOM MEETING
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US
/J/88310784846](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88310784846)
MEETING ID: 883 1078 4846

JOIN US!
For a virtual Zoom session to learn about the latest news on passing the Art Therapy Bill in Florida and how you can help!

**June
2ND
@ 7pm**

For more information visit the link WWW.FLORIDAARTTHERAPY.ORG

Government Affairs Committee Members:

Joseph Scarce, Ph.D, ATR-BC
Dave Gussak, Ph.D, ATR-BC
Alicia Ballestas, ATR-BC
Franchesca Lastra Vicente, ATR-BC, LMHC
Victoria Beck, ATR-BC
Cameron Sumner, FSU Student
Anna Proia, FSU Student

Event announcements

AATA announces The Future of Art Therapy Licensing Virtual Session on June 9, 2022 at 7 p.m. (EDT). AATA's Policy and Public Affairs Manager, Tyler Kirby, will lead a discussion about the future of licensure in the art therapy profession.

While the AATA National Office, local chapters, and volunteer teams have been working to secure independent licensure for art therapists for some time, it is now more important than ever. Upcoming changes to the LPC will restrict the ability of art therapists to qualify for licensure as an LPC (licensed professional counselor). The paths that art therapists have traditionally used to gain licensure in the absence of an art therapy specific license are closing for incoming professionals. Regardless of whether your practice will be affected, these changes may be detrimental to the future of art therapy as a profession.

Please join the event to learn more about the specific problems the profession is facing and how you can get involved to help art therapists secure licensure across the country! Participating in licensure advocacy efforts not only helps advance the profession, but it's an exciting way to engage and build relationships with other art therapists in your community. This virtual session is open to all AATA members.

If you have any accommodation requests, please email membership@arttherapy.org. The link for the event is below.

<https://at-institute.arttherapy.org/products/the-future-of-art-therapy-licensing-virtual-session>

Supervisory list on FATA website

FATA has updated the art therapy supervisor list on FATA's website.

<http://www.floridaarttherapy.org/supervision.html>

Thanks goes out to Anna Proia who helped with this amazing resource for FATA members. If you would like to have your information included in the supervisor list, please fill out the form in the link below. Once the form is submitted, FATA will update the list on the website as needed.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cnT1u2CU47IVLLB6jtxo3NJW6K32iSt7ye5o6EM3iLA/edit>

Multicultural Committee

The Multicultural and Social Justice Committee is planning an art therapy event on **June 26th, 2022** to commemorate the anniversary of the collapse of the building in Surfside at the Bass Museum. This event will be planned in collaboration with Stars of Hope and members of FATA. Our proposed theme is "Strength and Resilience".

The Multicultural and Social Justice Committee is looking for new members to join the committee and volunteer for this event! If interested please contact Cristina Pineros, Chair of FATA Multicultural and Social Justice Committee at multicultural.fata@gmail.com.

Membership Social

The All Member Meeting/Membership Social event was held Saturday, March 12, 2022 and had such a good turn out! We had members from all over the state and potential members come and listen to the updates each committee member had. It was a great opportunity to meet the board and committee chairs as well as hear announcements about all that FATA was doing. We got to hear about the GAC status and what was needed from members. The event offered networking opportunities similarly to previous Membership Socials. We had breakout rooms and lovely chats about art therapy. It was great to bond over our similar passions.

If you have any feedback or suggestions about past membership socials or future ones, please contact Nicole Rivero or Jane Arthur at floridaarttherapy.membership@gmail.com.

Thank You!

Thank you FATA members, FATA board, and committee chairs for your participation in FATA.
We appreciate you!



Connect with us:



@floridaarttherapy



Florida Art Therapy Association



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