



Kentucky Occupational Therapy Association

From Foundation to Future: The KOTA Story

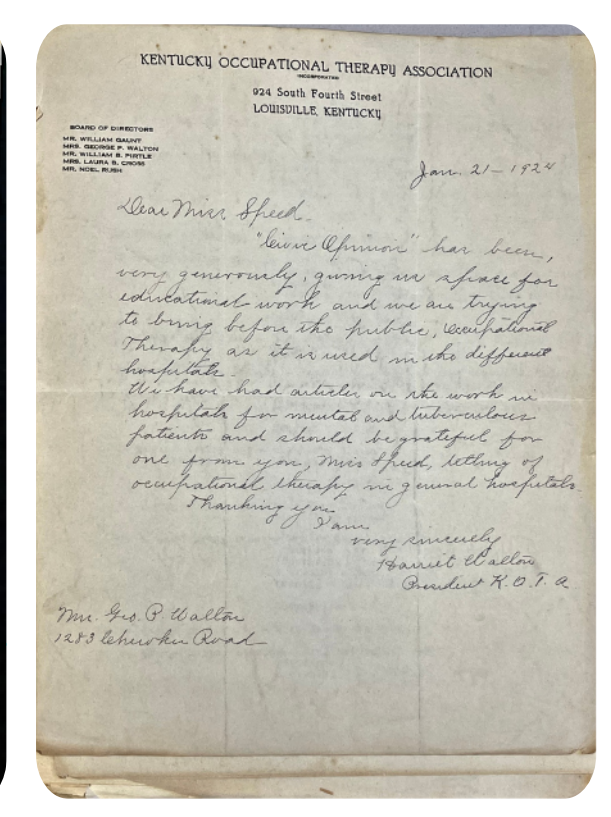
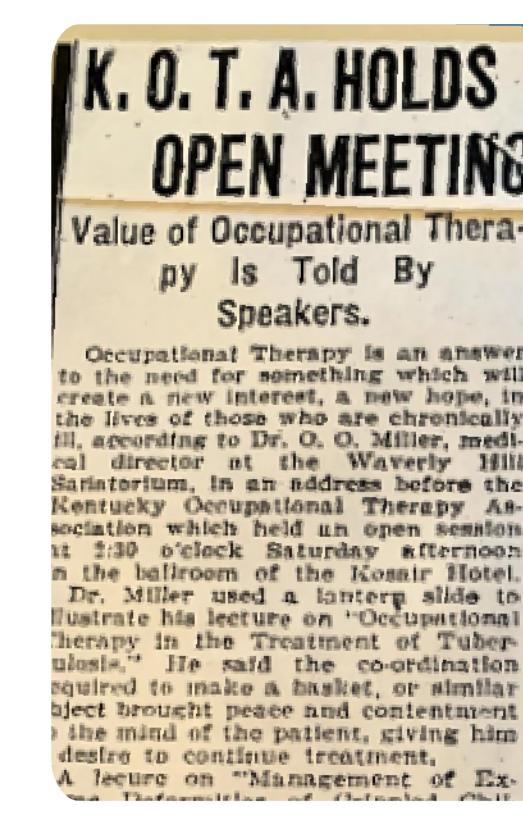
1910s

1918 - An Occupational Therapy (OT) course sponsored by Louisville Board of Education given at Camp Taylor was started with 11 students



1920s

1922 - All state hospitals employed occupational therapists (OTs); University of Louisville Hospital developed a department and a Curative Workshop
1923 - Demand increased for OT; Kent School of Social Work began an educational program in conjunction with University of Louisville
1925 - American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) National Conference was held in Louisville, where Eleanor Clarke Slagle participated
1926 - Kentucky Occupational Therapy Association (KOTA) held open meeting to discuss the value of OT



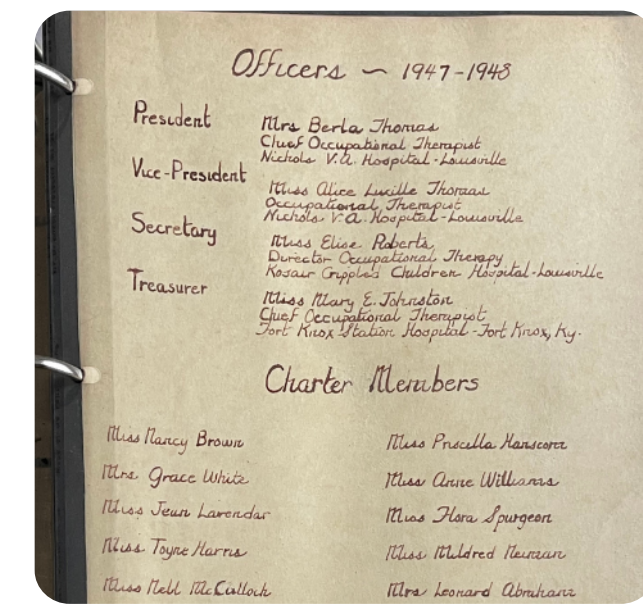
1930s

1930 - 12 therapists identified in the Louisville and Lexington areas
1935 - Due to lack of faculty, OT education program in Louisville closed



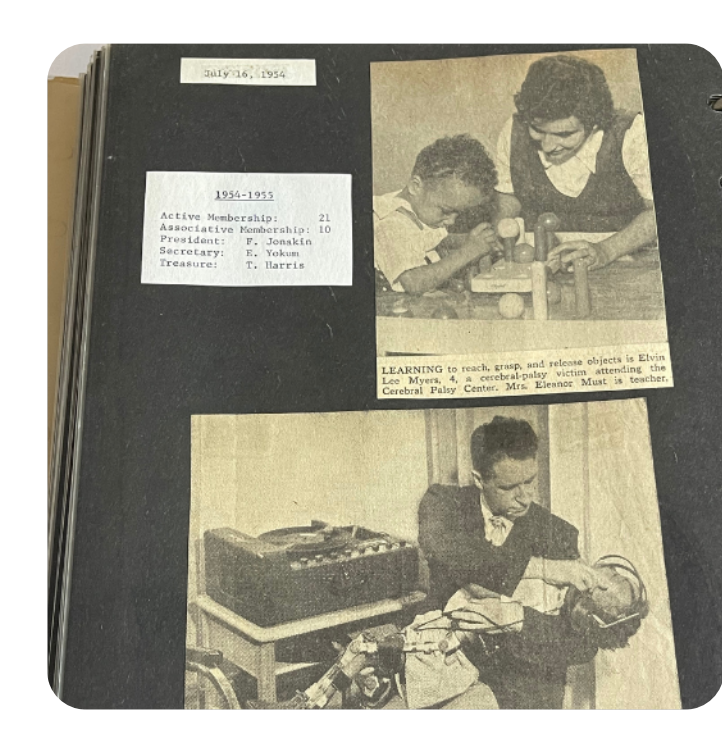
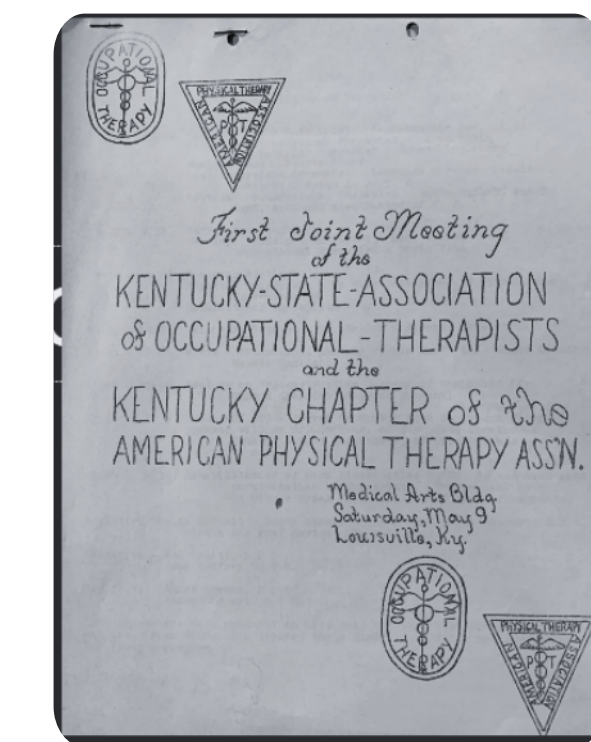
1940s

1947 - 18 therapists petitioned National Occupational Therapy Association, later known as American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), to become a state association affiliate



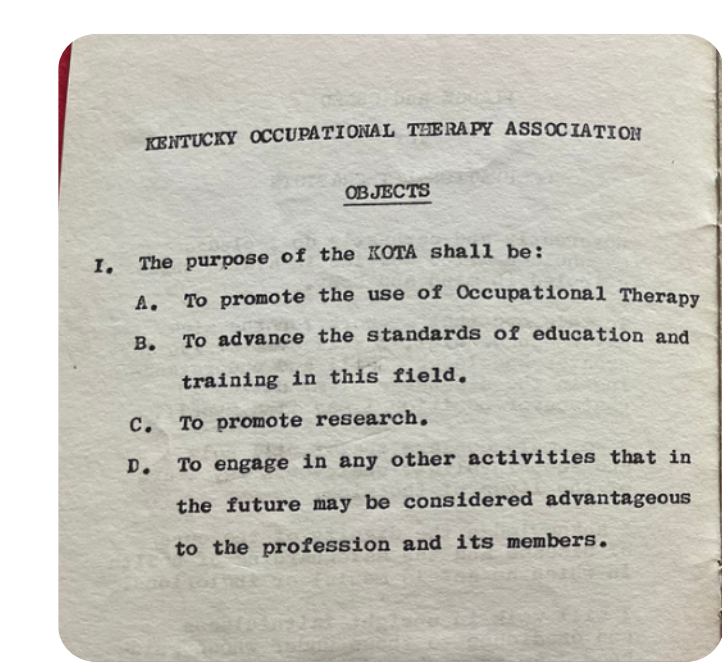
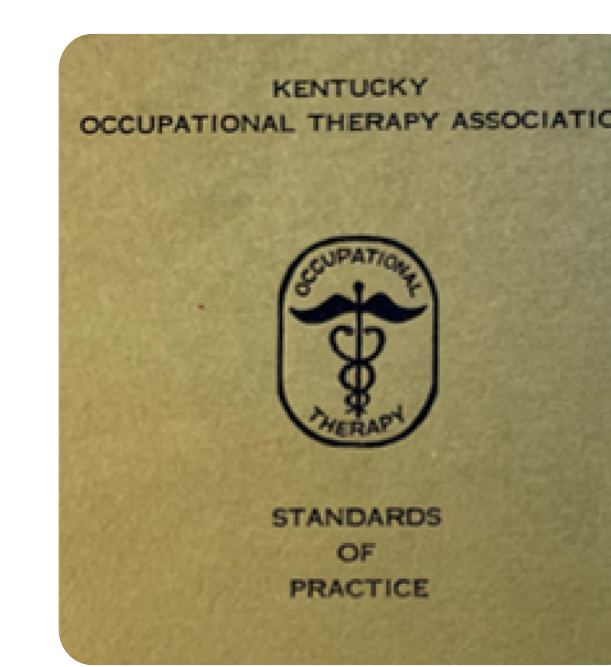
1950s

1953 - A research study was initiated to investigate the need and possibility of another formal OT educational program
1954 - First institute for OTs addressing psychiatric OT held in Lexington
1959 - First joint meeting of KOTA and the Kentucky chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) held in Louisville



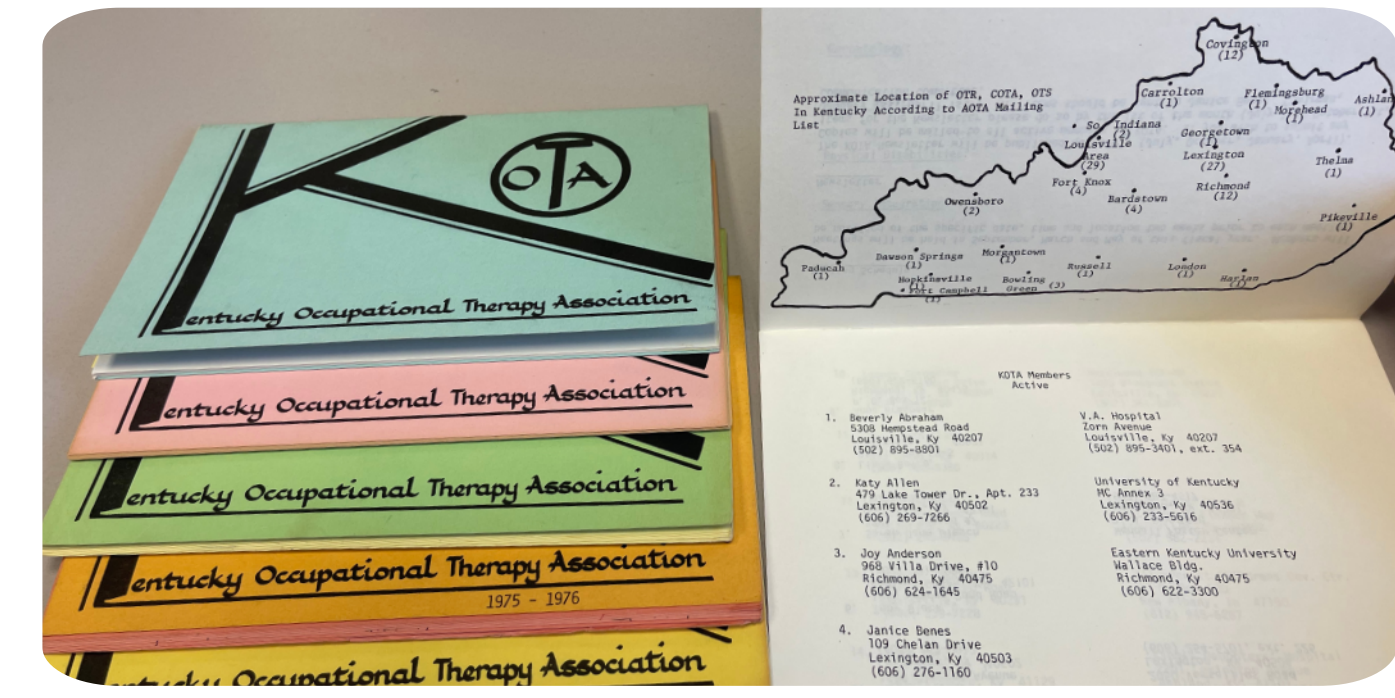
1960s

1960 - About 10 facilities employed OTs in the state with 30 therapists as members of KOTA; records documented in yearbooks, later referred as member directories
1968 - First newsletter released
1969 - KOTA Council on Practice Committee developed and circulated Standards of Practice for Kentucky OTs



1970s

1970 - About 45 therapists in the association; Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) began to investigate the possibility of a Professional Program of OT
1974 & 1975 - Grant obtained from Health, Education and Welfare to develop an OT Program
1976 - Founding of OT educational program at EKU in Richmond



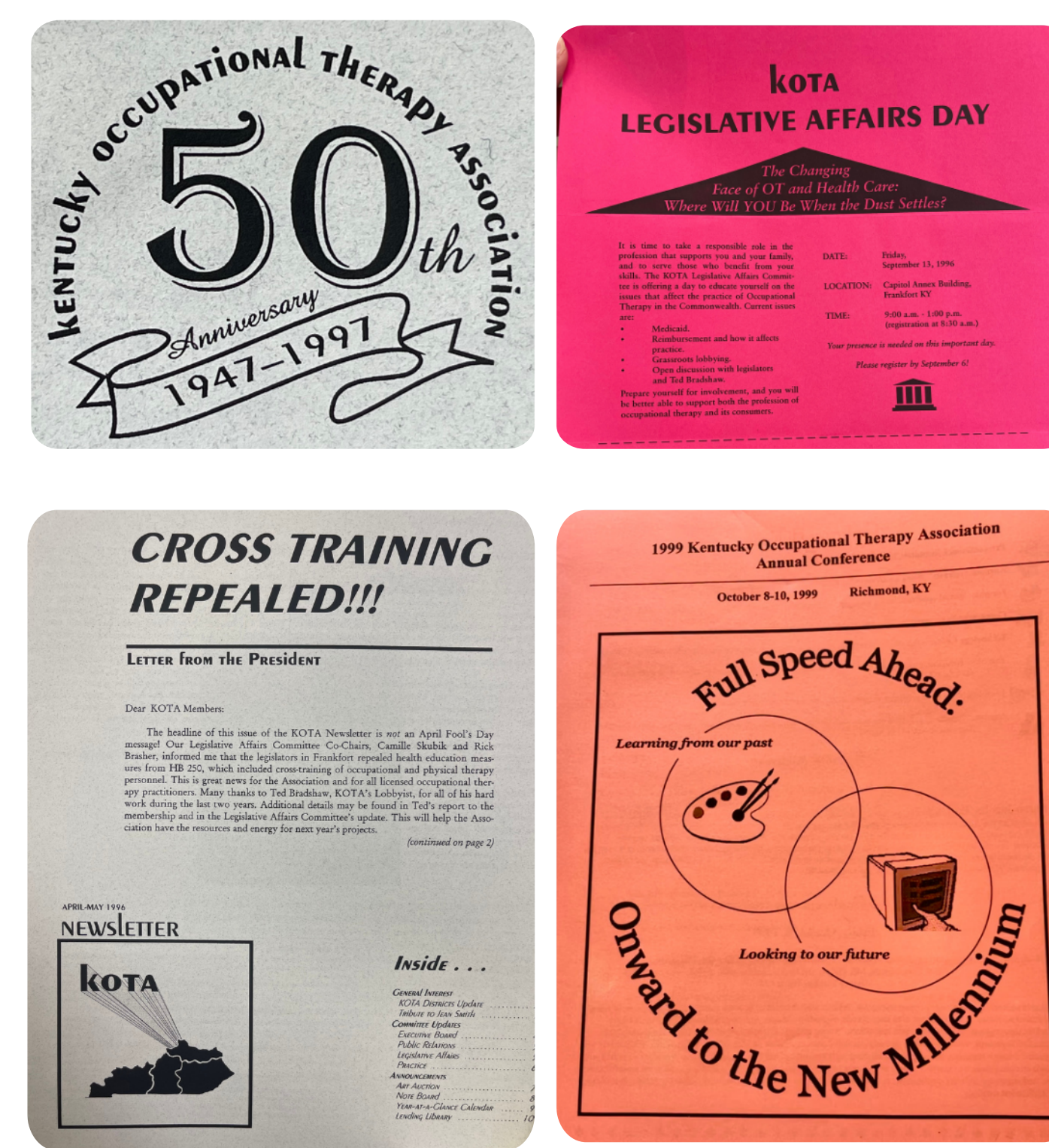
1980s

1981 - First KOTA awards given
1983 - Licensure Advisory Committee formed
1984 - KOTA Public Relations Committee declared April '84 as Occupational Therapy month
1985 - KOTA Articles of Incorporation approved; KOTA joined the Great Southern OT Conference
1986 - House Bill 41 signed into law: the OT Practice Act, requiring OTs practicing in KY to be licensed and the establishment of Kentucky Board of Licensure for Occupational Therapy (KBLOT)
1987 - Photographs first appeared in newsletters
1987 & 1988 - Kentucky Chapter of APTA took legal action against KOTA Board, filing temporary and permanent injunction against 4 regulations defining assessment of muscle pathology, accessory joint mobilization, and physical agent modalities. It was resolved the following year
1989 - First student scholarship awarded



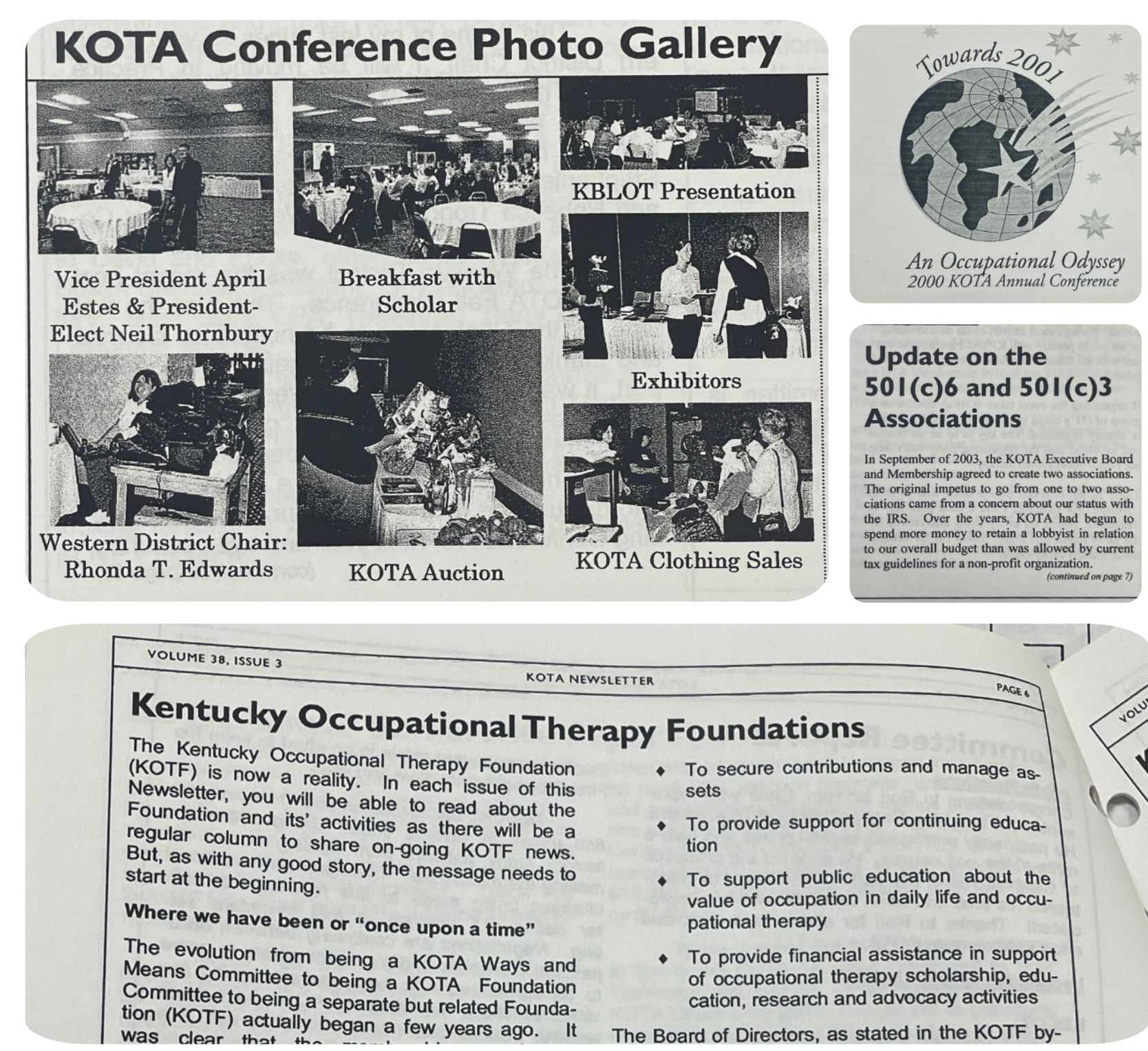
1990s

1990 - KOTA hired its first lobbyist
1991 - Paid ads in KOTA member directory
1994 - Kentucky and KOTA hosted the 1994 Great Southern Occupational Therapy Conference in Lexington, KY
1995 - KOTA led first Legislative Affairs Day
1995 - KOTA hired office management part-time and resources for OT lending library
1996 - Cross training of OT/PT personnel in KY health care reform package repealed; KOTA districts formed
1996 - Founding of OTA education programs: Madisonville Technical College in Madisonville and Jefferson Community College in Louisville. Founding of OT educational program: Spalding University in Louisville
1997 - KOTA celebrated its 50th anniversary
1998 - KOTA held weekly BINGO night in Paris, KY as a fundraiser



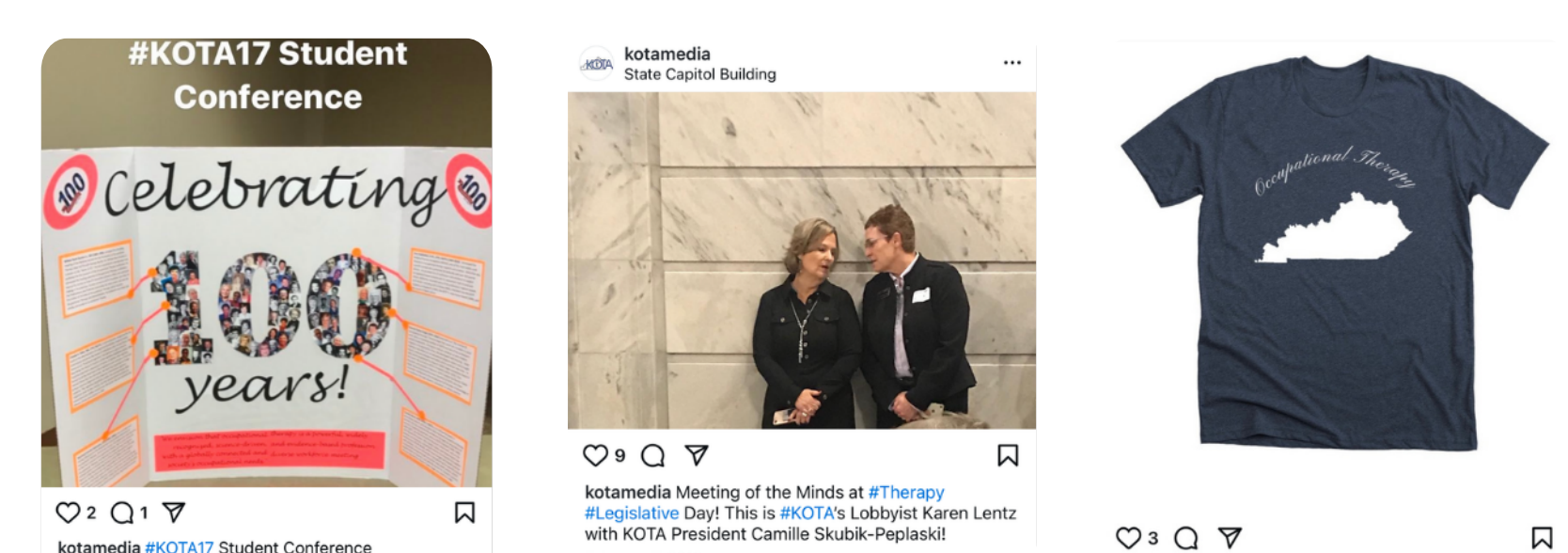
2000s

2000 - KOTA launched website; Newsletters began being distributed electronically
2002 - KOTA assisted in changing the Kentucky OT Practice Act through supporting House Bill 261, which allows practitioners to use deep physical agent modalities (DPAM). KOTA began to sponsor yearly DPAM training courses
2003 - Two separate associations were formed: KOTA & KOTA Membership Association
2004 - Kentucky Occupational Therapy Foundation (KOTF) replaced KOTA Membership Association as 501(c)3, allowing KOTA to return to 501(c)6 status
2008 - Founding of OTA educational program: Brown Mackie College (later known as Ross College). The program has since closed



2010s

2018 - Founding of OT educational program: Murray State University OT program in Paducah
2017 - KOTA celebrated AOTA's centennial
2019 - KOTA supports for equal Medicaid reimbursement for OT and OTA services; KOTA sells shirts as a fundraiser



2020s

2020 - Conference held virtual and available via Teachable; DPAMs course available in online hybrid format
2021 - KOTA historian, Gordon St. Michel, presented keynote address at conference about history of KOTA
2022 - OT Compact passed and founding of OT educational program: Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights
2025 - Archives collected and stored at Special Collections and Archives at Eastern Kentucky University

