

## **TNOTA Board Meeting April 10, 2024**

**In attendance:** Abby Peacock, Abigail Jones, Abilene Hurd, Alyssa Campbell, Ashley Robertson, Ashlyn Getway, Audra Larson, Blaine Coffey, Brandy McCarter, Cindy Blackwell, David Eades, Gigi Jordan, Jennie Douglas, Jennifer Crowder, Jennifer Henderson, Katy Schmidt, Kaylie Garner, Kimberly Jessee, Macy Franks, Madi Cary, Mary Dreyer Smith, Morgan Webb, Reagan Turner, Robert Mullaney, Rosemary Lewis, Stedmon Hopkins, Stephanie Lancaster,

**Not in attendance:** Abby Hightower, Amanda Newbern, Anne Zachry, Audrey Owens, Barbara Meussner, Bhumika Patel, Brittany Ford, Caitlyn Obrian, Christy Watt, Elise Foust, Jayden Malugin, Marisa Cruse, Martin Davis, Sandra Dicks, Valery Hanks

**Staff in attendance:** Zach McElgunn

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### ***MSC to accept the minutes as submitted***

#### **Important TNOTA Board announcements**

- There is a lot of activity coming up for OT Month in April! Please monitor the TNOTA socials and email communications for information about how to get involved.
- Please make notes on [this form](#) about any ideas and contacts you have for possible CE events

#### **Please share this information with your personal network(s)**

- **TNOTA 2025 Annual Conference** – We have a venue and dates for the 2025 annual conference! The conference will take place at the **J Walter Barnes Conference Center at Jackson General Hospital, September 12-14**. You can [check back here](#) for more information as the planning gets underway.

#### **Action Items for TNOTA Board members**

- Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2025 using the [Executive Board webpage](#)
- April Newsletter submissions are due **April 20th**. You can submit on the [Executive Board webpage](#)
- Please send a notice of any leadership changes - personnel and roles - in your district or on your committee to [admin@tnota.org](mailto:admin@tnota.org)
- Please continue to engage with TNOTA social media posts.
- Please provide personal contacts for potential vendor support and sponsorship involvement to the Conference Committee ([conferencecommittee@tnota.org](mailto:conferencecommittee@tnota.org))
- If you are interested in learning more about a resource guide for students about the OT/OTA relationship and/or having a guest speaker come in and talk to your students

about understanding the dynamics between OTs and OTAs please reach out to Ashley Robertson ([ashleycota7@gmail.com](mailto:ashleycota7@gmail.com)) for more information

### **Upcoming Events**

- [April 17](#) – Developing a Proposal for the TNOTA Conference
  - [April 24](#) – Tips & Tools: New and Updated Pediatric Assessments
  - [April 26](#) – A Primitive Look at Reflexes Part 2: Testing and Interventions
  - [April 28](#) – Ethics & Jurisprudence in Occupational Therapy
  - [May 6](#) – Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment: How every OT practitioner can address substance use disorder
  - [May 19](#) – Aquatic Therapy Community of Practice Quarterly Meeting
  - [May 20](#) – What Managers Look For in Ideal OT Candidates
  - [May 20](#) – The National Black Occupational Therapy Caucus: A conversation with Dr. Nardia Aldridge
  - **Please watch our social media and website for announcements and information about continuing education events as more learning opportunities are planned.**
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### **Announcements**

- New Business
  - Board member news
  - TNOTA was recognized for the “Thinking Outside the Box” award at the ASAP meeting last week
    - Thank you to the Student Involvement Committee, whose work resulted in this recognition because of the student lounge at the 2024 Annual Conference
  - Please make notes on [this form](#) about any ideas and contacts you have for possible CE events, and then we can update the document when we have things planned and scheduled. Please fill in any ideas you have that you want to share with the group. (You can note topics/presenters you are working with as well as general recommendations and ideas that anyone else can consider or use.)
  - When your committee or district hosts an event, please use that as an opportunity to promote the benefits of TNOTA membership. If you need a one-pager and/or pre-made slides look in the [District/Committee Meeting Templates & Resources](#) folder
  - When you are unable to attend a monthly board meeting, even if you send in a report and/or send an alternate person in your place, please watch for the meeting minutes to come out via email early the following week so you can read those and catch up on what you missed. Please be sure to share that information to groups you represent.
- TNOTA Annual Conference Updates
  - Conference will be Sept. 12-14 in Jackson.
  - If you have contacts for anyone/business/vendor that might be interested in sponsoring, please send that information to [admin@tnota.org](mailto:admin@tnota.org) or [conferencecommittee@tnota.org](mailto:conferencecommittee@tnota.org)

- Call for Papers is out now - papers are due May 9
  - Extension coming to move the deadline to May 23
- Keep an eye out for more information about conference opportunities in the coming weeks
- Financial update
  - TNOTA Financial Report
    - Total Assets - \$195,276.63
    - TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY - \$195,276.63
    - Income for March - \$6,258.45
    - Expenses for January-March - 12,800.17
    - Income for January-March - 19,058.62
    - Revenue/expense distribution
      - INCOME For 1st Quarter – 53% continuing education; 47% Membership dues
      - EXPENSE for 1st Quarter - Legal/Professional 96%, Board/Leadership 4%
  - [New form for expense reporting](#) is available online!
- Special Projects
  - The following District Templates & Resources were updated in March and April, and please be sure to review and use the most up-to-date versions:
    - [TNOTA District/Committee Chair Manual](#)
    - [Virtual District/Committee Meeting Slides Template](#)
    - [“Aspire OT Materials” Google folder](#)
  - Spent the last month updating some resources for District/Committee chairs
    - District Resources can be accessed from the [Executive Board Access page](#)
    - Virtual District Meeting Committee Template has been updated
    - Aspire OT Materials have been updated
    - Feel free to ask admin to make a Zoom link
  - New website:
    - Met to discuss accessibility and timeline with staff, and review website templates
    - Received an update on accessibility and timeline March 19
    - Next meeting is April 22
  - Mentorship Committee/Occupational Therapy Mentorship Program support: Stephanie, Logan and Morgan finalized the “Overview of the TNOTA Occupational Therapy Mentorship Program for the OT Licensure Board” document that will be presented at the April 24, 2025, TN OT Board meeting by Stephanie and Morgan. This document seeks to support TNOTA’s request for the TN Board of OT to grant CE approval for mentors mentoring students in a formal mentorship program and for mentees in a formal mentorship program.
- Membership updates

- 1st year OT: 29 (-3)
- 1st year OTA: 7 (-)
- OT: 368 (-3)
- OTA: 83 (+6)
- Retired: 2 (-)
- Student: 325 (-6)
- 32 people renewed their membership and 12 joined in the preceding month.
- 45 people let their membership lapse and 0 rejoined.
- At this time last year, we had 803 (2,961 including Prospects) active members compared to 834 (3,110 including Prospects) active members as of 3/31/2025.
- This represents a gain of 31 members or a 3.86% increase in overall membership numbers from last year. This increase of members is concentrated in the gain of OT and OTA members.
- This also represents a growth of 149 individuals in TNOTA's audience or a 5.03% increase in the overall audience.
- Legislative updates
  - Member resource: [Medicare updates summary](#) on TNOTA site
  - Federally, watching:
    - Dept of Ed & impact to SBOT
    - Medicare telehealth waivers extended (thru 9/2025)
    - Medicare home health accessibility act reintroduced
    - Advocacy to NIH to continue funding disability research
  - Statewide, watching several bills:
    - Any bill seeking the dismantling of DEI
    - Mental health collaborative care bill
    - ATs doing dry needling for athletic injury (enacted) - keeping an eye on this to protect OTP scopes of practice
    - TennCare reimbursement advisory task force
    - Medicaid modernization- raises TennCare reimbursement rates for certain services
    - LEA IEP notification requirement - 10 days prior to an IEP meeting
    - Board of OT sunset- board renewed until 2029 (enacted)
    - Firearm bill (deferred to 2026)
  - If you have questions about any of the above, please contact Cindy Blackwell
- Advocacy Committee
  - Free Hill Day Recap & Advocacy Update Session from April 8 is available online
    - LINK: <https://tnota.memberclicks.net/advocacy-resources>
  - The last 10 minutes of the presentation shares many follow-up actions that you can take to advance this work!
- Marketing

- Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2025 using the [Executive Board webpage](#).
  - You can also email [admin@tnota.org](mailto:admin@tnota.org)
- May Newsletter submissions are due April 20. You can submit on the [Executive Board webpage](#).
- Continuing Education Committee
  - Just finished approving a number of courses the past couple of weeks
  - Website will be updated before the end of next week
  - Through April there are a number of free CE events on TNOTA's events calendar
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee
  - [Nardia Aldridge](#), President of the South Florida [Black Occupational Therapy Caucus](#), is presenting on 5/20 at 6:00 pm Central
  - Lauren (TSU) is on the committee now
  - Looking to create a resource guide for OTPs working with diverse populations
- Mental Health Committee
  - Another suicide prevention training last night went well
  - Shout out Kaylin Lawrence presented at the AOTA conference about her mental health practice!
- Mentorship Committee
  - 6th Cycle is up and running
  - Collaborative event with the Student Involvement Committee is taking place on May 20
- OTA Connect Committee
  - Not many updates at this time
  - Need help reinvigorating participation in this committee
- Philanthropy Committee
  - Continuing to work with BrightStone
  - Announcing a fundraising competition for a 15 passenger van soon!
- Student Involvement Committee
  - Great virtual chat in February on resume building
    - [Check out that resource here](#)
  - Next student chat will be May 20
    - This will involve several interviews of managers/hiring professionals about what they look for in OT candidates
    - Questions answered during the call:
      - What percentage of hiring managers want OT candidates with a doctoral degree?
      - What are some of the red flags you've seen with new OTP hires?

- What are the common qualities of successful employees?
  - Student video contest is underway as well - "OT Movie Trailer"
- TNOTF
  - Saturday night fundraiser conference weekend (September 13)
- East District
  - Nothing too new to confirm
  - Speaking with the Southeast district about a combined social event in May
- Middle District
  - Two CEU events coming up: 4/24 Tips and Tools for New Pediatric Assessments, and another event that will be submitted/posted soon
  - Thinking about how to bring the OT students from across the state to meet in Nashville
- Northeast District
  - Event coming up on Sunday: district meeting and CE event
  - Several more have been planned for the rest of the year
- Rural West District
  - April 26 event that will include a 2 hour course on reflex integration (10:00 - 12:00), followed by a 1-hour lunch.
- Southeast District
  - Not in attendance
- West District
  - May 6 CE Event on How OT Practitioners can Address Substance Use Disorder

### **Student Representatives & School Reports**

- Belmont University
  - Not in attendance
- East TN State
  - Third years graduate in a month - they will be the first cohort!
  - Level 2 fieldwork starts in a few weeks
  - Summer break is on the horizon!
- Lincoln Memorial University
  - New rep, Molly, will be joining the board
- Milligan University
  - Reagan is the new rep

- Research symposium on Monday
  - Tomorrow the class is bolding with Brothers Keeper
  - Level 2s are starting in a few weeks
- Nashville State
  - Not in attendance
- Roane State
  - Collaborated with TN Wesleyan MSOT Students today, practicing interprofessional collaboration
  - Summer break is on the horizon
- South College Nashville
  - CPR certification with PTA students took place today
  - Level 1 field work starts next week with Peds clinics, school systems, and psychosocial will come after
  - Collaborated with Belmont students last week
  - \$636.00 raised by a cohort of 5!
  - Volunteered at Gigi's Playhouse over the weekend
- Tennessee State University
  - First years are finishing up Level 1 fieldwork in the pediatric setting
  - Didactic work is finishing up for Second years
- Tennessee Wesleyan
  - Collaboration with Roane State was great
  - Currently doing a T-shirt for autism awareness month through April 14, with 50% of the funds being donated to Autistic Self-Advocacy Network
  - Widowed Parent Relief Project is a volunteer opportunity coming up
- UT- Chattanooga
  - Not in attendance
- UTHSC (Memphis)
  - Year 2s are done with fieldwork and waiting for graduation
  - Year 1s are in pediatric fieldwork (tomorrow is the last day)
  - Spring break last week
- Walters State Community College
  - Just wrapped up the SOTA fundraising and raised about \$500
  - Second years graduate next month
  - Collaborating with Milligan and ETSU students has been great
  - Going to Crumley House to lead some groups in the coming weeks

**MSC Meeting was adjourned**

Next meeting is taking place via Zoom **May 8 at 7:00 pm Central**

Action	Date	Who
Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2024 using the <a href="#">Executive Board webpage</a>	ASAP	Board
April Newsletter submissions are due <b>March 20th</b> . You can submit on the <a href="#">Executive Board webpage</a>	March 20	Board
Continue to engage with TNOTA social media posts	Rolling	Board
Diversity & Inclusion Committee is seeking members	Rolling	Board
Provide personal contacts for potential vendor support and sponsorship involvement to the Conference Committee ( <a href="mailto:conferencecommittee@tnota.org">conferencecommittee@tnota.org</a> )	Rolling	Board