

TNOTA Board Meeting August 14, 2025

In attendance: Martin Davis, Abby Peacock, Valery Hanks, Brandy McCarter, Morgan Webb, David Eades, Reagan Turner, Sandra Dicks, Maggie Davidson Mary Dreyer Smith, Madi Cary, Cindy Blackwell, Abigail Jones, Bhumika Patel, Audrey Owens, Kimberly Jessee, Molly Boothroyd, Rosemary Lewis, Anna Stogner, Jennifer Crowder, Stephanie Lancaster

Not in attendance: Abby Hightower, Abilene Hurd, Alyssa Campbell, Anne Zachry, Ashley Robertson, Ashlyn Getway, Audra Larson, Brittany Ford, Gigi Jordan, Jayden Malugin, Jennie Schwartz, Logan Herndon, Macy Franks, Maggie Pierce, Marisa Cruse, Nicole Ayers, Robert Mullaney, Alison Stewart, Amanda Newbern, Anna Stogner, Barbara Meussner, Cameron Jean, Caroline Hillyard, Christy Watt, Jennie Douglas, Katy Schmidt, Kaylie Garner, Taylor Kozell, Stedmon Hopkins

Staff in attendance: Zach McElgunn, Peggy McElgunn

MSC to accept the minutes as submitted

Important TNOTA Board announcements

- Please make notes on [this form](#) about any ideas and contacts you have for possible CE events
- The Annual Conference Hotel Room Block can be accessed here –
<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=MKLDTDT&arrivalDate=2025-09-12&departureDate=2025-09-13&groupCode=CDTTOT&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink>
 - If prompted the discount code is TOT - you should only be prompted for this if you are booking your room through the Hilton Honors app

Please share this information with your personal network(s)

- **TNOTA 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.
- TNOTA is coordinating a fundraising competition to help our Philanthropy Partner, BrightStone, acquire a 15 passenger van. The SOTA/Program that contributes the most will be recognized at the end of the year.
 - To participate, just [make a donation](#) on BrightStone's website, and forward proof of donation (screenshots work!) to admin@tnota.org along with the SOTA/Program that you would like your donation logged with.

Action Items for TNOTA Board members

- Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2025 using the [Executive Board webpage](#)
- August Newsletter submissions are due **August 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 president@tnota.org and 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)
- Discount codes for conference registration were sent out by Stephanie last month to elected officers and committee and district chairs with instructions about how to get a code for committee members and other district leaders. **If you still need a code, email Stephanie for that information.**
- Annual Board Dinner: 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12 at [Doe's Eat Place](#) in Jackson. **RSVP here by Sept. 1.** Due to space constraints, we ask to limit this to board members without guests
- Slides for use at Annual Business Meeting at conference linked [HERE](#). Please update your sections before Sept. 10.

Upcoming Events

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- **Please watch our social media and website for announcements and information about continuing education events as more learning opportunities are planned.**

Announcements

- New Business
 - Board member news
- Annual Board Dinner: 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12 at [Doe's Eat Place](#) in Jackson. **RSVP here by Sept. 1.**
 - Due to space constraints, we ask to limit this to board members without guests
- Slides for use at Annual Business Meeting at conference linked [HERE](#). Please update your sections before Sept. 10.
- Offer from Aspire OT
 - Webinar series that they are putting together, with an offer of free access for TNOTA members on a monthly basis
 - If TNOTA chooses to participate, there would be a group rate of \$25/month or \$275/year
 - We would also be asked to promote this opportunity so that non-members would participate as well
 - 3-6 months of trialing this offer is another opportunity for us
 - Course offering:
 - August – From Hospital to Home: Holistic Assessment & Intervention for Fall Prevention – 2 hrs

- September – Occupational Therapy Strategies for Mental Health in Physical Dysfunction Settings – 1.5 hrs
 - October – Supervising OTAs: Best Practices for Building a Collaborative Relationship – 1.5 hrs
 - November – Occupational Therapy Mental Health Strategies for Adult Physical Dysfunction Settings – 1.5 hrs
 - December – Tuning in: Enhancing Attention through Sensory Strategies – 1 hr
- 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 connect ASAP with staff via conferencecommittee@tnota.org
 - Discount codes for conference registration were sent out by Stephanie last week to elected officers and committee and district chairs with instructions about how to get a code for committee members and other district leaders. **If you still need a code, email Stephanie for that information.**
 - Please book hotel room if you're planning to attend, so we can get another block of rooms
 - Hotel Room Block can be accessed here – <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=MKLDTDT&arrivalDate=2025-09-12&departureDate=2025-09-13&groupCode=CDTTOT&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink>
 - If prompted the discount code is TOT - you should only be prompted for this if you are booking your room through the Hilton Honors app
 - Trivia at conference will have a separate registration that will be sent out on September 5
 - When this happens, register early as the space is limited!
 - Cost to participate is \$15 for practitioners/guests and \$10 for students
 - Plan for 2026 Conference (dates & location)
 - The Board agreed to adjust the South College conference dates to 2027 and look for a Nashville venue for 2026
 - Venue options: Vanderbilt, TSU, Nashville State, other local universities
 - Scarritt Bennett will be contacted in September 2025
- Financial update
 - TNOTA Financial Report
 - Total Assets – \$200,100.36
 - TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY – \$200,100.36
 - Income for July – \$17,316.87

- Expenses for July – \$12,037.07
 - Expenses for January-July (YTD) – \$47,077.96
 - Income for January-July – \$54,937.32
 - Revenue/expense distribution
 - INCOME For July – 26% continuing education; 47% Membership dues; 23% Conference; 3% Ads/Sponsorships
 - EXPENSE for July - 11% Continuing Education; 8% Board; 17% Operating Expense; 3% Banking & License; 61% Professional Fees
- Proposed reimbursement policy. Please review for discussion and a vote in August. [FINANCIAL POLICY FOR REIMBURSEMENTS.docx](#)
- Special Projects
 - New website: ongoing; meetings were held July 16 and July 28. Currently awaiting information to be sent from GPS for TNOTA's review regarding publishing information on the new website.
 - Mentorship Committee/Occupational Therapy Mentorship Program support: Currently onboarding new Committee Co-Chairs, David Eades and Alison Stewart.
 - Will be stepping down from the TNOTA Executive Board upon maternity leave (planned October 2025).
- Membership Update
 - 1st year OT: 37 (-)
 - 1st year OTA: 12 (+2)
 - OT: 390 (+10)
 - OTA: 84 (-)
 - Retired: 2 (-)
 - Student: 301 (-6)
 - 46 people renewed their membership and 37 joined in the preceding month.
 - 38 people let their membership lapse and 7 rejoined.
 - At this time last year, we had 800 (3,012 including Prospects) active members compared to 846 (3,158 including Prospects) active members as of 7/31/2025.
 - This represents a gain of 46 members or a 5.75% increase in overall membership numbers from last year. This increase of members is concentrated in the gain of OT and Student members.
 - This also represents a growth of 146 individuals in TNOTA's audience or a 4.85% increase in the overall audience.
- Legislative updates
 - [Free Course for AOTA members](#)
 - Bill is now law, federal agencies will work to draft rules and regulations to govern how the law will take effect

- key pieces- Medicaid changes- OBBB institutes mandatory work requirements in medicaid expansion states (not TN), increased cost sharing (individual costs), limits what lawfully present immigrants may qualify, decreased FMAP (federal matching % for medicaid)--> fewer people accessing OT via medicaid and ACA marketplace, ACA premiums may increase or commercial insurance reimbursement may decrease, decreased payments to hospitals and SNFs with high medicaid populations may result in closures
- unchanged in bill: no changes to pell grants, federally subsidized student loans, and public service loan forgiveness programs - WIN
- Grad PLUS loan program will be eliminated- direct unsubsidized loan is the only option, borrowing cap
- Medicare part B payments- one-year increase (2.5%) included in the bill- WIN
- State level- AOTA working with states + PT/SLP coalitions to develop resources and advocate against cuts to OT medicaid coverage and reimbursement rates

- Advocacy Committee
 - Meeting next week with out lobbyist, staff, and leadership to discuss next steps for the fall and spring's advocacy efforts and to flesh out a plan for hill day in 2026

- Marketing
 - Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2025 using the [Executive Board webpage](#).
 - You can also email admin@tnota.org
 - August Newsletter submissions are due July 20. You can submit on the [Executive Board webpage](#).

- Continuing Education Committee
 - Approved Provider Program is now **Approved CE Course Program**
 - Two new courses have come in for review over the past week

- Diversity & Inclusion Committee
 - Planning a CE event the week of September 29, focused on individuals with disabilities

- Mental Health Committee
 - Hosted a suicide prevention training that went well last week
 - Next event: October 9th - REGISTRATION CLOSED
 - Final suicide prevention of the year is [December 8, 2025](#)

- Mentorship Committee
 - Welcome new co-chairs: David Eades and Alison Stewart!
 - Welcome new member, Caroline Hillyard!
 - Occupational Therapy Mentorship Program: Participants are currently in the process of submitting goal setting documents and lesson plans for committee review and feedback. Feedback will be sent to program participants August 1.
 - Stephanie Lancaster and Logan Herndon attended the July 24 TN Board of OT meeting in effort to move forward with the proposed changes for mentorship CE in the OT Practice Act. The TN Board of OT will be drafting a proposal for a revision of the Approved CE Activities Table in the OT Practice Act.
 - Coordinating fall 2025 CE event: [Cultivating Professional Identity Through Mentorship](#) on October 21 at 6:30pm Central Time with speakers Donna Whitehouse and Piper Sesnan.

- OTA Connect Committee
 - 5 members on the committee

- Philanthropy Committee
 - Ongoing SOTA/Program fundraising competition for BrightStone!
 - To participate, just forward proof of donation (screenshots work!) with the name of the SOTA/program you would like your donation to count under to admin@tnota.org

- Student Involvement Committee
 - Next meeting is 8/26 at 6pm CST/7pm EDT via zoom. topic: FIELDWORK - professional behaviors, ask an FWE; if you or someone you know is an FWE and would like to be part of a mini-panel please email me! taylor-kozell@utc.edu
 - working on final touches for student lounge at conference (shout out to TSU SOTA for sponsoring!)

- TNOTF
 - Don't miss out on Trivia at conference!

- RA Updates
 - Not in attendance

- East District
 - Not in attendance

- Middle District
 - Upcoming events:
 - September 4th - **OT Student Meetup!**
 - This is a networking opportunity for middle Tennessee OTP program students and faculty to build lasting intraprofessional collaborations.. TNOTA's president Dr. Stephanie Lancaster is presenting to help us kick off this event. Note that anyone planning to attend must register for the event through the TNOTA website.
 - Tentatively scheduled for early to mid November - **Assistive Technology for the Related Service Provider**
 - A school-based CEU session presented by Diane McCluskey, OTR, ATP
 - First week of December - **Grant Writing in Occupational Therapy: Turning Ideas Into Funded Initiatives**
 - CEU presentation by Dr. Debra Gibbs and Dr. A Jackson of Belmont University.
- Northeast District
 - Great CEU hosted last month
- Rural West District
 - Upcoming CEU event - September 4th from 12-1pm
 - Compliance Day this November
 - PAMs course also in the works
- Southeast District
 - OT Compact CEU was July 31st - 26 attendees
 - Aging in Place CEU was August 7th - 31 attendees
 - Open Secretary And Vice-Chair positions for Southeast District
 - Planning a fall social outing
- West District
 - Upcoming CEU on August 26th about expanding the horizon in OT practice

Student Representatives & School Reports

- Belmont University
 - First & second year students start on August 19th

- East TN State
 - 3rd year students are finishing up their First level 2s

- Lincoln Memorial University
 - First year reps have been announced
 - Second years starting research projects
 - Currently on break

- Milligan University
 - Level 2s start on August 18th
 - Back to school picnic to welcome in arriving first years

- Nashville State
 - Quiet summer at Nashville State
 - Orientation on Monday 8/18
 - Finishing up classes and then moving to fieldwork

- Roane State
 - Not in attendance

- South College Nashville
 - Not in attendance

- Tennessee State University
 - Currently on break until August 18th
 - Looking forward to welcoming the new cohort

- Tennessee Wesleyan
 - Not in attendance

- UT- Chattanooga
 - Not in attendance

- UTHSC (Memphis)

- Welcoming new cohort
 - Year 2s are preparing for fieldwork next month
 - Preparing for upcoming workforce fair
- Walters State Community College
 - Not in attendance

MSC Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting is taking place in person for the annual board dinner and the annual business meeting at conference on September 13.

Action	Date	Who
RSVP to Board dinner by Sept. 1.	September 1	Board
Update your slides for the Annual Business meeting at the annual conference using the slide deck linked HERE	September 10	Board
Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2025 using the Executive Board webpage	ASAP	Board
September Newsletter submissions are due August 20th . You can submit on the Executive Board webpage	August 20	Board
Email Stephanie for information about discount codes if you did not receive the email she sent the first week in July.	ASAP	Board/District/Committee Leaders

Continue to engage with TNOTA social media posts	Rolling	Board
Provide personal contacts for potential vendor support and sponsorship involvement to the Conference Committee (conferencecommittee@tnota.org)	Rolling	Board