

TNOTA Board Meeting July 10, 2025

In attendance: Abby Peacock, Abigail Jones, Alison Stewart, Amanda Newbern, Anna Stogner, Barbara Meussner, Brandy McCarter, Cameron Jean, Caroline Hillyard, Christy Watt, Cindy Blackwell, David Eades, Jennie Douglas, Jennifer Crowder, Katy Schmidt, Kaylie Garner, Kimberly Jessee, Maggie Davidson, Martin Davis, Mary Dreyer Smith, Morgan Webb, Reagan Turner, Sandra Dicks, Stedmon Hopkins, Stephanie Lancaster, Taylor Kozell, Valery Hanks

Not in attendance: Abby Hightower, Abilene Hurd, Alyssa Campbell, Anne Zachry, Ashley Robertson, Ashlyn Getway, Audra Larson, Audrey Owens, Bhumika Patel, Brittany Ford, Gigi Jordan, Jayden Malugin, Jennie Schwartz, Logan Herndon, Macy Franks, Madi Cary, Maggie Pierce, Marisa Cruse, Molly Boothroyd, Nicole Ayers, Robert Mullaney, Rosemary Lewis

Staff in attendance: Zach McElgunn, Catherine Ward, Gerlea Patton

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 **July 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 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.**

Upcoming Events

- **July 17** – Introduction to Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) for Occupational Therapy Practitioners
- **July 31** – The OT Compact: Progress and Vision
- **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
- In the process of updating some roles, procedures, and policies and will share the proposals for any changes in those with the board as they are drafted.
 - List of staff responsibilities: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c0yAn_m1kUEzsadkv1Yd9KmZEokUIhfVJ0dH25toVAq/edit?usp=sharing
 - Committee chairs - please check the roster today for your committee and update as needed: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LLc5XKdrCzgk-Uby_or0lSkUoT2LFmoAo0wpHAQTUkA/edit?usp=sharing
- Still working on being able to offer certification on dry needling. If you know of someone who is certified and has experience in presenting/teaching that may be interested in providing this training for TNOTA, please reach out to Stephanie (president@tnota.org)
- 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)
 - Unavailable hotel dates
 - Any UT home games
 - September 11-13, 2026 (Rosh Hashanah)
 - In light of the initial 2026 conference dates being a holiday, the Board decided to request South College to use the space in 2027 and find a different location for 2026 (likely Nashville)
 - 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
- Financial update
 - TNOTA Financial Report
 - Total Assets – \$187,415.47
 - TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY – \$187,415.47
 - Income for June – \$5,802.87
 - Expenses for June – \$5,325.56
 - Expenses for January-June (YTD) – \$36,923.16
 - Income for January-June – \$37,620.45
 - Revenue/expense distribution
 - INCOME For June – 38% continuing education; 56% Membership dues; 2% Conference; 4% Ads/Sponsorships
 - EXPENSE for June - 13% Continuing Education; 7% Board; 21% Operating Expense; 4% Banking & License; 55% Professional Fees

- Proposed reimbursement policy. Please review for discussion and a vote in August. [FINANCIAL POLICY FOR REIMBURSEMENTS.docx](#)
- Special Projects
 - Finalized a [one-page guide](#) regarding how to set up an event for committees and districts.
 - The [TNOTA District/Committee Chair Manual](#) has also been updated.
 - New website: ongoing; a meeting was held June 18 to review the new homepage mockup. The next meeting is scheduled for July 16.
 - Mentorship Committee/Occupational Therapy Mentorship Program support: Currently onboarding new Committee Co-Chairs, David Eades and Alison Stewart.
- Membership Update
 - 1st year OT: 37 (-)
 - 1st year OTA: 10 (+1)
 - OT: 380 (+11)
 - OTA: 84 (-1)
 - Retired: 2 (-1)
 - Student: 307 (+12)
 - 45 people renewed their membership and 31 joined in the preceding month.
 - 69 people let their membership lapse and 1 rejoined.
 - At this time last year, we had 787 (2,996 including Prospects) active members compared to 840 (3,146 including Prospects) active members as of 6/30/2025.
 - This represents a gain of 53 members or a 6.73% 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 150 individuals in TNOTA's audience or a 5.01% increase in the overall audience.
- Legislative updates
 - Tracking the impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill
 - [AOTA article](#)
 - medicaid cuts over the next decade
 - medicare fee schedule increase
 - First time since 2020 there has been an increase for OT services (2.5%)
 - These rates are not adjusted for inflation, so they may still be lower than desired/adequate
 - financial aid assistance cuts
 - Eliminating government subsidized student loans
 - Grad-plus loans will also be disappearing
 - no tax on overtime

- This is most relevant to hourly OTP employees
 - **Advocacy Update: OT Mental Health Parity Act Reintroduced in House –**
The Occupational Therapy Mental Health Parity Act has been reintroduced in the House by Rep. Tim Kennedy (D-NY)—an occupational therapy practitioner himself—and Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA). This bipartisan bill aims to expand access to OT services under Medicare for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. This is a pivotal moment for the OT profession and for Medicare beneficiaries who deserve comprehensive, holistic care. [Let's amplify the message and support this critical legislation.](#)
- Advocacy Committee
 - Unable to attend - more updates next month
- Marketing
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 - August Newsletter submissions are due July 20. You can submit on the [Executive Board webpage.](#)
- Continuing Education Committee
 - Staff met with Stephanie and Audrey to work on a renewal option for the [Approved Provider Program](#)
 - Goal is to make it easier for people to renew and provide reminders
 - About to finish approving another external CE course
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee
 - Going to pivot from developing a toolkit to collating resources for a centralized location on the website
 - Reviewing goals from the strategic plan, the committee is determining what activities they will pursue/hold in relation to the plan
- Mental Health Committee
 - No big updates, but continuing with the suicide prevention courses
- 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 will attend 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.
 - Fall 2025 CE event: October 21 at 6:30pm Central Time with speakers Donna Whitehouse and Piper Sesnan

- OTA Connect Committee
 - Not in attendance

- 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 your 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 a conference (shout out to TSU SOTA for sponsoring!)

- TNOTF
 - Don't miss out on Trivia at conference!
 - Group of Board Members were able to revise the [scholarship application](#), which is currently up online
 - Will be closed August 10
 - This scholarship is open to OTAs as well!

- RA Updates
 - April 15, 2026 will be the spring meeting
 - Starting the first week of February there will be rolling panel discussions (CommunOT)

- East District

- Not in attendance
- Middle District
 - Upcoming events:
 - July/Aug 2025: AT for the Related Service Provider- approved by TN-TAN through the TN Educational Cooperative - update next month!
 - September 4th - Middle TN OT programs student networking rooftop event at TSU featuring TNOTA president Stephanie Lancaster as guest speaker.
 - September 2025: *The Power of Connection: Sensory and affective interventions to promote regulation*
 - Event coming in December – *Basics of Grants*
- Northeast District
 - Intro to DBT CE course next week on **July 17**
 - Working on a couple other live in-person sessions, trying to find locations
- Rural West District
 - Couple sessions coming this fall, planning to submit by the end of the month
 - Planning on another Compliance Day this November
 - PAMs course also in the works
- Southeast District
 - OT Compact CEU **July 31st**
 - Aging in Place CEU **August 7th**
 - Opening up Secretary And Vice-Chair positions for Southeast District
- West District
 - Accessible Travel by OT - **August 5th**
 - Ethics Event - November (exact date TBD)

Student Representatives & School Reports

- Belmont University
 - Group of students had a great time at the HOSA conference last month

- East TN State
 - First level 2s are finishing up
 - First graduating class have taken boards and are matriculating in to the profession
- Lincoln Memorial University
 - Not in attendance
- Milligan University
 - Summer projects ongoing
 - Mid terms for the first level 2s have been completed
 - SOTA is meeting to plan for the fall semester and welcome the new first years
- Nashville State
 - Not in attendance
- Roane State
 - Not in attendance
- South College Nashville
 - Donated a couple of boxes of food at a local food drive in Portland, Tennessee
 - We just now started Fieldwork level 1 physical dysfunctions rotations
 - This is our final semester before Level 2's
- Tennessee State University
 - Second years graduate next month
 - First years are finishing up in person over the next few weeks
 - New cohort coming in August with a group activity
- Tennessee Wesleyan
 - Not in attendance
- UT- Chattanooga
 - First years just had their mental health practical, which was a great learning experience
 - First years also just got their first level 2 placements

- On Monday the cohort will be working at a community health fair in Georgia
- Level 2 students are finishing up their fieldwork

- UTHSC (Memphis)
 - Summer break just ended
 - PAMs course has been ongoing this week, finishing tomorrow
 - In August, the new cohort will come into the program

- Walters State Community College
 - Not in attendance

MSC Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting is taking place via Zoom August 14 at 7:00 pm Central

Action	Date	Who
Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2025 using the Executive Board webpage	ASAP	Board
August Newsletter submissions are due July 20th . You can submit on the Executive Board webpage	July 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	Rolling	Board

the Conference Committee (conferencecommittee@tnota.org)		
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