

TNOTA Board Meeting June 12, 2025

In attendance: Abigail Jones, Alyssa Campbell, Amanda Newbern, Anna Stogner, Anne Zachry, Ashley Robertson, Audrey Owens, Barbara Meussner, Bhumika Patel, Christy Watt, Cindy Blackwell, David Eades, Gigi Jordan, Jennie Douglas, Katy Schmidt, Kimberly Jessee, Macy Franks, Martin Davis, Molly Boothroyd, Morgan Webb, Reagan Turner, Rosemary Lewis, Stedmon Hopkins, Stephanie Lancaster, Valery Hanks, Brandy McCarter

Not in attendance: Abby Hightower, Abby Peacock, Abilene Hurd, Ashlyn Getway, Audra Larson, Brittany Ford, Caitlyn Obrian, Cameron Jean, Jayden Malugin, Jennie Schwartz, Jennifer Crowder, Kaylie Garner, Madi Cary, Maggie Davidson, Maggie Pierce, Marisa Cruse, Mary Dreyer Smith, Nicole Ayers, Robert Mullaney, Sandra Dicks, Taylor Kozell, Cindy Hickman

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** – 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 progresses.
- TNOTA is coordinating a fundraising competition to help our Philanthropy Partner, BrightStone, acquire a 15-passenger van. The SOTA **group or OT/OTA** 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 **group or OT/OTA** 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](#)
- July Newsletter submissions are due **June 20**. 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
- 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)

Upcoming Events

- [July 14](#) – Pediatric Community of Practice Quarterly Meeting
- [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.**

Roll Call Voting on updated strategic plan:

- Brandy McCarter – Accept without amendment
- Stephanie Lancaster – Accept without amendment
- Valery Hanks – Accept without amendment
- Christy Watt - Accept without amendment
- Morgan Webb - Accept without amendment
- Cindy Blackwell - Accept without amendment
- Rosemary Lewis - Accept without amendment
- Audrey Owens - Accept without amendment
- Stedmon Hopkins - Accept without amendment
- Katy Schmidt - Accept without amendment
- Ashley Robertson - Accept without amendment
- Amanda Newbern - Accept without amendment
- Kimberly Jessee - Accept without amendment
- Barbara Meussner - Accept without amendment
- Martin Davis - Accept without amendment
- Bhumika Patel - Accept without amendment
- Anne Zachry - Accept without amendment
- Gigi Jordan - Accept without amendment
- Anna Stogner - Accept without amendment
- Molly Boothroyd - Accept without amendment
- Rheagan Turner - Accept without amendment
- Abigail Jones - Accept without amendment

- Jennie Douglas - Accept without amendment

Announcements

- New Business
 - Board member news
 - Congrats Bhumika!
 - Strategic planning updates - [Access the draft HERE.](#)
- Additional updates for this month from the TNOTA President:
 - Working on being able to offer certification on dry needling.
 - Goal is to offer trainings at regular intervals throughout the year in different areas of the state, similar to the PAMs programming that we currently offer
 - Setting up Capstone experience opportunities for OTD programs in TN - will be working with Belmont and UTHSC and possibly others beginning in 2026. If you hear of someone interested in partnering with TNOTA for a Capstone Project, have them email me. I will be polling the board in the future to see who is interested in taking a student and will provide details then as to what that would entail.
- 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 email conferencecommittee@tnota.org as soon as possible.
 - Have 10 workshops, 18 short courses, and 21 posters
 - Schedule is almost ready - Committee and/or district chairs who want to have a meet-up at conference, please connect with Val to request that ASAP
 - 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
 - Early bird registration will open July 1, Regular registration will open July 23rd
 - Looking for donations for swag bag if you have any connections, let us know ASAP
 - Keynote panel is confirmed, have 5 volunteers
 - Reminder that the board dinner will be Friday night
 - Saturday night is trivia night fundraiser for TNOTF
 - Consider getting your headshot at conference, the planning committee is coordinating with a photographer
 - Still working on venue for 2026

- Financial update
 - TNOTA Financial Report
 - Total Assets – \$186,995.16
 - TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY – \$186,995.16
 - Income for June – \$6,130.68
 - Expenses for June – \$13,114.68
 - Expenses for January-May (YTD) – \$33,840.60
 - Income for January-May – \$31,817.58
 - Revenue/expense distribution
 - INCOME For May – 44% continuing education; 54% Membership dues; Conference 1%; Other 1%
 - EXPENSE for May - Legal/Professional 56%, Board/Leadership 8%; Continuing Ed 10%; Operations 26%
 - Proposed reimbursement policy. Please review for discussion and a vote in July. [FINANCIAL POLICY FOR REIMBURSEMENTS.docx](#)
- Special Projects
 - Currently collaborating with GPS Staff and Stephanie to finalize a one-page guide regarding how to set up an event for committees and districts. The TNOTA District/Committee Chair Manual is currently being updated as well.
 - New website: ongoing; meeting on May 20 to review the new homepage mockup was postponed to June 18.
 - Mentorship Committee/Occupational Therapy Mentorship Program support: Prepared onboarding documents for new committee chair/co-chair
- Membership Update
 - 1st year OT: 37 (+4)
 - 1st year OTA: 9 (+1)
 - OT: 369 (-7)
 - OTA: 85 (-4)
 - Retired: 3 (-)
 - Student: 295 (-30)
 - 40 people renewed their membership and 33 joined in the preceding month.
 - 23 people let their membership lapse and 3 rejoined.
 - At this time last year, we had 774 (2,971 including Prospects) active members compared to 818 (3,120 including Prospects) active members as of 5/31/2025.
 - This represents a gain of 44 members or a 5.68% 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 5.02% increase in the overall audience.
- Legislative updates

- Federal -
 - AOTA has been tracking a few different bills focusing on one bill that proposes cuts to Medicaid that could impact OT reimbursement
 - Financial aid for undergraduate and graduate programs are also a topic of interest that may be impacted by legislation currently being considered at the federal level
 - Go here for more information - <https://www.votervoice.net/AOTA/Campaigns/126309/Respond>
- Advocacy Committee
 - Next **meeting for the end of June** to discuss planning 1-2 more CE events for the year, planning 1-2 advocacy opportunities, and begin discussing a timeline for organizing/preparing for Hill Day 2026.
 - Looking at having a booth (or similar) at the conference with information about communication with state legislators.
- Marketing
 - Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2025 using the [Executive Board webpage](#).
 - You can also email admin@tnota.org
 - June Newsletter submissions are due May 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
 - Currently reviewing two courses
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee
 - Still looking at the options for developing a DEI resource/tool
 - Ohio DEI Spectrum is a potential model
 - Currently reviewing AOTA's DEI toolkit to identify and address gaps
 - Promoting an event at LMU - Neurodivergent Pride Month event
 - Looking for a guest speaker for gender-affirming care and OT
 - Having a discussion about what resources we would like to see on the web page
 - Next meeting is tomorrow (June 13) at 9:00 am Central Time
- Mental Health Committee
 - Next Suicide Prevention Training is in a few weeks and will be taught by Kimberly Jessee
 - Mental Health CoP was contacted by a recent grad, and she is currently being informally mentored and connected to resources by Katy

- Mentorship Committee
 - Successful spring 2025 (May 20) CE event in collaboration with the Student Involvement Committee on What Managers Look For in Ideal OT Candidates, but no mentors or mentees present from the 6th Cycle
 - TNOTA President currently searching for a new chair/co-chair
 - 4-month check-in emails will be deployed to Program participants June 16
 - 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 as the red-lined document is planned to be presented at this meeting
 - Fall 2025 CE event: October 21 at 6:30pm Central Time with speakers Donna Whitehouse and Piper Sesnan

- OTA Connect Committee
 - Not much to update although the next meeting is scheduled for the end of the month
 - 7 committee members currently

- Philanthropy Committee
 - Ongoing SOTA/Program fundraising competition for BrightStone!
 - To participate, just forward proof of donation (screenshots work!) to admin@tnota.org

- Student Involvement Committee
 - We had 17 attendees for our combined virtual chat CE Event with the Mentorship Committee on What Hiring Managers Look For in Ideal OT Candidates. Breakdown of attendees was zero mentees, several current students and one incoming OT student, and several practitioners. Thanks to all who helped.
 - Many thanks to Jennifer who is stepping down as co-chair of this committee after a two-year term. Taylor will serve as chair.
 - ~~○ Jennifer Henderson is stepping down as co-chair, Taylor Kozell will be taking over~~

- TNOTF
 - Fundraiser at conference (Trivia Night!)
 - Amanda is overseeing the effort to revise the scholarship application for students

- RA Updates
 - Spring meeting in May
 - Administrative issues and some governance documents were discussed and voted on
 - Code of ethics is shifting language from “equality” to “equity”
 - We’re going to keep updating [this page on the website](#) with anything new!

- East District
 - Not in attendance
- Middle District
 - September 4 - Working with TSU's SOTA, coordinating a Nashville OT student meetup on the rooftop of TSU's health sciences building
 - Goal is to bring together Middle TN OT Program students and faculty to meet one another and network
 - Stephanie will be a presenter
 - 12/3- Grant Writing in Occupational Therapy: Turning Ideas into Funded Initiatives
- Northeast District
 - Kaylin Lawrence is presenting "[Introduction to Dialectical Behavior Therapy](#)" on July 17
 - Compliance Day also being planned
- Rural West District
 - Developing some CEU courses for the coming months
 - Continuing to prepare for the conference this September
- Southeast District
 - July 31 - Presentation updates to the OT Compact
 - August 7 - Guest presenter on Aging in Place
- West District
 - Next CEU event is in August

Student Representatives & School Reports

- Belmont University
 - Third year students are in the middle of their first level 2 rotations
 - Second year students are in the middle of summer courses
 - Second year students are going next weekend to Opryland Hotel for HOSA's International Leadership Conference
- East TN State
 - Unable to attend. Update: The now 2nd years are enjoying summer off classes and getting a much needed mental break to come back in the fall refreshed and ready to learn, 3rd years are 4 weeks into levels 2s and loving it, and the 1st years have a full cohort and adjusting well to school and getting through anatomy!
- Lincoln Memorial University
 - 3rd years out on field work

- Second years just went to Superior Van to learn about how accessible vans are made
- Writing to the mayor about making parks more accessible through universal design
- First years had their first anatomy exam
- June 28 is a neurodivergent pride event at South Knoxville
- July 9 will be working with “Helping Mommas” to pack maternal health bags
- Milligan University
 - Second years are a couple weeks into level 2s
 - First years are researching throughout the summer
 - New cohort comes back in August
- Nashville State
 - Not in attendance
- Roane State
 - Not in attendance
- South College Nashville
 - Canned food drive until the end of June
 - On the South College website you can see this opportunity to contribute
 - Physical dysfunctions are the next focus for the next two weeks
 - Went to Saddle Up for a fieldtrip
- Tennessee State University
 - Second years on their first level 2s
 - First years are coming up on midterms in the next couple of weeks for the summer semester
 - Community field work this semester
- Tennessee Wesleyan
 - First years just started Level 1 fieldwork
 - Second years are still in their last level 2 field works
 - Volunteer Opportunity this weekend at League of Angels
- UT- Chattanooga
 - Not in attendance
- UTHSC (Memphis)
 - Moving to MOT twos
 - Busy with finals currently
 - Pasta cookoff moved to July 28 to offer students a break
 - T-Shirt sale is open to anyone

- Newsletter highlighting ongoing activity
- Golden Age Games were hosted in Memphis this year, so students got to attend and participate in a volunteer capacity
- Walters State Community College
 - Not in attendance

MSC Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting is taking place via Zoom July 10 at 7:00 pm Central

Action	Date	Who
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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