

TNOTA Board Meeting March 13, 2024

In attendance: Stephanie Lancaster, Abby Peacock, Abigail Wright, Alyssa Campbell, Ashley Robertson, Audra Larson, Bhumika Patel, Brandy McCarter, David Eades, Robert Mullaney, Jennie Douglas, Jennifer Crowder, Jennifer Henderson, Kaylie Garner, Katy Schmidt, Macy Franks, Madi Cary, Martin Davis, Morgan Webb, Stedmon Hopkins, Christy Watt, Jenni Schwartz, Audrey Owens, Hannah Wiggs, Cindy Blackwell, Kimberly Jessee, Caitlyn Obrian, Amanda Newbern, Abilene Hurd, Barbara Meussner

Not in attendance: Valery Hanks, Blaine Coffey, Rosemary Lewis, Brittany Ford, Sandra Dicks, Anne Zachry, Mary Dreyer Smith, Abby Hightower, Ashlyn Getway, Marisa Cruse, Jayden Malugin

Staff in attendance: Zach McElgunn

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 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.
- The [TNOTA Student Video Contest](#) is underway! Submissions are due **March 29**.

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 **March 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
- 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)
- 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) for more information

Upcoming Events

- [April 8](#) – Free Hill Day Recap & Advocacy Update Session
 - [April 8](#) – Suicide Prevention Training
 - [April 9](#) – An Introduction to Neurodiversity-Affirming Practice in Occupational Therapy
 - [April 13](#) – Northeast District social networking event (1.0 CEU available!)
 - [April 14](#) – Pediatric Community of Practice Quarterly Meeting
 - [April 17](#) – Developing a Proposal for the TNOTA Conference
 - [April 24](#) – Tips & Tools: New and Updated Pediatric Assessments
 - [April 28](#) – Ethics & Jurisprudence in Occupational Therapy
 - **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
 - Please make notes on [this form](#) about any ideas and contacts 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 to use for that let me know.~~
 - The TNOTA president and TNOTA staff can also help to find topics/speakers as needed!
 - 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 out that information to groups you represent.
 - Southern States' OT Associations CE Collaborative partnership is back in action for 2025. This is an arrangement between TNOTA, Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana that provides four webinars a year free for members of those associations. The first one will be April 9 on Neurodiversity Affirming Practice in OT.
- TNOTA Annual Conference Updates
 - Scheduled for **September 12 – 14th** at West TN Healthcare in Jackson TN.
 - If have contacts for anyone/business/vendor that might be interested in sponsoring, we will be asking for that info soon

- Board dinner on Friday night
- If you work for a company, own one, or know of one that might be a vendor/sponsor, the sponsorship info is coming soon.
- Financial update
 - TNOTA Financial Report
 - Total Assets - \$192,839.81
 - TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY - \$192,839.81
 - Income for February - \$6,196.63
 - Expenses for January-February - 7,824.33
 - Income for January-February - 14,020.96
 - Revenue/expense distribution
 - INCOME For February – 51% continuing education; 49% Membership dues
 - EXPENSE for February - 30% lobbyist; 60% staff; 10% Other
 - [New form for expense reporting](#) is available online!
- Special Projects
 - Currently collaborating with GPS Staff to create a one-page guide regarding how to set up an event for committees and districts. Awaiting draft from GPS.
 - New website: ongoing; reviewed some website options and estimated timeline March 4. Currently awaiting an update from GPS regarding accessibility and other website features.
 - Mentorship Committee/Occupational Therapy Mentorship Program support: ongoing efforts to support the committee in strengthening the Program in order to seek TN Board of OT CE approval for practitioners mentoring students. Currently assisting with an “Overview of the TNOTA Occupational Therapy Mentorship Program for the OT Licensure Board” document.
- Membership updates
 - 1st year OT: 32 (-)
 - 1st year OTA: 8 (-1)
 - OT: 367 (+4)
 - OTA: 77 (-)
 - Retired: 2 (-)
 - Student: 337 (-6)
 - 35 people renewed their membership and 20 joined in the preceding month.
 - 35 people let their membership lapse and 2 rejoined.
 - At this time last year, we had 816 (2,963 including Prospects) active members compared to 839 (3,106 including Prospects) active members as of 2/28/2025.
 - This represents a gain of 23 members or a 2.82% 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 143 individuals in TNOTA's audience or a 4.83% increase in the overall audience.
- Legislative updates
 - Member resource: [Medicare updates summary](#) on TNOTA site
 - In collaboration with AOTA, we are closely tracking federal legislative changes, including:
 - Medicare & Medicaid cuts
 - [Protecting Section 504](#)
 - [Supporting school-based OTPs](#)
 - Progress toward enacting the [OT licensure compact](#)
 - AOTA is also watching legislative trends in other states, including scope of practice encroachment concerns and OT's role in behavioral health
- Advocacy Committee
 - Attended TDC's DDH Legislative Webinar in preparation for Hill Day.
 - Attended networking event hosted by Tennessee Disability Coalition 3/11.
 - Day on the Hill 2025:
 - Planning for a free Hill Day Recap & Advocacy Update Session April 8 at 6pm CST.
 - Thank you to the TSU students who attended - they were outgoing, engaging, and phenomenal ambassadors for TNOTA
 - Met with several legislators, including the legislator who brought forth the recent Firearms Access bill that has been referenced in TNOTA messaging
- Marketing
 - Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2025 using the [Executive Board webpage](#).
 - You can also email admin@tnota.org
 - April Newsletter submissions are due March 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
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee
 - [Survey attached](#)
 - [Nardia Aldridge](#), President of the South Florida [Black Occupational Therapy Caucus](#), is working with us to coordinate an event for 2025
 - Stedmon is coordinating to set a planning meeting up
- Mental Health Committee

- Bi-monthly suicide prevention courses are ongoing
- Thank you to those who attended Hill Day for the recent advocacy effort!
- Mentorship Committee
 - 6th Cycle is up and running
 - Working on a collaborative event with the Student Involvement Committee
- OTA Connect Committee
 - First quarterly meeting of 2025 has taken place
 - Not very many members on the committee at this time, if you know of anyone interested please let them know to reach out to Ashley!
- Philanthropy Committee
 - Continuing to work with BrightStone
 - They are requesting help with fundraising to acquire an accessible passenger van
 - On site volunteer opportunities are also being discussed with BrightStone's leadership
- Student Involvement Committee
 - Great virtual chat in February on resume building
 - [Check out that resource here](#)
 - Next student chat will be in May
 - This will involve several interviews of managers/hiring professionals about what they look for in OT candidates
 - If you know any Rehab Director/Hiring Managers, please reach out to Jennifer Henderson
 - Student video contest is underway as well - "OT Movie Trailer"
 - New rep from Roane State
- TNOTF
 - Saturday night fundraiser conference weekend
 - This funds student scholarships and an Educator of the Year award
 - Amanda is representing TN at the RA meeting In Philadelphia in a few weeks
- East District
 - UT-Knoxville has resources that Robert hopes to use in 2025/26 as he helps out in the early efforts to find a conference venue for 2026
 - Kickoff networking event coming in OT Month
 - Synchronous CE courses are being planned as well, with a list of topics already developed
- Middle District
 - Met in person to hash out plans for the year

- TSU faculty and students attended yesterday's Day on the Hill; approximately 30 advocated for OT and our clients!
- Events planned/being planned:
 - Tips & Tools: New and Updated Pediatric Assessments - 4/24 6-7pm CT Presented by Morgan Webb (free to all)
 - The Power of Connection: Sensory and affective interventions to promote regulation - June 2025 - exact date TBD - Alyssa Campbell
 - OTs role supporting students with disabilities using AT - August 2025 (still pending approval with TDOE) - Alison Stewart (AT specialist with the AT project under TDOE's TN-TAN network)
 - Applying for Grants 101 - Nov/Dec 2025 - TBD
 - Summer student social event in Nashville (Jun/Jul 2025)
 - Middle District Fall Volunteer Event - 9/27 Get Down for Down Syndrome Dance-a-Thon with GiGis Playhouse @ Franklin Road Academy
- Northeast District
 - Able to gather the district together to finalize some plans for the year
 - Plan is to have everything on the calendar by the end of the month
 - Coming up on April 13 - networking event
 - July event focused on substance use is being planned
- Rural West District
 - Working with Sandra Dicks for an April 26 event that will include a 2 hour course on reflex integration (10:00 - 12:00), followed by a 1-hour lunch.
 - Meeting on March 29 to discuss the next slate of CE opportunities for the district
- Southeast District
 - Finalizing dates for CE events in the year ahead
 - Freshmen will be coming out for a social in April for OT month
 - UTC-TNOTA Southeast District event with volunteer opportunities is in the early days of planning
- West District
 - May 6 CE Event on how to approach substance use with clients

Student Representatives & School Reports

- Belmont University
 - Not in attendance
- East TN State
 - First and Second years finished up mid terms this week
 - Level 1 fieldwork starts next week
 - Third Years are working on their capstones and enjoying the beautiful weather

- Lincoln Memorial University
 - Just started spring break
 - Currently planning the spring formal
 - Just completed SOTA elections, new board members are being transitioned
 - Working on the Parkinson's Foundation to fundraise before Moving Day 2025
 - Second years start field work boot camp next week
- Milligan University
 - Not in attendance
- Nashville State
 - Not in attendance
- Roane State
 - Spring break currently
 - Accepting applications for 2025-2027 cohort until the end of the month
 - 20 student spots are available
 - New equipment is being acquired to bridge the gap between classroom and clinic
- South College Nashville
 - Welcome Macy (new rep)!
 - Raising money for equipment, fieldtrips, and fundraisers with partner orgs
- Tennessee State University
 - Spring break last week
 - Day on the Hill was a great time
 - First years transitioning into school
 - Elections last month for SOTA - thank you Jenni for your time on the board!
- Tennessee Wesleyan
 - Just got back from spring break this week
 - Fundraised for the SOTA through Panda Express
 - Silent Disco party is upcoming on March 20
 - This Saturday, the students will be facilitating STEAM-based activity tables with Muse in Knoxville
- UT- Chattanooga
 - We are on SPRING BREAK and getting ready for the AOTA conference.
 - 3rd years are still working hard on their capstones.
 - 2nd years just finished Geriatric fieldwork and had some great experiences.
 - 1st years are still in their first level 1 fieldwork and are enjoying getting real hands-on experience.
- UTHSC (Memphis)

- SOTA fundraiser for BrightStone raised \$270
- Lions Club just held a 5k
- Next Wednesday is the “Innovation Showcase” where therapeutic activities and adaptive equipment will be expo’d
- Level 1 fieldwork begins on March 31
- Walters State Community College
 - Level 1b fieldwork in emerging practice areas took place this week
 - Second years are focused on level 2 fieldwork
 - SOTA fundraising is coming up, will be selling t-shirts

MSC Meeting was adjourned

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

| Action | Date | Who |
|---|----------|-------|
| Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2024 using the Executive Board webpage | ASAP | Board |
| April Newsletter submissions are due March 20th . You can submit on the Executive Board webpage | 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 (conferencecommittee@tnota.org) | Rolling | Board |

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