

TNOTA Board Meeting October 9, 2025

In attendance: Abby Peacock, Abigail Wright, Abilene Hurd, Alison Stewart, Alyssa Campbell, Amanda Newbern, Anna Stogner, Anna Fung, Ashley Robertson, Bhumika Patel, Brandy McCarter, Christy Watt, David Eades, Gigi Jordan, Jennie Douglas, Jennifer Crowder, Maggie Davidson, Martin Davis, Mary Dreyer Smith, Rosemary Lewis, Stedmon Hopkins, Stephanie Lancaster, Valery Hanks

Not in attendance: Anne Zachry, Audrey Owens, Barbara Meussner, Cindy Blackwell, Cindy Hickman, Jayden Malugin, Kimberly Jessee, Macy Franks, Madi Cary, Marisa Cruse, Molly Boothroyd, Robert Mullaney, Cameron Jean, Katy Schmidt, Kaylie Garner, Reagan Turner, Sandra Dicks, Taylor Kozell

Staff in attendance: Zach McElgunn, Peggy McElgunn

MSC to accept the August minutes as submitted

MSC to review the September minutes at the November 13 Board meeting

Important TNOTA Board announcements

- 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)

- Philanthropy Partner and Secretary nominations are ongoing through November 15.
 - Philanthropy Partner Nominations – <https://www.tnota.org/philanthropy-partner-nominations-2026/>
 - Secretary Nominations – <https://www.tnota.org/secretary-nominations/>

Action Items for TNOTA Board members

- Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2025 using the [Executive Board webpage](#)
- November Newsletter submissions are due **October 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.

Upcoming Events

- [October 16 at 7:00 - 8:00 PM Central Time \(VIRTUAL\) – *Beyond Accessibility Confronting Healthcare Barriers*](#) – This presentation examines systemic, physical, and interpersonal obstacles that limit equitable care, including appointment structures that lack adequate time, inaccessible facilities, complex navigation systems, and limited provider knowledge. *This event is free for members; \$20 for non-members; 1.0 contact hour*
- [October 21 at 6:30 - 7:30 PM Central Time \(VIRTUAL\) – *Cultivating Professional Identity Through Mentorship*](#) – How do we help occupational therapy practitioners at every career stage develop stronger professional confidence, find their authentic voice, and become the leaders our field needs? The answer often lies in mentorship – but not just any mentorship. This interactive virtual session explores how intentional mentoring relationships can transform professional identity development throughout your OT career. *This event is free for members; \$20 for non-members; 1.0 contact hour*
- [October 21 at 7:30 - 8:30 PM Central Time \(VIRTUAL\) – *The OT Licensure Compact in Tennessee: What Students and Practitioners Need to Know*](#) – This one-hour continuing education webinar is designed to provide OT practitioners and OT/OTA students in Tennessee with essential updates on the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. Attendees will learn about the Compact's purpose, requirements, and benefits, as well as Tennessee's specific implementation process. *This event is free for members and non-members; 1.0 contact hour*
- [November 8 at 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Central Time \(IN PERSON\) – *2025 PAMs Jackson at West Tennessee Healthcare*](#) – Workshop attendance is LIMITED. Applications will be processed in the order received. This PAMs course will take place in a blended format. The lecture content will be delivered to you via online, pre-recorded video lectures. Links to the video lectures can be found in your registration confirmation email. *Participants who complete the thermal workshop will receive 15 contact hours and those completing the electrical workshop will receive 20 contact hours.*
- **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
 - [The new website](#) was launched on October 1.
 - Secretary role update in preparation for fall election: [PROPOSAL HERE](#)

MSC The board voted to update the SOP to incorporate the new role for the Secretary Passed unanimously

- Nominations for secretary and the 2026 Philanthropy Partner will be Oct. 15 - Nov. 15 and voting for members will be Nov. 20 - Dec. 15.
- Aspire OT Member Enhancement CE Series (\$25/mo. cost to TNOTA) - 8 TNOTA members registered for the September webinar, so our \$25 investment for offering the webinar brought \$240 in total value for our members.

- Resignation by Morgan Webb who has served on the Board for the past 6 years in various roles.
- Reminders:
 - Need to get events on the calendar no less than 30 days in advance
 - There is a form on the website on the [Executive Board Page](#) to make submission easy, and you can also reach out to admin@tnota.org
- TNOTA Annual Conference Updates
 - Very successful conference
 - Thank you to everyone that assisted and attended. We had a great time.
 - Have we shared feedback with the speakers yet?
 - 2026 contract signed to hold in Nashville at Scarritt Bennett
 - Dates: Sept 18-20, 2026
 - If interested in being on the 2026 conference planning committee, please email me
- Financial update
 - TNOTA Financial Report
 - Total Assets – \$216,498.87
 - TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY – \$216,498.87
 - Income for September – \$25,776.81
 - Expenses for September – \$9,591.09
 - Income for January-September – \$96,217.43
 - Expenses for January-September – \$60,643.38
 - Revenue/expense distribution
 - INCOME For September – 15.7% continuing education; 45.4% Membership dues; 38.1% Conference; 0.8% Ads/Sponsorships
 - EXPENSE for September - 80.6% Conference; 16.2% Board Meeting Expense; 3.2% Operating Expense; No Banking & License; No Professional Fees; No Continuing Education
 - Financial Policy:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VvTLPadbT26HqB8z487R4PjAoDwzzgtO/edit>
 - Conference Revenue – \$36,604.00
 - Conference Expense – \$10,165
- Membership Update
 - 1st year OT: 36 (+2)
 - 1st year OTA: 12 (+1)
 - OT: 387 (-5)
 - OTA: 82 (+1)
 - Retired: 2 (-)
 - Student: 357 (+24)

- 58 people renewed their membership and 34 joined in the preceding month.
- 58 people let their membership lapse and 0 rejoined.
- At this time last year, we had 839 (3,101 including Prospects) active members compared to 898 (3,235 including Prospects) active members as of 9/30/2025.
- This represents a gain of 59 members or a 7.03% 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 134 individuals in TNOTA's audience or a 4.32% increase in the overall audience.

- Legislative updates
 - Legislatively we are closely watching the negotiations surrounding subsidies for health care premiums for plans on the ACA marketplace (a current sticking point on the govt shutdown). We are also continuing to monitor the impacts on healthcare of the OBBA legislation, especially cuts to healthcare reimbursement. AOTA is watching several court cases that have implications for OTPs ability to do telehealth.
 - We had a successful advocacy booth at conference and are hoping to continue that momentum via some virtual advocacy engagement opportunities

- Advocacy Committee
 - Messaging went out at the end of last week about telehealth waiver expirations
 - If you need more information about this, we have resources on TNOTA's Advocacy Resources page
 - Upcoming Advocacy CE opportunity on [October 28 at 6:00 PM Central Time](#)

- Continuing Education Committee
 - The committee has finished reviewing two more courses and are about to wrap up another

- Diversity & Inclusion Committee
 - Two social media posts: Hispanic Heritage month and Global Diversity month were sent out via TNOTA socials on October 6, and October 13
 - Survey completed and will be working to disseminate soon
 - Want to understand how TNOTA is supporting practitioners of diverse backgrounds
 - Conference accessibility checklist draft is started.
 - Next step will be to get with the Conference Planning Committee to consider how to ensure the items on this checklist are supported
 - Potential student volunteer opportunity: Accessibility Liaison

- Upcoming CE event: October 16 at 7:00 PM – [Beyond Accessibility: Confronting healthcare barriers faced by people with disabilities](#)
- Mental Health Committee
 - We are hosting another suicide prevention course tonight (10/9) and scheduling bimonthly suicide prevention courses for 2026
- Mentorship Committee
 - Fall 2025 CE event: [Cultivating Professional Identity Through Mentorship](#) on October 21 at 6:30pm Central Time with speakers Donna Whitehouse and Piper Sesnan of Nashville State Community College OTA program.
 - Sixth cycle of the Mentorship program will conclude in November
 - Committee will be updating the pre/post surveys following this cycle
- OTA Connect Committee
 - **October 21 - next meeting**
 - Will be working on an OT-OTA Resource Guide to be used by students, programs, and practitioners
- Philanthropy Committee
 - Results from conference fundraiser for Brightstone: \$350.00 for headshots at conference
 - 2026 Philanthropy Partner [nominations open on October 15](#)
- Student Involvement Committee
 - Over 50 students visited the Student Lounge at conference.
 - ETSU SOTA has already pledged to sponsor the student lounge next year.
 - **Next meeting is November 25**
- TNOTF
 - Trivia night fundraiser raised around \$360 for TNOTF
 - Want to repeat this next year
- RA Updates
 - Had the first orientation meeting for new members
 - CommunOT starting February 2, 2026
 - You can use this to ask questions, get clarity, and meet the state RA reps
 - Spring Meeting is April 15

- East District
 - Robert is preparing a CE for November.
 - Also planning to develop a regular update for members of the district.
 - The update will not only inform, but also hopefully stimulate interest and discussion to support events and interactions.

Ann

- Middle District
 - Upcoming events:
 - ***Assistive Technology for the Related Service Provider*** is a school-based CEU session presented by Diane McCluskey, OTR, ATP (we are waiting confirmation on scheduled date since main POC has switched jobs) – this might be in the winter or spring depending on the district's ability to re-coordinate a speaker
 - Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 6:30 pm CST - ***Grant Writing in Occupational Therapy: Turning Ideas Into Funded Initiatives*** CEU presentation hosted by *Aspire* featuring Dr. Debra Gibbs and Dr. A Jackson of Belmont University.
 - TSU Student event was well attended
- Northeast District
 - [Upcoming CEU event - Compliance Day on November 8](#)
- Rural West District
 - [Upcoming CEU event - Compliance Day on November 1](#)
 - [November 8 PAMs in Jackson](#)
- Southeast District
 - New member of the district leadership team: welcome Anna Fung as the new SE District Vice Chair!
 - Open position: District Secretary
 - Working on an in-person CEU event for fieldwork educators
- West District
 - Had an event in August 26th about expanding the horizon in OT practice
 - **Ethics and Jurisprudence coming up in November**
 - Ann Zachry and Mary Dreyer Smith will be stepping down as District Chairs on November 30 and a new leader, Evelyn Daniel, will start on December 1.

Student Representatives & School Reports

- Belmont University
 - Masters and Doctorate programs are in the middle of midterms
 - Post-professional programming is in the middle of semester 1

- East TN State
 - First years were just assigned faculty research groups
 - Second years are going on fieldwork for Level 2 Bs
 - Third years are halfway through Level 2 Bs, looking forward to capstone next semester
 - SOTA is collaborating with Walter State OTA program on an event
 - Excited for next year's student lounge at conference

- Lincoln Memorial University
 - Not in attendance

- Milligan University
 - Third years on second Level 2s
 - 2nd years just took their first ortho exam and are preparing for a lab practical next week
 - 1st years were just assigned research groups and are beginning their literature review.
 - SOTA is working this month with the local nursing home to reverse trick or treat and give residents goodies!
 - SOTA will also be hosting a program wide costume contest.

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

- Roane State
 - We are all on Fall break right now. The second years had a very successful collab with TWU on Wednesday. At this month's SOTA meeting, the 1 years should be taking responsibility for SOTA meetings. So, there may be a new representative next month at the TNOTA .

- South College Nashville
 - Not in attendance

- Tennessee State University
 - First years headed into an intense week of tests
 - Second years just went on a trip to the TN Seating and Positioning clinic
 - Third years are finishing up their level 2 fieldwork, graduating in December

- Tennessee Wesleyan
 - Just started fall break
 - Finished up midterms last week
 - First years making it through anatomy
 - Second years just collaborated with Roane State which went well
 - Second years have been doing a nature based activity camp through their pediatrics class

- UT- Chattanooga
 - Not in attendance

- UTHSC (Memphis)
 - Adult placement fieldwork just went well
 - Back from fall break and in full swing
 - Connect Fest took place today, and there were booths where OT program students got to interact and learn with other programs/students
 - New SOTA board with a new rep coming soon

- Walters State Community College
 - Level 1A rotations for first years
 - Second years are doing pediatric fieldwork at the end of the month
 - Working with ETSU students on a community health assignment
 - Working with local elementary schools as well

MSC Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting is taking place via Zoom November 13 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
November Newsletter submissions are due August 20th . You can submit on the Executive Board webpage	October 20	Board
Continue to engage with TNOTA social media posts	Rolling	Board