

TNOTA Board Meeting November 13, 2025

In attendance: Abigail Jones, Abilene Hurd, Alison Stewart, Anna Fung, Anna Stogner, Audrey Owens, Bhumika Patel, Cameron Jean, Christian Johnson, Cindy Blackwell, Evelyn Daniel, Gwen Foxx, Hanna Saxon, Jennie Douglas, Katy Schmidt, Maggie Davidson, Martin Davis, Mary Dreyer Smith, Reagan Turner, Rosemary Lewis, Stephanie Lancaster, Stedmon Hopkins, Sydnee Duncan, Taylor Kozell

Not in attendance: Abby Peacock, Alyssa Campbell, Amanda Newbern, Anne Zachry, Ashley Robertson, Barbara Meussner, Brandy McCarter, Christy Watt, Cynthia Hickman, David Eades, Gigi Jordan, Jennifer Crowder, Kaylie Garner, Kimberly Jessee, Macy Franks, Madi Cary, Molly Boothroyd, Robert Mullaney, Sandra Dicks, Valery Hanks

Staff in attendance: Zach McElgunn, Peggy McElgunn

MSC to accept the minutes as submitted for Sept. and Oct. 2025.

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 CE events ASAP ~~for 2025~~ using the [Executive Board webpage](#)
- December Newsletter submissions are due **November 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

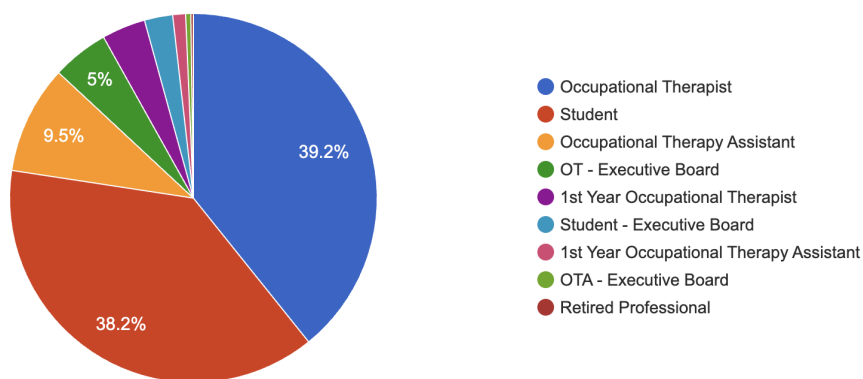
- **Please watch our social media and website for announcements and information about continuing education events as more learning opportunities are planned.**
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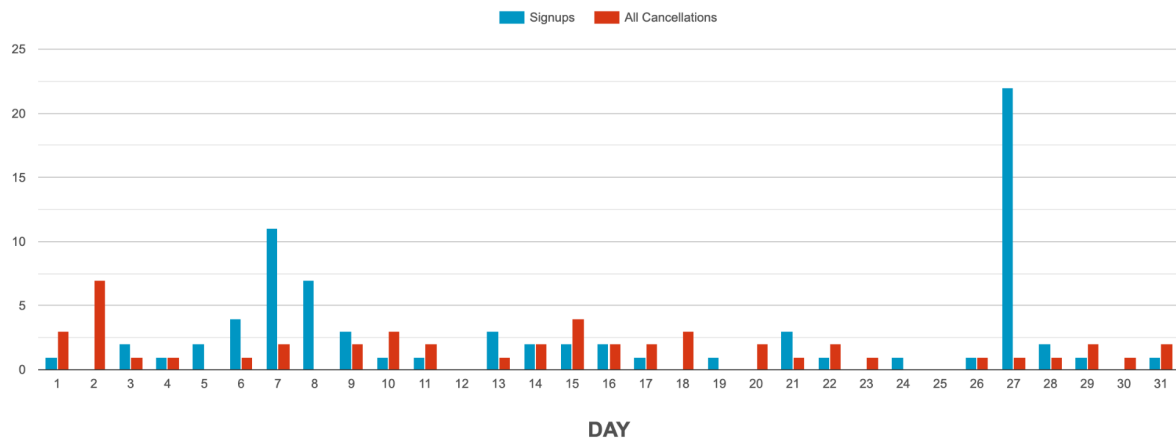
Announcements

- New business/updates:

- 2026 Strategic Planning Meeting in Nashville on **Jan. 10 or 17 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST**. All are encouraged to attend! Need a response from all board members to the poll to indicate your availability on the two potential dates for the strategic planning meeting in January. **Please message Peggy in the chat if you haven't already responded to her email about this from last Friday.**
- Looking for a contact in the Franklin area of someone who does home modifications like grab bar installation and/or any groups providing that type of service and funding for families in need. Please let me know if you know of any options.
- In preparation for our year-end report, please check and update if needed [this document](#) about CE events offered in your district.
- Reminders:
 - Need to get events on the calendar no less than 30 days in advance - the sooner the better!
- TNOTA Annual Conference Updates
 - 2026 Conference in Nashville at Scarritt Bennett on Sept 18-20, 2026
 - If interested in being on the 2026 conference planning committee, please email president@tnota.org
- Financial update
 - TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY - \$205,488.45
 - Income for October - \$8,753.79
 - Expenses for October - \$14,364.66
 - Income for January-October - \$104,971.22
 - Expenses for January-October - \$75,008.04
 - Revenue/expense distribution
 - INCOME For Revenues through October – 17% continuing education; 47% Membership dues; 35% Conference; 1% Ads/Sponsorships
 - EXPENSE for Distributions through October - 20% Conference; 7% Board Meeting Expense; 12% Operating Expense; 5% Banking & License; 41% Professional Fees; 12% Continuing Education; 3% Donations
 - New Financial Policy – https://docs.google.com/document/d/12d1NhKvgJoE4S4YGV_Q2qFjSyVxbUpIE/edit
 - After a period of review and questions/discussion by the board, the new financial policy surrounding TNOTA's investment strategy was agreed to be implemented
- Membership Update
 - **Membership Drive:** 121 people either joined or renewed their TNOTA membership from September 12 - October 27.

- These individuals either took \$10 off their join/renewal cost, or an additional 3 months which has been added to their membership.
- **Membership Report for the period 10/1/25 -10/31/25:**
 - 1st year OT: 34 (-2)
 - 1st year OTA: 10 (-2)
 - OT: 386 (-1)
 - OTA: 88 (+6)
 - Retired: 2 (-)
 - Student: 356 (-1)
- **TNOTA Audience Report for the period 10/1/25 -10/31/25:**
 - 3,030 total contacts
 - 141 new contacts
 - 39 deleted contacts
 - 26 unsubscribe
 - 13 hard bounce
- **Insights:**
 - The TNOTA Member Drive was a success, with a high number of new/renewing members coming in just before the end of the drive on October 27
 - The period just before the conference (if we are judging by the join/expiration dates migrated over from the old website) is another period of heavier membership growth, with August being our second biggest month for membership in 2025
 - "Choose your own incentive" programming like the membership drive is something TNOTA might consider replicating in the future
 - OT and Student membership categories continue to dominate the TNOTA member base, which points to opportunities for the specific recruitment of OTA members, especially in their first year of professional practice





- Legislative updates
 - Government shutdown ended without a vote to extend tax cuts for ACA plans
 - There is a potential vote in December
 - Current tax cuts for ACA marketplace plans will expire at the end of 2025
 - This could result in high premiums and loss of healthcare coverage
 - OT Provider Telehealth provision for Medicare patients was expanded through January 2026
- Advocacy Committee
 - Annual Advocacy Update CE took place in October
 - This was free for all, and is posted on the website here:
<https://www.tnota.org/public/advocacy/>
 - Seven new members on the committee, which should expand our capacity as a committee
 - Currently planning for Hill Day 2026, with a potential date change
 - Next committee meeting is Monday, November 17
 - The TN Brain Injury Association reached out to see how TNOTA might become a strategic partner
- Continuing Education Committee
 - All courses that have been submitted up to this point have been reviewed
 - We've probably surpassed the total number of courses reviewed in 2024, but need to do a quick audit to confirm this
 - Currently we're in a slight lull as the end of the year comes up
 - In general this year has been steadier than years past
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee

- Survey disseminated – [Find it here](#)
 - Conference accessibility checklist draft is started
 - Upcoming CE event: Beyond Accessibility: Confronting healthcare barriers faced by people with disabilities
 - Currently reaching out to those who have expressed interest in participating to see if they will be new committee members
- Mental Health Committee
 - Put together our 2026 Suicide Prevention Training schedule
 - One every other month starting on February 7
 - Increased class size to 60 people
 - Thank you to the four facilitators who are continuing to teach these courses in 2026
- Mentorship Committee
 - Great turnout on October 21 for the mentorship CE course
 - This is the last week of our mentor-mentee pairs working together for this 6th cycle!
 - With assistance from TNOTA staff, we made language revisions and added new questions to our post-surveys.
 - Now soliciting testimonials from participants to use in promotional materials going forward
 - Our 7th cycle of mentors/mentees begins in August 2026.
 - Shout-out to all Mentorship committee members for their dedication and professionalism.
- OTA Connect Committee
 - Official planning for the resource guide has begun with planned rough draft by March 2026
 - Will be sending out an email to TNOTA board members to get feedback once draft is created
- Philanthropy Committee
 - Nominations for 2026 Philanthropy Partner open through Nov. 15, then voting from Nov. 20-Dec. 15. A Recent video has been made for distribution for members regarding philanthropy.
- Student Involvement Committee
 - Next meeting is November 25, focused on NBCOT preparation

- TNOTF
 - Keep an eye out for information about a separate student scholarship for second career OT/OTA students

- RA Updates
 - Nothing to report

- East District
 - Robert and the East District Leadership team have developed a brief bulletin
 - There is a goal of putting together 4 CE events for 2026 before the end of the year

- Middle District
 - Upcoming events:
 - 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.
 - We are currently planning a second middle TN OTP student event for early 2026.
 - We will meet in early 2026 to plan our events for the upcoming year.

- Northeast District
 - Not in attendance.
 - Report: We had 3 people attend our Compliance Day. It went well with lots of discussion, just unfortunate that we had lower attendance this year. District secretary Kim Masker is planning to submit her resignation for personal reasons.

- Rural West District
 - Compliance Day took place on November 1 and it went well
 - We had 10 participants in the recent PAMs training on November 8 as well
 - Upcoming course on December 11

- Southeast District
 - Working on Stroke Rehabilitation CEU (vivistim) for 2026
 - Open position: District Secretary
 - Working on an in-person CE event for fieldwork educators

- West District
 - Anne Zachry and Mary Dreyer Smith will step down November 30 and Evelyn Daniel will start on December 1 - welcome Evelyn!
 - Goals to increase outreach across the district to meet more OTPs in the western part of the state

Student Representatives & School Reports

- Belmont University
 - Programs are wrapping up for the semester - after Thanksgiving will be finals
 - Everyone is looking forward to the break
- East TN State
 - Semester is winding down, 3rd years last week of level 2s this week. 2nd and 1st years have 3 more weeks of classes!
 - SOTA had a really successful October trunk-or-treat event volunteering with BabySteps clinic.
 - Have a November movie night (Pjs and polar express) coming up soon.
 - Also planning a coat/winter gear drive for the community this month and next
- Jackson State
 - Not in attendance
- Lincoln Memorial University
 - Not in attendance
- Milligan University
 - 3rd years are officially done with Level 2 fieldwork.
 - 2nd years are finishing up orthotic making and 1B fieldwork.
 - 1st years are wrapping up their literature review for research.
 - We are participating in the Buddy Walk Saturday and SOTA will have their program wide Thanksgiving meal this week!
- Nashville State
 - First years are finishing up their first semester and getting ready for fieldwork
 - Lots of final prep beginning now
 - 16-week rotation starts in January

- Roane State
 - Not in attendance

- South College Nashville
 - Not in attendance

- Tennessee State University
 - Interprofessional education event on Friday with the college of health science
 - Third years are finishing up their final level 2
 - First years are wrapping up their first semester

- Tennessee Wesleyan
 - Thesis presentations are coming up
 - First years are finishing up anatomy
 - SOTA just did “tiny trees” which was a great event - donating decorated trees to the children’s hospital
 - Did an interprofessional day with U-Tennessee which went well

- UT- Chattanooga
 - 1st years are finishing the semester strong & practicing doing activity analyses with fun holiday activities.
 - 2nd years just finished level 1 pediatric fieldwork & working on fundraising for AOTA with Krispy Kreme!
 - 3rd years just finished their first level 2 fieldwork experience.
 - Here is the link for anyone who wants some donuts + to support us in raising money to go to AOTA! –
https://www.groupraise.com/oc/67510/5TBY35?utm_campaign=tmcmp_copy_url&utm_medium=social&utm_source=offers_promo

- UTHSC (Memphis)
 - Orthotics week just concluded
 - Peds case study interventions were presented
 - Evidence-based practice poster presentations took place this week as well
 - SOTA had a bake sale that was successful
 - Local Memphis museum did an event to fundraise for the children’s hospital for which the SOTA contributed by decorating an OT-themed Christmas tree

- Walters State Community College
 - Not in attendance

MSC Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting is taking place via Zoom December 11 at 7:00 pm Central

| Action | Date | Who |
|--|-------------|-------|
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| December Newsletter submissions are due November 20th . You can submit on the Executive Board webpage | November 20 | Board |
| Continue to engage with TNOTA social media posts | Rolling | Board |