

## **TNOTA Board Meeting December 11, 2025**

**In attendance:** Abigail Jones, Alyssa Campbell, Anna Fung, Anna Stogner, Audrey Owens, Brandy McCarter, Christy Watt, Cindy Blackwell, David Eades, Evelyn Daniel, Gigi Jordan, Kimberly Jessee, Madi Cary, Maggie Davidson, Martin Davis, Stephanie Lancaster, Stedmon Hopkins, Sydnee Duncan, Taylor Kozell, Valery Hanks

**Not in attendance:** Abilene Hurd, Alison Stewart, Amanda Newbern, Ashley Robertson, Barbara Meussner, Bhumika Patel, Cameron Jean, Christian Johnson, Cynthia Hickman, Hanna Saxon, Jennifer Crowder, Kaylie Garner, Macy Franks, Molly Boothroyd, Reagan Turner, Robert Mullaney, Rosemary Lewis, Sandra Dicks

**Staff in attendance:** Zach McElgunn, Peggy McElgunn

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***MSC to accept the minutes as submitted for Nov. 2025.***

### **Action Items for TNOTA Board members**

- Please update any CE events that you've had [here!](#)
- Please submit any district, committee, or CE events ASAP using the [Executive Board webpage](#) at least 30 days prior to the event.
- January Newsletter submissions are due **December 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](mailto:president@tnota.org) and [admin@tnota.org](mailto:admin@tnota.org)
- Please continue to engage with TNOTA social media posts.

### **Upcoming Events**

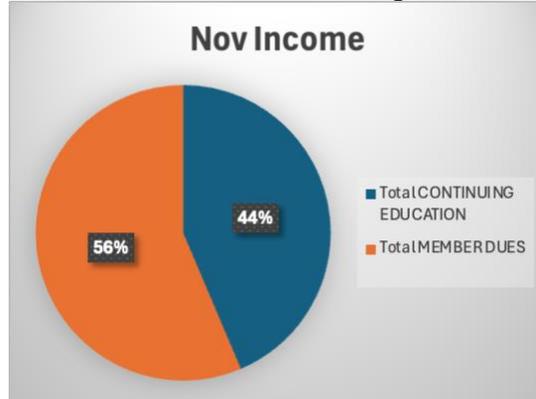
- **Please watch our social media and website for announcements and information about continuing education events as more learning opportunities are planned.**
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### **Announcements**

- New business/updates:
  - Board members were encouraged to vote in the election through Dec. 15 if they haven't already done so
  - 2026 Strategic Planning Meeting in Nashville on Jan. 10 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST. All are encouraged to attend.
    - Hilton Nashville Downtown - 121 4th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37201
  - 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 [conferencecommittee@tnota.org](mailto:conferencecommittee@tnota.org)
  
- Financial update
  - TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY - \$202,687.40
  - Income for November - \$3,669.83

- Expenses for November - \$6,470.88
- Income for January-November – 108,641.05
- Expenses for January-November – 81,478.92
- Revenue/expense distribution
  - INCOME For Revenues through November –



- EXPENSE for Distributions through November –



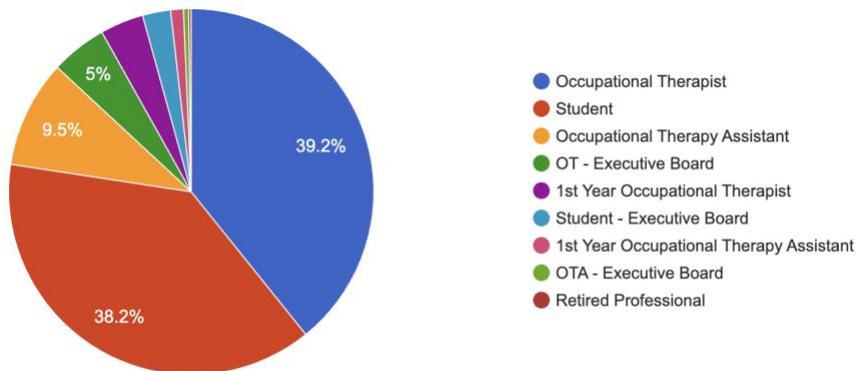
- New Financial Policy –
  - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/12d1NhKvgJoE4S4YGV\\_Q2qFjSyVxbUpIE/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12d1NhKvgJoE4S4YGV_Q2qFjSyVxbUpIE/edit)
- After a period of review and questions/discussion by the board, the new financial policy surrounding TNOTA's investment strategy was agreed to be implemented.

- Membership Update

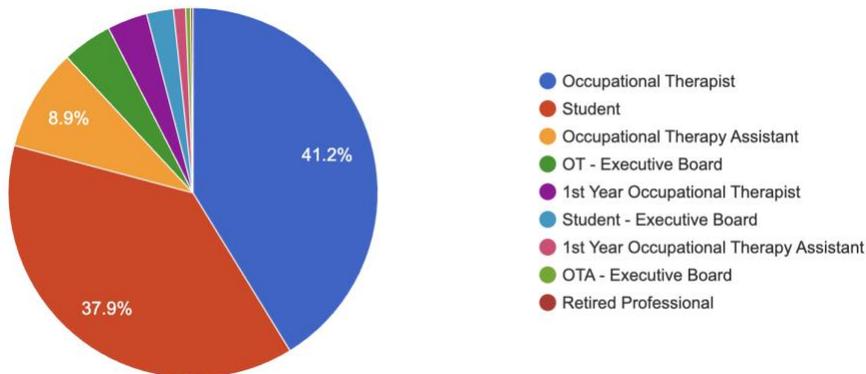
- **Membership Report for the period 11/1/25 -11/30/25:**
  - 1st year OT: 33 (-1)
  - 1st year OTA: 10 (-)
  - OT: 387 (+1)
  - OTA: 84 (-4)
  - Retired: 2 (-)
  - Student: 356 (-)
- **TNOTA Audience Report for the period 11/1/25 -11/30/25:**
  - 3,039 total contacts

- 135 new contacts
- 21 deleted contacts
  - 16 unsubscribe
  - 5 hard bounce
- **Insights:**
  - Only mild fluctuations in member counts in November. It's not likely that we will see the sort of influx we saw during the member drive each month.
  - Regarding deleted contacts – the hard bounces likely reflect new work emails, the transition from school to work, and/or the continued slow “pruning” of inherited memberclicks data

**As of November 13, 2025:**



**As of December 11, 2025:**



- Legislative updates
  - Vote in senate subcommittees on 2 different bills to extend the federal ACA subsidies (FAILED)
    - Democratic Bill: Proposed extending the enhanced ACA tax credits for three years to prevent premium spikes.

- Republican Bill: Offered an alternative, focusing on Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and market reforms, but was opposed by Democrats for not addressing immediate premium costs
    - Subsidies set to expire January 1, which will increase premiums and may result in loss of coverage for a significant number of people
  - Success with Medicare physician fee schedule for 2026
    - OT reimbursement codes got a 1.0+% bump
    - CMS has included OT telehealth codes in a list of permanent telehealth codes
  - AOTA watching the Dept of Ed changes, as special Ed accountability falls increasingly to the states
  - Classification of OT Programs as graduate vs. professional programs
    - This results in a federal student loan cap for graduate school
- Advocacy Committee
  - Planning Hill Day 2026 – **February 24-25, 2026**
  - Meeting with the lobbyist and staff next week to determine/finalize the date
  - State Association legislative group is sharing some phenomenal ideas about how Hill Day takes place in other states
- Continuing Education Committee
  - First 2026 request has come through, so that is being reviewed
- 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
- Mental Health Committee
  - TNOTA recognizes and conveys gratitude to Katy Schmidt who has served as Chair of this committee for the past ~2 years. Due to a move out of state, Katy is stepping down from this role and Kimberly Jessee will now be chair of this committee.
  - The majority of the suicide prevention trainings to be provided by the TNOTA Mental Health Committee are already planned for 2026 – <https://www.tnota.org/education/suicide-prevention/>
  - CoP Calls are also being re-vamped with an eye on bringing new voices, energy, and perspectives to the Mental Health committee

- Mentorship Committee
  - Eight mentors and mentees completed our 10-month mentorship cycle as of late November! This was the 6th annual cycle for mentors and mentees.
  - With assistance from TNOTA staff, we made revisions to various survey responses and language, and we have added new questions to our post-surveys.
  - We have an 88% response rate to our post-cycle surveys for mentors and mentees, and with help of TNOTA staff we are continuing efforts to reach 100%.
  - We have gathered our first video testimonial from a mentee; we will be working with staff to utilize this for the New Year.
  - Our 7th cycle of the mentorship program begins in August 2026.
  - The focus of 2026 winter and spring is to revise our pre-and post-survey language and content.
  
- 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. No new update for December meeting waiting for new philanthropy partner
  
- Student Involvement Committee
  - Last meeting was focused on NBCOT prep
  - Students are looking for content that is focused on:
    - Occupational balance
    - Interdisciplinary collaboration
  - Excited for the 2026 student lounge at conference
  
- TNOTF
  - The application for the remaining student scholarship award - the OT2 Scholarship - will be open next week through Feb. 1.
  
- RA Updates
  - Feb. 2-20 is the CommunOT window where AOTA members can make requests for actions and participate in discussion about those requests. If anyone has any particular topics of concern you'd like for -Amanda to bring up to the RA, email her at [adnewbern@gmail.com](mailto:adnewbern@gmail.com)

- East District
  - CE event being planned for early 2026
  
- Middle District
  - Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 6:30 pm CST - Grant Writing in Occupational Therapy: Turning Ideas Into Funded Initiatives CEU presentation hosted by Aspire OT featuring Dr. Debra Gibbs and Dr. A Jackson of Belmont University. We had 18 attendees.
  - 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
  - Already planning for next year
  - Hoping to increase contact from our district members in 2026
  
- Rural West District
  - CE Event that occurred today (12/11) went well and was recorded
  - Compliance Day and Jackson PAMs have dates that will be shared via TNOTA communications soon!
  
- Southeast District
  - Working on Stroke Rehabilitation CEU (vivistim) for 2026
  - Working on an in-person CE event for fieldwork educators
  - Working on virtual wheelchair seating and complex rehab CE event
  
- West District
  - Seating and Positioning CE coming up
  - Developing an opportunity for a capstone student (potentially) to participate with Church Health in Memphis
  - CE focused on barriers to healthcare and/or community hospitals - focused on the NW and SW part of Tennessee

### **Student Representatives & School Reports**

- Belmont University
  - Finals are done as of today
  - Last week several university clubs collaborated to distribute resources to unhoused individuals

- East TN State
  - Today was the last day of finals
  - First years finished up their neuro practical today
  - Looking forward to the holidays
  - SOTA movie night in November went well
  
- Jackson State
  - Not in attendance
  
- Lincoln Memorial University
  - Not in attendance
  
- Milligan University
  - Not in attendance
  
- Nashville State
  - Not in attendance
  
- Roane State
  - Finals finished on Wednesday so we are all on break
  - Fieldwork is starting soon
  
- South College Nashville
  - Not in attendance
  
- Tennessee State University
  - Finished up last week
  
- Tennessee Wesleyan
  - Last fundraising event of the semester was a success
  - Thesis presentations took place this week which was great
  
- UT- Chattanooga

- Everyone is on break
- Third years finished up level 2 fieldwork and start capstone in January
- First years getting into fieldwork in January as well
  
- UTHSC (Memphis)
  - Today was the last day of class for our second years, and white coat is tomorrow (12/12)
  - Both cohorts closed out the term strongly with finals, practicals, and time spent in the CHIPS lab.
  - Second-year students and UTHSC nursing students collaborated to mobilize simulated patients connected to lines and tubes.
  - First-year students had their bed mobility and transfers practical. Can't wait for Term 2 and to hear how the second year's Level II fieldwork journeys begin.
  
- Walters State Community College
  - Not in attendance

**MSC Meeting was adjourned**

**Next meeting will be asynchronous in light of the **January 10 Strategic Planning meeting in Nashville****

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Who</b>
Please update any CE events that you've had <a href="#">here!</a>	January 10 (before the strategic planning meeting)	Board
Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2026 using the <a href="#">Executive Board webpage</a>	ASAP	Board
January Newsletter submissions are due <b>December 20th</b> . You can submit on the <a href="#">Executive Board webpage</a>	December 20	Board

Continue to engage with TNOTA social media posts	Rolling	Board
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