

TNOTA Board Meeting April 9, 2026

In attendance: Molly Boothroyd, Abby Noblitt, Val, Kristin Soderberg, Hanna Saxon, Hannah Dougherty, Anna Fung, Makenzi S, Kimberly Jessee, Mikayla Gale, Jamison Cowart, Nolan Ellis, Cindy Blackwell, Stephanie Lancaster, Bhumika, Rach, Abigail Jones, Nicole, Annie McDermott, Stedmon Hopkins, Allie Jones, Maggie Davidson, Rosemary, Anna Stogner, Christine Watt, Martin Davis, Julia Johnson, Barbara Meussner, Nicole Ayers, Rachel Palmer, Cameron Jean, Audrey Owens, Jen Crowder, Tabitha Gibbs,

Not in attendance: David Eades, Alison Stewart, Cindy Hickman, Taylor Kozell, Amanda Newbern, Gigi Jordan, Alyssa Campbell, Jennifer Bolay, Kaylie Garner, Sandra Dicks, Evelyn Daniel, Christian Johnson, Macy Franks, Sydnee Duncan

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

MSC to accept the minutes as submitted for March. 2026

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.
- You can submit any communication requests 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.**
 - President, VP, and Treasurer nominations/elections will be coming up in the Fall
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Announcements

- Board member news
- New business/updates:
 - TNOTA email address update:
 - Best email address to reach me: president@tnota.org
 - TNOTA email accounts that will be maintained as of 5-1-26: that one plus admin@tnota.org

- Abby Hill, TNOTA's first Capstone student will complete her Capstone Experience on April 10, 2026. She has been working with the Mental Health Committee Chair and has helped me further organize the process for onboarding Capstone students.
 - Plan for [Awards](#)/Awards Team
 - Open positions & recommendations:
 - OTA Connect Committee (members and chair)
 - Advocacy Committee members
 - Diversity & Inclusion Committee members
 - District level leadership team members:
 - West District – Vice Chair & Secretary
 - Middle District – Secretary
 - East District – Vice Chair & Secretary
 - If you did not get the email on Monday with the agenda for this meeting, please note that in the chat so staff can address that.
 - Annie McDermott and Julia Johnson did not receive; Mikayla Gayle (TSU), Kristin Soderberg (ETSU), and Rachel Palmer (LMU) will need to be added; Michelle Roth is joining Rural West team
- TNOTA Annual Conference Updates
 - 2026 Conference in Nashville at Scarritt Bennett on Sept 18-20, 2026. Theme is "Finding our Rhythm: OT in a Changing World"
 - Keynote speakers are confirmed
 - Preconference on Friday will be QPR Training and E&J
 - Call for papers is open - deadline May 15th
 - Sponsorship form is live
 - 2027 confirmed for South College in Knoxville Sept 17-19, 2027

Financial Report for February 2026

- Financial Report for March 2026 (pending totals)
- We had a small number of vote for the authorization to move forward with the financial planning item presented last month, but it was 100% in favor. Thank you to those who voted for helping move this forward.
- Financials will be sent out via email for review next week.

GROUP ACTIVITY

Strategic Deep Dive: Task Mapping - see [Actionables document HERE](#) to see which Zoom Breakout Room you should attend. If you're not already listed on one of the teams on that document, go to any Room you want to join that team!

"Champion" Pulse Check - Lead or designee of each team to share a 60-second update on a specific objective or actionable task. This can include something currently hindering progress that the full board could help resolve - or something the teams wants to see pushed forward in the coming weeks.

- Membership Update
 - **Membership Report for the period 3/11/26 - 4/9/26:**
 - 1st year OT: 31 (-1)
 - 1st year OTA: 8 (-)
 - OT: 397 (+3)
 - OTA: 81 (-5)
 - Retired: 1 (-1)
 - Student: 342 (-5)
 - TOTAL members: 860
 - **TNOTA Audience Report for the same period:**
 - Total contacts: 3,162
 - New contacts: 32

- Legislative updates
 - Session started in January
 - Reviewed House Bill 2539 from Dept. of Health, which would change the structure of many licensing boards
 - Occupational Therapy is amended out of this bill
 - [House Bill 1887](#) creates a 3 year pilot program that would allow for pediatric extended care centers
 - [HB1711](#)
 - Budget needs to pass before adjourning; expected to be go forward up next week upon which things will slow down significantly

- Advocacy Committee
 - Successful Hill Day Recap & Advocacy update on April 1 (posted to the website)
 - Edits to simplify the Advocacy webpage
 - Advocacy committee planning for a CEU on Monday, May 4 at 6pm (7pm EST)

- Continuing Education Committee
 - We have had a number of people express interest in joining the committee and I am in the process of onboarding them!

- Diversity & Inclusion Committee
 - No major updates for this meeting
 - Still working toward finalizing some details for district/community meet-ups.

- Mental Health Committee

- Restoring Meaning After Trauma with Abby Hill CE -March 26th
- Suicide Prevention -April 7th (55 enrolled, ~38 attended) Attendance is increasing as expected following the expansion to 60 registration slots.
- Significant advocacy efforts by Abby Hill for mental health agencies awareness of OT's role in MH. These efforts were well received.

- Mentorship Committee
 - THE BIG NEWS - applications for mentor and mentee opened April 1 and will stay open through June 15. PLEASE help us spread the word. Please consider applying.
 - We're excited to have recruited 4 great new members to our committee! - Justin Martin, Anna Hardin, Erin dos Santos, and Christy Horner. They are already proving their value.
 - We've kicked off a marketing campaign with lift from our admin Team to double our number of mentor/mentee pairings to 10 or more for the upcoming 7th cycle.
 - We've drafted a simplified and less burdensome documentation format to be used for the 7th cycle.
 - We continue our efforts to hone this program by emphasizing mentorship while decreasing administrative tasks and hoops.
 - Mentorship CEU event this June 4th @ 7:30 pm CT - Niccole Rowe and Kimberly Breeden of Aspire will host a 2-hr interactive session regarding mentorship.

- OTA Connect Committee
 - Not in attendance

- Philanthropy Committee
 - Support efforts in full swing for Crumley house including volunteers, wish list and planning upcoming virtual trivia night

- Student Involvement Committee
 - The TN PromoteOT challenge is underway and there are a number of schools/students participating; next SIC meeting is on May 6th - 7-8pm EDT
**research round-up

- TNOTF/RA Updates
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- East District
 - Looking for volunteers for Vice Chair and Secretary.

- Middle District
 - Looking for a Secretary to join our committee!
 - August CE- Surviving to Thriving- a Guide to school based practice

- Northeast District
 - Hannah developed a great message for a direct email push to our district members; Spring meet and greet canceled as we had only 2 registrants; plan to regroup with new team, we welcome any advice on increasing local member live participation
 - Philanthropy partner Crumley House had Joggin for noggin recently and recent email provides link to help with their wishlist

- Rural West District
 - Developed a new position that has been filled by recent capstone student, Michelle Roth!
 - She has developed a CEU for us under mentorship and it will be held July 9th during a lunch & learn
 - Working on an in person/virtual CEU for May 23 or May 30th on Assistive Technology in Jackson, TN from 9:00am-11:30am
 - PAMS course scheduled for Oct 10 or Oct 11 (TBD)
 - Compliance day scheduled for Nov 7th

- Southeast District
 - Successful In-person FWE CEU course on 23 attendees, good conversation, and connections!
 - The southeast district and the advocacy committee are partnering to present an online CEU course on May 4 from 7:00-8:30 EST.
 - Long COVID CE on July 22, 2026 from 8-9:30pm EST virtually

- West District
 - Not in attendance

Student Representatives & School Reports

- Belmont University
 - Happy Birthday week Abby Hill!!
 - We had a great Go Baby Go event last month!
 - Our new SOTA board was elected today. The new Belmont TNOTA rep will be at the next meeting.

- East TN State
 - Maggie is rolling off the TNOTA board and welcoming Kristin Soderberg to the board!! She is a fantastic edition!
 - New cohort starting in May!
 - 1st years are almost done with their first year and excited for a summer off school.
 - 2nd years are wrapping up didactic in 5 weeks and ready to head to levels 2s and be pinned the first week of May.
 - 3rd years are about to graduate now! SOTA is planning a field day between our PT and O&P departments to take place at the end of April for an interprofessional event to celebrate the end of a busy and tough semester well done.
 - Our current SOTA board is also rolling off and transitioning the new SOTA board into their leadership roles.

- Jackson State
 - Not in attendance

- Lincoln Memorial University
 - New cohort: coming up in may- we are finalizing numbers
 - 1st years: Are finishing up their 1st year!!!
 - 2nd years: Are about to go on level 2 fieldworks come may
 - Research symposium, May 7th 4-6pm- knoxville convention center, room 301 ABC
 - Two CEU will be available
 - 3rd years: Are about to graduate and defined capstone
 - Our new sota board will be taking over this month!
 - Happy OT month!!!

- Milligan University
 - Not in attendance

- Nashville State
 - Not in attendance

- Roane State
 - Second year students are working hard on their level 2B fieldwork and first years are finishing up their level 1B fieldwork placements and everyone is busy busy with everything this semester entails!
 - We held a collaboration lab with Tennessee Wesleyan OT students today and it was a wonderful time.

- We reviewed case studies and evaluations the OT students provided and we worked together to establish intervention ideas for our clients.
- South College Nashville
 - Not in attendance
- Tennessee State University
 - The first years are on their very first level I placements this week in the pediatric setting. The second years took our final cumulative competency exams this week, so we're glad to be done with those. Our SOTA board is transitioning to our incoming board members, so the new TSU student rep is here tonight to see how meetings usually run. Her name is Mikayla Gale, and I am sure she will do a great job!
- Tennessee Wesleyan
 - Not in attendance
- UT- Chattanooga
 - First and second years are finishing up their classes, preparing for practicals, and beginning to study for finals.
 - Our second years are nervous but excited to begin their first level 2 fieldwork experience.
 - Our third years are finishing their capstones & will present them soon!
- UTHSC (Memphis)
 - First-year students are completing their first week of Level I pediatric fieldwork, while second-year students are transitioning from their first Level II placement into their second rotations.
- Walters State Community College
 - The seniors are still completing their level II fieldwork placements.
 - The first year students are in the middle of leading their group sessions at The Crumley House, and planning their group sessions at The McNabb Center in Knoxville, TN.
 - Today the first year students attended the Tennessee of Academy of Science Eastern Collegiate Division at Walter's State Niswonger Campus to support a member of the cohort who completed an oral presentation and other members exhibited their research posters from the previous semester.

MSC Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting will be May 14, 2026, at 7 p.m. Central

Action	Date	Who
Please submit any district, committee, or CEU events ASAP for 2026 using the Executive Board webpage	ASAP	Board
Communications requests (social media, email) can be submitted here on the Executive Board webpage	Rolling	Board
Continue to engage with TNOTA social media posts	Rolling	Board