

TNOTA Board Meeting February 12, 2026

In attendance: Abby Noblitt, Abigail Jones, Amanda Newbern, Anna Fung, Annie McDermott, Cameron Jean, Cindy Blackwell, Christy Watt, David Eades, Evelyn Daniel, Hanna Saxon, Jennifer Crowder, Julia Johnson, Maggie Davidson, Martin Davis, Natalie Eastone, Nicole Ayers, Nolan Ellis, Reagan Turner, Stedmon Hopkins, Sydnee Duncan, Taylor Kozell, Stephanie Lancaster, Valery Hanks, Mikayla Stephens

Not in attendance: Abilene Hurd, Alison Stewart, Barbara Meussner, Bhumika Patel, Christian Johnson, Cynthia Hickman, Gigi Jordan, Kaylie Garner, Kimberly Jessee, Macy Franks, Molly Boothroyd, Rosemary Lewis, Sandra Dicks, Kimberly Jessee, Madi Cary

Staff in attendance: Zach McElgunn, Peggy McElgunn

MSC to accept the minutes as submitted for Dec. 2025 and Jan. 2026 (strategic planning)

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.
- March Newsletter submissions are due **February 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.**
 - President, VP, and Treasurer nominations/elections will be coming up in the Fall
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Announcements

- Board member news
- New business/updates:

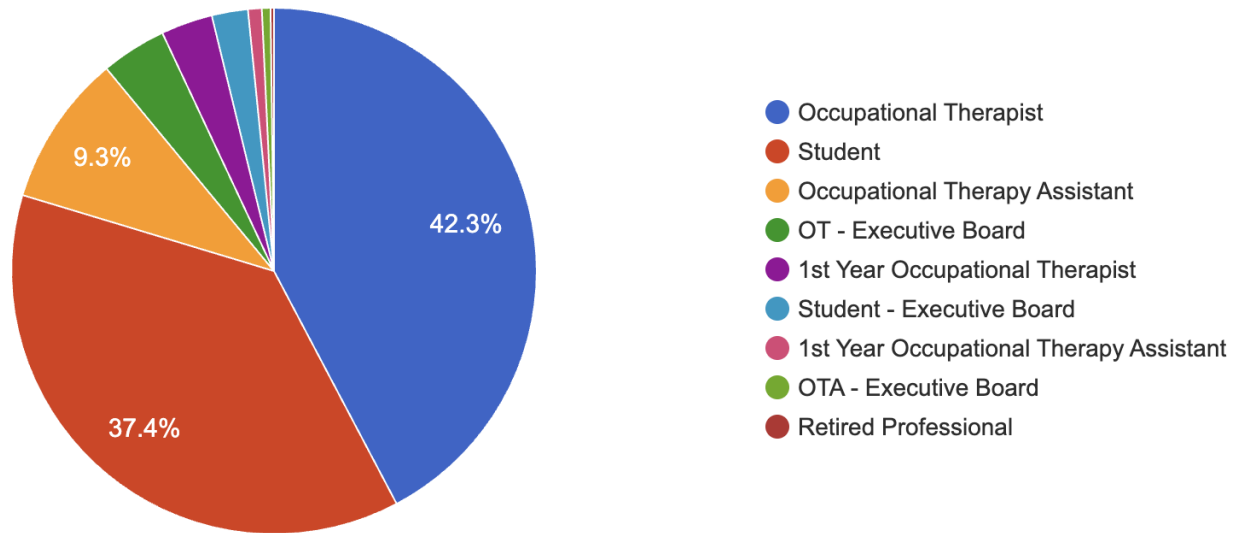
- Our CE partners Aspire OT shared that 18 of our members registered for January's Elevate webinar "Beyond Tabletop: Creative and Practical Activities for Supporting Motor Skills." (Those registrations individually would have cost \$580.) Any member that registered but did not attend the webinar has been enrolled in the self-paced version. The next Aspire OT provided Elevate event is Feb. 17: "Occupational Therapy & Self-management: Understanding OT's Role in Treating Chronic Conditions " - free to TNOTA members.
- TNOTA's first Capstone student will complete her Capstone Experience Jan. 5 - April 10, 2026. She will be working with the Mental Health Committee Chair and may also want to connect with the Advocacy team and participate in Hill Day. Welcome, Abby!
- **Plan for this meeting, as a follow up to the Strategic Planning Meeting - see [Actionables document HERE](#)**
- *OT/OTA Program and Student/New Grad Engagement*
 - Having a new grad guide like an informal mentorship that facilitates a live chat for discussion
 - Virtual job fair with breakout rooms for each setting + TNOTA "main room"
 - "Resume Rescue Clinic" at the conference
- *Service and Advocacy Work*
 - A lot of work recently on Hill Day prep
 - AOTA Legislative Action Center - replicating on the TNOTA website with a "plug and play" email template
 - Testimonials from people who have received OT services and other experiential feedback about the impact of advocacy work
 - Advocacy Committee members could write briefs regarding the issues being followed as well
- *Marketing and Communications*
 - Rebranding TNOTA's social media to spark new interest and gain new followers (including a bio update)
 - Microvolunteers (social media takeovers, etc.)
 - GRWM with healthcare items and adaptive equipment
- *Member Recruitment and Retention*
 - Awards and recognition for members
 - New Practitioner discount could be combined with a graduation gift
 - District meet ups at conference - like roundtables - where volunteer opportunities are discussed
- **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"
 - Logo is ready - share screen
 - Working on collaboration music therapy and OT for keynote
 - Next meeting Feb 24th and will be opening call for papers end of March/first of April

- Financial update
 - \$210,237.73
 - TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY
 - \$210,237.73
 - [Balance Sheet](#)
 - [Profit Loss](#)
 - [Comparison](#)
- Investment Management – [one proposal](#) (do we want to request more?)
- Income for January
 - \$(-2,219.37)
- Expenses for January-February
 - \$8,123.41
- Income for January-February
 - \$(-2,219.37)

Note on Net Income for January: Quarterly expenses have been withdrawn, but quarterly profits will be added as they are actually accrued. This is why we have a negative number for the month of January.

- Membership Update
 - **Membership Report for the period 12/1/25 - 2/12/26:**
 - 1st year OT: 30 (-3)
 - 1st year OTA: 8 (-2)
 - OT: 399 (+12)
 - OTA: 88 (+4)
 - Retired: 2 (-)
 - Student: 353 (-3)
 - **TNOTA Audience Report for the period 12/1/25 - 2/12/26:**
 - 3,065 total contacts
 - 112 new contacts
 - 49 deleted contacts
 - 26 unsubscribe
 - 22 hard bounce
 - 1 deleted manually

As of February 12, 2025:



- Legislative updates
 - Medicare telehealth waivers extended through 2027 to allow OTPs to do telehealth through 12/31/27.
 - Attended state affairs webinar, which discussed federal and state issues including medicaid reimbursement and pending cuts in some states, rural health transformation initiative, board consolidation, license portability/rapid entry into field, and regulation reviews

- Advocacy Committee
 - Planning Hill Day 2026 – **February 25, 2026**
 - Advocacy toolkit will have handouts and talking points
 - We will also have some email scripts and in-person scripts for meeting with legislators
 - Hill Day Recap on April 1, 2026

- Continuing Education Committee
 - The committee has reviewed our first two courses of the year!

- Diversity & Inclusion Committee
 - Meeting 1/16/2026.

- Drafted questions that we would like to send to the AOTA President and share her answers during Black History Month - interview occurring next week
 - The group would like to start a message board or discussion forum of some sort for individuals with shared identities or interests
 - Working on posts for Black History Month.
 - Looking ahead to March being Women's history and Arab American Month.
- Mental Health Committee
 - SWe had 50 participants at the Suicide Prevention class on Saturday. Largest virtual attendance to date. Our Capstone student is working diligently on advocacy pamphlets, preparing for Hill Day and developing our new CE - scheduled for March 26th (Restoring Meaning after Trauma: Identity Reconstruction through Occupations)
- Mentorship Committee
 - Committee met on Jan 21; next mtg scheduled for Feb 18th.
 - Several Committee Members met this week to plan a research design using mased mentorship survey data. There's a lot more to come of this in the next year; OT students at TSU and Belmont will be involved in lit searches and data interpretation.
 - Our 7th cycle of mentorship will begin this August.
 - We extend sincere gratitude to the service of Logan Herndon on our committee and are hopeful she might rejoin soon.
 - Upcoming events - Kim and Niccole of Aspire will host a 2-hour panel discussion of prior mentors and mentees, likely in early summer. More details forthcoming!
- OTA Connect Committee
 - Ashley has resigned as Chair of the committee.
- Philanthropy Committee
 - 2026 Philanthropy Partner Crumley House, CH had a meeting set for 1/9 however the community partner did not show, CH reached out to reschedule and that meeting is set for Monday, Feb. 16. Hoping to coordinate in-person volunteer opportunities for students and practitioners nearby (NE TN).
- Student Involvement Committee
 - first meeting of the year happened on 02/11/26:
 - Discussion on shaping your professional identity and what may be involved in

that process

- Understanding the role of state & national organizations & their impact on practice (ACOTE, AOTA, TNOTA, NBCOT, AJOT, WFOT, AOTF)
 - Interdisciplinary collaboration
 - Traditional vs emerging practice areas
 - Entrepreneurship & OT practice
 - Next meeting is on all things FW!
- TNOTF
 - TNOTF news: 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
- East District
 - Robert Mullaney has stepped down as Chair of East District, moving into the role of Newsletter Editor. Julia is now the Chair of the district. Looking for volunteers for Vice Chair and Secretary.
- Middle District
 - Gigi, Alyssa, and Dave to establish a meeting for planning 2026 events.
 - Middle Tennessee OT and OTA students will gather for a Q1 event. Date and time TBD.
 - We hope to host a follow-up grants presentation in 2026; we are awaiting consideration of the presenters from our December '25 Aspire event.
- Northeast District
 - Welcome to the district's new co-chair, Jennifer Bolay, and secretary, Hannah Dougherty!
- Rural West District
 - We have both Compliance Day and PAMs courses scheduled for 2026.
 - We are working with Krystal Barnes for next meeting TBD

- Southeast District
 - Fieldwork Educators Course March 28th - in person.
- West District
 - Q1 CEU 2/24/26: Seating and modifications
 - Q2 CEU 5/19/26: Barriers to healthcare in an urban setting and ways OT can help (Church Health Center)
 - Q3 CEU 9/15/26: Grant Writing 101 and ways to be most effective in writing
 - Q4: (hopefully) E&J +/- Suicide Prevention

Student Representatives & School Reports

- Belmont University
 - Our OTD, MSOT, and PPOTD programs are getting back into the swing of things after being out for the ice storm.
 - We are excited to have some students and professors attend Hill Day.
 - Belmont's annual Go-Baby-Go event is about to start for the semester. Belmont students will adapt ride-on toy cars for young children with mobility challenges. A 3rd year OTD capstone student is currently trying to get the word out about Go-Baby-Go to families. If you know a family who might be interested, please help spread the word. The criteria for the child, the date of the events, and the family/child interest form can be found at this [link](#).
- East TN State
 - We've enjoyed lots of snow this past week and a handful of virtual/snow days! Our first years got their first level 1 fieldwork placement for this semester and will start in March, second years just got one of their level 2s and are about to get the second level 2 placements for summer and fall. We've started the semester strong and have some fun interprofessional events planned with SOTA and we'll have our annual SOTA formal next Saturday! We have a current donation drive for warm clothes going on right now for the Johnson City Day Center and will have that going til the end of March. Also, one of our faculty research groups is looking for participants for a study on March 7th from 9:00-1:00 there are opportunities for CEUs from this event too!
- Jackson State
 - Not in attendance
- Lincoln Memorial University
 - We are starting classes this upcoming Monday on the 12th! We are very excited

to be back in session!

- Milligan University
 - Our first years are beginning their community experience and involvement at Jeremiah School for pediatrics and just had their first neuro and pediatrics exam. Second years are doing group protocol in Community Based OT. We just had SOTA elections and first years are in our meetings. We have our formal in two weeks and this week we 'adopted a grandparent' at the local nursing home to make Valentines Day cards for.
- Nashville State
 - Not in attendance
- Roane State
 - We have had a wonderful start to the year! Our second year cohort is a month into their level 2 fieldwork and the first years are preparing to begin their 1B's the week after next. SOTA just held the first monthly meeting, and newly elected board members are settling into their new positions. We have begun work on a short promotional video for OT to put on the RSCC website. Roane State is looking forward to hosting the TNOTA Physical Agent Modalities course on March 28th!
- South College Nashville
 - Not in attendance
- Tennessee State University
 - Our second years are beginning their last semester of didactic coursework and preparing for Level II FW in the summer. Our first years are preparing for a very busy semester. SOTA is about to begin the process of electing new board members and transitioning them into their new positions.
- Tennessee Wesleyan
 - Our second years are starting their level 2 field work, while we start classes on Monday. SOTA is planning to meet our second week back to discuss goals and plans for the semester. We are excited to get back into the swing of things at our new campus!
- UT- Chattanooga

- Our second years are about to go on their geriatric level 1 rotation and getting ready for their upcoming level 2 rotations! Our first years are in neuroscience right now and learning all of the different types of transfers. Our third years began their capstones and getting excited for graduation!
- UTHSC (Memphis)
 - The start to the semester has gone great! The first-year students successfully had their first exams in this semester's courses, and received their tentative level 2 fieldwork placements. The second year students are halfway through their first level 2 placements. SOTA has a soup cook-off fundraiser coming up on 2/27!
- Walters State Community College
 - Our second years will be beginning Level 2 fieldwork on the 13th of January, and first years will begin their second semester of the program soon! We have been enjoying our winter breaks, but are excited to get back to the books.

MSC Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting will be *March 12, 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
March Newsletter submissions are due February 20th . You can submit on the Executive Board webpage	February 20	Board
Continue to engage with TNOTA social media posts	Rolling	Board