

TNOTA Board Meeting March 12, 2026

In attendance: Abby Noblitt, Abby Jones, Alison Stewart, Allie Jones, Alyssa Campbell, Anna Fung, Anna Stogner, Annie McDermott, Audrey Owens, Barbara Meussner, Bhumika Patel, Cameron Jean, Christy Watt, Cindy Blackwell, David Eades, Evelyn Daniel, Hanna Saxon, Hannah Dougherty, Jennifer Bolay, Julia Johnson, Maggie Davidson, Makenzi S., Martin Davis, Nolan Ellis, Reaghan Turner, Russell Ball, Sandra Dicks, Stedmon Hopkins, Sydnee Duncan, Tabitha Gibbs, Taylor Hanks

Not in attendance: Abilene Hurd, Amanda Newbern, Annie McDermott, Christian Johnson, Deana Kendall, Gigi Jordan, Jennifer Crowder, Kaylie Garner, Kimberly Jessee, Macy Franks, Molly Boothroyd, Nicole Ayers, Rosemary Lewis, Valery Hanks

Staff in attendance: Zach McElgunn, Peggy McElgunn

MSC to accept the minutes as submitted for Feb. 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.
- 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
-

Announcements

- Board member news
- New business/updates:
 -
- 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
- Working on collaboration music therapy and OT for keynote.
This has been confirmed
- Forms will open April 1st
- Next meeting March 24th and will be opening call for papers end of March/first of April

Financial Report for February 2026

- \$213,910.48
- TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY – \$213,910.48
 - [Balance Sheet](#)
 - [Profit Loss](#)
 - [Comparison](#)
- Investment Management – [one proposal](#)
 - Board members were asked to respond by poll to approve or decline that new policy and note what was discussed during the meeting about the newly developed policy regarding approval of staff expenditures.
- Total Income for February
 - \$6,420.76
- Expenses for February
 - \$4,181.41
- Net Income for February
 - \$2,239.35
- Membership Update
 - **Membership Report for the period 2/12/26 - 3/11/26:**
 - 1st year OT: 32 (+2)
 - 1st year OTA: 8 (-)
 - OT: 394 (-5)
 - OTA: 86 (-2)
 - Retired: 2 (-)
 - Student: 346 (-7)
 - **TNOTA Audience Report for the period 2/12/25 - 3/11/26:**
 - 3,130 total contacts (+65)
- Legislative updates
 - Cindy gave a thorough update noting the OT Licensure Board possibility of being combined with other boards but we are waiting to see what happens. AOTA is working with us because this is not in the best interest of Occupational Therapy generally.
 - We are working on several bills including the act which potentially could limit OTPs inquiring if someone has a gun.

- Dept. of Health looking to increase efficiencies within the licensing boards with a bill that would consolidate several licensing boards
 - OT will remain autonomous for now!
- Advocacy Committee
 - Hill Day Recap on April 1, 2026.
- Continuing Education Committee
 - Four new courses were submitted towards the end of February/beginning of March
 - New members? Audrey requested the possibility of getting more members to participate.

ACTION → Audrey may reach out to staff to get support for this effort.

- Diversity & Inclusion Committee
 - Discussing how to have meetings in each district to be involved, so that the in-person discussions at conference are as productive as possible.
 - Stedmon's interview with Arameh Anvarizadeh, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA was on the website and was posted through social media.
- Mental Health Committee
 - CE scheduled for March 26 with Abby (TNOTA Capstone Student)
 - LINK: <https://www.tnota.org/mc-events/restoring-meaning-after-trauma-identity-reconstruction-through-occupations/>
 - Looking to connect with Mental Health OT practitioners from across the state (and beyond!)
- Mentorship Committee
 - Committee met on Feb 18th; next meeting on March 18th
 - On-going projects for this year:
 - Research design implementation regarding the effectiveness of TNOTA's Mentorship program utilizing pre-and post-survey data.
 - Simplify and streamline the documents and processes of mentorship meetings and goal-setting while maintaining mentorship best practices.
 - Recruit and add new Committee members with a preference towards those who have participated as mentor or mentee. The committee currently has 5 members. Goal is to get to 10 members.
 - Our 7th cycle of mentorship will begin this August. Individual committee members have begun developing a recruitment plan to increase our participants for the 7th cycle.

- 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
 - Meeting with the Crumley House representative took place last month
 - Next upcoming event is on March 28 - the Joggin for the Noggin 5k and pancake breakfast
- Student Involvement Committee
 - May 6 SIC meeting on fieldwork
- TNOTF/RA Updates
 - OT2 Scholarship has been determined
 - Looking to improve the application process to better support applicants' ability to share their experiences, goals, and accomplishments without a reliance on A.I. tools
- 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
 - 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.
 - David Eades has stepped down as the Middle District Vice Chair to focus on his role as co-chair with Mentorship Committee, Alyssa Campbell is now the Vice Chair. Currently looking for a secretary for the middle district.
- Northeast District
 - Welcome to the district's new vice chair- Russell Ball!

- April 2 meet & greet event taking place at the Greeneville Community Hospital Ballad Campus.
- 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
 - Tabitha Gibbs is new to leadership in the district
 - Qrt. 1 FWE CEU, In-person, March 28th
 - Qrt. 2 TBA soon!
 - Qrt. 3 CEU Long Covid - (July)
 - Qrt. 4 TBD
- West District
 - First CE is planned April 14 on the WFOT Congress which took place this past year in Bangkok Thailand.
 - CE event link: <https://www.tnota.org/mc-events/19th-annual-wfot-congress-recap-2026/>
 - Q2 CE will focus on barriers to healthcare in an urban setting on July 17.

Student Representatives & School Reports

- Belmont University
 - Second year OTDs are being led by a 3rd year capstone student in a go-baby-go event with Vanderbilt engineers to adapt car toy rides for children with mobility challenges
 - A cohort of students just got back from Honduras, where they travelled with the PT and pharmacy students

ACTION → Anna Stogner to reach out to Stephanie and Zach regarding a social media takeover for the Go Baby Go event

- East TN State
 - SOTA had a formal at the end of February, which was interprofessional
 - Third year students are about halfway through their capstones
- Jackson State
 - Collaborating with other universities in the area
 - Second annual pickleball tournament is next month

- Working with Crumley House on March 28

- Lincoln Memorial University
 - Not in attendance

- Milligan University
 - 1st years are on their 1A pediatrics fieldwork and 2nd years on their 1C adult physical dysfunction fieldwork. 1st years just had their Biomechanics Lab practical and 2nd years just had a collaboration with the Milligan PA program. SOTA hosted a formal program wide 2 weeks ago and are preparing for our 2nd annual pickleball tournament.

- Nashville State
 - Not in attendance

- Roane State
 - First years have hit the ground running with psychosocial fieldwork
 - SOTA is producing a promotional video for occupational therapy
 - March 28 PAMs course is being hosted at Roane state university and they're excited to host more continuing ed.

- South College Nashville
 - Not in attendance

- Tennessee State University
 - Gearing up for level II's in the sommer

- Tennessee Wesleyan
 - Spring Break just ended
 - Getting through the exam season
 - Just finished up a cookie fundraiser for the SOTA
 - A guest speaker focused on pelvic floor came to speak, which was great.
 - Diaper drive for Generous House is coming up as well

- UT- Chattanooga
 - Our SOTA Valentine's Day bake sale & PT/OT formal was super fun, and they were able to raise money for the AOTA conference.

- Our first-year students are finishing up neuroscience and had their transfer practical today.
- Our second-year students are currently finishing up their last level 1 fieldwork with the geriatric population this week, and our third-year students are working on their capstone projects!
- UTHSC (Memphis)
 - Our SOTA Soup Cookout was a huge success! First-year students are preparing to head to their first Level I fieldwork placements, while second-year students are finishing up their first Level II placements.
- Walters State Community College
 - Our SOTA 1st year students are preparing for our Level I B fieldwork placements in mental health, and we completed our collaboration with ETSU and Milligan OT students. We are also looking forward for the Joggin ur 2nd year students are in their Level II fieldwork placements.

MSC Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting will be **April 9, 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
Newsletter submissions are requested by March 20th . You can submit on the Executive Board webpage	March 20	Board
Continue to engage with TNOTA social media posts	Rolling	Board