

TNOTA Board Meeting May 14, 2026

In attendance: Nolan Ellis, Cindy Blackwell, Mikayla Gale, Rachel Palmer, Nicole Ayers, Anna Fung, Amanda Newbern, Gigi Jordan, Kristin Soderberg, Bhumika Patel, Rosemary Lewis, Julia Johnson, Audrey Owens, Evelyn Daniel, Sydnee Duncan, Anna Stogner, Kelsey Kennedy, Allie Jones, Barbara Meussner

Staff in attendance: Zach McElgunn

Approval of minutes will be deferred to our June meeting.

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
-

Announcements

- Board member news
- New business/updates:
 - Student reps - if you are rolling off the board and there is a new student rep taking your place, please email me at president@tnota.org with the new rep on the email to let me know (if you haven't already done so).
- 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"
 - Preconference on Friday will be QPR Training and E&J
 - Call for papers is open - deadline extended to June 1
 - As of 2:00pm today
 - 11 workshops
 - 10 Short Courses

- 18 Poster
 - Sponsorship form is live
 - Have 3 right now - total of \$2100
 - Committee is working hard on outreach
 - New idea for this year - we are gathering ideas for partnerships to donate items for door prizes.
 - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eQg5j9QIVjJMZmvvH-GufVeuNNJ1jvr3tLCODDrOKs/edit?usp=sharing>
- Financial Report for February 2026
 - TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY – \$210,179.07
 - Total Income for April – \$4,562.10
 - Expenses for April – \$7,852.73
 - Net Income for April – -\$3,290.63
 - Links to documents: [Balance](#) - [Monthly PL](#) - [PL](#) - [Comparison](#)
- Membership Update
 - **Membership Report for the period 4/9/26 - 5/14/26:**
 - 1st year OT: 28 (-3)
 - 1st year OTA: 10 (+2)
 - OT: 388 (-9)
 - OTA: 74 (-7)
 - Retired: 1 (-1)
 - Student: 337 (-5)
 - TOTAL members: 860
 - **TNOTA Audience Report for the same period:**
 - Total contacts: 3,152 (-10)
 - New contacts: 38
 - 28 via API; 10 via list import
 - Deleted contacts: 59
 - 47 unsubscribe; 12 hard bounce
- Legislative updates
 - Compact privileges were rolled out in TN May 1 along with [Virginia](#), [Indiana](#), [Minnesota](#), [Ohio](#), and [West Virginia](#)
 - No notes on feedback yet, but this will be reported as we learn how the Compact is being received and used by practitioners
 - From AOTA: Dept of Ed made final student loan borrowing cap ruling- OT is not exempt and subject to cap. This means future occupational therapy students will

only have access up to \$20,500 per year and \$100,000 total in federal graduate student loans

- <https://www.aota.org/advocacy/advocacy-news#sort=%40publicationz32xdate%20descending>

- State- there will be rules addressing occupational therapy in gov ops next week. Cindy will update next week

- Advocacy Committee

- CEU event by Tabitha Gibbs on May 4 – Advocacy in Every Setting
- Planning for committee meeting in June

- Continuing Education Committee

- Four (4) new members have been added to the committee since April
- In the midst of reviewing courses currently

- Diversity & Inclusion Committee

- Community Meet-ups (two scheduled)
 - June 12th in Knoxville (Stedmon Hopkins)
 - June 18th in Franklin (LaRae Murray)
- The next scheduled meeting is May 15th to discuss initiative moving forward and onboarding to the discussion forum on the DEI page and plan for opening it up to the public. 😊

- Mental Health Committee

- Not in attendance

- Mentorship Committee

- Mentorship applications for mentor and mentee are open through June 15. PLEASE help us spread the word. Will you consider applying?
- We've kicked off a marketing campaign with lift from our admin Team to double our number of mentor/mentee pairings to 10 + for the upcoming 7th cycle.
- We are honing a simplified and less burdensome documentation format to be used for the upcoming 7th cycle.
- Mentorship CEU event this June 4th @ 7:30 pm CT - Niccole Rowe and Kimberly Breeden of Aspire will host a 2-hr interactive session - Real Mentorship: Honest Conversations from Both Sides
-

- OTA Connect Committee
 - Not in attendance

- Philanthropy Committee
 - Not in attendance

- Student Involvement Committee
 - Not in attendance

- TNOTF/RA Updates
 - Looking for a Secretary to join our committee!
 - August 6th at 6pm CE: Surviving to Thriving- a Guide to school based practice
 - Saturday in Sept/Oct: Nashville OT Meetup- Volunteer Event with OneGen Mobile Food Pantry.
 - Looking into some fundraising activities just before conference
 - The application for the TNOTF Scholarship should be released July 1
 - Looking to improve the application process to preserve objectivity, reduce potential for bias, and clarify the period of time for which applicants are being considered

ACTION → Anyone interested in contributing to the TNOTF scholarship application revision should reach out to Adnewbern@gmail.com

- East District
 - Looking for volunteers for Vice Chair and Secretary
 - Setting up a CE event for the next quarter - looking for speakers

ACTION → If you have a speaker, topic, contact, etc, please contact Julia Johnson (julefor@outlook.com)

- Middle District
 - Looking for a secretary to join the district leadership team
 - August 6 at 6pm – CE focused on school-based practice
 - Fall meet up with the universities - practitioners and students welcome

- Northeast District

- Not in attendance
- Rural West District
 - In person/ virtual CEU May 30th on AT from 9-11:30am in Jackson
 - July 9th lunch and learn membership course
 - PAMS course scheduled for Oct 11th
 - Compliance day scheduled for Nov 7th
- Southeast District
 - Long COVID CE on July 22, 2026 from 8-9:30pm EST virtually
 - Great success with this quarter CE on advocacy!
- West District
 - Collaboration scheduled for July
 - Waiting on a speaker to confirm on Aging in Place and home modifications for the fall
 - Early winter there will probably be an ethics course of some sort as well

Student Representatives & School Reports

- Belmont University
 - Belmont's programs (PPOTD, MSOT, & OTD) just finished for the semester, and everyone is on break until summer fieldwork starts next week and capstone projects/classes begin again at the beginning of June.
 - Introducing the new Belmont rep, Kelsey Kennedy!
- Concorde Academy
 - Not in attendance
- East TN State
 - ETSU OTD graduated their second cohort from the program on May 9th!
 - Newly third-year students will begin Level 2A fieldwork rotations next week, May 25th.
 - First year students (now second-years) completed their first full year in the program and are enjoying their summer break.
 - We are welcoming the newest OTD cohort (class of 2029) as they start their first day this Monday, May 18th.
- Jackson State

- Not in attendance

- Lincoln Memorial University
 - LMU's program just hosted a scholarship symposium to showcase the 2nd year students research projects and 3rd year students capstone projects.
 - Third year students graduated on May 8th!
 - Incoming 1st year students (class of 2029) will have orientation May 21-22,
 - 2nd year students begin classes May 26,
 - 3rd year students will begin their first level II fieldwork rotations soon!

- Milligan University
 - Not in attendance

- Nashville State
 - Not in attendance

- Roane State
 - Short and sweet update for today as our students have wrapped up the semester and are beginning to enjoy summer break!
 - Everyone finished strong with classes and the second year cohort is currently celebrating graduation while preparing to take their certification exams.
 - SOTA just completed our OT promotion video and we are hoping to see it up on the Roane State page soon!

- South College Nashville
 - Not in attendance

- Tennessee State University
 - Hello! Our second years are starting level IIs placements in June.
 - Our first years are about to start their first summer semester and a level I community based mental health fieldwork.
 - Our SOTA board is preparing TSU OT t-shirts for the upcoming year and we are excited to be back together after a short break from classes starting May 26th.

- Tennessee Wesleyan
 - Summer semester is starting with a donation drive
 - Finishing up posters for conference
 - Level I fieldworks start in the next week

- UT- Chattanooga
 - Not in attendance

- UTHSC (Memphis)
 - Not in attendance

- Walters State Community College
 - Not in attendance

MSC Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting will be June 11, 2026, at 7 p.m. Central

Action	Date	Who
Anyone interested in contributing to the TNOTF scholarship application revision should reach out to Adnewbern@gmail.com	ASAP	Board
If you have a speaker, topic, contact, or suggestion for the next East district CE, please contact Julia Johnson (julefor@outlook.com)	ASAP	Board (especially East District members)
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

