



Annual Report

July 2018 – June 2020

Submitted & Created By:
NOTA President
Janel Meis, OTD, OTR/L, BCP

Welcome!

Well, it's true, this report covers two years, not one, so the title is misleading. ☺ However, there has been such tremendous growth for NOTA over the past two years, we wanted to share it with you all and bring you up to speed on many of our initiatives.

NOTA has been on a significant journey over the past few years and it is highly due to YOU – you being a member and ensuring the success of our profession cannot be understated. I think you'll see from the following pages how much of an impact you have had.

I am so appreciative for all of our NOTA members! Thank you for seeing the value of NOTA in keeping our profession thriving. For those who may not be a member, join us! This Annual Report is a call to action. Where is the profession of occupational therapy in Nebraska headed? Will we remain a unified and strong profession that ensures our clients have access to our services? Will our services continue to be valued and reimbursed? Together, we can make strides toward keeping the profession of occupational therapy viable in our state. It's your choice!

I am also beyond grateful for the Executive Board members who served with me – without you, NOTA would not be where it is today. I wish I could more adequately show to everyone the number of volunteered hours each of you dedicated over the past year. Thank you, thank you, thank you! All of you will hold a special place in my heart for enduring this journey with me.

It has been a pleasure serving as your President over these past two years, and I am so excited for where NOTA is headed!

I can't wait to see what you all accomplish!

Janel

Janel Meis, OTD, OTR/L, BCP
NOTA President



Where did NOTA decide to start two years ago? At the very bottom, because our President, Janel, was unable to find a job description for her position. Thus, the revitalization of NOTA began.

Multiple Executive Board retreats were held to generate thoughts and ideas. Our membership and our non-members were surveyed to gauge the pulse of the occupational therapy profession in the state of Nebraska.

NOTA created, learned, edited, absorbed, and revised not only our internal working documents but our entire Board structure shifted too. The following pages of this Annual Report demonstrate the work, *the heart and soul*, of some fearless volunteers who remain dedicated to making an impact on the occupational therapy profession in the state of Nebraska.

Have you joined yet?

Help us make OT a force to be reckoned with and join us today:

<https://www.notaonline.org/join-now->

FIRST THINGS FIRST...

NEW BOARD STRUCTURE

- This structure was determined by our 2019 membership survey.
- Members voted to remove the arbitrary district Vice President positions and move toward Vice President positions that focused on practice settings.
- Membership also voted for more *specific* Vice President positions than what is typically identified within AOTA.
- Although not fully encapsulating of the depth of the occupational therapy profession, our new board structure gives NCTA a stronger identity!

BEFORE		
Executive Board		Filled or Vacant?
1	President	Filled
2	VP District 1 (& Conf Chair)	Filled
3	VP District 2	Filled
4	VP District 3	Filled
5	Secretary	Filled
6	Treasurer	Filled
7	District 1 Membership	Vacant
8	District 1 Chair	Vacant
9	District 2 Membership	Filled
10	District 2 Chair	Filled
11	District 3 Membership	Vacant
12	District 3 Chair	Filled
13	Membership Chair	Vacant
14	Fiscal Advisory Chair	Vacant
15	Continuing Education	Vacant
16	Conference Chair	Filled
17	Legislative Chair	Vacant
18	Fundraising Chair	Filled
19	Administrative Assistant	Filled
20	Lobbyist	Filled
21	RA Representative	Filled
22	Student Representatives	Filled

NEW DOCUMENTS

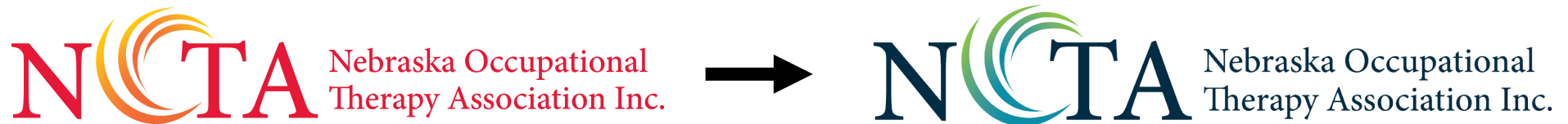
(click each one to see them on our website)

- ✓ [Bylaws](#)
- ✓ [Job Descriptions](#)
- ✓ Policies
- ✓ [Executive Board Flow Chart](#)

AFTER		
Voting Executive Board Positions		Filled or Vacant?
1	President	Filled
2	Vice President of Academia	Filled
3	Vice President of Acute Care	Filled
4	Vice President of Hands & Orthopedics	Filled
5	Vice President of Mental Health & Wellness	Filled
6	Vice President of Neurorehabilitation	Filled
7	Vice President of Pediatrics	Filled
8	Vice President of Policy & Advocacy	Filled
9	Vice President of Rural Health & Community Services	Filled
10	Vice President of School-Based Practice	Filled
11	Vice President of Skilled Care, LTC, & Home Health	Filled
12	Secretary	Filled
13	Treasurer	Filled
Non-Voting Officers		
14	Past President	Filled
15	Administrative Assistant (Contracted)	Filled
16	Lobbyist (Contracted)	Filled
17	AOTA RA Rep (AOTA Vote)	Filled
18	Conference Chair 1 (Appointed)	Filled
19	Conference Chair 2 (Appointed)	Filled
20	Student Representatives	Filled

New Board Structure
& Updated Documents = Greater
Accountability
& Ownership = Opportunity to
transform Occupational
Therapy in Nebraska!

Therefore,
We rebranded!



We updated our Mission:

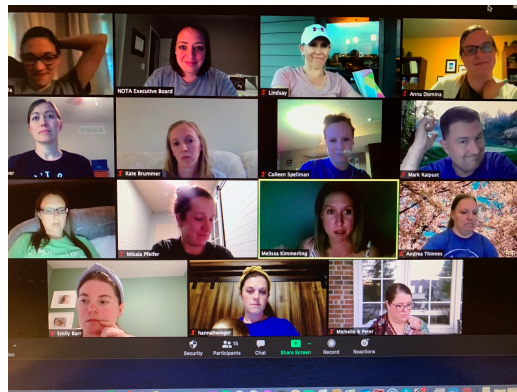
The mission of the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association is to advance the occupational therapy profession in Nebraska through advocacy, policy, and professional development. We strive to build a membership of occupational therapy practitioners who take actionable steps to promote the highest standards of evidence-based care. Our aim is to develop impactful leaders in the profession, in order to benefit our consumers and stakeholders, across all practice settings, populations, and geographical locations in Nebraska.

We created a Vision:

We envision the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association as a collaborative community of occupational therapy leaders who emphasize the distinct value of occupational therapy in maximizing quality of life through participation in meaningful occupations that promote recovery, rehabilitation, and wellness.

Being a NOTA member means that you are willing to lead and make an impactful change for the occupational therapy profession in Nebraska. Your membership also allows access to these many membership benefits:

- Keeping occupational therapy's voice alive in the Nebraska legislature and beyond!
- Reduced rates for continuing education, including our Annual Conference and quarterly CEU opportunities!
- Teleconferencing available for practitioners throughout the state to participate in regular meetings.
- Networking! NOTA brings therapists throughout our state together to share ideas and work to make occupational therapy practice in Nebraska great.
- Monthly email updates and biannual newsletters to keep you informed on what occupational therapy is doing in Nebraska and beyond.
- Access to a Lobbyist to keep you up to date on legislation and regulations impacting OT and how you can make an advocacy difference for OT in Nebraska.
- Leadership opportunities are available in all areas of the state. Help make a difference for practitioners in your local area and statewide by joining NOTA!



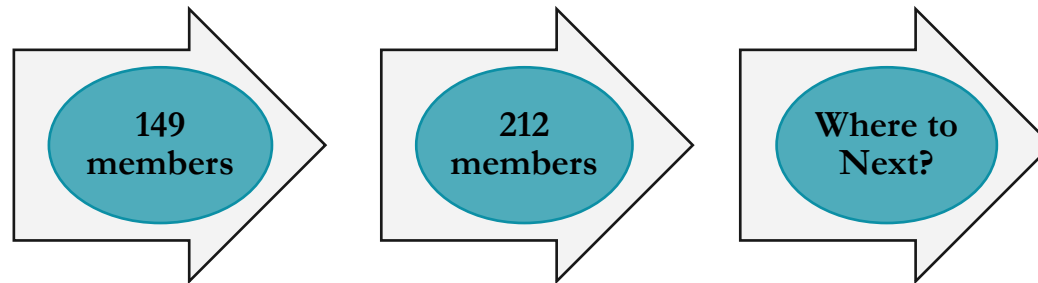
NOTA's Executive Board during our monthly Board Meeting in person (February 2020) and via zoom (June 2020).

Major initiatives voted on in 2019-2020 by the NOTA Board to advance our organization and OT in Nebraska:

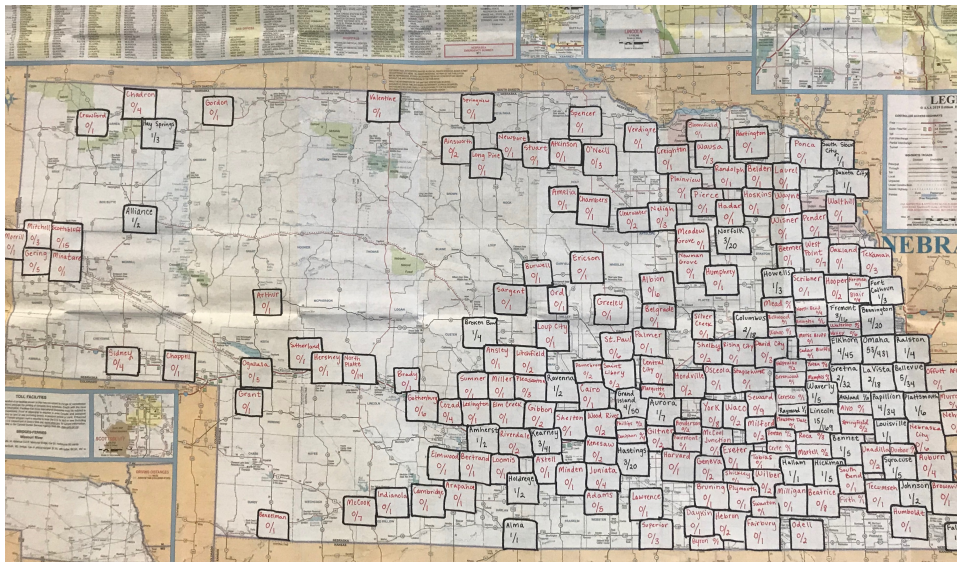
- Hiring of a professional Lobbying Firm
 - Partnering with Aspire OT as a webinar platform for CEUs
- (more information will be coming on this in the Fall of 2020)

A deeper look into Membership

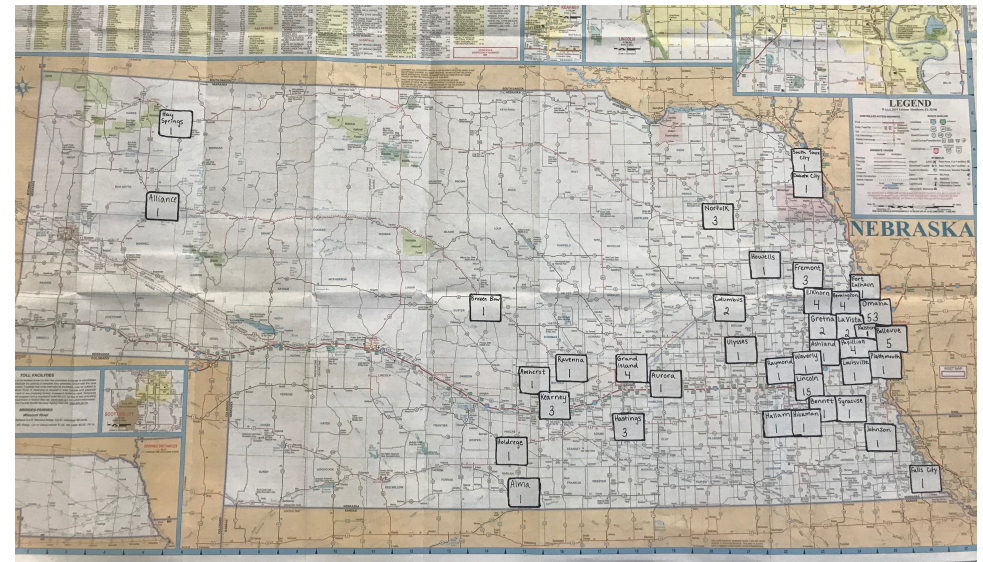
NOTA increased our membership by 42% over the past year! This is amazing!



But we still have work to do. Are you on the right map?



1,516 OT and OTAs in Nebraska



212 NOTA members

The maps were a vision of NOTA President Janel Meis and were created by Taryn Betka, Creighton University Occupational Therapy Doctoral Student, as part of her Doctoral Capstone Experience where she worked collaboratively with NOTA.

NOTA in Numbers

212 Engaged members

1,500+ Emails sent by board members

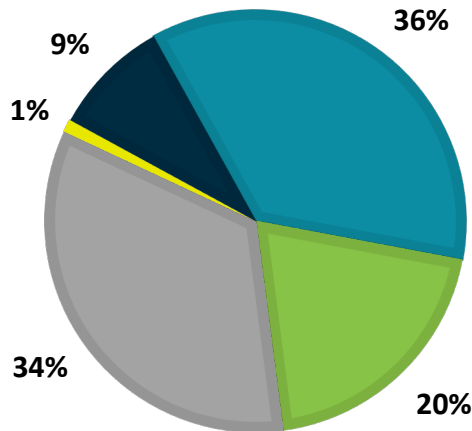
22 Attendees at Lobby Day

1st Annual elections held where the membership votes

100% Of positions within our executive board are FILLED

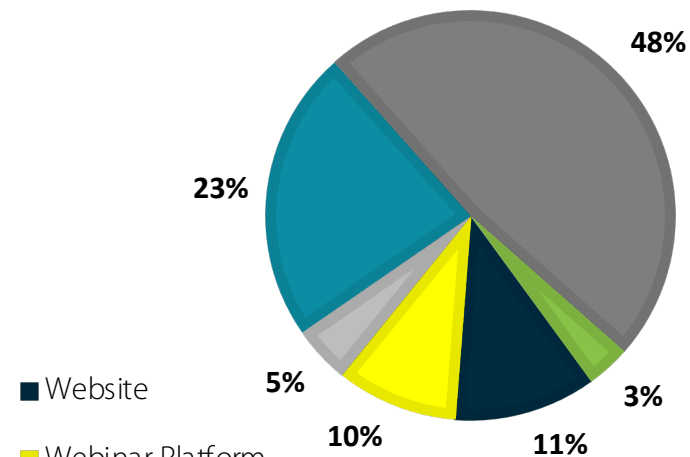
29 Surveys completed by the Board and/or membership

WHERE YOUR DUES GO AND WHAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES POSSIBLE



- Operations (includes website, fees, salaries, etc.)
- Conference (speaker fees, printing, catering, t-shirts, venue, etc.)
- Lobbyist
- NE Lobby Day (catering, venue, brochures, handouts, etc.)
- Attendance at National Meetings (Hill Day & ASAP)

NOTA OPERATION EXPENSES



- Website
- Webinar Platform
- Merchant Services
- Salary - Administrative Assistant
- Salary - Lobbyist
- Other Expenses (e.g. SurveyMonkey, DHHS OT List, Domain, Taxes, Registration, Marketing, etc.)

NOTA's **Annual Conference** continues to be one of the many ways that NOTA strives to ensure your membership continues to be valuable to you both personally and professionally!

Our 2020 Theme was:



Thank you to **Nebraska Methodist College** for allowing NOTA to host our conference on their campus!



Picture: Conference Registration Table with Conference Co-Chair Lindsay Tuxhorn, NOTA's Administrative Assistant Kristin Gzhoviak, and Conference Co-Chair Andrea Thinnies

Conference Highlights:

- 11+ CEUs offered!
- 100+ conference attendees the past two years!
- 3 Sponsors & 9 Vendors in attendance
- We hit 200 members as an organization during conference!

Thank you to our Gold Sponsor:





NCTA Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association Inc.

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Conference Highlights in Photos

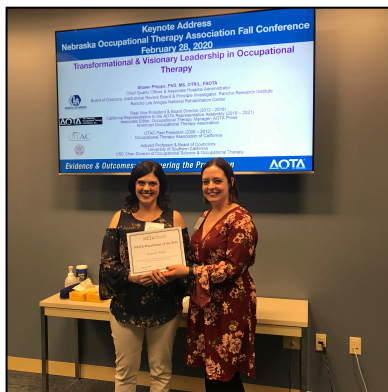


↑ **NOTA Board Members** - **Front Row** Janel Meis (President), Hannah Wieger (VP of Acute Care), Miranda Little (Social Media Chairperson), Lindsay Tuxhorn (VP of School-Based Practice), Colleen Spellman (VP of Skilled Care, LTC, & Home Health), **Middle Row** Kate Brummer (VP of Rural Health & Community Services), Melissa Anderson (VP of Neurorehabilitation), Michelle Massey (Treasurer), Andrea Thinnies (Conference Co-Chair), **Back Row** Mark Kaipust (VP of Hands and Orthopedics), Erin Westover (VP of Pediatrics), Emily Barr (VP of Academia), Whitney Rubin (AOTA RA Rep), Melissa Kimmerling (VP of Policy & Advocacy). **Not Pictured** Mikala Pfeifer (Secretary), Jill Cuff (VP of Mental Health & Wellness), & Anna Domina (Conference Chair Elect).



← Shawn Phipps Keynote Presentation - Transformational & Visionary Leadership in Occupational Therapy

Some of our Presenters on Saturday ↓



Vendors, Attendees, & NOTA Board Members ↓

NOTA Conference Chairs & President with Keynote Speaker Shawn Phipps ↓



↑ **NOTA President Janel Meis** with **NOTA Practitioner of the Year Hannah Wieger** (left) and **Contributor of the Year Melissa Kimmerling** (right)

Policy & Advocacy Efforts

Over the past few years, it has become very clear as NOTA restructured and spoke with key clinicians across the state how important it is for NOTA to have a strong understanding of policy and regulatory changes, as these ultimately ***impact everything we do as practitioners!*** Knowing this, our current Lobbyist who was an OT advocated for trialing a Lobbying Firm to improve NOTA's presence and access within the legislature and beyond. The NOTA Board voted in favor of trialing a Lobbying Firm in June 2019. This initiative continues to be a high priority for the Board.



1st Year with a Lobbying Firm representing NOTA

This proved a learning year, but one where NOTA was reaffirmed to the value of an advocate at the Capital every day representing the Occupational Therapy profession in Nebraska.

Key Highlights:

- 1st Legislative Bill introduced into the NE legislature – LB 956 Fair and Transparent Contracting for Medicaid Providers
- 22 people attended NOTA's Lobby Day on March 6, 2020
- 9 letters were written to Nebraska's Managed Care Organizations and/or the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services on regulations requesting changes or clarification to the practice of occupational therapy in Nebraska.



NOTA ensures Nebraska has a presence for AOTA's Annual Hill Day by sending NOTA's Vice President of Policy & Advocacy, Melissa Kimmerling (left). NOTA's President Janel Meis accompanied Melissa in 2019.

Thank you to
everyone who
attended!!



Lobby Day Highlights in Photos



A **HUGE** thank you to the outgoing **Executive Board members** who have made such a significant impact on the occupational therapy profession in Nebraska over the past two years!!
Congratulations to the incoming Board Members!

Voting Executive Board Positions	2019-2020 Outgoing Board Members	2020-2021 Incoming Board Members
1 President	Janel Meis	Lindsay Tuxhorn
2 Vice President of Academia	Emily Barr	Emily Barr
3 Vice President of Acute Care	Hannah Wieger	Hannah Wieger
4 Vice President of Hands & Orthopedics	Mark Kaipust	Mark Kaipust
5 Vice President of Mental Health & Wellness	Jill Cuff	Andrea Thinnies
6 Vice President of Neuro-Rehabilitation	Melissa Anderson	Melissa Anderson
7 Vice President of Pediatrics	Erin Westover	Abby Pauley
8 Vice President of Policy & Advocacy	Melissa Kimmerling	Melissa Kimmerling
9 Vice President of Rural Health & Community Services	Kate Brummer	Amanda Hegy
10 Vice President of School-Based Practice	Lindsay Tuxhorn	Erin Westover
11 Vice President of Skilled Care, LTC, & Home Health	Colleen Spellman	Colleen Spellman
12 Secretary	Mikala Pfeifer	Mikala Pfeifer
13 Treasurer	Michelle Massey	Michelle Massey
Non-Voting Officers		
14 Past President	N/A	Janel Meis
15 Administrative Assistant (Contracted)	Kristin Gzehoviak	Kristin Gzehoviak
16 Lobbyist (Contracted)	Barry Rubin	Julie Erickson
17 AOTA RA Rep (AOTA Vote)	Whitney Rubin	Whitney Rubin
18 Conference Chair 1 (Appointed)	Andrea Thinnies	Anna Domina
19 Conference Chair 2 (Appointed)	Lindsay Tuxhorn	Miranda Little
20 Student OTA Rep (School Vote) - Central Community College	Hannah Hines	TBD
21 Student OT Rep (School Vote) - College of St. Mary	Emmilie Kosiba	TBD
22 Student OT Rep (School Vote) - Creighton University	Raigan Ratliff	TBD
23 Student OT Rep (School Vote) - Methodist College	Madisen TenKley	TBD
24 Student OTA Rep (School Vote) - Union College	N/A	TBD

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@nebraskaOT on Instagram
@nebraskaOT on Twitter
Nebraska Occupational Therapy
Association on Facebook

Thank you for being a
NOTA member!

Your membership and hundreds
of volunteer hours makes this all
possible – THANK YOU!

Haven't paid your dues yet?

Join us today: <https://www.notaonline.org/join-now->