



# Annual Report

July 2020-June 2021

## **Submitted & Created By:**

### **NOTA President**

Lindsay Tuxhorn, OTD, OTR/L

### **NOTA VP of Policy and Advocacy**

Melissa Kimmerling, EdD, OTR/L

### **Conference Co-Chairs**

Anna Domina, OTD, OTR/L & Miranda Little, OTD, OTR/L

### **Past-President**

Janel Meis, OTD, OTR/L, BCP

## Welcome!

Wow! This year has been rather interesting for everyone when trying to handle professional and personal life during a pandemic. In February of 2020 we were enjoying our annual conference and just beginning to hear about COVID in the U.S. but had no idea what was in store for us in the year to come. Who would have thought that Conference 2020 would be our last in-person NOTA event for over a year?! Just as the challenges were endless this year, so was the resilience of OTs and our organization.

As OTs we know all about flexibility, adaptability, and modifying tasks and I'm sure we all used those skills to help make it through the challenging times at work and home this past year. In the same way, NOTA has used those skills to keep pushing forward. Our Board continued to meet monthly over Zoom and we found new avenues to provide continuing education to members through our partnership with ASPIRE OT. Our conference team was able to adapt and put together a fully virtual conference for the first time in our history and our legislative team modified the way we reach out to senators with a successful and well-organized virtual Lobby Day.

While 2020 provided all of us with challenges we had never seen before, we know there will always be new and different obstacles in years ahead. The Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association is dedicated to our members and our profession and will continue to be flexible, adaptable, and resilient no matter what comes our way! We look forward to all the excitement for the year to come and are happy to have you, our members, along for the journey.

Lindsay Tuxhorn  
NOTA President

### How did NOTA adapt this year?

- Virtual Lobby Day
- Virtual Conference with live and recorded sessions
- Board meetings through Zoom
- Virtual meetings with professionals from other organizations (NSHLA, APTA-NE)
- Meetings with insurance providers, other therapists, and our lobbyist through Zoom, WebEx, and Microsoft Teams and any other avenue available
- More emails, phone calls, and texts than ever before!

The following pages of this Annual Report are a small glimpse into the work of a group of talented and dedicated volunteers who are passionate about 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->

## NOTA'S GUIDING DOCUMENTS

(click each one to see them on our website)

These documents are still fairly new to most people as they were created with the Board restructuring that occurred in 2019. Please take time to review them and ask a Board member if you have questions!

✓ [Bylaws](#)

✓ [Job Descriptions](#)

✓ Policies

✓ [Executive Board Flow Chart](#)

### 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.

### Our Vision

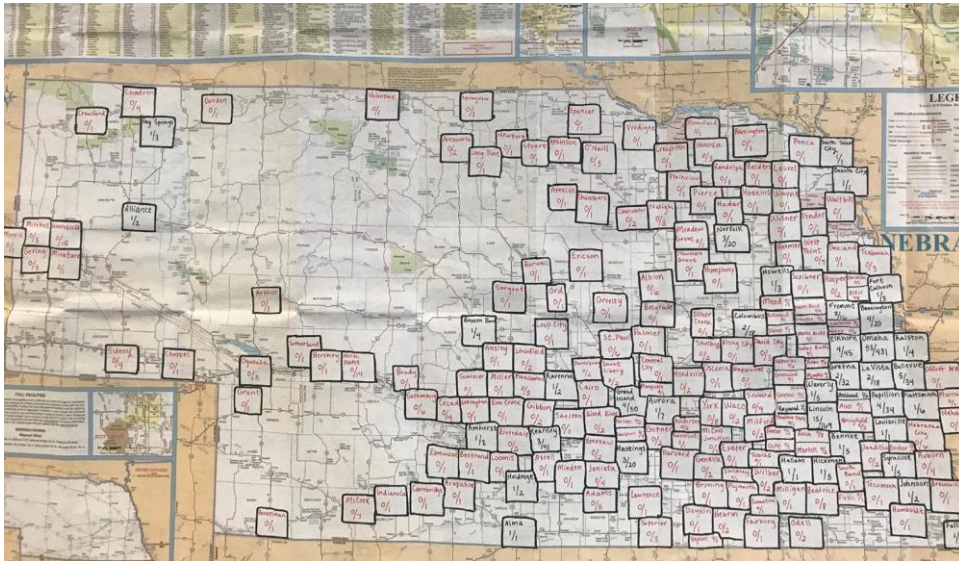
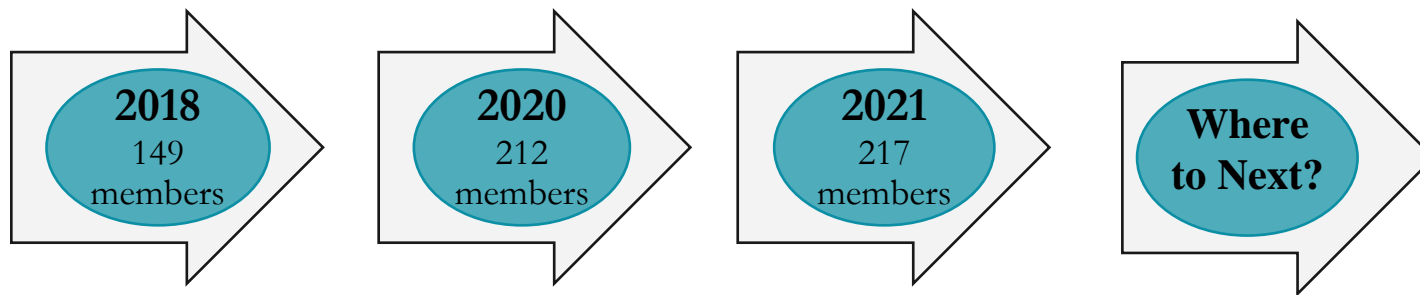
We envision the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association as a collaborative community of occupational therapy leaders who emphasize the distinct value of occupational therapy in maximizing quality of life through participation in meaningful occupations that promote recovery, rehabilitation, and wellness.

## The Benefits of Your NOTA Membership

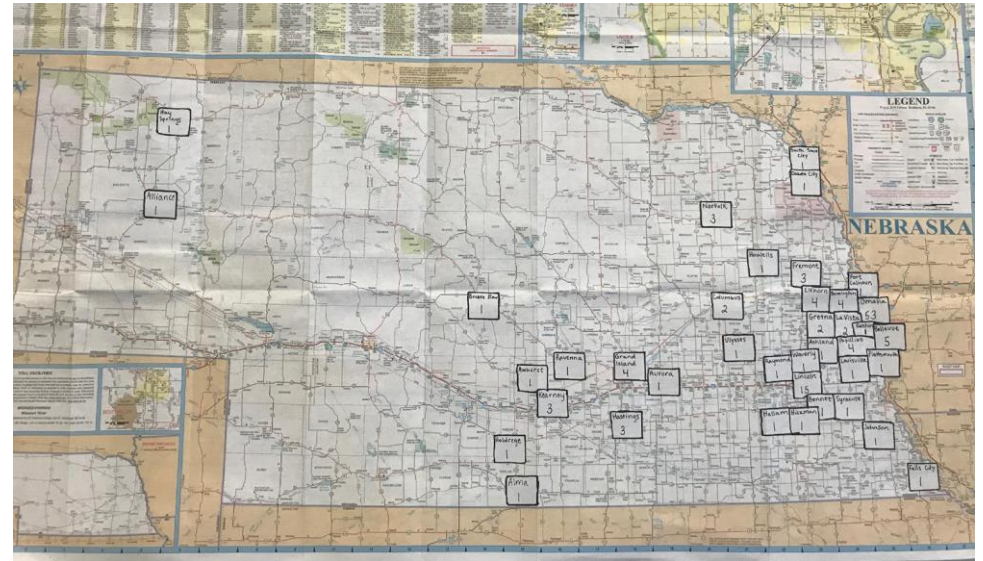
- Keeping occupational therapy's **voice alive** in the Nebraska legislature and beyond!
- **Reduced rates for continuing education**, including our Annual Conference and quarterly CEU opportunities!
- **Teleconferencing** available for practitioners throughout the state to participate in regular meetings.
- 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!

## A deeper look into Membership

We've made great headway with membership over the past few years. Currently, 14% of all OT and OTAs are members of NOTA. *Ask your friends to join NOTA!*



**1,526 OT and OTAs in Nebraska**



**217 NOTA members**

The maps were a vision of past 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

**217**

Engaged members

**2nd**

Annual elections held where our membership voted

**1,578+**

Estimate of collective volunteer hours by Board members

**1,500+**

Emails sent by board members

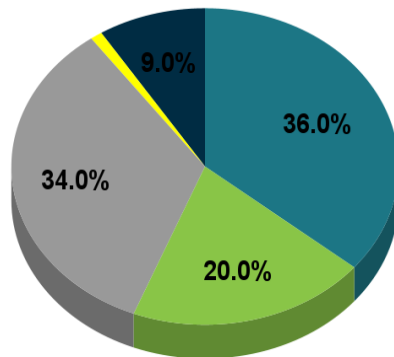
**41**

Attendees at Lobby Day

**100%**

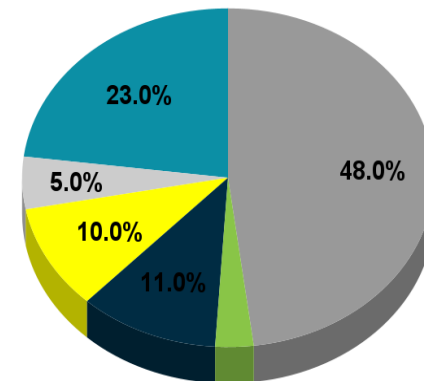
Executive board positions are FILLED

### Where Your Dues Go and What our Membership Makes Possible



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

### NOTA Operation Expenses



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



## Conference Highlights

- 1<sup>st</sup> time the NOTA annual conference held virtually
- Live presentation dates were held April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- 12 conference sessions including student session, pre-institutes, keynote, short courses and poster presentations.
- 17 CEUs available to attendees
- Attendees: 71
- Conference sessions now available online for purchase through Aspire OT at [notaonline.org](http://notaonline.org)!

### Thank You to our Gold Sponsors:



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

- Annual conference during a pandemic made us think creatively and create a new avenue for CEU engagement!
- While conference numbers were a little lower this year and revenue decreased due to the pandemic, the added benefit to access most conference sessions online post conference has expanded the impact these CEUs can make!

The biggest way you can support NOTA is to **be a member and attend conference!**

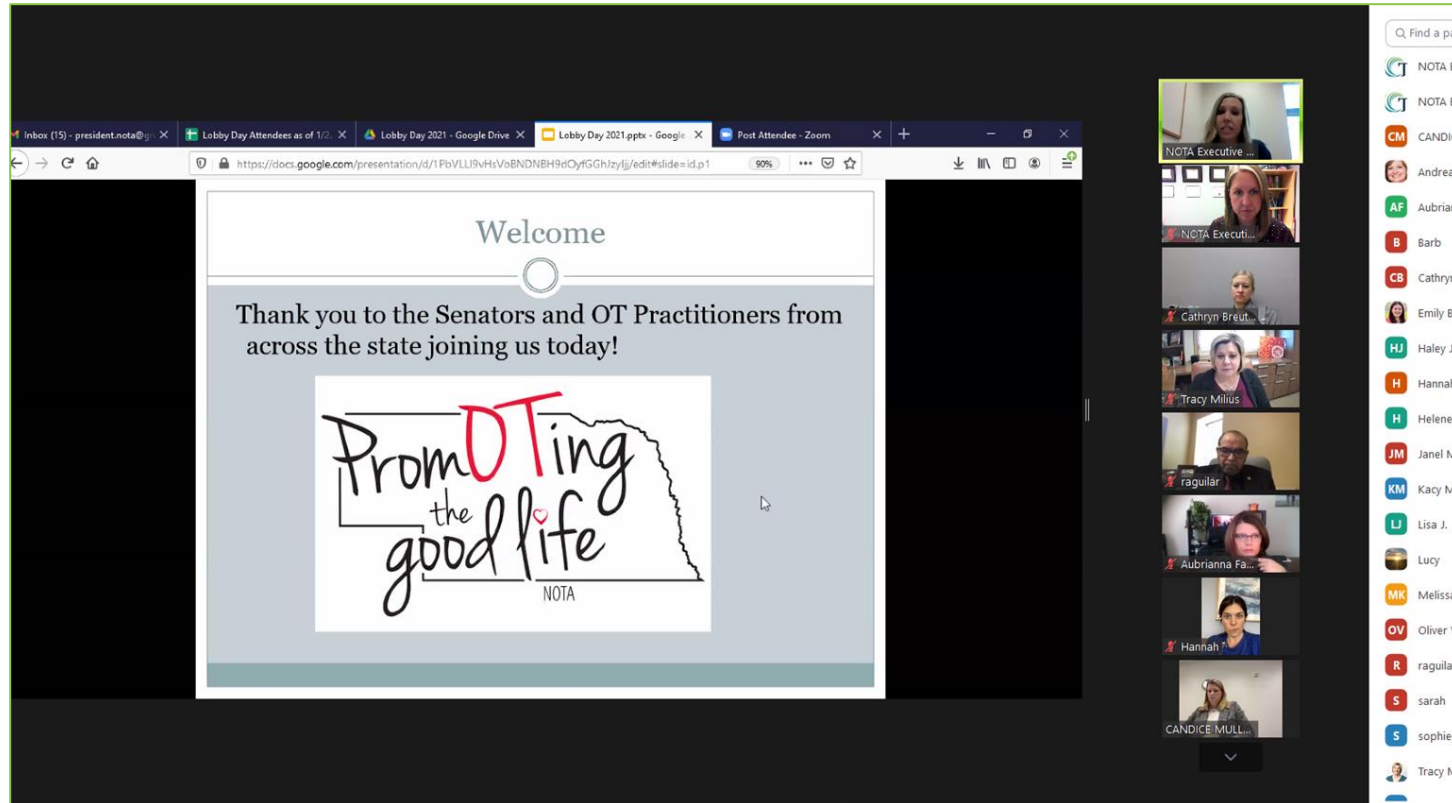
Despite the difficult year, NOTA **maintained the member discount** for conference offering CEUs at less than \$13/CEU!

## Policy & Advocacy Efforts

- NOTA Sponsored two bills this year: LB 100, Prohibit Certain Billing Practices under the Medical Assistance Act, sponsored by Senator Lynn Walz and LB 15, Support the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact, sponsored by Senator Carol Blood
  - LB 100 Passed and was signed by the Governor! Nebraska Medicaid MCOs are no longer allowed to apply Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) to OT, PT, or SLP services.
  - LB 15 did not make it out of committee this year. The DHHS Committee failed to see the importance of this legislation. We will attempt again next legislative session.
- NOTA testified for LB 15 and LB 100
- Wrote letters for LB 15 (support), LB 100 (support), LB 400 (support), and LB 581 (against)
- Consulted with the Athletic Trainers in regards to their Scope of Practice expansion. The bill (LB 436) advanced but did not have a priority designation, so it was not debated on the floor this year. It will be debated in the first round of the next session.
- Committee Work: NOTA continues to work with a group of OT, PT, and SLP providers to address continued issues with access and reimbursement in NE. Projects include working with the transition from Wellcare to Healthy Blue, United Healthcare, the Heritage Health Stakeholders Group, and working with the new Director of Medicaid.
- Fundraising: We celebrated our first Glacial Till Event- raising money for Medicaid Heritage Health Stakeholders Group study
- Upcoming initiatives: Re-visit LB 15, work toward OTs as LMHPs in NE, COTAs and PAMs
- See 2021 Legislative Report prepared by American Communications Group for more information on legislation in Nebraska

Thank you to  
everyone who  
attended!!

## First Virtual Lobby Day



- NOTA had 41 attendees at the first ever Virtual Lobby Day.
- Backgrounds, Overviews, and Bottom-Lines for LB 15 and LB 100 were shared with Senators and their representatives in attendance.
- The session was recorded and sent to all members of the Unicameral.
- Thank you's were sent to the Senators who attended as well as the Senators sponsoring legislation this year.
- The goal is to return to a face-to-face event in 2022 if allowed

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	2020-2021 Board Members	2021-2022 Board Members
1 President	Lindsay Tuxhorn	Lindsay Tuxhorn
2 Vice President of Academia	Emily Barr	Hannah Wieger*
3 Vice President of Acute Care	Hannah Wieger	Katherine Humphrey*
4 Vice President of Hands & Orthopedics	Mark Kaipust	Lauren Senn*
5 Vice President of Mental Health & Wellness	Andrea Thinnes	Andrea Thinnes
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	Amanda Hegy	Amanda Hegy
10 Vice President of School-Based Practice	Erin Westover	Erin Westover*
11 Vice President of Skilled Care, LTC, & Home Health	Colleen Spellman	Colleen Spellman
12 Secretary	Mikala Pfeifer	Brooke Spence*
13 Treasurer	Michelle Massey	Michelle Massey
Non-Voting Officers		
14 Past President	Janel Meis	
15 Administrative Assistant (Contracted)	Kristin Gzehoviak	Kristin Gzehoviak
16 Lobbyist (Contracted)	Julie Erickson	Julie Erickson
17 AOTA RA Rep (AOTA Vote)	Whitney Rubin	Whitney Rubin
18 Conference Chair 1 (Appointed)	Andrea Thinnes	Anna Domina
19 Conference Chair 2 (Appointed)	Miranda Little	Miranda Little
20 Student Reps (School Vote) - Central Community College (COTA), Union College (COTA), Nebraska Methodist College (MOT), Creighton University (OTD), and College of Saint Mary (OTD)		

\*Board Members who were elected to their positions as of July 2021

\*\*\*Every year, half of the Board will transition out of office unless elected to another term. See NOTA's [Bylaws](#) for further information.

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@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->