

Welcome/Call to Order:

President Bruce Hester called the meeting to order at 10:32AM. The meeting began with introductions. Those in attendance were: Donna Jerden, Cathy Kendall, Allison Roberts, Judy Bivens, Lora Black, Barbara Winningham, Belinda Castille, Alice Bryant, Pam Renfrow, Hannah Little, Becky Jackman, Bruce Hester, Paige Eisemann, Carol Burr, and Lynn Caruthers. Bruce took a moment to thank Judy Bivens and Trevecca for allowing us to meet in their wonderful facility this year.

Minutes:

Minutes were emailed to board members prior to meeting in the interest of time. Corrections made, motion to approved minutes as corrected was made by Becky Jackman, seconded by Cathy Kendall, approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report:

Presented by Carol Burr. The balance as of 1/1/09 was \$73,367.40 and for 11/19/09 the balance stands as \$65,352.72. Carol clarified that all conference expenses have been paid, the miscellaneous income is a small donation from a member, and the bank charge noted in expenses is a returned check fee from membership. Carol has sent the person a letter and is working toward resolving this issue. Cathy Kendall asked for clarification regarding ALA reimbursements as well as awards expenditures. Carol clarified that in some documents professional development and regional workshops are interchanged but that issue has been clarified in this report. A Motion was made to accept treasurer's report by Lynn Caruthers and seconded by Pam Renfrow. The report was accepted by unanimous vote.

Awards Committee Report:

(See attached report) Pam Renfrow presented the thoughts and ideas of the awards committee. The committee members found this year that there were no nominees for the administrator's honor roll, so this award needs to be publicized, the nomination form needs to be revamped, and consideration given as to how to better promote this award to the public as well as administrators who might be nominated. Pam suggested including the local media in communication with the local superintendent's office for promotion of this award. Bruce suggested that a link be put on the website as well or at least including the honorees.

Professional Development:

Allison Roberts presented her report regarding the professional development day on February 13, 2009. Cathy Kendall has contacted TEL to present and ENA (Dana Moore) might provide lunch. Judy Bivens has agreed to host this opportunity downstairs in the TNU library. The weekend of February 13 is a long weekend, so hopefully there will be high attendance. Allison discussed a bulk mailing, which would include this opportunity, the Kary Barth opportunity in February, as well as summer

opportunities and a reminder to renew membership. Allison has not yet renewed the bulk-mailing permit as of yet, and asks the board for thoughts on how to handle that in regards to mailing 1900 post cards. Becky mentioned that mailing that card and the one newsletter per year certainly pays for the bulk-mailing permit. Allison agreed to renew that permit for the coming year. Cathy and Judy discussed times for this workshop in regard to library hours. Allison discussed Kary Barth workshops and hostesses/scheduling issues for the spring. Allison's planning for summer workshops has been very well received by vendors. Dates are July 6-9, but Allison is considering postponing until 2011. The vendors are the most interested in the "temp tour" concept, and Allison has not yet publicized the event at this point. In regard to her personal schedule and summer plans, this event needs to be planned for 2011 if the board agrees. The event was discussed and approved. Allison suggested having a Karen Lowe grant writing workshop this summer, which has been the biggest request for professional development from the members. Becky asked for clarification on Karen Lowe's fee and mentioned the possibility for members to not pay for workshops, only non-members. It was suggested that an advance fee be charged with members and non-members required to pay. At the actual workshop, if those non-member attending paid membership dues, their fee would be returned. In addition, members could renew their membership and their checks would be returned at registration. It was mentioned that TEA does this often and gets good attendance. The logistics of to whom the checks/registrations should be sent are still unclear and yet to be determined. The proposed cost would be: \$50 fee for members, \$90 for non-members. Cathy shared that Jeanette Bennett and Jackie Morgan of the Federal Reserve will be attending spring sessions (second half of the day on Saturday sessions). Pam requested that the Conference Date of Nov. 4-6, 2010 and where membership application can be found be included on the postcard for bulk mailing.

History:

Cathy Kendall shared that she has contacted Clara Hasbrook regarding our brochure. Clara suggested that the state archives might house our history and documentation, to include photos that Cathy has to share from conference.

Long Range planning:

Lynn Caruthers shared thoughts from the meeting that was held on October 24, 2009. Suggestions were made to move conference to another area of the state (Gatlinburg was requested), and workshop sessions given by level, public/private, retiree, students, etc. The following recommendations were made:

- The committee volunteer form become available on the website.
- The membership form and the volunteer form should be realigned.
- The President Elect should appoint committee chairs during last quarter of their term.
- TASL history should be preserved on-line and on CD.
- The nominating committee should attempt to rotate President-Elect geographically as much as possible.
- The List-Serv moderator should approve TASL officers for automatic postings in the future.

- A recommendation was also addressed regarding VSBA. That recommendation was to expand to four levels: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Bruce asked the steering committee to consider reinstating the middle level consideration level. It was suggested that the VSBA Volunteer request be left on the membership form, and chair will forward information to Patty Williams (TASL representative on VSBA). It was requested that VSBA steering committee possibly design book talks and lesson plans for featured books or let TASL create those to draw interest among librarians across the state.

Long range goals for TASL that were discussed included:

- Increasing membership
- Having active committees and disbanding inactive ones that are no longer needed, etc.
- Establishing task forces as needed (for specific topics or issues) which would be Executive Board appointed. The task forces could work via the Web should situations arise.
- Working with the State Dept. of Education for future planning, since this position changes frequently and is an organization that we need to continue ongoing communication.
- Creating a publicity committee to keep our group in the forefront of the public. This committee would be differentiated from the Legislative/Advocacy committee because we would ask members to participate on multiple levels (local, state, and national).

Becky mentioned that in her term she intends (with approval from the Board) to hold people to their commitments and exercise the right to replace members who are not fulfilling their obligations. This led to a discussion regarding how some people on the Board have not received emails that went out to all board members. The possibility of technology being the cause of some members not receiving communications is very plausible, and everyone acknowledged that no major decisions will be made without multiple efforts to contact people (e-mail, telephone, etc.) being made. A Survey Monkey subscription was discussed in regard to getting members thoughts on when conference is held on AASL years (as well as other topics), and Pam Renfrow moved that TASL subscribe to Survey Monkey for one year. In addition importance of choosing the date of the initial subscription membership was mentioned because Survey Monkey has an annual fee. Carol Burr seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Certification and Standards:

Judy Bivens shared her report regarding professional development opportunities conducted state wide regarding standards, and how the focus on literacy has been pushed throughout the year. Judy pointed out that Allison could include her opportunities in the summer plans for professional development.

TEA News:

Donna Jerden reminded members about Library Legislative Day scheduled for February 24, 2010. Typically the lunch fee is \$25-30. The day begins at the public library in Nashville. Tre Hargett, Jeanne Sugg, Riley C. Darnell, and several others are usually in attendance. Appointments were made to go and visit your legislator in the afternoon. Donna pointed out that school librarians are a small delegation but we are encouraged to attend. Donna reminded us that at our last meeting she spoke to us about SCORE and showed the group the completed report, which will have a big impact on education in Tennessee. Two recommendations have been made and have passed the state board directly coming from the findings of this report. To see the report visit <http://www.tennessee.org>.

The hat full of ideas from the request that she put out at conference netted several great responses. Donna shared some great ideas (see handout). She pulled out three more specific ideas and listed them with the contributor's name. This will first be sent to the contributors and then to all librarians in the state, and possibly all TEA members. Donna shared that some people she requested ideas from prior to conference expressed interest and ultimately attended our conference. She is working with the editor of TEACH to get this information about RAA and RAT included in the next issue. A very generous Missouri librarian sent her a list of over 200 links for use, and after researching Donna will share with all of us with this kind lady's permission. Donna shared RAA goodies from NEA with the group, and reiterated that she has plenty of those to share with us for our schools. Donna once again needs a list of the area reps and from them will glean a list of all librarians in the state for her use in promoting RAA and RAT. All members are encouraged to request a RAA calendar from NEA.

Area Representatives:

Hannah Little commented that she sent her updated list to Nancy. It was mentioned that an updated list (with new members from conference, etc.) will be sent out in December or January. Belinda Castille requested that Hannah explain in detail how she is organizing her list of contacts. It was explained that a contact in each school system or school is good, but individual librarians are better. Pam mentioned that at the beginning of last year, she took Nancy's membership list and found one paid member in each county of her area and asked them if they were willing to be the contact person for their county/system. From that person she gained a list of all the librarians in each county, and she contacted them all before each Executive Board meeting to inquire if they had any concerns or questions that they wanted considered. Pam also mentioned that at one time she emailed all those people and reminded them that membership fees were due. Belinda requested further explanation of the master list that Nancy created, and area reps explained the regional tabs on the bottom of the master list. Those tabs are currently being populated.

Technology:

Barbara Winningham shared that the technology committee is a difficult position to hold, with Scott controlling the Website, the Facebook page, etc. She inquired about what exactly is the expectation of her duties. Becky shared that she would like for the TASL Wiki (she created to reserve the name for us) to be further developed so that we can use it as a repository and a way to communicate important information in an efficient

timely manner. Bruce reiterated that any new technology that the Board needed to maintain efficiency would be her job expectation. It was reiterated that the ListServ moderator needs to be on the technology committee as well, and Barbara agreed to moderate and develop the Wiki for TASL.

Old Business:

Bruce asked all of us at the September meeting to come to the next Board meeting with one topic for the improvement of the Executive Board and TASL as a whole. Bruce's recommendation for consideration is that we consider changing years of service from one to two years per term. Lynn seconded that recommendation and shared her own experiences through years of service. Barbara asked what must be done to make this happen. Becky stated that this type of alternation must be changed in Constitution and By-laws. Carol is going to be chairing a committee to amend the by-laws in the coming year. Allison shared that in her experiences the importance of working with past presidents and presidents-elect is paramount. We were reminded that this board has already voted to include committee chairs as members of Executive Board in the coming year. Bruce pointed out the positive and negative points of that decision and how it will affect the Board. Becky gave examples of how this might be interpreted, and gave notice that this will be mentioned again at the January meeting with new Board members so that it can be reconsidered before being presented to the body for a vote. This change would result in a change in the Constitution and By-laws.

Hannah requested that we create a structure packet for each committee chair/office on the Board. She also asked that we consider matching a person to the job where they may best serve our membership. To clarify, Bruce stated that in our handbook/operations manual we need a collection of job descriptions, etc. Hannah will create a committee chair application for consideration by the board in the coming year. Alice suggested an Exec. Board Wiki as well as a general membership TASL WIKI, and Belinda asked why a WIKI would be a better than the website. Alice and Diane Chen agree that a WIKI can give administrative privileges to whoever is deemed necessary to make edits. Alice suggested setting up a projector and going over technology options at the January meeting.

New Business:

Becky announced that due to Internet issues the Board will be meeting at Harpeth Hall School in 2010 if there are no objections. She tentatively proposed possible meeting dates for Executive Board 2010 as follows: January 30, April 17 or 24, August 7, and November 5. Becky will make announcements regarding new area representatives in the coming weeks after clarifying a few items with Nancy.

Belinda asked that the Board focus on making members see the benefits of joining, seeing TASL supporting them, etc. Becky mentioned that it has been discussed to have Area Reps meet with their regions at conference in the future.

Becky shared the reviews and rating scales from conference which were discussed. Attendance was down slightly, but the year prior we had the highest attendance on record. This is partly due to the early date, the impact of AASL being in Charlotte, NC,

etc. She mentioned that the survey can be helpful in gaining insight on how people really feel about the scheduling and can impact how we plan for the future.

Bruce announced that Michael Dahl, Stephanie Vance, Celeste Newels, Terry Kirk, Mike Shoulders, Bob Berkowitz agreed to present at the 2010 Conference. Bob Berkowitz agreed to present at the rate he charged us at the 2007 Chattanooga conference. Pam mentioned that Karen Haggard will be working on poster sessions for upcoming conferences.

Diane Chen brought up the topic of funding our scholarships, from the frame of reference she now has after having a national point of view. She proposed an endowed scholarship or making ours endowed, getting money for sponsorship events/opportunities, fundraising, and how to remove the scholarship from the Conference daily funding. Lynn mentioned that tying this into estate planning and tying people's names to this is a wonderful way to get people to contribute. The used book sale that was done in years past was also discussed.

Becky mentioned that our tax exempt number has been lost and Diane and Lynn reminded the group that our taxes have been prepared by a CPA for several years, and that person must have the information on file. Everyone agreed that reinstating that status is a top priority to accomplish in the coming year.

The new Executive Board will meet at Harpeth Hall on January 30, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Eisemann, Secretary
Corrections and changes made by Alice Bryant