

Tennessee Association of School Librarians

November 12, 2011 – Executive Board Meeting – Minutes

Pam Renfrow, TASL President called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

Members Present:

Pam Renfrow
Hannah Little
Beth Frerking
Alice Bryant
Becky Jackman
Cristol Kapp
Sarah Searles
Allison Roberts
Wendy Cornelisen
Lynn Lilley
Carol Teeters
Karen Cragwall
Carol Teeters
Karen Haggard
Mona Batchelor
Nancy Dickinson

Pam asked for changes or corrections to the minutes for the General Business Meeting held at Conference. No changes were noted. Pam then asked for changes or correction to the minutes for the last Executive Board Meeting. No changes or corrections were made. **Committee Reports:**

Treasurer's Report:

Beth Frerking submitted the Treasurer's Report electronically in advance of the meeting.

See report:

Treasurer's Report: Year-to-Date October 30, 2011

	<u>Jan 1 - Oct 30, 11</u>
Income	
2005 Conference Income	650.00
2010 Conference	1,130.00
2011 Conference	73,237.50
2011 Membership Dues	22,330.00
2012 Membership Dues	290.00
Gift Received	60.00
PayPal	24.83
Reg.Workshops	1,909.00
Scholarship Income	2,070.00
VSBA Stickers	<u>153.80</u>
Total Income	101,855.13
Expense	
AASL	1,976.61
Accountant	435.00
ALA	4,728.34
Award-Innovative Library	1,500.00
Awards	42.71
Bank Charge	130.00
Conference 2010	65.85
Conference 2011	51,009.74
Conference 2012	2,000.00
MemberClicks	6,515.30
Membership	90.00
PayPal Services	1,840.69
PO Box Rental	30.00
Refund - Duplicate Membership	30.00
Scholarship	2,650.61
TLA	130.50
Treasurer Expense	510.96
VSBA	161.26
Website	340.00
Workshops	<u>12,306.61</u>
Total Expense	<u>86,494.18</u>
Net Income	<u>15,360.95</u>

Current balance as of October 30, 2011:

\$ 99,236.25

Income:	
Registration & Banquet	53,735.00
Vendors	18,887.50
Total Conference Income	72,622.50
Expenses:	
Hotel (includes Exhibit Hall Setup)	37,423.02
Speaker Fees & Expenses	9,595.73
Presenter Gifts & Awards Frames	80.62
Registration Expenses (incl. registration refund)	85.00
Exhibits Expenses (incl. registration refund)	102.57
Member Presenter Refunds	240.00
Printing	2648.51
Total Expense to date	50,175.45
Overall Total	22,447.05

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Frerking
TASL Treasurer

Additional Information Discussed at Meeting by Beth Frerking:

This statement report reflects expenses to date. Expense vouchers are still coming in. Scholarship Book Auction/Tumblers raised \$1419.36. Balance is now closer to \$85,000. Beth asked for questions. No questions were asked.

TASL Financial Task Force 2011 Report: (Submitted prior to meeting)

The TASL Financial Task Force had four objectives:

- 1) Establish an operating budget for 2012
- 2) Determine what type of account would be best for the “excess” funds available: money market, certificate of deposit, etc.

- 3) Research what is “best” practice for handling signatures, etc. for an organization like ours
- 4) Determine feasibility of establishing an interest bearing account for future scholarships.

Task 1:

Anticipated Income and Expenditures -- 2012

Income:

Conference	70,000.
Membership	23,000.
VSBA	120.
Scholarship	1,400.
Total	94,520.

Expenses:

Conference	60,000.
Workshops	10,000.
AASL	7,500.
Operating	1,300.
VSBA	250.
Web Services	8,500.
Awards and Scholarships	3,600.
Total	91,500.

The figures were set based on an evaluation of the last three years’ income and expenditures. The amounts, with the exception of web services, were fairly consistent and the task force predicted that the budget for 2012 will be similar. It was noted that typically income from the conference exceeds expenditures. The additional funds could become the budget for summer workshops. Also, the income from membership is sufficient to pay for the organization’s expenses other than conference and workshops.

Task 2:

After researching the types of accounts available, the task force recommends moving approximately 20% of our balance to a savings account. Interest rates are so low, that not enough money would be generated to make it beneficial to move it to a CD or bond. Factors contributing to the decision included that CDs require the original signers, rather than the holder of a particular office, to manage the account, and a bond would tie up the funds for four to five years at a very low interest rate.

Task 3:

Our bank says our signature procedures are as they should be.

Task 4:

An interest-bearing scholarship fund may be of interest; however, since interest rates are currently very low, the options should be reevaluated in the future. At the present time, we should continue to fund the scholarship with assistance from fundraisers such as the scholarship book auction.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Frerking
Nancy Dickinson
Lora Black
Lynn Lilley
Hannah Little

Summary of financial task force: Additional Comments given by Beth Frerking at meeting:

Task #1:

We crunched the numbers for the past three years and did not know at that time that the conference pays for itself and summer professional development. Membership pays for all other expenses. Based on this information, membership dues are appropriate. We looked at the last three years and predicted a similar situation and submitted anticipated expenses for 2012. Basically our new membership is paying for web services. Nancy mentioned it was easier to join because of online registration and because of the evaluation process for school librarians. Financials were run up through conference. Pam asked for a motion to approve the first part of the task force's objectives. Motions was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Task #2 – Beth continuing comments:

Interest rates are so low, the question might be: Would it be good to have funds in a certificate of deposit? With a CD the people who set up the account would carry through beyond their terms of office. That financial rule would be a hassle based on our structure of governance. Because of the rules regarding Certificates of Deposit Beth moved that 20% of our balance be moved to a saving account. Mona seconded the motion.

Questions were asked:

Is there a way we can have an interest bearing account? Beth asked the bank and we now have the best product available for our needs. Would the signature on the savings account be the same? Only one signature is required.

We are coming up with a transition time (change in officers); therefore Beth asked our banker if it was better to open the account in advance. By opening the account in advance Becky and Beth could set up the account. (This was mainly a logistical question since Becky and Beth live in the same area).

Pam asked that we insure ourselves against fraud. Beth responded that we have a treasurer's bond that insures us against fraud. What are our options? The bonds that are available to our organizations are tied for 4-5 years. CD's are more secure, but there is an issue of staying on top of the time when CD's expire. That would be a lot to monitor for the future. Karen mentioned we need to make certain in our economic times that our money is secure. Beth mentioned there are some specialized accounts that require two signatures are required. But we need to look at the financial constraints (limit of coverage) of the bond. We need to look at if the treasurer is "covered" under both accounts.

Pam asked for a vote to the motion. Motion carried.

Task #3:

Beth asked our banker (Regions) if we are following best practices. Banker confirmed.

Task #4:

Scholarship – With interest rates so low it is recommended that we continue to fund scholarship with assistance from a sponsor (business). Pam thanked the task force for their work.

TLA/Joint Conference – Submitted electronically prior to meeting:

The Joint Conference Committee recommends that TASL not proceed with plans for a joint conference for 2014. If there is a desire to pursue a joint conference between TLA and TASL, we recommend that the TASL membership be surveyed about whether or not they want TASL to pursue a joint conference. We also recommend that meetings between members of the two organizations take place so that the financial implications of a joint conference can be looked at before a recommendation is made to the TASL Board. There are too many unknowns at the current time about how revenue, expenses, and workload would be shared between the two organizations. We see the benefits of a joint conference and do not wish to close the door on the idea altogether, but do not feel that TASL can wait to see how things work out for 2014.

The survey results are listed below.

--Becky Jackman

11/01/11

	1 – No	2 – Possibly	3 - Probably	4 – Likely	5 - Definitely
June	118	33	19	23	16
June %	56%	16%	9%	11%	8%
July	123	27	17	25	15
July %	59%	13%	8%	12%	7%
September	38	56	41	46	34
Sept %	18%	26%	19%	21%	16%
October	25	36	51	68	40
Oct %	11%	16%	23%	31%	18%
November	45	44	45	42	32
Nov %	22%	21%	22%	20%	15%
March	60	45	46	35	15
Mar %	30%	22%	23%	17%	7%

April	85	40	34	27	13
Apr %	43%	20%	17%	14%	7%

	1 - Not	2 - Possibly	3 - Probably	4 - Likely	5 - Definitely
Wednesday	87	28	23	27	13
Wed %	49%	16%	13%	15%	7%
Thursday	25	38	34	74	40
Thur %	12%	18%	16%	35%	19%
Friday	14	18	31	82	82
Fri %	6%	8%	14%	36%	36%
Saturday	44	31	28	58	42
Sat %	22%	15%	14%	29%	21%
Sunday	137	15	6	8	9
Sun %	78%	9%	3%	5%	5%

Online responses:

June

Would not attend	9	19%	
Would possibly not attend		8	17%
Would probably attend	14	29%	
Would likely attend	10	21%	
Would definitely attend	7	15%	

July.

Would not attend	12	25%	
Would possibly not attend		11	23%
Would probably attend	13	27%	
Would likely attend	6	13%	
Would definitely attend	5	10%	

September.

Would not attend	9	19%	
Would possibly not attend		8	17%
Would probably attend	12	25%	
Would likely attend	14	29%	
Would definitely attend	5	10%	

October.

Would not attend	5	10%	
Would possibly not attend		5	10%
Would probably attend	13	27%	

Would likely attend	14	29%
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Would definitely attend	8	17%
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November.

Would not attend	7	15%
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Would possibly not attend	6	13%
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Would probably attend	15	31%
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Would likely attend	12	25%
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Would definitely attend	6	13%
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March.

Would not attend	8	17%
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Would possibly not attend	16	33%
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Would probably attend	12	25%
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Would likely attend	8	17%
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Would definitely attend	3	6%
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April.

Would not attend	11	23%
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Would possibly attend	14	29%
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Would probably not attend	9	19%
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Would likely attend	8	17%
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Would definitely attend	3	6%
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Wednesday.

Would not attend	7	15%
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Would possibly not attend	17	35%
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Would probably attend	16	33%
Would likely attend	5	10%
Would definitely attend	3	6%

Thursday.

Would not attend	4	8%
Would possibly not attend	8	17%
Would probably attend	21	44%
Would likely attend	10	21%
Would definitely attend	5	10%

Friday.

Would not attend	2	4%
Would possibly not attend	3	6%
Would probably attend	16	33%
Would likely attend	18	38%
Would definitely attend	9	19%

Saturday.

Would not attend	8	17%
Would possibly not attend	7	15%
Would probably attend	13	27%
Would likely attend	14	29%
Would definitely attend	4	8%

Sunday.

Would not attend	31	65%
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Would possibly not attend	10	21%
Would probably attend	3	6%
Would likely attend	3	6%
Would definitely attend	1	2%

Joint Conference discussion led by Becky Jackman at Meeting:

Becky asked for a motion for the committee to NOT move ahead for the Joint 2014 conference. The motion was moved and seconded.

Questions and comments:

Becky mentioned that the timeline would put TASL on the short end for a conference in terms of planning. Members were in favor and some not in favor of a joint conference. We need to look at a different year and the timing of the conference is an issue. Sharing of revenue and expenses is also a concern as placed in report.

Wendy Cornelisen is pleased that the idea is not dead completely. Wendy was hoping that the joint task force would work together. In person discussions need to happen. Both organizations will move forward in their planning. Wendy hopes to have a group of people that can work together. Hannah recommended that we do some joint things prior to conference. A mini-type of event was recommended. Sarah also stated that looking at the survey results that promotion needs to be considered. Cultural differences need to be considered. For example timeline indicates members want to keep the timing of conference the same. Promotion is an important part of that discussion and decision. Nancy mentioned that there was bad blood years ago. The break off was not friendly. Some people still have difficulty with that. More importantly Becky mentioned that the survey construction needs to be considered. Pam wanted us to talk to other states, look at other considerations. The timeline presented did not fit our schedule. There is a joint task force and an overall committee Wendy stated. Wendy recommended that we start over because we all have the same patrons, tighter budgets, etc.

We will continue with the committee and set up face to face dates with a timeline. We need to work together from the very beginning. Perhaps we could at the January meeting have a timeline that is developed between December and

January so that the TASL Board can begin communications.

Pam asked for a motion based on that recommendation. Karen moved that we send a representative to the December meeting of TLA, that our committee continue to meet and work; and that both groups meet to establish a joint timeline for a possible 2015 joint conference. The timeline needs to be considered and approved at the Jan 2012 meeting.

The motion was seconded, voted upon and carried.

Wendy Cornelisen, TLA President was given the floor for comments:

Library legislative Day scheduled for April is going to be changing. In the past there has been a speaker, walk to the Doubletree Hotel with invited legislators. Last year only 40 people were present. Wendy would like to change things, have them be different for this year. Wendy is planning a rally on the Plaza on April 9, 2012. The date is Easter Monday. The plaza is already reserved. Metro Nashville is out of school for that day. The goal is to have librarians, library advocates, and people who love libraries to come and be at the event. There will be events happening that people who love libraries will enjoy. As an example: The puppets from Nashville Public Library will be present. Wendy is hoping for the governor to give a proclamation and put forth a legislative agenda. This year's focus would be on school libraries. Becky mentioned that for that week we could introduce librarians during that week during the legislative session of the House.

Wendy hopes to have a lot of people on the plaza. Also in February she would like to have I love My Library Day. She would like to have people mail affirmations to their local legislators about their love of libraries.

Karen mentioned that a number of people from TEA might want to use and exploit such an event to push the agenda of evaluations of schools and make the event less than what Wendy would like the time to be for that day. Wendy is working with a group of state leaders and is hoping to find a very simple, clear-cut legislative option that is easy to hope for – and that is not yet identified. Something to the effect that money spent for school libraries are spent by the librarians. She stated hopefully there is a legislative method to solve that issue. Or if there is some way we can promote the idea of having a school librarian for every school library in the state. Perhaps a full-time librarian in each school library in the state could be suggested. Karen asked that equal access be the wording used so that our legislators understand the issues. We would like

something with teeth. Tennessee libraries have not been strong in advocating on the local level. It is relationship building. This could be a step reminding everyone about how many people love the library. We would like the legislators to talk to their constituents about the importance of libraries. Nancy mentioned that we developed position statement years ago and it might be a good idea to ask for something like that. We need to head to the top to find influence. Wendy would like TASL's continued support for library legislative day. From a state leadership standpoint we need to talk about what legislative approach we can take for school libraries. It was mentioned that Donna Jerdan would be helpful in the execution of this event. Pam asked if TLA has a committee that is working on Library Legislative Day. A recommendation was made that TASL's Advocacy Chairs will work with TLA to plan the event. Hannah Little will be appointing those chair persons for the future. Wendy mentioned Teen Read Week as another time to promote libraries. TLA came up with a Teen Read Week program. Kits have been purchased for school libraries and mailed to public and school librarians that signed up for the event. Wendy presented a report on Teen Read week.

Wendy asked if TASL would consider helping fund Teen Read Week. The total program cost was \$5431.25. Wendy asked TASL to split the cost with TLA. Wendy also mentioned that handing out Teen Read Week packets at the TASL Conference was very helpful. Postage costs were approximately \$600.00.

Beth moved that we help fund Teen Read Week. Becky seconded the motion.

Discussion:

What will the theme be? The Illinois Library Association set the theme in the past. YALSA does something with ALA and their costs are prohibitive. The Illinois Library Assoc. costs are much more feasible. Could we produce some materials on our own?

Does TASL have a reading or promotion committee that could work with TLA? We do not have a committee now, but could appoint for the future. Should we put limits on the dollar amount?

60% of the kits went to school libraries. So should we limit? Perhaps what we need to do is to establish the cost of the kits and then decide.

It was then suggested that the original motion be amended.

Karen moved to amend the motion to support and collaborate with TLA to plan

Teen Read Week. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken with all in favor of the plan.

Membership Report: Report given at meeting by Nancy Dickinson

We are now at 806 members. We have added a number of members from the Cumberland Plateau. The system we have now is effective. The state is making evaluations important and therefore membership wants support. A lot of the things we did this year as an organization have added to our membership increase.

Additional Membership Report: Submitted prior to meeting by Mona Batchelor:

TASL annual membership rates and level descriptions:

\$ 30 I am a certified school librarian or supervisor of school librarians.

\$ 30 I am a certified school librarian, currently seeking a position.

\$ 15 I am a library support staff person (assistant/aide) employed in a school library.

\$ 15 I am a friend of TASL with no professional affiliation or employment at the school library level.

\$ 15 I am a retired school librarian.

\$ 15 I am a student enrolled in a library science program to become a certified school librarian.

\$ 50 I am a corporation or represent a corporation.

Raymona Batchelor requested a possible change in fees from report:

We encountered this situation this year and wound up charging the librarian as a “friend” of the library. I’m not certain that was the best way to handle it. Should we consider a slight reduction in fee, as does AASL?

Discussion led by Mona at Meeting regarding membership levels:

There were a number of errors made by members in determining their membership rates. Mona would like to include the levels before preparing membership documents

for the coming year. Mona would like to ask that a new level be designed – i.e. for people in transition. With AASL the regular rate is \$96.00 for a school librarian seeking a position.

If we had the specific descriptions listed on the document there would be a definitive slot for librarians in transition.

Titles presently are:

Librarian
Librarians on Leave
Retiree
Library Assistant
Student
Friend of TASL
Corporate

Mona is proposing:

Currently employed as a Certified School Librarian or Supervisor
Certified School Librarian seeking a position
Library support staff person, assistant, aide employed in a school library
Friend of TASL with no professional affiliation
Retired school librarian
Student enrolled
Corporation or represent a corporation

Questions from Board members:

Can we add professors to the first level?

Student level must be clarified. Could we add a time limit to the student classification?

A motion was made:

It was moved to update the TASL Website to include the membership levels, to separate first line to indicate: Certified Full time librarian currently employed; Second line: Supervisor of school librarian or professor.

A question was asked:

Do we limit student level?

A suggestion was made to include student status with a three year limit.

Motion was amended.

A motion was made to approve proposed membership levels based on Mona's recommendations. Motion seconded and carried.

Pam mentioned that another part of the changes includes a financial part. A question was raised: Should we consider retired school librarians as no longer employed?

Pam explained that membership rates are in our by-laws. They cannot be changed at this time, but the intent of the language is to clarify membership. Another question was raised: Should we change the language?

Pam stated there needed to be a rescinding of the original motion: It was moved and seconded to rescind the previous motion. A vote was taken and approved.

A new motion was made:

To add currently unemployed and seeking a position change to \$15.00 and to change the current levels to the following:

TASL annual membership rates and level descriptions

\$ 30 I am a currently employed certified school librarian.

\$ 30 I am supervisor of school librarians or professor of school librarians.

\$ 15 I am a certified school librarian, **currently unemployed** and seeking a position.

\$ 15 I am a library support staff person (assistant/aide) employed in a school library.

\$ 15 I am a friend of TASL with no professional affiliation or employment at the school library level **in the state of Tennessee.**

\$ 15 I am a retired school librarian **no longer employed.**

\$ 15 I am a student enrolled in a library science program to become a certified school librarian. **(Limit 3 years)**

\$ 50 I am a corporation or represent a corporation.

A motion was made to approve the changes in levels for membership as listed above. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board.

Other Business:

Membership – Nancy Dickinson

Now that we have the capability on the Website, could there be a change in the membership rules for membership renewals to fall on anniversary date of membership, i.e. October to October instead of the present membership timing of January to December of each year.

Pam stated that this rule is in our by-laws and for a change a vote must be made at Annual Conference. By-Law changes must be sent 30 days before the vote. Pam suggested that this item could be discussed in January, but opened for a preliminary discussion:

TASL is heavy on the work side right before conference. Other than that, it is not that difficult to manage. This new membership cycle would be more difficult from a personnel standpoint. Nancy mentioned that she must keep up with membership every other week all year long.

Mona recommended that we wait and see what happens in January and discuss at the April 2012 meeting. It was also mentioned that TLA has a cut-off date that if they join in October the following year membership is waived.

Mona suggested that she would like to send a letter to membership. The letter would contain information about the expiration of TASL memberships, information about renewals to continue on listserv. Hannah also mentioned a task force might be needed to change by-laws for membership changes in timing of renewals.

Pam suggested we look at this in April. By-Laws committee would need to work with membership committee.

Mail Out cost would be approximately \$1441.89. Mona is concerned that people will not know that they may be removed from the listserv if they do not renew their membership in January.

Beth recommended that we mail out a note that listed professional development, conference, and listserv information to the membership.

A motion was made that TASL send a mailing in Mid-January, that would list summer, membership renewal information, listserv information, referral to website, and pertinent information sent to every school in mid-January. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Nancy expressed concern about membership dues submitted after conference. Could we extend those memberships for 2012?

Motion: Motion made for Nancy to extend the memberships of those people who have joined TASL after conference to extend their membership to 2012. The motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Conference 2012 – Beth Frerking

Beth commented on the evaluation. There were some general themes made in the evaluations with more practical lessons being prominent in the comments from attendees. Beth would like area reps to think about presenters for the upcoming conference.

Beth suggested an Author “Speed Dating” Event:

The event could look something like this: Librarians sit at a table and authors move from table to table. YALSA does a similar event. The event would be a member paid event. TASL would need to provide snacks. Coming up with the authors will be a challenge. Beth would like to contact the Society of Children's Book Writers led by Tracy Barrett, President. Beth would suggest the Society to provide the authors and perhaps make the event a joint fund raiser. We might want to split the take between the author groups and TASL. The authors would need to be age appropriate.

Beth though this would be a great event for Thursday evening. There was a question if this event would conflict with exhibits and showcase. It was suggested that the event be a dessert event beginning at 9:00 or 9:30 pm.

The question is should we move forward? (No vote was needed). Through a show of support it was recommended that Beth go forward and pursue possibilities.

Beth asked about conference dates for 2014:

Preferred Dates: later in October

Beginning of October

October 23-25, 2014

Board members concurred that October 23-25, 2014 were the best dates for 2014.

Pam asked about preference between Carmen Agra Deedy and Bill Harley. The Board concurred that Bill Harley was the best option for banquet speaker at conference.

Pam also asked about the possibility of Susan Bartoletti as a non-fiction author that we could have at conference. The Board thought Susan Bartoletti would be a fabulous option. Pam stated that Wendy Stephens fee would be a pre-conference. The

presenter's fee would be paid by the additional fee charged to attend the pre-conference.

Karen Haggard: Volunteer Bookmark Contest

Karen presented an idea she received from attending AASO. At AASL Karen attended the Exploratorium. Karen presented a handout explaining a bookmark contest done by the School Librarians of Massachusetts. She would like to follow that lead and put together a TN Volunteer Bookmark Contest.

In Massachusetts the State Bookmark Contest sponsored by their librarian organization creates a lot of good will with their constituents. Karen presented a form, template, and directions. The contest would be at the school level, and then winners go to state level. Cost to us would be printing, awards.

Karen proposed that we do the bookmark program similar to the program in Massachusetts with theme. We would underwrite the cost of the program. We would ask area representatives to help publicize.

Karen's Recommendations:

The Board approve the TASL Bookmark contest

The Board approve a committee to be established to work out the details.

Motion was made that TASL would develop an annual bookmark contest and the TASL president will appoint a committee which would work out the details. The motion was seconded, voted, and approved. The contest would be announced at Conference 2012. Cristol Capp, Mona Batchelor, and Sarah Searles volunteered to begin planning the event.

Karen also added the following:

Camp TASL – July 10 in Greeneville

July 12 in Jackson – details to follow

Hannah Little gave the next meeting date: January 28, 2012 at Harpeth Hall

Other locations for meetings will be forthcoming.

Other New Business:

Nancy Dickinson mentioned the possibility of hiring an executive director as a part time position. The person would always be the go-to person. The person the organization hired would be in that position for a few years. This proposal should go to the Long

Range planning committee. Pam will investigate other states. Hannah will set up a long range planning committee to investigate in January, 2012. Also, it was suggested that TASL should look at the possibility of investigating a firm to run our conference.

Becky will amend the Long Range Planning Committee Report to reflect the desire to investigate a TASL paid position and contracting with a firm to run future TASL conferences.

A corrected report from Allison Roberts, Professional Development is submitted below:

Other Reports submitted electronically:

TASL Technology Committee Report

The TASL Technology Committee has suffered from inactivity as a committee to date; however, some of the goals established at the beginning of the year have been met. Please see the goals and an explanation of any progress (or lack thereof) in blue below.

TASL Technology Committee Goals - 2011

1) Maintain the TASL website, offering suggestions to the board for improvements and/or additions.

Though not without a few glitches, the TASL website is active and functioning as expected. Improvements need to be made to streamline both the membership and conference registrations processes.

The former TASL website at discoverET.org is no longer in use and correspondence has been exchanged to precipitate taking down the site and the former list-serv, entirely. To date, that had not happened.

Also, it is necessary to establish a set of guidelines to govern the new TASL List-serv. Perhaps a task force can be established to explore best practices of other organizations, and quickly devise a set of guidelines for our member list.

2) Work in conjunction with the professional development committee to develop and promote technology-related professional development opportunities state-wide.

This is an idea whose time simply had not come this year. Hopefully, future tech committees can focus upon creating professional development sessions geared toward the implementation of available technologies into the library and/or classroom.

3) Explore the possibility of offering webinars via the website.

No action.

4) Assist with technology at any professional development sessions and the conference.

Under the auspices of this committee, Amy Blanton, Technology Committee co-chair, did provide projectors and technical support for presenters at the 2011 conference. There has been some informal discussion regarding the possibility of contracting with an outside company to provide these services in the future.

5) Work to keep TASL members current on new trends by posting links to articles, etc. on the website.

Though no specific plan was devised to undertake this goal, it has occurred as an extension of professional development, conference, etc. In a more limited fashion, some exchange of information has transpired via the TASL list-serv. This is another reason we must establish some governance for the list-serve (see Item 1).

6) Develop and maintain a library lesson plan bank on the website. Something similar

to this would be the ideal: <http://teacher.neisd.net/library/public/lessonplan>

Nothing, other than discussion, has happened with this goal to date; however, it should be put on the fast track for implementation.

7) Maintain a social networking presence via Facebook, Twitter, etc.

We do have 178 members following the Tennessee Association of Group Librarians Facebook page, and Hannah Little has maintained the Twitter feed for the organization this year.

My feeling is that the Technology Committee may have been a bit premature in its formation, and, perhaps, too broad in scope. I would hope that, in the future, the committee can have a clearly-defined focus upon our membership's awareness and education, as well as our organization's encouragement to explore and implement ever-evolving technological equipment and programs at the school library and classroom level.

In closing, I feel the website and its operation should be a separate entity from Technology Committee, one whose focus is upon the organization of our membership renewal and conference records, as well as all supporting tasks and functions, and working very closely with the conference planners and treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona Batchelor
TASL Technology Chair

Professional Development Report – Allison Roberts

A History of TASL Professional Development

By Allison Roberts

Ever since I became a librarian I have had a passion to learn more about my new profession. As a new librarian in 1995 in South Carolina I had the opportunity to attend monthly meetings and regional workshops. When I moved to a school library in Tennessee in 1999, there were very few opportunities for professional development other than the TASL conference.

When I was asked to be President-Elect/President of TASL in 2004, I made it my goal to offer librarians professional development opportunities in the spring and summer of each year. I wanted to “Expand Librarians’ Horizons.”

Below is a recap of those professional development opportunities.

March 5, 12, and 17 – 19, 2005 – Karen Lowe presented “Resource Alignment-Providing Curriculum Support in the School Library Media Center”

Karen came to McKenzie, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Johnson City to show librarians a methodical way to analyze their library collection and determine a systematic way to weed the collection.

Capstone Press, Picture Window Books, Compass Point, PowerKids Press, and ABDO helped sponsor the workshops.

September 24, 2005 – Karen Lowe followed-up on her “Resource Alignment” workshop

At this time in Nashville Karen explained how to look at our collection analysis and create a 5-year plan and budget for bringing the collection up-to-date.

February 25, 27, and March 4, 2006 – Toni Buzzeo presented “Collaboration Celebration: How to, Why to, and Let’s Get Moving!”

Toni traveled to Jackson, Chattanooga, and Morristown. She informed the participants about how we, as librarians, can become collaborative members of our school faculties. She shared with the participants how to share planning, teach, and evaluate with other faculty members and with enough motivation to begin that process.

Linworth Publishing Company and Capstone Press, Picture Window Books, and Compass Point helped sponsor the workshops.

June 16 – 17, 2006 “Libraries and Literacy Forum – Collaboration + Communication = Success”

Diane Chen attended the first SLJ Summit in the fall. She wanted to have a forum modeled after that summit. Tennessee was the first state to do this. Steven L. Layne was the keynote presenter. He presented “Literacy Lessons for a Lifetime.” He spoke of how we as librarians, teachers, administrators and parents of all areas, can work ourselves toward leadership positions.

There were three panel discussions as well – “Natural Allies in Literacy Education,” “Creating a Collaborative Environment,” and “Advocacy 101: Building a Community of Support and Collaboration.”

July 10 – 14, 2006 – Jennifer Jacobson presented two workshops entitled “Making the Leap from Easy Readers to Chapter Books” and “Teach Writing Mini-Lessons with Picture Books.”

Jennifer traveled to Kingsport, Chattanooga, Fairview, and Collierville. In the first workshop she focused on specific obstacles growing readers encounter, and demonstrated engaging, interactive lessons to provide students with the skills and support they need. In the second workshop the participants learned how to model literary elements of fiction, visual and structural features of non-fiction, as well as the commonly identified six-traits of writing.

April 19 – 26, 2008 – Kary Barth presented “Book Repair 101”

Kary traveled from Kingsport to Athens, Manchester, Clarksville, Fairview, Jackson, and Memphis to share her knowledge of how to repair books. These

workshops were designed to demonstrate quick and easy techniques for extending shelf life on general circulating materials. Prevention is the key, but the workshops addressed specific, common repairs: tipping in loose pages, broken spines, torn header caps, ripped and torn pages.

July 7 – 10, 2008 – Several presenters went to Morristown, Chattanooga, Nashville, and Memphis.

Karen Lowe presented “Assessing Students in the Media Center” at all 4 locations. Her workshop was designed to present the research that shows how the media center can participate in the assessment of student work.

Bill Carey presented “Tennessee History for Kids” website in Morristown, Chattanooga, and Nashville.

Charles Maynard presented “Tennessee Tales and How to Tell Them” in Morristown and Chattanooga. He explored some of Tennessee’s wonderful stories from the earliest days of human history to the present.

David Burrows presented “Thinking outside the Book – Tying Technology to Books” in Nashville and Memphis. This included instruction on technology services, as well as combination technology/book programs that directly support linking libraries and classrooms together.

Capstone Press sponsored lunch for everyone at all four workshops.

June 8, 2009 (Middle/High School Standards) and June 15, 2009 (Elementary Standards) – Judy Bivens presented “AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner”

Judy spent the morning reviewing the AASL Standards and how to use the book Standards for the 21st Century Learner in Action. In the afternoon the participants worked in groups to create lesson plans using the standards.

June 22 – July 2, 2009 – Karen Lowe presented “Resource Alignment-Providing Curriculum Support in the School Library Media Center”

Karen Lowe presented this two-day workshop in Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Morristown. The first day of the workshop covered how to evaluate the collection and identify out-of-date resources and gaps in the collection. The second day was spent developing a five-year plan for bringing the media collection up-to-date and providing the information needed to prepare budget requests.

Representatives from various publishing companies displayed materials and showed how their materials correlated with the Tennessee standards/curriculum. The companies were: Rainbow Books, Scholastic, Vincent & Vincent, Capstone Press, Permabound, and Eileen Cowan and Co. They also provided door prizes and helped cover the cost of the workshops.

July 21, 28, and 30, 2009 – Judy Bivens presented “AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner”

Due to the popularity of the June workshops, Judy presented them again in Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Jackson.

February 13, 2010 – Kylie Watkins (ENA) and Sue Maszaros (TEL) presented “Technology for Librarians”

Kylie shared with the participants information about netTrekker, hotmath.com, Weekly Reader Express, and other features of netTrekker. Sue shared information about TEL – KidsInfoBits, LearningExpress, and other features.

February 23 – 25, 27, and March 1, 2010 – Kary Barth presented “Book Repair 101”

Book repair is something one can never get enough of. Kary came back to Tennessee by popular demand. She was in Kingsport, Clinton, Cookeville, Gallatin, and Antioch/Nashville to share her knowledge of quick and easy techniques for extending shelf life on general circulating materials.

July 6 – 9, 2010 – Karen Lowe presented “Fundamentals of Grant writing”

Karen traveled to Kingsport, Chattanooga, Nashville, and Memphis. She walked participants through the major components of a grant proposal, gave them writing tips, offered “dos and don’ts” in developing proposals, and provided a starting list of sources for grants.

June 11, 2011 – Jackie Chetzron presented AASL the Institute “Empowering 21st Century Learners – P21 Framework and AASL Learning Standards”

Jackie traveled from Texas to Nashville to present the AASL Institute to Tennessee librarians. She helped participants to understand how the AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner and the framework of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) aligned to make it easier for librarians to integrate into their school or district's current and future practices.

July 11 – 14, 2011 – Dianne de Las Casas and a variety of other presenters presented in Greeneville, Athens, Murfreesboro, and Jackson.

At each of the four locations participants had a variety of professional development sessions to attend.

Dianne de Las Casas presented two workshops at each location – “Handmade Tales” and “Kamishibai Story Theater: the Japanese Art of Picture Telling”.

In the first “hands-on” workshop, participants learned tales that used hands as an active part of the telling: string stories, draw and tell, cut and tell, paper tales, hand stories and finger plays, and other tales. In the second workshop Dianne guided participants in telling stories from Asia with self-illustrated story cards. The workshop culminated in a collective performance of a Kamishibai story by the workshop participants.

In Greeneville **Mitchell Roop** presented “Creating an Inviting Environment for Your High School Library.” **Annette Boreing** presented information about TEL, and **Jamie Bivens** presented “Book talking the VSBA K-6 Nominees.”

In Athens **Scott Smith** presented “Book talking the YA VSBA Nominees.” **Patti Malone** presented “Book talking the K-6 VSBA Nominees.” **Betsy Fronk** presented information about TEL.

In Murfreesboro **Stacey Graham** presented “Primary and Secondary Sources.” **Sharon Parente** presented information about TEL.

In Jackson **Stephanie Edwards** presented “So You’re Considering National Board Certification?” **Jenny Lowery** presented information about TEL. **Karen Haggard** presented “Developing a Web Presence for Your Library – The Why and What of a Library Website.”

Pam thanked everyone for their hard work. And commented that we have a lot of great things to look forward to in our future!

Dates to Remember:

First Executive Board Meeting: January 28, 2012

TN Library Legislative Day – Monday, April 9, 2012

Second Executive Board Meeting: April 14, 2012

Summer Retreat – Possibly KSMA Summer Refresher – July 17, 2012

Conference Committee Meeting – TBD

Third Executive Board Meeting – October 26, 2012

Fourth Executive Board Meeting – November 17, 2012 or December 8, 2012

Pam Renfrow adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p. m.