

TASL Executive Board Meeting Minutes February 9, 2013

Welcome, Introductions, and Call to order: An executive board meeting of the Tennessee Association of School Librarians was held in Nashville, TN at Nashville Public Library Green Hills Branch on February 9, 2013. The meeting convened at 10:30 with President Beth Frerking presiding.

Voting Members Present

Beth Frerking, President 2013
Mona Batchelor, President Elect 2013
Hannah Little, Immediate Past President
Lora Black, Secretary
Nancy Dickinson, Treasurer
Cami Townsel, Highland Rim Area Rep
Karen Haggard- Mississippi River Area Rep
Lea Glass, West TN River Area Rep
Raina Scoggins, Volunteer Area Rep
Ann Nored, Walking Horse Area Rep

Voting Members Not Present

Tina Johnson, Western Plains Area Rep
Jamie Bevins- Appalachian Area Rep
Cristol Kapp- East TN Area Rep
Carol Teeters- Cumberland Area Rep

Others Members Present

Becky Jackman, Advocacy Chair
Holly Matthews, Technology Committee Chair and Learning 4 Life Coordinator
Cynthia Ryman, Awards Committee Chair
Tina Parlier, TEA

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the November 2012 meeting were approved electronically prior to this meeting. Minutes for this meeting will also be approved electronically. All minutes are posted to the TASL website in an effort to keep the membership up-to-date about TASL business.

Treasurer's Report

Nancy Dickinson, Treasurer, submitted the treasurer's report stating,
"As of February 6, 2013, there is a total of \$100,065.84 in our bank accounts. For 2012, we had a loss of \$2,754.11. For 2013 to date, we have income of \$7,135.62 and expenditures of \$2,832.59 for a net income of \$4,303.03."

Points to Note:

- Money in savings is not earning a great return as interest rates are low at this time.

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Committee and Task Force Reports

2013 Conference Report

Mona Batchelor gave the Conference Committee report.

Points to Note:

- Paid presenters should be finalized by February 28th in order for the contracts to be issued ASAP.
- Hannah Little and Lora Black will meet after today's meeting to organize this process.
- The question of setting a budget for paid presenters was discussed. Treasurer, Nancy Dickinson and former treasurer, Beth Frerking will gather data on amounts spent over the last several years. Several from the group felt \$10,000 to \$12,000 was an approximate amount.
- In an effort to make conference pay for itself as we have in the past, we are cognizant of speaker costs and are already finding savings on some speakers.
- There was a discussion of quality verses cost of speakers. Some felt the idea of a balanced approach is necessary to best serve our membership.
- Full coverage access to Internet services at conference has some logistical issues. Plans are to provide an Internet café venue for members in the conference area.
- Speakers secured thus far are Wendy Mass, Wendelin Van Draanen, and Paige Jeager (also see notes in VSBA report).
- Prospective speakers include First Lady Haslam, an AASL representative, and some non-fiction authors.
- We need to secure 10-11 paid presenters and schedule them ASAP.
- Concerns over the October date and school fall breaks was noted as was the reasoning behind choosing October for 2013.
- The vendor providing the TASL Bookstore has closed/retired. We are in contact with other possible vendors to fill this need. This is still vital to conference.

Advocacy

Becky Jackman gave the Advocacy/Legislative Committee report.

- 2013 goal is to provide an advocacy tip/message through the list-serve and provide an article for TASL Talks. Both goals were met in January.
- Members expressing an interest in being on this committee are being contacted.
- When ALA/ AASL/ TLA request assistance in disseminating information about librarians/voting, the list-serve will be used.

Awards

Cynthia Ryman gave the Awards Committee report.

Members of the committee were submitted. There is a nice balance of grade levels ranging from elementary to high school. New application forms are ready to be posted on the website. Deadlines for all award nominations are July 30. An announcement for award

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nominations will be in the next issue of TASL Talks. Promotional announcements will be made in the first part of April and reminders will be sent in May and June.

Points to Note:

- Clara Hasbrouck will handle the scholarship portion of awards even though the paperwork will be filtering through Cynthia Ryman's committee.
- Promoting this opportunity is important this year considering we had no applicants last year.
- Beth Frerking will send college/university contacts to the chair.

Certification

No report.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee, composed of Treasurer Nancy Dickinson, and past treasurers Beth Frerking, Carol Burr, and Lynn Caruthers, met virtually after conference discussing travel reimbursements and lodging for the TASL summer PD. The committee made the following recommendation:

Travel for conferences and workshops be paid at the IRS rate, only if a TASL member is providing transportation for a paid presenter or speaker. Lodging of the summer workshop chair will be reimbursed for one night if the chair must travel more than 2 hours from home and at a rate of no more than \$75.00 for the night.

After a discussion about fairness to all volunteers, financial responsibility, the spirit of volunteering, the work of the Long Range Planning Committee and the possible need to consider a policy and/or revisit past practices, Raina Scoggins, Volunteer Region Area Rep made a **MOTION** "TASL reimburse the summer PD chair for lodging at the rate of \$100 for one night, if the chair must travel two or more hours from home". Motion seconded by Ann Nored, Walking Horse Region Area Rep. Motion carried.

Further, Raina Scoggins **MOVED** that "the summer PD chair be paid mileage at the IRS charitable rate". Lora Black, Secretary seconded. Motion carried.

Long Range Planning Committee

Suggested topics for this committee to address were discussed. These included budget for speakers, a paid executive director, and School Library Month and TASL's role. The suggestion was made to create an advocacy program such as a bookmark contest to bridge advocacy groups like children and legislators, perhaps kicking off the event with the First Lady at 2013 conference.

Karen Haggard, Mississippi River Region Rep, **MOVED** that "TASL create a committee and pursue the idea of supporting School Library Month through an advocacy contest". This was seconded by Lea Glass, West TN River Rep. Motion carried.

- A committee will be formed soon so we can organize by conference and implement next school year.

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Membership Committee

The membership report was submitted electronically by Cristol Kapp who said,

“We are off to a great start with renewals for this year. In January, I sent two reminder emails to members and I published an article in the TASL newsletter. As you would expect, there is a significant spike in renewals after a message is sent out. I have assisted numerous members with their renewal questions. The most frequent question concerns the joint TASL/TLA membership. I think many members find this to be confusing because they do not understand that TLA is offering them a discount for being a TASL member. Some joint members thought they were joining TLA and TASL at the same time. We may want to consider better communicating the joint TASL/TLA membership opportunity with our members. I appreciate Mona’s assistance as I have learned the ins and outs of being the Membership Chair for TASL

Below are the statistics for the new membership year:

Librarian	287
Librarian on Leave	001
Librarian Assistant	000
Retired Librarian	011
Supervisor/Professor	005
Student	043
Corporate	001
Friend of TASL	<u>002</u>
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22 Members have renewed but their check has not yet been received. I plan to send a renewal reminder in February and in March.”

Other Points:

- Mona Batchelor is working on making Corp Membership a venue to place promotionals on the website.

Professional Development - Summer Plans

Karen Haggard submitted the following TASL Co-op report stating,

“Theme: Cultivating School Libraries—Growing Lifelong Learners

- June 18 at Cumberland County High School in Crossville
- June 20 at South Gibson County High School in Medina

Speakers:

Three librarians from North Carolina: Tamara Cox, Monique German, and Kristen Hearne. They were quoted in an EdWeek article on librarians and the Common Core earlier this year, and presented at a TL Ning on being indispensable. They have also done presentations in their own district and state. Each will do two sessions and they will do a joint keynote.

Committee Members (in addition to the Area Reps):

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Amanda Anderson, host at South Gibson County High; Bekki Atkinson, host at Cumberland County High; LeAn Inman; Tracy Parker; Krista Grace; Cheryl Ross

Timeline:

- Feb. 9: TASL board approves budget
- Week of Feb. 11: Call for member presenters with deadline of Feb. 28
 - Contracts to presenters
- Week of March 4: Open Registration on web site; Early bird through April 15.
 - Incentive: extra ticket in drawing for Kindle or Similar prize at each location
- March: publicity blitz (Do we need to mail a postcard to all TN schools?)

Registration deadline: June 7. No on-site registration.

Program will be breakfast, sessions at 9, 10 and 11, lunch at noon followed by keynote and wrap-up session for elementary, middle & high school librarians. Would like for people to pre-select their sessions, but may need to do this in May.

To approve Feb. 9: Budget; mailer to schools?; “perk” or discount for member presenters; T-shirts for presenters and volunteers? \$ for non-members?

Needed: Volunteers to assist with local arrangements, decorations, food, advance registration, on-site registration, member presenters, publicity; favors, name badges; liaison with Davidson Titles

Budget:

3 speakers at \$700 each	\$2100.00
Speaker travel (based on 500 miles one way, 2 cars)	1000.00
Speaker hotel for June 17-20	1000.00
Insurance	800.00
Expenses for school	500.00
Expenses for Haggard travel	75.00
Food (estimated 250 people)	5000.00
Prizes, name tags, favors, decoration	1500.00
Misc.????	
Total	\$11,975.00

Estimated income: 250 people at \$40 each \$10,000.00”

Discussion following report included the following points:

- Possibly changing the East TN location to a point farther east
- Not sending a flyer/postcard
- Area Reps contacting PD person in each system in their area to promote
- Cost \$75 for non-members and \$40 for members
- No t-shirts this year for presenters as we will dress according to the Co-op/farm theme

Nancy Dickinson made a **MOTION** to “pass the Summer PD budget as presented”. Motion was seconded by Mona Batchelor. Motion carried.

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Technology Committee

The technology committee report was submitted by Holly Matthews who stated,

“The technology committee has welcomed two new members this year and invites others who are interested in membership to join.

The committee is currently in the process of updating and revising goals for 2013 in order to reestablish our purpose. Our new goals will focus on the promotion of best practices in technology integration by sharing resources and offering opportunities for professional development. We plan to utilize forums such as the newsletter and social media to educate members throughout the year. We will work to encourage members to join the organization’s social media sites in order to make TASL part of their PLN (Personal Learning Network) to receive ongoing professional development in the area of technology. We will also promote AASL resources such as the Standards for the 21st Century Learner Lesson Plan Database that will benefit our members in their implementation of best practices in technology. More detailed goals and an action plan will be presented at the next board meeting.”

VSBA

Scot Smith submitted the VSBA report electronically. It stated,

“The three VSBA committees are busy finishing up their nominations for the 2014-2015 lists. The deadline for the final round of nominations is February 15. The committees will meet in April to determine the final four VSBA lists.

Ballots for 2012-2013 will be placed on the TASL web site soon. The deadline for submission is around April 1. Missy Dillingham will tally the votes, and we hope to announce the winners by the middle of April. We are anxious to see how much participation we have from the high school lists; 2013 is the first year that middle and high schoolers have voted on different lists.

As for conference speakers, James Dashner, the winner of the 2012 YA division, has declined an invitation. He will be on book tour. I have contacted a representative from Scholastic about Wendy Mass. My understanding is that Hannah Little is in negotiation with her. Hannah is also working with Carol Buckley, winner of the primary award.”

Area Rep Reports

West Tennessee River Region

Representative Lea Glass

- Lea Glass is getting organized and is excited to be serving.
- Stewart County High School librarian, Lora Black secured \$10,000 in funding for her library through some advocacy efforts with the Stewart County Mayor’s office.

Volunteer Region

Representative Raina Scoggins

- Raina Scoggins is working on the book auction for the scholarship program.

Walking Horse Region

Representative Ann Nored

- Ann Nored reported she is working to establish contacts with her area members.

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Highland Rim Region

Representative Cami Townsel

- **Spotlight Metropolitan Nashville Public Elementary Schools:**

On behalf of the American Farm Bureau each Metro Public Nashville Elementary School library will receive a copy of the award winning book, *The Guardian Team: on the Job with Rena and Roo*, by Cat Urbigkit. The American Farm Bureau annually makes a practice of donating the AFB Foundation for Agriculture 2013 Book of the Year to the school libraries of the host city. This year AFB met at the Opryland Hotel and announced the donation of this beautifully photographed book for the elementary schools. This book shares the story of two unlikely friends coming to the ranch together as “runts” and growing a relationship of trust as they work together to protect their sheep on a Wyoming ranch.

- **Spotlight Mayor’s Office, Limitless Libraries, Nashville Public Library, and the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools:**

The Mayor’s Office along with NPL and the Limitless Libraries will be hosting a city-wide DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) on February 26 at 10:40 am for the duration of 20 minutes. Metro schools are encouraged to participate in this wonderful event. Mayor Karl Dean will be participating by reading to the students at Bellevue Middle School. Schools with the largest percentage of participation will win \$1,000 to spend on library materials. The school with the second highest participation rate will win \$500 to spend on library materials. There will also be a twitter contest for participants to tweet that they are participating in the DEAR and the selected school will receive \$250 for library materials. Schools are encouraged to invite guests to the school to participate.

Mississippi River Region

Representative Karen Haggard

- Memphis and Shelby County continue to work on the merge of the systems and will be writing a co-curriculum.

Reports from Affiliates

AASL/ALA

- Mona Batchelor and Beth Frerking attended ALA Midwinter. They will be submitting concerns and commendation for Region IV. We definitely want TN to be recognized, so encourage people to bring programs to their attention that meet the guidelines. Currently, we are considering the First Lady’s program. These have to be turned in by May 15th so it is important to get ideas to them in plenty of time so they can be written up properly.
- We should consider starting a circle on the TASL website relating to Digital Learning Day. There are many things we already do and could share with others.

TLA

- Library Legislative Day is February 19th.

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- Concerns were voiced about the TLA conference during the TN testing window which might limit school librarian attendance.

Tenn-Share

- They are promoting Firefly, an interlibrary loan service.
- The perks of Tenn-Share membership are numerous including the movie license discount and 40% off Ingram orders.
- Membership is only \$25.

TEA

- Tina Parlier is our new TEA representative.
- She shared a Staples discount promotion for Read Across America, a list of the House and Senate Education Committee members, and information on bills coming down the pike regarding education.
- TEA is working to support Common Core efforts.

Unfinished Business

Common Core:

- Beth Frerking attended a meeting with Tiffany Dole at the TN Department of Ed and has opened a line of communication with them.
- Librarians are encouraged to participate in the reading training offered this July.
- The state is recommending librarians be a part of the school team. Everyone should let the person making those decisions in their system know if they are interested.
- There is a bi-weekly newsletter on the TN Core site with lots of information.
- We pledged to send them the call for proposals.

TASL Logo

- Mona Batchelor shared the upgraded design and the symbolism, stating “the apple and book with the e-reader points to libraries being part of the continuum” as educational partners.
- It was noted the design should be revisited every few years and we should consider updating the website to match. This is at a cost of \$500.

Nancy Dickinson made a **MOTION** to “approve the logo as submitted” and this was seconded by Cami Townsel, Highland Rim Rep. Motion carried.

Karen Haggard, Mississippi River Rep made a **MOTION** that “TASL spend \$500 with MemberClicks to update the website to match the new design”. This was seconded by Raina Scoggins. Motion carried.

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Board Meetings

- Remaining dates for 2013 Executive Board meetings-, April 13th, October 3rd (conference), August 24th
- There was discussion about choosing a more productive time for the conference Board meeting. It was decided we would meet on Thursday, October 3rd during conference after the exhibits close.

New Business

- A chair for the Intellectual Freedom Committee needs to be appointed. Diane Chen was the last.
- Learning 4 Life: Holly Matthews went through training. There are amazing resources associated with this program and we hope to use social media and MemberClicks to promote these. We also want to include them in TASL Talks.
- Handbook needs description updates. Current chairs should look at these and type up something to reflect current duties and purpose.
- Join the Board circle to share documents through the website.
- Members get a \$500 stipend from TASL annually for an AASL/ALA leadership role. This needs to be noted somewhere.
- Committee chairs are encouraged to form circles to communicate about their work.
- The next newsletter will hopefully go out by April 1. There will be a deadline in March for submissions. Looking down the road, we will have one to promote conference at the end of summer and a final one just after conference.
- It is time to start planning our Board retreat. Send Beth Frerking dates that you are absolutely unavailable.
- The next meeting will be at the Richland Park Branch of the Nashville Public Library at 9:30 on April 13th.

Adjournment

Nancy Dickinson **MOVED** to “adjourn the meeting” and this was seconded by Mona Batchelor. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Black
TASL Secretary 2013