

# **TASL Executive Board Meeting Minutes      October 23, 2014**

**Welcome, Introductions, and Call to Order:** An executive board meeting of the Tennessee Association of School Librarians was held in Murfreesboro, TN, in the Churchill Room of the Embassy Suites Conference Center located at 1200 Conference Center Boulevard on October 23, 2014. The meeting convened at 8:00 p.m. with President Mona Batchelor presiding.

## **Voting Members Present**

Mona Batchelor, President 2014  
Lora Ann Black, President Elect 2014  
Mindy Nichols, Secretary/Professional Development Co-Chair/ Mississippi River Area Rep  
Nancy Dickinson, Treasurer  
Beth Frerking, Immediate Past President  
Cami Townsel, Highland Rim Area Rep  
Ann Nored, Walking Horse Area Rep  
Michelle Castleberry, East TN River Region Area Rep/Professional Development  
Raina Scoggins, Volunteer Area Rep  
Lea Glass, West TN River Area Rep

## **Voting Members Not Present**

Kim Wattenbarger, Cumberland Region Area Rep  
Kristy Williamson-Jackson, Appalachian Region Area Rep

## **Others Present**

Misti Jenkins, Awards  
Cristol Kapp, Membership  
Bekki Atkinson, Professional Development  
Allison Carroll, Technology  
Wendy Cornelisen, TEL/TSLA/TLA  
Leah Allison, Tenn-Share  
Jennifer May, TLA School Section Chairperson  
Allison Maynard – Past President

## **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the August 2014 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 informed about TASL business.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Nancy Dickinson, Treasurer, submitted the treasurer's report stating, "currently, there is a total of \$135,867.60 in our bank accounts, which includes main checking (\$94,354.59), web checking (\$16,503.85), and savings (\$25,009.16). Year-to-date income of \$62,643.44 includes 2013-2014 Conference, 2014 Membership, 2014 Summer Workshop. Year-to-date expenses of \$26,819.11 include 2014 Summer Workshop, ALA Conference, Tax Preparation, and Memberships.

**Other Points to Note:** Dickinson reminded board members not to be deceived by current profit margins. Conference expenses will soon reduce current balances.

# TASL Executive Board Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2014

## Profit & Loss

Accrual Basis January 1 through October 6, 2014

2013 Conference	1,719.65
2014 Conference	59,093.00
2014 Membership	21,380.00
2014 Preconference	1,850.00
2014 Summer Workshop	5,190.00
2015 Membership	30.00
Interest Inc	2.50
VSBA Stickers	197.40
Total Income	89,462.55
2014 Summer Workshop Refund	157.84
2014 Summer Workshops Expenses	6,041.55
2015 Conference	593.86
AASL	300.00
Advocacy	896.11
ALA Conference 2014	5,272.79
ALA Conference 2015	400.00
Board Expense	20.00
Insurance	1,092.50
MemberClicks	4,194.25
Membership	1,296.42
PayPal Services	1,962.18
PO Box Rental	68.00
Refund - 2014 Conference	1,111.61
Scholarship	2,000.00
Tax Preparation	495.00
TLA Dues	45.00
Treasurer Expense	872.00
Total Expense	26,819.11
Net Income	62,643.44

## Committee and Task Force Reports

### 2014 & 2015 Conference

Conference Chair Lora Black gave the Conference Committee report, stating,

- Theme for 2014 is MVPs@ Your School: Librarians Building More Valuable Programs.
- Conference is underway. Many details have been attended to in the weeks leading up to conference.
- As of October 17, we have 414 registered. Lynn Lilley has been excellent as registrar.
- Paid speakers: Vince Vawter, Jackie Mims Hopkins, Doug Johnson, Mary Nethery & Kirby Larson, Melissa Jacobs-Israel & Melissa Johnston, Sharon Draper, Jessica Young, Sharon Cameron, Adam Gidwitz, Mike Mullin, Chris Grabenstein, and Jarrett Kroscozka. All travel details were squared away and Nancy Dickinson will be taking care of our financial obligations with these folks.

# **TASL Executive Board Meeting Minutes      October 23, 2014**

- We were unable to secure enough volunteers for speaker transportation and have been working with My Corporate Car for ground transportation. They have been excellent. For future planning, we might want to discuss liability concerns.
- Jamie Bivens has been working with vendors. We have 38 vendors.
- Beth Frerking and Dana Lester secured some fantastic donations and sponsors.
- We communicated in depth with Scholastic about our TASL Bookstore needs. We will evaluate this partnership and hope to get some feedback on the conference evaluation form.
- Kat Hal and Bekki Atkinson worked with Courtney Stevens and SCBWI for a successful A Novel Conversation preconference. We had 25 registered prior to the start of conference.
- Our other preconference session, Melissa Jacobs-Israel and Melissa Johnston presenting Mobile Apps @ Your School, had 50 registrants prior to the start of conference.
- Lora Black is working with the conference center tech, catering and general business for a smooth conference. After losing our initial Embassy coordinator, Jennifer Jones returned as our point person. She has been an excellent resource.
- Lora Black is also working on organizing the conference financial report.
- We booked our allotted amount of rooms well in advance, but some were disappointed we could not secure more. We were also not able to secure many rooms for the night prior to conference for some speakers. This should be evaluated for future contracts with Embassy Suites.
- Mona Batchelor launched a successful Guidebook app. By October 17, we had 171 downloads. Currently we have 378 downloads @ conference.
- The conference planner was created and edited with the help of Mindy Nichols and Kanina Davis. McKenzie Banner printed those and was an excellent resource.
- Currently, there are over 75 members working on conference in some way. The committee extends a thank you to all and wished this venue allowed room for an individual post.

## Future plans and projects:

- Complete a full conference report.
- Evaluate the budget.
- Mindy Nichols will be the 2015 Conference Chair and has chosen the theme.
- All conference materials and files will be turned over to Mindy Nichols at the conclusion of this year's conference.
- Mona Batchelor has negotiated with speakers for 2015. They are Deborah Ford, Ruta Sepetys, Sarah Weeks, Heather Moorefield, Leza Lowitz, Marc Tyler Nobelman, Natalie Lloyd, and Courtney Stevens.

## **Advocacy**

No report.

## **Awards**

Misti Jenkins supplied the Awards report, electronically, stating the following committee actions and plans:

- Winners were notified via email for TASL Banquet ticket information.
- Winners were notified via mail for formal documentation.
- Supervisors of winners notified via email.
- Checks mailed to scholarship winners.

# **TASL Executive Board Meeting Minutes      October 23, 2014**

- Certificates made and framed for Innovative Awards and Administrator Awards.
- Plaque ordered for Hasbrouck Award; picked up by Brenda Moriarty to be given to me at TASL.
- TASL PPT created and emailed to Lora Black.

Future plans include

- Writing an article for TASL newsletter.
- Writing blurbs to read while the winners are coming to the stage

## **Certification**

No report.

## **Finance Committee**

See Treasurer's Report above.

## **Intellectual Freedom Committee**

No report.

## **Long Range Planning Committee**

No report.

## **Membership Committee**

Cristol Kapp submitted the membership report, stating,

- We currently have 801 members.
- Capp, citing our membership period of January 1-December 31, suggested a membership campaign for 2015 to encourage school librarians to join early in the year
  - Cornelisen referenced a recent TLA campaign for references by current members. Top recruiting members received free membership for the year.

## **Nominating Committee**

No report.

## **Professional Development**

Michelle Castleberry submitted the Professional Development committee report, stating,

- East Tennessee remains in search of a venue.
  - Atkinson voiced the preference of hosting at one's own school to ease workload.
  - Cornelisen suggested local community colleges as possible venues. Cleveland Community College is perhaps a possibility.
- No West Tennessee co-chair or venue has been selected.

## **Technology Committee**

Allison Carroll submitted the technology committee, stating,

- She has continued her efforts in communicating via TASL's social media outlets.

## **Other Points to Note:**

- Board members added their acclaim for the conference Guidebook App.

# TASL Executive Board Meeting Minutes      October 23, 2014

## TLA/TASL Collaboration

Wendy Cornelisen shared the TLA report, stating,

- TLA is still waiting upon the TLA bylaws committee to formalize the verbiage in the School Section to establish formal communication between TLA and TASL.

### Other Points to Note:

- Frerking questioned Cornelisen about the possibility of having a representative from the State Library attend TASL meetings to communicate information regarding school libraries.
  - Cornelisen shared her support of this request, and added that she has highly recommended the new TEL Administrator's continued participation in TASL.

## VSBA

Scot Smith submitted the VSBA report electronically, stating,

- Jeanine Akers and Amy Day-Reeves have replaced Missy Dillingham as the TLA co-chairs. They are working on electronic ballots for submitting VSBA votes in May.
- Jaime Bevins has replaced Renee Ward as the chair of Intermediate Committee.
- Lee Hope of Chattanooga Hamilton County Public Library and Pat Shaffer of Nashville Public Library are still the chairs for the YA and Primary Committees.
- The Primary Committee has already submitted its first two round of nominations for 2016-2017. The other two committees are hard at work reading potential titles for the lists.
- Smith contacted Sarah Weeks and Ruta Sepetys, the 2014 winners of the Intermediate and Middle School VSBA. I believe both have agreed to speak at next year's conference.
- No luck with Veronica Roth and Michael Chabon.

## Area Representative Reports

### Mississippi River Region

### Representative Mindy Nichols

Mindy Nichols submitted the Mississippi River Region report, stating,

- Bells Elementary in Bells, TN, received a \$5,000.00 grant from the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries Fund to purchase new books. Librarian Lydia Crossnoe.
- Susan Harris (Ridgeway) is now reviewing for *School Library Journal*.
- Karen Haggard (Arlington Middle School) was featured in the article, "Creating Coalitions," published in the Sept./Oct. 2014 digital supplement of *American Libraries*.  
<http://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/tools/transforming>

### Western Plains Region

### Vacant

No report.

### West Tennessee River Region

### Representative Lea Glass

Lea Glass submitted the West Tennessee River Region report, stating,

- A number of new librarians have joined TASL in her region.
- Decatur County has appointed a librarian's husband as interim Director of Schools.

### Highland Rim Region

### Representative Cami Townsel

Cami Townsel submitted the Highland Rim Region report, stating,

## **TASL Executive Board Meeting Minutes      October 23, 2014**

- TASL membership and TASL conference information was communicated through the MNPS Librarians district-wide blast.
- It was recently announced that these two schools will receive the Mayor's funds to renovate their libraries. Congratulations!
  - (Nashville, Tennessee) Library Media Specialists at McGavock High School – Lynn Lilley and Nancy Hammons
  - Library Media Specialists at John Overton High School – Gwen Hines and Kim Daly

### **Walking Horse Region**

### **Representative Ann Nored**

Ann Nored submitted the WHR report, stating,

- Bobbie Palmer of Holloway High School in Murfreesboro completed a project with her students using Storybird to create a digital story with their vocabulary words. Students were given a grading rubric that included the assignment requirements where students were to use all of their vocabulary words in a visual story that contained all the story elements. The stories were judged by community representatives, teachers, an administrator, and the students in my class. Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place as well as for a Creative Pick Award. Storybird (<http://storybird.com>) is a web 2.0 tool that is free for basic functions, and allows people to create visual story books with artwork created by artists from around the world. It is a reverse way to create stories by using the artwork to spark ideas. Sign up in the educator section where teachers can assign students to their class. It is a fun way for teachers to enhance the student learning experience in multiple ways and across the curriculum.
- Shannon Minner of Reeves Rogers Elementary in Murfreesboro recently won a Foundation Grant to purchase science based AV2 books for my library and she won the 2013 TASL Innovative Library Media Award for my Writer's Workshop last school year at Mitchell Neilson Primary. Shannon also transferred to Reeves Rogers Elementary in the Murfreesboro City School System this year.

### **Cumberland Region**

### **Representative Kim Wattenbarger**

Kim Wattenbarger submitted the area report electronically, stating,

- The school year is off and running. As the year started, I have made contact with several area librarians to encourage membership and/or renewal to TASL.
- I am unable to attend the TASL Conference; however, I did remind my school district librarians and encouraged them to attend.
- Concerns: Testing. Last school year testing monopolized several school libraries, including my own for 9 weeks, total during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. We have got to push for less testing and more respect for the students and teachers who need access to our libraries at "point of need!"

### **Appalachian Region**

### **Representative Kristy Williamson-Jackson**

Kristy Williamson-Jackson submitted a report electronically, stating,

- I have communicated via email - encouraging others to renew/join TASL. Several asked to be taken off the lists that were sent – inactive members list. Several asked what steps were needed to renew/join. This information was communicated.
- Kingsport City Elementary Schools will have Eric Litwin (*Pete the Cat*) visit during April of this year. We would love to have any input on additional authors – specifically nonfiction authors. We continually strive to allow our students life experiences that will enrich their lives beyond what is already in place daily in our schools. Any ideas for my school system and other systems would be great. Any information can be sent to my email address.

# TASL Executive Board Meeting Minutes      October 23, 2014

## **Volunteer Region**

No official report.

**Representative Raina Scoggins**

## **East Tennessee River Region**

Michelle Castleberry submitted the East TN River Region report, stating,

- There is a clear need for a membership push in her region.

**Representative Michelle Castleberry**

### **Other Points to Note:**

- Cristol Kapp, of East Tennessee River Region, shared that 20,000 students in Hamilton County now have a public library card, and she has been named a STEM Fellow, receiving a \$5,000 grant to create a maker space in her library.

## **Reports from Affiliates**

### **AASL/ALA**

No report.

### **TLA**

- Cornelisen shared that TLA conference will be held in April at the Hilton in Memphis.

### **TEL**

Wendy Cornelisen submitted the TEL report, stating,

- ENA Premium Filters block the World Book Translation Service. Cornelisen has corresponded with both parties, World Book and ENA, to correct the problem.
- The TEL Administrator position is currently posted for applications.

### **Tenn-Share**

Jenifer Grady submitted the Tenn-Share report electronically, with Leah Allison reporting in her absence.

- In November, pay attention to the Tenn-Share listserv for announcements about new fall database offers.
- Tenn-Share is looking for a school library nominee from East Tennessee. Please nominate yourself or someone by October 24 - <http://www.tenn-share.org/nomform>
- Save the date for the 2015 School Collection Fair, which will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2015.

### **TEA**

No report.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Mileage Reimbursement/Travel Expenses for Paid Presenters**

**Mona Batchelor**

Batchelor reopened the discussion of implementing a limitation on mileage reimbursement for paid presenters.

- Nancy Dickinson commented on the need to limit ground transportation expenses and the burden of the current IRS travel reimbursement rates on organizations of our membership size.

# **TASL Executive Board Meeting Minutes      October 23, 2014**

- Beth Frerking suggested negotiating travel expenses at the contract stage.
  - Lora Black, in review of conference planning, confirmed the need to cap or include the travel expense in the presenter's contract.
- Batchelor proposed the development of a scale to base allotments for distances travelled.
  - Dickinson continued the conversation questioning how the allocations would be determined.
  - Batchelor suggested a structure before entering contract agreements in the upcoming year.
- A "Do Not Exceed" amount clause was also recommended as a mileage reimbursement option.
- Batchelor and Dickinson suggested a task force be established to review the current contract issues before 2015 contracts are negotiated.
  - Mona Batchelor, Nancy Dickinson, Beth Frerking, and Lora Black volunteered to serve on the task force.

## **Other Points to Note:**

- Members discussed the need for a January Executive Board Meeting to finalize a decision on the matter.

## **New Business**

### **Retired Librarians**

**Nancy Dickinson**

Dickinson suggested creating a group of retirees, who would be willing to mentor and assist current Tennessee school librarians.

- Board members affirmed the idea.
- Dickinson will pursue.

### **TEA Expense Requirement**

**Beth Frerking**

Frerking introduced the issue of the current requirement of TEA membership for TASL Executive Offices of President, President-Elect, and Treasurer for official TEA affiliation. She continued the discussion of TASL's obligation to find the best possible candidates for our organization regardless of their personal affiliation.

- Frerking shared the annual cost of TEA membership is approximately \$480 in most districts.
  - Batchelor added that some members have always had payroll deductions for TEA membership, and could it be an option to choose for which organizations TASL pays?
  - Lea Glass inquired about the current payment rates of other professional memberships.
- Dickinson reminded board members of a previous request to not affiliate with TEA, and the importance of the legal representation that had been utilized in a past legal matter.
  - Frerking suggested exploring TEA's current requirements for the provision of legal representation.
- Members inquired if the board should further explore and evaluate current affiliation requirements and benefits offered to TASL by TEA.
  - Lora Black consulted TEA's Policy of the Board of Directors regarding affiliation requirements and benefits online, but found no stipulation of officer membership requirements at that time.
  - In upcoming months, Mona Batchelor will contact the TEA Representative Shannon Bain regarding the current stipulations for TASL's official affiliation.

## **Adjournment**



# **TASL Executive Board Meeting Minutes      October 23, 2014**

**Lora Ann Black MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Lea Glass seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. (M-Oct2014-1)**

## **ADDENDUM: Electronic Proceedings**

Twelve TASL Executive Board members voted to approve the board minutes from August 2014 via an electronic Doodle Vote entitled “TASL Board Meeting Minutes- 23 August 2014.” The electronic motion to approve the minutes was made by Michelle Castleberry and seconded by Cami Townsel. The approval of the minutes passed with 12 ayes.

## **August 2014 Motion Summary**

**M-OCT2014-1: Lora Ann Black MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Lea Glass seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Nichols  
TASL Secretary 2014

## **Dates to Remember**

- TLA Board Meeting - December 13, 2014
- ALA Mid-Winter – January 30-February 3, 2015
- TLA Conference – April 23-25, 2015
- Tenn-Share Data Fest Collection Fair – October 22, 2015