

TASL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – April 29, 2023

Welcome, Introductions and Call to Order: An executive board meeting of the Tennessee Association of School Librarians was held on April 29, 2023. The meeting convened at 10:06 A.M. CST with President Katelyn Jernigan presiding.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Katelyn Jernigan
Katie Capshaw
Blake Hopper
Kelly Messerly
Michelle Howell
Kaitlyn Benavides
Lindsey Kimery
Courtney Brown
Angela Frederick
Sandi Walden
Ginny Britt
Heather Alexander
Mallory Nygard
Elizabeth Shepherd
Dustin Hensley
Amber Groves
Laura Dowd
Mary Foister
Elizabeth Parnell
Amanda Smithfield
Sarah Hubbard
Brandi Hartsell

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Andrea Batson
Xan Lasko

OTHERS PRESENT

Christa Cordrey
Andrea Zeilke
Kate Prichard
Ari Baker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M-APRIL29-01: Angela Frederick made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Michelle Howell. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M-APRIL29-02: Katie Capshaw made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Sandi Walden. Motion carries.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mallory Nygard

Committee Actions:

Profit & Loss
January 1 through April 26, 2023

		Jan 1 - Apr 26, 23
Income		
2023 Conference Sponsor	▶	850.00 ◀
2023 Conference Vendor		2,100.00
2023 Membership		17,495.00
Insurance - Refund		331.00
Summer PD 2023		950.00
VSBA Stickers		23.00
Total Income		<u>21,749.00</u>
Gross Profit		<u>21,749.00</u>
Expense		
Board Expense		257.00
Bookmark Contest		1,027.13
Insurance		331.00
MemberClicks		446.70
PO Box Rental		212.00
President Elect Expenses		901.00
President Expenses		1,005.91
Total Expense		<u>4,180.74</u>
Net Income		<u><u>17,568.26</u></u>

Current amount in our bank accounts as of 4/26:

Savings: \$20,003.76

Checking: \$3,767.39

Secondary: \$36,657.75

Total: \$40,425.14

Committee Plans:

There is about \$33,000 in unpaid invoices from this year. That includes Membership, Summer PD, and some 2023 Conference registrations.

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Michelle Howell

Committee Actions: At the moment we have been looking at ways we can advocate for our libraries and share what we do. We loved the videos from libraries throughout Tennessee and would love to see more of that on a regular basis.

Committee Plans: Monthly, perhaps we can ask librarians to respond to advocacy prompts. For example, sharing things that librarians do on a regular basis that are not something people know. Another would be sharing ways we get kids excited about reading.

BOOKMARK SUBCOMMITTEE

Krista Grace

Committee Actions:

Position currently vacant, but Krista Grace is heading the Bookmark Contest
The bookmarks have been printed and sent to all the winners. Checks have also been mailed. Blake Hopper has the remainder of the bookmarks for conference.

Committee Plans:

I would like to change the timing of the contest to the fall and give librarians a longer window to be able to submit their bookmarks. I had bookmark entries arrive after the judging was complete and bookmarks back from the printer. They were postmarked correctly, but the USPS did not get them to me in a timely manner. Bookmarks would be due to the chair by the end of the second week of January.

The contest could be kicked off at Fall Conference. We could have materials printed to go in all attendees bags at check in for the conference.

I would also like to change the prize structure to 1st-3rd place. Honorable Mention makes it seem like they didn't truly win. Prize money would be 30, 20, 10.

We should create a new category for digital art in grades 6-8 and have it compete separately.

The mediums used should be paint, and marks, no coloring pencils. The coloring pencils do not scan well to send them to the printer.

Additional Comments:

I think that if there is money in the budget that it would be good to have more bookmarks printed. There are not alot to pass out at conference.

This information was taken from the board report submitted by Krista Grace.

CERTIFICATION & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Ginny Britt

Committee Actions:

No actions to this point.

Committee Plans:

Planning for conference in the fall. A Standards presentation to be submitted as a possible presentation.

Additional Comments:

Andrea Zeilke is considering how to partner and create some additional resources for connecting TEL and Standards.

AASL gave Katie some pamphlets/packets to share about the standards. She gave them to the state library coordinator. They are discussing a possible collaboration for state standards.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Dustin Hensley

Committee Actions:

- Talking with Embassy Suites (new point person this year); in talks with them about menus and such
- Exhibitor/Vendor registration is open
- Proposal to present application is open
- Featured presenters
 - Katie has several contracts signed and is waiting on a few more
 - Featured Speakers: Amanda Jones (librarianship); Mr. Schu (closing keynote); Troy Cummings; Nathan Hale; James Ponti; Kat Cho
- TASL After Dark: Comedian on the Board Teacher Tour – Leslie Rob

Committee Plans:

- Seeking member presentations
- Registration
- Legislator session

Additional Comments:

Consider possible Legislator session for conference – remember the why. What's the purpose of the session?

Session panelists should be bipartisan; include list of people who were invited so attendees can see that members from all sides were invited.

Blake suggested posting a list of anyone invited so that attendees could contact their person if they aren't there.
Possibly focus on lobbyists (like EdTrust) rather than just the legislators and make sure to have a solid list of questions to ask ahead of time. Example: How do you talk to your legislator? How can you advocate for what you believe?
Andrea suggested a sort of Advocacy bootcamp session for how to approach advocacy.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Heather Alexander

Committee Actions:

No actions currently.

Committee Plans:

It might be a good idea to review the Constitution and Bylaws to ensure we are up-to-date throughout. The copy in the shared Drive shows a date of 2021. The copy posted on the website shows a date of 2020.

Additional Comments:

A couple of updates were made to the Officer and Committee Handbook based on previous meetings. After a final update, we will be ready to post a new copy on the website.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mallory Nygard

Committee Actions: Currently looking for new members for the committee. So far the committee consists of Mallory Nygard, Ginny Britt, Elizabeth Vertereas.

Profit & Loss

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Committee Plans:

We will meet at or shortly after the 2023 Conference to plant the budget for next year.

Additional Comments:

Please send Mallory (mknygard.tn@gmail.com) names and contact info for anyone you think may be interested in joining the committee.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE

Xan Lasko

Committee Actions:

We have been tracking legislation with the advocacy committee. Also, I've been attending the SIFNet meetings with ALA, which have now jumped to monthly instead of quarterly so that we can track what type of legislation is making it through in the nation. Recent updates from ALA include:

- [Book ban attempts hit record high in 2022, library org says | AP News](#)
- [ALA Launches Policy Corps Cadre for Proactive Advocacy on Book Banning | News and Press Center](#) (note two Tennesseans on this committee). I think they are both with TNLA - Sharon Edwards and Tiffeni Fontno
- Interesting outcome in Rhode Island
 - A school librarian in Coventry, RI reported a challenge to *Bloody Mary: Ghost of a Queen?* by Aubre Andrus at the elementary school level. The parent complained about the book to the principal and when the principal said that the family should return the book to the school and begin the reconsideration process the parent informed them that **they had already burned the book in their backyard and therefore could not return** it. The family's objection to the book was that they believed it to be satanic.
- Other books being challenged:
 - *The Art of Racing in the Rain, Push, Lucky, Me, Earl, and the Dying Girl, Choke, Boy Toy, & L8r G8r*
 - [7 Books Removed So Far \(NC\)](#) - herein it was admitted that the book had not be read
- [State of the States slides 2023 Q2](#) - definitely take a look at Texas! Legislation moving through could be where we are headed.
- [Most Banned Books - 2022 List](#)

Committee Plans:

We plan to continue adding and updating resources to the Intellectual Freedom tab on the website. Also, there will be an IF presentation during summer PD in Murfreesboro on June 7: **The Students' Right To (Learn) and Read**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Lindsey Kimery & Amanda Smithfield

Committee Actions:

- Created and shared messaging about HB 0843/ SB 1060, HB 1040/ SB 1078, and HB 0841/ SB 1059 with TASL Members.
- Met with Rep. Lynn, Rep. Lamberth, Rep. Whitson about HB 0843 and HB 0841.
- Several TASL members attended TLA Library Legislative Day.
- Met monthly with The EdTrust regarding legislation impacting school libraries.
- Met with ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom about HB 0843 and HB 0841.
- Lindsey attended an advocacy boot camp sponsored by EdTrust.

Committee Plans:

- Encourage TASL members to connect with elected officials.
- Continue to partner with The EdTrust and strategize for next year's legislative session.

Additional Comments:

This is the first of a two-year session. Something that passed in the Senate, but not in the House can be picked up without being resubmitted. This is why off-season advocacy is so important. Things can be easily picked up and passed fairly early since it's passed in one chamber and not the other.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Katie Capshaw

Committee Actions:

Asked people to be in the on the committee

Current members:

1. Lindsey Kimery
2. Elizabeth Shepherd
3. Christa Cordrey
4. Misti Jenkins
5. Kaitlyn Benevides

Committee Plans:

1. Look over current strategic plan
2. Meet to discuss ideas to tweak, add or delete from plan.
3. Write new plan and present at next board meeting.

Additional Comments:

Think that we should consider having the President-Elect on the committee each time since they will have to implement the plan.

**Add that into the handbook that the president and president-elect will be on the committee.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Martha Harris

Committee Actions:

We have survived the membership rush with great results. There were very few issues that members encountered.

Committee Plans:

We expect another rush as summer PD approaches.

Additional Comments:

Current Membership Rosters			
Member Type	Lapsed	Graced	Active
Librarian	446	0	371
Librarian On Leave	11	0	2
Library Assistant	8	0	6
Past President	0	0	0
Retired Librarian	12	0	14
School District	2	0	4
- School Librarian	15	0	27
Student	66	0	12
Total	585	0	464
Prospect			348
Total Active			812

MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE

Kaitlyn Benavides and Courtney Brown

Committee Actions:

- Sent out email to Area Reps asking for a contact in each county
- We will use this to reach out to those individuals to help us determine new librarians in each county
- Good response so far
- Put out a "Monthly Challenge" in the newsletter

Committee Plans:

- Look at ALA's Mentoring Guidelines to help build our own guidelines <https://www.ala.org/rt/nmrt/initiatives/nmrtmentguide/nmrtmentoring>
- Start reaching out to contacts from Area Rep spreadsheet and match them with mentors from our original interest form

- Send out Monthly emailed topics to discuss
- Look at other ways of "mentoring"
- **MICROCREDENTIAL COMMITTEE** **Amber Groves & Heather Alexander**

Committee Actions:

- Checked submissions and update submitted evidence forms at least once per week.
- Shared pictures of those who've earned the badge with Kelly to share on social media.
- Amber and Heather talked about scheduling a time to meet together to go over how to do the forms and follow-up with members who've submitted evidence.
- Brainstormed ideas for a push (with prizes) for submissions at the end of the year / maybe over the summer.

Committee Plans:

- Heather and Amber will meet virtually to go over processes.
- Create questionnaire to gather feedback from members.

Additional Comments:

- We have had 17 members submit evidence toward the badge.
- 6 members have earned the badge this school year.
- Can we redo the form so that members do not have to submit a new form each time they want to submit evidence.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Katie Capshaw

Committee Actions:

Sent out an interest email to see if anyone we do not know is interested in serving.

Committee Plans:

Gather members for committee by May 15th.

1. Interview potential candidates
2. Pass on names of people interested in serving as Area Reps or Committee Chairs to Dustin for next year.
3. Committee to choose final names to be presented to the members for voting at conference. We will have names ready to announce by September 1st.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Blake Hopper

Committee Actions:

Schedules are made.

Committee Plans:

Send out schedules – possibly have 7 locations. Blake will send out the schedules on Monday.

Additional Comments:

We need a few more Middle/High Sessions.
Possibly have one paid presenter for the virtual session.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Host</u>
6/8/2023	Virtual	Blake Hopper, Katie Capshaw
6/1/2023	Franklin, Freedom Intermediate School	Dinah Wade
6/1/2023	Maryville, Elengleton Elementary School	Rebecca Dickenson and Alisa Mason
6/5/2023	Memphis/Cordova, St. Benedict at Auburndale High School	Paul Bryant bryantp@sbaeagles.org
6/6/2023	Tiptonville, Lake County High School	Shelly Arnett
6/6/2023	White House, White House High School (Annex)	rachel.watts@sumnerschools.org
6/13/2023	Bells, Bells Elementary	Lydia Crossnoe. lydiacrossnoe@bellscityschool.org
7/11/2023	Cookeville, Tennessee Tech University	Andrea Batson andreabatson@pcsstn.com
7/17/2023	Nashville, Tennessee State Library	Andrea Zielke
6/5/2023	Murfreesboro, Blackman High School	Misti Jenkins
TBD	Memphis, St. Agnes Academy - St. Dominic School	Sara Casey

Committee Actions:

Primary, Intermediate, and Middle School committees have met and finalized the lists for next year. High School is meeting April 29th and will have their list before the end of the day. Voting for the 22-23 school year opened up in March and closes on April 30th. Winners will be contacted and announced sometime next week.

Committee Plans:

Winners of the 22-23 VSBA's will be contacted and announced shortly after voting ends on April 30th. The lists for the 23-24 school year will be posted sometime next week after the last committee meets this weekend. Committee chairs will be finalizing their committees in the next month with the Intermediate, Middle, and High School chairs changing. All committees will begin the nominating process for the 24-25 lists by the end of May. All VSBA chairs will make plans to meet sometime early summer to go over any and all policies and procedures.

Additional Comments:

We have VSBA stickers. Look into the costs of ordering stickers with the new logo on them. We could also sell them in bundles at the conference.

Resources Taskforce

Elizabeth Shephard

Task Force Actions:

Had our initial meeting in April and discussed what our goals were for this task force and some of the logistics of making a members only resource page happen.

Things we might be able to include on our resources page included:

Author/illustrator contact list, lesson plans, professional development (old webinars we could watch for PD credit), database of challenged books and where in the state they were challenged, legislative updates, advice on collection development and other best practices, bulletin board/display ideas, new librarian handbook, a discussion board to share ideas...

How we would store/organize our resources:

We agreed that having a resource behind the paywall, for members only, would be a great incentive for membership. We are trying to increase membership not only for monetary reasons but also because we need to be representing as many of our librarians across the state as possible in order to be a unified force when it comes to the challenges we all face.

So we need a way to protect this information by requiring a log in to the TASL website and also perhaps go further with a password protected website depending on what we end up using.

Ideas included Google Drive, Dropbox, or somehow hosting all the information on our current website directly.

Issues include:

- Wanting multiple people to be able to upload resources instead of funneling everything through one person
- If a person is no longer a member they would need to lose access to the resource library
- Is our website capable of these things?

- How much could potential outside websites/hosts cost us? Can we afford that or are we looking strictly for free ideas?

Task Force Plans:

Katelyn will ask at the upcoming state chapter meeting this week what other state school library chapters do: do they even have a resource like this behind the paywall, do they offer it all up to anyone who visits their site, do they even have a resource page at all?

Elizabeth will contact Christa Cordrey (webmaster) to ask her about what our website can and cannot do and will also research some options for things like hosting resources and setting up discussion boards.

Katelyn will put the Resources Task Force on the upcoming board meeting agenda. Elizabeth will speak for the task force at the board meeting and upload a summarized version of these notes as a Task Force report.

Additional Comments:

We are excited about making this idea a reality. If any member has ideas that could help us or wants to join our committee please let President Katelyn Jernigan know.

Christa has been working on cleaning out our storage in MemberClicks so that we have some space. She has also been working on creating a members only section that is not available to prospects or others just viewing the page. Christa suggested to have someone design graphics for the site to help out.

The question was brought up about whether or not MemberClicks is the best for what we need or if we need to look into another site. Christa reminded the group that it's not just a website, but is a member database and would be a large undertaking to move everything over to a new site.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Buffalo Region Area Representative Report

Angela Frederick

Area Updates:

Have emailed all public school librarians, if I could find an email address for them, in Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, Perry, Wayne, Williamson
Sent links to join TASL and sign up for Summer PD.
Considered doing a meet-up at some point.

Clinch River Region Area Representative Report

Blake Hopper

Area Updates:

Sending emails

Area Plans:

Sending emails about events

Additional Comments:

TNT Primary School Library was selected as a finalist for National School Library of the Year

Davidson County Region Area Representative Report**Amber Groves****Area Updates:**

Between Feb. and now I have sent one email to our region. Included in the email I had a Google form sheet to submit any questions, comments, or concerns. As of 4/27/2023 there were zero responses

Area Plans:

My plan going into May is to promote Summer PD, mentorship, and All Star Badges.

Falling Water River Area Representative Report**Andrea Baston****Area Updates:**

With Shannon Auberson (librarian at Algood Middle School), traveled to Brown Elementary School in Cumberland County and visited with librarians at their district librarian meeting on April 3rd. We shared highlights from the fall TASL meeting, and promoted the upcoming summer PD and 2023 annual meeting. It was really good to meet our school librarian neighbors. Some are already TASL members, but not all. I would consider doing something similar again.

Area Plans:

None at this time, aside from promoting upcoming TASL events.

Hamilton County Region Area Representative Report**Laura Dowd****Area Updates:**

- Read 20 held a Luncheon for the Librarians at WTCI, government officials attended. Positive PR!
- The READ 20 sponsored Hamilton County Librarian of the Year Award was presented at the School Board on 4/20. A professional video was presented highlighting student voice and the impact of the school library. This is the video made by Signal Centers (a READ20 partner) to recognize what libraries do for HCS students:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8q8y8auilqudu1r/Librarian%20Edit.mp4?dl=0>

Area Plans:

- **May 4-** Book Club(Newbery & Caldecott) and PD
- **June 20&21-** School Librarian Summer Institute- *Engage Every Student Everyday*

- The district focus is academic press and personalization which we feel are the library's strengths.
- Summer Reading Collaboration with the Public library begins soon, but the program had difficulty finding funding this year. How can we better support our public libraries?

Hatchie River Region Area Representative Report

Elizabeth Parnell

Area Updates:

No updates at this time for the greater Hatchie River area.

I have reached out for contacts regarding the mentoring program but received no responses.

Area Plans:

Regarding the mentorship program, my next step is to filter through the membership list on our website and plug a name in for each county. I'm an implant to this region, so I'm not particularly familiar with the geography outside of Madison County.

I also plan to keep plugging along reaching out on a monthly basis.

Additional Comments:

I received a heads up from Madison County Central Office staffer that a list of complaints regarding books had been brought to district officials, and librarians would be receiving an email with directives to remove a number of titles from our shelves. The staffer noted that I had 12 titles that I would be directed to remove. If we have not reviewed the procedure for reporting this, could I have quick refresher to share with our district librarians when this directive is sent out?

Holston River Region Area Representative Report

Mary Foister

Area Updates:

No updates reported for our area.

I have emailed the librarians (if I could locate an email address) in our area for the mentoring program.

Area Plans:

Washington County Librarians are planning their end-of-the-year meeting for May 15.

Amy Reis, Children's Program Coordinator with the Washington County Public Library system at the Gray and Jonesborough branches, has reached out for a partnering opportunity for Washington County Schools. She will be visiting Jonesborough Elementary on May 10 to discuss the partnership and also to speak with the students about the WCPL's upcoming Summer Reading Program.

Additional Comments:

Cathy Ketron, LMS at Fall Branch Elementary, has retired after 15 years of librarianship. We wish her all the best in her retirement!

Knox County Region Area Representative Report**Brandi Hartsell****Area Updates:**

- Emailed the Knox County Schools listserv about membership renewal in January. Received several responses saying they had joined or planned to join.
- Emailed a reminder to submit VSBA votes in April.
- Attempted to solicit good news to share on social media, but received no response.
- Submitted nominations for Librarian of the Month as area representative.

Area Plans:

- Continue nominating Knox region librarians for Librarian of the Month.
- Email with updates after each Board meeting.
- Potential meetup??

Additional Comments:

I think I've mentioned this before, but I have had several TASL members share with me that they support removing the stipulation that VSBA nominees must be written by authors who currently live in the United States. I know this rule has prevented me from recommending some REALLY great books.

There are two open librarian positions in Knox County – 1 split elementary position and 1 high school.

Obion River Region Area Representative Report**Sandi Walden****Area Updates:**

I attended the All Libraries Conference at UTM. After the conference, I emailed all participants who shared their email addresses encouraging them to join TASL if they are not already a member.

Area Plans:

Continue reaching out and encouraging TASL membership.

Ocoee River Region Area Representative Report**Martha Harris****Area Updates:**

I reached out via email to my area. I encouraged them to sign up for Summer PD, share any news (particularly any book challenges), and asked them to let me know if they are interested in the mentor program.

Area Plans:

I still am working to find a contact for each area in my region for the mentorship committee.

Red River Region Area Representative Report

Michelle Howell

Area Updates:

Sumner County: Yesterday (April 4th) on Library Legislative Day and School Librarian Day, eleven Sumner County Schools librarians brought our concerns to all four of our legislators on Capitol Hill. We visited with Rep. Slater and Rep. Lamberth together and with Senator Haile and Rep. Garrett separately as their schedules allowed. We discussed the classroom library exemption legislation that recently died for this session, arming teachers legislation ([HB 1202](#)), and the obscenity bill directed at book publishers ([HB 0841](#)) - this part is in the amendments to the bill- among other topics. We tried to provide a "boots on the ground" perspective to legislation already in place and other bills currently moving through the legislature. I think we all would agree that we didn't move any mountains yesterday, but we did have good conversations and once again reminded our elected officials we are paying attention to and are interested in what goes on in the legislature. It was also a wonderful time of fellowship for those of us that went. I would continue to encourage you all to contact your legislators with your concerns and thoughts on issues that you are concerned about.



Visit with Senator Haile



How many librarians can you fit in an elevator? Approximately 11!

Area Plans:

Sumner County: we are working on building partnerships with our public libraries. We had formed a committee which met once a month and had one collaborative PD day

and then it stopped when COVID hit. We are working to reform that committee so that we can support each other.

Two librarians from Robertson County were selected as the Distinguished Educators for their buildings – Brandie McKinney and Heather Alexander.

Shelby County Region Area Representative Report

Sarah Hubbard

Area Updates:

Librarians in the area have been encouraged to register for the summer PD sessions with TASL. No news of any book challenges in the area.

Area Plans:

Our area get together has been postponed (as we only had three people sign-up). We will try again in the fall after school resumes.

Additional Comments:

The librarian at Bon Lin elementary recently received the "Educator of the Week" award from a local news station. This award comes from a community nomination, so it speaks of her impact on the community.

We have a librarian retiring in the Bartlett City Schools district after 20 years of being a school librarian. If you know of librarians looking for a new home, send them our way!

Stones River Region Area Representative Report

Elizabeth Shepherd

Area Updates:

Emailed my region and received lots of good news to share:

Vicki Hines from Lebanon Special School District brought a group of librarians to my school to observe and she shared the following: "Our school hosted Jerry Pallotta, author of the Who Would Win series last month. He spoke to each grade level during the day about what inspires him to write and how he researches and writes his books and then spoke to parents that evening about the importance of reading nonfiction to and with their children and then sold and signed books that evening. His visit kicked off our school-wide book writing efforts in preparation for our first ever author and illustrator conference in May in which students will write and illustrate a book that they will read aloud to their peers.

Personally I'm looking forward to my school hosting Heather Montgomery on May 16th, I'm very thankful to have such a supportive PTO funding her visit.

I heard from a couple librarians the good news that they were chosen as teacher of the year at their schools!

- Rachel Hibdon from Smyrna Primary School
- Carol Smallwood from Jones Brummett Elementary, Carol then went on to represent her entire district as the chosen 5th-8th teacher of the year representative (fun fact, Carol's sister also won teacher of the year for her school!)

Lois Walker from Smyrna HS asked about good sources of grant money, specifically for library furniture and to increase their collection. Anyone have any suggestions?

Area Plans:

I plan to email my region after our board meeting to share updates and to encourage them to participate in Summer PD and applying to present at our annual conference.

Dollar General (excludes furniture), Humanities Tennessee, Wal-Mart were grant opportunities suggested.

REPORTS FROM AFFILIATES

AASL/ALA

Katelyn Jernigan

Affiliate Actions:

- Discussed purpose of the AASL Chapter Assembly Group
- Communication between AASL and state-level chapters
- Advocacy help
- Membership support
- Heard from Dennis Nelson from the Anti-Defamation League
- Spoke about the No Place for Hate program for schools and that sign ups are happening now for No Place for Hate Day on May 11
- More information: dnelson@adl.org or 856.264.9041
- Highlighted School Library Promotional materials
- www.ala.org/aasl/promotional
- Asked for submissions of resolutions requests to the AASL Board for consideration
- Resolution requesting action be taken by the AASL Chapter Assembly or AASL Board of Directors (formally called a Statement of Concern)
- Resolution commending a program, event, or product (formally called a Statement of Commendation)
- TASL has submitted one commending Limitless Libraries and are working on another for Ed Trust
- Resolutions that are approved are awarded the TASL Presidential Award

Affiliate Plans:

- Forming an Affinity Group to discuss membership benefits and resources
- AASL Town Hall
- AASL Virtual Membership Meeting
- May 10 at 6:00 PM Central
- Register at www.ala.org/aasl/townhall
- AASL Communities of Practice
- Forums and discussion boards for members to post best practices and ideas
- www.ala.org/aasl/CoPs

Additional Comments:

- ALA Annual Conference Chicago, June 22-27
- AASL Conference Tampa, October 19-21

TNLA**Kate Pritchard****Affiliate Actions:**

TNLA's Intellectual Freedom committee has created the [Tennessee Public Libraries Materials Challenges Survey](#) and begun distributing it to public libraries across the state. They also gathered responses at the TNLA conference. As of early April, they had 56 responses.

Affiliate Plans:

At the TNLA board meeting on April 11, 2023, the board decided to put a link to the survey on the TNLA website, with an optional question to collect contact information from survey respondents who feel safe sharing their details. There was some discussion about whether or not to put up a similar form for school libraries, but we thought TASL would prefer to host that on their website. TNLA is aware that TASL is working on a similar survey.

The TNLA board also decided to join EdTrust/Tennessee Coalition for Truth in Our Classrooms. Lyn Hunter (from the Children & Young Adults Roundtable) attended a meeting and encouraged us to join if we could ensure that a few TNLA members could share the responsibility of attending meetings. We are currently seeking members who can commit to this.

Additional Comments:

Perhaps if both TNLA and TASL have surveys, each can also offer a link to the other's website or survey. For example, a link on the TNLA website that says "Tennessee school librarians who want to report a challenge may use the TASL survey form," with a link either to the TASL website or directly to the TASL survey.

TENN-SHARE

Ari Baker

Affiliate Actions:

- Tenn-Share welcomed 7 new board members in 2023. They are below:
 - Vice President/President Elect – Marcie Boutwell, Electronic Resources and Discovery Librarian at UT Martin
 - East TN Public Library Representative – Sarah Beth Minton, Library Director at White Pine Public Library
 - Middle TN Public Library Representative – Garrett C. Crowell, Library Circulation Manager at Linebaugh Public Library
 - Middle TN School Library Representative – Julie Caudle, Librarian at Page Middle School (Williamson County)
 - East TN School Library Representative – Larissa McMahan, Library/Media Specialist at Sevierville Primary School (Sevier County)
 - Special Library Representative (temporary appointment) – Lee Bouile, Assistant Director of Collections and Technology at Nashville Public Library
 - TSLA Representative – John Elliot, Librarian II at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.
- Check out our Winter Newsletter [here](#).
- Membership and summer renewal season is upon us! Your library's Tenn-Share contact should have received a renewal prompt for membership renewal on our membership and subscription management software, [Consortia Manager](#) this month. If your library is not a member of Tenn-Share you can learn more about membership [here](#). All of Tenn-Share's current offers can be viewed [here](#); please don't share this document with other institutions or vendors!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions about what is going on with Tenn-Share (at execdir@tenn-share.org).

TEL

Andrea Zielke

Affiliate Actions:

Tennessee Electronic Library

PebbleGo direct links and admin information sent out to TASL listserv.

Tennessee State Library and Archives will be participating in the Southern Festival of Books in October 2023 - there will be school days hosted at the library.

Affiliate Plans:

Starting to plan how to create lesson plans involving TEL resources due to the requests from new school librarians - thinking of starting with informal workshops at summer PD. Looking to see if there is an opportunity at TASL Annual Conference working with the Standards Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Email student members for board position
 - Katelyn will work on gathering names of contacts at various university programs.

NEW BUSINESS

Resource Task Force – See report above.

DISCUSSIONS

- We FINALLY got a State Library Coordinator!
 - Nikki Jones-Wallace from the Memphis area
 - Previously a teacher, school librarian, and most recently principal
 - Interested in the board's ideas regarding the best method to reach a larger audience of librarians throughout the state (no centralized database to reach out to a collective)
 - Greatest concerns individually, specifically as it relates to their ability to work effectively in their roles in their schools
 - Are you involved in current literacy initiatives? Reading instruction has evolved tremendously in recent years; wonders how many librarians have been integrated into implementing those shifts.
 - Blake and Katie invited her to be a guest on the TASL podcast (with a list of questions that will be asked given ahead of time).
- Bookmark Contest change recommendations:
 - Change the timing of the contest to the fall and give librarians a longer window to submit bookmarks (bookmark entries arrived after the judging was complete and bookmarks were back from the printer; postmarked correctly, but USPS did not deliver them in a timely manner)
 - Bookmarks would be due to the chair by the end of the second week of January
 - Kick off at Fall Conference, materials printed for attendees at check in for the conference
 - Change the prize structure to 1st-3rd place; Honorable Mention makes it seem like they didn't truly win
 - Prize money would be 30, 20, 10
 - New category for digital art in grades 6-8 and have it compete separately
 - Mediums used should be paint and markers, no coloring pencils (coloring pencils do not scan well to send them to the printer)
 - I (Katelyn) find the categories and the rules a bit confusing
- Discussed Ideas for Changes:
 - **Theme available at the beginning of August.**
 - **Entries would be due by Dec. 15th.**
 - **Materials available at conference for pick up.**

- **1st place winner and 1 honorable mention with certificate and enlarged bookmark, as well as specific number of bookmarks for winner(s) and librarian for each. No cash prize.**
 - **Middle and high school: hand drawn category and digital category will be judged separately.**
- Michelle and Krista and whoever will join the group will discuss these ideas and make a decision. The committee will need to touch base with Mallory to discuss financial information.
- Freedom to Read Book Club
 - Susan Groenke from the Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature at UTK is again interested in co-sponsoring a Freedom to Read Book Club this summer (done last year with Allison Varnes)
 - This year's book would be *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
 - Book club would like to end with a 1-hour virtual visit with Jerry Craft
 - Fee is \$3500 and the center would like to split that cost with us (not sure we can swing this)
 - Tentative date is June 1 (I would like a different date due to Summer PD)
 - Discussion – We don't have the funding to do this. Katelyn will respond to the email this week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congratulations to Blake Hopper and TNT Primary School for being named a finalist for AASL School Library of the Year
- Summer PD Registration is now open.
- Session Proposals are now open for TASL Conference

ADJOURNMENT

M-APRIL29-03: Blake Hopper moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Ginny Britt. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 12:30PM CST.

April 29, 2023 MOTION SUMMARY

M-APRIL29-01: Angela Frederick made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Michelle Howell. Motion carries.

M-APRIL29-02: Katie Capshaw made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Sandi Walden. Motion carries.

M-APRIL29-03: Blake Hopper moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Ginny Britt. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 12:30PM CST.

Dates to Remember:

TASLCon Sessions Proposals Deadline - June 9, 2023

ALA Chicago - June 22-27, 2023

AASL Conference Tampa FL - October 19-21, 2023

Board Meeting - September 16, 2023

Board Meeting - November 5, 2023

TASL Con 2023 - November 5-7, 2023

Summer PD - June & July 2023

- June 1 - Franklin
- June 1 - Maryville
- June 5 - Murfreesboro
- June 8 - Virtual
- July 11 - Cookeville
- July 17 - Nashville

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Alexander

TASL 2023 Secretary