

TASL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – September 16, 2023

Welcome, Introductions and Call to Order: An executive board meeting of the Tennessee Association of School Librarians was held on September 16, 2023. The meeting convened at 9:03 A.M. CST with President Katelyn Jernigan presiding.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Katelyn Jernigan
Katie Capshaw
Blake Hopper
Kelly Messerly
Michelle Howell
Kaitlyn Benavides
Courtney Brown
Angela Frederick
Sandi Walden
Ginny Britt
Heather Alexander
Mallory Nygard
Elizabeth Shepherd
Dustin Hensley
Elizabeth Parnell
Amanda Smithfield
Sarah Hubbard
Brandi Hartsell
Xan Lasko
Krista Grace
Julie Fox

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Andrea Batson
Amber Groves
Lindsey Kimery
Mary Foister
Charles Rayburn

OTHERS PRESENT

Christa Cordrey
Andrea Zeilke
Kate Prichard
Ari Baker
Nikki Jones-Wallace

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M-SEPTEMBER16-01: Katie Capshaw made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Blake Hopper. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M-SEPTEMBER16-02: Katie Capshaw made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Sarah Hubbard. Motion carries.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mallory Nygard

Committee Actions:

Recorded new memberships and sign ups for the 2023 Conference.

Ordered a new Board Member card from Regions to better facilitate Conference preparations. Dustin Hensley currently has it.

Profit & Loss

January 1 through September 11, 2023

	Jan 1 - Sep 11, 23
Income	
2023 Conference	21,899.00
2023 Conference Sponsor	1,550.00
2023 Conference Vendor	7,525.00
2023 Membership	22,515.00
Insurance - Refund	331.00
Summer PD 2023	4,150.00
VSBA Stickers	23.00
Total Income	57,993.00
Gross Profit	57,993.00
Expense	
2023 TASL Conference	299.00
Board Expense	257.00
Bookmark Contest	1,027.13
Insurance	331.00
MemberClicks	446.70
PO Box Rental	212.00
President Elect Expenses	2,514.10
President Expenses	2,451.23
Total Expense	7,538.16
Net Income	50,454.84

Current balances:

Savings: \$20,004.59

Main: \$69,170.93

Secondary: \$3,319.72

Committee Plans:

Follow up via email with members who have open invoices (have signed up for Conference, but haven't paid yet).

About \$18,000 in members who have registered and not yet paid.

BOOKMARK SUBCOMMITTEE

Krista Grace

Committee Actions: We have updated the rules and prizes for the contest.

Committee Plans: We need to start posting the materials needed for librarians to be able to enter the contest. The contest is open and closes December 15th.

Bookmark contest has been moved into the fall. Materials will be available at conference, but the contest materials will be released in the next couple of weeks.

EDI SUBCOMMITTEE

This spot is currently empty. If anyone is interested in leading this subcommittee, let Katelyn know.

CERTIFICATION & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Ginny Britt

Committee Actions:

I will be leading a session at Conference on AASL Standards. This is a first opportunity to gauge our membership's knowledge of the AASL Standards and to start figuring out what next steps we need to take to support TASL members.

Committee Plans:

No other actions at this time.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Dustin Hensley

Committee Actions:

- 42 breakout session submitted

- Breakout submissions selected
- Breakout session schedule created
- Dates for 2024 conference selected
- Continued work with Embassy on planning & event needs

Committee Plans:

- Add breakout sessions to SCHED
- Share SCHED app with attendees
- Push social media posts encouraging attendance and hyping up pre-conference & TASL after dark
- Pre-Conference stakeholder videos
- Day of conference volunteer form
- VSBA & Business meeting
- Conference back in September

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Heather Alexander

Committee Actions:

No actions currently.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mallory Nygard

Committee Actions:

Still soliciting names of people who might be interested in joining the committee and/or potentially be Treasurer in the future.

Committee Plans:

Complete a budget for the 2024 year for the November board meeting.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE

Xan Lasko

Committee Actions:

- Presented at summer PD in Murfreesboro and in July at the PD in Nashville regarding legislation and how to handle a crisis situation (in general).
- Attended SIFnet meetings

Committee Plans:

- Present at TASLCon and Tenn-Share Showcase

- Attend local board meetings (school board, library board)
 - Share the load - get volunteers to rotate so that someone is in attendance

Additional Comments:

- Nationally, many things happening as they are here in TN
 - book removals without following district policy
 - opt-in forms
 - rating systems
- Ways to combat backlash
 - Alaska and [Michigan](#) have started have started Right to Read campaigns
 - An [example](#) of handout given to legislators in Wisconsin
- Stay vigilant - (area reps these might be good reminders to push out)
 - Encourage members to talk amongst district librarians or (in person or on the phone) or TASL should concerns arise.
 - Know your collection policy & review books that may come under review
 - Attend local board meetings (school board, library board)
 - Share the load - get volunteers to rotate so that someone is in attendance - this is where things are happening
- Books mentioned for review or removal
 - *Identical* by Ellen Hopkins
 - *Flamer* by Mike Curato
 - *Crank* and *Fallout* by Ellen Hopkins
- Recommended to review school collections using tags to locate any books that might need to be looked at.
- Upcoming Freedom to Read Week 10/1-10/7



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Committee Actions:

Lindsey Kimery & Amanda Smithfield

- Attending EdTrust meetings
- Have panel for TASL focused on intellectual freedom with TN librarians Caroline Mickey and Tracy Parker, Murfreesboro Vice-Mayor, and Wilson County parent, Sarah Moore. This panel is a collaboration between the Legislative task force and Intellectual Freedom.
- Encouraged EdTrust to present at TASLCON.
- Shared information to TASL Community about current legislation and ways they can seek support and resources in the event of a challenge.

Committee Plans:

- Continue to meet with EdTrust
- Meet to discuss strategies for the upcoming legislative session.

Additional Comments:

If anyone is having issues with clubs and things like that, reach out to Amanda to see if groups can be combined to reach out to the Legislature.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Katie Capshaw

Committee Actions:

Currently forming a committee. Current members: Elizabeth Shepherd, Misti Jenkins, and Sarah Hubbard

Committee Plans:

Will send out current Long Range Plan to committee members. Committee will meet to discuss any changes or additions. New plan will be submitted by November board meeting.

Additional Comments:

Introduction to Nikki Jones-Wallace

- In Education for 29 years, started out as a high school English teacher
- Pre-K/Elementary and High School Librarian
- Past experience as administrator (including during Covid)
- Leads an advisory board that meets quarterly

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Martha Harris

Committee Actions:

Membership has been very quiet lately. Only a few occasional questions about joining mid-year.

Committee Plans:

I expect a swell in renewals and new memberships as the conference grows closer.

Additional Comments:

Several systems seem to be taking advantage of "group invoices," so their system can cover all their librarians' memberships. That is nice. Thanks to Christa for creating those!

MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE**Kaitlyn Benavides and Courtney Brown****Committee Actions:**

Area Rep Information Form

- We have a good list of contacts from various school districts across the state. These were provided by area reps and consolidated into a [Google Folder](#)
- Please continue to contribute before September 29th if you know of any school system contacts.
- We have established a partnership with Holly Herbet, director of MTSU's MLS Program. We hope to include her students in our program for an additional layer of mentorship as well as an advocacy piece.

Committee Plans:

On October 1st, we will email those points of contact and ask for a list of newer librarians in their counties (Those who have been in the profession 0-2 years and/or newly graduated from a Library program).

Original Mentor/Mentee Interest Form

- We will reach out to those marked an interest in being a Mentor and give them options for choosing a focused area to be an "expert".
- The "experts" will become points of contact for specific questions related to their area
- Expert areas: Weeding, Elementary, Middle, High, Collection Development, Events/Activities, Advocacy, etc. (I just put a few here for us to reference)

Additional Comments:

We will ask the experts to do monthly/quarterly, etc. Zoom sessions related to a specific topic (open to all) or "office hours" in which newer librarians can call or reach out with questions or feedback.

- Can TASL members invite those who aren't current members as a way to encourage membership, or does this need to be a members only event?

*** I also want to relay some concerns from MTSU's MLS department. Perhaps our hive brain can provide some insight.

MICROCREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Amber Groves & Heather Alexander

Committee Actions:

- Reviewed submitted evidence and awarded points for members.
- Updated the form to allow for multiple selections when submitting evidence.
- Updated the form to include some items that were on the website but not on the form.
- We held a contest at the end of the school year to try to help get more members to submit their evidence.

Committee Plans:

- Continue reviewing submitted evidence as members complete the form.
- Recruit more members to help with the process, brainstorming plans for the future, etc.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Katie Capshaw

Committee Actions:

Formed committee of: Katie Capshaw, Blake Hopper, Ginny Brett, Katelyn Jernigan and Dustin Hensley. Nominating committee met and decided on candidates to nominate for President and Secretary. Nominations were offered to the people selected.

Committee Plans:

Announce to the membership by September 30th the names of the candidates. Will post on social media, in newsletter and have them on TASL Talks Podcast.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Blake Hopper

- Good turnout for Summer PD.
- Katie has agreed to take leadership for Summer PD. Blake will continue to help.

VSBA

Julie Fox

- Looking into the cost for the gold embossed labels.
- Touched base with a group about new graphics.
- Stickers should be ready to sell at TASL Conference '23
- Possibly looking to have a booth to sell the labels
- It's a possibility to sell the remainder of the previous stickers for half off since we still have some of those.
- Julie will send slides to Katelyn for the conference.

Resources Taskforce

Elizabeth Shephard

- Christa created a page to experiment with to add links. Considering how to link and share the information behind the pay wall.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Buffalo Region Area Representative Report

Angela Frederick

Area Updates:

[Pending lawsuit](#) against Williamson County School Board for retaining library books, assisted by Rep Gino Bulso (Brentwood)

Books that were voted to be kept (with a "warning"): Where the Crawdads Sing, Field Guide to the North American Teenager, Speak

Longview Elementary in Williamson County Schools.

Area Plans:

Contact Buffalo River members about TASL conference

Clinch River Region Area Representative Report

Blake Hopper

Area Updates:

Sent out emails about the conference and welcoming everyone back.

Librarian opening in Blake's district.

Davidson County Region Area Representative Report

Amber Groves

Area Updates:

Sent email promoting conference, awards, and seeking volunteers for the Southern Festival of Books.

Area Plans:

Keep area informed on TASL happenings. Continue promoting conference.

Falling Water River Area Representative Report

Andrea Baston

Area Updates:

None

Area Plans:

Will promote upcoming TASL conference to area librarians.

Hamilton County Region Area Representative Report

Charles Rayburn

No Report Submitted

Hatchie River Region Area Representative Report

Elizabeth Parnell

Area Updates:

- We received our list of books to be pulled from the shelves in JMCSS. I reached out to Xan and filed a report with ALA.
- I emailed the group on 9/12 and asked for updates and encouraged Conference attendance.
- Elizabeth Parnell's library was remodeled and will be half library and half "Fab Lab."

Area Plans:

- Being better about reaching out.

Holston River Region Area Representative Report

Mary Foister

Area Updates:

We would like to welcome Heather Dugan, Librarian, to Fall Branch Elementary School.

Knox County Region Area Representative Report

Brandi Hartsell

Area Updates:

- Emailed KCS listserv to introduce myself, encourage joining TASL, and offer an opportunity to share good news or questions/concerns.
- A local community member who hosts a podcast has been contacting school board members about transgender books in school libraries. Several board members received reports that included screenshots of library catalogs and a list of how many transgender books certain schools have. Building and district response has been appropriate thus far.

Area Plans:

- Continue to provide email updates (both through the KCS listserv and the Knox County listserv through TASL.
- Potentially host a question and answer session (near the legislative session).

Obion River Region Area Representative Report

Sandi Walden

Area Updates:

Helped track down the new LMS observation guidance document for a librarian. Shared about conference and encouraged attendance.

Area Plans:

Continue keeping in touch

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

No news, good or bad, has been shared with me

Area Plans:

We plan to continue to share newsletters and encourage attendance at the fall conference

Red River Region Area Representative Report**Michelle Howell****Area Updates:**

Sumner County: Sumner County Schools are going 1-1 with iPads! All of the HS have already issued the devices and MS will follow shortly. I am not sure about ES. Also, we have weathered a number of book challenges. A few items have been pulled, but we have retained many more than we have lost.

Our board policies are under review and a library committee is working with them on this.

Christa Cordrey is hosting Battle of the Books (for grades 6-8) on May 4th.

Shelby County Region Area Representative Report**Sarah Hubbard****Area Updates:**

Sent out social media posts inviting people to register for the conference. I also sent out a few individual emails to some new librarians in the area. I also contacted the library supervisors for Shelby County Schools and asked them to share information with all of their librarians (just an email that welcomed them to the school year, gave conference info, some basics about the perks of TASL, and link to a form for them to complete about a possible area meet-up). I have not received any responses back or on the form, but I'm still hopeful!

Area Plans:

None at this time.

Additional Comments:

One of the new librarians in the area asked about other PD sessions through-out the year, as she can't attend the conference in November. Will TASL be offering any webinars this year (I am a big fan of the Spooky Books one...). 😊

Stones River Region Area Representative Report

Elizabeth Shepherd

Area Updates:

Nothing to report.

Area Plans:

Will send updates from today's meeting and further reminders about registering for conference before the rates go up.

REPORTS FROM AFFILIATES

AASL/ALA

Katelyn Jernigan

Affiliate Actions:

- Attended ALA Annual Conference in June in Chicago
- Attended the ALA Chapter Assembly Meeting to represent TASL
- Submitted NPL/MNPS Limitless Libraries for an AASL Commendation

Affiliate Plans:

- Will attend AASL in Tampa in October
- ALA & AASL have received funding for all ALA and AASL affiliate chapters to send a member to a Chapter Advocacy Workshop in Chicago this December. They want the person attending to be the leader/chair of the organization during the 2024 Legislative session. The plan is to send Dustin if he is able.

Additional Comments:

- Banned Books Week October 1-7 uniteagainstdbookbans.org
- AASL Conference Tampa October 19-21

TNLA

Kate Pritchard

Affiliate Actions:

- Attended TNLA board meetings, June 10, 2023 & Sept 13, 2023
- Began attending monthly meetings of TN Coalition for Truth in Our Classrooms
- TNLA has joined [Unite Against Book Bans](https://uniteagainstdbookbans.org)
- TNLA put out a statement in support of libraries & library staff in the face of challenges:

"Censorship is wrong. Attacking librarians is wrong. The Tennessee Library Association fully supports parents making decisions for their own children, but libraries serve everyone in their communities. It is time to trust librarians to do their jobs."

Affiliate Plans:

- Can TASL join United Against Book Bans too (or have we already?)
- TNLA, along with TASL, FOTL, and others, will have a booth at the Southern Festival of Books, October 21-22, to raise awareness of the threats facing libraries in TN
 - There will be a sign-up form on the TNLA website for anyone who wants to help staff the booth in 3-hour shifts
 - Kathy Dooley-Smith (FOTL) will be ordering stickers to give away; anyone who wants to order more stickers should contact her soon to be added to the order (see sticker images in TNLA Affiliate Report - Sticker Images folder)
 - We can also create a handout to have at the booth about what TASL does and ways that people can support the organization and/or their local school libraries
 - Alternatively, we can put that info on the TASL website and create a QR code to be displayed in the booth, along with a 1-2 line statement about TASL
 - I am requesting book donations from Parnassus (banned book bundles) for us to give away in a raffle at the booth
- TNLA's DEI Committee is planning a March for Libraries on April 13, 2024
 - <https://www.tnla.org/news/651305/March-for-Libraries-coming-soon.htm>
- A question came up about reciprocal membership between TASL & TNLA, which many people might not know about. How can we better promote this?
 - Both orgs could add language to their websites laying out the steps: Pay for TASL membership, then contact TNLA's executive director (Cathy Farley, exdirtla@gmail.com) to request that this count towards their TNLA membership
 - Already [on TNLA website](#) but somewhat buried & not clear how to apply
 - Should TASL promote this benefit on the TASL listserv each fall?

Additional Comments:

I want to note that more TN public libraries are now facing attacks and challenges too, including a restrictive new Public Library Service Agreement. This is a yearly document that is signed by the local library board, the regional library and the state library that outlines roles and responsibilities in that partnership. The new agreement contains vague language about materials that are "pornographic for minors" (this is a term without a legal definition and is not defined in the document), leaving public library staff open to challenges and threats from community members.

This is not at all surprising, but still very disheartening. It also gives the lie to comments made previously by some of our elected officials who argued that banning books in school libraries is acceptable because the books would still be available in public libraries. Now those same materials are being challenged and restricted in public libraries too.

TENN-SHARE
Affiliate Actions:

Ari Baker

- We had our first session of the Intellectual Freedom Discussion Group in August which we are hosting in partnership with TNLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee. This group will be meeting the 4th Thursday at 6:30pm CT / 7:30 pm ET. Registration and more info can be found [here](#).
- Sept. 28 will be the next meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIcO-rrjkiGdAQ0zLsaRonKM20cj5mtN7y#/registration>

Affiliate Plans:

- Save the date for [Tenn-Share Showcase](#), which will be held virtually October 17th and 18th. Registration will be open next week!
- Keep an eye out for open Tenn-Share board positions coming to a listserv near you this fall.

Additional Comments:

As always if you have any Tenn-Share related questions or requests, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at execdir@tenn-share.org.

TEL
Affiliate Actions:

Andrea Zielke

Tennessee Electronic Library

Interface updates for Peterson's Test and Career Prep are scheduled for 9/21 after 2 delays. Updates will improve the interface including navigation in Spanish. Working with vendor to continue to improve content based on TN needs.

TEL Academy will be reviewed and updated specifically for school librarians after the Peterson's update.

With Language Learning and Test Prep RFPs complete, no upcoming RFPs until 2025.

Professional Development Opportunities (webinars and workshops) from Education Outreach at TSLA

Turning Points in History: Using Language Arts & Social Studies Standards to Explore Moments of Change

The Tennessee State Library & Archives is pleased to offer our in-person workshop series for the 2023-2024 school year! Using diverse mediums such as historical speeches, diaries, political cartoons, newspapers, and other informational texts, we will provide opportunities for educators to discover activities that build student background knowledge and engage the classroom in a cross-curricular approach.

Activities will focus on the integration of English Language Arts into American History through the use of primary sources based on the collection of the Tennessee State Library & Archives. The history topics we will explore will focus on the social studies content found in 4th, 5th, 8th, and High School American history courses.

Register at <https://tnsoshistory.com/education-outreach/professional-development>

Tennessee Talks: Piecing Together Tennessee History

The Tennessee State Library & Archives presents a webinar series called Tennessee Talks: Piecing Together Tennessee History. Every 3rd Thursday of each month starting in October 2023 and running through April 2024, teachers will have an opportunity to listen and engage with Tennessee State Library & Archives Education staff and history teachers from across the state. Teachers can expect to explore innovative ways to teach primary sources that will keep students engaged with the Tennessee History Standards. These hour-long sessions will begin at 4 p.m. (Central)/ 5 p.m. (Eastern).

Register at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1U3yCe3-LigdyUqOnhskuNA5mSJo78ZLkM0R7fZE_Ob4/viewform?edit_requested=true

Southern Festival of Books will be at TSLA this year - Oct 21-22

Humanities Tennessee presents The 35th annual Southern Festival of Books: A Celebration of the Written WordSM! The Festival is among the oldest literary festivals in the country. The Festival is free, and includes performance stages, food trucks, publishers and booksellers.

Festival weekend (Oct. 21 and 22) takes place in downtown Nashville. The Festival

grounds include Bicentennial Mall State Park, the Tennessee State Museum, and the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Info at - <https://sofestofbooks.org/index.php>

Volunteer opportunities with TLA/FOTL/TASL

Affiliate Plans:

Business as usual.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Email student members for board position

NEW BUSINESS

- Talking to the press
 - Elizabeth Shepherd got an email at her school email asking about book bans across the state.
 - If you're going to speak with the press, check with your district to make sure you have permission to speak with the press.
 - Before you speak on behalf of TASL, talk with the president first to make sure you're representing well.
 - If you're not comfortable speaking with the press, you don't have to.
- TASL joining Unite Against Book Bans

DISCUSSIONS

Social Media

- Tweetdeck is no longer a free option to schedule posts
- Any other free social media scheduling posts?
- Should we continue to focus on Twitter or should we focus somewhere else?
- Someone messaged Kelly about paid advertisements on Facebook. Her initial thoughts are no, but does anyone have any thoughts or opinions? She asked for more details.
- Remember to send anything for social media to Kelly so she can post

Librarian of the Month

- We are falling behind on this
- Do we want to continue to do it?
- Take nominations the month after for Librarian of the month. Transition to one per month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next TASL Executive Board Meeting will be November 5, 2023 at 7:30 PM.
- LMS TEAM Observation Rubric guidance document was created this summer to allow for support for those who are observing librarians.
- Congrats to Blake on the birth of Samuel Tate Hopper!
- Congrats to Kaitlyn Benavides on her new job as the Rutherford County District Library Supervisor!

ADJOURNMENT

M-SEPTEMBER16-03: Katie Capshaw moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Blake Hopper. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM CST.

September 16, 2023 MOTION SUMMARY

M-SEPTEMBER16-01: Katie Capshaw made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Blake Hopper. Motion carries.

M-SEPTEMBER16-02: Katie Capshaw made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Sarah Hubbard. Motion carries.

M-SEPTEMBER16-03: Katie Capshaw moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Blake Hopper. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM CST.

Dates to Remember:

Freedom to Read/Banned Books Week - October 1-7, 2023

AASL Conference Tampa - October 19-21, 2023

Southern Festival of Books - October 21-22, 2023

Board Meeting - November 5, 2023

TASL Con 2023 - November 5-7, 2023

YALSA Symposium St. Louis - November
10-12, 2023

TASL Con 2024 - TBA!

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Alexander

TASL 2023 Secretary