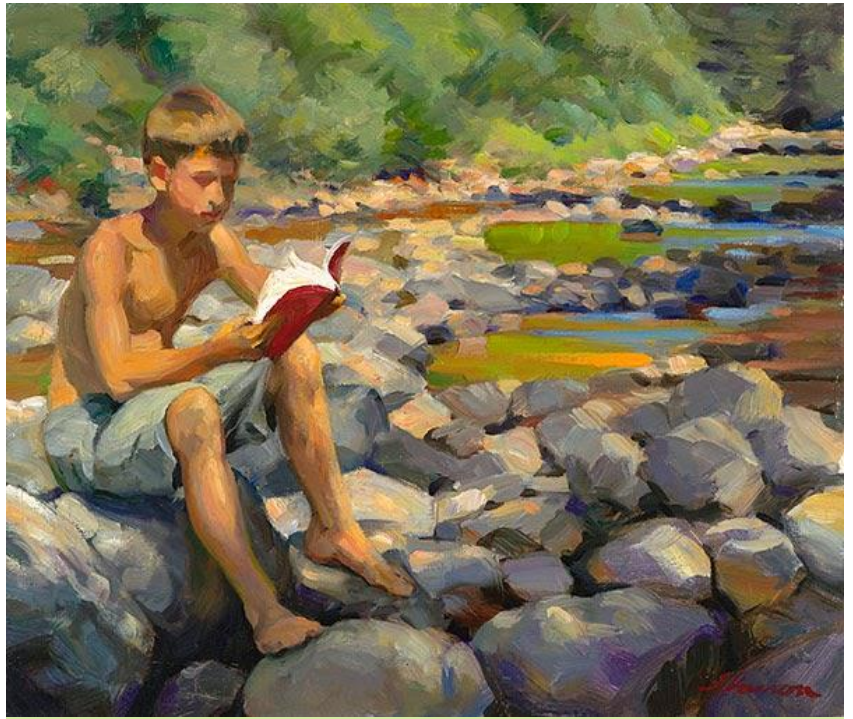


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Summer 2015

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TASL Talks



Our featured artwork entitled "Tom Sawyer" is by artist Jeffery T. Larson, and is used here with Mr. Larson's permission. Larson is a classically trained artist who lives and works in Wisconsin. Please visit his website, jeffreylarson.com, and follow him on [Facebook](#).

Slate of Officers 2016

The nominating committee chaired by TASL Past President, Mona Batchelor, presents the following nominations for your acceptance:

PRESIDENT – MINDY NICHOLS
PRESIDENT-ELECT – MISTI JENKINS
TREASURER – LYNN LILLEY
SECRETARY – DANA LESTER

Pictures and bios are located on page 9.



Summertime and the livin' is easy.

I hope this issue of *TASL Talks* finds you lounging by the pool, sipping lemonade on the back porch, or watching your babies delight in filling their Mason jar with lightning bugs. I also hope it finds you in a place of unhurried reflection of that which was and that which will be again soon enough. Yet, most librarians know, the lazy days of summer are anything but that, and we believe this issue will help you at least start thinking about your plans for next year.

There is a little something for everyone. *TASL Road Trip East and West*, featuring Corrine Hill, one of the country's top change-makers will lend her expertise in implementing any of those BIG ideas you might be considering for August. I know you will enjoy seeing the VSBA nominees to add to your summer reading list.

Before you know it, it will be conference time again. Take advantage of the Early Bird extension this year, and while you are getting in shape this summer, consider joining us for the "Fun Run". Also, we will be voting on some *TASL* changes at annual. You will want to take time to review these in order to make an informed choice. Most certainly, you will be delighted and motivated by the regional news; Tennessee librarians are doing great things.

Last, I hope you will soak up every last bit of goodness in this issue of *TASL Talks* and fill your own Mason jar with the glow of inspiration that comes in the less hurried moments of summer.

Lora Ann Black
TASL President

Conference Mile Marker Ahead: 2015 Early Bird Conference Registration is Open through July 15!

How exciting that many of you have already made plans to attend TASL Conference 2015 scheduled for September 24-26, 2015, at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. Our conference team is working hard to bring you the best conference yet! We are excited to host almost fifty member presenters in our concurrent sessions, some of your best-loved vendors in the Exhibit Hall, and Scholastic as our bookseller again this year. Believe me; you do not want to be left standing still when the starting pistol is fired for this race!

Whether you have just begun your Couch to 5K regimen, are working on setting a new PR, or are gearing up for longer distances in the library world, discover ways to increase your distance and perform at even higher levels by attending TASL Conference 2015. This year's conference promises to help you go "ALL IN" by providing excellent training opportunities, including, but not limited to: professional development, meeting award-winning authors and illustrators, networking and exchanging ideas with fellow professionals in your TASL region and grade level, and shaping the future of professional school librarians in Tennessee.

Our Race Day Lineup includes the following front-running authors and illustrators: Deborah B. Ford, Ruta Sepetys, Sarah Weeks, Heather Moorefield-Lang, Marc Tyler Nobleman, Natalie Lloyd, Courtney Stevens, and Nathan Hale.

Get a head start by visiting our Make Your Case webpage @ <http://www.taslttn.org/make-your-case> for helpful documents, including a Letter to Your Supervisor, Budget Worksheet, and FAQs.

Plan to join us for these special-ticket preconference and afterhours training sessions: Warm-up with either of these preconference events on Thursday, September 24:

- Marathon Professional Development: Using AASL Best Websites for Teaching and Learning with your Educators with Heather Moorefield-Lang
- A Novel Conversation featuring authors from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI)

Cool down by joining us Friday, September 25, for the ever enjoyable and inspiring VSBA Banquet, featuring Ruta Sepetys and Sarah Weeks.

And, if you're looking to make log an extra mile, mark your calendar for our first TASL One-Mile Fun Run/Walk scheduled for Saturday, September 26, @ 7:00 a.m., in the Embassy Suites parking lot. This event is free, and advance or race day registration is available.

Research shows that there is nothing like committing to an event to increase your motivation and performance. Go "All In" for a library that can go the distance by registering for TASL Conference 2015 @ <http://www.taslttn.org/conference>.

Early Bird registration rates end July 15, 2015.

Blessings for the power-packed miles ahead,

Mindy Nichols
Conference Chair





Here it is, Regional News.

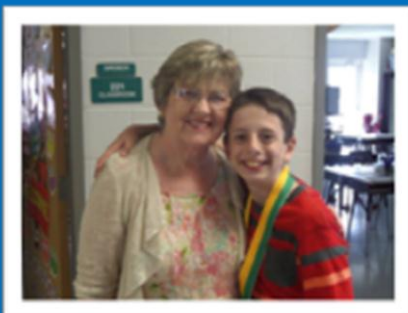
Our Area Representatives are working to keep our membership informed about TASL and vice-versa.

Mississippi River

In news from the Mississippi River region, Area Rep Amy Balducci reports:

- Battle of the Books has landed in Shelby County, as many schools, both elementary and middle, participated in a variety of competitions. Amy Venkus, LMS of Appling Middle School in Bartlett, led her team to win the Shelby County middle school division in which 10 public and private schools across the county competed.
- Houston Middle School LMS, Mary Ann Cole, organized the Mustang Marathon this school year for her middle schoolers. The marathon lasted from September until the beginning of April. For the inaugural year, her mustangs read 1,853 books for a total of 492,549 pages.
- The MS River Region is excited to be represented by several TASL bookmark contest winners!
 - Primary Division Winner– Kush Clayton from Riverdale Elementary in Germantown, TN
 - Intermediate Division Honorable Mention – Tye Clayton from Riverdale Elementary in Germantown, TN
 - Middle Division Honorable Mention – Grace Johnson from Houston Middle School in Germantown, TN
 - High School Division Winner – Lateveous Owens from Ridgeway High School on Memphis, TN

Member Spotlight Nancy Dickinson



Nancy has been a member of TASL since 1992. She has served TASL as President, Membership Chair, and Treasurer. She also served AASL as Affiliate Assembly Chair and as an ALA Councilor.

Nancy retired in May as librarian at Hillsboro Elementary in Coffee County and now makes her home in Hermitage.

Congratulations, Nancy!

Walking Horse

Dana Lester, Walking Horse Region Area Rep, reports on exciting happenings in her region:

- The Southeastern Young Adult Book Festival (SE-YA in the 'Boro) is set for March 10-12, 2016, on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University. The mission of SE-YA in the 'Boro is to encourage and develop literacy in young adults by connecting them with authors, thereby advancing education in the community. The festival is student-centered with a day of authors visiting local schools, a day for middle and high school field trips to the festival, and a day for the general public to visit. Please check out our website at <http://www.seyabookfest.com/>.

Regional News

Walking Horse

Continued from page 4

- Shannon Minner, librarian at Reeves Rogers in Murfreesboro, won 4 different grants this school year and is using the funds to build a new library collection and add on to the Makerspace she started this school year.
- Nancy Dickinson is retiring after 42 years in education, with the last 24 in Tennessee!
- Murfreesboro City Schools teamed up with the Linebaugh Public Library System to promote the summer reading program. To kick off the initiative, the MCS librarians sponsored a writing contest on the summer reading theme, ***Every Hero Has a Story***. Linebaugh Director, Rita Shacklett, visited many schools in the district to present contest winners with a Super Reader Cape. MCS librarians and Linebaugh hope that by teaming together we can encourage more children to participate with the summer reading program and prevent the "summer slide" that often occurs over summer break.



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Advocacy!

Beth Frerking

TASL Advocacy Chair

Federal lawmakers have been considering lots of legislation impacting libraries this year. Presenters at National Library Legislative Day commented on the fact that lawmakers had let them know that they had heard from librarians. Thanks for the good work! Calling your legislator's office and asking him or her to support legislation that supports libraries is an important way to advocate for libraries. And... it's quick and easy! Continue to watch the TASL listserv for opportunities to call your legislator and ask for him or her to support specific legislation.

However, that's not the only way to be an effective library advocate. Some of the most important advocacy is done with the people you work with every day. Be sure the stakeholders in your library not only know why the work we do in school libraries is important, but also how much we appreciate their support. As we wrap up this year and head into summer. Let's all take a moment to thank the people who support us and let them know we're counting on their support in the future.

Regional News

Continued from page 5

Highland Rim

Area Representative, Cami Townsel, files this report:

- **My Amazing Librarian** award goes to **Lakisha Brinson** of Robert E. Lillard Elementary School. Limitless Libraries sponsored an *Amazing Librarian Award* which involved students, faculty, and parents to



nominate a librarian whom they felt is amazing in the profession. They received over 600 nominations throughout the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools district. Lakisha was determined the winner and is being awarded a trip to attend the ALA conference this summer in San Francisco, CA. Other awards presented to librarians from Limitless Libraries include the following:

- *Community Partnerships Award*: **Jamie Claybrooks**, Mt. View Elementary School
- *Student Choice Award*: **Denise Tabscott**, Thurgood Marshall Middle Prep
- *Creativity in Library Service Award*: **Amanda Smithfield**, Hume- Fogg Magnet School

Congratulations to all for being a great representation for our profession!

- **Library Services** department of Nashville Public Schools also awarded Librarians of the Year awards to Connie Sharp (Sylvan Park Elementary School),

Sabrina McClure (H.G. Hill Middle School), and Amanda Smithfield (Hume-Fogg Magnet High School).

- Cami Townsel will be a presenter at the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's Ninth National Conference in August which will be held in St. Louis, Missouri. The presentation will focus on collaborative research lessons entitled, "*Exploring the Lives of Black Americans from the 1800s to the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement.*"

East TN River

Michelle Castleberry, Area Representative, reports:

- Cristol Kapp has been very busy creating this website, <https://www.causeway.org/causes/makerspace-tables-and-chairs>, in order to raise funds for her Makerspace.
- Michelle Castleberry has been working with 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students to take Reader's Theater to the stage. Students are practicing fluency and comprehension, while also creating props, sets and costumes to prepare for an upcoming school performance of their plays. 3rd grade students are doing fractured nursery rhymes, 4th grade students are doing Greek myths, and 5th grade students are doing favorite picture books.
- Charlene Yarger, from Spring City Elem, reports: One thing I learned at the TASL conference this past year was how one person does book clubs. I had contemplated trying it, so I went back and talked with a teacher about how best to present an idea to the principal. She said it would be good to type up my plans and present them to her. So, I did. Turns out the principal also had been thinking about me doing a book club. However, I thought I would do it with 5th grade. She thought 3rd grade would be better. So all of my plans went out the window. It is working out really well, despite the delayed start. I meet with 3rd grade girls on Tuesday before school, and 3rd grade boys on Thursday before school. I have between 20-40 girls show up and about 15 or so boys (out of about 105 third grade students).

Regional News

Continued from page 6

Appalachian

Area Representative, Vicki Winstead, sends this news:

- According to librarian Jessica Boggs, second, third, and fourth graders at Jonesborough Elementary just completed a Genre Reading Challenge. The challenge took place over eight weeks. Each week had a specific genre. If a student read a book from that genre and filled out a mini book report, they could earn a badge. If they earned at least 5 badges, they got to go to an ice cream party. Eighty-eight students earned at least one badge, and 39 students completed the challenge by earning at least five badges. Several students read over 10 books for the challenge!
- Kathryn Hodge, librarian at Hillcrest Elementary in Morristown, says, "With Accelerated Reader, we use a two part goal and plot this on a "shiny laminated sheet" bi-weekly with students in grades 2-5. STAR Reading sets their goal, and then we do four school-wide rewards: a fall cookie party, a winter movie/popcorn party, a spring pizza party and a summer trophy. We require 85% accuracy and that too is plotted on the slick sheet so they can "see" how they are doing."

They also have a GIVE A KID A CUPCAKE party at the end of the year for students that reach their AR goal two or more times!!! They had 40 students double, triple, or even quadruple their personal goals!



THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Congratulations to these TASL members on their election to important offices within AASL.



Pamela Renfrow

AASL Regional Director – Region 4



Deborah Parrott

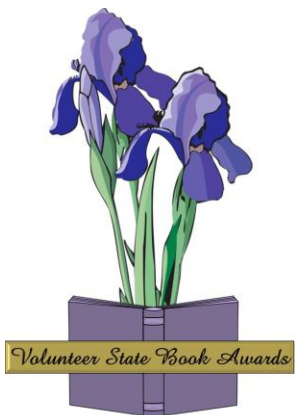
Educators of School Librarians Section
Secretary



Diane Chen

Division Councilor

VSBA News



The winners of the 2014-2015 Volunteer State Book Award were announced earlier in May. In case you missed the announcement, the winners are listed below:

- **Primary Division:** Aaron Reynolds. Creepy Carrots! Illustrated by Peter Brown.
- **Intermediate Division:** Wonder by R.J. Palacio.
- **Middle School Division:** The Selection by Kiera Cass.
- **High School Division:** The Selection by Kiera Cass.

The authors will be invited to the 2016 TASL Conference to receive their awards. We had near record participation in 2015. The number of high school students who voted this year increased substantially over previous years. A special thanks to all the librarians who promoted the VSBA titles this year, tallied the votes, and submitted them. Also, special thanks to Amy Dye-Reeves and Jeanine Akers, the TLA co-chairs for the VSBA co-chairs, for their hard work in taking care of the voting.

The three nominating committees met in April and May to finalize the 2016-2017 VSBA lists. You can find those printable lists of nominated titled on the VSBA page at: <http://www.tasltn.org/vsba>.

Pat Shaffer of the Nashville Public Library and Jamie Bevins from Knox County Schools will remain as the committee chairs for the Primary and Intermediate Committees. Karla Keesecker of Unicoi County School will assume the role of chairperson for the Young Adult committee. Numerous school and public librarians from across the state have expressed interest in joining one of the committees. We have several openings on the committees. Those vacancies are currently being filled.

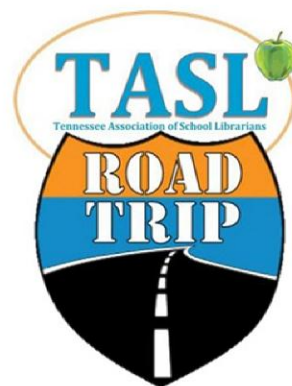
The VSBA PowerPoint presentations for 2015-2016 will be on the TASL web site in July. Those presentations are a great way to promote the program and books with your readers.



**TASL CONFERENCE 2015
CONTEST DEADLINE**

JUNE 20, 2015

For details, log into the website and go to the JLG dropdown under the Conference tab. You must be a TASL member to enter.



Summer 2015

RT East June 17 – RT West June 19

**We're packing the car now—
click the logo to register!**

Slate of Officers

President

Mindy Nichols

Mindy Nichols serves as librarian and instructional coach at Crockett County High School, a rural high school of 840 students, in Alamo, TN. Prior to her current role as TASL's President-Elect/Conference Chair, Mindy served as Mississippi River Region Area Representative, West Tennessee Professional Development Co-Chair, and Secretary. In all these roles, she considers herself truly blessed to give back to an organization that has given so much to her and her fellow librarians across the state. Mindy is married to her wonderful husband, Jake, and has two young daughters, Nora Cate and Claire. She enjoys reading (of course), running, coaching her daughters' basketball teams, and being outdoors with her family.



Treasurer

Lynn Lilley

Lynn Lilley has served as a librarian at McGavock High School for the past twenty-two years. Prior to that, she served as a middle school librarian in North Carolina for nine and a half years. During her tenure as a librarian, she has served as a PTO treasurer, yearbook advisor, Battle of the Books sponsor, and Girls Basketball Coach. While in North Carolina she was selected as teacher of the year at Savannah Middle School. Lynn has served as treasurer for TLA and TENN-SHARE as well as an area rep for TASL. Lynn enjoys spending time volunteering with the children's program at church as well as spending time with friends and family.



President-Elect

Misti Jenkins

Misti Jenkins currently works as a librarian at Blackman High School in Murfreesboro.



She has just completed her 7th year as a high school librarian. Before that, she worked for six years as a freshman English teacher. Misti received her MLIS from Trevecca Nazarene University and her undergraduate degree from Welch College.

Misti has served the past two years as TASL Awards Chair.

She lives with her husband and 6-year-old twin sons in Smyrna. She likes reading, watching British films, and going on evening walks with friends.



Secretary

Dana Lester

Dana Lester has just completed her second year in the library at Walter Hill School in Murfreesboro. Her previous teaching experience was in kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade. In her free time, Dana enjoys writing her blog, Common to the Core, creating educational materials for teachers, and crafting.

Dana serves as the Walking Horse Area Representative to the TASL Executive Board.

Conference, go.



It's not too late to go all in! To register today, click [here](#).



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Need something?
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