

E A R L Y W I N T E R 2 0 1 7

TASL Talks

Tennessee Association of School Librarians



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Goodbye fall! Hello holidays! How can we start a great, new year?

See what your colleagues around Tennessee have been up to as we've begun our school year, and hear ideas of what's to come in the months ahead as we plan for being inside (great reading weather). What plans do you have? Remember to keep TASL posted of the cool things going on in your library. We grow together and learn from one another's victories! Read about some of them here!

Save the Date:

#TASLchat

Dec 18, 2017

Join us to discuss how to grow a reader community. [More info here.](#)

ALA Midwinter

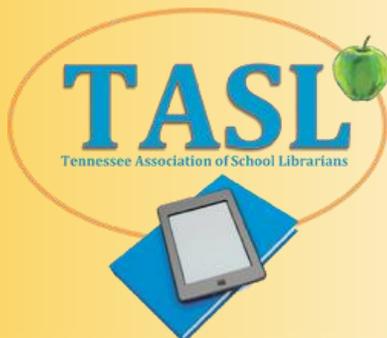
Feb 9-11, 2018

Taking place in Denver, CO. [Click here for more information.](#)

TLA Annual Conference

Apr 4-6, 2018

Taking place in Memphis, TN. [More info here.](#)



From the President's Desk:

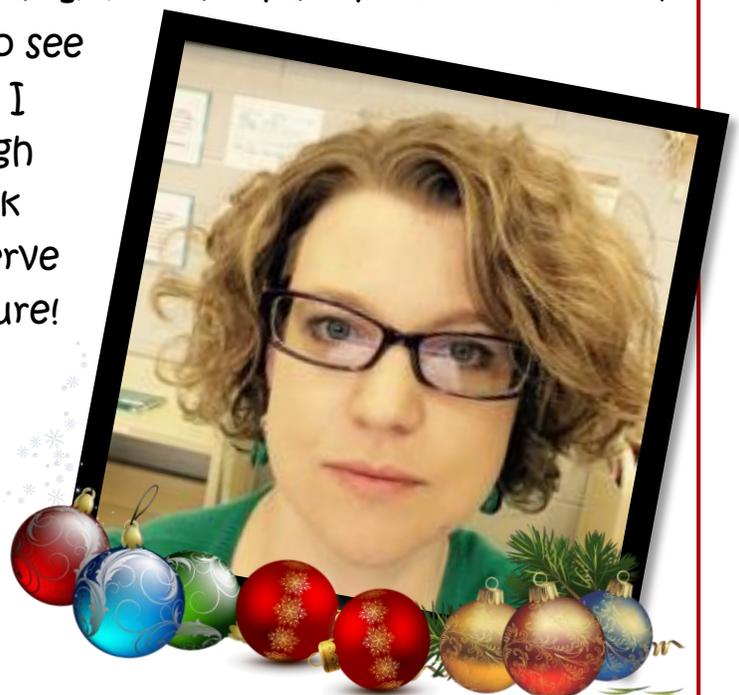
As I near the end of my time of service as TASL's President, I have been reflecting over the last year. Looking back over 2017, I hope you can all celebrate TASL's successes with me. The year began with our providing guidance for the role of librarians in ESSA. Then we had a successful annual bookmark contest and VSBA vote. Brenda Goins and Katie Capshaw gave us top-notch summer Road Trip events in June. Blake Hopper planned a great annual conference for us in September. Our monthly #TASLChat continued on the great foundation built last year.

I still have another year of service left as TASL's Immediate Past President, but my time of major work on your behalf has passed. It is bittersweet for me. I have certainly enjoyed leading you here in Tennessee and representing Tennessee's school librarians at the national level, but I know my family and school will be glad to have me back. I know I have grown as a person through my time of leadership with TASL; I hope you all feel like I have served you well. My service to TASL has been so rewarding to me, both through personal growth and by the making of new friends.

I have made a point this year of trying to demonstrate to you all that service to TASL is important and possible for all members on some level. I do not plan to stop serving TASL when my term as Immediate Past President is over, and I hope some of you have been able to see through my efforts that you are needed. I have enjoyed meeting many of you through this work over the last few years and look forward to meeting more of you as we serve the school librarians together in the future!

Best Wishes for a Safe
and Happy Holiday Season!

Misti Jenkins



On the radar....

TASL Conference 2018



the future
is now

TAP INTO YOUR
POTENTIAL

September 9-11



**Save the date for
#TASLCon2018 in
Murfreesboro!**

More details coming soon!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- *Renewing your TASL Membership* •

Reminder: The TASL membership year is January-December. Members who chose a 1-year membership should renew by January 15 to remain in good standing. If not renewed by March 31, your TASL profile will be deleted. This means you will no longer have access to the members only section of the website, the e-list, and to your transaction history.

If you're unsure of your membership level, log in to the website and review your transaction history which can be found under the "My Profile" tab. Be sure to update any changes in contract or school information.

After renewing your membership, encourage fellow librarians who are not yet TASL members to join!

Contact Cristol Kapp (kappcm@gmail.com) with membership questions/concerns. Learn more at www.TASLtn.org/membership.

#TASLCon2017

RE-READ**We came; we saw; we rocked!**

We had a rockin' time at #TASLCon2017. It took place September 28th-30th at Murfreesboro's Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center. We had over 300 attendees this year. On Thursday attendees enjoyed two free pre-conferences with Jennifer Sharp on collaboration and with AASL President Elect, Katherine Lewis. Attendees also had the option to attend two paid pre-conferences with Andy Plemmons and The Novel Conversation. The day ended with attendees enjoying region round tables, visiting vendors, and using the photo. On Friday members attended great sessions and heard the famous Jennifer LaGarde delivered a energizing keynote about not being a zombie librarian at the luncheon. The conference closed out on Saturday with more sessions and a wonderful keynote given by Steve Sheinkin.



#TASLCon2017



2017 TASL Awards

Award Winners



Congratulations go out to the winners of TASL's many awards this year! We had so many great submissions, and it was a difficult task to select the winners. I would like to thank the members of the awards committee: Jamie Bevins, Angelia Haltom, Carol Nanney, Connie Sharp, Jennifer Sharp, and Denise Tabscott.

We have selected two winners of the Innovative Library Media Award. Rebecca Thomasson from Johnson Elementary in Kingsport, TN, was chosen as our Elementary level winner. She won based on her amazing outreach projects. While her library teaching schedule allows her work with 550 children every week, there are more needs in her school and local community. Johnson Elementary Library is committed to extending their boundaries and our outreach program to expand the library walls.

Rebecca's program, "The Johnson Outreach Program" seeks to involve students, their families, district leaders, community organizations, and individual community members. These stakeholders add their talents and strengths to allow the library to continue to grow and reach out to our city. Her programming includes "Little Free Libraries", "Books on the Bus" "Mobile Book Cart" "One book, One school" and "ASC (Administrative Support Center) Reads Posted on Twitter and Website."

Our winner of the Middle School Level of the Innovative Library Media Award is Candace Thomas from Marshall Middle school in Nashville Tennessee. She has two outstanding programs called "Cooking in the Library Program" and "the Read-A-Thon iRead project". Both are held after school and are completely voluntary. The Cooking in the Library program was formed as an after-school club to share her passion for cooking, history, and cultures around the world. Cooking in the Library program fosters a life-long love of the library, cooking, creativity, and research. Her second program established is the Read-A-Thon iRead project, which focused on 360 minutes of leisure reading.

One future school librarian has received \$1,000 scholarship! Emily Matlock from East Tennessee State University. Emily currently works as teacher at Centennial Elementary in Dickson, Tennessee.

2017 TASL Awards

This year we have a full Administrator's Honor Roll! Our Valedictorian is Mr. Tim Berry. Mr. Berry has shown exemplary support and vision for the library program in his school. His career includes experience working with the Blue Ribbon Schools evaluation process, which he says made clear to him that the school library is the key factor for a great school. For the last five years, since South-Doyle High School became one of Knox County's first 1:1 device schools, Mr. Berry has been exploring a new vision for his library program. Despite multiple turnovers in library staff during that time, his commitment to create a dynamic, future-ready library program that drives school wide innovation and positively impacts academic outcomes for every child in the school has never wavered.

The administrators on the honor roll include: Mr. Andy Luton of Stewart County Middle School in Stewart County for his support of the library Read-A-Thon, Dr. Jill Pittman of Overton High School in Nashville TN her commitment to equipping librarians with the necessary tools to make our library program exemplary by supporting her librarians in mission and in budget, serving as an advocate for library services at the school level and beyond, enabling her librarians to be leaders in our school and community, and fostering their professional development, and Mr. Micah Landers of Richland School in Giles County for his overall support of his librarian and making sure she has the funding and also time for collaboration.

Our winner for the Teacher Collaboration award is Christi Williams of Martin Luther King Jr High School. She was nominated by Cami Townsel for their work on a series of lessons called *The Power of Character*. The theme is "discovering the importance of having good character and how it can transform communities." They chose this program because they thought there was a need for establishing a better culture in our school, and they could do this by helping students make better decisions. In addition, there have been many issues in the media which centered on character and the desire to live in a society with peace. They decided that it would be good for the students to come to the library one day a month for the lessons.

Congratulations to Scot Smith, who is our winner for the Clara Hasbrouck Award. Scot has served as the TASL Chair for the Volunteer State Book Awards Committee. He has worked tirelessly to contact authors on behalf of TASL to make the VSBA Awards Banquet a truly exciting event to attend. He has served as TASL's webmaster in the past. Scot serves on YALS's Printz Committee, a great honor. Scot also lectures for the UTK School of Information Sciences.

Please consider nominating someone for an award next year or putting your own name in the hat for an Innovative Library Media Award. The purpose of these awards is to encourage others in the profession. We all do something well; let's share it with our peers!

AASL Annual Conference

Great memories!



Learning with friends!



AASL Annual Conference

TASL Members:

Blake Hopper, our President-Elect, and I just returned from the annual conference of the American Association of School Librarians in Phoenix last week. It was great, and we learned so much!

Blake and I had the incredible opportunity to attend a 1.5-day intensive training on the new AASL standards. We are full of ideas on how we can best communicate all that we learned to our members! Your committee members for this process are:

- Diane Chen, Chair (Middle TN, elementary)
- Blake Hopper (East TN, elementary and middle)
- Jennifer Sharp (Middle TN, high)
- Carol Nanney (West TN, high)
- Vicki Winstead (East TN, middle)
- Amber Moser (East TN, Instructional Coach)
- Karen Haggard (West TN, high)

In the meantime, please explore the standards for the learner which can be found as a [pamphlet here](#) or [as a one-pager here](#).

If you have already explored the standards themselves and are ready for more, please go to <http://standards.aasl.org/school-librarians/> and <http://standards.aasl.org/materials/>.

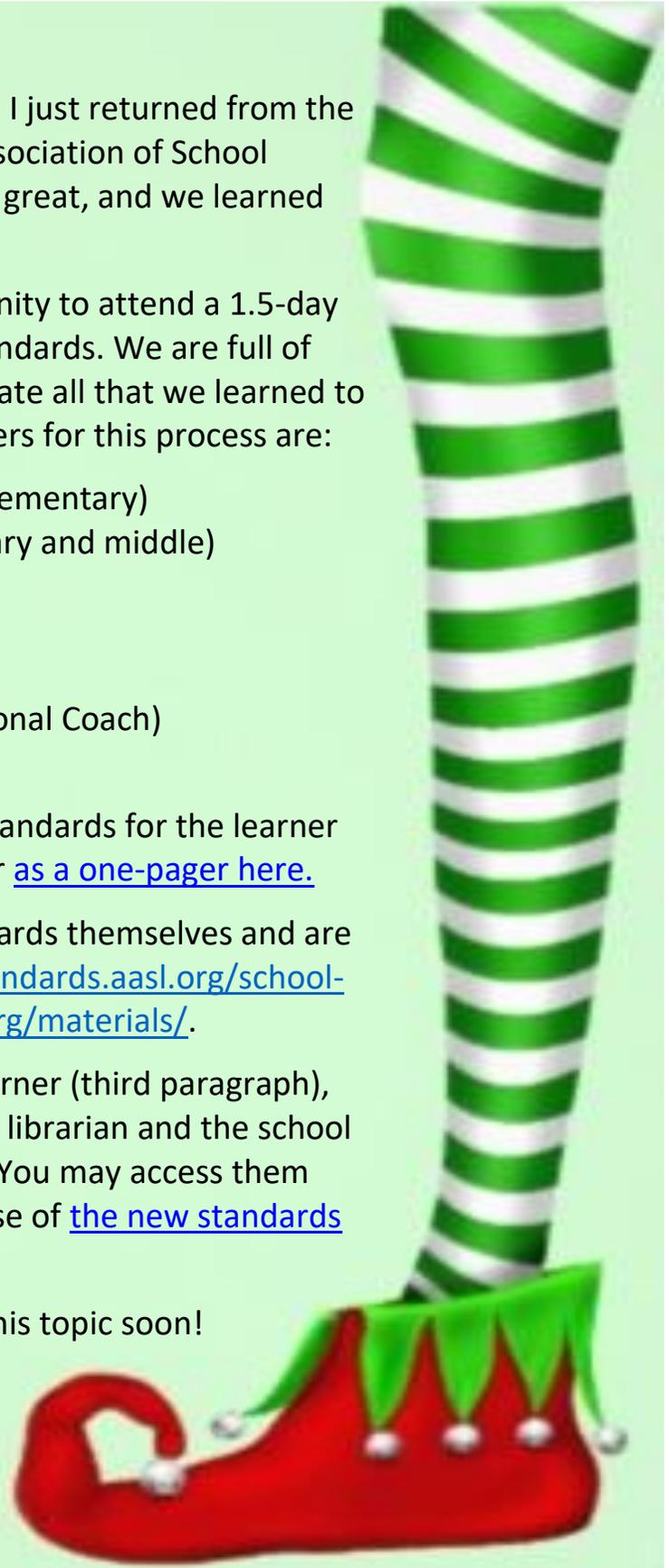
In addition to the standards for the learner (third paragraph), there are also standards for the school librarian and the school library; these are not available online. You may access them through [an app](#) or through the purchase of [the new standards book](#).

You can expect more information on this topic soon!

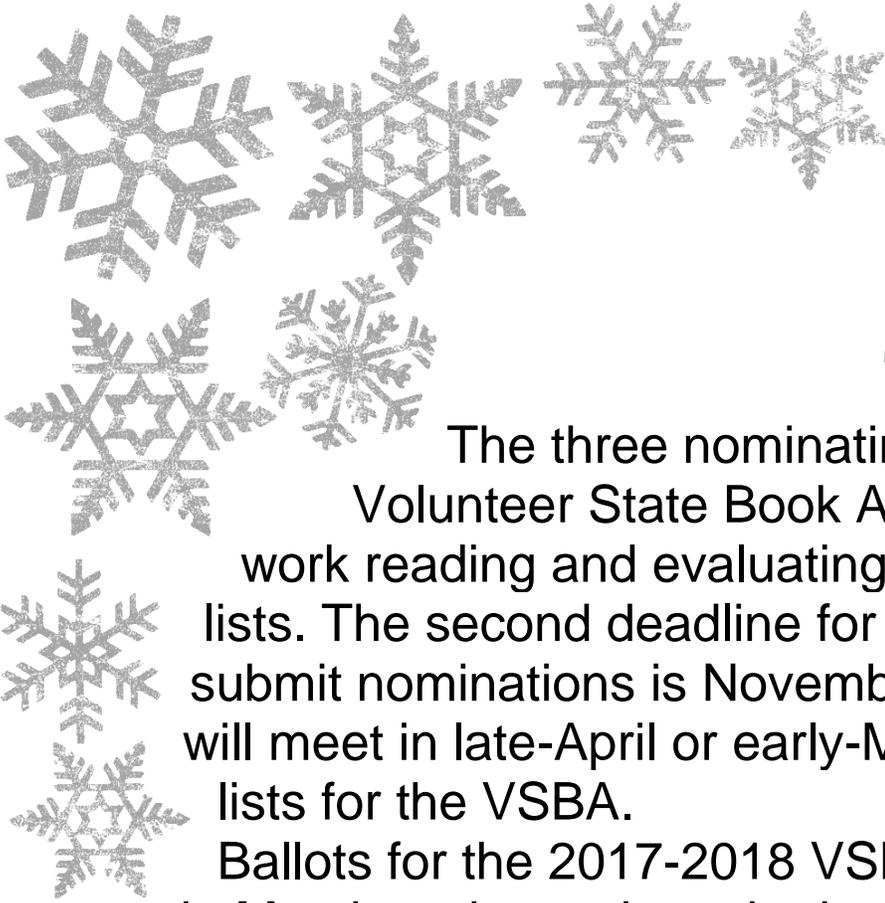
Regards,

Misti Jenkins

2017 TASL President



Advocacy

A collection of various grey snowflake designs scattered across the left side of the page.

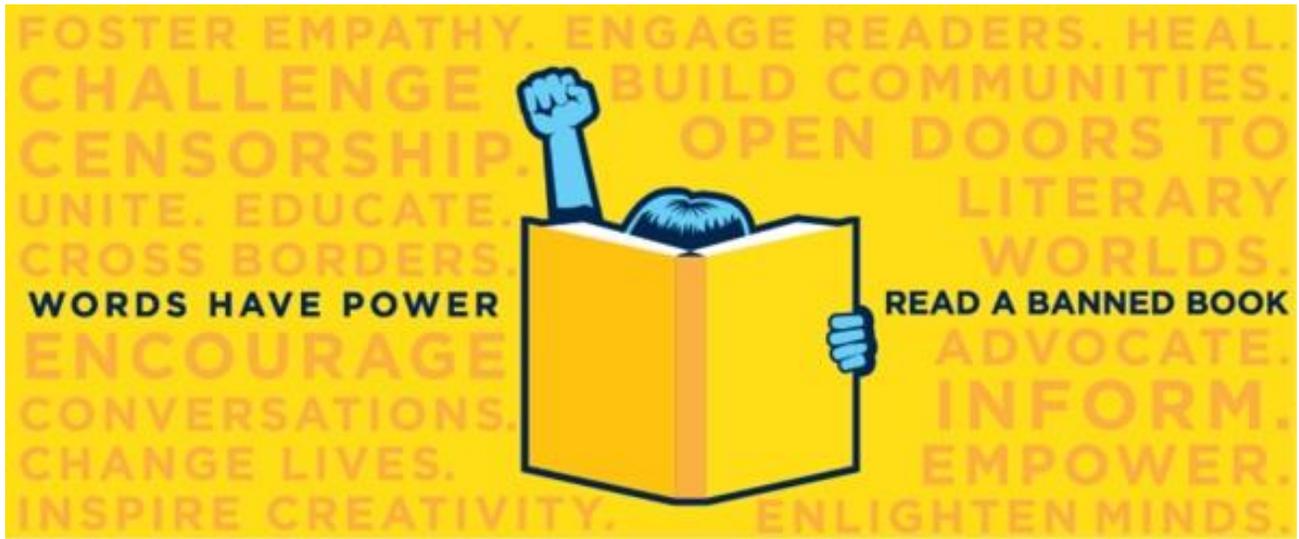
VSBA Update:

The three nominating committees for the Volunteer State Book Award have been hard at work reading and evaluating titles for the 2019-2020 lists. The second deadline for committee members to submit nominations is November 15. The committees will meet in late-April or early-May to finalize the four lists for the VSBA.

Ballots for the 2017-2018 VSBA will be posted online in March and must be submitted during the first week of May. There will be no paper ballots this year. Remember that your library must own twelve of the twenty titles in order to participate in the voting. Students must have read or listened to three of the books on the appropriate list in order to vote. Does your library need VSBA labels or award stickers? If so, you can order them from the VSBA page at <http://www.tasltn.org/vsba>. Be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page to see the link.

At this year's TASL conference, Rick Yancey, author of *The 5th Wave*, and Chris Grabenstein, author of *The Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*, accepted their 2016 VSBA awards. Both authors presented breakout sessions at the conference and gave acceptance speeches at the awards banquet.

Programming: Banned Books Week



This year TASL members celebrated Banned Books Week with enthusiasm! Members shared their excellent programming ideas, images of crafty displays, and impressive lesson plans. These plans and ideas were then distributed on the TASL listserv in weekly blasts leading up to Banned Books Week to build excitement. In addition, members shared images and information about their #BannedBooksWeek activities on social media throughout the week. We had so much fun sharing ideas and seeing all the awesome things happening in school libraries to celebrate our FREEDOM TO READ! We can't wait to do it again next year!

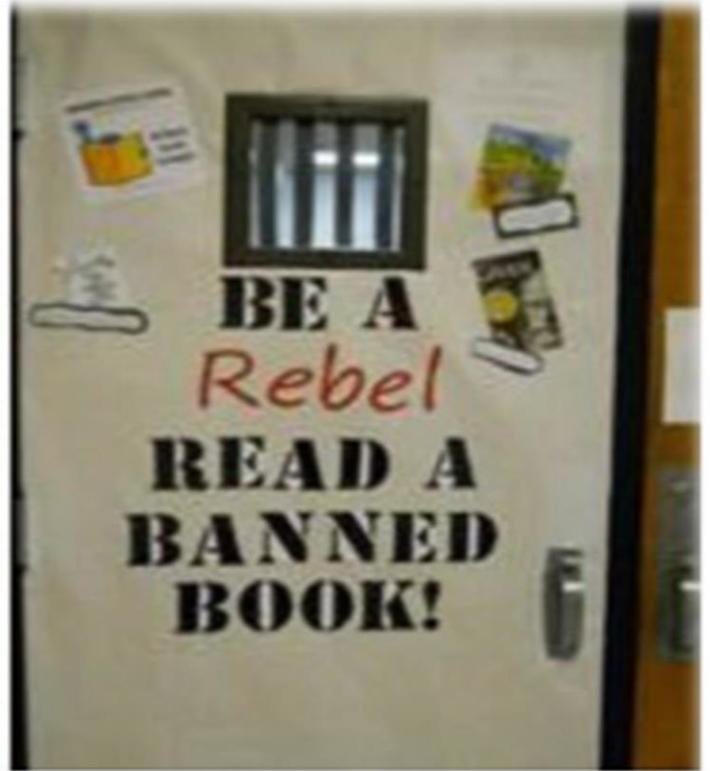
Here are some images shared with TASL during the week:



Susan Harris
Ridgeway High School
Memphis, TN



Programming: Banned Books Week



**Annette Kuykendall
Fairview Middle School
Fairview, TN**



Programming: Banned Books Week



**Nancy Hammons & Lynn Lilley
McGavock High School, Nashville, TN**

**Emily Squires
Highland Oaks Middle School
Cordova, TN**



Path to Leadership

In each issue of TASL Talks this year, we have highlighted members of TASL's Board and their path to leadership in TASL. We hope seeing the paths of some of your peers has encouraged some of you to seek out a more active role in TASL. We can always use more help in 2018!



Vicki Winstead says TASL has played an important role in her career. She's been a member for almost 20 years and can't imagine serving as a school librarian without TASL! As a new librarian she gained valuable experience by attending conference and connecting with others. As she grew professionally, she began to take a more active role in TASL. First she served on committees: intellectual freedom and long-range planning. Then she accepted the position of area representative to the Appalachian region. This allowed her to get to know other librarians in her region and take on a larger role within the organization. Currently she's serving as the 2017 TASL secretary and served as this year's conference registrar. Vicki really enjoys contributing to the success of our organization and look sforward continuing to be involved in TASL in the future.

Jackie Gregory is the Highland Rim Regional Representative. She is the librarian at Glenview Elementary in Nashville. She has been attending the TASL Conference since completing her library degree at UT, and was looking for a way to get more involved. A few years ago she presented at the conference with a friend, and when there was an opening for the regional representative, she was excited to volunteer. She is looking for more ways to connect and work with the librarians of the Highland Rim region.



Path to Leadership

Mindy Nichols says that many of her blessings in the school library have been a result of her involvement with TASL, both as an active member and as part of TASL's leadership team.

She says her path has been one of simplicity. When asked if she'd be willing to serve as the Mississippi River Area Rep, she simply said, "Yes, I can do that," and later that year as the West Tennessee Summer Professional Development Co-Chair. Soon the then-TASL President Mona Batchelor helped place Mindy in her role as TASL Secretary, and, the next year, then-Immediate Past President Beth Frerking invited her to accept the position of President-Elect. After much prayer, Mindy offered that same simple answer, "Yes, I can do that." She says that working under the leadership of 2015 President Lora Ann Black and the talented conference team was the ultimate TASL experience. The presidential term of overseeing TASL's committees and working toward TASL's future, following the vision of TASL's Long Range Plan, a plan in which presidents both before and after me have utilized their own special skill sets to move our organization forward has contributed to her excitement about the future of TASL! Mindy says that, "while *my* path to TASL leadership does indeed seem like a path, I promise you it was not planned that way. It was one simple step of service, followed by one more simple step of service...a series of conversations that ended with 'Yes, I can do that.' How thankful I am that God gave me the ability and the opportunity to serve our organization and each of you, our wonderful Tennessee librarians!"



Raina Scoggins is the Area Rep for the Volunteer Region. She works at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School in Knoxville. As a long-standing member, Raina can't even remember her first TASL job. She's helped with membership, conference registration, and long-range planning. She served TASL in 2000 when her friend and mentor Sherry Ball asked for help with the Conference Committee. Her good friend, Beth Eades, signed the two of them up for the silent book auction, which they ran at conference for several years. There are so many ways to help and serve. "I originally thought that my only job would be to offer encouragement. I continue to try and let people

know that they are capable of so much more than they think. It's a good feeling to accomplish things with a lasting positive effect on our profession. Our jobs can be so demanding and sometimes isolating. It's important to spend time with others who "get" what we do. There is nothing like the lifelong friendships that you make!"

Professional Development

#TASLChat

[Archives available on the TASL website!](#)

#TASLChats are at 8pm CST

**Every 3rd Monday
of the month!**

Upcoming #TASLChat topics:

December: Growing a Reader Community

January: Library Legislation

February: Non-traditional Shelving

March: Research Instruction at All Levels

April: Clubs in the Library

May: Intellectual Freedom in K12

June: Teaching Digital Citizenship

Coming Up....

Bringing readers and writers closer together has been the hallmark for SE-YA Book Fest. Two years ago the Murfreesboro-based festival in Tennessee established itself as a premiere event and left a lasting impression on those involved by fostering a personal one-on-one experience between young adults and authors.



SE-YA Book Fest will expand from two days to three this year. The festival will boast a roster of more than 40 bestselling authors and will take place March 8-10 on the campus of MTSU.

For the first time, SE-YA will dedicate the first two days for schools visiting the festival; Saturday, March 10 is free and open to the public & will include a writing workshop for students that features bestselling authors helping young readers hone their skills as young writers. Registration for school visits and writing workshop opens February 6.

Also new this year is the “Send a Librarian to SE-YA Scholarship” valued at \$200. Designed to give a librarian a VIP experience at this year’s festival, the award will provide lodging for the night of Friday, March 9, one ticket to the Author Mixer on Friday night, and an autographed book of their choosing from a SE-YA author.

SEYA is also always looking for new people interested in volunteering at the festival. There is also a volunteer link on the website.

For more information regarding the festival, writing workshop or the scholarship, please, log onto www.seyabookfest.com and follow SE-YA on Twitter: @seyabookfest.

Coming Up....



ALA American Library Association



2018 Annual Conference

April 4-6, 2018
 Memphis Hilton
 939 Ridge Lake Blvd.
 Memphis, TN 38120

[Click here for more info](#)

#tnla18



We have 2 open positions to fill as we move into 2018. The **Appalachian region needs an Area Rep**, and our **TASL Membership Chair** position is now open as well. These are great opportunities for you to serve your larger professional community. Remember, TASL is a completely volunteer organization. We need your help to make TASL the best in 2018!!

New to TASL? Wondering where you belong?

Appalachian: Claiborne, Hancock, Hawkins, Sullivan, Johnson, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Cocke, Greene, Washington, Unicoi, Carter

Cumberland: Clay, Pickett, Jackson, Overton, Fentress, Putnam, DeKalb, White, Cumberland, Warren, VanBuren, Grundy

East TN River: Marion, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Rhea, Meigs, McMinn, Monroe, Polk, Bradley, Hamilton

Highland Rim: Montgomery, Robertson, Sumner, Macon, Dickson, Cheatham, Davidson, Wilson, Trousdale, Smith

Mississippi River: Lake, Obion, Dyer, Lauderdale, Crockett, Tipton, Haywood, Shelby, Fayette

Volunteer: Scott, Campbell, Morgan, Anderson, Union, Knox, Roane, Loudon, Blount, Sevier

Walking Horse: Williamson, Rutherford, Cannon, Maury, Marshall, Bedford, Coffee, Giles, Lincoln, Moore, Franklin

Western Plains: Weakley, Henry, Gibson, Carroll, Madison, Henderson, Chester,

Keep in touch! Your opinions matter!

Misti Jenkins, President
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Vicki Winstead Secretary
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Mindy.nichols.tasl@gmail.com

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East TN River Region, Rebecca Marino
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Highland Rim Region, Jackie Gregory
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Mississippi River Region, Amy Balducci
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Volunteer Region, Raina Scoggins
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Western Plains Region, Sherry Copeland
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West TN River Region, Cindy Martin
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gingerkirchmyer@gmail.com

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Tenn-Share: www.tenn-share.org

This issue of TASL Talks was
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