TASL Talks

Tennessee Association of School Librarians

Summer’s over! We’re all refreshed! How are you starting your new year?

How did you spend your summer? Did you enjoy a good book by the beach, or did you feverishly plan for your upcoming year? No matter which end of the spectrum you’re at, TASL is here for you. Learn what TASL’s been doing while school’s been out this season, and find out about your opportunities for support for the fall and the rest of this school year!

Save the Date:

TASL Con ‘17
Sept 28-30, 2017
Taking place in Murfreesboro, TN. Click here to register.

AASL National Conference
Apr 5-7, 2017
Taking place in Phoenix, AR. Click here to register.

ALA Midwinter
Feb 9-13, 2018
Taking place in Denver, CO. Stay tuned for info.

Inside This Issue:

Letter from the President 2
ALA Conference Update 3
Conference Highlights 4-5
VSBA Updates 6-7
TASL RoadTrip Update 8
2018 TASL Task Force 9
2018 Slate of Officers 10-11
Path to Leadership 12-13
#TASLChat News 14
Regional Updates 15-16
Affiliate Features 17
Region ID/Contact Info 18
TASL members,

The school year has just begun, and TASL stands ready to support you!

Our annual TASL Conference is just around the corner. This year’s conference is earlier than usual, so I hope you are ready to jump-start your year and make your library ROCK all year long! Immediate Past-President Mindy Nichols has done a great job of scheduling authors, and President-Elect Blake Hopper has been working hard to organize a rockin’ conference.

We will host Round Table discussions by grade band at our conference, and your TASL Area Reps will schedule an area-wide Round Table for the end the year.

Our #TASLChats continue on the 3rd Monday of the month. These Twitter chats are moderated by our Technology Chair, Christa Cordrey, and are a great way to connect with school librarians across the state.

If I can be of service to you, please reach out. If you feel like you are ready to be of service to TASL, please reach out as well. Let’s serve TASL together!

Regards,

Misti Jenkins
Updates

Update: Jenkins and Hopper Travel to 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago

TASL President Misti Jenkins and TASL President-Elect Blake Hopper travelled to Chicago, Illinois, for the 2017 ALA Annual Meeting June 23-25. Jenkins and Hopper attended the 2017 AASL Leadership Summit in addition to Affiliate Assembly I & II, which were chaired by TASL Past President Mona Batchelor. TASL member Cathy Evans spoke to Affiliate Assembly I about advocacy in our libraries. Jenkins and Hopper also attended sessions and were able to explore the amazing exhibit hall.

While in Chicago, your delegates were thrilled to explore the sites, including a visit to the Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower) and a Hop-On-Hop-Off bus tour around town. Region 4 delegates also enjoyed an evening out together for a crime tour and Chicago-style pizza organized by Regional Director and TASL Past President Pam Renfrow!
This year we will have HipHues T-shirt press company at our 2017 TASL Convention. This is a unique event where, without a mess, you get to create your own T-Shirt with Hip Hues Presses. The shirts are so awesome and buttery soft! Click the link below for more information. Remember: your support of T-Shirt & Tote purchases is a fun way to help fund more librarians with TASL's Scholarship Program! Please help and purchase your shirts now so we can order enough and the correct sizes! You can also purchase two different designs! If you can't make it to the Thursday Night Event, we will make your shirt or tote for you and have it waiting! [Read more here!](#)
Make your library ROCK!
#TASLCon2017

Are you ready to Rock n’ Roll? The 26th annual TASL Conference is right around the corner. The stage is set, and we have a great line up of member and featured presenters. Make sure to visit tasltn.org to register for the conference. While you are there, you can register for our free and paid pre-conferences. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Murfreesboro September 28th – 30th.
Advocacy

We had great participation from the primary and intermediate divisions, but we would like to see more participants in the middle and high school divisions. We hope that some of the authors will join us for the 2018 TASL Conference. In May we posted the list of the nominated titles for the 2018-2019 school year. A special thanks goes to all the committee members who helped create those lists and three chairs – Piper Nyman, Jamie Bevins, and Karla Keesecker – for all of their hard work in leading these groups. These three librarians will continue to serve as the chairs for the nominating committees for this year.

Remember that your library must own 12 of the 20 titles on each list in order to participate in the voting. Students must read at least three of the books to be able to vote. The online ballots will be posted in the spring of 2018, and the deadline for submitting those ballots will likely be during the first week of May. You will also find the PowerPoint presentations for this year’s nominees on the VSBA page. Use this to promote the VSBA books to your students. Also, if you need to order VSBA labels or award stickers, you can find an order form on the VSBA page.

We are also working to form a new committee to help promote and publicize the VSBA in schools and public libraries throughout the state. Molly Moore of Knox County Schools will chair that committee with assistance for the TLA co-chair Pat Bashir. Once this committee is up and running, we will share some of their goals and objectives.
Advocacy

VSBA Winners

The Book With No Pictures

B.J. Novak

The Terrible Two

Just John

Mac Barnett

Sisters

Deluxe Edition

We were Liars

e. lockhart

A New York Times Bestseller

Raina Telgemeier

e. lockhart
Professional Development

2017 TASL Task Force

This year’s TASL Task Force of State School Library Supervisors is comprised of Misti Jenkins, Sarah Searles, Stephanie Ham and Judy Bivens. This July several members met with Elizabeth Norton and Becky Cox with the Read to be Ready initiative at the Andrew Johnson Building in Nashville where they shared information about the history of having had a school library supervisor at the state department until the late 90’s; there was also discussion about the upcoming national library standards that will be released this fall by AASL and the role that will play in school library administration. In addition, the group discussed the possibility of a revision of the current standards for the preparation of school librarians to be used by our state department of education as guidelines for licensure as well as the need for someone at the state department to provide guidance in the 90 or so school districts who do not have a designated library supervisor. A few interesting resources were shared from the Read to be Ready initiative, including their website and especially the Teacher Resources section. One of our main goals would be to gain more support from partnerships with school librarians and to continue developing partnerships with Reading Specialists.
Attendees at TASL's East & West Tennessee Summer Professional Development in June were treated to a number of excellent sessions. The keynote speaker, Lakeisha Brinson, gave a session on breakout/escape activities as well as tips for becoming Future Ready librarians. Other librarians and educators from around the state shared ideas, techniques, and tips for improving our library programs. Sessions were available for all grade levels and time was given for networking and collaborating. The days ended with door prize drawings. Participants left with plenty of ideas and some renewed excitement for the new school year. Don't miss next year's summer road trip!
2018 TASL Slate of Officers

PRESIDENT
Blake Hopper has served as librarian for 4 years at Powell Valley Elementary and Middle School in Speedwell, TN. You might ask, “Where in the world is Speedwell?” Speedwell is located in Claiborne County where Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia meet. This is the home of the Cumberland Gap National Park. He previously taught 4th grade, served as chair for East Tennessee Road Trip, and is currently President Elect/Conference Chair for TASL.

Blake is engaged to Kayla, a 4th grade teacher in Blount County. He enjoys reading (of course), watching the VOLS, coaching basketball at his school, working at his church, and spending time with his family. Blake is excited to continue serving librarians in Tennessee. Follow him on Instagram @pveslibrary and on Twitter @pvslibrarian.

SECRETARY
Amy Balducci is the 2017 Area Rep for the Mississippi River Region. She is the librarian at Riverdale School in Germantown, TN, serving students in Pre-K through 8th grade. She began serving as the Regional Rep in 2015, also serving on the Long Range Planning Committee. Amy says that she has benefitted immensely from her experience with TASL. From the Regional Round Tables to Summer Road Trip to TASL’s annual conference, there are always nuggets of great ideas she can immediately use in her library program.
PRESIDENT-ELECT
Jennifer Sharp is one of two librarians at John Overton High School in Nashville. This year will be her second full year at JOHS and her fifth year in education. She is married to Ben, and in her free time, she enjoys reading (of course!), traveling, watching HGTV, and cheering on the Vols. She has been involved in TASL and TLA since grad school and currently serves as TASL’s Intellectual Freedom Chair. Prior to that, she served for three years as the liaison between TASL and TLA as the TLA School Libraries Section Chair. She loves being a part of both organizations, and values the friendships and professional learning that she’s gained from them over the years!

TREASURER
Elizabeth Shepherd is a teacher librarian at Discovery School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She has been an educator for twelve years and a teacher librarian for the past three years, earning Teacher of the Year at her school in 2016. Shepherd is a Tennessee native who grew up just outside of Clarksville, has been married for almost eighteen years, and has two amazing kids. She became a member of TASL back when she was completing her library certification at MTSU and recently had the pleasure of presenting for the first time this past summer at TASL West. She loves wordless and nonfiction picture books, YA novels, makerspaces, and geeking out over just about anything. Follow her on Twitter @lizshepherd78.
**Path to Leadership**

In each issue of TASL Talks this year, we are going to highlight members of TASL’s Board and their path to leadership in TASL. We hope seeing the paths of some of your peers will encourage some of you to seek out a more active role in TASL. We can always use more help!

**Lynn Lilley** is the Treasurer of TASL. She is starting her twenty-fifth year as one of the librarians at McGavock High School in Nashville. Lynn began her work with TASL as being the Highland Rim Area Rep. While serving on the Board Lynn mentioned in a conversation with Mona Batchelor her past service as the treasurer of TLA and TENN-SHARE. Mona kept this tidbit of information in the back of her mind and when she served as chair of the nominating committee she asked Lynn if she would be willing to serve as the Treasurer of TASL. Lynn has enjoyed meeting and working with

**Brenda Goins** is the 2017-2018 East Summer PD Chair of TASL. She works as a librarian at Porter Elementary in Maryville. She is completing her ninth year there. She is excited about working in TASL and all the great things happening in Tennessee libraries.
Path to Leadership

Ginger Kirchmyer’s involvement with TASL began in 2014 as an MLIS student when she attended the annual conference. After attending an initial meeting at the conference about getting involved, TASL expressed a need for a new publication editor, and Ginger volunteered. She has since moved to Nashville and in 2016 was recruited to serve on the TASL Administrative Task Force where she and 4 other TASL members designed and presented material for Tennessee’s school administrators at the 2016 LEAD Conference. For the past 2 years she has served on the Door Prizes and Giveaways Committee for the annual TASL conference and as the TASL Talks Editor.

Katie Capshaw is the West Tennessee Summer PD Chair. She works as the librarian at Mitchell-Neilson Primary and Elementary Schools in Murfreesboro. She has won grants for MakerSpace, technology, and books totaling $85,000. Being new to Tennessee last year and wanting to make connections as well as grow professionally, she became involved with TASL by helping facilitate at conference. A little intimidated by the task of taking over West Tennessee Summer PD, she is glad for the opportunity to help other librarians in the state share their wealth of knowledge with each other.
#TASLChats are at 8pm CST

Every 3rd Monday of the month!

NEXT CHAT IS AUGUST 21ST!

Upcoming #TASLChat topics:

August: Social Media & School Librarians
September: Branding Your Library
October: Conference Review OR Leadership in the Library
November: Tech Tools for Librarians
December: Growing a Reader Community
January: Library Legislation

Archives available on the TASL website!
Regional News

Read what’s going on in your neck of the woods:

Appalachian Region

The Tenn-Share Fall Conference is Friday, October 27, 2017, at the Nashville Public Library Conference Center. DataFest 2017 is Thursday, October 26, at the Nashville Public Library Conference Center. You can register for both online at http://www.tenn-share.org/ under the events tab. This year’s theme is Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges.

Join us at Fall Conference for stories of libraries collaborating with other libraries, community groups, and organizations towards a common goal, just as Tenn-Share itself engages in innovative projects for the benefit of all Tennessee libraries. We want presenters for any topic related to this, from efforts to identify fake news to digitization projects to collection management to professional development and beyond. We look forward to hearing your stories and learning from each other!

We welcome traditional presentations, panels, lightning rounds, collaboration spaces, and other innovative methods of conveying knowledge and solving problems. There will be two presentation formats available: Full Presentations (45 minutes) and 10-for-Tenn presentations, which are 10-minutes-or-less presentations, ideal for introducing a new strategy, concept or resource.

Watch for emails with dates and times for upcoming Round Table meetings!
Regional News

East TN River Region

TASL has an opening! We’re looking for one volunteer to serve as the Area Rep for the East Tennessee River region.

Contact Misti Jenkins if you are interested!

Walking Horse Region

The Nashville area has a new neighbor who loves to sing about books. Her name is Emily Arrow. Recently Emily visited The Discovery School library in Murfreesboro to film her music video for Shannon Miller's new book called Find a Book. Click here to see her interview with Cantata Learning.

Emily Arrow is available to do school visits and she is the perfect for collaborations with classroom teachers and your music teacher.

--------------------------------------------

Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro is gearing up to welcome their students back. Librarian Amber Greene reports that they are starting to schedule English classes for orientation and seniors are beginning their career research papers. The Riverdale Librarians will also be working with English II teachers to address their essential questions in library classes. After Fall Break they will welcome AP Biology students into the library as they start writing an APA paper.

Contact your regional representative to share about your school or district! We love to hear from our members & don’t want anyone to get left out!
Coming Up...

BEYOND THE HORIZON
AASL 18th National Conference & Exhibition
November 9-11 • Phoenix, Arizona

YALSA'S Young Adult Services Symposium
Louisville, KY • November 3-5, 2017
#YALSA17

Register Now
The conversation starts here...

ALADENVER MIDWINTER Meeting & Exhibits
February 9-13, 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, Hardeman, McNairy

Keep in touch! Your opinions matter!

Misti Jenkins, President
Misti.jenkins.tasl@gmail.com

Blake Hopper, President-Elect/ Conference Chair
Blake.hopper.tasl@gmail.com

Dana Lester, Secretary
Dana.lester.tasl@gmail.com

Lynn Lilley, Treasurer
Lynn.lilley.tasl@gmail.com

Mindy Nichols, Immediate Past President
Mindy.nichols.tasl@gmail.com

Appalachian Region, Karla Keesecker
keeseckerk@unicoischools.com

Cumberland Region, Julie Stepp
jstepp@tntech.edu

East TN River Region, vacant

Highland Rim Region, Jackie Gregory
Jacqueline.gregory2@mnps.org

Mississippi River Region, Amy Balducci
Amy.balducci@qmsdk12.org

Volunteer Region, Raina Scoggins
Raina.scoggins@knorrischools.org

Walking Horse Region, Shannon Minner
Shannon.minner.tasl@gmail.com

Western Plains Region, Sherry Copeland
SherryCopeland.tasl@gmail.com

West TN River Region, Cindy Martin
Cindy.martin@waynetn.net

Web Manager, Beth Frerking
frerking@gmail.com

Want to be featured in TASL Talks in 2017? Email Ginger Kirchmyer @ gingekirchmyer@gmail.com

Stay connected! Subscribe to the TASL e-list; log in @ www.taslttn.org

Find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/tasl.tn

Follow us on Twitter @taslttn

AASL: www.ala.org/aasl

TLA: www.tnla.org

TEL: www.tntel.info

Tenn-Share: www.tenn-share.org

This issue of TASL Talks was designed & edited by Ginger Kirchmyer