

# TENNESSEE TASL ASSOCIATION SCHOOL LIBRARIANS NEWS

August 2011 ~ Volume 32

## This Little Light of Mine . . . .

One of my fondest summer memories as a child is of catching "lightning bugs" (or fireflies) in a mason jar. As I grew older I took these lovely creatures of summer for granted until the summer of 2001, when I was living in a large city in the south. Because of the light pollution, I could not see what had once been a favorite ritual of my summer. You see for me, the first sighting each year held the promise of no school, going barefoot, and reading until the wee hours of dawn.

Over the next five years, I forgot about fireflies until one night in early June. I was sitting on my deck the first night in my new house in Tennessee, when twilight faded and I saw the twinkling. I was a child again! I quickly found a jar and began the "capture."

Now at the beginning of each summer, I anxiously wait for the first sighting. Childhood memories rush back and anticipation of long summer days await.

As school librarians, we can learn a few lessons from fireflies:

1) Make your presence known! Like the firefly's twinkling light, constantly promote your program. Shout, "I'm here. Look at what I can do!" Let your faculty know that you are eager to work collaboratively with them. Let your parents know about the library program through your website, newsletters and the media. Most importantly, share your love of books with your students. Be diligent.

2) Be unique! Fireflies are the only insects that light our summer nights. Most likely you are the only librarian in your building or possibly one of two librarians. What does that say about you? How is your role unique? You are the information expert and you should take advantage of every opportunity to stay current with trends in our field, to demonstrate your expertise and to promote information literacy.

3) Glow! Have you ever been stung by a firefly? Had your lawn sprayed to get rid of fireflies? Fireflies are not considered to be negative. Are you? Strive to be positive, smile, laugh and enjoy your day. Be known in your building for not only having the most sought after

titles but also the best coffee or chocolate. Make those around you feel good about themselves. Be a social butterfly.

4) Avoid capture or the feeling of being trapped! It seems each year more responsibilities are added to our job descriptions, new evaluations loom over our heads, and there is never enough time. Fight the feeling of defeat by networking with colleagues, decide what tasks are most important, and what can be let go. When you feel trapped, come up to the top of the jar where someone who cares has punched some holes in the aluminum foil and breathe. Make time for a hobby and spend time with friends and family. You know what they say, "All work and no play . . ."

As adults, we sometimes take for granted the small things that once made us smile. We often take ourselves too seriously and forget about the child within us all. I hope that you have had a restful summer, full of laughter and good memories. As you begin this school year, look for the opportunity head to cherish the small things each day.

~ Pam Renfrow, TASL President

## In This Issue:

2012 Slate of Officers	2-3
Conference Info	4-5
Feature Stories	6-7
TEL News	8
Region News	9-10
Summer Snapshots	11
Dates & Contacts	12

# 2012 Slate of Officers

## President - Hannah Byrd Little



Hannah Byrd Little is the Library Director at The Webb School of Bell Buckle, which was founded in 1870, and enjoys a long history as a college-preparatory, boarding and day school. Hannah has over seven years experience in college and university libraries and over six years experience in school libraries.

She has the following professional memberships: ALA, AASL, YALSA, TASL, TLA, Tenn-Share, and TEA. Hannah has a Bachelors degree in Communications, a Bachelors degree in Liberal Studies, an MLIS degree from TNU and the Tennessee State LIS PreK-12 Endorsement. Hannah's library won The TASL Innovative Library Media Program Award in 2009. Before she was nominated as the President elect, Hannah served 2 years as the TASL area representative for the Walking Horse region, which includes Williamson, Rutherford, Cannon, Maury, Marshall, Bedford, Coffee, Giles, Lincoln, Moore, Franklin counties.

## President Elect - Beth Frerking



Beth is a librarian at Clarksville High School. She has also been a librarian in rural Alaska, traveling to schools in Inupiat communities across the North Slope. She received her MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi and an Med in Secondary Ed from the University of Arizona. She enjoys traveling. In addition to teaching in the Arctic, she has taught English, journalism, and TV production in Tanzania and Arizona.

## Secretary - Sarah Searles



Sarah Searles graduated from the School of Information Sciences at the University of Tennessee in 2009, where she was awarded the Carmen L. Moulton Fellowship and the Outstanding Service Award. She is now in her third year as a school librarian at West High School in Knoxville, Tennessee, where her work focuses on innovative instructional practices to respond to the changing needs of digital natives. She and her co-librarian were honored in 2011 when West's library was designated a stop on AASL president Nancy Everhart's Vision Tour. Sarah has presented at state and national levels, including the American Library Association Annual Conference and the ALA Virtual Conference, and will give a session at the AASL National Conference this fall. Her quarterly column in Tennessee Libraries, the journal of the Tennessee Library Association, focuses on school media centers and their place in the broader spectrum of libraries. Sarah has served as president of the TLA Student Chapter, on TLA's Public Relations Committee, as co-chair of TASL's Advocacy Committee, chair of TLA's School Library Section, and has been appointed to AASL's newly formed Leadership Development Committee.

## Treasurer - Nancy Dickinson



Nancy Dickinson is the librarian at Hillsboro Elementary School in Coffee County (Manchester). She has served there for 20 years after working as an English teacher for five years and an elementary librarian for 13 years in Jacksonville, Florida. She began active involvement in TASL in 1999 and served as President in 2003 and has been Membership Chair of TASL for several years since then. After attending AASL Affiliate Assembly as President of TASL, she became active in AASL and has been on the AASL board as Director of Region IV. This past year she was the Chair of Affiliate Assembly. She is now serving as the Chair of the Awards Committee for AASL.

Nancy lives in Manchester (home of Bonnaroo and not much else!) with her dog Frannie and her cat Rocky.



**2011 TASL Conference – Opportunity Ahead!**  
September 29 – October 1, 2011 Murfreesboro, TN  
[Online Registration](#)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Our registration process has changed.  
Regardless of payment method, all attendees **must** complete the online registration in order to confirm. Please click the link below to register.  
[www.tasltm.org/conference](http://www.tasltm.org/conference)

Check your Membership status on the site before registering to ensure member discount

	Regular Registration	After 8-29-2011
Full Conference Member	\$110	\$130
Non-Member	\$165	\$180
Full-Time Student Member	\$45	\$55
Retiree	\$65	\$80
Administrator	\$30	\$35

**Alternate LIMITED Conference Registrations**

Thursday Exhibits Only \$25.00 [Reception Included]  
VSBA Banquet Only \$55.00  
Saturday Only \$50.00

**Add**

Volunteer State Book Awards Banquet - (Requires Regular registration by 8-29-2011)  
VSBA Banquet \$40.00

**Accommodations:**

Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center, Murfreesboro, TN  
\$138 [rate includes Internet access]  
Booking code SLI  
Call the Hotel directly at 615-890-4464 or 1-800-EMBASSY



**Check the Web Site for Program Planner Coming Soon**

There will be 36 breakout sessions Presenters include:

**Authors –**

- Kristin O'Donnel Tubb - <http://www.kristintubb.com/>
- John Himmelman - <http://jch.homestead.com/home.html>
- Brandon Mull - <http://brandonmull.com/>
- Susan Pletter - [susanbethpletter.blogspot.com](http://susanbethpletter.blogspot.com)
- Ron Kidd - [www.ronaldkidd.com](http://www.ronaldkidd.com)
- Tracy Barrett - [www.tracybarrett.com](http://www.tracybarrett.com)
- Robert J. Blake - [www.robertjblake.com](http://www.robertjblake.com)

**Library Industry Experts –**

- Audrey Church - [Longwood University](http://Longwood University)
- Ernie Cox - [Movers and Shakers](http://Movers and Shakers)

And we have chosen some excellent member presenter sessions at every level on many topics including Reading, Book Reviews, Library Skills, Lesson Planning, Research, and Technology.



# 2011 TASL Conference – Opportunity Ahead!

## September 29 – October 1, 2011 Murfreesboro, TN

### Preliminary Conference Schedule

#### Thursday, September 29, 2011

3:00 – 7:00 pm	Registration
4:30 – 6:30 pm	TASL Showcase
5:00 – 8:00 pm	Vendor & Exhibits Opening
4:30 – 8:00 pm	Bookstore
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Vendor Reception
8:00 pm	Dinner with a Local Librarian

#### Friday, September 30, 2011

7:00 – 10:00 am	Registration
8:00 – 11:00am	Vendor & Exhibits
1:00 – 3:00 pm	Vendor & Exhibits
8:00am – 6:30pm	Bookstore
8:00 – 8:50 am	6 Concurrent Sessions
9:00 – 9:50 am	Exhibit Hall - No Conflict
10:00 – 10:50am	6 Concurrent Sessions

#### 11:00 – 12:50 pm Luncheon / Keynote Speaker

**Lunch is included in the conference fee**

Social Time  
11:00-11:20 am  
TASL Business  
11:20 – 11:40  
Keynote Speaker  
11:45 – 12:50pm



Margaret Peterson Haddix  
<http://www.haddixbooks.com>

Margaret Peterson Haddix has written more than 25 books for kids and teens. Her books have been honored with New York Times bestseller status, the International Reading Association's Children's Book Award; American Library Association Best Book and Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers notations; and more than a dozen state reader's choice awards.

1:10 – 2:00 pm	6 Concurrent Sessions
2:05 – 2:50 pm	Exhibit Hall – No Conflict
3:00 – 3:50 pm	6 Concurrent Sessions
4:00 – 4:50 pm	6 Vendor Presentations
5:00 – 5:50 pm	Drop-In Regional and Level Socials – Middle/ West/ East Tennessee Elementary / Middle / High-school

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

#### Don't Miss the Volunteer State Book Awards Banquet!

Friday, September 30, 2011

Authors, Brandon Mull, Susan Beth Pfeffer, and John Himmelman, and Margaret Peterson Haddix plan to attend!

VSBA Banquet \$40.00 Requires Registration by August 29, 2011



#### Saturday October 1, 2011

7:45 – 8:30 am	Registration
8:00am – 12:30 pm	Bookstore
8:30 – 9:20 am	4 Concurrent Sessions

#### 9:30 - 10:30 General Session

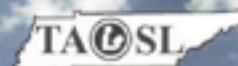
Buffy Hamilton  
<http://theunquietlibrarian.wordpress.com/>

Buffy Hamilton is the founding librarian of "The Unquiet Library" at Creekview High School in Canton, Georgia. She is passionate about creating library experiences for her students that will encourage them to be lifelong learners and advocating for the power of the library in her community.



10:40 – 11:30 am	4 Concurrent Sessions
11:40am - 12:30pm	4 Concurrent Sessions

Tennessee School Libraries... Opportunity Ahead!



September 29 - October 1, 2011  
Murfreesboro, TN

We are looking for Conference Volunteers opportunities include:

- Registration Desk
- Technology
- Hospitality
- Photographers Videographers

Please Email  
[tasl.tn@gmail.com](mailto:tasl.tn@gmail.com)



## TASL and AASL – A Joint Adventure

By Allison Roberts, Professional Development Chairperson

On June 11, 2011, TASL hosted “Empowering 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners: P21 Framework and AASL Learning Standards.” Jackie Chetzron, institute presenter, and twenty-three librarians from across the state met at Trevecca University for a day of learning what the P21 Framework was, how it related to the AASL standards, and how we can actively advocate for the infusion of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills into education.



During the institute key questions were explored including:

- What is the difference between P21 Framework and the AASL Learning Standards?
- How are the *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* aligned with the P21 Framework?
- What skills will students need in the future?
- How will the *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* empower students to address the world they will face?



Participants took the AASL standards one at a time and placed them on a chart with the P21 standards. They then

brainstormed ways that we can actively advocate the infusion of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills into education. Some of the suggestions were:

- Professional Development session demonstrating projects that other teachers have done. Teachers talk about how librarians and teachers collaborated.
- Collaborate with the teachers showing them what they can do when you work together
- Evangelistic outreaching to teachers
- Getting the teachers to get on board and use the technology that we are trying to use with the students. Have the teachers see you using google.docs, or another program, and then show them how to use it.
- Let students teach each other. Takes the pressure off the teacher.
- How are we going to reach out and use more sources?
- Get on the Leadership Team at your building level. Let them know what you are doing, and hear what they are doing.



It was a day full of discussion and sharing of ideas. Everyone went home energized and ready to see how we can bring our students into 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.



# VSBA News

Missy Dillingham of the Brentwood Public Library and I had an eventful first year as co-chairs of the Volunteer State Book Award. At the end of April and after several "unofficial" extensions of the voting deadline, Missy tallied up all of the votes. These books were announced as the winners:

K-3: A Home for Dixie by Emma Jackson, photos by Bob Carey

4-6: Found: Missing, Book 1 by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Young Adult: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

The good news is that Margaret Peterson Haddix had already been booked by TASL as the keynote presenter for this year's conference. In addition to having 2010 winners John Himmelman, Brandon Mull, and Susan Beth Pfeffer at the awards banquet, we will also have Margaret Peterson Haddix at the ceremony.

As we begin working under the new guidelines for the VSBA, you will start to see some changes. First, all committees have now been expanded to include twenty members. This expansion will allow more TLA and TASL members to participate. While this year's list of nominees reflects the old guidelines, the nomination lists for 2012-2013 feature the new configuration. The 2012-2013 lists have four divisions: Pre-K through 2nd, 3rd through 5th, 6th through 8th, and finally 9th through 12th. Also, starting this spring, children and teens will be able to vote for their favorite VSBA title at their public library, provided that they did not participate at their school. We hope to increase participation and interest in the VSBA by involving Tennessee's public libraries.

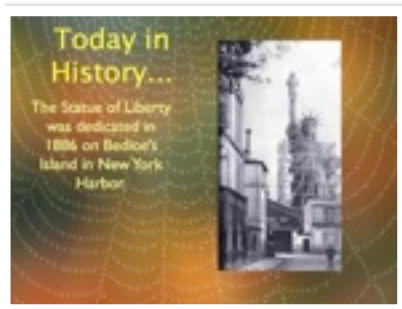
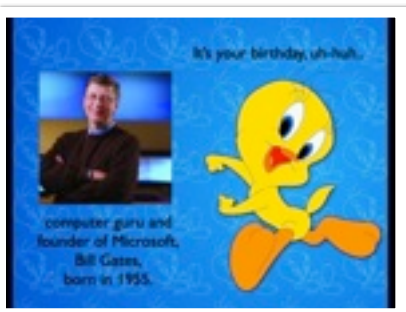
All VSBA information--including annotated PowerPoint presentations of this year's nominees--can be found on the new TASL web site. Please be patient with us as we migrate files from the old TASL site.

~ Scot Smith, VSBA Co-Chair

## An Idea that Works!

I start every class with a daily keynote. While I'm checking in books, my students are watching the daily keynote. It's always backed with music, ranging from classical to the Beatles to Frank Sinatra, depending on the day or what's going on. Each day's keynote has a "Welcome: Today is....," slide, a "Your next visit to the library slide," an "In the library, your class will be learning X, doing X, etc., focusing on the SPI, etc.;" a "Today in History" slide which shows just that (not always serious history, mind you, but sometimes cultural history, such as "Today in history, I Love Lucy debuted on television in \_\_\_\_\_," and "Happy birthday" slide to some person-known, offbeat-I usually don't do students here, and finally "Dates 4-U" which lists upcoming dates that my students should be aware of. They're relatively quick to create and duplicate, changing them daily, saving them. The kids seem to enjoy them because they never know what's going to be there.

~ Mary Ann Cole, Houston Middle School





## Free Resources for Educators

### Research Options



The Research collection covers **Science, Social Studies, Music, Language Arts, Visual Arts**, as well as professional issues in **Education and Learning**. You can find:

- full-text articles in popular magazines & scholarly journals
- Newspaper articles and e-reference books

### Test Prep & Skill Building



LearningExpress Library offers over **300 practice exams** as well as a variety of diagnostic tests and skill building courses from grades 4 and up. Practice Exams include PSAT, ACT, and the **Praxis I and Praxis II** exams.

### Just the Facts...



TEL now includes online access to World Book Encyclopedia. Includes Trivia Quizzes, primary sources, and **pathfinders** that students can use from any computer. Use the Research Tools to **create a timeline** or explore **Today in History**.

### Explore the Issues



Get the **POINT, COUNTERPOINT**, and a **GUIDE TO CRITICAL ANALYSIS** of over 250 current issues in EBSCO's Points of View Reference Center. It helps students **write a position paper**, develop an argument or **prepare for a debate**.



# News From The Regions

## Make it visual!

Brentwood High librarians, LeAnn Kiser and Shelby Davis, borrowed an idea from their counterparts at Centennial High, Valerie Allen and Suzanne Lovett, and created a freshman orientation video. The video shows the library layout, reviews library policies and procedures, and includes a demonstration of library operations in general. A short student assessment followed the video and then it was on to the fun part—a library scavenger hunt. Armed with a map of the library and the information gleaned from the video, ninth graders scoured the library, writing down a book title found in the biography section, locating the copier and securing a library stamp there, stapling their paper at the student supply center, etc.

You can see the video handiwork of LeAnn and Shelby at [www.wcs.edu/bhs/bhslib](http://www.wcs.edu/bhs/bhslib) under “Freshman Orientation.”

## Walking Horse Area News Bites

- Nancy McWhorter, library-media specialist from Robert E. Lee Elementary (Tulahoma City), retired this year.
- Christine Holiday, a 30-year veteran teacher, was named teacher of the year for Tulahoma High School.
- Special thanks to John Sullivan (Moore County); Sarah Svarda (Murfreesboro City); Susan Hickman (Giles County); Lynda Martin (Cannon County); Barbara Floyd (Rutherford County); Laura Watts (Franklin Special School District); and Penny Britton (Tulahoma City) for serving as TASL contact people for your districts.
- Thanks to Delores Morris (Riverdale High, Rutherford County) who served as hostess to the TASL summer workshop for the Middle TN region.
- Becky Logan (Williamson County) retired as librarian at Kenrose Elementary

## Where, oh, where?

Ever get the feeling that your students need a GPS to find their way around the library? John Sullivan at Moore County Middle/High School in Lynchburg, with help from several high school students, created a floor plan of the library to assist students in navigating the library. To see the floor plan of John's library and get an idea for one for yours, click on the link below.

<http://teacherweb.com/TN/MooreCountyHighSchool/Library/Library-Diagram11.pdf>

~Carlotta Wright, Walking Horse Region

## Summer Workshops Engage West Tennessee Librarians

Thirty-five librarians from the three western regions of Tennessee met in Jackson on July 14 for a summer



workshop sponsored by TASL. The three area TASL representatives, Mona, Lora, and Karen, worked with Allison Roberts, TASL Professional Development chair, to plan the workshop.

Tina Johnson, librarian at Trinity Christian Academy, was our hostess. Participants chose from several sessions in the morning and in the afternoon. Storyteller Dianne de Las Casas presented two hands-on sessions: Handmade Tales and Kamishibai Story Theater, the Japanese art of



picture telling. Stephanie Edwards, a Memphis City Schools librarian, shared her experiences as she pursued and received National Board Certification. Karen Haggard, librarian at

Arlington Middle School, presented a session on Developing a Web Presence for Your Library. Jenny Lowery, from Union University, shared some of the latest offerings, including the World Book online, from Tennessee Electronic Library. The lunch break was an opportunity for networking with other librarians, and Mona Batchelor introduced the new TASL web site to attendees. Handouts for Dianne's and Karen's sessions are available on the Members Only section of the TASL web site at <http://www.taslttn.org>.

Angie Gilland, librarian at Houston High School, was chosen the Germantown Teacher of the Year. The award, sponsored by the City of Germantown, was presented at the Germantown Education Commission's Education Celebration.

We hope your school year is off to a great start. We're looking forward to our next gathering at conference. See you in Murfreesboro in September!

~Mona Batchelor, Western Plains region; Lora Ann Black, West Tennessee River region; Karen Haggard, Mississippi River region

# News From The Regions

## Volunteer Region

Sometimes you meet someone and it seems like you've always known them. Almost 20 years ago (I can't believe it's been that long) I met Teresa Sterchi. She made an impact on me immediately as a no-nonsense, do this job right woman. Although she smiled, laughed and made me feel comfortable, Teresa was my example of a Librarian that was serious about her vocation. We didn't see each other very often, she was in Roane County and then at Alcoa High School and I was in Jefferson, then Knox County, but every time our paths crossed she made an impression on me.

This year Teresa retired and our profession is a little poorer. I'm sure when a school librarian retires they wonder if they had much of an impact in the world. We mostly stay in one room all day and we don't ever bond as tightly with students as classroom teachers do, but I can say that not only has Teresa impacted the faculties and students in her schools, but because of her students, faculties and other members of our profession who have had contact with me have felt her influence. I'm a better professional and human being for having known her. Love you, babe. You will be missed. Have fun in your next act.

This summer I was determined to learn the ActivBoard software to improve my lessons and get students more engaged. I'm beginning to have more success and was reminded by my instructor to PLEASE put any flipcharts I create on the internet for others to use. I want to turn around and encourage all of you to do the same. And not just flipcharts, but other types of lesson plans too. With all the new evaluations and other duties taking up our time we need to begin really sharing our efforts among other librarians in our system, our state and around the world. In Knox Co. we have a place on our "intranet" to put up materials to share. I'm hoping other systems have the same. Helping each other is what this organization is about and I'm hoping with our new improved TASL website: [www.tasltn.org](http://www.tasltn.org) we can "kick it up a notch" and do more statewide networking and sharing. Even if you don't think your lessons are fabulous, others can take what you have and tweak it to their needs.

I want to make a pitch for attending the TASL Conference this fall. It's coming up early this year because this year is the national AASL Conference. There are SEVERAL reasons to attend, but one biggie is the outstanding lineup of speakers and session leaders. We have Margaret Peterson Haddix (boatloads of titles

including the new Found series, Brandon Mull, author of the Fablehaven series whose appeal is from elementary through high school students and the fabulous Buffy Hamilton, the "unquiet librarian. That's only 3 people on the program. Seriously, this is probably going to be the best Conference we've ever had. If you've never been before, this is the year to go!!!!

For people in the Volunteer Area, please send me an email: [karen.cragwall@knoxschools.org](mailto:karen.cragwall@knoxschools.org) to let me know how the school startups are going in your system. As the year gets going I want to highlight some of your new ideas, forums and plans.

~ Karen Cragwall, Volunteer Region



Volunteer Area highlights: Here is Scot Smith from Anderson Co. presenting at our summer TASL inservice in Athens. He is Co-Chair of the VSBA committee and he was giving attendees a preview of the 2011-2012 Young Adult nominees.



Dianne de Las Casas works with librarians at the summer workshop sponsored by TASL.



# SUMMER SNAPSHOTS



**Top:** TASL Board Members attend Kentucky School Media Association's summer refresher on July 19.  
Left to right: Hannah Little, Karen Haggard, Allison Roberts, Nancy Dickinson, Becky Jackman, Pam Renfrow, Mona Batchelor, Karen Cragwall

**Middle:** AASL Affiliate Assembly elections were held at ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, June 26.  
Left to Right: 2011-2012 Affiliate Assembly Chair, Gerri Fegan, Chair-Elect, Pam Renfrow, Immediate Past Chair, Nancy Dickinson

**Bottom:** TASL officers attend Sunday morning meeting of Affiliate Assembly in New Orleans, June 26.  
Left to Right: Pam Renfrow, Allison Roberts, AASL Region 4 Director, Hannah Little



## DATES TO NOTE

TASL Conference - Murfreesboro	Sept. 29 - Oct 1, 2011
AASL National Conference - Minneapolis	Oct. 27-30, 2011
Southern Festival of Books - Nashville	Oct. 14-16, 2011
Tenn-Share DataFest - Nashville Public Library	Oct. 27, 2011
Tenn-Share Conference - Nashville Public Library	Oct. 28, 2011
ALA Midwinter - Dallas, TX	Jan. 20-24, 2012
Read Across America	March 2, 2012
TLA Conference - Knoxville Marriott	March 21-23, 2012
ALA Annual - Anaheim, CA	June 21-26, 2012
Camp TASL - Knoxville, Jackson	July 10, 12, 2012
TASL Conference - Murfreesboro	Oct. 25-27, 2012

## Contact Us!

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Beth Frerking, Treasurer & Finance Chair  
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Mississippi River Region  
 Representative, Karen Haggard  
[khaggard@scsk12.org](mailto:khaggard@scsk12.org)

Western Plains Representative &  
 Technology Chair, Mona Batchelor  
[mona.batchelor@gmail.com](mailto:mona.batchelor@gmail.com)

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Volunteer Region  
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East Tennessee River Region  
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[kapp\\_c@hcde.org](mailto:kapp_c@hcde.org)

## Stay Connected!

Join the TASL Listserv  
<http://www.discoveret.org/tasl>

AASL [www.ala.org/aasl](http://www.ala.org/aasl)  
 ALA [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)  
 TLA [www.tnla.org](http://www.tnla.org)  
 TN Dept. of Ed [www.state.tn.us/education](http://www.state.tn.us/education)  
 TENN-SHARE [www.tenn-share.org](http://www.tenn-share.org)  
 TEA [www.teateachers.org](http://www.teateachers.org)  
 TN State Library [www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/tslahome](http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/tslahome)

Would you like to see your library  
 featured in the TASL newsletter? Be  
 sure to submit news and photos to  
 your area representative.

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