

W I N T E R 2 0 1 6

# TASL Talks

Tennessee Association of School Librarians

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## Holiday Greetings to the wonderful librarians of Tennessee!

**Hello friends! It was so great to see everyone at TASL Conference 2016! We hope you are inspired with new tools and ideas to try out in your libraries! After reading this edition of TASL Talks, you'll have even more tricks up your sleeve. Let's finish up this semester strong, energize over break, and head into the second half of our year ready to make positive change!! We can do this!**



### Save the Date:

**ALA Midwinter  
Jan 20-24, 2017**  
ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits is in Atlanta this year!

**TLA Conference  
Apr 5-7, 2017**  
Theme: Celebrate Tennessee Libraries. Located in Knoxville

**Nat'l Library Legislative Day  
May 2-3, 2017**  
In D.C.; Advocate for libraries with legislators.

## From the President's Desk:

TASL friends,

Brace yourselves, my friends; the holiday season is in full swing! While we are urged to give into the hustle and bustle of this time, I ask you to join me here for just a few minutes to focus in on the true gifts the season has to offer: peace, joy, and a long Christmas break!

As we look back on TASL's 2016, we have much to celebrate: the addition of #TASLChat and regional round tables, TASL's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, and pivotal provisions for school libraries in ESSA in Tennessee. To be honest, 2016 has held more victories than I can count, and all of those are due to the amazing individuals who make up our organization. Thank you to each of you who have volunteered your time, your intelligence, your resources, and your gifts to improving our organization and our profession.

As my term of service as TASL President comes to a close and I pass the proverbial torch, my heart is filled with gratitude to those of you who have shared your wisdom along the way. I must thank each of you for your commitment to improving the education and lives of our students across the state of Tennessee. While some may view this service as strictly professional, I have found it one of the most profoundly personal endeavors of my life. Serving beside each of you, listening to your battles and your triumphs has been an experience beyond belief. And, in the end, while we may refer to each other as colleagues, I hope you know you have become some of my dearest friends.

I am truly blessed because of each of you.

Blessings always,

*Mindy Nichols*



## Conference Highlights



TASL's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference took place November 3-5 at Murfreesboro's Embassy Suites Hotel. Mr. Schu (Scholastic's Ambassador of School Libraries) received rave reviews for both his preconference session and his sessions on Friday. A Novel Conversation was enjoyed again this year by its preconference attendees. Shannon Miller (library consultant) delivered Friday's luncheon keynote about giving students a voice in their library program. M. Tara Cowl (author), Alan Gratz (author), S.R. Johannes (author), Elissa Malespina (librarian), and Jessica Young (author) also presented exciting sessions. On Friday, members celebrated TASL's 25<sup>th</sup> with a cupcake snack in the Exhibit Hall. Saturday boasted two keynote presentations: Aaron Reynolds (author) and Tiffany Whitehead (librarian).

**Mark your calendar now  
for next year's conference:  
September 28-30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

## Awards & Honors at TASL Con 2016



Congratulations to all of the TASL award winners! They were honored at the VSBA Awards Banquet.



### Innovation Library Award Winners

**Elementary Division:** Melissa Laws won the ILA for the elementary division. She is the librarian at Baileyton Elementary School in Greeneville, TN. The name of her innovative program is "Open Doors for Summer Dragons." This program was created to promote summer reading & to help alleviate a decline in reading with students during the summer months.



**Middle School Division:** The librarian at East Nashville Magnet Middle School, Kari Edgens, won for the middle school division. The name of her innovative program is "Reading Bingo." It is an incentive program held during the month of April to encourage school-wide reading.



**High School Division:** Erin Alvarado won for the high school division with her program called "National School Library Month Celebration." The purpose of her program is to promote her school's library resources throughout the NSLM.

All of the Innovative Library Award winners received a check in the amount of \$500 and a framed certificate.

### Scholarship

TASL is happy to provide a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to two qualifying students. This year we had one recipient to receive this award. The scholarship winner is Rhonda Richards who is pursuing the Master of Library Information Science at ETSU. In addition to receiving the scholarship, Rhonda was rewarded with a framed certificate recognizing this honor.



### Teacher Collaboration Award

The teacher who received the first ever "Teacher Collaboration Award" is Zakeisha Smith from Amqui Elem. School in Nashville, TN, & was nominated by Lakeisha Brinson for their collaboration project "From Reading to Robots." The students' final product involved the creation of an augmented reality video. Zakeisha received a check in the amount of \$500 and a framed certificate.



### Clara Hasbrouck Award

Beth Frerking was recognized for her commitment to school libraries in Tennessee and received the Clara Hasbrouck Award. Beth is the librarian at Clarksville High School in Clarksville, Tennessee.



## Awards & Honors at TASL Con 2016

### Distinguished School Administrator

TASL recognized five administrators in receiving the Distinguished School Administrator award. Each administrator was awarded a framed certificate indicating the honor.

The following administrators were recognized:

John Bartlett (Bearden High School, in Knoxville, TN)

Kay Davenport (Smyrna West - Murfreesboro, TN)

Jared Foust (Crockett County High School - Alamo, TN)

Anthony Johnson (Clarksville High School – Clarksville, TN)

Tanna Nicely (South Knoxville Elementary School – Knoxville, TN)

### TASL Presidential Award

Southeastern Young Adult Book Festival received a plaque in recognition of the Presidential Award. The co-founders receiving this award include: Erin Alvarado, Elizabeth Hicks, Barbara Collie, and Marcie Leeman (pictured in order from left to right)



## VSBA Updates

### TASL Conference VSBA Awards Banquet



At the TASL banquet on Friday, November 4, three authors accepted their awards for the Volunteer State Book Award. Aaron Reynolds received his award for *Creepy Carrots!* with a heartfelt and hilarious acceptance speech. Ruta Sepetys won the 2014 VSBA for her historical novel *Between Shades of Gray* but was unable to attend last year's banquet. She wanted to give her acceptance speech in person this year.

Luckily for TASL, Alan Gratz, winner of the middle school VSBA in 2016, was presenting at this fall's conference and accepted his award for *Prisoner B-3087* with an inspiring speech. Although unable to attend the ceremony, authors R.J. Palacio, Kiera Cass and Veronica Roth sent letters of acceptance for their novels *Wonder*, *The Selection*, and *Divergent*. Special thanks go to Piper Nyman for introducing Aaron Reynolds and to Jamie Bevins for reading R.J. Palacio's acceptance letter.



## Coming this spring....

The three nominating committees for the Volunteer State Book Award have been hard at work preparing the lists for 2017-2018. Piper Nyman of Metro Nashville Public Schools is the new chair of the Primary Committee. Jamie Bevins of Knox County Schools remains as the chair for the Intermediate Committee, and Karla Keesecker of Unicoi County Schools is still leading the Young Adult Committee. Pat Bashir of the Nashville Public Library and Amy Day-Reeves of Jefferson County Schools are the co-chairs from the Tennessee Library Association. Please check the TASL website in the spring for voting information. All ballots will be submitted electronically this year. The deadline will be during the first week of May.

## Advocacy

### ESSA AASL Workshop & Updates



We were ecstatic for AASL to offer a free ESSA Workshop to our members, and we were even more ecstatic to host the workshop as part of our 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference. Since July, our TASL members have been active in the ESSA implementation process in Tennessee, working with Rosen Publishing, EveryLibrary, and the Tennessee Department of Education to gain ground as supreme stakeholders in the legislative process. TASL members have provided vital feedback via online TNDOE forms and participation in a joint webinar with the Tennessee Library Association and Commissioner Candace McQueen's top aides, so they were well primed to begin the tangible work provided by the AASL workshop. With approximately 65 TASL members in attendance, TASL librarians were able to collaborate to develop coalition plans and elevator speeches to better



advocate for our libraries at the local level. It is this type of training that our librarians need. Attendees developed valuable products and concrete messages that can immediately be used to further the cause of their school libraries and the libraries across our state. Our librarians are returning to their schools and districts empowered, equipped, and motivated to see the ESSA implementation through to the end as our TASL Leadership Team and Advocacy Committee continue to follow the progress and seek tangible opportunities to influence decision making at the state and district levels.





## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**

### **Anne Smith**

#### **Grant Winner & Positive Change Maker**

Colonial Heights Middle School recently won a \$500 Community Grant from Walmart. How? Why? Because of Mrs. Anne Smith's keen ability to spot an opportunity and the heart to listen to her students. Many of us would jump at the opportunity to buy more books for our libraries, but Smith and her students wanted this purchase to make a difference.

At CHMS the students in the Advisory Board noticed their non-fiction needed some attention. They felt books on issues facing teens today were under-represented, so they made a request to Smith.

After her students urged her to seek

out a source of funding for gaps in their library, Smith collaborated with her guidance department to find ways they can promote this new collection to students who may need these resources.

This grant will allow her to add books on topics like cutting, drug abuse, depression, mental illness, teen pregnancy, and sexting to the school's library collection.

Way to go CHMS Advisory Board for taking your role seriously, and nice work Mrs. Smith for listening to the legitimate needs of your school community!



## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**

**Denise Tabscott**

**AASL Emerging Leader**

The American Association of School Librarians has named Denise Tabscott as one of two sponsored participants in the ALA's 2017 Emerging Leaders program. The program enables newer library workers to network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and serve the profession in a leadership capacity.

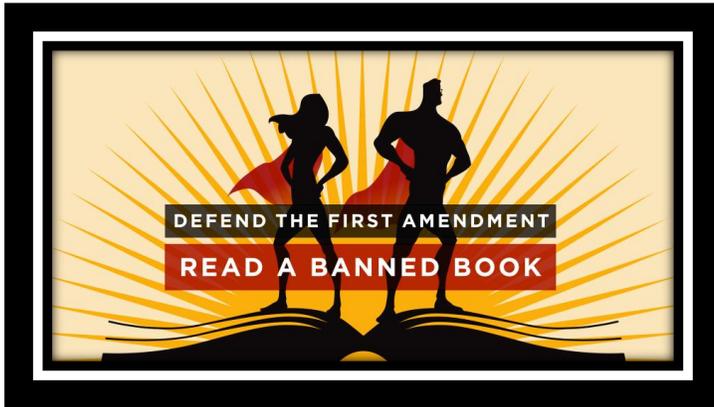
Tabscott will join 49 other participants at the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta. Participants may be offered the opportunity to serve on an ALA division, chapter or round table committee or other library-related groups.

Tabscott, from Franklin, has her Masters in administration and supervision, library science from MTSU. She is employed by Metro Nashville Public Schools and teaches 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade classes and provides technology resources for 800+ students and staff and leads professional development for other district school librarians.

At the culmination of her term, she will attend the 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago and participate in a poster session.

Congratulations to TASL's Denise Tabscott! We are proud of you!

## Programming Ideas



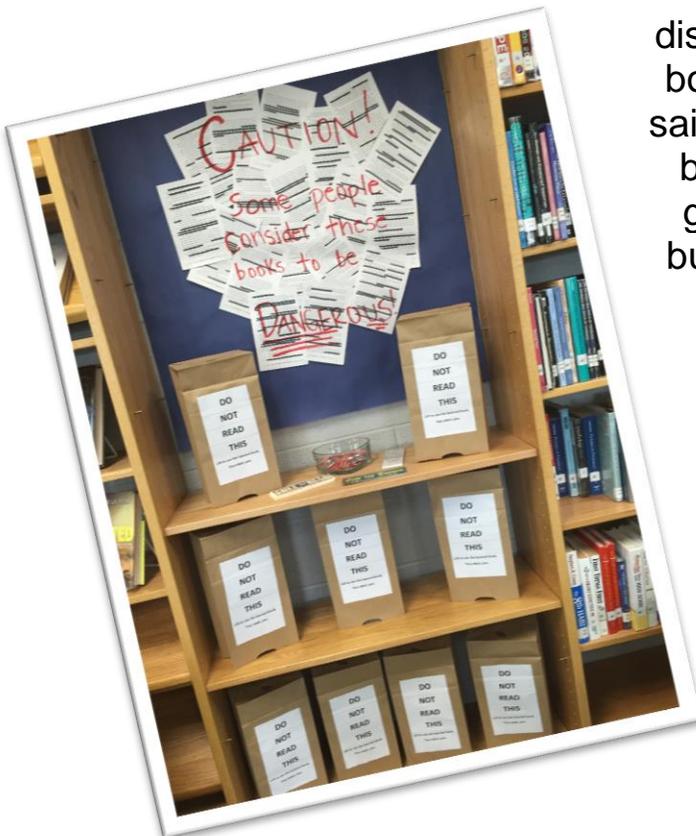
### Banned Books Week 2016

We asked TASL librarians to share how they celebrated Banned Books Week this year. Here are some of the creative ways our colleagues made an impact!

Ann Nored & Dana Hix  
from Wilson Central  
High School in Lebanon  
did this!



We did a few different activities for Banned Books Week. We had a bulletin board that was up for a few weeks, "Azka-banned prison," which had books in prison and what they were banned for. We also had a display in the library that had banned books covered with paper bags that said, "Do not read this. Lift to see the banned book, you rebel you." We gave away "I read banned books" buttons, and gave away bookmarks about Banned Book Week.



## Programming Ideas

### More Banned Book Week Ideas!

“ I created a book display for banned book week; on the display I had books covered in brown paper with the reason why the book was banned. The students did not know what book they checked out until they unwrapped it. Once the book was read, we discussed the book banning reason. It was great way to encourage reading and open discussion about the books. Love this week! ”



*Emily Squires, LMS at Highland Oaks Middle School in Memphis sent this in!*



## Programming Ideas

### More Banned Book Week Ideas!

Susan Harris, librarian at Ridgeway High School in Memphis sent in photos of her Banned Book display and her library front door!



Don't get left out! We love to hear about the great things happening in Tennessee school libraries! Watch for e-list reminders for calls on programming ideas, or contact Ginger Kirchmyer, TASL Talks Editor, at [gingerkirchmyer@gmail.com](mailto:gingerkirchmyer@gmail.com) with cool things you are doing in your library. We love to feature our librarians! When one of us takes a bold step, we inspire others!!  
Don't be shy!

## Announcements & Reminders



Thank  
You

New Area Reps for Highland Rim, Cumberland, & Appalachian Regions are Jackie Gregory, Julie Stepp, & Mary Gavlik, respectively. Congrats, and welcome to your new roles. Thank you for serving TASL!



## Announcements & Reminders

# Kick off 2017 by participating in TASL's annual bookmark contest.

Students of all TASL members are eligible to participate. Contest details will be distributed through the TASL e-list and on the website after January 1st.

Questions? Email Beth Frerking at [frerking.tasl@gmail.com](mailto:frerking.tasl@gmail.com)

**Meghann Stamps**  
12th Grade  
Hendersonville High School  
2016 First Place  
High School Division



**Sylvie Temple**  
2nd Grade  
Clinton Elementary School  
2016 First Place  
Primary Division



**ATLANTA  
MIDWINTER  
MEETING & EXHIBITS**

**JANUARY 20-24, 2017**

ALA American Library Association

Midwinter meeting is coming up January 19-24, 2017, in Atlanta. If Boston was too far away for you last winter, perhaps Atlanta will be more to your liking! You can learn more about [ALA Midwinter here](#)

Misti Jenkins (2017 TASL President) Blake Hopper (2017 TASL President-Elect) will be attending on behalf of Tennessee's school librarians. They will meet as a part of the American Association of School Librarians' Affiliate Assembly I and II. Look for reports about these meetings in the next edition of TASL Talks.

## Announcements & Reminders

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- *Renewing your TASL Membership* •

Reminder: The TASL Membership year is January-December. Members who chose a 1-year membership will need to renew by January 15 to remain in good standing. If you do not renew by March 31, your TASL profile will be deleted. This means that 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, please log into the website and review your transaction history. This can be found under the "My Profile" tab. Be sure to update any changes in contact or school information.

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

Make this the best year ever by taking advantage of membership benefits including conference and road trip discounts, access to the conference archive, and the E-list. Watch the e-list for a notice that membership forms are open!

Please contact Cristol Kapp ([kappcm@gmail.com](mailto:kappcm@gmail.com)) with questions or concerns about TASL membership.



**Learn more at  
[TASLtn.org/membership](http://TASLtn.org/membership)**

## Announcements & Reminders

# #TASLChat

Don't worry! We'll be back January 16<sup>th</sup>!

We just want to give you a break  
for the holidays. Stay

tuned to find out about  
the upcoming  
#TASLChat topics!



Contact your Regional Representative with the great things going on in your district, so we can celebrate and recognize the difference school librarians are making all over the state!



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



# Could you use some more money for your library?

Check out all the grants through AASL!  
Most are due in January and February –  
you’ve still got time!  
Give yourself a gift!

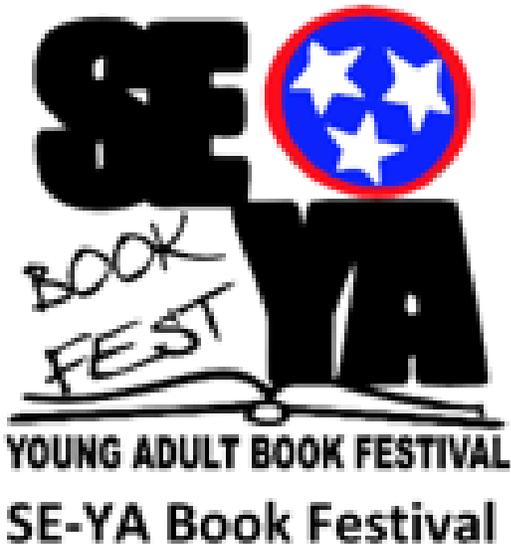


Go to [www.ala.org/aasl/awards](http://www.ala.org/aasl/awards)

March 10-11, 2017  
Murfreesboro, TN

This free event is for teens and authors of young adult literature to interact and discuss what they love – YA Lit!!

For more info, check them out online [www.seyabookfest.com](http://www.seyabookfest.com)



# RE:AD

Make your library ROCK!  
TASL Conference 2017  
September 28-30  
#TASLCon2017



## 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

**West TN River:** Stewart, Houston, Benton, Humphreys, Decatur, Perry, Hickman, Lewis, Hardin, Wayne, Lawrence

## Keep in touch! Your opinions matter!

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