

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

# TASL Talks

Tennessee Association of School Librarians



## A New Year is Upon Us; New Resolutions and Exciting Opportunities Lay Ahead!

We sure hope you are all well and good. It's been a "sick" winter, but it's going to come to an end soon, and while you're waiting, you can read through your latest TASL Talks publication, and mark your calendars for the incredible professional opportunities knocking at our doors!

### Save the Date!

**TASL Chat**  
**Feb 20 - Reading**  
**Promos**

Catch it @  
9pE/8pC!

#TASLChat

**TASL Road Trip**  
**June 13 & 15**

East and West  
sessions. Be on the  
look-out for  
updates!

**TLA Conference**  
**Apr 5-7, 2017**

This year's theme  
is "Celebrate  
Tennessee  
Libraries!"

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## From the President's Desk:

Dear TASL friends,

I am excited about serving Tennessee's school librarians in 2017! This year is full of exciting opportunities for you to connect, grow, serve, and share via TASL.

I encourage you to put #TASLChat on your monthly calendar; it takes place the third Monday of the month at 8:00 pm CST. I also hope you will add Road Trip (June 13 and 15) and Conference (September 28-30) to your calendar; please allow TASL to help you meet your PD needs! We also plan to continue the area regional roundtables that were started last year.

Be on the lookout for the call for presenters for both Road Trip and Conference. This is a great way for you to serve your TASL peers, build your resume, and add to the professionalism section of your evaluation.

TASL has many opportunities for you to both serve and be served. If you are unsure of where you fit in, please email me at [misti.jenkins.tasl@gmail.com](mailto:misti.jenkins.tasl@gmail.com). I want you all to feel like you have a place in TASL!

**Misti Jenkins**



## ALA Midwinter Review

### President Misti Jenkins and President-Elect Blake Hopper

### Travel to ALA Mid-Winter Meeting in Atlanta



TASL President Misti Jenkins and TASL President-Elect Blake Hopper traveled to Atlanta, Georgia for the 2017 ALA Mid-Winter Meeting January 20-22. While there, Jenkins and Immediate Past President Mindy Nichols attended

Affiliate Assembly I where they heard from Joyce Valenza about “discovering our why” in order to create a stronger organization (AASL/TASL). At Affiliate Assembly II, Affiliate Assembly Chair and TASL Member, Mona Batchelor, reviewed the Affiliate Assembly annual timeline and Concerns and Commendations process. Region 4 delegates then caucused to discuss those timelines, the Concerns and Commendations process, and conference planning.

While in Atlanta, delegates were thrilled to explore the World of Coke and the ALA’s amazing Exhibit Hall.



Kwame Alexander in  
Exhibit Hall



## Membership



### MEMBERSHIP CONTEST: BATTLE of the REGIONS

Which Region will increase their membership by the largest percentage?

On May 15, TASL leadership will compare the increase in membership percentages for each region. The top 3 Regions will have a chance to enter their members in this years' membership contest.



First place region will have the chance to win a full conference package.



Second place region will have a chance to win the conference fee.



Third place region will have the chance to win a VSBA ticket.

The drawings will take place during the Summer Road Trip PD. Here's how easy it is to enter:

- Renew your membership
- Encourage colleagues to renew and/or join



## Advocacy



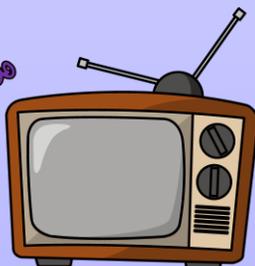
# VSBA Update:

The chairs of the three nominating committees for the Volunteer State Book Award have just accepted the final round of nominations. Committee members will spend the next couple of months reading the nominated books and will meet in April or early May to create the VSBA lists for 2018-2019. Once finalized, the four lists will be published on the VSBA page of the TASL web site during the middle of May.

The two TLA co-chairs – Pat Bashir and Amy Dye-Reeve, along with Scot Smith, have started working with Molly Moore of Knox County Schools on the creation of a new VSBA committee. This new group will coordinate publicity for the award and will help provide resources and increase awareness for the nominated titles on each of the three lists. We will be asking for volunteers to serve on this committee in the spring.

Ballots for the 2016-2017 VSBA will be due during the first week of May. We will post the ballots before the end of February. Paper ballots will be sent to those schools that request them. Otherwise, all voting will be submitted electronically.

Stay  
Tuned



## Advocacy

# EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

Want to learn more about ESSA? Visit the AASL page [“ESSA and School Libraries”](#) to learn about AASL’s position statements so you can better advocate for school libraries. These include the definition of an effective school library program, appropriate school staffing for school libraries, the instructional role of the school librarian, the role of the school library program, and the preparation of school librarians. This site also provides information about upcoming and past workshops, further details that help explain guidance for understanding the policies, and tools to help school librarians advocate.

Want to follow the current discussion on twitter? Look for:



# #essalibraries

## AASL IS 65!!!



You can gift them by contributing to their campaign to help ensure the future of the school library profession.

**Professional Learning Communities**

**#TASLChat**

**Don't miss the next  
#TASLChat on February 20<sup>th</sup>  
Topic: Reading Promos**

**#TASLChats are at 8pm CST  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month!**

**We're here for you!**

We archive our sessions, so if you missed one or didn't know about us, you can go back and see what you missed!

Have topic suggestions?  
Contact Christa Cordrey at [christa.cordrey@mnps.org](mailto:christa.cordrey@mnps.org)

## Path to Leadership

In each issue of TASL Talks, 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!

**Misti Jenkins** is the 2017 President of TASL. She works as a teacher-librarian at Blackman High School in Murfreesboro with her co-librarian, Brian Seadorf. Misti began her work with TASL by volunteering to pick up authors at the airport and shuttle them to TASL's annual conference. This toe in the TASL water led to facilitating an author signing the next year which led to chairing the Awards Committee for two years which led to being TASL's President-Elect and Conference Chair for 2016.



**Cristol Kapp** is the 2017 East TN River Region Representative and the Membership Chair. She works as the Librarian for Red Bank Elementary School. Cristol began her work with TASL in 2010 when she was invited to be the East TN River Region Representative. After serving her term as a regional representative, she was invited to be the Membership Chair. Last year, she began her second term as the East TN River Region Representative.

## Path to Leadership



**Shannon Minner** is currently the Walking Horse Regional Rep. She is the teacher-librarian at Reeves Rogers Elementary in Murfreesboro. Shannon began her work with TASL when she was asked to be the Secretary in 2015. After jumping in feet first she is now the Walking Horse Regional Rep and a member of the Long Range Planning Committee and VSBA Intermediate Level Committee. She says, "I am grateful that I was asked to assist my professional organization and that I could

give something back. The officers who held positions before me were very helpful to guide me and set me up for success. The leadership opportunities are there for members and you don't have to wait to be asked."

**Alyssa Littrell** is the District Librarian for Metro Nashville Public Schools, where she serves 11 non-traditional schools and supports librarians across Nashville in a variety of capacities from purchasing to professional development. She began her work with TASL as a presenter. She then served on the Awards Committee and Technology Committee. She is currently the Awards Committee Chair.



## Path to Leadership

**Jennifer Sharp** is the 2017 Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair and the TLA Affiliate. She works as a librarian at John Overton High School in Nashville alongside her co-librarian, Lori Bervoets. Jennifer joined TASL in 2012 as a graduate student, and ended up getting involved with leadership in TASL after being appointed the School Libraries Section Chair for the Tennessee Library Association (TLA). Duties for this role include serving as the liaison between TASL and TLA. Attending TASL board meetings regularly as TLA Affiliate made Jennifer feel more invested in TASL, so she started volunteering for small projects (like facilitating sessions and helping with technology at conference). This year, she decided to move beyond just TLA/TASL projects, and she is excited to lead the Intellectual Freedom Committee!



**Cindy Martin** is the 2017 Area Rep for the West TN River Region. She is librarian at Waynesboro Elementary School serving grades K-4. She began her journey with TASL volunteering to serve as a rep, however her intentions were of a selfish nature to begin with. Cindy, like many other elementary librarians, wears many hats. She serves as the only library resource in her school, teaches library and intervention classes, progress monitors, chairs bookfairs and AR, and has playground duty five times per day. Cindy served her region in 2016 and wants to use TASL as a resource to connect with other librarians with similar issues as a means to collaborate on survival tips, TEAM Evaluations, and library advocacy.



## Spotlight & Regional News



### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

**LeAn Inman**

Teacher of the Year for Arlington Community Schools

## REGIONAL NEWS

Walking Horse Region submitted some exciting news:

This region is celebrating at least 2 Teachers of the Year

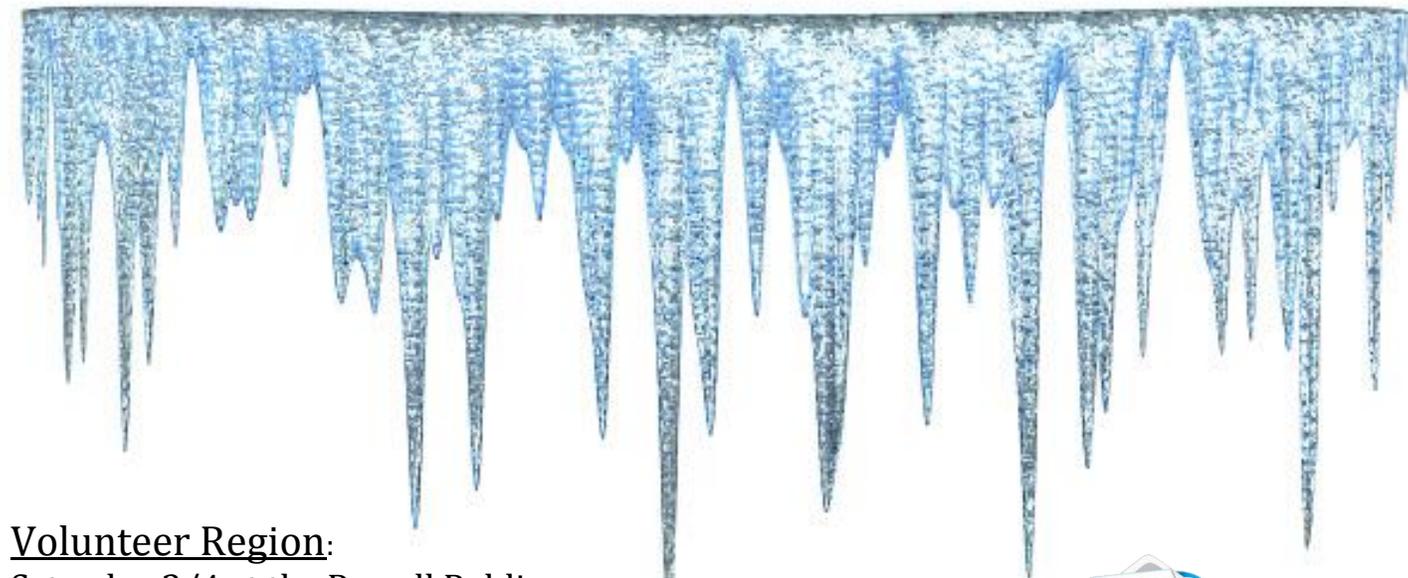
- Dana Stem, Bradley Academy in Murfreesboro
- Lindsey Anderson, Woodland Middle School in Brentwood

Also, Katie Capshaw at the Mitchell Neilson Schools in Murfreesboro won a \$500 BEP grant and had her \$500 Donor's Choose project funded.



## Coming Up

**TASL's Regional Round Table** is a great way for librarians to stay connected. Get with other area librarians to network and discuss current trends in School Library and Information Science. Be ready to share great things you're doing and rub shoulders with the movers and shakers of your region! Here's where some of our regions will be gathering next:



### Volunteer Region:

Saturday 3/4 at the Powell Public Branch of the Knox County Library, conveniently located at exit #112 of i-75. Small group topics chosen by a survey with a theme of Time Management for Busy Librarians. Snacks and stories will be shared!

For more information on the next one, contact Raina Scoggins

[raina.scoggins@knoxschools.org](mailto:raina.scoggins@knoxschools.org)

### Mississippi River Region:

Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, virtual meeting. Stay tuned for details.

For more information contact Amy Balducci @ [amy.balducci@gmsdk12.org](mailto:amy.balducci@gmsdk12.org)



Regions not listed here will be connected via email!



## Coming Up....

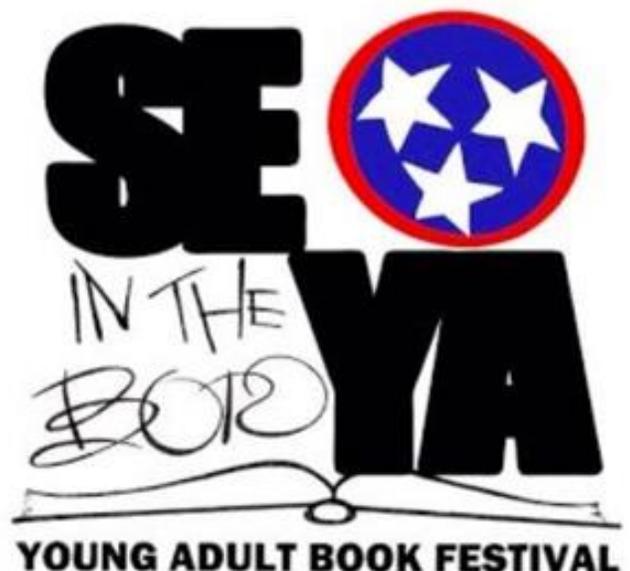
### Southeastern Young Adult Book Festival Returns to Rutherford County

A one-of-a-kind book convention will connect area teens and the general public to authors of young adult literature with its return to Murfreesboro March 10-11, 2017. Now in its second year, the Southeastern Young Adult Book Festival is being organized by a group of Rutherford County school librarians, with the goal of promoting literacy in young adults and thereby advancing education in the community. Last year, nearly 2,000 people attended the event, including students from 40 Tennessee middle and high schools and visitors from 12 states. The full list of over 40 authors participating in the convention is available on the festival website at [www.seyabookfest.com](http://www.seyabookfest.com).

On March 10, students from throughout the state will attend special “teens only” workshops and panel discussions with the authors at Middle Tennessee State University. The next day, the events at MTSU will be open to the public. SE-YA Book Festival is a free event and requires registration for the school visits on Friday. Please subscribe to the mailing list on the website to be notified when registration opens, and look for an email at the beginning of February. Please email [info@seyabookfest.com](mailto:info@seyabookfest.com) if you have questions.

About Southeastern Young Adult Book Festival:

SEYA in the 'Boro is a oneofa kind of event designed to place teens and authors of young adult literature in a setting to interact about what they love most. The primary goal of the Southeastern Young Adult Book Festival is to encourage and develop literacy in young adults by connecting them with authors in a fun setting, thereby advancing education in the community. For more information, email [info@seyabookfest.com](mailto:info@seyabookfest.com), visit online at [www.seyabookfest.com](http://www.seyabookfest.com), or connect on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/seyabookfest](http://www.facebook.com/seyabookfest) or on Twitter and Instagram @seyabookfest.



Coming Up....

# RE~~AD~~AD



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



## DOES YOUR LIBRARY ROCK?

**MEMBER PRESENTATIONS PROPOSALS CAN NOW BE  
SUBMITTED [ONLINE!](#)**

**SHARE YOUR GOOD IDEAS AND LIBRARY'S SUCCESS  
WITH LIBRARIANS FROM AROUND THE STATE BY  
PRESENTING AT #TASLCON2017.**

**THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH.  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR ROCKIN'  
IDEAS!**

## Coming Up....



CALL FOR  
**PRESENTERS**

Share your good ideas and library's success with other librarians in Tennessee!

[Submit your presentation online by clicking here!](#)



### Questions?

Contact Brenda Goins (East) at [Brenda.goins@blountk12.org](mailto:Brenda.goins@blountk12.org)  
Or Katie Capshaw (West) at [Katie.capshaw.tasl@gmail.com](mailto:Katie.capshaw.tasl@gmail.com)

## Coming Up....

### Tennessee Library Association

The TLA Legislative Committee invites you to mark your calendar for TLA Legislative Day in Nashville on Tuesday, March 7th, 2017! Activities will include updates on library legislative issues, advocacy tips from ALA and more.

Registration is now open for 2017 Tennessee Library Legislation Day in Nashville on Tuesday, March 7th, 2017. Activities will include updates on library legislative issues, advocacy tips from ALA and more. For more info, follow this [link](#).

Speakers include:

Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

Chuck Sherrill, State Librarian and Archivist

William Sundquist and Don Reynolds of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL)

Megan Murray Cusick, Grass Roots Specialists in the American Library Association's Office for Library Advocacy (OLA)

This event is a great way to connect with our state legislators and to promote Tennessee libraries!

\*Please note: there is a \$30 registration fee, which can be paid by credit card online or the registrant can choose the "bill me"



option and will then be allowed to view/print an invoice and payment can be paid by check, either mailed to the address shown on the invoice or onsite at Legislation Day.

\*\*In an effort to help the Committee plan correctly, registration should be made online prior to March 2, 2017.

## Coming Up....



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!



### Mark your calendars!

The conference is April 5-7, 2017. The theme is “Celebrate Tennessee Libraries!”

[Click here](#) to learn more or contact Missy Dillingham of TLA for more info!

Missy Dillingham:  
[missy.dillingham@brentwoodtn.gov](mailto:missy.dillingham@brentwoodtn.gov)

## 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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Tenn-Share: [www.tenn-share.org](http://www.tenn-share.org)

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