

# Footnotes

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Association of School Librarians

Volume 21 Number 3

July 2003

## Resource Alignment Underway for Williamson County School Libraries

As funds to purchase and update instructional resources shrink, school library media specialists must choose new purchases carefully, making each choice in alignment with the objectives of the state curriculum.

Williamson County media specialists attended a two-day workshop in June where they compared the usefulness of their media center's instructional resources to the curriculum that bridges their own school's grade levels.

Karen Lowe, a North Carolina education consultant, outlined a process that begins with assessing the media center's present resources so that a media specialist has a starting point. Next, she/he develops a five-year proposal to discard outdated or non-supportive materials and identify gaps in the remaining resources. The next step is to prioritize needed items, write a 3-to-5 year development plan, and finally devise a budget plan to acquire those items.

Lowe has provided staff development and consultative services to media specialists and beginning teachers in 16 school systems in northwest North Carolina for 15 years. A former elementary media specialist, she also teaches library science courses at Appalachian State University.

Prior to the workshop, Lowe matched the Tennessee social studies, science, and reading & writing curricula with Dewey Decimal categories, offering the Williamson County media specialists a quick-start for focusing on deficiencies.

According to Lowe, educators are "right to be concerned about the media center collection in each school."

"Now that the curriculum finds less and less support in textbooks, the media center is becoming the textbook for today's and tomorrow's students," she observed. (continued on page 2)

**Look who won!**

## **TASL and BTSSB Announce Awards Recipients**

TASL and Bound To Stay Bound Books are proud to announce the recipients of the TASL/BTSSB AASL First Timers' Award.

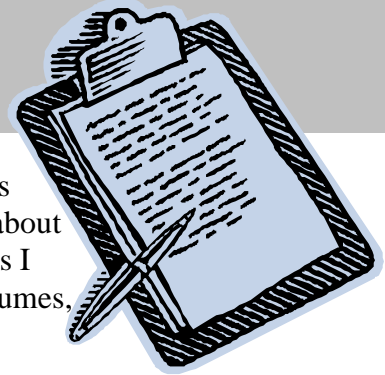
This award is a \$500.00 gift from BTSSB to an elementary or middle school librarian to attend an AASL conference for the first time. BTSSB is presenting two of these grants to TASL members this year.

**Kelly Messerly** of Tom Joy Elementary in Metro Nashville and **Cynthia Roberts** of Smyrna Primary School in Rutherford County will be heading to Kansas City in October.

Information Matters is the theme of the AASL 11<sup>th</sup> National Conference and Exhibition in Kansas City October 22-26, 2003. Attendees may register and see the program online at [www.ala.org/aasl](http://www.ala.org/aasl).

Thanks to Bound To Stay Bound for sponsoring this award!

## President's Note ...



It's almost that time again! In fact, most of us on year-round calendars are already a couple of weeks into the new school year, and the rest of us are about to begin. Where does the summer go? Mine went by especially fast this year as I spent most of it settling into a new home in Manchester. But when school resumes, I will have a 10-minute drive instead of a 40-minute drive! Hooray!

Diane Chen, V-P/Pres.-Elect, and I attended Affiliate Assembly of AASL at ALA in June in Toronto as official voting delegates representing TASL. As always, it was a great experience, and we came back with some great ideas for TASL. I have especially enjoyed my tenure as Recording Secretary of Affiliate Assembly. It is interesting to see how decisions are made and to work with librarians who have been working for all of us in AASL for years. Ed Sullivan has written a great article for this newsletter about getting more involved in our professional organizations. I have to shout AMEN! My one regret about becoming involved these last few years is that I waited until I was 50 to do it!

This newsletter also has articles written by Mary Gavlik, Advocacy Committee Chair, Diane Chen, Legislative Committee Chair, and by Marion Moore, a Williamson County librarian. We would love to receive articles written by librarians from across the state. Marion writes about an inservice in Williamson County with Karen Lowe. We would love to know what's going on in your school district, too. Mary and Diane would like to hear your input about their ideas. Please contact them if you would like to work with them or if you have any suggestions.

Plans are coming along for the TASL annual conference November 20-22 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. I can never thank all of the people who have been working so hard (and will be working right up until Nov. 22!) adequately. We are going to have a great conference, and I hope to see all of you there! If you have misplaced your registration form that you should have received at the end of June, there is another one in this newsletter or you can find it on our website at [www.kornet.org/tasl/](http://www.kornet.org/tasl/)

I'll be looking for you in November! *--Nancy Dickinson, president TASL*

## **Resource Alignment** (continued from page 1)

"As such, the media center must become the place where students and teachers can expect to find and access information needed to support the curriculum."

Once the assessment has been completed, a weeding program proposed, and deficiencies located, Lowe's plan enables media specialists to focus on the five most crucial areas of nonfiction in school libraries: 500 (science), 900 (history, geography, and reference), 300 (social science), and 600 (health and technology).

She detailed several possible funding formulas for what she calls the hardest part of the process -- finding the funds to update the collection. Lowe recommends the minimum amount needed yearly is enough money to add one book per child and that an exemplary collection would hold 20-30 books per child.

Lowe, who lives in Millers Creek, NC, also presented a session on curriculum and resource alignment at last year's Tennessee Association of School Librarians Conference in Franklin. She leads workshops on grant writing, copyright, and achievement and resource topics for both media specialists and classroom teachers. She can be contacted at [lowekr@wilkes.net](mailto:lowekr@wilkes.net).

*--By Marion Moore, Heritage Elementary, Williamson County*

# Worlds Meet @ Your Library

Tennessee Association of School Librarians Annual Conference

November 20 - 22, 2003

Franklin Marriott Cool Springs

Franklin, TN 37067

(615) 261-6100

[www.franklinmarriott.com](http://www.franklinmarriott.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ School System: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

TASL Membership (Please check one):

\_\_\_\_\_ I am currently a member for 2003. \_\_\_\_\_ I am registering as a nonmember.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to join for the remainder of 2003 so I can register at the member's rate. I am enclosing my \$20.00 dues for 2003. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **Pre-Conference Registration Deadline is Monday, October 20, 2003.**

### **FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (Includes Thursday Exhibitor's Reception, Friday Continental Breakfast and Sessions, and Saturday Workshops):**

_____ MEMBER	\$65.00	(after October 20 - \$70.00)	\$ _____
_____ NON-MEMBER	\$90.00	(after October 20 - \$95.00)	\$ _____
_____ FULL-TIME STUDENT	\$25.00	(after October 20 - \$25.00)	\$ _____

### **MEAL FUNCTION (Pre-registration Required):**

_____ FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21	Volunteer State Book Award Luncheon	\$25.00	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

### **SATURDAY ONLY REGISTRATION (Morning Workshops, Including Judy Freeman)**

_____ SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22	\$30.00 (after October 20 - \$35.00)	\$ _____
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**\*\*\* Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. \*\*\***

Make checks payable to TASL and mail to:

Questions? Email: [mbmalonetn@cs.com](mailto:mbmalonetn@cs.com)

TASL  
c/o Mary Beth Malone  
1335 Rocky Valley Road  
Lebanon, TN 37090

**Upon written request, refunds and cancellations, less a \$10.00 service charge, will be honored on requests postmarked by November 6, 2003.**

# **Committee to Promote TASL at the State Level**

**TASL** formed a legislative committee this year to increase our efforts at the state level. The committee will meet only 1-2 times each year, doing the majority of its work through email. If you are interested in helping on the committee, please email [DianeRChen@aol.com](mailto:DianeRChen@aol.com) This year we will meet to work on identifying issues, TASL's position, and how to advocate with legislators.

## **What does a Legislative Committee do?**

- Develops and advocates for a legislative platform that addresses member interests.
- Keeps TASL members informed of state and federal legislation under consideration that is relevant to school library media programs.
- Co-sponsors library legislative day with Tennessee Library Association (TLA), TENN-SHARE, and Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) in January. <http://www.tnla.org>
- Promotes the school library media program at the state level by contacting the legislature and the Department of Education to acquaint them with the needs and benefits of school libraries.
- Establishes effective lines of communication with legislative representatives.

## **What should you be doing to help our profession whether you are on the committee or not?**

- *Keep up* with the current laws and legislation under consideration. A link to current issues and to listservs for further information will be available from the TASL webpage.
- *Know* your elected officials. Find information on the Tennessee General Assembly website about your Senator and Representative.
  - Senate Districts <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/Senate/map/senmap.htm>
  - House Districts <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/House/map/housemap2.htm>
- *Communicate* with your elected officials locally now. We will be providing training on how best to do this during the fall, but use some of our tips in our next newsletter or go online for tips on telephoning, writing, emailing, and visiting at <http://capwiz.com/nea/tn/issues/basics/?style=com>
- *Attend* Tennessee's Library legislation day in January or Washington's National Library Legislation Day in May. Few school librarians attend and our voice is not being heard.
- *Know* your message and where TASL stands in regards to staffing, funding, and representation at the state level.
- *Consider* the issues of visibility, funding, and legislation, and express your opinion so TASL truly represents you.

***--By Diane Chen, Vice President/President Elect, TASL***

**(Next issue: Tips for dealing with legislators and how to contact them.)**

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## **TENN-SHARE Membership Provides Opportunities**

TENN-SHARE's new membership year began July 1. Most school libraries can join TENN-SHARE for just \$20.00 a year. This organization helped bring us the Tennessee Electronic Library, provides free database trials, and helps provide group rates on databases. Members of TENN-SHARE receive benefits from SOLINET, discounts from Ingram Library Services, and can attend professional development summer workshops.

Currently, TENN-SHARE is working on a new project, TEL Phase II, which will expand resource-sharing, provide a standard for digitization of Tennessee local and historical materials, and provide expanded electronic resources.

TENN-SHARE is a consortium of multi-type libraries from across the state and provides us with a great opportunity to work with the greater library community. Please give school libraries a voice in TENN-SHARE and join today! Just go to <http://www.tenn-share.org/> and click on Membership Information.

## Looking for an Author Visit?

Vivian VandeVelde, author of more than 20 books in the science fiction and fantasy genres, will be available in November when she comes to the TASL conference to receive the Volunteer State Book Award.

Author of *Never Trust a Dead Man* and *Troll Teacher*, Ms. Vande Velde gives an hour-long presentation entitled "From Idea to Book," that is geared primarily to middle and high school students. Contact information: e-mail: [Vvandevelde@aol.com](mailto:Vvandevelde@aol.com) or phone: 585-225-1562.

## Is the Annual TASL Conference on your Calendar?

TASL's annual conference, this year entitled *Worlds Meet @ Your Library*, will be held November 20-22, 2003, at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, TN. Plan ahead tips:

- **Bring your purchase orders!** Borders Bookstore will manage our store. Also, many vendors in the exhibits area will have great deals just for conference attendees.
- **Set aside time for holiday shopping.** Friday night will be free time, and the conference will end at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, so take advantage of proximity to the varied Cools Springs retail climate. The Franklin Trolley stops at the Marriott. For trolley information, go to <http://www.franklin-gov.com/>.
- **Book your room early!** Another conference is booked at the hotel with us. The Marriott is expecting a full house on Thursday night. **Conference rate: \$115.00; the code is LIBLIBA.** We have received a **toll-free number 1-888-403-6772.** which was unavailable when the conference flyer was mailed.
- **Register for the conference early!** If you want to attend the luncheon, register ASAP. The banquet room accommodates only 300 people, and you won't want to miss Helen Lester, Laurie Halse Anderson, or Vivian Vande Velde receive their VSBA awards!
- **Encourage teachers to register for Saturday.** Judy Freeman's topic: Bringing kids & books together!

## TASL Executive Committee Recommends Affiliation with TLA

TASL's executive committee agreed unanimously that it is advantageous to the organization and to our profession to affiliate with the Tennessee Library Association. This move will increase our visibility in the larger library community, providing more opportunities to unite and work with librarians in all types of libraries from across the state.

Affiliation will not directly affect our members, but will give TASL a voice in TLA matters and a seat on the TLA executive committee. Members of TASL will not be required to join TLA, and the affiliation will not impact TASL financially. We simply must petition TLA for affiliate status.

This step requires a vote to change the TASL constitution under "Article II Affiliations" during the business meeting at our annual conference. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nancy Dickinson at [fsufan23@charter.net](mailto:fsufan23@charter.net) or any of the members of the TASL executive board.

TASL is already an affiliate member of TENN-SHARE, a consortium of multi-type libraries from across the state that seeks to provide leadership in all areas of resource sharing, but the affiliation is not in the constitution. This affiliation is also included in the proposed change.

### **Proposed Change to TASL Constitution: Article II Affiliations**

#### **Current:**

This organization shall maintain its affiliation with both the Tennessee Education Association and the American Association of School Librarians

#### **Proposed:**

This organization shall maintain its affiliation with the Tennessee Education Association, the American Association of School Librarians, TENN-SHARE, and the Tennessee Library Association.

# Plugging into Your Profession

## ED SULLIVAN

Reading this article means you are already plugged into your profession. This newsletter is one benefit of your TASL membership. You obviously recognize the value of belonging to a professional organization by joining TASL, but have you considered the many other ways in which you can plug into your profession?

You can remain within the circle of school librarians by joining the American Association of School Librarians, a division of the American Library Association. Besides hosting an excellent national conference every other year and publishing a notable journal called *Knowledge Quest*, AASL sets the national standards for school library media services. AASL membership enables you to participate not only in division activities, but also in the broader ALA leadership. I just finished a term on the ALA-Children's Book Council Joint Committee. Besides the pleasure of traveling to New York City, serving on the committee allowed me to meet and interact with leaders in children's publishing and bring concerns of librarians in the field directly to them.

If you join the American Library Association, don't limit yourself only to AASL. Also consider joining one or both of ALA's two youth divisions, the Association for Library Services to Children and the Young Adult Library Services Association. As a member of both ALSC and YALSA for nine years, I have had many professionally rewarding experiences serving on committees and in leadership positions in both organizations. Joining ALSC makes you eligible to run for a position on the prestigious Caldecott and Newbery Award committees, and to serve on any number of other important media selection committees. Membership in YALSA makes you eligible to run for the Margaret A. Edwards or Michael L. Printz Award committees, or to serve on committees such as Best Books for Young Adults, on which I thoroughly enjoyed my three-year stint. Many school librarians belong to these youth divisions and, together with members from academia and public libraries, are able to discuss shared concerns and develop collaborative approaches to addressing them.

What about going beyond professional library organizations? Though not specifically oriented toward the library profession, there are many professional organizations that warmly welcome the participation of librarians and count them among their most active members. School library work is, as it always should be, still mainly about books. The United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY), the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (ALAN), the Children's Literature Assembly (CLA), and the International Reading Association (IRA) are all excellent organizations that include librarians among their membership.

It is impossible to be involved in everything. If we attended all the conferences, we would never be in the library! There is only so much time for such activities and so much money (typically our own) to spend on them. Ask yourself if you are as professionally plugged in as you could be. Consider some of the options mentioned here. Your involvement will prove rewarding to yourself, your colleagues, and children you serve.

### *Slate of Nominees for 2004 TASL Executive Board Announced*

TASL officers for the 2004 calendar year will be elected during the annual business meeting at the TASL conference in November, 2003. The slate of nominees submitted by the nominating committee includes:

**President: Diane Chen** (Vice-President/President-Elect of TASL, Legislative Committee Chair, library/media specialist at Hickman Elementary School, Metro Nashville)

**Vice-President/President-Elect: Allison Roberts** (an East Tennessee representative on the executive board of TASL for the last two years, library/media specialist at Barger Academy of Fine Arts, Chattanooga)

**Secretary: Judy McCready** (a member of the Hamilton County Elementary Steering Committee, library/media specialist at McConnell Elementary, Chattanooga)

**Treasurer: Vicki Randolph** (Treasurer of TASL, library/media specialist at Springfield Middle School, Robertson County)

Contact Jeanette Lambert, Chair of the Nominating Committee if you have any questions or concerns.

# Volunteer State Book Award Winners and Authors Announced

**Question:** What program generates excitement for reading among children and enables them to have a voice about which books they feel should win awards?

**Answer:** The Volunteer State Book Award -- a program that just keeps getting better! Nearly 20,000 votes were cast this year. We applaud Patty Williams and Kathy Patten and the entire VSBA committee for its hard work.

Many thanks also to Greg Kaiser of Bound To Stay Bound books for his wonderful incentive to participate. Greg and BTSSB awarded a complete set of VSBA books to one school at each level. Next year he will be awarding this prize again, and any school that participates in the voting for 2003-2004 will be eligible.

Congratulations to this year's winners who were:

- K-3 **Carol Phipps** Wessington Place Elem. Hendersonville
- 4-6 **Carol Wirwa** Crockett Co. Middle School Alamo
- 7-12 **Annette Boreing** David Crockett HS Jonesborough

Winners of the 2002-2003 award and the authors who will be invited to next year's VSBA luncheon at our annual conference are:

- K-3 *Cosmo Zooms* Arthur Howard Harcourt
- 4-6 *Because of Winn-Dixie* Kate DiCamillo Candlewick Press
- 7-12 *The Princess Diaries* Meg Cabot HarperCollins

A complete list of guidelines for participation and a list of the nominated books can be found by going to our website at <http://www.kornet.org/tasl/vsba.htm> and clicking on VSBA Official Site.

## TASL Creates *Library Advocacy Committee*

These are tough times for most educational districts across Tennessee. School budgets are being trimmed everywhere, forcing school librarians to scrutinize the needs of their students in line with new curriculum standards. School library collections become outdated and greater emphasis on curriculum alignment of resources -- library media, textbooks, and instructional materials -- continues taxing an already overtaxed system.

What a great time for strengthening Library Advocacy. As a new committee, our goals include the following:

- **Increase the membership of TASL.** Tennessee has some 1600 public schools and more than 250 private schools, but only about 500 librarians are members of TASL. Encourage fellow librarians to join TASL when you meet them at inservice or social functions.
- **Honor those who help our school libraries through difficult budget times.** How many libraries across the state depend on volunteers for the book fair, library aides, shelving help, and other library support tasks?
- **Increasing volunteer support is important.** Many school libraries honor volunteers during National Volunteer Week. Be sure to recognize those who help in your library.
- **Recognize individuals and companies who have made direct financial contributions to a specific school district or individual schools.** We need to recognize them officially at the TASL conference by giving a Tennessee Association of School Librarians Advocacy Award.
- **Work with administrators and key teachers in your school to promote awareness of the library media program and your role in promoting reading in your school.**

*--By Mary Gavlik, Chair*

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