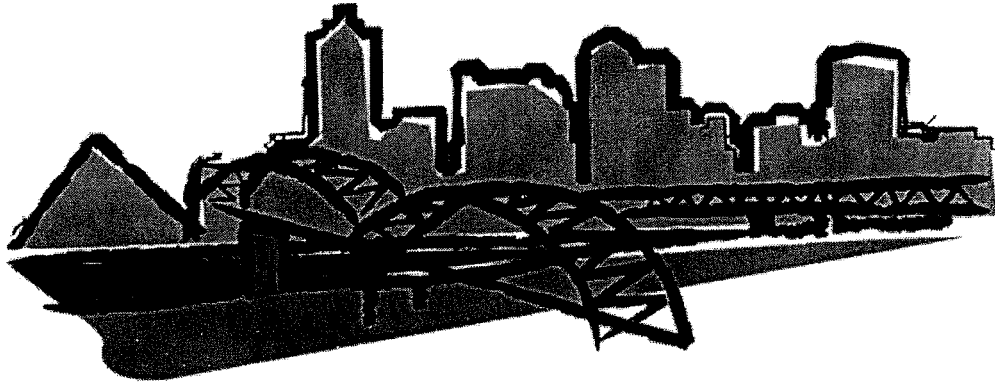




TASBO NEWSLETTER

Tennessee Association of School Business Officials - Spring 2009



“BRIDGE TO SUCCESS FOR SCHOOL BUSINESS”

43rd Annual Conference and Exhibits

Memphis Marriott Downtown and Cook Convention Center

December 1st - 4th, 2009

Message from the President

It is indeed a privilege and honor to serve once again as your TASBO President. Since the first conference in Columbia, Tennessee in 1967, the main goal of the organization has been to provide its membership quality professional development made possible through the support and cooperation of the Tennessee Department of Education, various other state departments, local school systems and industry leaders. With over 300 members today, we are without a doubt one of the strongest school business state organizations in the country. Well over fifty vendors participate at our conference each year to inform us of the latest, innovative and cost-effective goods and services for our school systems. Many of these same vendors go a step further and support TASBO as corporate sponsors during conference.

Through your board's efforts to maximize vendor participation and corporate sponsorships over the past few years, annual conference registration fees have remained some of the lowest. In fact, given the state of the economy today and to provide even greater value for your system travel dollars, we are pleased to announce that member and vendor fees will remain the same as last year. In an effort to ensure that TASBO continues to grow and prosper in the years ahead, your board has made an important decision that you will be reading about later in the newsletter.

One of the major responsibilities of your elected board is to provide its members with an annual conference program that will offer the latest information, skills, motivation, products and services to assist you in successfully managing your school business operations more effectively. Every conference continues to be organized with this goal. Highlights of the planned conference program will appear on our website within the next several months and in the Summer Newsletter. Conference 2009, like the past outstanding conferences, will challenge each of us with new ways to forge an even stronger *Bridge to Success for School Business* as we strive to manage local school finances for the state's most valuable assets, the Students of Tennessee and the Leaders of Tomorrow!

Joe Anderson
2009 President

2009 – Officers and Directors

For your information the 2009 Officers and Board are listed below. Feel free to contact any of us for information or suggestions for the organization. Although it is an honor to be elected to serve on the Board, it requires a personal and professional commitment to actively participate by attending all quarterly meetings, as well as unlimited time during the conference. We encourage any member interested in serving on the Board to contact us.

OFFICERS

Joe Anderson, President

Shelby County Schools, 901.321.2601

Jeanie Mowery, President Elect

Lenoir City Schools, 865-986-8058

Colette Arnold, Vice President

Manchester City Schools, 931-728-2316

Ron Woody, Immediate Past President

University of Tennessee, 865-946-3212

DIRECTORS

Becky Adams, Bristol City Schools, 423-652-9218

Walter Bobo, Maury County Schools, 931-388-8403

Donnie Cardwell, Metro Nashville Schools, 615-259-8458

Vincent Harvell, Haywood County Schools, 731-772-9613

Sherry Johnson, Sequatchie County, 423-949-3617

Pam Jones, Lebanon City Schools, 615-449-6060

Vickie Russell, Maryville City Schools, 865-982-7121

Marty Spears, University of Tennessee – CTAS, 615-532-3555

Roger Underwood, Knox County Schools, 865-594-1676

STATE SASBO DIRECTOR

Roger Underwood, Knox County Schools, 865-594-1676

CONFERENCE EXBITOR COORDINATOR

Maryanne Durski, Sumner County Schools, 615-451-5211

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Martin Wright, Sullivan County Schools, 423-354-1100

Past President's Message

It was truly a pleasure to serve as your 2008 TASBO President. My trip into the TASBO organization started in 1995 as I took the Roane County School Business Manager's position and attended my first TASBO conference in Nashville. I knew quite a bit about county government but little about the school business function. I have attended every conference since 1995 and have always gotten value added from the conferences and fellow business officials. I truly believe in the - **Abraham Lincoln** -quote of: "***I do not think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday.***" The TASBO organization and annual conferences have and will continue to make you wiser each day as you work in the school business field.

I have a multitude of people to thank over my career in the School Business Office and I'm sure I will forget a few and for this I apologize. Probably the first folks that TASBO partnerships with is the State Department of Education, their field consultants, and financial team; Bobby Palmer, Julie Minton and Jim Jones just to name a few, back in the nineties encouraged participation in TASBO and for that I say "Thank You". Dennis Hirsch prior School Business Manager in Oak Ridge City Schools encouraged my involvement with the TASBO Board. This encouragement from fellow TASBO members are appreciated and must continue and be encouraged. Without support from our own the TASBO organization will not prosper.

Looking back on the 2008 year I especially thank the leadership of the TASBO Board. The board members' tireless effort and planning provide for superior conferences and future direction. Partnerships with vendors, exhibitors and sponsors make our conferences. I express my whole hearted thankfulness for our vendors and their support of TASBO.

The continued efforts of Martin Wright, Executive Secretary and his, and TASBO's faithful, duo of Diane Griffin and Sarah Moody we could not do it without. Thanks.

At the end of the day it comes down to you the membership. The TASBO Board serves to provide you an annual conference and without your support attending our conferences, making comments to improve the education and recreation program, supporting our vendors who in turn support us, along with pitching in to pull it all together for this, "Thank You".

Thank you all for an enjoyable experience as I was able to "Climb Mountains Higher in 2008".

A few parting comments:

- Encourage new TASBO members and new membership to TASBO. You are the salespeople of tomorrow's TASBO.
- Express appreciation to our Vendors, Exhibitors, and Sponsors.
- When ask to serve in a TASBO capacity, please thoughtfully consider.
- Make reservation for Memphis and see ya this fall.

Ron Woody, Past President 2008

Thanks to Our 2008 Sponsors and Exhibitors

Without the generous financial support of corporate sponsors and exhibitors, rising conference costs would make it impossible for many of us to attend each year. Sponsor and Exhibitor dollars at the last conference reached a near all time high thanks to the superb efforts of Maryanne Durski, last year's Past-President and Colette Arnold, Director and Exhibitor Coordinator. It is important to let the sponsors and exhibitors know how much their support is appreciated. We must continue to grow this tremendous base. We want to sincerely thank the last year conference sponsors and exhibitors listed below. Please refer any prospective new companies you may know to our website for forms and registration information. Remember, current sponsors and exhibitors are excellent resources for products and services for your systems. Their contact information is available on www.tasbo.net.

SPONSORS:

Diamond: \$5,000 OR MORE

AMERICAN FIDELITY; GCA SERVICES GROUP; NEXT GENERATION UNDERWRITERS

Platinum: \$3,000 - \$4,999

ING NORTHERN; LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE SOUTHWEST; RISO; SIEMENS; UNABLE LIFE/EBI; VIRCO

Gold: \$2,000 - \$2999

THE TENNESSEE CREDIT UNION

Silver: \$1,000 - \$1,999

AT&T; HORACE MANN INSURANCE; SCHOOL DUDE.COM; TENNESSEE BOOK COMPANY

Bronze: \$500 - \$999

BENEFITS CONSULTING GROUP; COMMERCE BANK AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE ASSOCIATES

EXHIBITORS:

AMERICAN FIDELITY ASSURANCE; AMERITAS DENTAL & EYE CARE; AT&T; A-Z OFFICE RESOURCE; BRYAN, PENDLETON, SWATS & MCALLISTER, LLC; BUDGETEXT; CAREHERE, LLC; CHECKREDI; COMMERCE BANK; CRS INCORPORATED; CSI-MCALEER; DIXIE MEDICAL, INC; E-SCHOOL SOLUTIONS, INC; EPES SOFTWARE; FRONTLINE PLACEMENT TECHNOLOGIES; GCA SERVICES GROUP; GORRIE-REGAN & ASSOCIATES; HEERY; HORACE MANN INSURANCE; HOLLAND GROUP; INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR; ING FINANCIAL ADVISORS; KURTZ BROS; LIBERTY NATIONAL WORKSITE ADVANTAGE; LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE SOUTHWEST; LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORPORATION; M SPACE HOLDINGS, LLC; MEMPHIS TASBO 2008; MID-SOUTH BUS CENTER; NEXCHECK; NEXT GENERATION UNDERWRITERS; OCE' DOCUMENT PRINTING; OFFICE DEPOT; RISO, INC; SAS; SCHOOL DUDE.COM; SECURITY BENEFIT; SIEMENS; SIESTA SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS; SKYWARD, INC; SOUTHERN COMPUTER WAREHOUSE, INC; SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT; SSC SERVICES SOLUTIONS; TASBO/ASBO/SASBO; THE TENNESSEE CREDIT UNION; TRA SCHOOL SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC; USABLE LIFE; UT COUNTY TECHNICAL; VIRCO MANUFACTURING

43rd Annual Conference and Exhibits, Marriott Memphis Marriott Downtown and Cook Convention Center, December 1-4, 2009

Optional Preconference Trip “Bridge to Fortune”

Join us for the Optional Preconference Trip to Tunica, Mississippi on Tuesday, December 1. Plans are being finalized, but we hope to offer the trip for \$30-\$50 which will include round trip bus transportation from the hotel, dinner and lots of fun!

Conference Program Highlights

Wednesday morning opening session will lay the ground work for a great conference. Immediately following the opening session another Mega Session will be presented by the State Department of Education Finance. Lunch will definitely Bridge the Gap to Healthier Eating and Life Style! Afternoon sessions are guaranteed to enhance your professional skills with the latest developments in technology, school security, civil rights, insurance benefits, school nutrition, internal controls, legal issues and office organization among others. Bring your comfortable shoes for a sunset walk over the Bridge to Harbour Town. Once you arrive back at the convention center, join us at a Bridge Lights reception before you begin a free night of sights and sounds in Memphis!

Thursday will begin with a brisk morning walk over the Bridge to Harbour Town just before breakfast. A new offering will be *Best Practices* sessions presented by colleagues across the state, like onsite medical clinics, safe schools, etc. If your system would like to share an innovative new practice, please contact President Elect Jeanie Mowery at jmowery@lenoircityschools.com. Immediately following we will visit exhibits where you will be receiving, not spending, money in the form of TASBO Idol Dollars. After lunch and back by popular demand will be an afternoon of information and Q & A during Round Tables. The evening will be filled with something for everyone, the Board/Past President/Member Reception, the Dinner, TASBO Idol Show, dancing with the TASBO Stars and Silent Auction!

Friday closing session will be a time to reflect on the new information, procedures and ideas you received during conference so you can return to your school systems to continue to forge even a stronger Bridge to Success for School Business.

Hotel Reservations

Due to the current economic conditions the original contracted conference room rate at the Memphis Marriott Downtown has been negotiated down from \$149 to \$127. In addition, the hotel has agreed to provide attendees free in-room Internet access which is normally \$9.95 daily. We encourage you to make your room reservations as soon as possible either online by entering “Memphis Marriott Downtown>>” or by calling 1-800-228-9290 and requesting the TASBO group rate. Don’t wait for the conference registration packets that will be mailed in late September. We encourage you to reserve your rooms at the conference site hotel now and no later than the cutoff date of November 9. The overflow hotel will be the Crown Plaza Downtown, but a conference rate has not been confirmed to date.

Member Registration Fees

\$125 for members \$115 for certificated members "Early bird" additional \$15 discount

Exhibitor Registration Fees

\$450 per booth with \$50 discount (\$400) for "Early Birds"

SASBO Membership Incentive

Tennessee historically has had the lowest state membership in SASBO and your board would like to see this distinction eliminated. SASBO has expanded its services to member states over the last years and offers a number of outstanding professional staff development opportunities at conference and throughout the year. Networking alone with colleagues in other member states is invaluable in our rapidly changing profession. We encourage you to join SASBO for \$15 when you register for the TASBO conference. As an incentive to raise state membership, all names of individuals that join SASBO when registering for the TASBO Conference this year will be eligible for a cash drawing for \$100 in Memphis. Let's show our support of the regional association by increasing state membership. Be sure to visit www.sasbo.org periodically to stay in touch with the many services being offered today.

Sponsorships Levels

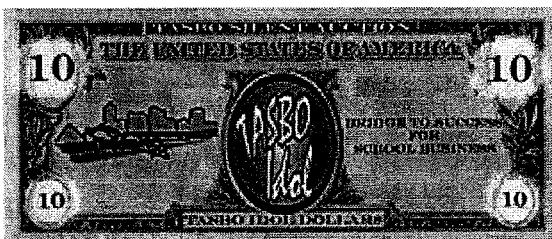
Levels will remain the same as 2008:

Diamond- \$5,000 or more, Platinum- \$3,000 - \$4,999, Gold- \$2,000 - \$2,999, Silver- \$1,000 - \$1,999,

Bronze- \$500 - \$999 and Patron-under \$500

Thursday Evening Fun - TASBO IDOL Show

I know you are familiar with the American Idol. Well come to TASBO 2009 in Memphis and participate in the first TASBO IDOL. It will be a night of fun provided by River City Karaoke as one of you becomes the first TASBO IDOL! Instead of door prizes that evening, there will be a Silent Auction. Leave your dollars at home because it won't cost you a dime to bid. With such tight school budgets, **your board has decided to create its own stimulus package! We are minting, I mean printing, TASBO IDOL DOLLARS** that



you will receive from vendors on Thursday during exhibits. The dollars will be used for bidding on your favorite gifts that evening. Don't worry the bills have been approved by the FBI and Secret Service so we shouldn't be shut down. Begin practicing now for your debut on the TASBO IDOL. Go to www.rivercitykaraoke.com and click on Music Lists for a list of songs. Cards will be made available that night for you to let

Karaoke Kat know the song(s) that you will be performing. For those of you that will only go to the stage incognito, dark glasses will be available on your tables. It's all in fun, so plan to participate. Who knows you could become the first TASBO IDOL and winner of one of the grand door prizes! There may be runner ups to the TASBO IDOL with other super prizes!

No Spring Fiscal Workshop-

The State Department of Education has canceled their annual Spring Fiscal Workshop. We would encourage you to register and attend our 2009 TASBO conference in order to hear updates from the Department of Education.

TASBO Meeting Updates:

2008 Conference Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the TASBO organization was held at the Chattanooga Marriott on November 21, 2008. In attendance were approximately 160 members. Executive Secretary Martin Wright reported that TASBO's active members were 254 with 46 of those individuals also being members of SASBO. The Audit Committee reported that a review of the financials found everything in order. TASBO currently has 93 members at some level of certification. The membership voted to revise various provisions of the By-Laws. President Elect Joe Anderson becomes the 2009 President with Jeanie Mowery becoming President Elect. Vincent Harvell (Haywood County) became a West Tennessee Director and Walter Bobo became a Middle Tennessee Director. The board and member donated over \$400 to the Chattanooga Ronald McDonald House.

Quarterly Board Meetings Summaries

January 15, 2009

Past President Woody reviewed the conference and annual operating budgets and preliminary financial status. The 2008 conference evaluation sheets were reviewed and indicated a specifically high rating on Friday's presentation by Dr. Dale Henry. It was indicated that the TASBO organization had a successful conference. The board has worked to develop a strong financial position over the years and that position was maintained. President Elect Jeanie Mowery distributed copies and provided a summary of the conference Interest Sessions/Round Tables. Jeanie indicated that the overall program received good reviews.

President Joe Anderson led a discussion of the 2009 Memphis Conference titled "Bridge to Success for School Business".

President Anderson appointed the following committee assignments:

- Bylaws:** Chris Henson
- Audit:** Pam Cox and Lisa Stephens
- Exhibits Coordinator:** Maryanne Durski
- Newsletter Coordinator:** Ron Woody
- CPE Coordinator:** Becky Adams
- Webmaster:** Shelby County
- Executive Secretary:** Martin Wright was reappointed

The board will continue with sponsorship of the Ronald McDonald House.

The board approved the allocation of a maximum of \$1,000 each for two (2) members to attend the West Virginia SASBO Annual Conference.

The board approved membership, conference and related fees for the 2009 conference. (See Fees under 2009 Conference)

March 19, 2009

President Joe Anderson led the TASBO board in discussions of the board business for the 2009 year along with the 2009 Conference. Jeanie Mowery updated the board on the education program. The certification committee will assist in the education program with the President Elect. President Anderson informed the board of the hotel room rate concessions. Sponsorship and early vendor exhibits packet will be mailed in April. With the sponsorships and vendor exhibits being registered during April, May and June, a conference budget report should be available in June along with the annual operating budget. The board discussed at length the components of the Memphis Conference and the importance of encouraging early registration. The board discussed the quarterly board meeting and a long term hotel contract for the board meetings.

Donnie Cardwell was appointed as the Tennessee Director of SASBO effective July 1, 2009. Joe Anderson was named as the 2009 Tennessee School Business Official for SASBO.

SASBO Update

SASBO Director Roger Underwood will become the 2010 SASBO Vice President and begin the process of going through the SASBO's Chairs to President. Donnie Cardwell will be the new SASBO Director representing TASBO. Each year the twelve member states of SASBO nominate a school business official from their state and this year the Tennessee honor will go to Joe Anderson. The award will be presented to him at the upcoming SASBO conference to be held in April 26 – 29 in Charleston, West Virginia. Hope to see you there! Again, don't forget to join SASBO and take advantage of many new professional development opportunities.

TASBO New Membership Initiative

This is your organization and the strength of the organization is based on your participation and your encouragement for others to join. Membership in TASBO is available to the following: full time public, private, separate, or parochial school, school district, college or university or state employees who perform school business functions in an administrative or supervisory capacity. Associate members, student members and business associate members are also eligible. See our website: www.tasbo.net for additional information described in our By-Laws. As an outreach to increase membership and conference attendance this year, each school system in the state will be mailed a postcard about our upcoming conference and will be encouraged to visit our website for conference information.

TASBO Professional Training and Certification Committee

The committee approved two new certifications at the January 15, 2009 meeting and one at the March 19, 2009 meeting - Pamela Fleenor-Manchester City-Specialist I, Danny Weeks-Roberson County-Administrator I and Lisa Cheshire-Franklin County-Specialist II. The committee also approved one recertification at the March 19, 2009 meeting – Joe Anderson-Shelby County-Administrator III.

Future Conference Location

The 2010 conference will be held in Pigeon Forge. After over a year of much debate and discussion the board has approved the execution of a pilot multi-year hotel conference contract with the Murfreesboro Embassy Suites and Conference Center, an outstanding one of kind facility in this area. This contract will begin in 2011 and go through 2013. The board saw more advantages than disadvantages in a multi-year contract such as discounted hotel and conference charges, more efficient planning and coordinating of conference educational and entertainment programs and more equality in member system travel dollars and time. In addition, a significant advantage is that the annual conference will be closer to the heart beat of our state operations which should facilitate increased participation from the State Department of Education and other state agencies.

Upcoming Important Dates

TASBO Board Meeting-

June 18, 2009, Memphis Marriott Downtown

September 17, 2009, Embassy Suites-Nashville

December 1, 2009, Memphis Marriott Downtown

SASBO Conferences-

April 25-30, 2009 Charleston, WV

January 13-16, 2010 Little Rock, AR (Leadership Conference)

April 18-21, 2010 Little Rock, AR

2011 TBA, NC (60th Conference)

ASBOI Conference-

October 23-26, 2009 Chicago, IL

September 24-27, 2010 Orlando. FL

October 16-19, 2011 Seattle, WA

Website Activity

Don't forget to periodically check www.tasbo.net for additional conference registration information, exhibitor/vendor names and contacts, job opportunities, etc. Remember, the website is for each of you. Please let us know of any suggestions for improvement. If information on our website requires a log in and a password the following is required:

TASBO log in: TASBO.net

Password: Member

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN MEMPHIS!