



TASBO NEWSLETTER

Tennessee Association of School Business Officials - Spring 2006

Message from the President

Being the 2006 President of the Tennessee Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) is indeed an honor. TASBO has been an important organization to me for professional growth. The friends I have made through the years are invaluable. I would like to personally thank Dr. Craig Rigell, Director of Schools in Athens, and others in my school system that have supported me and allowed me this opportunity.

We celebrate 40 years since our charter members stepped out of the box and faced the challenge of providing training and current information to school business officials across the State. They brought state and federal issues to the table, not to mention the networking of school systems large and small alike, which might not otherwise have been brought together. What started as a need to grow has evolved into an organization with continuing education credit for conference sessions and a three tiered certification program for its members.

The Board of Directors and Officers are working throughout the year to keep abreast of issues that affect school business officials in order to provide current topics for the fall conference. In addition, the task of planning a conference the quality of TASBO takes untiring effort on their part.

Accountability, equity, and equality are key words that challenge school systems of today. Sounds overwhelming, but we must rally for the children of Tennessee are important and they ARE our business! I encourage you to attend the 2006 TASBO Conference. Celebrating 40 years, TASBO will honor the leaders of the past while reaching for tomorrow. A review of the TASBO 2005 Conference has taken place and plans have begun to bring you training and activities to promote ideas and discussion for the future. This year promises to get us *Out of the Box*, in order to serve the best interest of Tennessee's children!

Diane Frank
President 2006

Newsletter

We strive to publish a newsletter on a quarterly basis but often time slips away and other projects take precedence. We encourage your comments and submission of articles or news of interest that can be shared with fellow TASBO members. Should you have information to share, please contact Ron Woody at: rwoody@utk.edu

In the Board Room

On January 26, 2006, the TASBO board met for their quarterly meeting. 2006 President **Diane Frank** led the meeting. The board reviewed the 2005 financial report, along with the finances of the Memphis Annual Conference. Due to the support of our sponsors and exhibitors, the conference experienced a net positive income. The board discussed at length how our funds should be and will be invested back into educational programs, annual conferences, and mini conferences across the state. Once again approval was granted to support the State Department's annual Spring Workshops and the bookkeepers' regional drive-in workshops. **Roger Underwood** reported on the Professional Training and Certification Committee and the prospects of taking the certificated program to another level, including the possibility of state support and recognition. **Roger Underwood** further reported on the Southeastern Association of School Business Officials activities and upcoming April 23-26 conference in Kentucky. **Chris Henson**, By-Laws and Board Policy Review Chair, reported on the change to the by-laws and how continuous review should be made of the by-laws. The board appointed **Martin Wright** as Executive Secretary. The board discussed the organization's sponsorship and the success we have experienced partnering with sponsors. The board acknowledged that without the corporate sponsorship and successful exhibitors, the conference would not be as affordable. Further, the board reviewed the comment cards from the 2005 Memphis conference and will work toward making changes to the program as needed. **Diane Frank** began the long and hard process of discussing and planning for the 2006 conference in Pigeon Forge.

When it comes down to it, it will all be on your desk – author unknown

TASBO Welcomes New Board Members

Each year TASBO has a few new board members, as terms of office expire and new members rotate in. This year, TASBO experienced more than a few new members. One Board member exited education and the membership approved two new Board members in the By-Laws, which extended the board seats from eleven (11) to thirteen (13).

We welcome:

- **Donald Gregg**, Supervisor of Business for the Hamblen County School System and has served 28 years in education-**new board seat for Upper East**.
- **Vickie Russell**, Accounting Specialist for 7 ½ years Maryville City Schools-**Upper East** replaces **Ron Woody** who is now an officer.
- **Jeanie Mowery**, Lenoir City Schools' Business Manager for 15 years and school employee for 30 years-**new board for Lower East**.
- **Rick Smith**, Bradley County Schools' Business Manager since 1985 and prior Department of Education employee **Lower East**-replaces **Lana Elliott**.
- **Brenda Overton**, Fourteen years School Nutrition bookkeeper for Haywood County and currently central office staff for **West**-replaces **Mark Emison**.

Please contact any of our Officers and/or Board of Directors for suggestions you may have regarding our newsletters, operations, and conferences. Contact information can be found on the website: WWW.tasbo.net

2005 TASBO Conference in Memphis – Mission Accomplished!

After careful analysis of your conference evaluations, The Report Card on the 2005 TASBO Conference in Memphis is definitely one we can be proud of thanks to a wonderful team of officers and board of directors and above all your participation. The mission of our annual conference is threefold:

- 1) To provide a concentrated program of professional development that will contribute to more effective and efficient school business management,
- 2) To provide a exhibitor venue to update members on the latest products and services to support our operations and
- 3) To enable members a time for important networking with each other, key state department personnel and vendors.

Since an effective team is critical in a time of major reductions in staff, Team-Trek's pre-conference workshop on Building a Team with Purpose, Passion & Commitment proved right on target. Through carefully selected Interest Sessions and presenters, you heard about new information and innovative concepts and procedures on many important subjects. Exhibitors completed our successful journey by demonstrating the latest cutting edge products and services to enhance our operational needs. Of course, an evening at Graceland and one in the Peabody Skyway for a Cabaret of Memphis Music hopefully provided all of us a little well deserved R&R along the way. We sincerely hope your attendance at the 2005 TASBO Conference in Memphis enabled each of you to return to your school business operations fueled with new vigor and determination to always Reach for the Stars!

Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it? - author unknown

What's next in Funding Tennessee Education?

Written by Board member Ron Woody

Much can be said about Tennessee education funding and the inequalities of not enough money and the inequities and unfairness of how money is collected and distributed. Beginning as early as 1977, the state legislators and the Department of Education have often struggled with the funding dilemma. Committees have been formed, studies published, courts ruled, and changes in the funding for education have been implemented. Progress has been made in some areas, but some of the same issues that were problems in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s are once again problems in the 2000's. The small school systems have sued for equality funding and now it appears that the larger systems may sue for funding equality.

Funding for Tennessee Education is primarily from three sources. First is the state shared revenues which are derived from state sales tax and distributed in the Basic Education Program formula adopted in 1992 as part of the Education Improvement Act. Second is the local revenue of property tax levy, the first half of the local option sales tax, and other local revenue sources such as wheel taxes and interest earnings. Third is federal grants for our Federal Project Funds. Once you take out the federal monies which systems have little control over, we are left with local and state funds both of which come from the same taxpayers.

This brings us to two problems. Are there enough funds and are the funds being distributed equitably? Most people agree there will never be enough funds in education but being in 43rd, 46th, 47th and 49th in certain education proficiency studies should not be accepted. Based on lawsuits and threats of lawsuits, the equality equation (who pays into the funding system and how much the system gets back in return) has apparently not been solved.

Comptroller John Morgan has brought the issue to light with a new proposal, which briefly includes the state:

1. Building a funding formula around the cost of achieving desired outcomes (the BEP formula would be changed).
2. Assuming 100% funding responsibility for the operating costs determined by such formula (capital costs would still be local responsibility),
3. Providing such funding by levying a statewide property tax (\$1.92 per \$100 assessment) and capturing ½ of the local option sales tax (the local option amount would raise to the 2.75% statewide),
4. Transferring teachers' pay and employment to state employees.
5. Eliminating any mandated local funding but allow local governments to supplement the new BEP, and
6. Continuing local decision-making and control but hold systems accountable for results.

It takes time for issues to be worked out, if in fact they can be worked out, but we are once again struggling with where the funds should come from, what should be state and local responsibility, and who should receive what share of the funds.

The original point and click interface was a Smith and Wesson- author unknown

Congratulations, Bobby Palmer

State Department of Education Fiscal Specialist, **Bobby Palmer** was awarded the 2005 TASBO Distinguished Service Award at annual conference in Memphis. Bobby holds Bachelors' and Masters' degrees in Accounting from Tennessee Tech University. Bobby joined the DOE in 1974 and has been with the department since then with only a brief interruption in the private sector. Bobby has served his country in the military police in Vietnam. Bobby currently serves his family, church, community, and the education family. Bobby will tell you he is a blessed individual. TASBO is also blessed to have Bobby and other such individuals serving our state. Congratulations, Bobby, on the 36th annual Distinguished Service Award.

If your lips can speak a word of encouragement to a weary soul, you have a talent - Eva J. Cummings

What's Happening in the Southeastern Region (SASBO)?

SASBO held a Leadership Summit in mid January for officers of the southeastern membership. State SASBO Director **Roger Underwood**, TASBO President-Elect **Maryanne Durski**, and TASBO Vice President **Ron Woody** represented the Tennessee Association. The group attended classes Thursday afternoon through Saturday morning and heard and participated in leadership classes held by **Joel McKenzie**, manager of American Fidelity, and **Jeff Denton**, speaker and author of books such as "Please Don't Throw Me Under the Bus" and "Don't Let the Idiots Win".

SASBO's annual conference "Dedicated to Learning--SASBO Races For Excellence" will be held at the Galt House in Louisville, KY April 23-26, 2006. More information is available at the SASBO website: www.sasbo.org.

Look at the By-Laws

TASBO's Constitution and By-Laws were amended at the annual conference in November 2005 to allow for an increase in board seats from eleven (11) to thirteen (13). The Board of Directors requested a change in order to have sufficient experienced directors at each of the conference sites. The association's Directors and Officers choose the annual conference site three years in advance. The conference requires much time and energy in order to be successful. Initially, annual conferences were held in the three grand divisions of Tennessee, but for many years now East Tennessee has held conferences in both Knoxville and Chattanooga. TASBO members approved amending Article IV Section 1 and 2 allowing the increase in directors, having two in each conference site. By-Laws can be found at www.tasbo.net.

TASBO.NET Update....

Don't forget to periodically check out TASBO.Net! It's been updated with the new officers and directors, bylaws and corporate sponsors. It's one of the best tools our organization has to keep informed about the latest news, drive-in workshop dates, state fiscal workshop dates, conference dates and other important information. If you want to become certified or recertified, the program information and forms can be printed off the website. Of course, closer to conference, registration information for members and exhibitors are available online. If you know a company that wants to become a corporate sponsor, please refer them to the website. There's even a copy of the 2005-2006 TASBO Membership Directory at the end of the Membership section, for member access the ID name is "TASBO.Net" and the password is "Member". A new item on the website is Exhibitors, which contains a listing of all conference exhibitors with names, addresses and telephone numbers for your use during the year. In the future we hope to add a link to exhibitor websites for your convenience. Be sure to take a look at News on the website for photo highlights of the 2005 TASBO Conference in Memphis! Let us know of any suggestions you may have for the website. Remember, it's your website.

Calendar of Events:

TASBO Board Meetings:

March 16, 2006	Embassy Suites - Nashville
June 21 & 22, 2006	Music Road Hotel - Pigeon Forge
September 14, 2006	Embassy Suites - Nashville
November 13, 2006	Music Road Hotel - Pigeon Forge

Annual Conference

November 14-17, 2006 Music Road Hotel Pigeon Forge
(For hotel reservations 1-800-429-7700 or online at www.musicroadhotel.com
group code 5833-5523)

SASBO Conference

April 23-26, 2006 Galt House-Louisville, KY

Tennessee DOE Spring Workshops

(Check the states website: <http://tennessee.gov/education/locfinfinance.htm>)

April 17, 2006	Paris Landing State Park
April 10-11, 2006	Pickwick Landing State Park
April 20-21, 2006	Pigeon Forge
April 27-28, 2006	Fall Creek Falls State Park

Drive-In Bookkeeper Workshops

West Tennessee - April 18th - Brownsville (Haywood County) at the First South Bank Community Center behind First South Bank 308 W. Main Street.

To be announced in other areas

Those who say it can't be done, are always getting in the way of those who are doing it!
- author unknown -