



TASBO NEWSLETTER

Tennessee Association of School Business Officials - Winter 2007

Message from the President

It is hard to believe that almost 4 months have passed since our 2006 conference in Pigeon Forge. I think all of you will agree that it was a remarkable event, bringing together many of our founding members with our current membership to reflect on the past, enjoy the present, and look to the future. Hats off to our Past President Diane Frank who coordinated this most memorable conference!

2007 finds TASBO looking at the various pieces of our lives – family, friends, work, community, church – and helping us put them all together into the picture of our lives. Our 2007 conference will bring speakers who will address these various pieces of our lives, and help us to see their connection. I also hope to allow all of us time to really connect with each other. My goal is that each of you will leave having met five school business officials that you had not previously met. We are each other's best resources, and we will focus on this aspect in one of our general sessions.

Conference 2007 will open in Nashville with a Welcome Reception on Tuesday evening, November 13th at the Hilton Nashville Downtown. Wednesday will begin with a Mega-Session, and then find us still "outside the box" at Municipal Auditorium for our vendor exhibits and a large group session designed to facilitate the networking process. That evening we will have a reception with our vendors before enjoying an evening on our own in Nashville. Thursday we will continue with a variety of sessions, and the return of the Roundtables that were so well received last year. Thursday evening we will gather at the Hilton for a dinner and entertainment (details in future newsletters). Friday will conclude with guest speaker Troy Evans, who will share his fascinating personal story, and show us that no matter how scattered the pieces of our lives may seem, it is always possible to put them together.

I hope that you are making plans to join us next November. Hotel information can be found in this newsletter, along with other important dates to remember. The TASBO Board looks forward to hosting you in Nashville as we Put the Pieces Together!

Maryanne Durski
President 2007

Message from the Past President

Providing a professional growth experience each fall is the mission of TASBO, and this year was no exception. The 40th Annual Conference was a milestone and a huge success!

So many helped make this happen. Past Presidents, Bobbie Davis, Robert Smith and Roger Underwood, assisted me with planning and notification of VIP's. The recognition dinner was a festive event for all. Honorees had time for fellowship during a reception held in their honor and the entire TASBO membership came to celebrate all who have served before us to make our organization so strong. Mr. Jeff Denton encouraged us to consider the legacy we will leave. Round table discussions brought new life to our sessions. The Aviation Museum provided a most unusual exhibit space for our many loyal vendors and an air show provided entertainment.

Hopefully you attended the conference and Roger Crawford challenged you to "Think Outside the Box" in both your personal and professional life. Remember as we face each new day as business officials, we are here for Tennessee's children!

My gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to each of you who attended the conference and especially to my exceptional Officers and Board of Directors.

What a pleasure it has been to serve with you during the past year!

God bless each of you,

Diane Frank
President 2006

Newsletter

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

Welcome New Board Members

Kevin Jones from Shelby County Schools was elected Vice President and Anita Hays from Memphis City Schools was elected as Director, West Tennessee. Visit our website to get to know your board members.

In the Board Room-

A brief recap of the November 14, 2006 board meeting.

The November 14, 2006 meeting included the final preparation for the 40th annual meeting, approval to negotiate a contract with the Marriott/Cook Convention Center for the 2009 conference and approval of two new professional training certifications and sixteen renewals. Congratulations to our newest certification members, Penelope Tharp from Lewis County, Specialist I and Sherry Webb from Overton County, Specialist I. The board recommended to the membership a resolution to recognize TASBO as the official organization, which represents school business officials in Tennessee (see related article).

A brief recap of the January 18, 2007 board meeting.

The January 18, 2007 board meeting included discussion of the 40th annual conference (see below article on conference review). The board approved two new professional training certifications. Congratulations to our newest certified members, Melissa Garmany, Specialist I and Laura Brink, Specialist II. Reports were given for the preparation of the 2007 conference. As noted in the president's message the conference theme is "Putting the Pieces Together" and your board is working diligently to start putting the conference together with programs, vendor exhibits, keynote speakers, hotel arrangements and entertainment. Meetings will be scheduled within the next two months with the Chattanooga Marriott and Convention Center to continue the arrangements for Conference 2008. The 2008 contracts were executed last February. For Conference 2009 we are back in Memphis at the Marriott/Cook Convention Center. The contracts are being reviewed by the Board and will be presented for ratification at the March Board meeting. Believe it or not, the site selection committee for Conference 2010 was appointed and has already made a visit to the Pigeon Forge area in preparation for that meeting. Chris Henson reviewed the by-law changes that were approved at the annual meeting and stated that the by-laws would be updated to reflect these changes. Martin Wright was re-elected as TASBO's Executive Secretary. We would like to thank Martin along with Diane Griffin, Sarah Moody, and the Sullivan County School System for their devoted service to TASBO.

40th Annual Conference Survey Review and Budget

Three surveys were taken to help evaluate the success of Conference 2006, and to examine possible enhancements for future conferences.

Interest Session Review

President-Elect Ron Woody reviewed the interest sessions and program evaluations and comments noting that most all sessions scored ratings above 4 with the lowest being a 3.9 and highest a perfect 5.0. Some sessions were attended by many and a very few sessions had limited participation. The first ever Round Table Discussion session was extremely well received and will be included in the upcoming conference. The Round Table did have a few issues related to available space and noise, which we will try to address in 2007.

Vendor Review

Board member Collette Arnold conducted a vendor survey in which the vendors responded to questions regarding the venue, whether enough time was allocated for the vendor show and various other issues. Collette received responses from 30 of the 60 vendors and most all had positive comments regarding their participation.

Overall Conference Review

Past President Diane Frank reviewed the General (Overall) Conference Evaluation Form. Diane received 171 forms from our membership with overwhelmingly positive comments.

The board would like to thank our membership, vendors, and sponsors for participating in our surveys. We assure you that all of your comments are considered in planning future conferences. We would hope you recognize that it is hard to meet the individual needs for up to 400 participants but we strive to do our best. Please continue to comment and help us make future conferences even better

Conference Budget Review

The board reviewed the details of the 40th annual conference, which showed that the total revenue exceed \$101,000 with expenses approaching \$90,000. A few additional bills have not been paid but it was anticipated a potential profit of \$10,000 would be realized allowing for further investments for the membership and future conferences. Again, thank you all for a successful conference.

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest by President-Elect Ron Woody

Effective July 1, 2007, the Comprehensive Governmental Ethics Reform Act of 2006 applies to you. Somewhere along our journey we have heard about the inappropriate behavior of various public officials and employees. In the past few years, the big one has been the “Rocky Top” or “Tennessee Waltz” scandal. In 2006, the Tennessee General Assembly passed legislation that attempts to address the issue of ethics. As we talk about ethics, conflicts of interests must also be addressed. This legislation applies to you as an official or employee of a local government agency. The county legislative bodies and city councils must adopt local ethical standards by June 30, 2007. Although you and your school board may not be aware of the details of the laws or of the policy adopted by your local county commission or city council, the laws and policies apply to you. The Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) were charged in the law to provide guidance and direction, and to develop a model policy that could be adopted by the local governments. Both MTAS and CTAS have their model policies listed on their respective websites. Most county commissions and city councils have developed or are in the process of developing policies or adopting the model policies provided. Board members and employees must first be aware of the laws under which their organizations operate and then incorporate their new ethics policy into their existing policies. The ethics policy cannot be less restrictive than the laws under which their organizations operate. Ethics policies deal with various issues that should help insure the integrity of the local government, and protect the local governments from abuse. The policies and laws deal with direct and indirect conflicts of interest along with oral and written disclosures. You should get a copy of your local government’s policy. The ethics legislation is codified in TCA 8-17-101.

Vote to recognize TASBO in Tennessee Code Annotated

The TASBO board and its membership voted to ask our state senators and representatives to support a resolution to include TASBO in Tennessee law as the official organization that represents school business officials. After stating seven bullet points about TASBO, the resolution states the following:

Therefore Be It Resolved That:

1. The Tennessee General Assembly recognizes the Tennessee Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) as the representative organization of school business officials and administrators in the State of Tennessee;
2. The Tennessee General Assembly endorses and encourages school business officials to become a member of TASBO.

The resolution can be downloaded from our TASBO.net. We encourage you to contact your legislators to support this legislation.

2006 TASBO Conference Recognition Dinner by Diane Frank

The 2006 TASBO Conference Recognition Dinner looked back at TASBO's 40-year history. A special recognition goes to James McCullough for his continued support and foresight with TASBO. He is the only person to hold the triple honor of being a Charter Member, Past President and Distinguished Service Award Recipient. Mr. McCullough, who traveled from New Mexico, James Colmey, who came from Fairhope, Alabama, Pat Wills from Memphis, Tennessee, and Robert E. Davis from Canton, Georgia, were the Charter members in attendance. They along with other VIP's from the 40 years were honored on Tuesday, November 14th at the 40th Anniversary Celebration. This group represented over 1000 years of service to the public schools in Tennessee. Our thanks to each of these VIPs for their dedication and loyalty to TASBO!

Sponsors/Vendors

A big THANK YOU to our Vendors/Sponsors. Their monetary contributions and continued support of TASBO is invaluable. They also make vendor day special with their many door prizes. Congratulations to all the winners! I hope you were able to put faces to names and make new contacts.

A very special THANK YOU to Neal Melton with the Tennessee Museum of Aviation. The facility was wonderful, he was great to work with and his talent as a pilot provided wonderful entertainment.

Door Prizes:

Thank you board members, donors, and others for your contributions to our door prize gifts. Our membership received over 170 door prizes valued at over \$10,000. Special thanks to Southwest Air for their continued contribution of two airline tickets to anywhere Southwest flies in the continental United States and to Apple Computer for the I-MAC. Other gifts included a diamond necklace valued over \$300, several weekend stays at hotels and bed and breakfasts, and a litany of cash and gift cards.

Congratulations, TASBO Distinguished Service Award

TASBO honored current Obion County Schools Director David Huss as the distinguished service award winner for 2006. David has served as a Director of Schools in South Carroll County Special School District and as Fiscal Consultant, Finance Director and Executive Director of Local Finance at the Department of Education. David holds a B.S. degree in Accounting and a Masters of Education Leadership and is currently attending law school. David has helped the members of TASBO with his leadership while with the Tennessee Department of Education and continues to support the TASBO program. Thank you David Huss, Distinguished Service Award Recipient for 2006.

SASBO Leadership Conference

President Elect Ron Woody, Vice President Kevin Jones, and State SASBO Director Roger Underwood attended the third annual SASBO Leadership training "Soar with Tomorrow's Stars by making a Difference Today" held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina January 11-13, 2007. The annual leadership program's goal is to assist state organizations with leadership training and improvements to their local organizations and annual conferences.

TASBO Service Project

For the second year in a row TASBO has taken on a service project contributing back to communities in the area of the conference. This year again contributions were made to the **Ronald McDonald House**. At the Thursday luncheon a check for \$1,000 was given to Ms. Sue Beverly of the Knoxville Ronald McDonald House. Thank you membership for your contribution and thank you Ronald McDonald House for your assistance in helping families of sick and injured children by providing temporary housing while their children are in the community hospitals.

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 is one of the best tools our organization has to keep the membership 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 of a company that wants to become a corporate sponsor, please refer them to the website. There is even a copy of the TASBO Membership Directory at the end of the Membership section. For member access, the ID name is _____ and the password is _____. 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 2006 TASBO Conference in Pigeon Forge! Let us know of any suggestions you may have for the website. Remember, it's your website. Thank you Joe Anderson and Shelby County Schools for our website.

Calendar of Events:

TASBO Board Meetings for 2007

March 15, 2007 @ Embassy Suites – Nashville

June 21, 2007 @ Hilton Downtown Nashville (2007 conference site)

September 20, 2007 @ Embassy suites – Nashville

November 13, 2007 @ Hilton Downtown Nashville (2007 conference)

TASBO Annual Conferences

Annual Conference 2007 – Hilton Nashville Downtown

November 13-16, 2007

Hilton Downtown Nashville (615) 620-2150 Request code: TNA -to get the TASBO conference room rate, or reserve online at

http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/bnanshf_tna/index.jhtml

The Hilton is an all-suites hotel located in the heart of downtown Nashville. The room rate is \$135 and includes a full, cooked-to-order breakfast each morning and a complimentary cocktail each evening. There is an additional charge for parking.

The overflow hotel is the Hampton Inn and Suites located just two blocks from the Hilton. The contract is being negotiated at this writing. Details will be available on the website as soon as they are finalized.

Vendor Exhibit information will be announced in April, and will be available on the website.

Annual Conference 2008- Chattanooga Marriott and Convention Center

Annual Conference 2009- Marriott Memphis and Convention Center

SASBO Conference April 23 – 25, 2007 – Hilton Hotel Myrtle Beach, SC

ASBO Conference October 12-18, 2007 Toronto, Canada
November 7-10, 2008 Denver, CO

Tennessee DOE Spring Workshops

Pickwick Landing State Park – April 12-13, 2007

The Conference Center at River Plantation, Sevierville – April 17, 2007

Paris Landing State Park – April 19, 2007

Fall Creek Falls State Park – April 26-27, 2007

Drive-In Bookkeeper Workshops

Middle Tennessee- March 29, 2007

Upper East Tennessee- April

Middle East Tennessee- March

To be announced in other areas

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
