

Tennessee Association of School Librarians (TASL) – 2023 Conference CKN Participation Report

Prepared by Vic Legerton on September 29, 2024

TASL holds their annual state conference each fall at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Murfreesboro on a weekend in September, October or November.

The exhibitors are placed in a meeting room that is near the workshop and conference meetings but is not well identified with signage.

The 2023 conference during November 5 and 6, 2023 was capably supported by Sandy Williams, Ted and Karen Dreier, Stephanie Barca, Daniel DeLuca and Vic Legerton.

There was a lot of interest in the CKN mission, vision, resources and programs. With funds granted by the Kiwanis Children's Fund, traditional kits containing the 3 books, hand puppet and printed materials were given to about 90 of the 300 conference attendees. The attendance is predominantly elementary and secondary public and private school librarians who typically research new books and associated materials. Each person receiving the kit was added to the contact list for follow-up.

One high school librarian from Franklin County took 8 of the kits to the 8 schools in her county. The Moozie program was adopted at their one high school as a project for the higher achievers to mentor young children in kindness as a community service project. She also shared CKN information with the Kiwanis Clubs of Franklin County and of Tullahoma who both invited Vic to present programs to their clubs which was done and resulted in the purchase of books and puppets for Christmas gifts, to take to families in Mexico, and for the county's one Head Start Center.

I am inclined to recommend this event be considered in the future as an opportunity to connect with more schools and school districts, but to sell the CKN materials at a discounted price to cover registration fees and staff time and expense.

The 2024 conference is September 26-28, but CKN did not register to attend because of conflicts with the dates. The 2025 conference dates have not yet been announced.