

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time.



Sir J. Lubbock



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President's Report

Cara Suhr, Tennessee Technology Center at Nashville

First I want to thank you all for everything that you have done in the past year for TASFAA and for me. I would not have made it through the year without your support.

I was pleased with the response from the membership at having the Business Meeting as a general session rather than combined with lunch. I would recommend that this format be continued if the schedule and space at the conferences permit.

I am also pleased with the number of responses from the Membership Survey on the annual meetings. I received 107 responses. The results were 58 to continue with two meetings and 49 to change to one meeting. Those that want to go to one meeting prefer to hold it in October. The results for the remaining questions were to keep things the same.

Thank you again and I look forward to serving TASFAA as Past President.

President-Elect Nancy Beverly, Milligan College

Training

To assist in the preparation to fill the role of TASFAA President, I attended the NASFAA Leadership Conference in Washington D.C., March 2 – 5, 2002.

I also attended the President-Elect training in February 2003 that is provided by SASFAA prior to the SASFAA Conference.

TSAC Advisory Committee

As President-Elect I have served on the TSAC Advisory Committee during 2002-2003. I have attended one TSAC Advisory Committee meeting in Nashville and have participated in conference calls specifically regarding the lottery scholarship discussions. As TASFAA President during 2003-2004, I will continue to serve as a member of the TSAC Advisory Committee.

SASFAA Executive Board

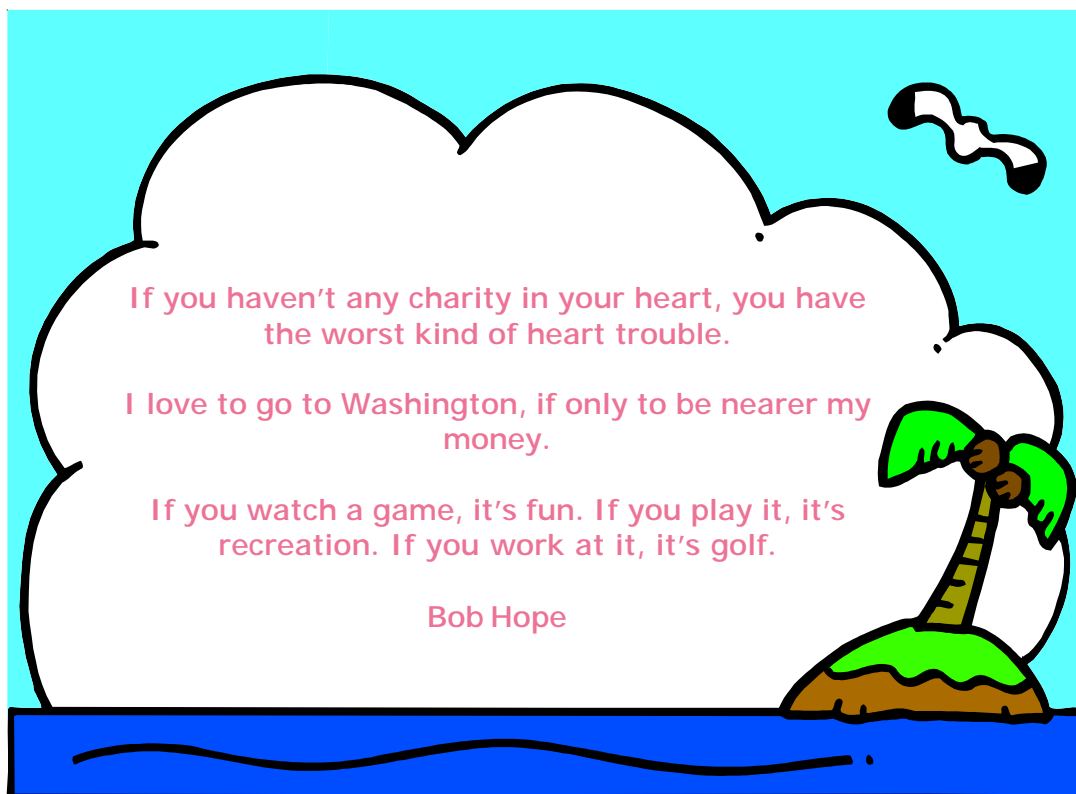
I attended the SASFAA Transition Meeting in St. Petersburg Florida, June 5 – 8, 2003. Being state president provides me with the opportunity to serve on SASFAA's Executive Board during 2003-2004.

Committee Chairs

Volunteer forms have been reviewed and, until a few days ago, all committee chair positions were filled. There is now a vacancy for the Sponsorship Committee. I am working to fill this position; however, due to the importance of the position, have chosen not to act in haste. Within the next couple of weeks, I hope to have found a capable and willing individual to serve the association in this capacity.

Transition and Upcoming Year

I am looking forward to the TASFAA Transition Meeting, and to a very successful TASFAA year. TASFAA is blessed with very hard working and capable individuals, many of whom will be serving on the 2003-2004 TASFAA Executive Board. I am looking forward to the upcoming year working with the executive board, committee members, and TASFAA members.

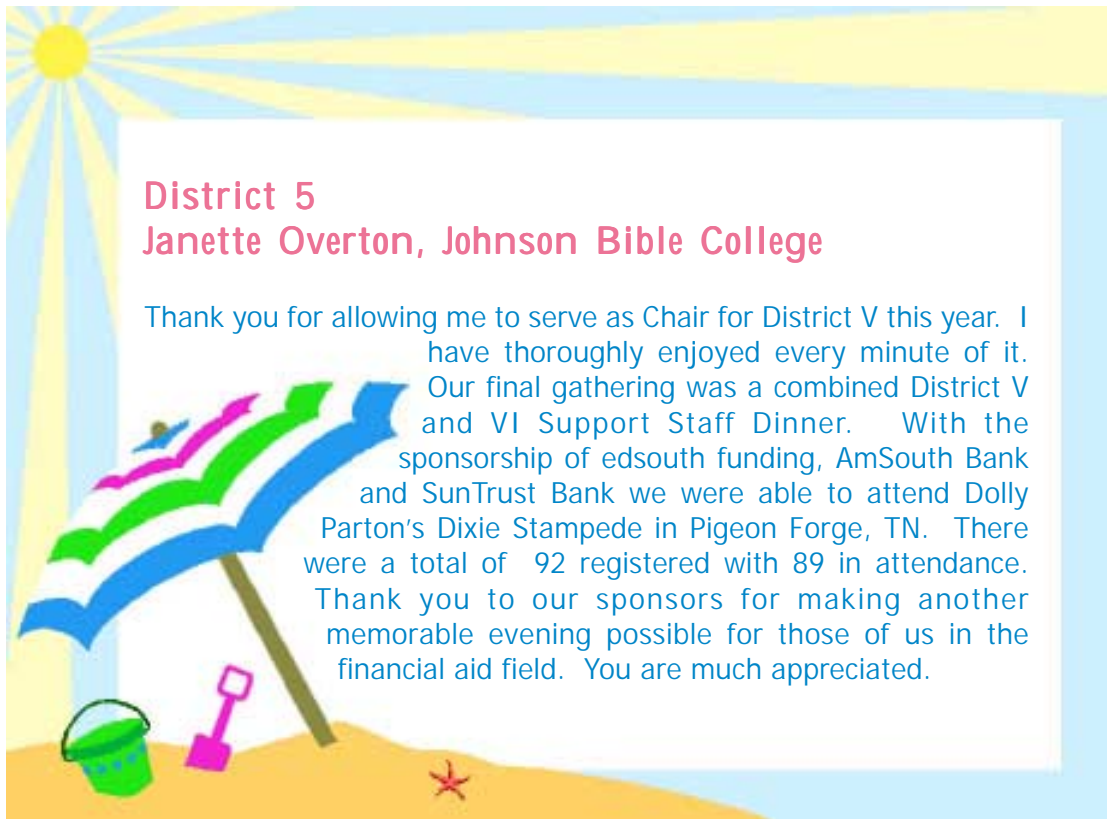


If you haven't any charity in your heart, you have
the worst kind of heart trouble.

I love to go to Washington, if only to be nearer my
money.

If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play it, it's
recreation. If you work at it, it's golf.

Bob Hope



District 5
Janette Overton, Johnson Bible College

Thank you for allowing me to serve as Chair for District V this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. Our final gathering was a combined District V and VI Support Staff Dinner. With the sponsorship of edsouth funding, AmSouth Bank and SunTrust Bank we were able to attend Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede in Pigeon Forge, TN. There were a total of 92 registered with 89 in attendance. Thank you to our sponsors for making another memorable evening possible for those of us in the financial aid field. You are much appreciated.

District 6
Pat Shannon, Tusculum College

District VI has had a very eventful and worthwhile year. We have had four very interesting meetings as follows:

1. Bill Grizzard and AmSouth Bank sponsored a night at the Johnson City Cardinals Baseball Park on July 30th and 15 attended.
2. Debby Nuchols and First Tennessee Bank sponsored the Federal Video Conference and a delicious BBQ luncheon on October 24th. Linda Embree and ETSU hosted this event with 50 in attendance.
3. Sandy Bennett and SunTrust Bank sponsored our Christmas luncheon on December 3rd at the historic and beautifully decorated General Morgan Inn in Greeneville. All Financial Aid Officers, High School Counselors, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, and Student Support Services Counselors were invited. We had 90 in attendance.
4. Our fourth and final meeting of the year was held on June 6th at the Dixie Stampede in Pigeon Forge. AmSouth, edSouth, and SunTrust Banks sponsored this delightful event. It was a combined meeting with District V and Janette Overton, chair of that District, shouldered the responsibility of making sure this was such a successful event.

All in District VI are so appreciative for our sponsors, along with those who volunteer, in making our meetings so enjoyable.

I have enjoyed serving on this team and look with excitement to TASFAA meetings in the future.

May God bless us all as we attempt to serve our students and their parents.

TASFAA COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

The following briefly describes the function of each TASFAA committee. The approximate number of members serving on each committee is identified in parentheses.

Association Governance - Recommends policies concerning budget issues, provides counsel to the TASFAA President on the budget, oversees the annual audit, and monitors reserve funding. Drafts resolutions or changes to the bylaws as directed by the Executive Board and presents them to the membership for vote. Works with the association's strategic oversight by setting goals and striving to achieve them. Every five years or so, the committee also updates the association's long-range plan. (6)

Awards - Prepares and presents awards for length of service, special accomplishments, professional milestones and honors. This includes collecting nominations, working with the Executive Board on selection and purchasing the plaque or award token. (5)

Computer Network - Coordinates the implementation and maintenance of the TASFAA web page, recommends activities to improve our electronic communications, and works with the program chairs in coordinating training sessions and demonstration workshops. (5)

Counselor Internship Project - Coordinates the training of high school counselors (usually 20-25 each summer), and then places these counselors in Tennessee higher education institutions for summer employment. The high school counselor is paid through funding from TSAC. (7)

Diversity Committee - Works with the program committee and Executive Board to bring opportunities to our membership to increase their awareness of the diversity that exists within our association and the population that we serve. (4)

Financial Aid Awareness - Coordinates all activities for Financial Aid Awareness Month (January). This includes setting up a committee with representatives from each district, contacting the Governor's office for a proclamation and developing activities and promotional activities to advance awareness in the general population of aid availability and the application process. (8)

Government Relations - Responsible for keeping the membership apprised of federal and state legislative initiatives in order to recommend responses or action from the association. Notices to the officers and members can be sent through the newsletter, mail or email. (6)

Historical - Organizes and maintains the archives for the association. Duties include maintenance of the President's Boards, Officer's Book and Scrapbook, collection of reports, pictures, paraphernalia and other association information from members for the archives, and coordinating the storage and microfilming of records. (4)

Membership - Solicits membership for TASFAA through letters, articles, and advertisements, keeps the official membership database for the association, and coordinates conference registration with the association treasurer. Serves as editor for the annual Membership Directory. Also works with the Public Relations Chair and Computer Network Chair to provide up-to-date membership information for their publications. (4)

Newsletter - Coordinates the publishing of three issues of The Crossfeed, TASFAA's newsletter. This includes collecting articles, letters, and reports from the association's officers and chairs, soliciting advertisements for each issue, formatting and editing each issue, working with the printer on publication and mailing issues to current members. Also will include working with the Computer Network Chair to provide an electronic version of the newsletter. (1-4)

Nominations - Chaired by the Past President, this committee solicits nominations for the elected offices of the association and coordinates the slate and election activities, including printing, mailing and counting ballots. (4)

Program - Coordinates the fall and spring TASFAA conferences. Activities include the selections of keynote and concurrent session speakers and coordination of social activities. (14)

Project Development - Assesses the needs of the association and its constituents to determine what projects/programs could be offered. Identifies potential projects that could be submitted to NASFAA for a state award. Researches other state organizations, NASFAA and additional sources for project/program ideas for the association. (6)

Awards

Dorothy Jemison, Memphis Theological Seminary

Here is a big THANK YOU, Cara for asking me to chair the 2002-2003 TASFAA Awards Committee. It was the ride of my life and I would not trade anything for the journey. We had a very productive year. My committee was outstanding and always willing to help no matter when and what I requested. Special thanks to the TASFAA members listed below, some of whom were not members of the committee. All of you went the extra mile to assist in many ways.

Nancy Beverly
Ron Gambill
Bill Grizzard
Diane Keasling
Jan Lassiter
Terri Parchment
Cara Suhr

Thanks also to those committee members to whom I did not have any tasks to assign but, I knew that they were available, just in case there was a need.

Brenda Burney
Cindy Garner
Damien Jackson
Anne Rader
Margaret Miller
Sheila Sanchez

During 2002-2003, we issued 97 awards as follows:

FALL, 2002:

43 New Aid Officer Certificates

SPRING, 2003:

26 New Aid Officer Certificates
7 certificates for five years of service
5 paper weights for ten years of service
5 lapel pins for 15 years of service
2 plaques for 20 years of service
2 plaques for 25 years of service
5 book clocks for 30 years of service
1 plaque for distinguished services
1 president's gavel plaque

Due to the number of awards that we had to issue and the fact that two had to be mailed, we exceeded the budget slightly.



Historical Melissa Smith, Vanderbilt University

The historical committee met and organized all the documents this year. Approximately ten boxes are now being housed at TSAC. These boxes contain all treasurer data from past years except for the data that the current treasurer maintains. After researching, it was recommended that all financial data and minutes be kept for audit purposes.

All executive board meeting minutes and reports have been categorized by years and are being housed at my office. Bill Ward and I are working together on scanning these documents. I would also like to start storing the conference programs and newsletters electronically. I will need to obtain the electronic versions from the appropriate people.

After the transition meeting I will need the outgoing president to email me the 2002-2003 Executive Board meeting reports and the secretary will need to send me all final minutes.

I have enjoyed serving TASFAA this past year and look forward to another year.

Membership Marian Huffman, Lee University

To date there are 434 active members and 156 active institutions for the 2002-2003 year.



This year the membership committee reviewed the possibility of developing an integrated on-line membership and treasurer system. The purpose is to eliminate dual data entry, synchronize the information and improve data integrity. A field has been added to identify on site check-in. This will assist with meal headcount.

Members will submit conference registration information through the TASFAA web site (same as now - paper process still an option). This information will be housed in a web access database. The treasurer, membership chair and other necessary individuals will have password access to the database. The current goal is to have this functional for the Fall 03 conference.

We currently have a bid of \$1500 for development. I propose that the remaining 02-03 membership budget should be carried forward for the 03-04 year. As well, I would encourage an additional allowance for enhancement cost.

The directory went to print June 10th. These should be delivered to edsouth on Wednesday, June 18, 2003. The expected cost is \$3000, which has been paid for by edsouth –THANK YOU. We posted the draft copy on the TASFAA web page and sent an e-mail to the membership requesting that they review their information. Over 100 response e-mails were received. Jan Lassiter and Ron Gambill graciously edited and updated the information in the first few sections. Shannon Webb has worked diligently over the past few weeks to bring the project together. She commented that she believes this will be the most current and accurate directory to date.

Stephanie Aylor will be the membership chair for the 03-04 year. She spent time at the registration area during the Spring Conference. Hopefully this will help provide a smooth transition.

I appreciate all the work of the committee and other volunteers and I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve TASFAA.

Training

Robbie Snapp, Middle Tennessee State University

The New Aid Officers Workshop went very well. We had several new aid officers that had either zero years experience to a few years. They all seemed very interested and to have learned a lot. We had tried several new things during this training session and they seemed to have gone over well. Also this time we added the NAOW to the current session, which I felt went well but we might need just one session and allow them to attend another session that they need. Some schools only sent one representative and they had to try to sit in on several sessions. Janette Overton and Clyde Walker and myself were the presenters and they did an outstanding job as usual. Thank you for allowing me to be training chair. It was a good experience and I learned a lot myself.

I thought recognizing the new aid officers with their certificates during lunch was a great idea. I feel that we need to get the mentors more involved at the beginning. They enjoyed the TASFAA room and having a break there was awesome.



Reauthorization – Adhoc

Ron Gambill, edsouth

The House of Representatives has indicated that it will develop its reauthorization proposals in four separate bills and will work to complete its proposals this calendar year. The Senate has not indicated its final time schedule, but will start later this year with a goal of completion before next year's elections.

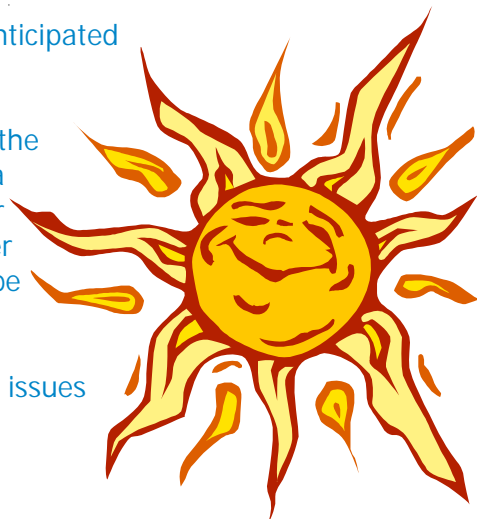
The Administration is currently focused on the budget and plans to have reauthorization completed prior to the elections of 2004. The Administration does not believe there is a way to fund Pell Grant as an entitlement or expand the maximum award significantly due to the significant shortfall in the program.

There is a major concern that the Leveraging Education Assistance Program and Supplemental LEAP will be lost in this reauthorization. The program will probably not be in the House bills nor in the proposals by the Administration. The Senate may have the program continued, but this is not being supported by the Republicans.

It appears that interest rates will come back as an issue due to the unanticipated low rates that currently exist.

Congressman McKeon of California is serious about affordability and the increasing tuition rates. The accountability issue is also high on his agenda and the value of the accreditation bodies and lack of openness of their process. Issues regarding simplification of the FAFSA, better consumer information and merit components to Title IV aid are other issues that will be discussed.

It will be important for TASFAA and the membership to weigh-in on these issues as reauthorization moves forward.



Strategic Planning David Mohning, Vanderbilt University

The TASFAA Long Range Strategic Planning Committee for 2002-03 was (by choice) a committee of one. I continued the work, begun by the prior years' committee, directed toward the TASFAA initiative of developing a new/updated plan for the Association, with the original hope of producing a final draft of a long range strategic plan by the end of the year (June of 2003). While progress was made toward that goal, which I had set for myself, I was not able to finish the task. Work will continue in the 2003-04 year, and the draft plan will be completed as soon as possible. I very much appreciate the patience that has been shown to me thus far in this endeavor.



Newsletter/Public Relations Cherry Johnson, Tennessee Technology Center at Crump

Two issues of the Crossfeed have been published and distributed to the membership. The third electronic website version will be available in August 2003. The survey of all states' newsletter contacts for more information about other states' newsletters will be regrettably delayed in reporting to the Board until the Fall meeting. The goal of evaluation of the current two versus three issues of the newsletter is recommended to the Board for 2003-2004 action.

Thanks to the committee for all their hard work.



TSAC Advisory Brent Tener, Vanderbilt University

The TASFAA Advisory Committee to TSAC met at the Millennium Maxwell House on June 5, 2003. The following includes the agenda items discussed:

1. Default Prevention Proposals – Representatives from TSAC will be offering a pilot program at Pellissippi State to help curb the potential for defaults. This program can best be described as an interim step after entrance and before exit counseling. If the program is well received, TSAC will consider offering this to other institutions.

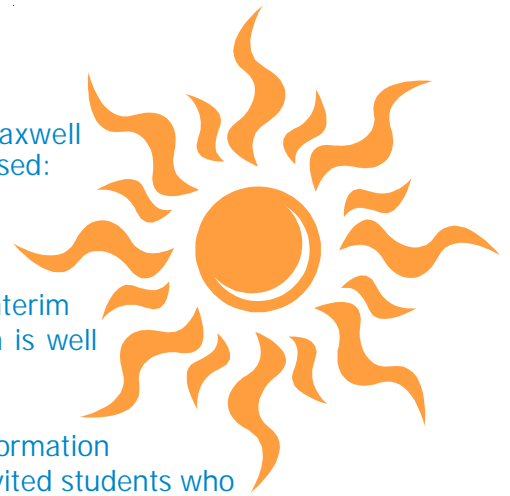
Bob Hobart from R&B Receivables updated the committee with information regarding their most recent default prevention initiative. They invited students who were delinquent on their loans to attend an information session held in East Tennessee.

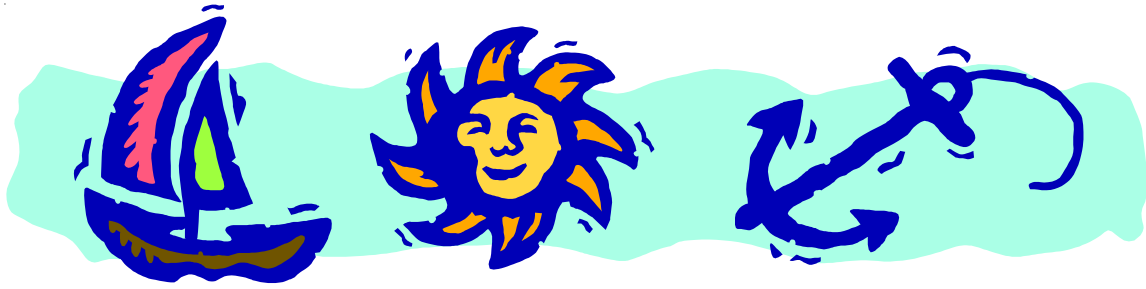
A number of different methods were used to invite individuals, including direct and mass media. Only two individuals attended the meeting. A number of different ideas were offered on how to boost attendance at subsequent gatherings.

2. R5-C (Voc Rehab) – Joel Blackford from the state's Vocational Rehabilitation office provided input on the possibility of using TSAC's e*GRandS system to serve as a clearinghouse for data used by both financial aid administrators and Vocational Rehabilitation counselors. The hope is to have all parties use the system to store the required information and eliminate the need to send R5-C information back and forth between offices. Mike Roberts and Joel will begin working on the necessary details to make this happen. In addition, Joel indicated that as part of the certification process, Voc Rehab counselors will begin requiring students to submit copies of financial aid notification letters prior to funds being approved.
3. e*GrandS and the Lottery Scholarship – Mike Roberts shared with the committee draft rules regarding the newly approved Lottery Scholarship. Dr. Brian Noland and Dr. Richard Rhoda from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission were in attendance to help provide background information and offer insight on the actual legislation, including intent of the legislators. Input was provided on the rules draft and a number of potential problems were identified. There is likely to be additional legislation introduced to help correct oversights in the original bill. It was suggested that TSAC begin developing information to be disseminated to the varied constituencies affected by the new program. This would include parents, students, aid officers, college personnel and high school guidance counselors. Of particular note are the renewal criteria for the lottery scholarships. It is anticipated that a large number of students will not qualify for scholarship renewal due to the 2.75 GPA after the freshman year and a 3.0 after the sophomore and junior years. In addition, it appears that the student must remain a full-time student to continue receiving lottery funds. A great deal of effort will be needed to educate all individuals affected by the scholarship programs.

Committee Chair comments regarding the Lottery Scholarships:

Although the final lottery scholarship program is not what most of us would have envisioned, we will be the ones charged with making this work. And of course, without the requisite resources to do so. Whatever the case, we will have a lottery scholarship and we must make it work. It is probably helpful to remember that despite of everyone's best efforts, the first year of the program (anticipated for 2004-2005) may provide a great opportunity for patience, understanding and flexibility. In other words, there will probably be more than a few bumps in the road. Any new program that is the size and scope of the lottery will provide such opportunity. The message we should continue to preach is that it will get better, we will find our way and make this a success for our students. The one saving grace we have, at the outset of this adventure, is that TSAC has a proven record of delivering funds to our campuses and we have the delivery systems in place for the current grant programs. This experience will prove to be invaluable as we move forward.





Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation Michael Roberts

Grants and Scholarships Division

The 2003-2004 Fall Certification Rosters for the Scholarship Programs will be mailed the week of August 11, 2003. The rosters will indicate students that TSAC has awarded for the Dependent Children Scholarship, Ned McWherter Scholars, Minority Teaching Fellows, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship and the Tennessee Teaching Scholars Programs.

The 2003-2004 Fall Certification Rosters for the Tennessee Student Assistance Award Program will also be available August 11, 2003. Schools will be able to access the Fall Certification Roster online through the e*GRandS system. Schools have the option of downloading the roster or processing the roster online. To improve the processing time for schools processing online, GuaranTec has installed a larger server. Therefore, the response time will be greatly enhanced.

Compliance Division

On June 30, Jeanne Stewart joined the TSAC staff as the Compliance Administrator. Jeanne brings 25 years of experience in student financial aid administration. She has also been active in TASFAA and SASFAA. Please join us in welcoming Jeanne to the Compliance Division.

TSAC offers Basic Financial Aid Training every quarter for inexperienced financial aid staff. The last training was conducted on July 24. Nineteen participants attended. The next training will occur in November. If anyone is interested, please contact Gary Rogers for more details.

Loan Division

TSAC along with our partner, GuaranTec, developed a Blanket Guarantee process for our lender/servicer partners to use in expediting the delivery of loan funds. Our Blanket Guarantee process is now in production. Any lender/servicer who wishes to participate in this process, should contact Jeff LaMore with GuaranTec regarding testing and Sue Tacker with TSAC for the Memorandum of Understanding for the Blanket Guarantee Process.

TSAC and GuaranTec have also developed an eSignature process for use. The eSignature process is now in production. As of this date, TSAC/GTEC has processed several applications through this process. Any school or lender/servicer who wishes to participate in eSignature, should contact either Jeff LaMore or Bill Heath with GuaranTec regarding testing and approval for this process.

Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Update

TSAC is busy in preparation for this new financial aid program that promises to provide assistance to a high percentage of high school graduates. This is a major financial aid opportunity for students who perform well in high school and college.

In order to administer the program, TSAC will increase its staff size by at least 9 positions. The professional positions include a Deputy Executive Director, Staff Attorney, Account Manager, Scholarship Coordinator, and Marketing Representatives.

Program rules, policies and procedures are being developed with input from high school counselors, financial aid professionals, and other higher education officials. This program will be awarded for the 2004-05 academic year. TSAC will offer workshops across the state in October and November. If you receive questions from students and parents on this new program, the following description of the criteria may help. If you have any questions or input, please contact Michael C. Roberts.

Continued on Page 12

Basic Eligibility Requirements for Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program

- Entering freshmen (Class of 2004) and sophomores (Class of 2003) who are Tennessee residents for one year
- Enroll in a Tennessee public college/university **or** enroll in a Tennessee private college/university that is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
- Apply with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or renewal FAFSA each academic year
- FAFSA and renewal FAFSA application priority date – May 1
- Full-time enrollment (part-time prorated)
- **Scholarship awards based on available funding from State Lottery**

Tennessee HOPE Scholarship

- Entering freshmen must have at least an unweighted 3.0 GPA **and** a college core unweighted 3.0 GPA
- OR**
- 19 ACT (890 SAT) completing required college core classes
 - Scholarship – \$3,000 for 4 year institutions; \$1,500 for 2 year institutions (no more than tuition and fees)
 - College sophomores (Class of 2003) – above criteria **and** 2.75 cumulative GPA and 24 attempted hours
- OR**
- Home school graduate – 23 ACT (1060 SAT) **or** 525 GED and 19 ACT (890 SAT)
 - GED – 525 and 19 ACT (890 SAT)

General Assembly Merit Scholarship

- Entering freshmen must have at least an unweighted 3.75 GPA **and** a college core unweighted 3.75 GPA **and** 29 ACT (1280 SAT)
- Scholarship – \$1,000 supplement to Tennessee HOPE Scholarship

Need-Based Supplemental Award

- Tennessee HOPE criteria
- Parents adjusted gross income (on FAFSA) of \$36,000 or less
- Scholarship – \$1,000 supplement to Tennessee HOPE Scholarship



Tennessee HOPE Scholarship Renewal Criteria

- 1st year – 2.75 cumulative GPA and 24 attempted hours
- 2nd through 5th year – 3.0 cumulative GPA and 24 attempted hours each year
- 5 year programs – 3.0 cumulative GPA and 120 attempted hours (maximum of 5 years in program)

Tennessee HOPE Access Grant

- Entering freshmen must have at least an unweighted 2.75 GPA **and** a college core unweighted 2.75 GPA **and** 18 ACT (860 SAT)
- Parents adjusted gross income of \$36,000 or less
- Scholarship – \$2,000 for 4 year institutions; \$1,250 for 2 year institutions
- Grant non-renewable – will be eligible for Tennessee HOPE Scholarship by meeting HOPE Scholarship renewal criteria

Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant

- Enrollment in Tennessee Technology Centers
- Scholarship – \$1,250 (no more than tuition and fees) (part-time prorated)
- Can not be prior recipient of Tennessee HOPE Scholarship