



# THE TENNESSEE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

## *A Message from the President*



Hi, TASP members!

I hope each of you are having a relaxing and enjoyable summer and resting up to begin another school year of serving. I am so excited to begin my term serving as your TASP President. I am looking forward to the opportunity to be a voice for our members across the state about the field of School Psychology.

I have already begun talking with Joanna Bivins at the state department about the new alignment of our TASP regions and the opportunities for training that has given us! I think the realignment will have a very positive impact on how TASP can serve School Psychologists across the state.

I have had the opportunity to meet some of our members, but since I can not meet everyone in person, I wanted to share a little information about myself. I currently live in Knoxville, TN with my wonderful husband, Matt. We met while I was an undergraduate at UT in Knoxville, and dated

throughout graduate school, which I attended at MTSU. We celebrated our second anniversary on June 27th! Before beginning my current job with Knox County Schools, I interned with Alcoa City Schools. When we all head back to work this fall, I will be starting my fifth year with Knox County. Currently, Matt and I manage to stay very busy supporting events and causes in and around Knoxville. We enjoy traveling and UT football games (of course!). I hope to have an opportunity to meet many of you, and can't wait to welcome you all in person to Knoxville at our Fall conference!

Sarah McMillan

*TASP President 2016-17*

Sarah received a B.A. in Psychology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and her M.A. and Ed.S. degrees in Curriculum and Instruction in School Psychology at Middle Tennessee State University. She is currently beginning her fifth year of employment with Knox County Schools, and she was an intern with Alcoa City Schools. Sarah has served on the Rt12 Leadership Team for Knox County Schools School Psychologists for 3 years, served as President-Elect of TASP during 2016-2017, and attended Regional Leadership Meetings provided by NASP for additional training.

In her own words:

*"I would like to continue to use the information from the membership survey to work on an on-going 5-year plan. As a current board member, I was able to help propose, discuss, and pass items of business to help TASP go in a positive direction. The recently approved regional realignment was one such positive step, as well as working on the launch of a new website. Additionally, I believe that considering a change in term length for elected board positions would allow the board to conduct more productive business. As President-Elect, I would like to continue working through items that move the board closer to our 5-year plan, and then help facilitate a discussion about the next 5 year plan. With the realignment of the TASP regions to match the CORE Regions, I would also like to begin working more with the TN DOE CORE Region Representatives to build a stronger relationship between the Department of Education and TASP. I would also continue to work with Joanna Bivins. Finally, I would like to continue to participate in leadership training opportunities to ensure I can serve the TASP membership to the best of my ability."*

## *Renew Your TASP Membership!*



It's time to renew your membership for the 2017-2018 year. The TASP board has been busy this year striving to improve the services we provide. We are working to build a stronger relationship with the state department to ensure our voices are heard, improving the ways we advocate for our profession, and working with NASP to evaluate and enhance our organization. We have realigned our regions in hopes of strengthening our communications and opportunities for members. Plus, stayed tuned for the launch of our new website! Please note, your region will now look different and will coincide with the state department's TN CORE regions. Refer to the updated membership regions map to determine your new region.

**Election Results**

Please be sure to review your new 2017-2018 Executive Board. We are thrilled to welcome many new faces as well as returning board members. Be on the lookout throughout the issue for various introductions! If you are interested in serving in any open positions, please let us know with an email to [president@tasponline.org](mailto:president@tasponline.org).

**Treasurer: Pam Haggard**

*I am currently the school psychologist for the Alcoa City School system where I am finishing my 9th year. Previously I worked 11 years with the Sweetwater City School system, the last 5 of those years working as the special education supervisor. My bachelor's degree is from Carson-Newman, and I have an Ed.S. in School Psychology from University of Tennessee, Knoxville. I am a Nationally Certified School Psychologist and have been a member of both NASP and TASP for 20 years. I have served TASP as a regional rep, secretary, treasurer and president (twice). I was the TN NASP delegate from 2009-2014. I am also the proud coach of the Alcoa High School cross country team and the assistant coach for the AHS track and field team.*

**TASP Members Approve Constitution Changes**

Two motions for proposed changes to the TASP Constitution were approved as part of a special election by paper ballot this spring. The changes are listed below:

#1: To change the TASP Constitution to move to a 2-year election cycle for all elected TASP board positions.

#2: To change the TASP Constitution to allow for electronic voting by TASP members for changes to the TASP Constitution.



**TASP Treasurer Notes**

Happy summer to everyone. I hope you have had a successful end to your school year and that you are enjoying some relaxing time away this summer.

For your reading pleasure, here is our current financial information. Our Regions Bank account has a balance of \$25,174.11, our Knox Teachers Federal Credit Union account \$3051.57, and our PayPal account \$840.97. This gives us a grand total of \$29,066.65 in our TASP accounts with no outstanding debts.

During this quarter, our financial activity has mostly consisted of paying costs associated with the spring institute and board meeting.

As always, complete budget details can be obtained from me, at any time, at the request of any member.

**2017-2018 TASP Executive Board**

- President:** Sarah McMillan
- President-Elect:** Sarah McMillan
- Past-President:** Aimee Holt
- Secretary:** Lesli Crawford
- Treasurer:** Pam Haggard
- Regional Representatives:**

- First Tennessee: Leilani DeFord & Amy Saunders*
- East Tennessee: Lisa Ross & Heather Stewart*
- Upper Cumberland: Eric Swann & Mark Tylka*
- Southeast: Danielle McNeely & Tammy Sanders*
- Mid-Cumberland: Katherine Ballard & Maria Hargis Griego*
- South Central: Toby Guinn & Angie Massey*
- Southwest: David Jones & Mary McCollum*
- Northwest: OPEN POSITION*

**Committee Chairpersons**

- Membership: Danielle McNeely*
- Nominations and Elections: Aimee Holt*
- Ethics and Professional Standards: Mark Sigler*
- Legislative Activity: Jeremy Lawson*
- Convention: Aimee Holt & Sarah McMillan*
- Public Relations: Jessica Phillips*
- Newsletter: Julie Hendrick & Jessica Phillips*
- Professional Development: Rachell Fischer & Erin Ford*
- Fiscal Affairs: Pam Haggard*
- Awards: Erica Roberts*
- Past-Presidents Council: Aimee Holt*
- Historian: Amy Duesterhaus*
- Social Media: Christine Hingle*
- Constitution and Policy Manual: Amy Duesterhaus*
- University Trainer: Jim Rust*

**Liaisons to the Executive Board**

- NASP Delegate: Mark Sigler*
- Student Representative: Open Position*
- TEA Representative: Open Position*
- TPA Liaison: Mark Sigler*
- State Department of Education: Joanna Bivins*
- Webmaster: Avalyn Bauer*

# REGIONAL

# ROUNDUP

**First Tennessee** (Amy Saunders & Leilani DeFord): We met for a regional meeting on Friday April 21st. We discussed topics of interest, including RTI and the Say Dyslexia Bill. As always, we enjoyed each other's company and time to collaborate with our peers on issues around our region.



Since the meeting, we also welcomed a new member to the First Tennessee Region. Meet Estelle Marie Saunders. Born May 8th to Amy Saunders. Mom and baby are great!

**Mid-Cumberland** (Katherine Ballard & Maria Hargis Griego): Hello, fellow school psychologists! My name is Maria Hargis Griego, and I am your new co-



representative for the Mid-Cumberland region. To tell you a little about myself, I graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 2008. I then went on to work in Coffee and Hickman Counties as a school psychologist. In 2013, I completed coursework through

Lipscomb University to add my administrative licensure. I was then hired as a Student Support Services Specialist for Williamson County Schools. I get the pleasure of working with all high schools in my district and supervising our Transition 2 program, which is for our 18-22 year old students with disabilities. I am married to my best friend, Levi Griego, who is a special education teacher at the high school level. We have 2 beautiful children, Cadence (age 6) and Ryker (age 1). We enjoy spending time with our family, watching movies, and traveling. If I can be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. My personal email is mlhargis@aol.com, and my work email is Maria.griego@wcs.edu.

**South Central** (Toby Guinn & Angie Massey): No news to report.

**Southwest** (David Jones and Mary McCollum): No report submitted.

**Southeast** (Danielle McNeely & Tammy Sanders): Greetings, new Southeast region! I hope you all are getting a chance to relax this summer. My name is Danielle McNeely, and I will be one of your new regional co-representatives. I worked in Memphis City Schools and Shelby County Schools for seven years before moving to Chattanooga two years ago. I currently stay home with my two little ones. Staying involved with TASP has been vital in helping me keep up with all the changes going on. I am looking forward to getting to know you all and serving as a co-rep.

**Upper Cumberland** (Eric Swann & Mark Tylka):



Hello! My name is Eric Swann. I was born and raised in a small community in Smith County called Defeated Creek, where I currently live today. I completed my undergraduate and graduate degrees at Tennessee Technological University. I have worked with the Smith County School System for the past 10 years. I am blessed with a wonderful wife (Casey), 3-year-old son (Dayne), and daughter arriving in September. Some of my hobbies include camping, snow skiing, and spending time with my family. I really look forward to working and learning from the many great school psychologists in the Upper Cumberland region and across the state!



Mark Tylka II is a School Psychologist and licensed School Counselor who has collaborated with his colleagues to help children grow in the Putnam County School System for the past five years. Mark has served as a counselor with Youth Villages, Assistant Director of Testing at the Center for Assessment and Improvement of Learning at Tennessee Technological University, Adjunct Professor at TTU, and as a School Psychologist in Cumberland County. After working for nearly a decade in education and psychology, Mark knows that continued education and critical thinking are key to staying up to speed with the most effective tools to help those we serve. During his spare time, Mark enjoys camping, kayaking, running, and being outdoors with his wife and two children.

**East Tennessee** (Lisa Ross & Heather Stewart):

The TN Board of Education has approved the revised disability standards; these revisions will be effective July 1, 2017. With respect to the revisions, the disability definitions remain the same; the revisions pertain to the required evaluation procedures and evaluation participants.

Below, you will find the Chairs of the TN DOE External Task Force for Special Education Disabilities and Evaluation Practices. Our TN DOE Director of School Psychology Services, Joanna Bivins, is presenting the task force's work at regional meetings throughout the state; please plan to attend. If you are unable to attend, a recorded webinar will be posted. Guidance documents are forthcoming.

- Autism: Scott Kirkham
- Deaf-Blindness, Deafness, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment: Paula Wagner
- Developmental Delay: Mary Kate Boston
- Emotional Disturbance: Patti Wilson
- Intellectual Disability/Functional Delay: Kevin Steelman
- Intellectually Gifted: Megan Parker Peters
- Orthopedic Impairment: Robin Faircloth
- Other Health Impairment: Heather Stewart
- Speech or Language Impairment: Susan Ursery
- Traumatic Brain Injury: Avalyn Bauer

## SCHOOL PSYCH GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

*TASP always enjoys highlighting the many accomplishments of our SIX school psychology training programs in the state. Below, please get all the latest news from those who reported. We want to brag on EVERYONE as much as possible! If you are a program chair/university trainer and can't find time to provide us with your news, please consider involving one of your amazing students to help you fulfill this task the next time (October 1)!*



**University of Memphis**  
submitted by Tom Fagan

### **The following persons received the EdS degree at the May 2017 commencement:**

Name and Employment for 2017-2018  
 Marcus Brinley, Anchorage Public Schools (AK)  
 Regan Chandler, Weld County Schools District (CO)  
 Kerry Jones, Shelby County Schools  
 Char Patino, Mesa County School District (CO)  
 Eboni Sharp, Prince William County Public Schools (VA)  
 Destiny Smith, Shelby County Schools  
 Gregory Woodberry, Shelby County Schools

### **Our EdS interns for the coming year (2017-2018):**

Alyssa Al-Chokhachi, Wilson County (TN)  
 Sarah Ford, Lauderdale County (TN)  
 Jessica Gillaspie, Germantown Municipal School District (TN)  
 Jean Hopper, Shelby County Schools (TN)  
 Crysline Phillips, Lauderdale County (TN)  
 Alexander Rosenberg, Delta County Schools (CO)  
 Stanley Shotwell Shelby County Schools (TN)  
 Heather Sumner, Tipton County Schools (TN)

Our PhD graduate in August will be Isaac Woods, whose postdoctoral assignment will be with Boston Children's Hospital Neighborhood Partnership.

Our PhD interns will be:

Leah Singh, Florida State University Louise R. Goldhagen Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Consulting Center (MDC), Tallahassee, FL.  
 Jennifer Johnson, Texas Child Study Center/Dell Children's Medical Center/University of Texas at Austin (Primary Care Track).

The UM program is currently reviewing applications for the coming year and will admit 1 doctoral and we hope 8 MA/EdS students.

Program changes now in effect include a course in academic interventions (PSYC 8807), as well as 2 electives from interventions courses in educational psychology, counseling, and special education. The internship is now available for a total of 6 or 12 hours depending on the student's need for full-time status with student loan agencies. Thus, for some students, the program will be 60 sem. hrs. and for others, 66.

Using funds from a local generous family, the program will again reimburse the cost of TBI background checks, pay the TASP memberships for all students and the registration fees for those attending the fall TASP convention and NASP in Chicago.

The 2017 Annual Program Directors' Awards were given to Jean Hopper (EdS Level) and Leah Singh (PhD Level).

The program congratulates first-year student, Rachel Dahler and her husband on the birth of their son, Gabriel Alexander Dahler.

**Middle Tennessee State University**  
*submitted by Jim Rust*

All our graduates have accepted positions, except for one who continues to interview. Likewise, our 2017 cohort is full except for one spot that is open. Our interns accepted positions by Valentine's Day. Most interns are paid approximately \$10,000, but some continue to select districts that do not pay. Even though our NASP approval runs through 2018, we are in the midst of our NASP year-of-record. Aimee Holt and Monica Wallace manage that process.

**From Your NASP Delegate, Mark Sigler**

Congratulations on the end of another successful school year! As we close out the year, I wanted to make you aware of some of the most recent resources and happenings at NASP!

In response to the Netflix series *13 Reasons Why*, in which 17-year-old Hannah Baker takes her own life and leaves behind audio recordings for people who she says were part of why she killed herself, NASP has released considerations for educators and families. This resource is now available in English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Amharic. Check out the resource at <http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators>

It's hard to believe the NASP 2017 Annual Convention was more than 3 months ago. Relive the highlights, find inspiration, and get guidance for planning next school year by viewing the Storify from the NASP 2017 Annual Convention, which highlights NASP's priorities, reminds us of the work we do to serve children and families, and links to supplemental resources to start conversations over the summer, all as an interactive story. Visit the Storify at <https://storify.com/nasponline/nasp2017>

Speaking of the convention, the NASP 2018 Annual Convention Call for Presentation Proposal Submission System closes at midnight on Wednesday, June 14. The Convention Committee is particularly interested in receiving proposals for skills-based presentations that will appeal to seasoned practitioners and assist them in delivering the highest quality, evidence-based practice in schools.

Learn more at <https://www.nasponline.org/professional-development/nasp-2018-call-for-presentations>.

NASP has recently developed a series of infographics to introduce key issues to stakeholders and advocate for the work of school psychologists, and this latest infographic outlines the benefits and components of multitiered systems of support (MTSS) and highlights the expertise of school psychologists in designing, implementing, and evaluating interventions.  
<http://www.nasponline.org/Documents/Research%20and%20Policy/ESSA/MTSS%20Infographic.jpg>

In the new Policy Matters blog post, NASP Government Relations Director, Kelly Vaillancourt Strobach, outlines how NASP priorities and school psychologists have been included in ESSA state plans and provides suggestions to facilitate effective implementation.  
<http://www.nasponline.org/research-and-policy/policy-matters/nasp-priorities-in-essa-state-plans>

# Spring Institute

April 15, 2017



Current Membership Summary						
	Affiliate	Lifetime	Regular	Retired	Student	Region Total
East			12	1	2	15
Mid-Cumberland		1	1			2
Middle			26		16	42
Mid-West			3			3
Southeast			9		1	10
Upper-Cumberland			3		3	6
Upper-East			6			6
West	1	1	17		29	48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>132</b>



[US Dept of Education: Rights of Students with Disabilities in Public Charter Schools](#)  
(click to download)



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SPRING BOARD MEETING**

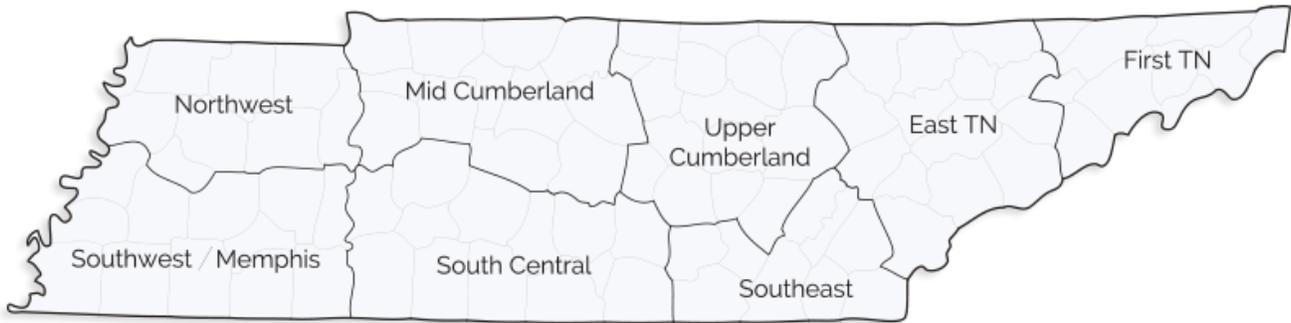
*Ever wonder what goes on in TASP Board meetings?*

*Check out the uploaded meeting minutes on our website to see more details about what's going on in our organization!*

- TASP will apply for a NASP GPR/ATS grant that will help develop a 5-year plan based on SAFE-R needs assessment results.
- Policy Manual update regarding reissuing PD attendance certificates: TASP is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists to offer continuing education for school psychologists and maintains responsibility for this program. a. In order to receive full CPD credits through TASP, the attendee must arrive on time, remain for the duration of the NASP approved session (as documented by the sign-in/ sign-out sheet), and complete the evaluation form. Partial credit will NOT be given. b. Attendees will receive a certificate documenting the total number of CPD credits for the session. A \$50.00 fee will be charged in the event a replacement certificate is issued.
- TNDOE has a rough PLC framework and would like to partner with regional TASP board members that are willing. Ms. Bivins has contacts in the regions. She will work on that framework this summer.
- Summer Board Meeting: Saturday, August 19, 9am, (MTSU campus- tentative location)
- Next newsletter submission deadline- Sept 15

### Regional Restructuring Approved by TASP Members

TASP conducted a membership vote by paper ballot at the beginning of the year to determine whether school psychologists would be in favor of aligning our regional structure with that of the State Department of Education Centers of Regional Excellence (CORE). Members who participated in this special election voted to approve this realignment! Please familiarize yourself with the NEW TASP regions by using the map and descriptions below. Feel free to contact us with any questions!



<b>New TASP/CORE Regions</b>
<p><b>First Tennessee:</b> Bristol City, Carter County, Cocke County, Elizabethton City, Greene County, Greeneville City, Hamblen County, Hancock County, Hawkins County, Johnson City, Johnson County, Kingsport City, Newport City, Rogersville City, Sullivan County, Unicoi County, Washington County</p> <p>Regional Co-Representatives: Leilani DeFord &amp; Amy Saunders</p>
<p><b>East Tennessee:</b> Alcoa City, Anderson County, Blount County, Campbell County, Claiborne County, Clinton City, Grainger County, Jefferson County, Knox County, Loudon County, Lenoir City, Maryville City, Monroe County, Morgan County, Oak Ridge, Oneida City, Roane County, Sevier County, Scott County, Sweetwater City, Union County, ETSD</p> <p>Regional Co-Representatives: Lisa Ross &amp; Heather Stewart</p>
<p><b>Upper Cumberland:</b> Bledsoe County, Cannon County, Clay County, Cumberland County, DeKalb County, Fentress County, Jackson County, Macon County, Overton County, Pickett County, Putnam County, Smith County, Trousdale County, Van Buren County, Warren County, White County, York Institute</p> <p>Regional Co-Representatives: Eric Swann &amp; Mark Tylka</p>
<p><b>Southeast:</b> Athens City, Bradley County, Cleveland County, Dayton City, Etowah City, Grundy County, Hamilton County, Marion County, McMinn County, Meigs County, Polk County, Rhea County, Richard City, Sequatchie County</p> <p>Regional Co-Representatives: Danielle McNeely &amp; Tammy Sanders</p>
<p><b>Mid-Cumberland:</b> Cheatham County, Dickson County, Franklin SSD, Houston County, Humphreys County, Lebanon SSD, Montgomery County, Metro Nashville Public Schools, Murfreesboro City, Robertson County, Rutherford County, Stewart County, Sumner County, Williamson County, Wilson County, TSB</p> <p>Regional Co-Representatives: Katherine Ballard &amp; Maria Hargis Griego</p>
<p><b>South Central:</b> Bedford County, Coffee County, Fayetteville City, Franklin County, Giles County, Hickman County, Lawrence County, Lewis County, Lincoln County, Manchester City, Marshall County, Maury County, Moore County, Perry County, Tullahoma City, Wayne County</p> <p>Regional Co-Representatives: Toby Guinn &amp; Angie Massey</p>
<p><b>Southwest:</b> Arlington, Achievement School District, Bartlett, Chester County, Collierville, Decatur County, Fayette County, Germantown, Hardeman County, Hardin County, Haywood County, Henderson County, Lauderdale County, Lakeland, Lexington County, McNairy County, Madison County, Millington, Shelby County, Tipton County</p> <p>Regional Co-Representatives: David Jones &amp; Mary McCollum</p>
<p><b>Northwest:</b> Benton County, Carroll County, Hollow-Rock-Bruceton SSD, Huntingdon SSD, McKenzie SSD, South Carroll SSD, West Carroll SSD, Crockett County, Alamo City, Bells City, Dyer County, Dyersburg City, Gibson County SSD, Bradford SSD, Humboldt SSD, Milan SSD, Trenton SSD, Henry County, Paris SSD, Lake County, Obion County, Union City, Weakley County</p> <p>Regional Representative: OPEN POSITION</p>



# Tennessee Association of School Psychologists

## 2017-2018 Membership

JULY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30

\_\_\_\_\_

First Name Initial Last Name

HIGHEST EARNED DEGREE:  Ph.D.  Ed.D.  Ed.S.  Master  Baccalaureate  Other \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATE UNIVERSITY ATTENDED: \_\_\_\_\_

### WORK ADDRESS

Employer/University \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Your TASP Newsletter will be sent to the E-mail listed above. Providing your email address also allows you access to Members-Only information on the website.*

### HOME ADDRESS

Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am a TEA Member:  YES  NO

I am a NASP member:  YES  NO

I am a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP):  
 YES  NO

### I currently practice in the following capacities:

- Contract  Private Practice  Psych Examiner
- Public School  University  HRB Psychologist
- Retired

### REGION: (See map on back of form)

- NorthWest  SouthWest  Mid-Cumberland
- South Central  Upper-Cumberland  SouthEast
- East Tennessee  First Tennessee

I am interested in participating in the following committees:  Awards  Continuing education  Conventions  Membership  
 Newsletter  Public relations  Policy & procedures  Trainers

### Student members must have Psychology Trainer verify here:

Trainer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Trainer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Note: A student member is one who is actively engaged ½ time or more (minimum of 6 semester hours) in a program leading to an initial credential as a school psychologist or to an advanced degree in school psychology. The following student member status includes persons in a school psychology internship, but DOES NOT include students who are pursuing studies while employed full time in school psychological work. Student members are not eligible to serve as an officer of TASP.

### Membership Category:

- Regular \$50.00
- Student \$15.00\*\*
- Retired / Associate \$25.00

### Method of Payment:

- Check - Make checks payable to "TASP (Dues)."
- Paypal - If you use Paypal, submit a membership form.

### Submit payment and membership to:

Danielle McNeely, Membership Chair  
4635 Sherry Lane  
Hixson, TN 37343

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

*My signature indicates that I agree to follow the ethical codes and practices of TASP.*