Trustee of the Year Award: Larry Hinton

Larry Hinton, Chairman of Sumner County Library Board and Portland Area Library Foundation, Inc., has been heavily involved in the building of three large libraries in Sumner County. He has served countless hours advocating the value libraries provide for their communities. His proven accessibility and commitment to libraries and accomplishing their goals continues to motivate his promotion of the benefits libraries add to community life. Every person who uses the libraries in Sumner County owes a debt of gratitude to Larry Hinton for his persistence and dedication. Larry Hinton will receive the TLA Trustee Award at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.

Freedom of Information Award: James Yoakley

When Lenoir City High School students were reprimanded for publishing sexual orientation and atheism themes in their newspaper and yearbook, James Yoakley defended their rights. School administration then asked for his resignation and a school board member even called for a criminal investigation. Refusing to resign and hoping to communicate his conviction that students had done nothing wrong, James became a steadfast advocate for his students’ rights beyond considerations of his own career or public perception. James has been lauded in national media for his courage and welcomed at a new school by administrators and colleagues who appreciate his many talents as an exemplary educator. James Yoakley will receive the Freedom of Information Award at the Intellectual Freedom Luncheon on Thursday.

James E. Ward Library Instruction Award: Perveen Rustomfram

Perveen Rustomfram joined the University Libraries at the University of Memphis as a Reference Librarian in 1995. She officially became an Instructional Services Librarian in 2008 and has led innovatively by incorporating new services and technology to provide instruction remotely. Perveen is dedicated to strengthening the information literacy skills of all members of the University of Memphis community—and a variety of constituents from outside the University, incorporating new technologies into the instruction program, and enthusiastically building a positive image of libraries. Perveen Rustomfram will receive the James E. Ward Library Instruction Award at the All-Conference Reception on Thursday.

Daniel Taylor Memorial Award: Patricia “Patty” Dalton

Patricia “Patty” Dalton has served over 15 years as Children's Librarian at Art Circle Public Library in Crossville and is committed to enhancing library services for children, locally and statewide. Her work was integral in demonstrating the need for a new library facility for her community, and she has contributed to other libraries by her involvement in statewide programs, committees, and presentations. She also works tirelessly in providing community outreach to children by visiting local schools and daycares. Patty is a familiar face to the children in her community, always reminding them of the importance of reading. Patricia “Patty” Dalton will receive the Daniel Taylor Memorial Award at the All-Conference Reception on Thursday.
TLA Honor Award: Deanna Nipp-Kientz

This year’s TLA Honor Award is given posthumously to Deanna Nipp-Kientz, former Coordinator of Collection Management & Development at Tennessee Tech University. Her sense of organization and dedication in the library and to TENN-SHARE was her true calling, and her enthusiasm for her work was evident. Her eagerness to learn—new databases, new and better services, and what others thought about ideas and issues—and her encouragement of others allowed her to make friends easily. Deanna exemplified what it means to be a true professional librarian. The library world, especially in Tennessee, lost a wonderful friend and colleague on June 21, 2012. The TLA Honor Award will be presented at the General Session on Thursday.

TLA Library Support Staff Award: Anna Lane

Anna Lane serves as Assistant to the Dean at Lupton Library at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. Upon assuming management of the library budget, she created new methods for helping personnel manage resources more efficiently. She manages the recruitment process and serves on all library search committees for both faculty and staff. Her exceptional interpersonal skills add to the library's environment—her unfailingly positive and pleasant nature, calming sense of humor, and thoughtfulness to inquire about things important to others. Anna’s willingness to exceed normal expectations, volunteer across campus, and adjust her work schedule as needed are examples of how she helps make UTC’s Lupton Library a great place for personnel and patrons alike. Anna Lane will receive the TLA Library Support Staff Award at the General Session on Thursday.

Friend of the Year Award: Friends of Benton County Library

When Benton County Library faced county commission-mandated budget cuts (which ultimately removed the library from state services—a first of this nature in the 75-year history of the Tennessee State Library—and allowed the local government to cut the library budget any time it faced a budget shortfall), their Friends group stepped in as advocates. Through a public awareness campaign they helped double the membership and raised over $22,000 in only four months in this small community of 16,000 citizens. By working with state and local officials, using social media, contacting news outlets, and mobilizing local residents to become vocal advocates, the Friends group led the campaign to reverse the situation locally and help prevent it from occurring at other libraries statewide. The Friend of the Year Award will be presented at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.