Frances Neel Cheney Award: Kathy Boudreau-Henry

Kathy Boudreau-Henry is influential in library science instruction in Middle Tennessee. She worked as a map librarian, business librarian, public librarian, and school librarian before becoming the Coordinator of the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Library Science Program, formerly an M.Ed. program in Library Science. She has been instrumental in positioning the program to pursue accreditation from the American Library Association, a process which is still in progress. She has developed many successful online courses, in a variety of concentrations. Kathy’s dedication to education, libraries, and the love of reading is exceptional. Kathy Boudreau-Henry will receive the Frances Neel Cheney Award at the Intellectual Freedom Luncheon on Thursday.

Tennessee History Book Award: Grant Invades Tennessee: The 1862 Battles for Forts Henry and Donelson

The recipient of this year’s Tennessee History Book Award is Grant Invades Tennessee: The 1862 Battles for Forts Henry and Donelson, by Timothy B. Smith, University Press of Kansas. Though the battles of Forts Henry and Donelson are often neglected in Civil War historiography, as Grant Invades Tennessee shows, their importance cannot be overstated. It was there that Ulysses S. Grant became a national hero, that a Southern field army ceased to exist, and most importantly, where the Confederacy’s vital western defense line was broken and shattered. The South was hard pressed to ever recover. The Tennessee History Book Award will be presented at the Intellectual Freedom Luncheon on Thursday.

Dr. Edwin Gleaves Scholarship: Kimberlee Byrge

Kimberlee Byrge is a graduate student at the UTK School of Information Science. She also works as a Graduate Research Assistant at the UT Preston Medical Library in the UT Medical Center and as a Computer Trainer at the Clinton Public Library in Clinton, Tennessee. At Clinton, she serves as the webmaster for the library’s website and runs a monthly newsletter. At Preston, she assists faculty librarians with research, answers Consumer Health requests, and maintains the Consumer Health Database. She is a joint member of ALA/TLA and holds membership in the Special Libraries Association, the Medical Library Association, and the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) and currently serves as the President of the UTK Student Chapter of ASIS&T SIS program. The Dr. Edwin Gleaves Scholarship will be presented at the General Session on Thursday.

TENNSCO Scholarship: Nikki Cunningham

Nikki Cunningham is the Director at the Carroll County Library in West Tennessee. She is also currently serving on the advisory board to the State Library’s Youth Services Coordinator. Nikki holds a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and is always seeking new ways to move her library forward through continued education and innovation. The TENNSCO Scholarship will be presented at the General Session on Thursday.
TLA Library Support Staff Award: Allen Wurtzinger

Allen Wurtzinger began his tenure at the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Public Library seven years ago as a volunteer. For the past four years, his primary job title has been Tech Services Coordinator, focusing on cataloging and collection management and maintaining computers and equipment while assisting the public with tech questions. Allen’s love and passion for his work is evident every single day. In 2016 he pitched the idea for Tech Tuesdays, a walk-in tech help one-on-one session for the public that has become a staple in weekly library programming. In his off time, Allen volunteers his skills in cataloging and indexing to the Lincoln County Archives, which has helped to facilitate a wonderful relationship between the library and the archives. Allen Wurtzinger will receive the TLA Library Support Staff Award at the General Session on Thursday.

Louise Meredith School Library Media Award: Amanda Mason

Amanda Mason is the Library Information Specialist at E.W. Grove School in Paris, Tennessee. She has taught elementary school, elementary library, and high school library. She has attended Purdue University, Murray State University and Western Kentucky University and holds a BS in education and a Masters in Library Science. Her passion is helping students discover their strengths and pursue their curiosities about the world around them through literature, technology, and art. These pursuits are not limited to the school building, as students are continuously connected to the wonderful resources available through the public library system and databases within TEL. When she is not working or reading, Amanda enjoys travel, nature, and time with her husband and children. Amanda Mason will receive the Louise Meredith School Library Media Award at the General Session on Thursday.

Daniel Taylor Memorial Award: Erin Savage

Erin Savage has developed an entirely new type of program for her patrons at the Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped. Each month, patrons, teachers, and students call in as Erin reads them a children’s story she has in braille. Erin then verbally leads the callers through a related craft that is tactile and sensory-based and then invites them to borrow the book they just read, or any other book from the collection of audio, large print, and braille children's books. While each state in the U.S. has a library program similar to LBPH, this story time is the first program of its kind in the country. The LBPH is partnering with several organizations to bring this program to children in other states and U.S. territories. Erin Savage will receive the Daniel Taylor Memorial Award at the General Session on Thursday.

TLA Honorary Membership Award: Felicia Harris Felder Hoehne

In 1969, Professor Felicia Harris Felder Hoehne became the first African American librarian at John C. Hodges Library at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She served in this capacity until her retirement in December 2013. Felicia has received more than 49 awards and has been recognized by several organizations. She recently received honors from the Crutcher Memorial Youth Enrichment Center for her generous support of the center’s students through scholarships and various mentoring activities. In 2009, Felicia inspired the Knoxville Police Department to open the Harris Ivey Burris Memorial Library in Safety City, the department’s youth safety outreach program. In 1997, Felicia co-founded LARKS: Librarians Linking with At-Risk Students, which provided librarians with opportunities to serve as mentors to young men enrolled in the Mentoring Academy for Boys. Felicia continues to support many other organizations and charities in the Knoxville community. Felicia Harris Felder Hoehne will receive the TLA Honorary Membership Award at the General Session on Thursday.
TLA Making a Difference Award:  
Linebaugh Library Foundation

The Linebaugh Library Foundation is this year’s recipient of the Making a Difference Award, for outstanding contributions and continued support of a specific program and/or services that are instrumental in the growth or improvement of literacy, awareness and/or information delivery to the community or libraries. The Foundation, based in Murfreesboro, has taken the lead in fundraising for the first three years of operating expenses ($250,000 per year) for the new community technology center scheduled to open in September 2017. This facility is a collaboration between the City of Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, and Murfreesboro City Schools and is one of few public library standalone all-digital facilities in the State of Tennessee and the United States. The TLA Making a Difference Award will be presented at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.

Trustee of the Year Award: Susan Ross-Miceli

Susan Ross-Miceli is a great supporter of libraries, serving on the Anderson County Library Board (ACLB) and the Betty Anne Jolly Norris Community Library Board—at one point serving as both ACLB chair and treasurer simultaneously until the positions were filled. She has encouraged and supported the board and the library director to strive for greater things. Whenever new ideas are brought forward, she is always both thoughtful and encouraging. Susan grew up in Detroit, Michigan. Starting as a bank teller, she eventually became a departmental vice president before retiring in 2008. She has been married to husband George for 47 years and has a son, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren. She is active at church and in community projects. Susan Ross-Miceli will receive the Trustee of the Year Award at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.

Friend of the Year Award: Friends of Smyrna Library

Friends of Smyrna Library (FOSL), which was founded in 1987, supports and cooperates with the Smyrna Public Library to promote literacy and develop educational and cultural programs, as well as provide materials beyond the regular day-to-day operations of the library. This vibrant volunteer group of 92 members helps fund the Summer and Winter Reading Programs and provides supplemental workers for shelf reading, craft preparation, library events, and special projects. In 2015 Smyrna Friends established the Spruce-Up Smyrna Library Campaign, during which they raised $101,120.02 for new carpet, paint, and renovations. The accomplishments of this small but enthusiastic group prove that with hard work and dedication anything is possible! The Friend of the Year Award will be presented at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.

Friend of the Year Award: 
Friends of White Country Public Library

The Friends of the White County Public Library, formed in 2000, established Reading In Schools, an outreach program that reaches all 1,950 elementary school students in White County. They staff and support a monthly outreach to the White County Middle School, and they promote and help maintain fourteen Little Free Libraries across the county to allow all citizens access to reading materials. Through these projects and countless other endeavors, the Friends of the White County Public Library have extended the Library's services, helping the Library realize outreach goals that were beyond the limited Library Staff’s abilities. The efforts of the Friends have expanded the Library’s public image and focused on key demographics to ensure the future literacy of White County. The Friend of the Year Award will be presented at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.