

# The TLA Newsletter

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## Kevin Reynolds Named Vice President / President-Elect

Stephen Patrick resigns office of Vice President / President-elect; Kevin Reynolds accepts appointment by TLA Executive Board to fill the position. (TLA ByLaws state that the Executive Board appoints a replacement in the instance of an officer's resignation during his/her term of office.) Kevin will serve as VP/President-elect through June 30, 2009 and will assume the office of President on July 1, 2009.

## Heritage Preservation Publishes Guide to Navigating FEMA and SBA Disaster Aid for Cultural Institutions

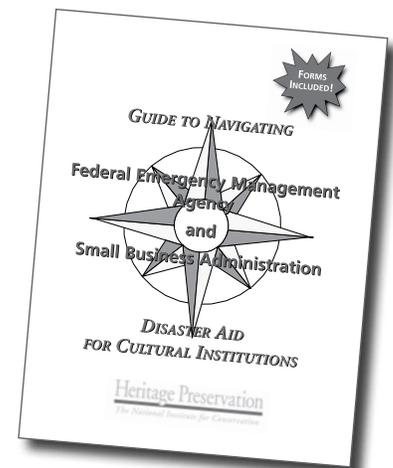
The Heritage Preservation has published the *Guide to Navigating Federal Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Disaster Aid for Cultural Institutions*. This booklet is designed specifically to help cultural institutions, arts organizations, and historic sites obtain the funding they need to recover from disasters.

The contents of the Guide have been reviewed and approved by both FEMA and SBA and include:

- A summary of federal recovery funding regulations tailored specifically for cultural heritage resources
- State emergency management agency contact information
- Reprints of relevant FEMA, SBA, and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) policies and procedures
- Two copies each of required FEMA, SBA, and IRS forms.

Thanks to support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the National Endowment for the Arts, cultural and arts institutions in states with a Presidentially-declared disaster can receive one copy for free. Call 888-388-6789 or write [taskforce@heritagepreservation.org](mailto:taskforce@heritagepreservation.org) to request your copy.

—Excerpted from the National Institute for Conservation's website, [www.heritagepreservation.org](http://www.heritagepreservation.org)



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## President's Point of View

Each of you makes a difference. As librarians and library supporters you make it possible for your communities and Tennessee to be better. In these times of change, economic flux, and uncertainty, libraries are the sanctuary for those looking for job information; seeking educational programming for children and themselves; wanting a book to read or a DVD to watch; needing to vote; accessing online courses; and improving lives. You, the membership, make it possible for all of us to enable our com-

munities and citizenry. You are to be celebrated for all your contributions.

The Tennessee Library Association allows us to come together and celebrate these accomplishments. We learn from one another, take good ideas and build upon these, and create new ways to meet the needs of our public. I ask you to start planning to attend Professional Development Days in January, Legislative Day on March 3, and the 2009 conference at the Nashville Marriott April 8-10. With these events, we have the

opportunity to learn to improve upon our already excellent service with new and diverse means. We can enhance our ability to promote our services to our communities. We can celebrate all we do. Take advantage of your colleagues' collective knowledge and all they have to offer. Learn from one another's experiences and accomplishments. See you there.

—Sue Szostak  
TLA President

## Continuing Education from the Tennessee State Library and Archives and the Tennessee Library Association

The launch of the newly-designed TLA website ([www.tnla.org](http://www.tnla.org)) has provided an excellent opportunity to promote Continuing Education across the state. By accessing the Continuing Education link on the webpage, you can see what face-to-face and free online training is being offered. Each month a new list of free webinars hosted by WebJunction, Library Journal, OPAL and many more are featured on the webpage and cover a variety of different library topics. Not only are these webinars free, but you don't even have to leave your library to participate! In most cases all that is required is a computer with an internet connection. On the new TLA webpage, you can access the Calendar of Events which features upcoming face-to-face training. Don't miss the Direct Service Grants in Public Libraries Workshops in December. Each workshop will feature grant-writing tips as well as information on how to organize, promote, and maintain the proposed programs that are listed below. In order to apply for one of two exciting Direct Service Grant opportunities offered by Tennessee

State Library and Archives, you must attend one of these workshops.

### Coming Soon!

The Continuing Education page will house online tutorials on various library topics including collection development, cataloging, reference services, and more. These resources will be updated as they become available, so check this site often for new professional development opportunities at the click of your mouse.

Wouldn't it be great to know who can offer TEL training in your region? How about a local genealogy guru that could provide training for your staff? We think that would be great, too! We are in the process of developing a master list of talented Tennessee trainers to be housed on the Continuing Education webpage. So if you, or someone you know, can train on any area of library service, please send an e-mail to Lindsey Wesson at [lindsey.wesson@state.tn.us](mailto:lindsey.wesson@state.tn.us)

—Lindsey Patrick Wesson  
Continuing Education Coordinator

## Community Building Through Videogames in Public Libraries

December 8, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 (noon)

Jackson Public Library

December 10, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 (noon)

Tennessee State Library  
and Archives

December 16, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 (noon)

Blount County Public Library

## Job Training Centers in Public Libraries

December 8, 2008

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Jackson Public Library

December 10, 2008

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tennessee State Library  
and Archives

December 16, 2008

1:30 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.

Blount County Public Library

## ALA Seeks \$100 Million in Stimulus Funding As U.S. Libraries Face Critical Cutbacks, Closures

The American Library Association (ALA) is asking Congress for \$100 million in stimulus funding to aid the nation's working families during the current economic crisis. Aid is sought to stem the bleeding of critical library services that help Americans with job searches, small business development, financial literacy and other essential assistance in hard economic times.

Public libraries are facing the most severe cutbacks in decades as budget shortfalls hit cities, towns and rural areas across the country, according to the association. From Los Angeles to Boston, libraries are cutting hours and services; some are even facing the threat of closure at a time when their support is needed most.

ALA's recommendation comes as Congress holds hearings this week on economic growth and job creation, including a Joint Economic Committee Hearing tomorrow.

Public libraries depend heavily on local property taxes to maintain operations. Across the country increased foreclosure rates, lower home values and fewer sales have sharply reduced available funds, forcing libraries to cut services and hours.

"America's free public libraries provide a lifeline for citizens in need across the country," said ALA President Jim Rettig. "Ensuring Internet access, career workshops, business seminars and other economic support services are vital links in the nation's financial recovery. This is no time to cut much-needed support, reduce hours or close library doors."

Rettig pointed to a recent ALA study showing that 73 percent of all libraries nationwide provide the only free Internet access in their communities. In rural areas the rate rises to 83 percent, according to the 2007-2008 report on public library funding and technology access. Many libraries



are reporting double-digit growth in computer use this year, he said.

The National League of Cities recently estimated that a 3.6 percent decline in property tax revenues is likely to affect city budgets until 2010. In response to these budget shortfalls, libraries are being forced to cut back on hours or even close neighborhood branches.

The Trenton, NJ, public library will close its four branches and lose about half of its 57 employees by Nov. 1. The city of Milwaukee is considering closing two of its 12 branch libraries. In Newton, MA, outside of Boston, four branch libraries closed this summer; four others in nearby areas also closed or are on the chopping block.

Many cities are choosing between cutting staff and reducing hours. Others, such as Fort Worth, TX, are looking at both, with proposed cuts of more than 100 library jobs along with reduced hours. The city is facing an estimated annual shortfall of more than \$20 million. Additionally, a number of communities are also facing shorter hours and fewer days of operation in Florida.

ALA's recommendation for stimulus funding seeks support for basic library services across the country as well as specialized assistance to help Americans deal with the current economic crisis. In particular, funds are being requested to:

- Expand critical employment activities and services such as resume

development, job bank web searches and career planning workshops;

- Reinstatement or supplement evening and weekend hours of operation at libraries to provide the greatest possible access to services;
- Promote financial literacy, housing counseling and small business development assistance; and
- Acquire additional resources and materials to help keep up with increased demand for economic services nationwide.

Investments in libraries often yield high dividends for communities. Studies show economic returns from salaries and wages paid to staff, construction costs, employment services and library purchases. A recent Pennsylvania study points out that for every dollar invested in the public library, the community receives a return of \$5.50. A similar report from Florida shows a \$6.54 return on investment.

"Economic studies demonstrate the positive impact of spending in local communities," said Joe Matthews, an internationally recognized expert on library management with an MBA degree from the University of California, Irvine.

"Known as the multiplier effect, every dollar spent in the community will ripple through the economy with an impact ranging from 7 to 11 times the initial spending," he added. "The proposed stimulus spending for America's public libraries will have an enormous impact on local economies, helping communities across the country get back on track financially." Matthews is an acclaimed author and professor at San Jose University.

—Submitted by Kevin Reynolds  
ALA TN Chapter Councilor

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## Editor's Note

Welcome to the newly redesigned *TLA Newsletter*. I commend Tina Davenport for her design of the layout and graphics. Per organizational feedback to the Publications Advisory Board, the newsletter will now highlight Tennessee Library Association news and events. We will publish this abridged version quarterly.

As a result of the redesign, the staff no longer accept local library

news and events. These can now be viewed on the website at [www.tnla.org](http://www.tnla.org). There is a link for "Local Library Events" on the left. To publish your library's news through access to the calendar, please email Annelle R. Huggins at [arhuggins1@comcast.net](mailto:arhuggins1@comcast.net) or the webmaster.

—Amy Arnold  
TLA Newsletter *Editor*

## Fulkerson Awarded Daniel Taylor Memorial Award at TLA Conference

David E. Fulkerson received the Daniel Taylor Memorial Award at the CYA breakfast at the 2008 conference. Judges for the award recognized his implementation of the Kids Kompany program at the Spring Hill Public Library. The program engages children in acting, singing, and danc-

ing. The program participants are taught by a local professional playwright or a volunteer. The children, ages 6 to 16, regularly perform at local schools and libraries.

Fulkerson graduated in 2005 as a Certified Public Library Manager and has a BA in Management. He served

as chair of the Public Library section of the TLA in 2007-2008. He has been the director of the Spring Hill Public Library since 2001.

—David Fulkerson & Amy Arnold