

The TLA Newsletter

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Public Library Section Announces "Tennsco PLS Scholarship"

The Public Library Section of Tennessee Library Association is announcing a scholarship to pay a library director or branch manager's expenses to the March 2010 TLA Annual Conference. The scholarship will secure full pre-conference and conference registration, tickets to all meals offered at the conference, the conference reception, and three nights stay at the conference hotel in Memphis. Any remaining monies from the \$750 will be given to the recipient to help on travel expenses.

All applications must be received no later than Friday, December 18th. The recipient will be announced by January 8th.

For rules of eligibility, application form, or questions contact Theresa McMahan (423.279.2715 or email tmcmahan@wrlibrary.org).



Bob Gregory Receives SirsiDynix ALA-APA Award in Chicago

At ALA in Chicago, former Anderson County Library Board chair Bob Gregory accepted the SirsiDynix ALA-APA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Promoting Salaries and Status for Library Workers. The Anderson County Library Board was recognized for their efforts in raising the salaries of Anderson County library personnel by 30-40%.

Pictured in the photo above are Bob Gregory, former Anderson County Library Board chair, and Alice Knapp of the ALA-APA Committee on the Salaries and Status of Library Workers.

Congratulations to the Anderson County Library Board!

—Susan Simmons
Director, Clinch-Powell Regional Library

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President's Point of View: The Value of TLA Membership

As you may recall, one of the primary areas on which I would like TLA to focus this year is membership. As I have already written in this column, we must make membership in TLA something for which individuals are willing to pay dues because they readily see or understand the benefits of being a TLA member. This has always been the case, of course, but it is even more important in today's economic environment where fewer institutions can afford to pay our dues for us (if they ever have), and our personal finances may be stretched further than ever before. The bottom line is that we all have to make choices, and we need to ensure that TLA membership is a choice that people find worthwhile, even in lean times.

Why do I choose to be a member in TLA year after year? The reasons are countless, but nearly 700 of the reasons are the other members of the organization. The members of TLA provide me with a return on my dues

investment of immeasurable value. I cannot count the times I have gained sage advice, learned brilliant new ideas, gained longstanding professional friendships and much, much more. Having the opportunity to work with countless extraordinarily talented individuals has made my dues more than worth what I pay. Further, TLA has given me opportunities to take on leadership roles, to gain experience I might not have gained elsewhere, and to continually bring new and useful ideas back to my library thanks to meetings, conferences, and being active in TLA units. Obviously, many of these things are intangible and cannot have monetary value assigned to them, and often what I put in makes the return even greater. Nevertheless, they hold great value.

Since becoming TLA President, I have heard from a few individuals why they value membership in TLA. And I have heard from a few others why they have decided not to renew

their membership. I have sincerely appreciated hearing all of these testimonials, and I would love to hear more. What compels you to renew your membership in TLA each year? Or why did you elect not to do so?

If you haven't lately, please be thinking about the value TLA membership brings to you—or what it could bring to you. The TLA Membership Committee has been planning some initiatives both to increase membership in the association as well as to gain information from current and former members so that we can continue to enhance and improve the organization in order to attract and retain new and current members. They may formally ask you some of the same questions I have posed just above. I encourage you to assist them in their efforts. Your input and advice will only make TLA more valuable for everyone.

—Kevin Reynolds
TLA President

Nominate the Future Leaders of TLA

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for TLA Vice-President/Elect and Recording Secretary for the 2010/2011 term. Duties and responsibilities may be found in the TLA Manual of Procedures found on TLA's web site at www.tnla.org under the heading "About TLA."

Please send your nominations (and yes, you may nominate yourself), to one of the following Nominating Committee members:

- Connie Albrecht,
connie.albrecht@yahoo.com
- Leah Allison,
lallison@sgis.org
- Nancy Gibson,
gibsonn@apsu.edu
- Theresa McMahan,
tmcmahan@wrlibrary.org
- Molly Moore,
memoore@gmail.com

Thank you for your input. Please send nominations by Oct 9, 2009, so the



Nominating Committee can finalize the ballot before the elections begin in February.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please contact Molly Moore.

—Molly Moore
TLA Nominating Committee Chair

ALA Councilor's Report: Banned and Challenged Books Remain a Significant Issue for Libraries

Recently, the American Library Association (ALA) reported that there were 513 challenges to books in 2008. While that number may be startling, what is even more arresting is that ALA believes only 20%-25% of challenges are actually reported. Clearly, book challenges and banned books are issues of which we should be aware and prepared to handle.

Many of us are aware that carrying out events or exhibits to mark Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read are terrific ways to raise awareness of this issue. Banned Books Week will be observed on September 26 through October 3 this year. In order to help libraries celebrate Banned Books Week, ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) offers many ideas, free downloads, information about banned books and book challenges, and much more at this site: www.ala.org/bbooks.



In addition to the aforementioned resources provided by ALA, the official Banned Books Week web site, www.bannedbooksweek.org/, offers a growing listing of events and information about banned books. Included at the site is a map that plots 120 challenged or banned books in the United States since 2007, which clearly illustrates the widespread nature of the issue.

For more information on Banned Books Week, you can contact Jennifer Petersen at (312) 280-5043, jpetersen@ala.org; or the OIF at 1-800-

545-2433, ext. 4220, or bbw@ala.org. Should you face a challenge of library materials, the Office for Intellectual Freedom encourages you to report it by submitting an Online Challenge Database form, found at the OIF web site (www.ala.org/oif). The TLA Intellectual Freedom Committee would also like to be informed if you experience a challenge. Co-chairs this year are Wendy Cornelisen (wendy.cornelisen@gmail.com) and Kristen West (kwest@mtsu.edu). Finally, the OIF will also offer assistance with challenges to library materials, services, and programs. Please contact Angela Maycock, OIF Assistant Director, Telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 4221, Fax: 312-280-4227, amaycock@ala.org, or the Office for Intellectual Freedom, 800-545-2433, ext. 4223.

—Kevin Reynolds
ALA Councilor

Nashville Public Library Program Receives Honors

Pictured left to right, Elyse Adler, Research and Special Projects Administrator; and Tari Hughes, Nashville Public Library Foundation Executive Director accept the Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming Award on behalf of the Nashville Public Library for its "Bringing Books to Life Program."





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PAID
MEMPHIS TN
PERMIT 1023

*P.O. Box 241074
Memphis, TN
38124-1074
Phone: 901.485.6952*

Executive Committee:

*Kevin Reynolds,
President
kreynolds@sewanee.edu*

*Susan Earl,
Vice-President / President-Elect
susan.earl@nashville.gov*

*James Staub,
Recording Secretary
James.Staub@state.tn.us*

*Annelle R. Huggins,
Executive Director
arhuggins1@comcast.net*

Chasing4Life Storm Chase Team Visiting Tennessee Libraries

Tennessee is all too familiar with the tornado siren warnings. Across the state, at some time each year, the storms will arrive and the aftermath will visually tell the story with a path cut across the countryside. The Chasing4Life Storm Chase Team shares their stories and educates their audience on how to prepare for unpredictable weather.

The storm chase team will visit over a dozen libraries across the state in September and October to present their program to communities. Eddie Weiss and company, along with a storm chase vehicle, will also visit schools as part of this full state coverage.

The Tennessee Library Association, in coordination with the Public

Libraries Section, has graciously agreed to provide half of the funding for this full day of programs to the many libraries hosting the event. Check out more information about the Chasing4Life team at www.chasing4life.com.

*—Rhonda Clement Tippitt
Director, Benton County Public Library*