Three years ago the TLA Executive Committee approved the initiation of the TLA Board Leadership Conference each May just prior to the last scheduled Board meeting of the fiscal year. This year on May 21-22, members of the outgoing and incoming Boards (42 registrants) met at the beautiful and restful Montgomery Bell State Park. Past President Kevin Reynolds reviewed the year’s activities and spoke of the upcoming National Library Advocacy Day during the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC. Incoming President Susan Earl announced her goals for the association—advocacy and membership. She urged the incoming Board members to join in her efforts to grow a vibrant organization.

Conference participants participated in several group activities geared toward learning more about one another as individuals as well as how to work as a team for TLA. Outgoing Board members met with their incoming counterparts to share “the good, the bad and the ugly” of their previous terms’ experiences and to offer suggestions for success in their upcoming year.

Executive Director Annelle Huggins shared information about TLA’s decision to offer GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar access for use by TLA Committees, Sections and Roundtables. Jenny Ellis and Kyle Cook discussed TLA’s Facebook and Twitter presence and sought ideas from the attendees as to how best use these social networking venues.

Participants played Password (after the “elders” of the group explained the game to the “young folks”) for social time on Friday evening. The effect the Leadership Conference has had on the attendees becomes apparent with the increase in activity and responsiveness of the association over the last three years.

—Amy Arnold
TLA Newsletter Editor
TLA is on the move. Partnership is the theme for this TLA year’s conference and one that is fitting for people working in a library. What is a partnership? There are several definitions, but the one I find most appropriate is a relationship between individuals or groups that is characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility, as for the achievement of specified goals. Sounds easy enough until you begin the process of what, when, where, and why, then suddenly what appeared to be so simple has become a rock you cannot move. This year is your year to move the rock. TLA is on the move with the help of all of you.

As President I see how partnerships really are the only way we can move forward in achieving goals and long range planning. Yes, I mentioned the two terms you have to face every year and some years wish you did not. As library staff, we are acutely aware that everything we do is not an independent enterprise. We have always built our work on structure, planning, and creativity.

Libraries work together with not only other libraries, but other organizations, such as other non-profits, or other government agencies. This year, TLA is planning on showing how partnership is a multi-layered concept. Various TLA Committees will be working together to reach a common goal. The relationships we will form will be intuitive and integrated, like the daily roles we play.

So what are we working towards? Advocacy will continue with a push towards increasing our community support and reminding our legislators about our vitality that must be sustained with efficient cooperative sharing. Membership in our organization should be increased so that there are more of us out there telling our stories to the community and legislators.

Staff development must be constant and consistent with an emphasis on presentation and skill building. In order for staff to be aware of the community’s needs as well as grow in harvesting and distributing information we have to develop our members as leaders.

Communication is the key to all of this. TLA will keep the buzz going all year with Facebook, Twitter, GoToMeetings, and webinars that will keep you aware of what is happening. You will see surveys, new membership brochures, and reminders about events throughout the year. I encourage you to join the different committees. Submit ideas about advocacy, membership, staff development, or anything that you can see TLA exploring. TLA is interactive, cooperative, and on the move.

—Susan Earl
TLA President
**Wendy Cornelisen Speaks about becoming a TLA Officer**

**Amy Arnold, TLA Newsletter Editor:** What attracted you to joining the Tennessee Library Association?

**Wendy Cornelisen, Vice-President / President Elect:** I wanted to be part of the big-picture of libraries, and learn more about the profession. It’s nice to work with like-minded people on things that can make a difference for a large number of people.

**A:** How long have you been involved with the organization?

**W:** I joined TLA as a graduate student in 2005.

**A:** What other roles or offices have you filled within TLA or other organizations that you feel prepared you for this position?

**W:** I served as president of the Anthropology Club when I attended Iowa State University. While it is a much smaller organization, I also served as the representative to a larger board, which gave me a sense of how boards work.

When I finished graduate school, I worked on the Intellectual Freedom committee. Then I was co-chair of that committee for two years. Last year I also served as vice-chair of the Reference Roundtable.

**A:** Do you feel as if you had a mentor (formally or informally) that inspired you to take an office?

**W:** When I was presented with the option to run for office, I spoke with two people whose opinions I value: Chuck Sherrill and Susan Earl. I was working with Chuck at the Brentwood Library at the time, and Susan had been a great person to talk to when I worked at the Nashville Public Library. They were both very encouraging.

**A:** Wendy, what are your goals for Vice President / President Elect?

**W:** My goals as Vice President:

- get ready for an awesome 2012 Conference!
- help move the discussion on statewide library advocacy forward
- maintain lasting partnerships with other library organizations

Libraries transform their neighborhoods and the people who visit them. As libraries themselves transform to meet the demands of the 21st century, TLA is here to help with the changes.

—Amy Arnold
TLA Newsletter Editor

**Highlights from the 2010 TLA Board Leadership Conference**

Left: Wendy Cornelisen and Susan Jennings share a laugh during the 2010 Leadership Conference at Montgomery Bell State Park.
Right: Annelle R. Huggins, Larry Romans and Kevin Reynolds offer an impromptu panel discussion as part of their leadership training. Photos by James Staub.
Partnership (and collaboration) is the theme of the 2011 Tennessee Library Association Conference, which is March 23-25 in Murfreesboro, TN. The 2011 TLA Conference Programming Committee is now seeking best practices and creative ideas for presentations, panels or pre-conferences. Have you done or do you know of innovative practices? What are you proud of this year; what have you learned that can benefit your peers? Or, can you point us in the direction of innovative, fresh, or ongoing partnerships that have program potential? What sessions would you like to see at 2011 TLA? We’ll do our best to try to organize something on theme-related topics you suggest.

Use the online form (www.tnla.org) to submit your program proposals or ideas for potential programs, panels, speakers for the 2011 TLA Conference. Remember, TLA is the conference for all types of libraries in the state of Tennessee. Deadline is September 14, 2010. What are you waiting for? Let’s collaborate to create the best conference yet! Questions? Contact Program Committee Co-chairs:

**Cindy Welch**, Youth-oriented programs: cwelch11@utk.edu; phone: 865-974-7918

**Tiffani Conner**, Academic Library-oriented programs: tiffany.conner@lmunet.edu; phone: 865-531-4119

**Janet Drumheller**, Public Library-oriented programs: jdrumheller@knoxl.##NET phone: 865-215-8723