Tennessee Library Legislative Day Held January 26 in Nashville

The Legislation Committee hosted its annual Tennessee Library Legislative Day January 26, 2011 at the Nashville Public Library and the Doubletree Hotel. We had 101 people register for the event, but actual turnout was low due to snowy weather. Evaluations of the event were overwhelmingly positive, and we received great feedback about the invited speakers (Chuck Sherrill and Stewart Clifton). NPL recorded video of the program, and it is now available for viewing online at http://vimeo.com/19484617.

National Library Legislative Day is May 9-10, 2011 in Washington, DC. More information can be found on the ALA web site (http://bit.ly/i4j0k) or by contacting Vivian Wynn at (615) 902-9852 / vwynn91@bellsouth.net.

TLA Election Results

Congratulations to new officers:

Wendy Cornelisen, President

Dinah Harris, Vice-President / President Elect

Christi Underdown-DuBois, Recording Secretary

SAVE THE DATE!

Montgomery Bell State Park will once again host the TLA Annual Leadership Conference. The dates are May 20-21. Please watch your email and the TLA website for more information.
The TLA 2011 Conference “Partnerships: It Takes Two to Tango” happened March 23-25. What a conference! The programs were filled with gadgets, proposals, partnerships, and potential. Awards were given to champions. Our American Library Association President informed us at the general session of how to sustain and to promote our library’s importance. She is truly an inspiration to us all. There was networking at receptions and exhibits; business meetings; and general camaraderie over the chocolate fountain when all cheered for Annelle Huggins winning the literary quilt made by Susan Jennings. Authors shared their writing experiences, such as Susan Gregg Gilmore and Nina LaCour. Whether learning about collaborations and partnerships or discovering a brand message and human library, attendees found out new tricks and tips to try out at their libraries. If you missed it, we missed you. However, this issue will focus upon some of what was offered to those of us who attended. Of course, it’s not like actually being there. Still, you can have a sample of what was discussed, learned, and challenged at the conference. Good reading!

Susan Earl
— TLA President

President’s Point of View

Pictured clockwise from top left: Susan Jennings’ Split Rail Fence quilt would later be won by Annelle Huggins. ALA President Roberta Stevens takes questions following her keynote speech of the General Session. Kristen Keene and Heather Lambert’s Poster entitled “After the Handshake: Practical Steps for Creating Harmony and Unifying the Brand Message.” Courtney Fuson opened the technology gadget extravaganza during the Techno Tango presentation with James Staub. All photos courtesy of James Staub.
The winter has been full of challenges for librarians of all stripes across the country and no less in Tennessee. Two major issues that have recently received considerable attention are collective bargaining rights and limits on access to eBooks. In this column I thought it would be useful to share the statements issued by ALA President Roberta Stevens concerning both issues.

As thousands protest proposed collective bargaining legislation in Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana, American Library Association (ALA) President Roberta Stevens released the following statement in support of those standing up for workers’ rights.

“While governments are facing financial challenges, addressing deficits should not serve as an opportunity to strip away the hard-won right of workers to collectively bargain,” said Stevens.

“As library visits continue to soar, with job seekers and families turning to our libraries to gain new skills and free access to education resources, the value of library service and staff should be recognized and protected.

“The ALA supports library employees in seeking equitable compensation and recognizes the principle of collective bargaining as an important element of successful labor-management relations. We affirm the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively with their employers, without fear of reprisal. These are basic workers’ rights that we defend for thousands of academic, public and school library professionals.”

The American Library Association is the voice of America’s libraries and the millions of people who depend on them. With more than 63,000 members, the ALA is the oldest and largest library association in the world and represents all types of libraries and librarians.

Message to the ALA Executive Board, Council, Division and Round Table Leadership, Equitable Access to Electronic Content Task Force and OITP’s E-Book Subcommittee:

Recent developments in the e-book marketplace have underscored the importance of a model for e-book purchasing and lending that reflects the interests of all of the stakeholders: authors, publishers, booksellers, libraries and, ultimately, the public.

At the recent Midwinter Meeting, my president’s report identified the names of the members of the Equitable Access to Electronic Content task force, which was created in response to a Council resolution. The task force, chaired by Linda Crowe and Michael Porter, will be meeting in Washington next week for a working retreat that is being financially supported by ALA. Among other groups, they will get assistance from OITP’s E-Book subcommittee.

I do not take your concerns about changes in the e-book pricing approach lightly. However, due to the far-reaching and long-term effects, the task force deserves time to gather information and examine the complex issues involved in equitable access to electronic content, including eBooks. We will receive their report at the Annual Conference and I look forward to our using it, as an association, to formulate actions that will ensure we have 21st century libraries to meet the needs of our users.

Meanwhile, please feel free to continue communicating your viewpoints to publishers and e-book distributors.

Thank you for speaking up.

—Roberta Stevens
ALA President
(Submitted by Kevin Reynolds, ALA Councilor)
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