

THE TLA NEWSLETTER

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Important Dates

September 13:

TLA Board of Directors Meeting,
Brentwood Library,
Brentwood, TN
10 AM – Noon CDT

September 25:

Tenn-Share DataFest

September 25:

Tenn-Share School Library
Collection Fair

September 26:

Tenn-Share Fall Conference

December 13:

TLA Board of Directors Meeting,
online (locations TBA)
10 AM – Noon CST

Membership by the Numbers

As of May 11th, 2014, the TLA Membership totals were 632. That includes 609 individual members, and 23 institutional.



TLA Election Results

Congratulations to the 2014-15 Vice President/President Elect, Pamela R. Dennis and Recording Secretary Heather Lanier.

2014-15 Officers are pictured above from left to right: Pamela R.

Dennis (VP/President Elect), Susan Jennings (2014-15 President), Ruth Kinnersley (2014-15 Past President), and Heather Lanier (Recording Secretary).

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President's Point of View

Have you had a chance to tell your library story this year? It occurred to me that the TLA Annual conference is one big occasion for telling our stories. We had a great conference! Many thanks to our conference planning committee for their hard work!

Our general session speaker Rick Bragg is a natural storyteller, and reminded us of the importance of what we do. The presenters and poster session speakers told their stories by sharing research, projects, and successful activities from their libraries. Like all powerful stories, they helped us think about how we can use what they presented to improve our own libraries.

One of the best things about conference is the opportunity to network with colleagues and friends. The

all-conference reception provided an outstanding opportunity to do that. Many thanks to the Local Arrangements Committee for the band and the photo booth! The new members reception and the career development services helped new and developing librarians make connections.

Thanks to every person who contributed to the conference's success! This includes exhibitors, presenters, those who donated books and gifts baskets (which were outstanding – I wanted them all!) for TLA scholarships, and also each person who attended. We couldn't have a conference without each and every one of you. You make TLA the great organization that it is.

I'm looking forward to the coming year under President Susan



Jennings' leadership, and also our conference in Memphis, April 22-24, 2015. I hope to see you there.

In the meantime, keep telling your library stories!

—Ruth Kinnersley
TLA President

2014 Annual Conference Highlights: Speakers

Opening General Sessions: Rick Bragg gave an inspiring, emotional, and humorous keynote. If you were there, you'll remember it for years. If you missed it, you should regret it because this was the ideal keynote.

He is the author of numerous critically-acclaimed books, including two NYT best-sellers, *All Over but the Shoutin'* and *Ava's Man*. He also garnered a Pulitzer Prize for journalism as a national correspondent at *The New York Times*. Rick has twice won the prestigious American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Award, as well as more than fifty other writing awards in his twenty-year career.

Children's and Young Adult Roundtable Luncheon: Georgia McBride has had a successful career in music and internet businesses and has a background in content development and licensing for the web. She headed the anti-piracy and protection of intel-

lectual property fight at ASCAP where she worked with music publishers and record labels around the world to protect copyright owners. Georgia currently spends her days at the helm of Georgia McBride Media Group (home of Month9Books, Tantrum Books and Swoon Romance), developing books and content for film and TV.

Friends and Trustees Luncheon: Chuck Sherrill is Tennessee's

State Librarian and Archivist. Appointed to that post in 2010, his background includes twenty years in public library administration. Among the initiatives he has developed during his tenure are increased state funding for books and materials, more staff for technology assistance to public libraries, and a courier system providing interlibrary loan.



Pictured left to right: Rick Bragg, Georgia McBride, and Chuck Sherrill.

2014 Annual Conference Highlights: Honors and Awards Recipients

TLA Honor Award: Larry Romans has worked at Vanderbilt University Library since 1983 and has been a member of TLA since 1984, serving on the Board for many of the last twenty years. Larry has been active in the American Library Association, serving on its governing Council and as a member of its Executive Board. Most recently, Larry and his spouse helped endow the Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Stonewall Book Award, given annually by ALA for the children's or YA book of exceptional merit relating to the LGBT experience.

TLA Honorary Membership:

Suresh Ponnappa has been a mainstay of the Tennessee library community since he first came to UT as a reference librarian in 1984. A member of TLA and ALA since that time, Suresh has headed many committees and projects benefiting Tennessee librarians. He served as president of TLA in 2002-03, of the TN Health Science Library Association in 2005, and of Tenn-Share in 2007. Suresh retired from the Quillen Medical School Library at ETSU in 2013.

Frances Neel Cheney Award: Dr. Pamela Dennis, University of Memphis, creates countless opportunities to ignite students' curiosity through faculty collaboration, leadership, research, Libguides, and presentations on various topics. She reached out to the University's Campus School, encouraging everyone—including parents—to use the extensive juvenile literature collection. Her continual encouragement and support of librarianship proudly uphold the traditions of this award.

Friend of the Year Award: The Friends of Tellico Village—with no city, county, or state funds—raised resources from private citizens and local groups, obtained a USDA loan, and selected an architect and a construction company to build a LEEDS-certified, state-of-the-art, 6,442 square-foot public library with an annex for storage. Since the

library opened in November of 2012, the Friends have conducted their first Summer Reading Program, implemented a program for special-needs children, established adult education programs, and initiated book delivery to senior living facilities.

TLA Library Support Staff

Award: Ginger Gordon has worked at the Kingsport Public Library for 31 years. She started as a page at 17. She has been through two building renovations, has worked in three different departments, and has worked under four different library managers. When the library catalog was automated in 1988, Ginger had the privilege of entering data from the old card catalog into Dynix using a Burroughs computer. Despite two spinal surgeries she has continued to work at the library—receiving, discarding, and keeping the administration office running. Ginger plans to retire in 2014, but is truly irreplaceable.

Trustee of the Year Award:

Angela Ott, while working as the Children's Coordinator for the Statesboro Regional Library in Georgia, got excited about the potential power libraries hold for strengthening communities. In 2006, she joined the Cannon County Library Board and has served as Library Trustee ever since. She was on the Building Committee for the recent expansion and renovation of the Adams Memorial Library and continues working to use the library as a tool for community building.

TLA Making a Difference

Award: The Governor's Children's Cabinet is dedicated to coordinating initiatives across multiple departments to empower, educate, and engage Tennessee families. Last year Executive Director Jude White coordinated an ad-hoc committee from several state agencies that provided free literacy training and granted child-friendly computer stations for both public libraries and family child care programs across the state.

The Children's Cabinet programs have provided invaluable relationship building opportunities in several Tennessee communities, making a difference for libraries and children.

Louise Meredith School Library

Media Award: Beth Frerking is a librarian at Clarksville High School. She was the 2013 president for the Tennessee Association of School Librarians, is a member of Beta Phi Mu, and is active in the Nashville chapter of the Women's National Book Association. Beth's fellow teachers at Clarksville High selected her as the Distinguished Classroom Teacher for 2012-2013, recognizing her skills at integrating the library program into all aspects of education.

James E. Ward Library Instruction

Award: Students, faculty, and colleagues often describe Jeanine Akers with the words "wonderful," "always" and "everything." Beyond just adjectives, they use phrases like: "makes us love what we are learning about," "she makes it fun," "goes the extra step to help a student in need," "calms us down and helps us figure out what's going on," "always patient with us," and "always lends a hand to brighten somebody's day." Jeanine is an extraordinary instructor librarian in every way.

TLA Intellectual Freedom

Award: Exie Mai Harrington, a circulation assistant at Nashville Public Library's Edgehill Branch, was a plaintiff in a federal lawsuit challenging emergency rules (Chapter 337 of the Public Acts of 2013) regarding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). These rules severely limited how information about the PPACA could be shared, and who could help enroll others in qualified health plans, under penalty of fines. Exie and the other plaintiffs won, successfully suspending the emergency rules and

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2014 Annual Conference Highlights: Honors and Awards Recipients (continued from page 3)

enabling library workers, healthcare workers, pastors, and other public employees to teach others about the PPACA without fear of fines.

Daniel Taylor Memorial Award:

Michele Yellin worked at a public library as a youth services librarian while earning her MLS from University of South Florida. She currently works in the Collection Development Department at the Memphis Public Library. Michele is professional, smart, and a leader in efforts to provide excellent library service. Michele has worked at

several branches—even being assigned to two at a time and restoring youth services to one. Her cheerfulness never lags, and she is always thinking of ways to improve services.

Tennsco PLS Scholarship: Jillian Rael. The scholarship covers full pre-conference and conference registrations, tickets to all meals offered at the conference, the conference reception, and a three night stay at the conference hotel. Jillian is the Director of the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Public Library and is currently in the PLMI Training Program.

TLA Conference Internship Program and Dr. Edwin Gleaves Scholarship: Rebecca Durbin Baker was awarded the Dr. Edwin Gleaves Scholarship. The following people were awarded TLA Conference Internships: Anjanae Diane Brueland, Colin James Chappell, Lauren Hackert, Amber Denise Halter, Dwight Hunter, Kelsey Elizabeth Leonard, Rebecca Jane McClure, Delisa Arvilla Minor-Harris, Janell Irene Thomson, and Elizabeth Graham Wilson.



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