

THE TLA NEWSLETTER

FALL 2015

WWW.TNLA.ORG

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 4

Celebrating Banned Books Week

Nineteen libraries across the state participated in the 2015 Banned Book Week Display contest. This event celebrates Tennessee libraries as they draw the attention of their local communities to issues surrounding censorship and book challenges. Every year the Intellectual Freedom committee sponsors a contest to find the best Banned Books Week display. This year's winner is the Linebaugh Public Library (Murfreesboro) with their gorgeous burning book display. The runners-up were the University of Memphis Libraries' 3D display featuring a skeleton and Nashville Public Library Southeast Branch's flying burning books. All of the entries were fabulous and many had unique ideas for involving their patrons, such as Germantown Community Library's shredded book guessing contest and Coffee County Lannom Memorial Public Library's "breaking the chain" display. Congratulations to our winner and thank you to all of our participants!

—Meg Harrison,
Intellectual Freedom Committee



Banned Books Week displays at Nashville Public Library Southeast Branch (*top*), Linebaugh Public Library in Murfreesboro (*left*), and University of Memphis Libraries (*right*).

President's Point of View, page 2

TLA Membership, page 2

*Updates from the
Trustee & Friends Section, page 3*

Career Services Update, page 3

TLA Membership (continued), page 4

President's Point of View

As you read this, Thanksgiving approaches—a time for counting our blessings and focusing on the things in life that truly matter. I know that we should look at every season as a time of thankfulness, but I want to focus on a few things, especially this month.

During this time, I am reminded of one of my favorite songs from a classic holiday movie *White Christmas*. In the movie, Bing Crosby shares his advice (in song) on how to fall asleep on sleepless nights—“When I’m worried and cannot sleep, I count my blessings instead of sheep and I’ll fall asleep counting my blessings.” I, too, could fall asleep counting all of the blessings in life. For me, I’m thankful for my family (including my furry ones), my friends, my faith, my health, my home, and my freedoms; having a vocation I love (notice the

word choice: vocation, or “a calling”), working with wonderful, hardworking colleagues in a beautiful library who are doing amazing things. The list goes on and on.

As an association, we have much to be thankful for. To mention a few, we have:

- withstood the test of time for 113 years;
- a knowledgeable Executive Director who has served us for more than 10 years;
- a dedicated, volunteer Board of Directors;
- many friends and supporters of Tennessee libraries and our causes; and, of course,
- all of our hardworking members like you!

No matter the library, no matter the location, let us be thankful for our



similarities and for our differences. It makes us strong. I am truly grateful and thank you for all you do!

So, I ask you: What are you thankful for? Let’s count our blessings.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season,

—Susan Jennings
TLA President

Time to Renew Your TLA Membership!

If you want to continue to make a difference in libraries, it’s time to renew your membership in the Tennessee Library Association (TLA)! Why? Because TLA:

- is affordable (check out the sliding dues scale: Students may join for \$15.00!);
- offers the Edwin S. Gleaves Scholarship to defray the costs of library school, and internships for library school students to work and attend the annual TLA Conference;
- provides employment assistance through its online Career Center and résumé help and practice interviewing at its annual conferences;
- promotes communication through *Tennessee Libraries*, TLA’s refereed journal (welcomes scholarly articles, reviews, case

studies, library histories, opinion pieces, and more), the TLA-L listserv (a great place to ask questions and get answers), a quarterly newsletter, and social networking sites such as LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter;

- recognizes excellence by presenting more than a dozen awards annually;
- advocates for libraries by communicating their value to the community, stimulating improvements, and working to influence public policy and funding; and
- supports libraries—including on the regional and national levels through its affiliations with the Southeastern Library Association and the American Library Association.

Additional Benefits of Membership:

- Continuing education. Access webinars on a variety of topics including technology, leadership, and instruction—for free.
- Discounted Registration Rate for the 2016 TLA Annual Conference in Kingsport, TN, April 5 – 8, 2016. (Institutional Members may send two non-TLA members at the member rate.) Network, make and learn from thought-provoking presentations, connect with vendors, and party at the All-Conference Reception!
- Discounted combined memberships. Students may join both TLA and ALA for only \$38. School librarians may join both TLA and TASL by deducting

(continued on page 4)

Updates from the Trustee & Friends Section

Friends of Libraries Week

To recognize those citizens whose volunteer work and fundraising support their local public libraries, Governor Bill Haslam proclaimed October 18-24, 2015, as Friends of Libraries Week in Tennessee and encouraged all citizens to join in this worthy observance: http://www.friendstnlibraries.org/wp-content/uploads/proclamation_0011.pdf.

Citizens in local communities join together as Friends of the Library to support, improve, and promote their public libraries as an essential institution of a democratic society. Public libraries are an American value, born of the idea that a free people should have free access to all kinds of ideas and information. Members volunteer in a variety of ways to help provide high-quality services by raising funds and stimulating the use of the library.

Friends of the Library understand the importance of library service to the community since most citizens could never afford to buy the books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, CDs, databases, software, and computers the library offers individuals and families.

Friends of the Library is a group of individuals who value public library services to the community and are willing to join together to volunteer their time, talents, and efforts to promote and support the library's goals and objectives in whatever way will be helpful. More information can be found at www.friendstnlibraries.org.

Ethics for Friends of the Libraries

Until now, there has not been a national ethics statement to help

Friends of the Library identify their place in relation to board members and library staff. To help define these relationships, in 1994 the Tennessee Regional Library and State Library staffs developed "A Comparison of Responsibilities: Local Library Board of Trustees, Local Library Director, Regional Library, and Friends of the Library" (revised 2013) <http://www.friendstnlibraries.org/wp-content/uploads/Comparison-of-Responsibilities-Tennessee-2013.pdf>.

To clarify Friends responsibilities and help member Friends make better decisions, the Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) has developed and adopted an Ethical Dozen for Friends of the Library statement for local Friends groups to use as a model for their own ethical behavior. <http://www.friendstnlibraries.org/wp-content/uploads/FOTL-Ethical-Dozen-for-Friends-of-the-Library-18Sept2015.pdf>.

Trustees/Friends Section Announce TLA Conference Luncheon Speaker

The TLA Trustees/Friends Section is pleased to announce that Susan J. Schmidt, President-elect of the ALA United for Libraries (<http://www.ala.org/united/>), has agreed to be the TLA Trustees/Friends lunch speaker and afternoon session leader, April 8th in Kingsport.

Susan J. Schmidt is a former Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) president and long-time board member. Schmidt is a media assistant at the Montgomery County (Maryland) Public Schools, served as president of the Friends of the Little Falls chapter of the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County from 1992-2012, and is a governor's appointed member of the Maryland

Advisory Council on Libraries since 1998. She also served as president of the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County from 2004-2006. Schmidt has been an active participant in and speaker at ALA's Advocacy Institute since its inception and helps to coordinate United for Libraries' popular Nuts & Bolts program for Friends, Trustees, and Foundations held at both the ALA Midwinter Meeting and ALA Annual Conference each year.

—Don Reynolds
Trustee and Friends Section

Career Services Update

TLA's Career Services Committee has been busy planning! We will offer career services at the annual conference again, including resume reviews, interview help, career planning, etc. We are also going to take on a multi-year project to offer self-service library career information. We will be creating a webpage that links to existing helpful resources, and we will create short, focused videos on various library-related career topics. Among the first topics to be addressed are networking, branding, and career changing. Additional information and updates on the Career Center section of the TLA website will be announced in future newsletters and via the TLA listserv.

—Sharon Holderman
Career Services Committee

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

2015-2016 Executive Committee:

*Susan Jennings,
President
susan.jennings@chattanooga.state.edu*

*Richard Groves,
Vice-President / President-elect
richardpgroves@gmail.com*

*Willetta Grady,
Recording Secretary
wmgrady@national-college.edu*

*Ruth Kinnersley,
Past President
rkinnersley@trevecca.edu*

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

Send feedback to:
Anthony H. Prince, Jr.,
Newsletter Editor
aprincl@tnstate.edu

Time to Renew Your TLA Membership! (continued from page 2)

their TASL dues from their TLA dues.

- Group affiliations. Join a Section (each focuses on a different type of library or Trustees/Friends) and a Roundtable (groups that support interests in such libraries-related topics as services to children and young adults, technology, leadership, instruction—even new members of the organization) at no additional charge. Consider becoming a member of one (or more!) of TLA's 20+ committees.

Like the profession itself, the Association is in a period of reflection and re-assessment. What do we need to do to stay relevant? What should we do differently? How can we best support libraries—and each other?

The fine print: The membership year is January 1 - December 31. Dues paid after October 1 cover 2016 and the remainder of 2015. Use the TLA website to pay with a credit card online or by mail. Current members may renew for 2016 by logging on to the website, clicking Membership Info (under My Profile), and clicking

the “RENEW” link. Please review your membership type and, if a regular member, your salary level. If your membership type or salary level is incorrect, you may change it as you renew. Need username and/or password information? Please contact Executive Director Annelle Huggins.

If you have already renewed your membership for 2016, thank you!

*Sincerely,
Your 2015-2016 TLA Membership Committee*



<http://www.facebook.com/TennesseeLibraryAssociation>



@tnla



<http://pinterest.com/tnlibraryassoc/>



<http://www.flickr.com/groups/tnla>