Tennessee Women’s Fight for the Vote Exhibit

The traveling exhibit To Make Our Voice Heard: Tennessee Women’s Fight for the Vote is on display at the South Cheatham County Public Library in Kingston Springs. The exhibit will be on display through December 31, 2020.

The eight-placard display explores the history of the woman’s suffrage movement in Tennessee. The history traces the events leading up to the dramatic vote in the Tennessee legislature to ratify the 19th Amendment in 1920. Tennessee’s ratification of the 19th Amendment made Tennessee the 36th state to ratify the Amendment and the vote necessary to complete the 19th Amendment’s ratification process. August 18, 2020 was the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment being ratified.

Our theme for this year is: Tell Your Story: Shifting Perceptions. Here is your chance to share with colleagues ways in which we are shifting perceptions of what libraries and librarians look like and provide so that each of us has AHA! moments that we can take back to our respective communities to change the narrative and how our communities perceive the work we do.

The committee for the 2021 TLA conference is at work planning for our meeting Tuesday, April 6 through Thursday, April 8, 2021 in Memphis, TN. While at this time, we cannot be sure that the conference will be in person or virtual, we are working on both options. We invite members to submit proposals for the conference on the website to present. More information will be available later.

Nominate for Awards

Visit our awards page to nominate your colleagues for a TLA Award!
Go to www.tnla.org/page/419

Tennessee Women’s Fight for the Vote Exhibit
Left: Pictures of the exhibit at the South Cheatham Library. Right: Janet Walker is the director of the South Cheatham Library.
President’s Corner

Can you believe it’s fall already? This has been a roller coaster of a year. We have survived quarantine during a global pandemic. Our country has been in the midst of a heavy degree of social unrest. Libraries have continued to serve communities even though physical spaces have been inhabitable. Not lastly in the least, many of us have found ourselves reflecting on what is most important and understanding the value of self care.

We have long been a society that is constantly on the go. However, if there is one positive that has come of this pandemic, it is that it caused us all to be still. This was the perfect opportunity to spend time with family, check off things on the list of home improvement tasks, or catch up on some good reading, the latter of which was probably the most difficult. But I hope that somewhere during that time, self care was something you dedicated time to. As we approach the end of the calendar year, many of us are still navigating how librarianship looks a little different. We’re making sure our WiFi connectivity stretches to parking lots and is accessible after hours. Learning to provide virtual instruction for students. Doing what we can to provide patrons access while also ensuring our facilities are open to accommodate voting. And somewhere in all of that, there is the important task of reminding community members about Census 2020 and the importance of filling it out for each household.

Coronavirus may have slowed us down for a few months, but the last quarter of this year is in full swing. As librarians, we are public servants. It’s a role we don’t take lightly and one with minimal reward. I encourage you in these final weeks of the year, the more you serve patrons, the more important it is to serve you. Set aside time daily or weekly to do something small—or BIG—that makes your heart smile. Grab that extra “cuppa Joe,” bask in the extra five minutes of mindfulness before rolling out of bed, turn your phone on “do not disturb,” take that walk or run through the park. Fill your cup, because you can’t fill anyone else’s if yours is empty.

We are so close to closing out 2020 and embracing all that 2021 has in store, but until then, in the words of Whoopi Goldberg, “take a little time to enjoy the view.”

—Be well,
Erika Long
TLA President

TLA Statement on Racial Justice

The Tennessee Library Association (TLA) is incensed and heartbroken that systemic racism and violence against persons of color remain issues in our society. It is unconscionable that our members and patrons still suffer from terror, discrimination and exclusion solely based upon the color of their skin. We stand in solidarity with the American Library Association and other sister affiliates in strongly condemning the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and all who have been victimized by racial aggression. We strongly condemn the institutional racism that remains prevalent in our society and that impacts the lives of our brothers and sisters of color, including librarians, library staff and our library patrons. This is not a political issue but a human rights issue.

We, as a library association, stand for equity, diversity and inclusion; but more importantly, we will ensure that we are living those ideals in examining ourselves and our organization. We challenge our member libraries to do the same.

The Tennessee Library Association stands steadfast in the belief that all libraries provide a welcoming and safe environment. To that end, TLA, in concert with the TLA Diversity & Inclusion Committee, sets the following goals:

• Provide training and resources for the Board, members, and libraries to examine policies, procedures, and actions to ensure that all are welcome in our libraries and association.

• Ensure that TLA is a truly inclusive environment for all librarians and staff of color and identify barriers to the profession and association.

• Provide educational programs for librarians and staff on issues of racism, privilege, and breaking down barriers for patrons.

• Encourage libraries to continue to create and promote diverse programs and collections to share with their communities and patrons.

This statement was approved unanimously by the Tennessee Library Association Advisory Council and Executive Board June 12, 2020.
Access and Patron Services Roundtable Webinar Series

The ongoing Coronavirus pandemic has caused many of us to forfeit making in-person the conference presentations we prepared so diligently for. We know there are wonderful things many of us are doing in our libraries to improve access and patron services, especially to address equity, diversity, and inclusion. So let’s take our presentations online!

The Access and Patron Services Roundtable will host a monthly webinar series to facilitate online learning and professional development. Who are the presenters? You! The series will kick off with a presentation by Amanda Roper, Andy Foskey, and Andrea Kincaid from Chattanooga State Community College titled, “Connecting Adult Students to the Community College Library: Developing a Social Justice and Equity-oriented Liaising Program to Support Returning Adult Students” based on a book chapter they wrote for the upcoming Underserved Patrons in University Libraries: Assisting Students Facing Trauma, Abuse, and Discrimination. Dates and further information about the webinar are forthcoming.

If you are interested in presenting your work in the webinar series, please fill out the form at https://chattanoogastate.libwizard.com/f/apswebinar.

—Andrea Kincaid
AsPS Roundtable Chair

The Access and Patron Services Roundtable and Library Instruction Tennessee Join Forces!

AaPS is thrilled to have LIT under its wing. Last Fall, LIT reached out to TLA to ask about the possibilities of finding a stable home under which they could do things that LIT conference attendees were asking for, such as offering a platform so that attendees could both register and pay for registration online. LIT was formally adopted by TLA as a subcommittee of the Access and Patron Services Roundtable in the June executive board meeting.

We are looking forward to creating a web presence within TLA AaPS and collaborating on other projects relating to library instruction, assistive technology, pedagogy/andragogy, and current events dealing with information literacy.

—Andrea Kincaid
AaPS Roundtable Chair

Join Tennessee Library Association

Current members will begin receiving reminder letter to re-join during the month of December. But we are always looking for new members!

As of today, we have 477 members for this current year. Last year we had 671. Our membership year is from January 1 through December 31, but payments of dues by new members after October 1 will cover new members for the following year! This is a great time for new members to join! Let us get our membership numbers back up with new members!

Find more information about membership at https://www.tnla.org/general/register_member_type.asp?

Student members can join both TNLA and ALA for $42. Student members join both associations here: https://www.al.org/cfapps/jntapp/index.cfm?urlcode=ST-TN

An association is only as strong as its members. Support the Tennessee Library Association! Watch for renewal emails in December, and for new members, join today!

—Dwight Hunter, Membership Chair

Join the Tennessee Library Association!
2019: 671 members
2020: 477 members
2021: We Need You!
Virtual Edible Book Festival

The Chattanooga State Library held its eight annual Edible Book Festival on September 23rd. This year, to accommodate COVID-restrictions, the festival was held virtually. The concept for the virtual festival was the same: create an edible display based on a book. Entries for the festival were only open to Chattanooga State Community College employees and students. Entries were submitted by a photo of the edible display. Each photo entry was posted on the library’s Facebook and Instagram pages. Each like for a picture was counted as one vote for the first place and second place for the People’s Choice Award.

This year, the library partnered with the college’s Humanities Department Writers @ Work event. The Writers @ Work held a week-long virtual celebration with the author Daniel Wallace and his novel Big Fish. Mr. Wallace was the judge of the Author’s Choice Award for this year’s virtual Edible Book Festival.

The winner of this year’s Author’s Choice Award was Ann Cho. Pictured above is her entry based on the Hunchback of Notre Dame. Find past entries and more information about the Chatt State Library’s Edible Book Festival by visiting the guide at https://library.chattanoogastate.edu/EBF/Home.