Tennessee Chapter Councilor

Report to the TLA Board of Directors

April, 2018

ALA’s MidWinter Meeting was held on February 9-13, 2018 in Denver, CO. ALA’s Council meets three times at each conference. The full list of documents and actions taken are available via the links below.


Council Actions - http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_actions

Actions taken at ALA’s MidWinter Meeting include establishing a new Fellows Program (the Lois Ann Gregory-Wood Fellows Program) for mid-career ALA members who are interested in governance. The program will provide a conference scholarship for both an Annual Conference and a MidWinter Meeting. For more details, see CD#31_21318_act_FINAL. This was named in honor of Lois Ann Gregory-Wood, who is celebrating her 50th year of service to ALA.

Another particularly notable action was the bestowing of an honorary ALA Membership upon Carla D. Hayden, the Librarian of Congress.

Additional actions include adding policies dealing with politics in American libraries, language on equity, diversity, and inclusion; and definitions of equity, diversity, and inclusion to the ALA Policy manual. (See CD#17_13018_ACT for details) Council also adopted the Intellectual Freedom Committee’s position paper on “Net Neutrality: AN Intellectual Freedom Issue” and their interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights addressing visual and performing arts in libraries. (See CD#19-#19.2_21318_FINAL for details).

Dr. Edwin Gleaves was honored with a memorial resolution at this MidWinter meeting as well. I have attached the full text of that resolution for you here.

ALA’s Annual Conference will take place June 22-26, 2018 in New Orleans, LA. I will be attending and will make my final Chapter Councilor’s report to the Board after the conference. The list of documents referenced above will be updated throughout the conference if you’re interested in seeing what Council is dealing with.

I will continue to forward emails to the TLA list and will keep the Board updated on information from ALA Council and ALA as I receive it. If there are questions about the information here, any of the emails that I have sent to the listserv, or about ALA and Council in general, please let me know! I can be reached via email at tla.alacouncilor@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Fuson

Tennessee Chapter Councilor
Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), the Tennessee Library Association (TLA), and the library community lost a valued member and colleague on March 7, 2017 with the death of Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves;

Whereas Dr. Gleaves served for 18 years as the State Librarian and Archivist for the State of Tennessee;

Whereas countless library school students were inspired by his courses during the 20 years he taught at Peabody College (Nashville, TN);

Whereas he was an active and engaged leader in the Tennessee Library Association for approximately 30 years;

Whereas Dr. Gleaves was a tireless advocate for the use of technology in libraries and one of the earliest adopters of email, databases, and the internet;

Whereas he envisioned, championed, and launched the Tennessee Electronic Library, which today provides residents of the state of Tennessee with access to more than 400,000 electronic resources;

Whereas Dr. Gleaves published extensively on a variety of library issues throughout his career;

Whereas his interests were international in scope, and, as a fluent Spanish speaker, he was a frequent guest-lecturer at libraries and library schools in Central America;

Whereas, in addition to his myriad professional achievements, Dr. Gleaves was also an avid world traveler, outdoorsman, and musician;

Whereas he was especially known as an enthusiastic and life-long ornithologist who learned to identify birds by their calls and habits and;

Whereas his ceaseless kindness, graciousness, leadership, and positive influence on the numerous students he taught and the vast array of librarians with whom he worked throughout his career are his true legacy, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the significant contributions of Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves over the course of his storied career and mourns his death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to his friends and family.

Mover: Courtney Fuson, Tennessee Library Association Councilor, 615-812-6334

Seconder: Diane R Chen