

TLA Quarterly Report

Division: Advocacy

September 2019

*Action Items:*

**Intellectual Freedom Committee:** Intellectual Freedom Committee recommends moving the ALA Report Censorship button to the front page of the TnLA website, in order to increase awareness of TLA and ALA support for materials challenges.

Submitted by

Lis Ann Morehart

Advocacy Division, Representative

Intellectual Freedom Committee, Co-Chair

Legislative Committee, Co-Chair

TLA Quarterly Board Report

Intellectual Freedom Committee

September 2019

- **Action Item:** Intellectual Freedom Committee recommends moving the ALA Report Censorship button to the front page of the TnLA website, in order to increase awareness of TLA and ALA support for materials challenges.
- IF committee members communicated via email during this quarter regarding plans for the upcoming year, to include Banned Books Week display contest, improvements to the IFC webpage, articles for submission to *Tennessee Libraries*, and the next IF Luncheon speaker.

TLA Legislation Committee Board Report

September 4, 2019

Actions:

- Tennessee Library Legislative day is Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at the Nashville Public Library.
- Julius Jefferson will be our keynote speaker during the luncheon.
- Representative Sam Whitson will be sponsoring TLA in the Cordell Hull Room where we can host a breakfast for legislators and staff.

In progress:

- A "Save the Date" social media post with accompanying graphic is being created to share.
- Lindsey Kimery (formerly Anderson) is checking with last year's committee members to see if they are also willing to help this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Kimery

Legislation Committee

**2019 September Report Committee: Advisory Committee on State Documents**

There is nothing to report for this quarter.

Respectfully  
submitted,

Perveen Rustomfram  
(Chair) Paul Nease  
(Member) Greg March  
(Member) Melissa Skipper  
(Member) Eddie Weeks  
(Member) Anne Whitver  
(Member)

## DIVERSITY COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 2019 BOARD REPORT

The TLA Executive Board decided the following on the request to approve these action items:

1. The Diversity Committee would like the TLA Executive Board to consider renaming the committee to Diversity and Inclusion Committee. **Renaming the committee requires a change to the bylaws, so the Executive Board voted to send this request to the Bylaws committee for approval/recommendations.**
2. On the third bullet of the Diversity statement the committee would like to include library schools as part of increasing minorities pursuing a Masters in Library Science. The bullet will change as follows: "Create lasting and beneficial connections with formal and informal groups of individuals that are underrepresented in the Tennessee Library Association and Library Schools." **This change to the Procedures description was approved and the manual will soon be updated.**
3. The Diversity Committee would like to see the values described in our statement to be reflected in TLA's mission statement...e.g. "We serve all people regardless of race, disability, sexual orientation..." **The Executive Board decided to send this request to the strategic planning task force which is now forming. The work to be performed by this task force includes work to the mission statement. We'd like your request to be included in the work of a revised overall mission statement. So, this one will go to them and proceed from there.**

The Diversity Committee met on August 27, 2019 and these are the minutes for the meeting: Present: Pat Bashir, Tasneem Grace Tewogbola, Mark Sandoval, Becca Chen, Bessie Davis, Cassandra M. Taylor

### I. Introductions including answers to: "What is your contribution to diversity at our library?"

1. Cassandra recently earned MLIS, works with Ingram Content Group making books, Assists in collection development in the Patterson Park Community in Murfreesboro and initiating cultural programming (Native American history, lunar New Year with Chinese dancers)
2. Bessie Davis, director of regional libraries with TSLA. Area includes parts of Kentucky.

Emphasizes the importance of trustees who reflect race, gender and professional diversity. Boards impact strategic planning, policies and essential decision-making.

3. Mark Sandoval, new librarian at Lebanon High School. Has a goal to diversify student usage of the library. (Cassandra mentions the attractiveness of a graphic novel club for young readers.)
4. Tasneem, designs programming in the Special Collections Center and offers an incessant focus

on examining history and asking introspective questions.

5. Pat Bashir, manager of Children's Division at the Main library. Enhances staff development with investigation of macroaggressions, courageous questions and probing into racism, whiteness and acceptance.

6. Becca Chin, librarian at Antioch High School with 2,000 students (500 ELL students). Maintains focus on diverse books, events to promote diversity, cultural displays and advising the LGBTQIA alliance.

II. Pat shares the statement and name changes that will be presented at the next TLA board meeting for approval.

1. Pat also shares information (links forthcoming) about Project Ready, "The Power of We" online

class and “Early Childhood Experience Beyond Library Land – Children’s Lit for Tough Conversations about Diversity.” 2. Tasneem to share information about Library Journal online courses on diversity and equity.

### III. Next

#### Steps

1. A social event that promotes diversity for the 2020 TLA conference in Knoxville.
2. TLA Newsletter to feature a monthly resource list and provocative question. (Cassandra suggests for the first query: How have you felt personally marginalized in your library? Or in the library’s collection?)
3. Cassandra suggests the next mixer include table themes from diverse books. Pat suggests Ingram sponsor the books. Cassandra will investigate possibilities.
4. Pat suggests the committee host a panel at the TLA conference.
5. Pat will speak with the editor of the TLA newsletter about including member responses to the provocative question in the publication.
6. Bessie asks if our workshops will serve the TLA Board or the members. We agree that beginning with Board has great impact especially since the Board is currently mostly white.
7. Examining the dearth of POCs on the Board must include, says Bessie, the question of where, and how, diverse members are recruited.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Bashir and Tasneem Grace Tewogbola, Co-Chairs of the Diversity Committee