

Legislation Committee  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board Report  
Dorcas Davis & Gail Perkins Barton, Co-Chairs  
May 31, 2016

- There are no action items.
- Due to several pressing demands and shortages at the libraries served, neither Co-Chair is able to continue serving at this time. The proposals to organize the ‘grassroots’ efforts is very welcome and deeply attractive, however, the intense organization needed requires more time commitment than either has to devote currently to the task. The information below will be helpful to those working on the committee for 2016-2017.
- This year, the committee co-chairs and TLA leadership discussed and made changes to the traditional model of TN Legislative Day which involved a day of meetings, discussion, meals, appointments, and etc. in Nashville. The 2016 event was ‘cold calling’ to the offices of all lawmakers with an imprinted bag which included TLA items and information. The great concern was to encourage each Lawmaker to be aware of current needs in TN Libraries and especially the need for a newly constructed State Library and Archives.
- Leaders agree that greater ‘grassroots’ or local involvement with elected officials is needed as an on-going manner. This committee can lead with organizing these efforts and providing ideas and timelines for local libraries to incorporate into annual planning. Assistance is essential from multiple TLA Sections such as College and University Libraries, Public Libraries, School Libraries, Special Trustees and Friends of Libraries also, Affiliates such as Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) as they will have valuable input as this discussion continues ad direct contact with local libraries.
- For ongoing consideration, the Legislative Committee will investigate how to promote interest and provide ideas for local libraries to arrange meetings with legislative members in their community, providing an opportunity for involvement by their patrons.
- Early in the next quarter, committee members need to collaborate with the TLA President and others in order to more fully define how to begin the ‘grassroots’ effort among the libraries of Tennessee as well as plan the day/time for Legislative

Day. Promotion is needed far enough in advance for staff planning since leave must be scheduled far in advance in most cases, if allowed at all.

- Legislative Day planning needs to start early in July or August. Choosing the day is important and is usually *early February which is near the beginning of the Legislative session but can also be inclement weather*. It needs to be decided what packet or gift will be assembled such as an imprinted cloth or plastic bag or nice folder. Consideration must be made early as to what branded items will be included [coasters, ink pen, M&Ms, bookmark, ribbon, flyers, etc.]. Friends of the Library and the State Library and Archive have composed informational inserts in years past. Keep in mind the portability for these items. Parking is far away and there will be over 120 offices to visit.