Executive Board of the Tennessee Library Association Meeting  
June 12, 2020  
Held online via Zoom  
Meeting Minutes

Jill Rael called the meeting to order at 11:57 a.m.

Jill asked for a verbal roll call of those in attendance.

In Attendance:
Jill Rael: Acting President
Erika Long: Vice President/President-Elect
Holly Hebert: Recording Secretary
Cathy Farley: TLA Executive Director
Blake Hopper: At Large Representative for School Libraries
Christopher Ross Bowron: At Large Representative for Academic Libraries
Lon Maxwell: At Large Representative for Academic Libraries
Missy Dillingham: Conference Committee
Bryan Jones: Intellectual Freedom Committee

Jill Rael called for the minutes of the Executive Board meeting to be approved. Motion passed.

Action Items:
1. Library Instruction Tennessee (LIT) – Motion to add LIT as a subcommittee of the Access & Patron Services Roundtable with use of TLA’s website for registration of their mini-conference and as a permanent place for their funds. Motion passed.
2. Statement on Racial Justice – The Advisory Council presented a final draft to the Executive Board for final approval and dissemination. Motion passed.

Discussion Items:
None.

Jill Rael virtually passed the gavel to Ericka Long as the new TLA President. Sharon Edwards was recognized as the new incoming TLA Vice President.

Jill Rael adjourned meeting at 12:06 p.m.
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.
Jill Rael called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Jill asked for a verbal rollcall of those in attendance.

In attendance:
Erika Long: President
: Vice President / President-elect
Holly Hebert: Recording Secretary
Cathy Farley: TLA Executive Director
Blake Hopper: At Large Representative for School Libraries
Chuck Sherrill: At Large Representative for Special Libraries
Christopher Ross Bowron: At Large Representative for Academic Libraries
Patricia Rua-Bashir: Diversity Committee / VSBA Committee
Dwight Hunter: ByLaws & Procedures Committee / Membership Division Representative
Sharon Parente: Communications Division Representative
Lon Maxwell: Administration Division Representative
Missy Dillingham: Conference Planning Committee
Carl Parham: Technical Services Roundtable
Susan Jennings: American Library Association
Perveen Rustomfram: Advisory Committee on State Documents
Cassie Welch: Children and Young Adults Roundtable
Suresh Ponnappa: Libraries Technology Roundtable
Margaret Brown: Bylaws & Procedures Committee
Julie Huskey: Technical Services Roundtable
Stephanie Adams: Southeastern Library Association
Andrea Kincaid: Access and Patron Services Roundtable
Kathleen Tyree: Public Relations Committee
Jessie McClure: Intellectual Freedom Committee

Previous Minutes:
Erika Long called for the minutes of the Advisory Council meeting to be approved. Motion passed.

Financial Report: Cathy Farley sent out the financial report by email and posted it on the website.

Action Items:
1. Library Instruction Tennessee (LIT) - LIT had requested affiliate status, but a better solution was found. LIT will be added as a subcommittee of the Access & Patron Services Roundtable and money for their mini conference will go through TLA and they
will have use of TLA’s website for registration. Motion to approve and send to the Executive Board. Motion passed.

2. **Statement on Racial Justice** – Jill had asked Susan Jennings to draft a statement of racial justice. Members of the Advisory Council worked on the document in the meeting and came up with a final draft to be sent to the Executive Board with a recommendation for a quick release. Motion passed.

**Discussion Items:**

1. **Conference Committee** – There was some loss of revenue this year due to the circumstances. Next year the conference will be held in Memphis and the next year will be in Knoxville.

Erika Long adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.