



### **TLA Library Support Staff Award: Cathy Ooten Bell**

**Cathy Ooten Bell** is the Administrative Assistant to the Dean and Secretary of the Library at Chattanooga State Community College. Cathy has worked at Chattanooga State in a variety of roles for twenty-five years. A graduate herself of Chattanooga State with a AAS in Secretarial Science (with a “Legal” emphasis), Cathy has been actively involved in school activities and events, her community and her church. Cathy was the 2014 winner of the Chattanooga State Staff Excellence Award. A native of Soddy-Daisy, TN, Cathy devotes her time to her children, Hilary and Niki, the love of her life, her granddaughter, Addison, and her new kittens, Marlee and CoCo. **Cathy Ooten Bell will receive the TLA Library Support Staff Award at the General Session on Thursday.**



### **TLA Library Support Staff Award: Rita Thompson**

**Rita Thompson** has been with Nashville Public Library as a library page since 2001. She has worked in many departments of the Main Library and has energized, motivated and validated everyone she works with. Every person who encounters Rita—be it a coworker, patron, politician, or child—is lifted by her love of life and her love and respect for the library. Rita helps train all new pages for the Main Library, and her welcoming spirit is one of the top reasons that the Children’s Department has such a high rate of retention of volunteers. Rita is an ambassador inside and out of the library, offering a smile and assistance to regular patrons and recruiting new patrons at every turn. She consistently models exemplary customer service and teamwork skills. **Rita Thompson will receive the TLA Library Support Staff Award at the General Session on Thursday.**



### **Louise Meredith School Library Media Award: Karen Cragwall**

**Karen Cragwall** is the librarian at Karns Middle School in Knoxville, TN. She jokes that she’s “always been a late bloomer.” At the age of 39, she began her career as a librarian, splitting her time between a middle school and two rural elementary schools. It was during this time that she realized her love for “being in the middle.” Since then, she has taught in five different middle schools in two states. Karen is a tremendous asset to administrators and teachers and is committed to partnering with teachers to design excellent lessons for students. In response to receiving this award, Karen comments: “It’s great to be recognized for the work you do, but honestly, most of the time I’m embarrassed to be paid for something I love so much.” **Karen Cragwall will receive the Louise Meredith School Library Media Award at the General Session on Thursday.**



### **Daniel Taylor Memorial Award: Tori Ross**

**Tori Ross** is an exceptional Children’s Librarian. She has an encyclopedic knowledge of children’s literature and offers an array of amazing programs, including the Reading Paws program and the first bilingual story time program at Nashville Public Library. She works with the schools in her area to provide regular outreach and reading readiness programs for children and parent groups, keeping the library connected to the community. Tori was recently chosen to serve on the Frist Center for the Visual Art’s Community Marketing and Outreach Council, and she worked with her local PBS affiliate to become one of the first 20 libraries in the country to have a PBS Library Corner. Tori Ross has been a great asset to the Nashville Public Library and to the children of Nashville for over 30 years. **Tori Ross will receive the Daniel Taylor Memorial Award at the General Session on Thursday.**

### **Friend of the Year Award: Friends of the Williamson County Public Library**

The Friends of the Williamson County Public Library raised funds to support the publishing of the Library’s first book under its new imprint, Academy Park Press. The children’s book, *Bucky and Bonnie’s Library Adventure*, won Best in Show from the American Library Association. **The Friend of the Year Award will be presented at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.**



### TLA Honor Award: Martha Earl

**Martha Earl** has 28 years of experience as a medical librarian and has worked at the UT Preston Medical Library since 1997. Martha served as TLA President in 1998-99 and has remained on the Board ever since in a variety of leadership roles. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated her commitment to Tennessee libraries and to advancing the needs of libraries and the public locally and nationally. She teaches courses for the UT School of Information Sciences, is a Distinguished member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals, and winner of the UT School of Information Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award for 2006. She is a 2011-2012 National Library of Medicine/Academy of Academic Health Sciences Libraries Leadership Fellow. **Martha Earl will receive the TLA Honor Award at the General Session on Thursday.**



### Frances Neel Cheney Award: Sandra Civils Clariday

**Sandra Civils Clariday** has served Tennessee Wesleyan College (TWC) for over 30 years. The director of the TWC's Merner Pfeiffer Library since 1987, Sandra taught the Books and Related Materials for Children course, has been active in the EG Fisher Public Library Friends group for years, led countless book discussions at its Noon Book Discussion, and is currently running a women's book discussion group in Cleveland, TN. In the Halcyon Book Club, perhaps the oldest book club (est. 1926) in the state of Tennessee, she has been book selector and regular participant since 1987. Sandra also writes audiobook reviews for *Library Journal*. She hails from Nashville, TN, favors mysteries and Southern women writers and, as her license plate says, she is Bookwoman! **Sandra Civils Clariday will receive the Frances Neel Cheney Award at the Intellectual Freedom Lunch on Thursday.**



### TLA Intellectual Freedom Award: The Tennessee Coalition for Open Government

This year we recognize the **Tennessee Coalition for Open Government** for their sustained, years-long effort to make governance transparent and public officials accountable in Tennessee. TCOG seeks to preserve, protect and improve citizen access to public information and open government in Tennessee through a unique nonpartisan alliance of citizens, media, and civic groups. Their focus is research and education because they believe knowledgeable citizens are the best way to protect the free flow of information. TCOG provides a hotline for open government issues, free public presentations about the ins-and-outs of Tennessee's open records and open meetings law, and training for requesting public records. TCOG has coordinated statewide audits of local governments' adherence to open records laws. One such audit helped lead to the creation of the Office of Open Records Counsel and the Advisory Committee on Open Government. TCOG's blog and social media are a consistent source of news and a barometer of the state of government transparency in Tennessee. They are a member of the National Freedom of Information Coalition. **The TLA Intellectual Freedom Award will be presented at the Intellectual Freedom Lunch on Thursday.**



### TLA Making a Difference Award: Lori Davis Warren

**Lori Davis Warren** is the Coordinator of Library Marketing, Outreach and the User Experience at Chattanooga State Community College. She has 25 years of experience in managing a variety of library and academic settings; planning and implementing programs for public and K-12 libraries; and restructuring school media centers and information commons to meet the needs of today's millennium generation. Lori is the 2014-2015 President of the Professional Staff Association at Chattanooga State and works with the Campus Completion Team and the Leadership Committee. She has served on the Technology Advisory Committee for seven years and teaches workshops on information literacy instruction, social media strategic planning, and mobile devices in instruction. **Lori Warren will receive the TLA Making a Difference Award at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.**



**Trustee of the Year Award: Margaret Nell Fowler**

Margaret Nell Fowler, a former English teacher, has been a life-long public library advocate. Since moving to Lincoln County several years ago, she has dedicated her time and talent to the service of the public library. First she served as a member of the Friends Group and then as a member of the Regional Board and finally as the Chair of the County Library Board. She was instrumental in the hiring of the new Director, raising significant funding through the Friends for programs and services at the Library, and in revising and updating new policies for the Library. Her most recent contribution has been successfully demonstrating that mobilizing citizens to support the public library truly can make a difference to their elected officials. Margaret Nell Fowler will receive the TLA Trustee Award at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.



**Dr. Edwin Gleaves Scholarship**

The TLA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that Andrew Grissom has been awarded the Dr. Edwin Gleaves Scholarship for 2015. The Dr. Edwin Gleaves Scholarship will be presented at the General Session on Thursday.

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