

The TLA Newsletter

WINTER 2013

WWW.TNLA.ORG

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TLA Elections are Right Around the Corner!

On your mark, get, set, check your email! Between February 5 and 10, all eligible TLA members with recorded email addresses will receive an email verifying their address and explaining how to opt out of online voting. Those members who do not provide an email address will automatically receive a paper ballot via USPS. In the following week, February 10 – 15, another email with a link to the ballot will be sent to all eligible TLA members voting online, and paper ballots will be mailed out via USPS. Online voting ends at midnight March 1 while all paper ballots must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2013.

This year's candidates include:

Vice President/President-Elect:

- Susan L. Jennings, Chattanooga State Community College

Recording Secretary:

- Richard Groves, Nolensville Public Library
- Jennifer Novia, Vanderbilt University

Make sure you renew your TLA membership by Jan. 31, 2013 to be eligible to vote!
Renew online at www.tnla.org

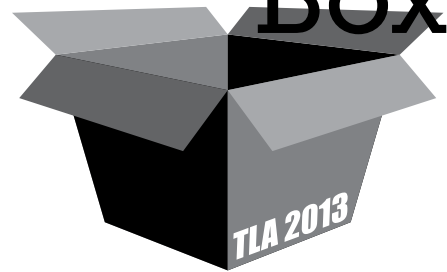
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Libraries out of the Box: TLA 2013 Conference

Plans continue to progress for the annual conference, Libraries Out of the Box, to be held April 24 – 26, 2013 at the Chattanooga Convention Center and the adjoining Chattanooga Marriott. Speakers include:

- General Session: Andre DuBus III, author and National Book Award Finalist for *House of Sand and Fog*
- Intellectual Freedom Luncheon: Jason Mazzone, author of *Copyfraud and Other Abuses of Intellectual Property Law*.
- Friends and Trustees Luncheon: Dr. Steven Escar Smith, dean of libraries at the University of

Libraries out of the Box



Tennessee's flagship campus in Knoxville.

A registration form will be available online in the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing you in Chattanooga!

—Submitted by Cathy Farley and Valarie Adams, Conference Co-Chairs



Pictured left to right: Andre DuBus III, Jason Mazzone, and Dr. Steven Escar Smith.

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President's Point of View

My article in the last newsletter accidentally ended with the first sentence intended for this article. It read, "To stay relevant to our patron's needs, libraries will need bifocals as we evolve." Bifocals are important in our efforts to stay relevant to our service populations as individual libraries and as an organization. Current needs and methods of delivery must be met while looking ahead and contemplating what the future will require.

TLA has definitely made use of bifocals in our efforts during the last six months. TLA stood beside Benton County in their efforts to save their library. Director Susan Tyner reports that this effort was successful. TLA spoke out in support of Memphis Public Library's efforts to make it possible for patrons to use their library cards as voter identification.

This battle was won as well. TLA also signed a joint statement with 56 other state and regional chapters of ALA "in opposition to the practices of publishers and distributors that have established unfair pricing in the sale of eBooks to libraries." This issue is still being addressed.

While dealing with present issues, TLA has also been working on plans for the future. Work is underway on a Leadership Institute to help develop future leaders of TLA. A special committee has also been looking into ways to secure TLA's finances for the future. In addition, plans are also being finalized for our annual conference which will be held in Chattanooga in April with an outstanding number of 96 sessions being offered that will assist librarians in thinking outside the box.



I would say TLA's bifocals have clear lenses and the perfect prescription strength.

—Dinah Harris
TLA President

TN Library Legislative Day

Don't miss our annual Library Legislative Day. This year's event focuses on some of libraries' strongest advocates — Friends! A panel of Friends and Trustees will talk about tips and tricks they've used to effectively advocate for libraries. Stewart Clifton joins us as well to give insider information on the Tennessee legislative process and effective advocacy techniques. Oh, and don't forget to call your legislator and invite him or her to join you for the legislative luncheon! Not signed up yet? Register today at: www.tnla.org.

The federal library legislative day will be held May 7 & 8 at the Liaison Hotel Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. For more information, visit: ala.org/nlld



Tennessee Library Legislative Day
Tuesday, February 19, 2013
12:30 pm at Nashville Public Library

Happy Anniversary!

This year, 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of TLA being an American Library Association (ALA) chapter. What does being a chapter of ALA mean, you might ask? There are 57 chapters of ALA that represent the 50 state library associations, the District of Columbia, the territories of Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands and four regional associations (the Mountain Plains Library Association, New England Library Association, Pacific Northwest Library Association, and the Southeastern Library Association). Chapters help to provide a wide geographic viewpoint on library-related issues and allow ALA's Washington Office to more confidently speak out on the issues facing libraries with the support of the chapters. Each chapter, with the exception of the regional associations, has a chapter representative on the ALA Council. For TLA, that's me! (Courtney Fuson). Through their chapter representative, each chapter has a say in creating and implementing resolutions and policies of ALA.

ALA chapters are tasked with promoting general library service and librarianship within their geographic areas and cooperating in the promotion of general and joint enterprises with ALA and other library groups.

In Tennessee, TLA works closely with the Chattanooga Area Library Association, the Boone Tree Library Association, the East Tennessee Library Association, the Friends of Tennessee Libraries, the TLA Student Chapter, the Tennessee Association of School Librarians, Tenn-Share, the Tennessee Health Sciences Library Association and others.

Being a chapter of ALA allows a number of channels of communication between ALA and the Chapter, not only through the Chapter Councilor, but also through the President, President-elect, Executive Director and newsletter editors. Each of these people has communication with ALA and their peers at other chapters, through the Chapter Relations Office and a variety of listservs and online forums. This allows for the continuous discussion of issues facing both the chapter and ALA, providing both parties with the information necessary for advocacy, PR and continuing education.

Being a chapter of ALA provides TLA with important information to help our advocacy efforts, including the Capwiz legislative action site that helps TLA members to contact their elected officials about library-related issues. Speaking with one united voice



to the local and national legislatures allows libraries to have more resonance on issues such as intellectual freedom and library legislation. In addition to advocacy support and information, ALA also provides specialized consulting and expertise to the chapters that they might not otherwise have access to.

TLA's status as a chapter of ALA is also what allows us to offer library students a joint membership in both TLA and ALA for a reduced cost of \$35.

Even if you're not a personal member of ALA, you're still benefiting from their activities and work on behalf of libraries, through TLA's Chapter affiliation. If you have questions or comments about ALA, please feel free to contact me at tla.alacouncilor@gmail.com and I'll be happy to answer your questions or take your comments to Council.

—Courtney Fuson
ALA Councilor

Firefly Courier Service

Tennessee's public libraries will soon have more books available—cheaper and faster than before—thanks to a new interlibrary loan service set to debut next year.

The new Firefly Courier service, developed by the Tennessee State Library and Archives, will link rural, suburban and urban public libraries throughout the state, as well as libraries at colleges and universities.

The new courier service will allow libraries to request and receive books on loan from other libraries more quickly and more efficiently. Interlibrary loans, which previously were handled through the postal service, account for about 125,000 books checked out from Tennessee libraries each year.

The new courier service was developed in conjunction with Tenn-

Share, an organization that helps Tennessee libraries take advantage of group purchasing power and innovative resource-sharing projects. The courier will visit each of the state's 177 public library systems twice weekly, at no cost to the local libraries.

"Moving these materials by road is far cheaper than by mail," Sherrill

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said. "Because of the large volume of loans, we benefit from economies of scale."

The State Library and Archives is responsible for serving rural and sub-urban library systems but the addition of the college and metro libraries is an advantage made possible through Tenn-Share's involvement.

"Just lending among our public libraries is a big business, but adding Vanderbilt University, the University of Tennessee and all the other private

libraries in Firefly will make many more titles available to Tennesseans," Sherrill said.

"This new courier system will allow public libraries to provide improved service to their patrons," Secretary of State Tre Hargett said. "A book in Union City can be shared with a reader in Chattanooga at no cost to either of those libraries. And the amount the state will be paying to provide this service is about the same as it was before. This system will also

give citizens throughout the state better access to the resources available at our institutions of higher learning."

For more information about the new courier service, contact your local public library or explore the statewide library catalog <http://www.tn.gov/tsla/> (select "Catalogs" in the red menu bar).

—Chuck Sherrill
Tennessee State Librarian



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