

THE TLA NEWSLETTER

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Job Board Updates

Did you know that one of the benefits of being a member of TLA is access to TLA's Career Center via the TLA website (<https://tnla.site-ym.com/networking>)? This year, the committee focused on how to make it easier to post job openings, find potential candidates, and to be notified of job openings.

Each job that is posted is now required to have an expiration date of either 30, 60 or 90 days, and each post averages 100 views! It is worth your time to post and get the word out about your opportunities.

If you are seeking quality employees, look no further than TLA members! Individuals can submit their resume via their profile. This allows our members to be discovered by other members, and potentially hiring managers. Be sure to subscribe to the new job posting notifications. You will receive an automated email with details on new jobs as they are submitted to the site.

—Career Services Committee

Another Successful Conference with Sched at #tnla 16!

Sched is great because it lets your schedule go with you wherever you are—on desktop, on any mobile device, or on paper. Attendees, speakers, and exhibitors can connect with each other by creating profiles. Speakers can have their presentation materials posted for easy access. It also provides the ability to email attendees of a particular session (like if there is a venue/time change or a cancellation).

Sched for TLA was a great success! We had over 100 attendees

create their schedules in Sched. This year's conference is still available at <http://tnla16.sched.org> with a number of presentations added.

Feedback from conference attendees on Sched was overwhelmingly positive. We will continue to improve our promotion of the conference app and thank you to those who made it a success this year!

—Courtney Fuson

Little Free Libraries

The White County Public Library presented its successful first year of establishing Little Free Libraries in its community. By partnering with local government and private donors, White County was able to establish Little Free Libraries at each of its nine public schools, three city parks, and a popular location on the library's own grounds. Cathy Farley, Director, and Michael Hale, Assistant Director, shared strategies other libraries may use to start a Little Free Library movement in their own community.

The Little Free Library is a movement that promotes literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges. It helps foster a sense of community as we share skills, creativity, and wisdom across generations. There are over 36,000 Little Free Library book exchanges around the world, bringing curbside literacy home and sharing millions of books annually.

—Michael Hale

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President's Point of View

What an AMAZING conference we had in Kingsport! I've attended 10 out of 11 years of TLA Conferences, but I believe that THIS one was the best. Then again, I also say that about every piece of pie I eat. Seriously—the best!

Firstly, thank you Cathy Farley, Conference Coordinator, and Conference Co-Chairs, Missy Dillingham and Vandy Owen, for a fabulous conference along with help and support of the Conference Committee (15 of them – check out the conference program for all of their names). Thank them any chance you get. Thanks to the TLA board members who worked tirelessly to put together programs, pre-conferences, business meetings, internships,

awards, receptions, and food. Thanks to our featured speakers, especially the delightful author Sharyn McCrumb, our incoming ALA President, Julie Todaro, Pat Mora, and Susan Schmidt.

Secondly, the conference would not have been a success without your participation. Thank you for your attendance, presentations, exhibits, book sale/basket purchases, luncheon attendance, and reception. For those who were unable to attend, thank you for holding down the fort while we brought back new ideas and possibilities. For all of our public library folks who were away at PLA, know that you were missed. We had over 330 attendees and everything went well at the lovely MeadowView.

Lastly, thank you for your support during this past “do-over” year as a second term president. Your words of support, your cards, your emails, and your dedication to the cause of libraries kept me going when times were tough. You made me smile. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart! You will never know how much that meant to me. Special thanks also to Annelle Huggins and the Executive Committee (Ruth Kinnersley, Richard P. Groves, Wiletta Grady). Thank you for the opportunity to be your President—again – and best wishes to Richard and TLA in the coming year.

—Susan Jennings
TLA President

Public Libraries 2015-2016 Wrap-Up

In our open discussion of 2015, the question was posed, “What can the TLA Public Library Section do for you?” The outcome of that discussion was 1) greater communication amongst our community and 2) provide opportunities to network and share ideas.

Over the year we have worked to further those ideas. During this time, we started a Facebook group, investigated potential uses of the TLA website for communication, and we planned a meet-n-mingle at 2016 conference. We have also worked to directly engage more public librarians in the conference itself—more presentations and an open invitation for ALL Section members to attend the annual business meeting.

The Public Library Section elected new officers during the annual business meeting. Jena Gray, Assistant Director at Fayetteville-Lincoln County Public Library, will serve a two year term as the Section Chair, and Becca Baker, Youth Services Manager at Blount County Public Library, will serve as Vice-Chair. The Section looks forward to the future accomplishments of this new leadership.

—Jillian Rael

Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves Scholarship

The recipient of the 2016 Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves Scholarship is Wesley Holloway. Mr. Holloway is a research and technology specialist at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga Library and will earn his M.L.S. from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis this summer. He is a member of ALA, TLA, and the Association of Library and Information Science Students.

Trustees/Friends

At the Trustees/Friends luncheon on April 8, Julie Webb of Knoxville was presented with the TLA/Friends of Tennessee Libraries 2015 Friend of the Year Award. The Friends of Tennessee Libraries presented “A Friend of Libraries Recognition” to Food City supermarkets in appreciation

for the support of community public library services through the Food Club cereal box promotion, “Read any Good Books Lately?”

—Don Reynolds

Remembering Larry Romans

I tend to better express myself through the written word. It allows me to ponder, wordsmith, and organize my thoughts in ways that extemporaneous speaking doesn't. Writing has always helped me process emotions, opinions, and facts, both in my professional and personal life. Usually, the words come easy. I love to write (or maybe, as Dorothy Parker would say, "I love having written"), but in this case, I am without words; they come slowly and imperfectly. But, as Larry would tell me: "Get on with it, Kid, you got this!" So, I'll try my best, Larry.

How do you sum up a life? Especially for a man as brilliant, dynamic, complicated, eclectic, and eccentric as Larry Romans? I guess one just begins to peel back each layer of this complex man and reveal a few pieces at a time. Even with this dissection, it will never sum up the true measure of him adequately. For me, Larry was a friend. That is neither a title that he took lightly nor one that was bestowed to all freely. If Larry loved you, he would push, prod, nag, encourage, flatter, contradict, argue, gripe and, if necessary, correct you... usually all within one conversation. He was always the greatest supporter and had a knack of spying great raw talent and encouraging that talent in his friends and student assistants.

He mentored them and helped them to find their life's work whether that was to become a career librarian or something else. Many of his student assistants later did become librarians and even the ones who didn't always appreciate Larry's nurturing and would come back to see him often.

Larry was a perfectionist. He was never satisfied with "good enough." He worked tirelessly to make sure that there were constant improvements in his job and in our profession. Toward the end of his life, Larry told me of his impatience with conflicts that did not matter and general pettiness. He talked about the waste of time spent in bitterly holding to positions, often out of pride and ego, that would delay in getting down to what truly mattered: his profession, family, church, and social issues.

Larry was also a fighter. This last bout of cancer wasn't the first time he had faced this insidious disease. He outlived every prognosis except the last one. Supported tirelessly by the love of his life for 45 years, Mike Morgan, Larry battled all that life threw at him and was determined to live. He battled his disease with courage and class.

But for me, Larry was a lover. He had the biggest heart and there was room enough for all of us. For some of you, your friendship with Larry



*Lawrence Michael "Larry" Romans
1947-2016*

surpasses decades, much longer than mine. For some, you never knew him or knew him vaguely. Still, his impact on us and TLA will go on. Over the past few months, I have heard story after story of people sharing what Larry meant to them. His legacy of caring will long be felt. That was exemplified by the outpouring of love, sympathy, and stories when he passed.

"Huggy Bear," I've got this and I will always carry you in my heart! Larry, thank you for your love and support for me, for TLA, and for all in our great profession. From grateful friends from this association and beyond, thank you, we love you, and we will miss you.

*—Susan Jennings
TLA President*

Tennsco Scholarship

The Public Library Section named Donna Phillips of the Parrott-Wood Memorial Library in Strawberry Plains as this year's winner of the Tennsco Public Library Section Scholarship. Thanks to Tennsco's

generous support, this \$750 award covers the expenses of the conference for a first time attendee and is offered annually to encourage new participants to experience our awesome conference. Donna completed the Public

Library Management Program in 2015, and has served within the Jefferson County Public Library system for over 14 years. We look forward to seeing how she will utilize ideas from the conference in her own library.

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Apply to be the Next Newsletter Editor!

This is my last Newsletter. It's been a fun three years. Thanks to everyone in TLA for their support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the job opening posted below:

The Publications Advisory Board is accepting applications for the Tennessee Library Association Newsletter Editor. Under the general supervision of the Publications Advisory Board and the TLA President, the Newsletter Editor provides pertinent and timely information four times a year

to TLA membership concerning the association's activities. The Newsletter Editor is expected to consistently and professionally serve TLA. This position carries a stipend of \$150 per issue and is renewable upon an annual contract basis.

A few of the essential functions of this position include:

- producing a 3.5 page manuscript four times a year (July/August, October/November, January/February, and April/May)
- reviewing TLA-related articles

and edit/summarize pertinent information focusing on TLA activities for inclusion in the newsletter and coordinating with TLA members and the TLA Board

Interested individuals should send a letter of intent to James Rodgers, co-chair of PAB, at jrdrgrs1@memphis.edu no later than June 20, 2016.

—Anthony H. Prince, Jr.
Newsletter Editor



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