

THE TLA NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2015

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Important Dates

September 12:

TLA Board Meeting
Goodlettsville, Tennessee

September 27 - October 3:

Banned Books Week

October 16:

Deadline for Newsletter Articles:
Fall 2015 issue

December 5:

TLA Board Meeting
Location TBD

Putnam County Library Receives 2015 Light the Way Grant

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), has named Putnam County Library in Cookeville, Tennessee the recipient of the 2015 Light the Way: Library Outreach to the Underserved Grant. As the winner of the grant, the library will receive \$3,000 for its Books to You! Summer Outreach project.

Putnam County Library plans to use the funds to provide weekly door-to-door outreach in the community. Recognizing the success of an existing program in the school district, the library will partner with volunteer teachers to provide a

variety of reading materials for the traveling collection as well as food for the children. The program aims to foster community and trust between families, schools and the library, while supporting the literacy needs of the community.

Implementation begins soon, and we are excited that our Children's Librarian, Amanda Yother, is able to work with local schools to serve our community.

—Stacie Netherton
Putnam County Library System
stacie@pclibrary.org

A Note from the Vice President

Dear Tennessee Library Association,

It is with mixed feelings that I submit my resignation as Vice President/President Elect of the Tennessee Library Association, effective June 30. I have accepted a position at a library in North Carolina that begins on August 1, and I believe it would be better for the organization to have a President who resides within Tennessee.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Association for the past 20 years and have been particularly honored to serve on the Executive Board. Though not under ideal circumstances, the highlight of my Vice Presidential term was leading the conference in Susan's absence. While I will miss serving as President, I did get to experience a part of that role at the Memphis conference.

I wish you all the best and will be right next door. I'm sure we will see each other at national and regional conferences, and I look forward to those continued relationships.

Sincerely,
Pam Dennis

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President's Point of View

You may be wondering why you are hearing from me yet again in this column. For some, this is old news but others may be unaware. It is with deep sadness that I announce that our incoming TLA President, Pam Dennis, has resigned. Pam has accepted a job in North Carolina and is most likely moving even as this goes to print. We will miss Pam tremendously! I know I speak on behalf of the association when I say that we appreciate all she has done for TLA. She will truly be missed by all. Thank you, Pam, for all the support you have given me. I have really loved getting to know you better this year and appreciate your friendship. And thank you so much for filling in so brilliantly in my absence at the Memphis Conference! From my heart, I appreciate you so much. Thank you, Pam, on behalf of all of us!

Despite this sad news, TLA goes on. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, I have agreed to fill in as President for this upcoming year, while keeping the Board of Directors that Pam appointed. This will allow Richard Groves the opportunity to fulfill his duties as VP/President-elect. That year is critical in appointing his own Board

of Directors for his presidential year and gives him time to see the inner workings of the association from a different perspective. Ruth Kinnersley, Past President of TLA, will remain in that role for the upcoming year. Ruth and Heather Lanier (outgoing secretary) will head up the Strategic Planning Committee. I ask all of you to send us your good thoughts this year as we fulfill our roles.

Last year, we focused on making sure that everyone in TLA had “a place at the table.” To follow that theme, there are important questions to address:

- Now that we are bringing everyone to the table, what is there to offer them?
- Does the current structure and workings of the association match the needs of our members, potential members, our libraries and our patrons? Is the current structure still effective? Keep in mind, our association is 113 years old.

During the coming year, we will be exploring these questions. The theme for this year is “Dare to Imagine.” While the theme



includes imagining the possibilities of restructuring our association, it also speaks to more comprehensive questions about the library world:

Why do we do this? Does it still make sense today as it did before? Dare we imagine new programs, new services, and new structures?

For the answer to many of these questions, it could simply be, “Yep, it still works.” But for the answers to other questions, we must admit, there are things that no longer work. We must remain relevant now as well as in the future. Will we soar? Do we dare to imagine?

—Susan Jennings
TLA President

Government Documents Section Update

The Government Documents Section of TLA is in the midst of planning its Fall meeting. The meeting will be held at Vanderbilt University in October. Thanks to Vanderbilt's Lester Frank for agreeing to host

the meeting! The exact date of the event will be finalized shortly using a Doodle poll. If you are new to working with Government Documents (or just want to learn about what it entails), please contact

either JoAnne Deeken (jdeeken@utk.edu) or Perveen K. Rustomfram (prstmfrm@memphis.edu) so we can be sure to include you in the poll and so we can send you the agenda and directions.

Lighting the Way: The Tennessee Public Library Trustee Certification Program

The Regional Library System of the Tennessee State Library and Archives has rolled out its new Public Library Trustee Certification program. This voluntary, but highly encouraged, program is designed to provide specialized training to help library board members be better stewards of the public resources they are entrusted to manage.

Why is it important for libraries to have certified trustees?

Board members are appointed by their local governing bodies to ensure that services meet the needs of their communities, and to provide responsible oversight in the planning and implementation of public library services. Our trustees are volunteers with various backgrounds and experiences, hardworking and dedicated. This certification process will help them be better leaders, by shedding light and providing useful training on the various responsibilities they've assumed in their important roles as public library trustees.

The program is tailored to suit the busy lives of library board members in a concise and user-friendly way. It will offer online self-directed training, with attached easy-to-read documents, embedded Internet site links, and on-demand webinars and PowerPoint presentations to educate and inform participants. Completing the certification process will assist them in becoming the best library trustees a library could hope to have!

Topics covered in the program include personnel, planning, finance, policies and by-laws, and the all-important advocacy. Each topic will assist board members in making policy and decisions based on the needs of their library staffs, their communities and, most importantly, their library patrons.

The course will begin with an overview of public library history, as well as a look at 21st century library trends and ideas. It will educate library trustees in finding, retaining

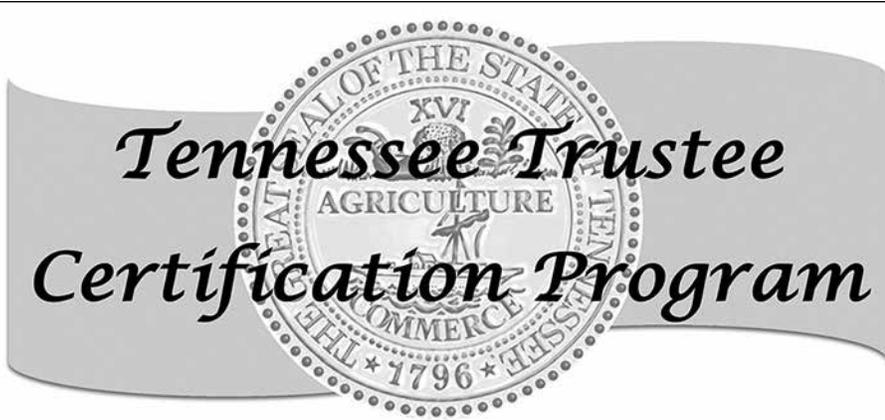
and encouraging great library directors and empowering those directors to hire and retain excellent staff. Various forms of planning will be covered - including strategic, long range, technology, disaster, and financial planning. The certification program covers what Tennessee law has to say when it comes to managing library dollars. Trustees play a major role in approving proposed budgets and overseeing the spending of funds.

Another important area of concern to trustees is policies and bylaws. Program topics in this category include how to adopt, interpret, and administer public library policies.

Finally, advocating for public libraries is fundamental. Included in this section of the program are tips on effective public relations, how to make an elevator speech, how to promote a library's message, and how to cultivate a relationship with government officials.

So, to recap, why is a trustee certification program being offered? Because the well-being of Tennessee's public libraries depends on it! Beginning July 1, library board trustees across the state of Tennessee will embark on a year of online and face-to-face training. By doing so, library trustees will earn certification which is good for three years. Even more importantly, Tennessee's public libraries will be the better for it - and so will all Tennesseans! Check out the training opportunities at <http://tsla.libguides.com/trusteecert>.

—Betty Jo Jarvis,
Stones River Regional Library
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**Tennessee Trustee
Certification Program**

“Lighting the Way for Your Library”



Tennessee State Library and Archives
Secretary of State Tre Hargett



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Sandra Clariday Announces Retirement

Sandra Clariday (sclariday@twcnet.edu) has retired, effective June 30, after over forty years in education as a teacher, school librarian, and academic librarian, with the last 28 years as professor and director of

the library at Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, and has been an ALA, SELA, and TLA member for over thirty-five years. She is the recipient of the 2015 Frances Neel Cheney Award given by the

Tennessee Library Association for “a significant contribution to the world of books and librarianship through the encouragement of the love of books and reading.”



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