

## **Children's Round Table Secretary/Treasurer Candidates**

### ***Hannah Farmer, Seguin Public Library***

The most pressing issue facing the Texas library community is, unsurprisingly, intellectual freedom and recent book bans. Specifically, the Texas Library Association should continue to advocate for intellectual freedom and support librarians facing book challenges. Necessary tools include not only advocacy to policymakers, but also outreach, marketing and education for parents, boards, and educators. So often, caregivers and adults have knee-jerk reactions and attempt to ban books in a misguided effort to protect their own children, disregarding the intellectual needs of all readers. As librarians, we should provide parents with tools to address their concerns, while decisively protecting the right to read. TLA should also look for creative ways to address the self-censorship among librarians that undoubtedly arises in times of increasing censorship.

### ***April Toman, Schertz Public Library***

I am thankful for the role of TLA has played in supporting my career as a librarian in Texas. Advocacy, professional development, and a supportive community have been integral resources I have been able to access because of my membership. Knowing that TLA is supported by volunteers, I am pleased to offer my time and experience to the Children's Round Table.