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Voting Open for TLA 2025 Elections

The TLA 2025 elections opened on January 15 and will close on February 14 at 11:45 pm CST. If you joined or renewed your membership prior to January 10 you should have received your ballot. Individuals who join between January 10 and January 31 will receive their ballots on February 3. You must be a current 2025 member by January 31 to vote in the election. The positions up for the 2025 election are **President-Elect** and **Representative at Large (School)**.

President-Elect Candidates: Nicole Cruz and Melissa Rippy.

Representative at Large Candidates: Jennifer Eckert and Brooke King.

Learn more about these candidates and their goals for TLA [here](#).

Texas Topaz and LARIAT Reading Lists Released

The 2025 [Texas Topaz](#) and [Lariat](#) reading lists have been announced! These lists are a fantastic resource to guide readers of all ages across Texas. A huge thank you to our dedicated members and committees for their hard work in making this possible.

89th Texas Legislature is in Session

On Tuesday, January 14, the 89th Texas Legislature convened in Austin to begin their regular 140-day session. To-date, 2406 bills have been filed, and TLA is [tracking](#) 34 that directly impact libraries or librarians. The first order of business for the Texas House of Representatives was to elect a speaker. The race for [Speaker of the House](#) was hard fought, with Representative Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) defeating Rep. David Cook (R-Mansfield) by a vote of 88-55. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick will likely appoint Senate Committee chairs and members this week, and the Speaker will appoint House Committee chairs and members by the end of the month. Join us on January 21 at 4pm for a [Legislative Update webinar](#) for more information about what to expect this Session and how you can advocate to support libraries (*free to members, will not be recorded*).

[Texas Bluebonnet Award Voting Closes January 21st](#)

The deadline to vote for the 2024-2025 Texas Bluebonnet Award is approaching! Students who've read at least five titles from this year's list can now cast their vote for their favorite. The winning author will be honored at the 2025 Annual Conference! **The last day vote is January 21.** For more information visit [the program guide](#).

[Letters About Literature Contest Open for Entries](#)



Letters About Literature Texas

Read. Be Inspired. Write Back.

The Texas Center for the Book is delighted to announce the opening of the Letters About Literature writing contest for 2024-2025. Texas 4th-12th graders are invited to participate in Letters About Literature, an annual writing competition administered by the Texas Center for the Book. Students read a book or poem and write a letter to an author—living or dead—explaining how their work changed their view of themselves or the world. The deadline to submit entries is 5 p.m. Central time, February 3, 2025. For more information, visit the official contest page [here](#).

Applications for TALL Texans 2025 Now Open

We are now accepting applications for the 2025 TALL Texans Leadership Development Institute! This program is designed for Texas library leaders to explore leadership principles and practices. Hear from three TALL Texans graduates as they share why they applied, their favorite experiences, and how the program has positively impacted their lives and careers. [Watch here](#).

For more information on TALL Texans and to begin your application, click [here](#).

TLA 2025 Conference Program Available

The 2025 Annual Conference program is now available on the conference microsite. A

downloadable version will also be available on the TLA annual conference web pages for those who wish to print the full program. Check out this year's sessions and events taking place [here](#).

Authors Confirmed for Ticketed Events

Many of your favorite authors will appear at Annual Conference ticketed events, including Evening with the Authors, the Opening Awards and Author Session, Black Caucus Round Table Author Session, and the Texas Bluebonnet Author Session.

Hear from literary stars such as Kwame Alexander, Grace Lin, Taylor Jenkins Reid, and John Scalzi—and more! For instructions on how to add a ticketed event, visit [here](#). Make sure to secure your tickets early to these sessions [here](#).

Upcoming Events

TLA Legislative Update

January 21 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

TLA Legislative Committee and staff members will provide an update on the 89th Texas Legislative Session and bills impacting libraries. This session is free, exclusive to TLA Members, and will not be recorded. Registration closes at 11:30 am on the day of the webinar. [Register here](#)

Build Your Public Library Collection with a Texas Book Festival Grant

February 11 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Texas Book Festival Communications & PR Coordinator and Texas Library Grants Program Head, Jose Rodriguez, leads a webinar on the 2025 Texas Library Grants application process and answers FAQs. Since its founding in 1995, promoting literacy and supporting Texas libraries has been integral to Texas Book Festival's

mission. With more than \$3.6 million in grants awarded since 1995, TBF is committed to supporting public libraries statewide.

Free for members. \$25 for non-members. [Register here](#)

Burnout and Vocational Awe in Libraries: The Things We Don't Talk About
February 25 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Libraries are beloved institutions that strive to improve the world, but what happens when the normal people working in those institutions get worn out? Material challenges, budget cuts, natural disasters, economic downturns and more have hit us all professionally and personally. This presentation will introduce vocational awe, toxic positivity, and burnout in libraries, share some tactics for identifying, preventing, and combating burnout, and recommend further learning resources.

Free for members. \$25 for non-members. [Register here](#)

Names in the News

Danita Barber, a retired librarian and active member of TLA and ALA, passed away in December.

Analine Johnson, Johnson High School 9th Grade Campus librarian, is among the 10 recipients of the [2025 I Love My Librarian Award](#).

Brenna DeMoulin has joined the TLA staff as the Member Engagement & Unit Relations Coordinator.

Rio Grande City Public Library was recognized for reaching over 1,000,000 uses of its historic

content hosted in The Portal to Texas History in 2024.

Thank You 2025 Sponsors!

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