

SPOTLIGHTS

Legislative Session Update

We are about half way through the 85th Legislative session and after weeks of hearings; the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees are completing their budget deliberations. TLA is advocating against any cuts to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission budget, for additional [TexShare/TexQuest](#) funding, and increased [broadband](#) access in public libraries.

Given the Legislature has 3% less in state revenue to work with for this budget, members are looking for savings and not generally open to additional spending, no matter how worthy the program or service.

The Senate Finance Committee did not make any cuts to the TSLAC budget, and did not adopt the TexShare/TexQuest or broadband exceptional items. The House Appropriations Committee also did not make any cuts to the TSLAC budget, and did not adopt the TexShare/TexQuest exceptional item request, but did include the broadband request in Article XI. Items in Article XI are not likely to be funded, however.

Over the next week or so, the appropriations bills will be voted out of committee and taken up on the House and Senate floor for a vote. Once the bills are passed, the Senate and House will appoint members to a conference committee to begin to hash out the differences between the bills. The conference committee process presents another opportunity for TLA to advocate for our budget priorities.

Thank you to all TLA members that have testified before the committees, and called, written, and emailed their legislators to share how important libraries are to our communities, and express support for the State Library budget. You make a real difference!

SB 902 – Eliminating Library Accreditation Standards

Senator Brian Birdwell introduced [SB 902](#) which would prohibit the State Library from requiring public libraries to meet minimum accreditation standards related to local operating expenditures, collections based on publication dates, hours of operation, and the number or classification of library employees.

TLA is strongly [opposed](#) to this bill because it would diminish the quality of library services, and dilute and devalue legitimate public library service by eliminating common baselines for professionalism, services, and resources.

The bill was referred to the Senate Business and Commerce committee. TLA members are actively reaching out to their legislators to express their opposition to the bill.

TLA Statement on President Trump's Proposal to Eliminate Federal Library Funding

To fund increased military spending and tax cuts, President Trump's *America First: A Budget to Make America Great Again* eliminates funding for libraries and museums, as well as arts, humanities and cultural programs. Collectively, these programs account for less than 0.5% of the national budget.

The Institute for Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) grants and programs provide critical support to libraries and museums across the country. Texas libraries leverage every dollar of the federal funds they

receive to offer innovative programs and services to millions of Texans every year. In fact, a recent Texas State Library and Archives Commission study found that for every \$1 invested in Texas libraries, communities benefit from an impressive return on investment of \$4.64.

Libraries are centers for technology, job counseling, retraining, entrepreneurship, education, teaching and learning, services to veterans, and so much more.

The Texas Library Association's almost 7,000 members, and the thousands of library supporters throughout the state, will actively oppose this proposal which, if enacted, would have a significant, immediate, negative impact on millions of Texans. Libraries are so much more than book depositories, they are essential to what makes Texas, and America great.

Take Action!

While we are deeply concerned about the president's budget proposal, it is not a done deal and ALA has provided the following information on actions we can take right now:

1. **Call your Members of Congress** – ask them to publicly oppose wiping out IMLS, and ask them to commit to fighting for federal library funding. (You can find talking points and an email template on the [Action Center](#).)
2. **Share your library's IMLS story using the #SaveIMLS tag** – tell us how IMLS funding supports your local community. If you aren't sure which IMLS grants your library as received, you can check the [searchable database](#) available on the IMLS website.
3. **Sign up to receive ALA action alerts** – they will let you know when and how to take action, and send you talking points and background information.
4. **Register to participate in National Library Legislative Day** on May 1-2, either in Washington, D.C., or [online](#).

Timing is key to the Federal budget/appropriations process. More information – along with talking points and scripts – will be forthcoming from the ALA Washington Office and TLA.

2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Cory Doctorow Announces as Opening General Session Speaker

New York Times bestselling author and former European director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) Cory Doctorow will deliver the opening General Session on Thursday, April 20 from 8:15 to 9:45am at the 2017 [TLA Annual Conference](#) in San Antonio. Among his achievements, Doctorow is the activist-in-residence for the MIT Media Lab, a visiting professor of computer science at Open University, a science fiction author, activist, and journalist.

In 1998, the US Congress made protecting digital rights management (DRM) the law of the land, passing the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and making it a felony to break a digital lock. Fast forward 20 years and DRM technology is not just an agony for librarians, it's a way for manufacturers to control their users in devices ranging from insulin pumps to tractors, and from cars to voting machines. Co-

editor of Boing Boing and author of *Walkaway*, Doctorow will delve into technological liberation and offer insight about defending your rights in the digital world.

Tickets Still Available for Author Sessions

Whether or not you are already registered, you can always edit your registration and add ticketed functions to your [registration](#) prior to Friday, April 7. TLA meal functions and preconferences are not limited to conference attendees. Librarians unable to attend the conference, library friends, and general public are invited to attend without paying conference registration fees. Ticket prices are listed on the online registration form.

Thursday, April 20

Opening Author Session | 12:15 – 1:30 pm | Grand Hyatt Hotel

We are pleased to announce that Helen Ellis will join Greg Iles and Adriana Trigiani at the Opening Author Session. Ellis is the acclaimed author of *Eating the Cheshire Cat* and *American Housewife: Stories*. She is also a poker player who competes on the national tournament circuit. These acclaimed authors each create fascinating stories that immerse readers in the culture, history, and characters that make each unique. Join us as they discuss their recent works and inspiration.

Evening with the Authors | 6:30 – 9:30 pm | La Orilla del Rio

TLA and the Texas Book Festival invite you to join us Thursday, April 20 at 6pm for Evening with the Authors, a celebration of literature and libraries. Enjoy a delightful dinner in the treasured La Orilla building, meet authors from a variety of genres, and hear them read from their latest works. A book signing follows the event. Featured Authors: Nickolas Butler, Jennifer McMahon, Sara Paretsky, Ruta Sepetys, and Amanda Eyre Ward.

Saturday, April 22

Closing Author Session | 11:45 am – 1:15 pm | Grand Hyatt Hotel

Journey to thrilling new worlds with Veronica Roth, the *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Divergent* series. Her new book, *Carve the Mark*, is the first in a highly-anticipated duology that promise to take readers by storm.

3D Printer Giveaway

Attendees at the 2017 Texas Library Association Annual Conference in San Antonio will be eligible to win a [Powered Up Prize Pack](#) that includes a FREE 3D Printer courtesy of [PolyPrinter](#). The prize package, valued at \$5,000, includes: PolyPrinter 229, Owner's Kit, filament nozzles, staff training, shipping, and warranty services.

Enter to win by visiting the Powered Libraries Information Kiosk in the conference registration area. Entries will be limited to 2017 TLA Annual Conference attendees that pledge to participate in Power Up Week, October 1-7, 2017. The winner will be announced during General Session III on Saturday, April 22. Good luck!

Start Planning and Download the Mobile App

It's never too early to start planning your conference schedule. The conference mobile app is available for iPad and iPhone through the [Apple App Store](#) and Android devices through [Google Play](#). This

application enables attendees with a web-enabled phone or other mobile device to access their schedules while on the go, and receive real-time updates to sessions and author events. It will also offer Twitter, exhibitor information, show documents, and speaker content. You can also access conference mobile app information from your desktop computer or other devices [here](#).

If you are a current TLA Member, use the same email and password you use to login to Members Only to access the app. If you are not a current TLA Member, use the same email and password you created during the registration process.

TLA NEWS

2017 TLA Election Results

The following individuals were elected in the 2017 election conducted by Survey and Ballot Systems, Inc. (SBS), an independent third party. In addition to the TLA Executive Board election, five units opted to participate in TLA's online election system. These newly-elected individuals will assume office at the close of the 2017 conference in San Antonio.

TLA Executive Board

President: Ling Hwey Jeng (automatic succession)
President-Elect: Jennifer LaBoon
Treasurer: Edward Melton
Representative-at-Large: Marty Rossi
Representative-at-Large: Daniel Burgard

Texas Association of School Librarians

Chair-Elect: Nancy Jo Lambert

Supervision, Management, and Administration Round Table

Chair-Elect: Robin Swaringen
Secretary-Treasurer: Janet Cox

TALL Texans Round Table

Chair-Elect: Jacqueline Higginbotham
Secretary-Treasurer: Martha Rinn
Councilor: Jan Hodge
Councilor-Alternate: Laura Stiles

Young Adult Round Table

Chair-Elect: Naomi Bates
Secretary-Treasurer: Lorraine Roussin
Councilor: Sonja Schulz
Councilor-Alternate: Kelly Wadyko

District 5

Chair-Elect: Gail Shipley
Treasurer: Benjamin Baron

District 8

Chair-Elect: John Harbaugh
Secretary: Garrette Smith
Treasurer: Connie Doolin
Councilor: Elizabeth Nebeker
Councilor-Alternate: Lisa Loranc
Webmaster: Erin Cassidy

Executive Leadership Immersion | Apply by May 1, 2017

TLA's Executive Leadership Immersion (ELI) program is a fast-paced, multi-day training designed for current and aspiring managers from all types of libraries. Led by Julie Todaro, this executive experience features high level interactive sessions many of which are media-driven and include case studies, external experts, group discussion, individual project focus, and self-directed exploration. Participants

submit their project focus in advance to receive a pre-workshop assessment of viability. [Apply](#) by May 1, 2017.

"This experience has changed my outlook on leadership in the context of libraries. This immersion gave me the opportunity of learning from leaders that have been able to achieve goals focused on their community."

– 2016 ELI participant

Announcing Power Up Week | October 1-7, 2017

Join the Powered Libraries campaign in celebrating **Power Up Week** October 1-7, 2017, a week where libraries across the state will showcase innovation and dynamic leadership. Last year to great success, hundreds of libraries from around the state took part in [Power Up at Your Library Day](#) on September 15. Participants organized events geared to promote technology, innovation, creativity, and literacy in their respective communities. Thanks to last year's positive feedback, we are expanding the Powered Up celebration to encompass an entire week. Save the date and start making plans now to incorporate Powered Up programs this October.

Help us demonstrate the campaign's key messages:

- Libraries are essential to the creation and sharing of ideas in the community
- Libraries are forward-thinking, technology-driven institutions, more vital today than ever before
- What libraries do reflects a truly diverse field of information work, representative of the variety and scope of libraries in the state.

Receive the most up to date campaign news through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (#poweredlibraries and @poweredlibrary), and [poweredlibraries.org](#). WATCH the [video](#).

Corporate Members

We thank our [corporate members](#) for their investment in TLA and Texas libraries. See some [examples](#) of initiatives facilitated through our corporate partnerships that are making a large contribution to Texas libraries.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing Education Corner

All webinars will be recorded. A link to the recording will be sent to all registrants (i.e. you may want to register even if you know you cannot attend the live event). All webinars will carry Continuing Education credit, some also have CE credit available for viewing the recording. See individual descriptions for details.

March 29 | 12:00 - 12:30 pm | Managing Art in Libraries

Presented by Billy Fong and Lacie Ballinger, Texas Association of Museums

Has your library been stocked with paintings, sculpture, or other art that you aren't sure how to display, preserve, or document? TLA is partnering with the Texas Association of Museums (TAM) to provide resources for these situations. Two Facebook Live sessions are planned where you will have the

opportunity to send in questions for some experts. TAM will use these discussions to plan future webinars on topics of common interest to museums and libraries. To join the Facebook Live session, "like" the Texas Association of Museums on [Facebook](#), then go their page at the time of the event.

March 30 | 1:00 pm | The Most Unique Services in Today's Libraries

AZ webinar series for support staff, presented by ALA President Julie Todaro

Although our libraries have similar services for today's constituents, there are a wide variety of very different services - some that meet local needs and some that are just unusual and represent very different ideas for serving constituents! Coupon exchanges, borrowing small pets, pattern giveaways, tool checkout, circulating artwork - are long time, well-used services but libraries are making way for circulating bicycles, WIFI-unit checkouts, self-publishing, business spaces to check out, intermittent access to buses outfitted for showers for the homeless and even more unusual services!

[REGISTER](#)

April 4 | 1:00 pm | Mentoring

AZ webinar series for support staff, presented by ALA President Julie Todaro

What is mentoring? What role does mentoring play in support staff education and training? Does mentoring substitute for orientation and training? Continuing education? Development? How does it differ from shadowing? What mentor programs exist for all levels of library employees?

[REGISTER](#)

May 18 | 1:00 pm | The Role of Support Staff in Collection Development

AZ webinar series for support staff, presented by ALA President Julie Todaro

In many libraries, support staff assists in the purchasing of materials. This program discusses the practical processes of selection and purchasing, as well as the reasons why libraries build their collections in certain ways.

[REGISTER](#)

May 24 | 2:00 pm | Visualizing (and Finding!) Funding for Libraries

Presented by Amanda Dillon and Kate Tkacik of the Foundation Center

This free online training will introduce participants to a dynamic and freely available data-visualization tool, Visualizing Funding for Libraries that enables library professionals and supporters to search for institutional funding for libraries at national, state, and local levels. Participants will learn pro tips on navigating the tool and as well as next steps on how to pursue new funding opportunities. Data visualizations such as maps, network constellations, and partnership pathways showcase key networks of funders and recipients, as well as individual grants that highlight the library services and programs that are winning grants. [Visualizing Funding for Libraries](#) is a Knight Foundation News Challenge winning project.

[REGISTER](#)

June 13 | 1:00 pm | You Can Coordinate Others but Can You Lead Them?

AZ webinar series for support staff, presented by ALA President Julie Todaro

We've learned in our last series how to supervise, coordinate and manage others. And while these are always the most necessary management tools, learning to lead is critical to both leader and follower employee success in libraries. This webinar will articulate the differences among supervising, coordinating, managing and leading and the role that leadership plays in libraries among all levels of

employees and library workers.

[REGISTER](#)

June 15 | 1:00 pm | Financial Protection for Older Americans

Presented by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Older Americans face many financial challenges as they age. They have opportunities to travel, explore new fields of work or hobbies, or spend time with family and friends. But often scam artists or bad advice take away these opportunities. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's information and tools help seniors navigate safely through financial challenges. Learn how to prevent elder financial exploitation using the Money Smart for Older Adults – Prevent Financial Exploitation curriculum.

[REGISTER](#)

LIBRARY NEWS

Celebrate Día in April

For more than 20 years El día de los niños, El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), commonly known as Día, has emphasized the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Día is a national celebration of children, families, and reading that culminates each year on April 30. The initiative links children and their families to diverse books, languages and cultures. The common goals of all Día programming are to:

- Celebrate children and connect them to the world of learning through books, stories and libraries.
- Nurture cognitive and literacy development in ways that honor and embrace a child's home language and culture.
- Introduce families to community resources that provide opportunities for learning through multiple literacies.
- Recognize and respect culture, heritage and language as powerful tools for strengthening families and communities.

Visit <http://dia.ala.org> for more information

George and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Library Named 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Service Finalist

The [George And Cynthia Woods Mitchell Library](#), Montgomery County Memorial Library System (The Woodlands) was selected for the 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal for Museum and Library Service is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries by the Institute of Museum and Library Services IMLS in recognition of exceptional service to the community and for making a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities.

East Texas Library Receives Almost 1,000 Books in National Giveaway

The [Young Adult Library Services Association](#) (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), named Tyler Public Library one of three recipients of its annual [Great Books Giveaway](#). Each

library will receive a share of more than \$40,000 in books, audiobooks and other materials donated to YALSA from publishers and producers in 2016. Tyler Public Library received almost 1,000 books to add to its collection.

The Tyler Public Library serves a population of over 100,000 with a small young adult collection for students in grades 6 through 12 making it almost impossible to engage in outreach with the Tyler Independent School District (ISD)'s Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) and Tyler ISD's Early College.

"This award will enlarge our young adult collection and allow us to fill the gaps for these students with materials to lend to each campus for an extended time while boosting our own small collection," said Linda Gray, youth services librarian.

Hondo Public Library Celebrates Grand Opening

On March 31, the [Hondo Public Library](#) will celebrate its next chapter with a Grand Opening showcasing the Senior Activity Center, John L. Santikos Imagination Station, Lottie Maw Children's Library, and James Barden Learning Center. VIP tours begin at 8:00 am, and the ribbon cutting is at 9:00 am.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

- Starting in May, **Ignacio Albarracin** will become a library administrator at Prince George Public Library in British Columbia. He currently works at the San Antonio Public Library.
- **Peter Coyl**, formerly at the Dallas Public Library, is the new library director of the Montclair Public Library in New Jersey.
- **Robin Fradenburgh** of the University of Texas at Austin will retire at the end of August, 2017.
- **Mark Gottschalk** was named library director at Lubbock Christian University effective August, 2017.
- **Vicky Kemp** is a candidate for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch School Board.
- **Janice Newsum** is now manager, library services for Houston ISD.
- **Toni Simmons**, library director of the Zula B. Wylie Public Library, received the City of Cedar Hill's Leadership Excellence Award.
- **Sheryl Stoeck** was selected as the 2016-17 High School Educator of the Year for Northside ISD (San Antonio).
- **Becky Sullivan**, library director of Riter C. Hulsey Public Library, is retiring effective April 28. **Rebecca (Becca) Anderson** will be the new library director.
- Effective March 14, UNT's **Beth Thomsett-Scott** became head of the engineering library at Pennsylvania State University.

Deceased

- **Elsbeth Blakeman** passed away in February.
- **Joy Llorens** of Aldine ISD passed away in February.