



Executive Director Update - Council - Annual Conference - April 2022



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Censorship – We are eternally grateful to the TLA members who have helped speak out against book banning to tell the stories of librarians who are experiencing unprecedented book challenges and questioning of their professionalism over the last year. *Texans for the Right to Read* will help further the importance of educating all audiences about the dangers to democracy these efforts represent. Thank you to our Intellectual Freedom Committee, Executive Board and talented staff who have been working tirelessly for the last many months on behalf of our members. Please continue to support all efforts to speak out against censorship.

2022 Annual Conference - Kudos to our Conference Program and Local Arrangements Committees under the leadership of TLA President, Dan Burgard with Stacy Cameron, Curren McLane, Mike Pullin and Chantele Hancock and hundreds of volunteers who made this first in-person conference in two years a tremendous success! Through the steadfast leadership of the TLA Executive Board some tough decisions were made to ensure the safety of thousands of participants during a time of great national uncertainty. We especially thank the hundreds of vendor partners who returned to support the industry and exhibit and sponsor.

Had it not been for our stalwart and passionate TLA staff we would not have been able to achieve these results - I honor this fearless group of individuals who stayed with the association through some of the toughest years in their careers.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge both the 2020 and 2021 Conference Committees and the TLA Presidents from those years. Cecilia Barham, and her ProCo and LAC whose conference was cancelled two weeks before the start endured enormous shock and disappointment. The 2021 ProCo, led by the unflappable Christina Gola as TLA President, navigated incredible uncertainty and change and produced what became one of the largest virtual conferences in the country last year. ***Hats off to all these incredible, fearless leaders – we salute you!***

Annual Assembly 2022 - Assembly will return in a slightly modified version. The dates are July 6 - 8 in Austin at the Hyatt Regency. This meeting will include the Conference Planning Committee, Council, Unit Officers, and the Executive Board. We will continue holding unit business meetings virtually in advance of Assembly to maintain equity and accessibility for more members and officers in the association's leadership.

New Fiscal Year Change - July through December will be a 'short year' to transition TLA to a calendar year fiscal timeline beginning in January 2023. TLA will budget for the short year and Council will vote at the Annual Assembly meeting in July. A full budgeting cycle will begin in late August for an October virtual Council meeting to approve the 2023 budget.

Association Staffing - TLA filled its last two open positions originally vacated in the Fall of 2021 earlier this year and now has eleven full time employees. We have nine staff located in the Austin area who work 3-4 days a week in the office and the remainder of the week remote, and two fully remote staff.

Association Management System (AMS) Update – TLA will implement a new AMS later this Fall. This platform will streamline all internal operations into one system for everything from registration, membership, committee organization, awards and more for better reporting and data alignment. Member services such as automated receipts and self-service tools will improve your online TLA experience.

Association Finances - TLA is in a solid financial position despite the challenges of the last two years due to careful and strategic expense reductions, consistent board oversight and establishment of a new accounting firm relationship and restructuring of internal accounting processes.

TLA Engage – TLA Engage has surpassed all expectations for creating a dynamic, online community for members to connect, share ideas and resources and stay current with TLA activities! Since our August 2021 launch there are 4,618 active member records with hundreds of posts monthly.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Texas Library Association is to empower library personnel and supporters to develop library excellence for the people of Texas.

Core Organizational Values

Continuous improvement towards Excellence in Libraries and Librarianship - Equity of Access to Information in a Changing Environment - Ethical Responsibility and Integrity - Intellectual Freedom - Literacy and Lifelong Learning - Social Responsibility and the Public Good