TLA District 1
Fall Meeting Agenda
Saturday, September 23, 2023

8:30-9:15 Gathering
9:15-9:45 Business Meeting
9:45-10:45 Matt Glaser, Director of Hewitt Public Libraries, on Grant Writing

Writing grants can often seem like a challenge, especially for those who have never written one or are out of practice. In times when library funding wavers, grants can help fill in the gaps left from budget cuts or fund special projects that regular funding would never cover. The keys to successful grant writing are no different than writing the perfect essay. Subject knowledge, background information, and social context put the project into perspective and give the review panel a solid foundation to view the proposal. Putting these pieces together may vary based on the source of the funding, but having ideas and background information ready to go before applications are ever announced can go a long way. In this brief presentation, you will learn how to navigate the grant process from start to finish by gathering data and anecdotal information; forming a budget; building a qualified team; mapping out the course and impact of the project; and planning the sustainability of the project. In addition, we will cover how to simplify language for a general audience and showcase the value a grant award will bring to the library.

10:45-11:45 Vanessa Hartel, on Graphic Novels

Does the language of graphic novels leave you baffled? Stumped on where to find the best recommendations and reviews? Curious about the Texas Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List? With 7 years of graphic novel collection development under her belt, and as a current member on the Texas Maverick Graphic Novels Reading List Committee, Tom Green County Library’s Young Adults Librarian Vanessa Hartel has a thing or two to share!


Gretchen Pruett is the incoming TLA President and the Director of the New Braunfels Public Library for 14 years. She oversees all operations of the library - $2.1 million budget, staff of 28.5 FTEs and annual circulation of 800,000