Update: Implementation of HB 900, the READER Act
On October 5, the US Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision declining to lift the administrative stay on the preliminary injunction order. Therefore, the state is moving forward in implementing HB 900. The court also ordered the appeal to be expedited but it is unclear when arguments will be heard or how long it will take for the Fifth Circuit to issue a decision.

On October 13, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission is meeting to approve proposed collection development rules for posting in the Texas Register for public comment. These are the standards required by HB 900. More information is available here.

Gov. Abbott Calls Third Special Session
The Texas Legislature convened in Austin on Monday, October 9 for the third special session. The agenda or “call” for this special session is set by Gov. Greg Abbott and includes:

- Education savings accounts, vouchers
- Border security
- Public safety, specifically security, environmental quality and property ownership in areas like the Colony Ridge development in Liberty County
- Ending COVID restrictions: prohibiting COVID-19 vaccine mandates by private employers

While legislators are free to introduce any legislation they choose, only items specifically related to the call are to be considered, unless Gov. Abbott expands the call to include other items.

Sen. Angela Paxton introduced SB 34, which creates local school library advisory councils. It is the same as SB 13 which was passed by the Senate in the regular session, but did not pass the House. At this time, it is unclear whether or not SB 34 will advance; TLA will monitor the legislation closely.

Stories Inspire. Opportunities Await. Register for the TLA 2024 Annual Conference!
Take charge of your future! The TLA 2024 Annual Conference is here to inspire library community members with heartfelt stories, fresh perspectives, innovative education and more. Find the tools to help you better serve your communities. Register for TLA 2024.

You must be a TLA 2024 member to receive member registration rates. Join or renew today!

Book your hotel for TLA 2024
Make your hotel room reservations now as hotels are staring to fill. It is very important that you book your hotel room within the TLA block. Booking within the block supports TLA, ensures a competitive rate, can ease the challenges with reservation changes, and encourages networking as you'll be staying near other conference attendees. When you...
Join TLA for Digital Conversations
The goal of the Digital Conversations events is to open the dialogue on how public libraries are instruments for learning, equipping people with information resources, and offering access to technology. If you are curious about or involved in expanding digital access or literacy and the role that libraries can play in this effort, we’d love to have you participate. We’d especially like to see librarians, civic leaders, broadband suppliers, and workforce advocates as part of this conversation. These events are free. Co-presented by TLA and Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC). Register.

Dates/locations:
- October 21: Centennial Elementary School: 1301 North Utica, Lubbock, TX 79412. 1:00-3:00pm CT. (In conjunction with the District 9 meeting)
- October 28: Brazosport College: The Center for the Arts and Sciences: 400 College Blvd, Clute, TX 77531. 9:30-11:30am CT
- November 10: University of Houston- Victoria. 3007 N. Ben Wilson St. Victoria, TX 77901. 2:10-4:00pm CT. (In conjunction with the District 4 meeting.)

Register for your Fall District Meeting
District meetings provide regional settings for presenting continuing education, listening to updates on statewide legislation impacting the library profession, and recruiting members. The annual fall meetings are an opportunity for local librarians, para-professionals, and trustees from all types of libraries to meet, network, and set a foundation for collaborative efforts. It’s a great opportunity to get to know fellow librarians and library staff in your area! Full details and link to register here.

LiFTA Conference Stipend - Layperson
The Library Friends, Trustees, and Advocates Round Table (LiFTA) is pleased to offer a stipend of $600 to attend the TLA 2024 Annual Conference. This is a great opportunity for a trustee, friend, lay advocate or volunteer to experience conference and learn more about libraries. Feel free to share! More information and link to apply. Deadline is March 1, 2024.

TLA Awards and Scholarships - Applications Open
Calling all librarians! It’s time to honor brilliance in our community. Nominate exceptional librarians and library programs for the coveted TLA Awards. Deadline Feb. 1. Learn about the TLA Awards here. TLA scholarship applications are open too. More information about scholarships can be found here. Share this information with the library students you know!

TLA Grants - applications open
Applications for the J. Frank Dobie Library Trust Grant (for public libraries serving communities of 20K or less); the Jeannette and Jim Larson Grant (for public libraries, for mystery genre) and the Woll Memorial Fund (collection development grant, children’s literature, for school and public libraries) are open. Apply today!

Laura Bush Foundation collection grants: application open
The Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries provides funds to schools in need so that they can extend, update, and diversify the book and print collections in their libraries. Deadline Nov. 27. Eligibility requirements and link to application here.

Apply for the Texas Municipal League Director’s Association Award
Each year, TMLDA confers awards to public libraries for outstanding contributions to public service. The 2023 Libraries of Excellence Award is now open for applications! Libraries are so integral to their cities, providing much needed resources to support their community. Be recognized as a Library of Excellence. Apply now through December 30 to highlight your best work of the year and earn your award.

Membership Dues Survey
You will receive an email on Thursday, October 12 from Marcie Peck at mpeck@ellipsispartners.com with a link to a survey. Please complete the survey by Thursday, October 26.

Names in the News
Rebecca Martin is the new Meetings and Events Manager at TLA. Michele Chan Santos has been promoted to Communications and Grants Manager at TLA.

UPCOMING EVENTS
If you have not already done so, you will need to create a new password for the Members-Only area and TLA Engage in order to register for an event. Directions and instructional video here.

TLA Talks: Connecting All Texans to the Internet
October 17, 3:00 - 4:00pm (CT)
The Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) is in the midst of a once-in-a-generation opportunity to connect all Texans to the Internet. Libraries are important partners in this work, both to provide direct service as well as to share the importance of internet and digital skills to stakeholders. In this webinar, attendees will learn what the Texas Broadband Office has been hearing from our public engagement tour and continued outreach, how libraries can get involved in providing feedback, and how libraries may leverage historic funding to provide universal access to the Internet. Presenter: Cindy Fisher, Senior Broadband Development Coordinator. Free for TLA members. Register.

TLA Talks: Kittens in the Library - Building Community Partnerships at the Georgetown Public Library
November 14, 3:00 - 4:00 pm (CT)
The staff of the IMLS Medal-winning Georgetown Public Library will discuss how they foster, develop, and launch community-based partnerships and events. GPL staff will break down their annual kitten adoption event with their local shelter as a case study. Hear all about the success and the pitfalls of programming with outside partners and organizations. Free for TLA members. Register.

TLA Self-Paced Learning
TLA Self-Paced Learning is a chance for you to earn CE credit from the comfort and convenience of your home or office. These on-demand learning sessions cover topics including management, user services, librarianship, literature, and technology. How it works: You select the sessions you would like to view. You make the purchase and view the sessions. You can purchase sessions one at a time, or bundled. More information and prices here.