TLA Statement on Executive Order to Open Texas in Phases
Texas libraries are community centers, offering critical services to hundreds of people a day, many from high-risk backgrounds such as seniors, and families with children. Protecting the health and safety of library employees, and the people they serve is the priority of all library leaders across the state.

The Texas Library Association supports our members as they are subject to directives from local governments or parent institutions regarding reestablishing in-person library services to the communities they serve. Throughout this crisis, decisions about library operations have been driven by local governments and parent institutions, therefore, no two libraries are experiencing this pandemic in the same manner. Click here for the full statement.

TLA Talks: Open Texas & Libraries, May 12
Gov. Abbott's announcement that libraries could open May 1 as part of the phased Open Texas plan came as a surprise to librarians around the state. TLA leadership quickly formed a COVID-19 Reopening Response team to develop resources and tools for our members to use as they plan for reopening.

First up? TLA Talks - a weekly online discussion focused on COVID-19 related issues. Our first interactive TLA Talks is Tuesday, May 12 at 3:30pm. Join members of the TLA response team: Christina Gola, University of Houston; Dan Burgard, University of North Texas Health Science Center; Manya Shorr, Fort Worth Public Library; and Mary Woodard, Mesquite ISD. There is no cost to participate, but you do need to register.

COVID-19 Relief CARES Act Grants for Libraries
Texas will receive approximately $2.6 million of the CARES Act funds allocated to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for COVID-19 relief. The Texas State Library & Archives Commission will administer these funds to assist Texas libraries. Half of the funds, $1.25 million, will be awarded in three rounds of grants, the first of which will be announced in May. TSLAC anticipates awarding grants in early July.

TLA Membership Meeting May 8
Please join TLA President Christina Gola and Executive Director Shirley Robinson at the TLA Membership meeting on May 8 at 10 a.m. CT. Bring your ideas and observations to this annual forum for all TLA members. Discuss hot issues facing TLA. Register for the meeting here.

TCAL Webinar Addresses Reopening
The Texas Council of Academic Libraries (TCAL) welcomed more than 230 academic librarians from across the state to their recent webinar on reopening in the wake of the Governor Greg Abbott’s announcement last week. TCAL board leadership has been hard at work capturing resources and key findings that evolved from the webinar that will be shared on their website. TCAL will look to schedule additional webinars for timely and relevant conversations to support members during the summer leading up to their Annual Conference, scheduled for September 14 -15, 2020.

Annual Assembly Will Be Virtual
After considering many factors, including the continued health risks of large in-person meetings, availability of travel funds, and time away from work as our members return to in-person attendance, the TLA executive board made the decision to cancel the in-person component of the 2020 Annual Assembly meeting which was scheduled to take place in Austin July 6-9. Dates for the virtual Annual Assembly have not yet been finalized. The board, staff and ProCo 2021 leadership are working quickly, but intentionally, to create a productive framework to accommodate the business activities of the Annual Assembly. Our goal is to announce the timing and process for business meetings, officer training and 2021 Conference programming by May 18.

**May 15 Deadline for Texas Book Festival Grants**
Applications for [Texas Book Festival Grants](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) are due Friday, May 15. The grants are awarded to support collection enhancement for Texas public libraries. More than $100,000 in grants were awarded in 2019. Applications can be mailed to the TLA office, or emailed directly to wendyw@txla.org. If you have any questions about the application, please contact bookfest@texasbookfestival.org.

**Congratulations to the TALL Texans Class of 2020!**
We are delighted to announce the newest members of the TALL Texans Leadership Development Institute. See the participant list here. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, TALL Texans has moved to November 15 - 18 at the Montserrat Retreat Center, Lake Dallas, TX.

**TLA 2021 in San Antonio: Book Your Hotel**
In partnership with onPeak, we’ve secured discounted rates at a selection of San Antonio hotels. Through onPeak we’re able to offer you convenient and affordable options for your trip to Texas Library Association Annual Conference 2021. onPeak is the only hotel provider endorsed by Texas Library Association Annual Conference 2021, and we encourage you to book through them early for the best selection and price.

**Names in the News**
- Cherie Baker, elementary school librarian in Manor ISD, passed away in April.
- Yvonne Chandler, University of North Texas, received the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Law Libraries.
- Jimmie Lyn Harris, librarian at Texas Woman’s University, passed away in April.

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**A Vision for All Texans**

**TLA 2020 Virtual Summer of Learning**

TLA is continuing our virtual conference experience into the summer with **TLA 2020 Virtual Summer of Learning**. On June 2, July 7 and August 4, we’ll have a brand-new, live virtual author session and live online discussion. We will also be adding 20+ new education sessions to the portal on each of these days. Stay tuned to hear who our keynote speakers will be!

If you are already registered for Virtual, you will have access to Summer of Learning programming at no extra charge.

Find out more about Summer of Learning [here](http://www.texaslibrary.org). And remember to check out our awesome Exhibitor Showcase and Exhibitor Resources!

**For those of you who are not yet registered for the Virtual Conference - sign up now!**
**Download the Conference App**

Be sure to load the TLA conference app for quick access to the most up-to-date list of all sessions, speaker list, exhibitor list, sponsors and other information. Search for Texas Library Association at the App Store.

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**Sponsored Ad**

Join us at ALA Virtual, a unique virtual space that will allow us to remain connected, move forward with our careers, and support our communities.

Participants will be inspired by notable featured speakers, take part in live chats with authors, and network with peers via social activities.

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**Continuing Education**

*All webinars are FREE to TLA members. Visit the TLA Webinar page for more information. (All times are Central Time.) For information about the AZ webinars, visit the A-Z training page.*

May 12 1 - 2 pm  
**AZ: Keeping Up With Trends**

May 13 12-12:30  
**TASL Lunch & Learn: Meet the Executive Director and President**

May 20 12-12:30  
**TASL Lunch & Learn: 6 Fun Ways to Integrate AASL Standards**

May 27 12 -12:30 pm  
**TASL Lunch & Learn: Working Wonders with Wakelet!**
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