

## **TLA Elections open Feb. 18**

The Texas Library Association elects volunteer leaders at the beginning of each year. In 2021, members will elect a president-elect, two representatives-at-large, and an ALA Councilor to serve on the Executive Board, and many board positions at the district, division, and round table levels. The 2021 Election opens Feb. 18 and closes March 11. To vote, you must have renewed your TLA membership by Jan. 31. [Meet the board candidates](#). View the videos from our two candidates for President-Elect; [Marty Rossi](#) and [Mary Woodard](#).

## **New 2x2 and Lariat Reading Lists Released**

TLA is delighted to announce the [2021 Lariat Adult Fiction Reading List](#) and the [2021 2x2 Reading List](#). The goal of the Lariat Adult Fiction Reading List is to highlight outstanding fiction (25 titles each year) that is “simply a pleasure to read.” The 2x2 list comprises the best of recent books meant for children aged two to grade two.

## **TLA Awards Nomination Deadline Extended to Feb. 14**

TLA awards honor everything from lifetime achievement and outstanding services to libraries, to innovative programming and creative branding. Visit [the TLA Awards site](#) for details on all of the TLA and TLA unit awards, and submit those nominations by Feb. 14!

## **Texas Bluebonnet Award Voting Deadline Extended to Feb. 15**

Just a few more days to get your students' votes in for this year's Texas Bluebonnet Award. You can find our [TBA Voting guide here](#).

## **Branding Iron Award Nominations Due Feb. 15**

The Texas Library Association's [Branding Iron Awards](#) honor the inspiring and creative marketing and public relations work libraries do with awards presented in several categories, and one overall Best in Show winner. The deadline to submit applications for the Branding Iron Award is Feb. 15.

## **Ted Wanner, TLA Director of Education and Member Engagement, retiring**

TLA's beloved Director of Education and Member Engagement, Ted Wanner, will be retiring on Feb. 26. He has led our leadership programs, Launch, TALL Texans, and Executive Leadership Immersion, for many years, as well as being a key component in many years of memorable TLA Annual Conferences and hundreds of webinars. From Ted: “The last ~15 years have been an amazing experience. I've been privileged to work with outstanding professionals at TLA and all over Texas. I've also worked with famous world-class celebrities and dedicated volunteers in tiny Texas towns. All of it has been a joy to serve the cause of free and equal access to information at the greatest library association in the country.” Please join us in wishing him the best in his new journey.

## **TLA Has Moved!**

The Texas Library Association headquarters office has moved! Please update your records with our new mailing address:

*Texas Library Association  
3420 Executive Center Drive, Suite 301  
Austin, TX 78731*

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## TLA 2021 News

Make sure to browse through the [Winter TLJ](#) to see descriptions of the 200+ educational sessions! There are many exciting programs planned for all types of librarians (school, public, special, academic.)



[Register now.](#)

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## Names in the News

**Lois Bebout**, former Associate Director, General Libraries—University of Texas, Austin, passed away in San Antonio on Jan. 5.

**Dr. James “Jim” Conyers**, director of the University of Houston African American studies program, passed away on Jan. 25.

**Athena N. Jackson** has been selected for the position of Dean of University of Houston Libraries and Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair, effective Feb. 15, 2021.

CTLS Executive Director **Laurie Mahaffey** retired at the end of January 2021.

**Tommi Myers** is retiring as the director of the Llano County Library.

**Bonnie Pierson** was named the new library director of the Bastrop Public Library.

The Briscoe Center for American History accepted **Sims McCutchan's** WPA/Federal Writers Project collection as a named collection in their archives. McCutchan was a librarian at Houston Public Library who passed away in 2018.

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## Continuing Education

Feb. 25 | 2 - 3pm | [Register](#)

### **Journaling in a Time of Uncertainty.**

Presenter: Lisa Johnson, Eanes ISD

In these uncertain times, journaling is a way to regain some clarity and normalcy. This webinar details the why for journaling (e.g., reasons as well as the research benefits), shares multiple examples (a range from simple to artistic), provides a list of ideas and prompts, and suggests a list of supplies and tools (both analog and digital).

March 2 | 3:30 - 4:30pm | [Register](#)

### **Intellectual Freedom & Social Justice**

Presenter: Jamie LaRue

In recent years there has been a new tension between freedom from censorship, and a renewed desire to promote human equity. Join us March 2 to discuss the role the modern library can play. Our presenter is Jamie LaRue, the former executive director of both the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, and the Freedom to Read Foundation.

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## Join us for Battledecks!

Attention TLA members: [Watch Battledecks TONIGHT](#) and then sign up for the March contest! Don't miss the finals during TLA 2021 After Hours!

Virtual battledecks is a fun improv game that challenges contestants to deliver a presentation on the fly using an unknown slidedeck containing random (often hilarious) images. Bring your favorite beverage and snack, and get ready to rumble!

Interested participants, [sign up here](#).

All are welcome to tune in and cheer on the contestants TONIGHT, [Thursday, Feb. 11](#) AND [Thursday, March 11](#) @7:00 PM.

A graphic for 'Thirsty Thursday Battledecks'. It features a pink top section with the word 'Thirsty' in white and 'Thursday' in a white box. Below this is a light pink section with '7:00 PM' and 'Feb. 11th' in white script. The word 'BATTLEDECKS' is written vertically in white on dark blue bars on the left and right. At the bottom, it says 'Presented By TALL Texans Round Table' in dark blue.



**Texas Library Association**  
**We've moved! Please update your records with our new address.**

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