



www.tmlda.org

TMLDA COMMUNIQUE

Spring 2006

Texas Municipal Library Directors Association is an Affiliate of the Texas Municipal League

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Becky Sullivan

When Lisa Harper Wood wrote to entreat me to fill the vacated position of President-Elect of this organization, I thought she'd made a mistake. Although I'd been a dues-paying member of TMLDA since 1989, I'd never really been involved. That lack of participation has been a serious omission on my part. Now, thanks to Lisa and my pathological inability to say "no", I have a chance to rectify my earlier error. I hope to do justice to the honor bestowed upon me.

Perhaps you are like I was – interested, but “too busy” to devote time to yet another organization and more meetings. TLA, PLA, ALA – like TMLDA they're all important to our professional development and to our political voice. However, for the most part, our bosses – city managers, mayors, and council members – aren't terribly impressed by those groups. As an affiliate of the Texas Municipal League, TMLDA presents a unique opportunity to participate in an organization that is recognized and respected by those to whom we report.

And what better way to dazzle your bosses than to receive an Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award from that very organization! You know your library is excellent – let them hear it from a source they respect. Twenty

libraries applied for and were awarded the Achievement in Excellence in Libraries Award for 2005. Representatives of TMLDA are visiting council meetings across the state to make official (and impressive) award presentations. If you weren't a recipient for 2005, be a 2006 award winner. Check out the requirements on the TMLDA web site. You'll be surprised how easy it is to be honored and to make that first step toward becoming an active member of TMLDA. *(See p. 3 for more information and a list of award recipients.)*

TMLDA
at
the TLA Conference

Wednesday, April 26
2:00 - 3:50 p.m.

Join in the discussion on
program plans for the
TML Conference
in October.



TMLDA Director's Report

Joyce Baumbach

A TML board meeting was held on March 3, 2006 in Austin. Usually TML would be planning for the 2007 legislative program at this time and they are. However, it looks like another special legislative session is coming in April or May. The school funding system will be the main topic as the court gave the legislature until June 1, 2006 to fix the funding. (*Ed. Note: the Special Session has been called for April 17, 2006.*)

Some of the other topics of the special session may include the use of eminent domain, economic development authority, central appraisal districts' operations and governance, water supply and conservation, implementation of the new state-issued cable franchise system, relocation of utilities, compensation for the use of public rights-of-way, and affordable housing.

Two other items of interest came from the meeting.

1. TML and ATT-Texas (SBC) are working together to protect Senate Bill 5 from federal legislation. SB 5 dealt with furthering competition in the communications industry.
2. A resolution was passed to amend the TML constitution and will be brought before the membership at the conference in October. The resolution called for member dues to be paid from the city's own municipal funds.

The next TML board meeting is June 16, 2006 in Hurst. Also, mark your calendars for the TML Annual Conference in Austin, October 25-27, 2006.



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**Achievement of
Excellence
in Libraries Award
was presented to**

Allen Public Library
Cedar Park Public Library
Farmers Branch Manske Library
Flower Mound Public Library
Grand Prairie Public Library System
Grapevine Public Library
Harker Heights Public Library
Highland Park Library
Hurst Public Library
Leon Valley Public Library
Lewisville Public Library
Mansfield Public Library
McKinney Memorial Public Library
Nicholson Memorial Library System
(Garland)
Plano Public Library System
Richardson Public Library
Richland Hills Public Library
Rowlett Public Library
Victoria Public Library
Wm. T. Cozby Public Library

**Achievement of Excellence
in Libraries Award**

Does your library provide a variety of programs and services? Do you market them to the target audience? Are literacy and collaborative efforts a part of your service. Has your service improved through updated policies, a website and staff training? Then you may be eligible for the Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award.

This award spotlights your library and demonstrates to your elected and appointed officials that your library is an excellent library. It is a visual depiction of all the wonderful programs and services you provide throughout the year.

How can you apply for this award? Go to the TMLDA website at www.tmlda.org and print off the application forms and FAQ. Do it now – because December (when the application is due) is too late to start gathering your information. Prepare an application binder and between now and December 1st place every piece of information you prepare for your library in the binder; children's programs, adult programs, staff programs. Then during the month of December you can organize all the information you've been gathering all year and add in any missing information. It's that simple!

Why do it? The publicity is enormous! Your award will be presented at a City Council or Library Board meeting (your choice) by a member of TMLDA. Your binder, which holds an entire year's worth of wonderful programming and services, will be mailed directly to the elected or appointed official of your choice.

TMLDA Newsletter Editor

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