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# TMLDA COMMUNIQUE

Summer 2008

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Kerry McGeath

I am currently working with TML to make it easier for prospective members to sign up, and pay their dues online. It is only available for current members to renew memberships at this time. We hope that we can get this to happen in the next couple of months. Once it is up and running I will send the information out to each of the Regional Library Systems to see if we can drum up memberships.

The program this year at TML in San Antonio will be focused on the ICMA study related to libraries and how important they are and the value they create in communities. I want the program to appeal to City Manager types at TML to see if we can do some promoting of the value of libraries (per the ICMA report) to City Managers from around the state.

**The TMLDA meeting at annual assembly will be Tuesday July 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to Noon.**

Jenny Ur, the incoming President, is no longer practicing in Texas so we will be looking to elect someone to take her spot as President for next year. If you would like to be nominated or would like to nominate someone please contact myself or Sheila Henderson at your earliest convenience.

Sue Compton will be handling the booth at TML this year, as always – if you would like to volunteer to help us please let her know. She has always done such a super job with the

booth, newsletter, and everything that is asked of her and I would like to take a moment to thank her for all she does.

TMLDA awards – almost all the awards that were given this year have been received by City Councils or city representatives. We had 20 winners this year (we had 21 last year) and most of those winners are from the DFW metro area – I would like to do what I can to promote the awards around the state. Dolores Greenwald and I have handled the awards for the last couple of years and have a pretty good system down, so we are prepared for more winners – attaching the TML name to the award does really make a difference and is quite impressive to local government.

**Maurine Gray**

**Former Director, Beaumont Public Library**

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Maurine Gray, former director of the Beaumont Public Library. She spent 42 years with the library system and even after retirement in 2006 she worked part time on special projects for the library. Maurine was active in TMLDA, TLA and ALA. She was president of TMLDA in 1971-72 and 1992-93. In 1992 she was selected TMLDA Library Director of the Year. The Beaumont Enterprise newspaper printed a wonderful article on Maurine that truly captures her spirit. You may read it at:

[http://beaumontenterprise.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19794725&BRD=2287&PAG=461&dept\\_id=512588&rfi=6](http://beaumontenterprise.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19794725&BRD=2287&PAG=461&dept_id=512588&rfi=6)

## TMLDA Director's Report

Joyce Baumbach  
TML Board Meeting  
June 20, 2008

The Texas Municipal League Board met on June 20 in Rockport hosted by TML President and Mayor of Rockport Todd Pearson. A nominating committee was named to review candidate data forms for TML president-elect.

The board heard litigation updates from TML attorneys Scott Houston and Bennett Sandlin. One is the case of AT&T vs. City of Houston regarding utility companies' obligation to relocate lines for city projects in right of ways. Also, an update regarding the ongoing appeal of City of Alpine and the open meeting acts. The 5<sup>th</sup> circuit court of appeal may find one part of the open meetings act unconstitutional. An ongoing concern for elected officials is that they feel they have no rights concerning freedom of speech due to their elected position.

Another case being heard in Federal District Court in San Antonio concerns online hotel booking services not paying the full amount of local and state hotel and motel taxes. A class action suit has been filed by 31 cities regarding this case.

The legislative update was given by TML Executive Director Frank Sturzl. Revenue and appraisal caps were discussed. TML continues to monitor legislative committees working on both issues. TML continues to gather data on property tax. The recent data shows school districts collect nearly 59 percent of all property taxes generated in Texas, while cities collected only 15 percent. If school districts are hampered from generating revenue through property taxes due to appraisal caps, the state would need to pick up education expenses.

### **TMLDA Newsletter Editor**

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One other item the legislative committee is looking at is truth in taxation since they believe it doesn't work. They are looking at requiring cities to give more notice about tax rates to citizens in the form of mail notices or utility billing inserts. TML believes more notice to citizens is much more favorable to cities than revenue caps.

Two TML Constitutional amendments were approved by the board and will go to membership in October. The amendments are allowing all TML past presidents to serve on the board for as long as they remain in municipal office, and allowing regions to hold elections for vacant regional director positions on the TML board at any time. Currently, the constitution requires regions to hold elections immediately preceding the annual conference.

The board also approved the TML FY 2008-2009 budget and hiring Glass & Company as the TML auditor. The next board meeting will be October 29 in San Antonio at the annual conference.

## **TMLDA at TLA Annual Assembly**

**Tuesday, July 8  
10:00 – Noon**

**Find out what is happening within  
TMLDA and our plans for the  
2008 TML Conference in  
San Antonio.**

**TML Conference  
Oct. 29-31  
San Antonio**

**TMLDA OFFICERS  
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**The TMLDA Achievement  
of Excellence in Libraries Award**

The Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award is an annual award given by the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association to libraries that demonstrate their service excellence through the attainment of ten service criteria.

**Who may apply for the Achievement of  
Excellence in Libraries Award?**

This award is open to all Texas Municipal Library Directors Association members and the library they represent.

**How do I become a member of TMLDA?**

Membership in TMLDA is open to Municipal and County Library Directors, System Coordinators, Library management staff, and Assistant System Coordinators. There is an annual membership fee of \$50. The annual membership runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Application Process**

Application information and official packet are available at the TMLDA website

[www.tmlda.org](http://www.tmlda.org)

All entries must be completed and submitted between December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> and should cover the most recently completed fiscal year (typically ending September 30<sup>th</sup>).

**Editor's note:** The application process for this award is fairly simple if YOU START NOW. The kudos you will receive from your elected officials goes beyond many other awards. TMLDA has set up an award process that will demonstrate to your elected officials all the wonderful things you do in your library. Call me and let me tell you how this award has benefited the Flower Mound Public Library  
972-874-6151 Sue Compton, Director