

FRIENDS FORECAST

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES OF TEXAS

Spring 2005

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Back in the Saddle Again

The 79th Legislature Gets Started with a Bang

*Peggy D. Rudd, director & librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission*

Buses standing end-to-end in front of the Zavala building, every available parking spot filled in the Capitol Complex, standing room only in the Capitol Grill – all are signs that the Texas Legislature is back in session. It's always a busy time for state agencies, who have to appear before legislative committees and provide information and materials to support legislative decision making.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission included four Exceptional Item Requests in its budget, called the Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR), for 2006-2007. Exceptional Items are additional funds that an agency requests above the "base" or "business as usual" budget. These Exceptional Item Requests are:

1. **Restoration of 5% reduction to the base budget** – Each state agency was directed to submit a budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 that was 5% less than the budget for the 2004-2005 biennium. For TSLAC, this equals over \$744,000. Our top priority is to restore these funds to the base so our budget would be no worse off than it was in this biennium. It's not a great place to be, but it's better than being "down" 5%. The restoration of these funds would positively impact every service we provide Texans: restored funding for Loan Star Libraries and Library Systems grants; restored staffing in the Talking Book Program; and continuation of archival digitization efforts and records management assistance.

2. **TexShare Databases** – These online electronic resources have brought research tools to even the smallest college, university, and public libraries in our state. TSLAC is asking for additional funds for both years of the biennium: \$6,550,000 in FY2006 and \$7,550,000 in FY2007. These increases would bring the state's support for TexShare databases to 50¢ per capita, and restore funding to the FY 2002-2003 level when Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF) grants helped us greatly expand the databases.

3. **Loan Star Libraries** – This program of direct assistance to our state's 540 public libraries began in 2001 with \$2.9 million. This amount was reduced to \$2.65 million as a result of budget cuts this biennium. TSLAC is requesting an increase of \$5 million in FY2006 and \$6 million in FY2007. Public libraries can

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 1

***Board of Directors of the
Friends of Libraries
& Archives of Texas***

1:30 p.m.

Room 314,

Lorenzo de Zavala Archives
& Library Building,
1201 Brazos Street, Austin.

March 2

Texas Independence Day

March 31

Cesar Chavez Day

April 5

***Texas State Library
& Archives Commission***

Time, to be announced.

Room 314,

Lorenzo de Zavala Archives
& Library Building,
1201 Brazos Street, Austin.

April 5-8

***Texas Library Association
Annual Conference***

April 22

TexShare Advisory Board

10:15 a.m.

Room 314,

Lorenzo de Zavala Archives
& Library Building,
1201 Brazos Street, Austin

May 16

***Texas State Library
& Archives Commission***

Time, to be announced.

Room 314,

Lorenzo de Zavala Archives
& Library Building,
1201 Brazos Street, Austin.

May 31

Memorial Day

The Legacy of the White House Conferences on Library & Information Services

***Peggy D. Rudd, director & librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission***

There have been two White House Conferences on Library and Information Services. The first, held in 1979 during the term of President Jimmy Carter, and the second, held in 1991 during the administration of George H. W. Bush. Both of these conferences identified strategies that later would weave themselves into the very fabric of library and information services nationwide.

Over 800 delegates attended the 1979 White House Conference, representing more than 100,000 people who had attended Governor's Conferences on Library and Information Services at the state level. As a young librarian with a freshly minted masters degree, I had the privilege of participating in the Texas Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services, which set the tone and prepared the way for the success of the 1979 national conference. Some results of the 1979 White House Conference include adoption of a national library symbol (depicting a person reading an open book), emphasis on resource sharing and networking among all types of libraries, greater public awareness of libraries, legislation supporting Native American libraries, emphasis on a larger role for the Library of Congress as our national library, and a major focus on the library's role in furthering the cause of literacy.

The 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services attracted 986 delegates and alternates selected by the states, the Native American community, the territories, the District of Columbia, and the federal library community. Among the results of the 1991 White House Conference was the establishment of the Library/Museum/Head Start Partnership Program, a greater focus on library services to children and teens, emphasis on school libraries, heightened awareness of the importance of intergenerational programs and services, greater emphasis on multicultural programs, services, and collections, and the creation of model library marketing programs, particularly through the American Library Association, with campaigns such as "@ Your Library."

The true and most important legacy of these state and national conferences lies in the extent to which a cadre of citizen supporters of libraries were recruited and mobilized to carry the message of libraries to the state house and the White House. For the first time, citizens were involved in a major way in identifying problems and solutions that could further the development of libraries and extend their benefits to people all across our nation. Those citizen supporters have continued to make their voices heard, have sustained their commitment to activism, and have proved that citizens can take their governments into their own hands and shape the kind of society and the kinds of societal services that will improve the quality of life for all of us. I am so thankful that these citizen activists are on our side!

79th Legislature

Continued from Page 1

use Loan Star Libraries grants to support any operating expenses. There are so many wonderful examples of how libraries are using these funds. The Abilene Public Library partnered with Meals on Wheels and More to deliver books-on-tape, large print books, and other library materials to homebound senior citizens. The W. Walworth Harrison Public Library in Greenville worked with the local school administration to provide an outreach program for students at area elementary schools, and over 500 children participated. Arlington Public Library used Loan Star Libraries funds to upgrade computer software on computer in the library's homework centers, which were used by 49,161 students last year. The Van Alstyne Public Library organized a Teen Council to advise library staff on teen programs and to volunteer to develop and present programs for

younger children.

4. Modernization and Renovation of Facilities—TSLAC has included a request for over \$21 million in General Obligation bond financing to pay for modernization and renovation of the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building, the State Records Center Complex, and the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty.

On February 1, State Librarian Peggy Rudd and Commissioner Martha Doty Freeman appeared before the Senate Finance Committee, and on February 8, Director Rudd and Commission Chairman Sandra J. Pickett appeared before the General Government Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations.

Summary of the October 29, 2004 Friends Meeting

*Erica McKewen, public information officer
& Liz DeMoss, executive assistant
Texas State Library & Archives Commission*

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Libraries and Archives of Texas met on October 29, 2004 in Room 314 of the Lorenzo de Zavala Archives and Library Building, 1201 Brazos Street, Austin, Texas. President JoAnne Moore called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

The February 16, 2005, Legislative Day Reception was discussed. State Librarian, Peggy Rudd summarized the progress of the committee and their future plans. The reception will be an opportunity to showcase the work of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the value of Texas' libraries.

Kathleen Jenkins, director of Texas Stories, spoke to the group about a potential partnership between Texas Stories and the Friends.

The board discussed the upcoming 2005 membership campaign. A letter will be mailed to current and prospective Friends members.

The board discussed the annual membership meeting

of the Friends at the Texas Library Association Annual Conference. The meeting will include an author reading and presentation by Bill Crawford and John Anderson, authors of 'Please Pass the Biscuits, Pappy.' The book showcases a collection of rare photographs from the Texas State Archives.

The photography from the book will be exhibited at a private reception for Friends members on November 5, 2004, at the Oswald Gallery in Austin. All Friends members will be invited to view and purchase exhibition prints from the book, as well as listen to a gallery talk by the authors. Texas State Library and Archives Commission Staff will serve as ushers and waiters, and fruit, cheese, wine, and, of course, biscuits will be served.

Plans for the reception at the Oswald Gallery were discussed and Ms. Rudd distributed a questionnaire for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

President JoAnne Moore adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

Advocacy Basics

Bernadette Murphy
ALA Washington Office

We in the ALA Washington Office would like to encourage trustees to become advocates for all of America's libraries by contacting elected officials and letting them know about important library issues.

Contacting a senator or representative for the first time can be daunting. So we've put together a simple guide that we hope will help you make that first contact. And please – don't ever hesitate to call the ALA Washington Office if you want more information on an issue, tips on talking to a particular member of Congress, or more! We're happy to help you advocate for libraries!

PERSONAL VISITS

★ Face-to-face discussion is the most effective means of communication and essential to the establishment of a solid working relationship.

★ Constituents are always welcome in Washington, D.C. All legislators also have one or more local district offices that they visit during congressional recesses and between sessions. Visits at the home office will often be more convenient for you than Washington visits. Regardless of where you visit your legislator, be sure you have a firm appointment. To make an appointment, you can call any member of Congress toll-free at 1-800-839-5276. District staff members may offer to meet with you instead of the member of Congress – close working relationships with a member's staff can benefit you in many ways.

★ Follow up your visit with a note of appreciation for the time given to you, and include any additional information suggested by the visit.

LETTERS, LETTERS, LETTERS

★ Letters are the chief fuel powering any legislative vehicle – they are read, they elicit responses, and they represent votes. Each letter writer is deemed to represent several like-minded, less motivated constituents.

★ Letters may be formal or informal, typewritten or handwritten. Your letter should state your position, give reasons for that position, and give the legislator reasons to support the position. If you are asking for support for a particular bill, cite it by number and author, and give its title or subject matter. You can find bill and

issue information on the Washington Office Web pages-
www.ala.org/washoff.

★ Because of additional security measures, letters sent through the mail take much longer to get to senators and representatives than in years past. On time sensitive issues, consider using e-mail.

E-MAIL

★ E-mail is the fastest and easiest way to communicate with legislators when the need for action is critical (for example, just prior to a committee or floor vote). Visit ALA's Legislative Action Center at <http://capwiz.com/ala/home> to look up your members of Congress by zip code and send personalized e-mails to your senators and representatives.

TELEPHONE CALLS

★ Once you have made the acquaintance of your representative, telephone calls are appropriate and easy. Make them sparingly to the legislator, whose time is heavily occupied. Regular contact with a staff member can be just as effective.

★ Times to telephone include: to ask support before a hearing or floor vote; to ask for help with legislative colleagues; and to convey urgent local concern. Judge how far to pursue the issue by the reaction.

Five Basic Rules for Effective Communication

1. **Be Brief.** A legislator's time is limited. So is yours.
2. **Be Appreciative.** Acknowledge past support and convey thanks for current action.
3. **Be Specific.** Refer to local library and district needs.
4. **Be Informative.** Give reasons why a measure should be supported.
5. **Be Courteous.** Be positive and polite. Ask for a specific action or support without being demanding or threatening.

Good Luck!

Report on November 5, 2004 Oswald Gallery Reception

*Erica McKewen, public information officer
Texas State Library & Archives Commission*

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas hosted a photograph exhibition and private reception in honor of the Friends membership, on Nov. 5, 2004, at Oswald Gallery.

Twenty-six exhibition prints from the Texas State Archives were on display at the gallery. The photographs are part of a fascinating but fragile collection of Department of Public Safety photographs housed at the state library. The photographs on exhibition revealed enlightening details about the daily life of Texans during the 1940s, as photographers trailed Governor W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel on the campaign

trail. The photographs were used in a book about Pappy O' Daniel titled, *Please Pass the Biscuits, Pappy: Pictures of Governor W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel* by Bill Crawford. Photo Archivist John Anderson collaborated on the project.

Bill and John gave a presentation during the reception. The Friends auctioned off a framed print, which sold for \$200.

The photographs on display at Oswald Gallery are currently displayed at the State Theater, and they will be displayed in the Capitol Rotunda during March of this year.

Governor W. Lee O'Daniel and Photographs of an Era

Mark your calendars! The Friends of Libraries and Archives of Texas will host their annual membership meeting in conjunction with the Texas Library Association Annual Conference in Austin on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, 2:00-3:00 p.m. In addition to handling Friends business and election of officers, you will be treated to a program titled, 'Governor W. Lee O'Daniel and Photographs of an Era.'

The program is based on the recently published book by Bill Crawford, *Please Pass the Biscuits, Pappy*, a biography of Governor W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel. "Pappy" O'Daniel was a unique icon in Texas history. In the 1930s, O'Daniel used radio shows with the Light Crust Doughboys (which launched the career of another Texas icon, Bob Wills) to sell flour and promote himself. The book showcases historic photos taken by employees of the Texas Department of Public Safety who captured the Governor's many trips around the state. The post-Depression era photographs are reminiscent of the work of WPA photographers Russell Lee and Dorothea Lange and most of the photos are previously unpublished.

The program will feature the collaboration

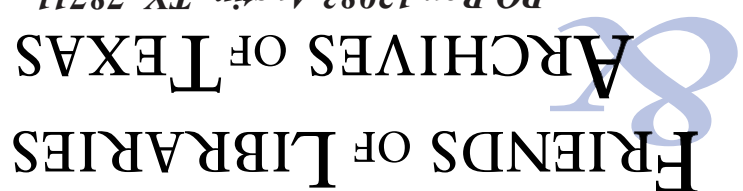
between the author and John Anderson, Preservation Officer at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, who wrote the introduction to Crawford's book and who knows more about Texas prints and photographs than practically anyone living. The



Governor O'Daniel with James Lewis Kraft (Kraft Foods) and the Hillbilly Boys. Broadcasting from the Texas Governor's Mansion, March 10, 1940.

presenters will discuss the life and times of Governor O'Daniel, the unique photos that document not only his administration but also 1930s Texas, and how libraries can use their own historical photographs to tell their unique stories.

PO Box 12983 Austin, TX 78711



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**Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas
Membership Form**

Name _____

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Membership Options

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Senior (65+) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Affiliate Organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Family | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Business Friends | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Lifetime Membership | |

Affiliate Organizations

Organization Name _____ Number of Members _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

*Make checks payable to the
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