

Boone Tree Library Association Report to the TLA Board - #30

March 19, 2004

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

The regular meeting date has been changed from March 16, 2004 to March 23, 2004. An announcement about our meeting and Potluck Dinner beforehand has been sent to the membership via email and through the TLA listserv. The conference grants that Boone Tree advertised went unclaimed, with no applications being submitted. We will share a table with ETLA and CALA at the conference and make promotional information about Boone Tree available for people to take home. Boone Tree now has its own website – www.BooneTree.org – which will be “unveiled” to our membership at the upcoming meeting at Northeast State.

UPCOMING MEETING INFORMATION AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

So as to not conflict with the schedule of the upcoming TLA Conference in Knoxville, Boone Tree moved its next membership meeting to Tuesday, March 23. The meeting will be held at the Basler Library on the Blountville campus of Northeast State Community College, in Room L106. Preceding the meeting, we will host a Potluck Dinner co-sponsored by the TLA Student Chapter at UTK to help get DE students in our region involved with Boone Tree and to provide an opportunity for these same students to meet face-to-face, if only for a while. The Potluck Dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will wrap up by 6:45 p.m., to give us a few minutes to get things cleared away before our meeting. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Speakers at the upcoming meeting include Tiffani Conner, TLA Student President (who will speak about some of the accomplishments of the TLA Student Chapter this year) and Mark Thomas, Director of Watauga Regional Library (who will address the issue of filtering in libraries from the prospective of a public library director, a regional library director, and of the Chair of the “Tennessee Filtering Committee” that recently made its findings available through TLA and other information agencies.

Business items at the meeting will include voting on another change to the Association’s Constitution and By-Laws – the issue of raising membership dues. Since its inception in the 1960’s, Boone Tree’s dues have been \$5. At our last meeting, however, a proposal came from the floor to raise the dues to \$10 per year in light of the number of members and level of our current Treasury. Although Boone Tree is not in financial straits, we have talked much in the past year about developing a web site and, with roughly \$135 in dues annually, there wouldn’t be much left over to maintain a domain name and server space. Securing “free” space somewhere has not yet worked out and the membership seems very interested in having a web site – so much so that it is willing to raise its membership dues to help pay for such an expense. As a quorum of the membership was present at the meeting where this proposal originated, we foresee the amendment changes passing without issue.

We have also appointed a Nominating Committee to begin seeking candidates for our Fall 2004 elections. Our hope is to present the slate of candidates by August 1, along with bios, candidacy statements, etc., so that the membership has a chance to develop an informed opinion of those running for our offices. Past practices have presented those up for election at the meeting, introducing them by name only, typically only one candidate per office, and having election by a show of hands. Our goal for this election period is to conduct the elections on paper and tabulate the votes before the end of the meeting, announcing the winners at the end of the meeting. The Nominating Committee currently consists of Suresh Ponnappa, John Grubb (our current two-term Treasurer), Gail Campbell, and myself. The charge for the nominating committee is as follows: “Insomuch as possible, the Boone Tree Nominating Committee shall attempt to find at least two members in good standing who are willing to run for each of the four elected offices of the Boone Tree Library Association. Given the current small size of Boone Tree, those on the nominating committee may, themselves, be nominated for such candidacy. In the event that two members cannot be persuaded to run for any given office, one will suffice, but a slate of candidates shall be presented to the

Boone Tree Executive Board by August 1, 2004. This will allow candidates the opportunity to officially accept their nominations and to share biographical information to assist the membership in making its selections prior to the night of elections.”

CONFERENCE GRANT UNCLAIMED:

Since the Annual Conference is in East Tennessee this year, Boone Tree thought that we might generate some interest in both Boone Tree and the conference by offering a professional development grant to pay for the cost of registration. We did mandate that the applicants be members of TLA, however, since the price differentiation was so vast between prices for members and non-members. Originally, we advertised the grant for students and those with less than one year in the profession only. When no applications came in by the deadline, we broadened the scope to include those who had never been to a TLA conference before. We still had no applicants. One potential applicant had to back out after inquiring due to a conflict in schedules; another potential applicant told us point-blank that she did not wish to be a member of TLA and therefore would not pay to join. We thanked her for her interest, anyway, and took notes to pass on to future Boone Tree Executive Boards.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES:

In conjunction with ETLA and CALA, we will host a table at the annual conference in Knoxville and will supply Boone Tree bookmarks and brochures that can be taken by those interested. Many thanks to Martha Earl for coordinating this project and to TLA for not charging the regional affiliates to have the table at the conference. I hope that this will be the first of many cooperative opportunities between regional affiliates of TLA for the future!

BOONE TREE WEB SITE:

As we had no applicants for the conference grants and likewise incurred no costs for the Regional Affiliates table at the conference, the Boone Tree Executive Board voted at its meeting on Wednesday, March 3, to go ahead and make the move to secure the domain name www.BooneTree.org and to invest in server space to host a Boone Tree web site for the upcoming year. While Watauga Regional Library may still be an option for hosting our site at some point in the future, technological difficulties with their new server and having available funds for such a project now seemed like a good idea to the Officers. Our webmaster, Chris Demas (Northeast State Community College), procured the space and domain name for under \$100, leaving us with a healthy balance in our Treasury. He re-designed the site from his original designs last Fall and the site “went live” on Wednesday, March 10, although we will not announce the site formally until our upcoming meeting at Northeast State where Chris will “unveil” it through live computer connectivity during the membership meeting. He is currently exploring the feasibility of creating a Boone Tree listserv (we currently have an email list maintained by me that I forward announcements through).

Respectfully Submitted By,

Chrissie Anderson Peters, President
TLA Boone Tree Library Association #32