



S.C.L.R.T Newsletter Summer 2004

Summer 2004

Tocker Foundation provides funding for Small Libraries State-wide

The purpose of the Tocker Foundation is to distribute funds principally for the support, encouragement, and assistance to small rural libraries in Texas.

Our current emphasis is to assist in extending public library services to areas without service or with inadequate service. We wish to make library services accessible to individuals who, by reason of distance, residence, handicap, age, literacy level or other disadvantage, are unable to receive the benefits of public library services. In addition, Tocker strives to meet the particular needs of the individuals within the communities, including those with limited English speaking abilities. We assist libraries that serve

as community information referral centers and those that provide literacy programs for adults and school dropouts in cooperation with other organizations. We also work with those libraries that wish to extend access through the effective use of technology.

In addition to providing grants for programs and services, the Tocker Foundation also provides sti-

pendes for workshops and for attendance at the TLA Annual Conference. For additional

information please contact:
Tocker Foundation
3814 Medical Pkwy
Austin, TX 78756-4002
Office (512) 452-1044
Fax (512) 452-7690
www.Tocker.org

See page 3 for one librarian's story of her experience with the Tocker grants.

TOCKER FOUNDATION



Small Community Librarian of the Year honored at 2004 TLA Conference

Joyce Trent, Library Director of Leon Valley Public Library, was announced as this year's Librarian of the Year at the annual Dessert Social in San Antonio. She was



quite surprised by the honor, but those who know her wonder why it took so long. To quote from just one

of the nominations received for Joyce: she exemplifies the qualities needed to direct a small public library—leadership, initiative, creativity and ingenuity, Continued on page 3

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Special points of interest:

- New SCLRT Conference stipend announced.
- Nominations sought for Small Community Librarian of the Year Award
- TMLDA offers new award for libraries

SCLRT Announces New Conference Stipend

Small Community Libraries Round Table is pleased to announce they are offering a new stipend to help a librarian serving a community of 25,000 or less attend the Annual TLA Conference. The award can be used to pay for Conference registration, meals, hotel accommodations and mileage.

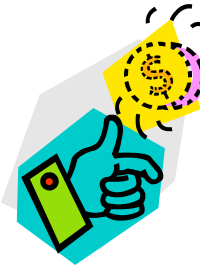
This will be the first year such a stipend is being offered by the Round Table. Monies raised from the Annual SCLRT Raffle and from donations will be used to finance this stipend.

Currently the Round Table provides funding for a librarian to attend

the Tall Texans Leadership Institute, but has never before offered a Conference stipend.

"Many librarians working in small communities simply can not afford to attend conference. We hope that this stipend will encourage greater participation in the business of the Round Table and in TLA," said Susan Mann, a Past Chair of the Round Table.

Guidelines for the award will be announced by June of 2004 and all librarians are encouraged to apply for



this stipend. Special consideration will be given to those librarians who have never attended a TLA Annual Conference.

The 2005 Annual Conference will be held in Austin, Texas April 5-8th, 2005.

Please contact Susan Mann for more information and an application. Susan Mann, Hillsboro Library, 118 South Waco Street, Hillsboro, Texas 76645 or phone 254-582-7385 smann@hillsborotx.org

SCLRT Officers for 2004-2005

Your officers for 2004-2005 are representative of a large geographical part of the state and bring a variety of talent and experience to their positions.

The Officers for this year are:

RoseAleta Laurell, Ingleside Public Library, Chair.

Shannon Bomar, Maffet Memorial Library, Groesbeck, Chair-Elect.

Diana Guthrie, Pleasanton Public Library, Secretary.

Dorothy Manning, Jourdanton Community Library, Treasurer.

Doris Herrington, Teague Public Library, Councilor.

Denise Milton, Jasper Public Library, Alter-

nate Councilor.

Carla Wilkins, Gibbs Memorial Library, Mexia, Past Chair.

Shelia Henderson, Pasadena Public Library, Executive Board Liaison.

All the board members welcome and encourage your suggestions and ideas.

"Join SCLRT and make your voice heard! United we stand a much better chance of being heard when we speak our concerns about vital library issues."



SCLRT Sponsors & Supporters

SCLRT has been blessed with many good friends, both private and corporate who have continuously and generously supported us over the years. We would like to thank the following sponsors for their commitment and dedication to our cause.

**The Tocker Foundation
Tim and Carol Timmons,**

of Star Book Sales

Donna Hotho, Hotho & Company.

**Margie Saulsbury, retired director,
Jasper Public Library**

Thank you all for your support and financial contributions.

Please support our sponsors.



What Tocker Has Meant to Our Library

Hansford County Library received its first Tocker grant back in 1996 to purchase a desk for our very first computer to be connected to the Internet. To date, our library has received seven Tocker grants. The grand total of funding received from the Tocker Foundation is \$34,410. Each of these grants was, however, for a very specific need.

To me, the first step in asking for a Tocker grant is identifying your library's need. After researching what it will take to meet this need, I then do my best to explain all of this on the application so that the Tocker Foundation will be able to understand exactly what is required, why and who will benefit. None of our grants has been for a great deal of money, but all have meant a great deal to our library and to our patrons.

I also would like to point out that I have been turned down by Tocker two times over the years since I began applying. If you are turned down, don't get discouraged and give up. Find out why - is it what you asked for or is it the way

you asked?

The Tocker Foundation is extremely easy to work with throughout the application and funding process. They send you a card to let you know they have received your request. After the committee has reviewed all of the applications, you receive a letter notifying you if your request has been chosen for funding or not. If so, they send you a contract and a check. Now, how easy is that? After you have expended all of the grant monies, you just write a letter telling the foundation how you spent it. Mr. Tocker has assured me on more than one occasion that they really do try to keep it as simple as possible for the small libraries because they realize that none of us has the time to spend on a lengthy or complicated application process.

In closing, my advice to you if you are considering applying for a Tocker grant is to first identify your library's need. Next, research how you can best meet this need. Know who will benefit from the grant if you receive it and

how. Finally, put all of this in your application and do it in "plain English" but be specific. It's not hard! The Tocker Foundation has been very generous to the Hansford County Library, and I encourage you to give them the chance to help your library as well - you won't be sorry you took the time and effort required as they really do their best to make it simple.

The grant application is available online at:
http://www.tocker.org/toc_guidelines.html

Sheri Benton,
Hansford County Library



TMLDA Announces New Library Award

Are you tired of watching the Parks Department beam in front of the City Council as they receive their annual service awards? Well, now it's our turn! The Achievement in Excellence in Libraries Award is an annual award given by the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association (TMLDA) to Libraries that demonstrate their excellence through the attainment of ten service criteria. This award is open to all TMLDA Members and the Library they represent.

Not yet a TMLDA member? Find out more

about the organization and download a membership application form at <http://www.tmlda.org> Your municipality need not be a member of TML in order for you to join and your membership allows you to participate in this unique award opportunity. Also, visit the website to learn more about the Achievement of Excellence Libraries Award and your chance to shine in front of



City Council!
Beth Scudder, Director
Texas Municipal Library Directors Association

Contact her at:
bscudder@mckinneytexas.org
or
972-547-7302

Joyce Trent Honored for Her Service to Leon Valley

Continued from page 1
problem-solving, the ability to work on many complex projects simultaneously, a love and interest in people, a work ethic worthy of Paul Bunyan, and the temperament of a saint."

In 1977, as a volunteer, Joyce helped open the library which consisted of donated books in a small manufactured building. A phenomenal library has developed from that quaint beginning, with over 54,000 items, an annual circulation of 42,000, and an annual program attendance of over

8,000 in a city population of 9,000. Her programming elevates her far above most: baby-sitting clinics, story hours, puppet shows, Tai Chi classes, breast cancer awareness programs, "Women Helping Women," literacy classes, delivery to homebound, library stamp club, science programs, poetry contests, genealogy classes, crime prevention workshops, annual breakfast with Santa, and the list goes on.

Joyce spearheaded the fundraising drive to build a new library in 1993 and then the

remodeling and addition in 2000. She saw that the library was automated, developed a webpage and added Internet access for library patrons. Many grants have been awarded due to her writing skills: J. Frank Dobie Award, Kronkosky Foundation grants, Ronald McDonald Children's Charities grant for a Youth Puppet Troupe and Tocker Foundation grants.

Leon Valley Public Library has received a Texas Library Association Benefactor Award and the San Antonio Express News Non-Continued on back page

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SCLRT is a Round Table of the Texas Library Association and supports the efforts and the unique challenges that face libraries and librarians serving small and rural communities. SCLRT is a voice for librarians all over the state and supports activities that engage and promote the role of these librarians. For more information or to join SCLRT, please contact RoseAleta

Laurell, Ingleside Public Library, 2775 Waco Street, PO Box 400, Ingleside, Texas 78362 (361)776-5355

rosealetal@cableone.net

Leon Valley Librarian Honored

Profit Sweepstakes Project of the Year, Joyce has been given the Hometown Hero Award, the Award for Public Service and was made a member of the San Antonio Women's Celebration and Hall of Fame in 1999.

Obviously interested and involved in her community, Joyce has served, in various capacities, with the Chamber of Commerce, Leon Valley Historical Society, San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, Forest Oaks Community Association, Friends of the Leon Valley Public Library and St. Brigid's Catholic Church. Somehow, she still has time to be an active member of TLA, the American Library Association and the UT Graduate School of Library & Information Science Alumni Association.

Joyce Trent, while being an inspiration for us all, is humble to a fault. When

presented with the money award from the Tocker Foundation, she told Darryl Tocker that he didn't have to give her anything; he'd already done so much. The same might be said about her. Congratulations, Joyce!

SCLRT Committee Chairs:

Nominating: Juanita Hazelton, Van Alstyne, Tx.

Dessert Social: Diana Guthrie, Pleasanton, Tx. & Dorothy Manning, Jourdanton, Tx.

Raffle: Denise Milton, Jasper, Tx.

Librarian of the Year: Diana Guthrie, Pleasanton, Tx

Conference Stipend: Susan Mann, Hillsboro, Tx.