

# ALA American Library Association

## 2020 Executive Board Candidate Bio



**Susan L. Jennings**  
Dean of Library Services  
Chattanooga State Community College  
Kolwyck Library & Information Commons  
Chattanooga, TN

**Type of Library:** Academic

### **Statement of Professional Concerns:**

Those that know me well know that I bring a great passion to the table for the work we do. Standing on the shoulders of the greats within ALA, I seek election to the Executive Board. I seek this post because I am totally invested in our future as an association – an association on the cusp of making big changes and guided by a new Executive Director. I hope to bring my passion and my voice to help assure the inclusion of those new to or considering the profession to help them find their voice and place of service within the new ALA. There also has to be a stronger connection to the State Chapters. This path starts with providing opportunities for professional development, mentoring, and an easier path for new or aspiring library workers to serve, learn and grow. Making these connections is vital to our future success.

### **Previous Positions:**

- Dean of Library Services Chattanooga State Community College Augusta R. Kolwyck & Information Commons (KLIC), Chattanooga, TN 2012 – present
- Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) and Lead Desk Services Librarian Appalachian State University – Belk Library Boone, North Carolina 7/2008 – 7/2012
- Lower Level Service Desk Manager - Periodicals/Films/Microfilms/Government Documents - Appalachian State University - Belk Library Boone, North Carolina 10/2005 – 7/2008
- Archival Assistant International Mission Board - Southern Baptist Convention Richmond, Virginia 5/2004 – 10/2005
- Resource Delivery Borrowing Assistant/Office Mgr. Virginia Commonwealth University - James Branch Cabell Library Richmond, Virginia 9/2003 – 5/2004
- ABC Express Coordinator/ILL Lending Assistant, Appalachian State University - Belk Library Boone, North Carolina 9/1996 – 9/2003
- ILL Lending Assistant / Weekend Library Supervisor, Appalachian State University - Belk Library Boone, North Carolina 8/1992 – 9/1996

### **Education:**

University of Tennessee, MSIS- Library & Information Sciences, 2007  
Appalachian State University, MA Southern Religious History, 1998  
Appalachian State University, BA European History, 1987

Western Piedmont Community College, AA - College Transfer, 1985

**Affiliation(s):**

Member of:

ACRL

LLAMA,

Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT)

Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT)

Freedom to Read Foundation (FTR)

**ALA and/or ALA-APA activities:**

ALA Awards Committee: Chair, 2018-2019, Member, 2019-2020

ALA Chapter Relations Committee: Chair, 2017-2018, 2019-2020, Member, 2018-2019,

ALA Council: New Members Roundtable (NMRT) Councilor, 2013-2015; Councilor at Large, 2015-2017, Tennessee Library Association – Chapter Councilor, 2018-2021

ALA Executive Director Search Committee, 2019-2020, Member

ALA Orientation Committee, Member, 2019-2020

ALA Planning and Budget Assembly, Chapter Councilor Rep, 2019-2020

ALA President Elect Advisory Committee, Member, 2019-2021

ALA Resolutions Committee, Member, 2013-2015

ALA Emerging Leaders, Class of 2010

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), Member, Committee on Committees, 2013-14

Council Forum Working Group, Chair, 2018-2019

NMRT Executive Board, Member as NMRT Councilor, 2013- 2015

NMRT 3M/NMRT Grant Committee, Member 2009-2010, Chair, 2010-11

NMRT Resume Review Committee, Member, 2010-11

NMRT Mentoring Committee, Member, 2009-2010

**Offices held in state/regional library associations and other associations:**

TLA Chapter Councilor (2018-2021)

Past-President, (2016-2017)

President (2 consecutive terms), (2014-2016)

Vice President/President Elect, (2013-2014)

Membership Committee – (2010-11), Co-Chair (appointed by TLA President to chair)

Scholarship Committee – (2010-11, 2016-2017), Member

Strategic Planning - (2016-2017), Co-Chair (appointed by TLA President to chair)

**Honors and/or Awards:**

2018 Harvard Graduate School of Education, Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians, Class of 2018

2017 Tennessee Library Association Honor Award (TLA) (highest associational honor)

2011 Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Immersion Class (“Intentional Teaching”)

2010 American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leaders Class of 2010

2007 UTK School of Information Sciences (UTK SIS) Outstanding Service Award

2006 Gary R. Purcell Scholarship Recipient

1997 Lynn May Research Grant recipient (Southern Baptist Convention Library and Archives)

**Major Accomplishments:**

- Led (as TNLA President) an associational restructuring of the Tennessee Library

Association resulting in a more streamlined organizational structure. This effort was driven by my two conference themes of “Where Everyone Has a Place at the Table,” and “Dare to Imagine” to provide an opportunity for inclusion of everyone in the association and to reimagine a new association to carry us into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

- Developed a large network of professional colleagues in ALA over the past 14 years.
- Shepherded a total renovation of our library as the Dean of Library Services. I worked with an interior designer to design a space that was truly user centered.
- Managed the Kolwyck Library & Information Commons (KLIC) budget each year (never going over budget – despite major cuts in 2013)
- Instituted the first ever Library Instruction Program/Plan at KLIC.
- Experienced Policy/Procedures “Maker”
- Served on the ALA Executive Director Search 2019
- Known as a passionate, visionary, transformational library leader
- Coordinated a campus wide Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion workshop led by ALA ODLOS which successfully brought these issues to a larger audience outside of the library.

### **Publications:**

Jennings, Susan L. “To Tweet, or not to tweet,” Reference Services Review 40, no.2 (2012): 214-216.

With Ken Johnson, “Ending the Turf War: Circulation, Reference, and Instruction on One Team,” Journal of Access Services 8, no.3 (2011): 107-124.

Jennings, Susan L. “Creating a User Centered Environment... What Do Our Patrons Want?” Tennessee Libraries 59, no. 2 (2009): 1.

Jennings, Susan L. (2009). Traditional Values...Changing Times. Tennessee Libraries, 59(2), 1.

With Jamie Price, “Be My Friend: Using Facebook in Libraries,” August 2008, Tennessee Libraries, 58(2) (online).

Jennings, Susan L. (2008). On the Same Page: A Wiki Redux. Tennessee Libraries, 58(2), 1-4.

Jennings, Susan L. “Emerging Uses of Wiki in Library Services.” Tennessee Libraries 57, no. 2 (2007): 1-6.

With Ken Johnson, “Managing Overnight,” In C. Smallwood (Ed.), Library Management Tips That Work Jennings, Chicago: American Library Association, 2011: 56–59.

With Ken Johnson, “Facebook for Student Assistants. In C. Smallwood (Ed.), Library Management Tips That Work, Chicago: American Library Association, 2011: 79–81.

Jennings, Susan L. “Out Of the Mountains: Appalachian Stories.” Tennessee Libraries 61, no. 4 (2011): (online)

Jennings, Susan L. “Science and the Spirit: A Pentecostal Engagement with the Sciences.” Tennessee Libraries 61, no. 3 (2011): 41-42.

Jennings, Susan L. “Fruitcake: Heirloom Recipes and Memories of Truman Capote and Cousin Sook.” Tennessee Libraries (Online). 61, no. 1 (2011): 17-18.

Jennings, Susan L. “Lincoln on Trial.” Tennessee Libraries 60, no. 2 (2010): 1.

“Church Archives,” in Encyclopedia of Appalachia, University of Tennessee Press, 2006.

“Google Docs and Friends” Module for Tenn-Share’s Learn and Discover Program Continuing Education Website, summer 2010.

“Wiki Week” Module for Tenn-Share’s Learn and Discover Program Continuing Education Website, summer 2009

“Honourable Women: the Varied Roles of Women within the Southern Baptist Convention,” A Master’s Thesis, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, 1998.

**Number of Years as an ALA Member:** 14 (2005-present)