

12-22-2005

Library Advocacy in the Post-Katrina South

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Recommended Citation

(2005) "Library Advocacy in the Post-Katrina South," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 53 : Iss. 4 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol53/iss4/5>

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LIBRARY ADVOCACY IN THE POST-KATRINA SOUTH

**Memphis Public Library
3030 Poplar Avenue
April 5, 2006
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Cost: \$25.00**

Now more than ever, library advocacy is crucial to the longevity of our libraries. As leaders in our communities, we need to build coalitions of advocates who can effectively communicate the critical role that libraries play in our society.

The joint conference of the Tennessee Library Association and the Southeastern Library Association will co-host the first American Library Association Regional Advocacy Institute: *Library Advocacy in the Post-Katrina South*. Speakers will include Carol Brey-Casiano, Past-President, American Library Association; Judith Gibbons, National Co-Chair, ALA Advocacy Campaign; Marci Merola, Public Information Office, American Library Association; and Kathleen Imhoff, Executive Director, Lexington, KY Public Library.

By attending the 2006 ALA Advocacy Institute, you will build your advocacy skills and develop new strategies to successfully advocate for your library; learn to create effective coalitions with library staff members, trustees and Friends in your community; and leave with a draft of an advocacy action plan for use in your library. The Advocacy Institute is designed for the beginning advocate or anyone who wants to sharpen their skills.

To register, go to the new TLA website (www.tnla.org) and print off the TLA/SELA Conference registration form. Deadline for pre-registration is March 3. Pre-conference attendees are welcome to attend the entire conference but it is not a prerequisite.

SOLINET PROVIDES AFFORDABLE DISASTER PREPARADNESS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHEAST

In an effort to promote disaster preparedness throughout the Southeast, and to assist libraries and archives in developing and implementing realistic plans to mitigate damage and facilitate recovery, SOLINET is offering a series of disaster classes strategically located throughout the region. Support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access, makes it possible to offer these classes at only \$25 each. The classes will be held in March and April – and one in May – in each of the ten states that comprise the SOLINET region.

The memory of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita is still fresh, and the work of salvage and recovery continues. The importance of informed preparation is strikingly clear, as is the need for training in this regard. “We hope that the reduced registration fee will enable staff at more libraries and archives to take advantage of this training, especially those from smaller institutions with very limited budgets for staff development,” says SOLINET Preservation Services Manager Tina Mason. “Time and money spent taking the steps to protect your collection repays itself in minimizing loss. Everyone is at risk – whether it is mold due to a broken AC, or water damage from a pipe burst or leaky roof. It’s not just institutions threatened by hurricanes or tornados. A developed plan, a prepared staff, and materials and resources at hand when disaster strikes is the best assurance you can have.”