



Central Texas Library System, Inc.
Connecting Texas Libraries Statewide

CTLS CANDIDATE BROCHURE & BALLOT FY 2021

The CTLS Board of Directors has 11 members who serve 3-year overlapping terms. Four of the current positions whose terms end on December 31, 2020 are “at large,” meaning anyone of any size library is eligible to run for these positions. **One position is for a board member representing the smallest population (up to 10,000).** The next 3-year term runs from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023. Ballots will be sent to each library in September. The 5 candidates with the most votes will be declared the elected board members. The following candidates, listed alphabetically, are running for these 5 positions. (Populations are from the latest State Library spreadsheet of libraries.)

1. Michelle Cervantes, Director of the Round Rock Public Library. (Population 128,739)



Tell us why you are interested in serving on the CTLS Board. A few years ago, when our library building project began, I stepped away from additional responsibilities to focus on the project. Now is the time for me to step up and serve the CTLS member libraries. I am excited for this opportunity and ready to connect, learn and grow with CTLS.

What specific skills or expertise would you bring? I have naturally good judgment and can provide advice, counsel, and be a sounding board. I believe I can provide help to disadvantaged libraries and their communities. I hold myself accountable for the success or failure of projects and I get things done. I am constantly analyzing the way we do business and implementing ways to improve efficiency and adaptability.

What else would you like for the CTLS members to know about you? While I can offer my experience and skills to the board and membership, I know that I still have much to learn. I am interested in seeking new challenges where I can make a difference.

2. Karen Ellis: Director of the Taylor Public Library (incumbent) (Population 17,167)



Tell us why you are interested in serving on the CTLS Board. The Taylor Public Library has benefited greatly from cooperative grant opportunities made possible via our membership in CTLS, Inc. CTLS member libraries need to continue to see such benefits, and I would hope to emphasize that while serving on the CTLS Board. Serving on the Board also gives me the opportunity to give back to a great organization and represent member libraries well. This organization is important to help member libraries advance their missions and have the opportunity, through staff training and participation in grant projects, to grow their library into a vital & vibrant community resource.

What specific skills or expertise would you bring? I have a lot of experience with partnerships and working with community organizations. For 35 years I have worked in small, medium, and large public libraries across Texas, so I understand their operations and concerns. I have held positions in TLA Acquisitions & Collection Development Round Table and in TLA District 3 and have presented at conferences. Through grant programs, I have had training in digitization in relation to conservation of archival materials. I also serve on the Acquisitions Committee for an area museum. I serve on a grant review committee and serve as a judge for children’s and adult writing contests.

What else would you like for the CTLS membership to know about you? I’m a public librarian because I enjoy it—it’s fun, interesting and surprising. I am invested in my community and serve in the Taylor Kiwanis Club. Promotion of the library

to the community is my daily responsibility. I have also written a book: Partnerships and Collaborations in Public Library Communities (c2012, Information Science Reference). I know how to stop a running toilet, teach a computer or robotics class, can play the autoharp while singing, can do a few yo-yo tricks and have no fear of public speaking. According to my kindergarten report card, I do also know how to play well with others.

3. Pattie Mayfield: Retired Director of the Honey Grove Library, Honey Grove (incumbent) (Population 1,712)



Tell us why you are interested in serving on the CTLS Board: It is my firm belief that Texas libraries need the opportunity to network and to be assisted by a dedicated, flexible, dynamic support system in order to function at a level that will continue to make them indispensable to their communities, funders and patrons. Working together to make creative programming, opportunities for continued education and life-long learning without duplication of effort will help to keep library budgets down, save time, frustration, and resources. I believe that CTLS is poised to be this support system and would be honored to help move this organization forward in the service of ALL Texas libraries.

What specific skills or expertise would you bring? I recently retired from my 12-year position as the Director of the Honey Grove Library & Learning Center and the Hall-Voyer Foundation – a non-profit whose main function is to operate the Library. I have many years of non-profit experience with the Girl Scouts and have 8 years of experience on the Lewisville Public Library Advisory Board (during that time I worked on expansion of the library). I worked for Minyard Food Stores for 23 years in I.T. as Operations Manager for a large, family owned chain. I also helped to form and have received two grants for NETLIBS – a group of librarians in NE Texas who meet quarterly for support, networking, and camaraderie. I have had training in board management and experience as Executive director as well as Secretary/Treasurer of a large non-profit foundation. I have a history of working for small and rural libraries and have advocated in their interest in the Association of Rural & Small libraries and as member of ALA & PLA advisory committees. Small libraries desperately need the advocacy and support that CTLS can provide and I hope to continue to be their voice on the board.

What else would you like the CTLS members to know about you as they consider board candidates? I am open-minded, fair, caring and concerned about libraries and my fellow librarians. Libraries are a very important part of my life and the one thing I feel most strongly about supporting. If I put my support and work behind a group or cause – I am dedicated, hardworking and tireless in my support of it.

4. Alice Nixon: retired Coordinator, South Texas Library System, Corpus Christi (incumbent) (Population 326,554)



Tell us why you are interested in serving on the CTLS Board: I have a very real passion for public libraries, especially rural public libraries. I retired December 2011 after thirty-two years of being a public librarian in a variety of positions. I worked as a reference librarian at Houston Public Library (Central), as a reference librarian and Associate City Librarian at Bryan/College Station Public Library, as a reference librarian for Corpus Christi Public Library (Central), and as Public Services Consultant and then Coordinator of the South Texas Library System. I have stayed active in Texas libraries since my retirement by volunteering at Corpus Christi Public Libraries. I am currently the chair of the Corpus Christi Public Libraries Advisory Board.

What contributions do you feel you would make to the CTLS Board? What specific skills or expertise would you bring? I have worked with all sizes and manners of public libraries through my work with the South Texas Library System (STLS). My areas of library expertise include reference, collection development, genealogy, and local history. I have also been able to gain a larger picture of public libraries throughout Texas from experiences with STLS and with TLA.

What else would you like the CTLS members to know about you as they consider board candidates? Having worked for STLS, I have a broad sense of the history of public libraries in the state of Texas. I am continually learning about the changes and challenges that libraries are making at this time.

5. Gretchen Pruett: director of the New Braunfels Public Library (incumbent) (Population 84,612)



Tell us why you are interested in serving on the CTLS Board. With the uncertainty of state funding for library support over the next 5 to 10 years, I feel that it is increasingly important to keep some support organizations that don't exclusively rely on the state to provide services. The small and medium sized libraries are going to need help to keep the playing field even over the next decade and beyond. I would like to help keep this critical service component to those libraries alive.

What contributions do you feel you would make to the CTLS Board? What specific skills or expertise would you bring? Prior to my work in libraries, I was a Certified Public Accountant in New York State for 7 years, specializing in not for profit organizations. I have served on the Board of Directors for several types of non-profits, including a multi-million-dollar social services agency and a church. I understand the roles and responsibilities of the Board from both sides of the partnership.

What else would you like the members of CTLS to know about you as they consider board candidates? I am active in TLA and have chaired the Public Library Division. I am involved in the EDGE initiative, assisting libraries in communicating the value of public computing access. I would be honored to serve the libraries and supporters of libraries in Texas.

6. Dorothy Steelman: Director of the Pleasanton Public Library (incumbent) (Population 23,570)



Tell us why you are interested in serving on the CTLS Board. I am interested in being on the CTLS Board because I want to do my share to keep CTLS being a valuable resource to help smaller libraries keep up with trends as well as filling in the gap left by not having systems any more.

What contributions do you feel you would make to the CTLS Board? What specific skills or expertise would you bring? I have been a library director for over 15 years in both a non-profit setting with a small budget serving a population of less than 7,000 and as a library director as a city department with a larger budget serving a population of over 20,000. I have experience in writing grants, I have planned and implemented all sorts of adult and children's programming during my time as a director; from planning summer reading programs to giving computer and Facebook classes to seniors. I went back to school to get my master's degree in Library Science after being away from college for over 20 years which has enabled me to better help college students get usage out of the library when it comes to research and writing papers. I am currently working closely with Coastal Bend Community College to serve the local students who do not have access to the physical library in Beeville which is over 70 miles away. Because of my experience working in both a non-profit setting and as a city department I have the firsthand knowledge of the challenges faced by directors of very small and small libraries as well as the challenges that come with working with very small budgets and slightly bigger budgets while trying to provide the best programs and services to my local community.

What else would you like the CTLS members to know about you as they consider board candidates? I am not afraid of challenge and I am not averse to learning something new to do my job better.

7. Dayna Williams-Capone, Victoria Public Library (Population 92,025)



Tell us why you are interested in serving on the CTLS Board. I have watched the growth and important work that CTLS does expand since the dissolution of the regional library systems in Texas. Our library has been a member for many years and benefitted from the connections we made through the list-serv and training opportunities afforded our staff. I see an opportunity at this time in our frequently changing and shifting culture for CTLS to be even more impactful in connecting and supporting libraries of all sizes in a fairly large geographical area when we are being called to offer services in new ways to keep our communities safe, but still keep our

users connected.

What contributions do you feel you would make to the CTLS Board? What specific skills or expertise would you bring? I am a seasoned professional who could bring forth the perspective of a library director serving both a medium and small size community with various levels of budget and systemic support from the city or county government. I also understand the difference between running a library that directly reports to a governing board vs reporting directly to a city manager and city council. I have experience working with a Friends of the Library Board and a Library Advisory Board and the importance of developing goals and strategy for effectively working with multiple stakeholders. I understand the importance of good budgeting based upon an organization's goals, the importance of fundraising and grant writing, and building an organization's reputation for excellent customer service to meet the needs of a community.

What else would you like for the CTLS members to know about you as they consider board candidates? I enjoy developing strategies to attain goals and often consider possible future trends in how to improve or change in order to stay relevant. I love working with teams that are innovative and push me to think differently, learn something new, and grow.