Incoming and outgoing OLA leaders came to Stillwater on May 21-22, for the President's annual leadership retreat. This year's retreat focused on working as an association with our elected representatives. At the Thursday afternoon session, participants heard from several panelists and respondents, including former Governor Henry Bellmon, on developing an effective legislative program (see pp. 42-43 for more information). Bellmon also shared his unique insights as someone who has been on the other side of lobbying efforts at the Thursday evening dinner.

On Friday, incoming OLA president Ed Johnson announced the theme of his presidency, "Discover the Future: Explore Oklahoma's Libraries" (see President's message on p. 38). Those assembled also formulated a plan of action on the eight resolutions that had been previously endorsed at annual conference (see p. 42-43). The 60 people who participated in the two-day meeting left energized and ready to work for Oklahoma's libraries.

—Jennifer Paustenbaugh

Jan Sanders (l), former chair of the OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee, receives the ALA Intellectual Freedom Roundtable State Award from Fran MacDonald, ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee chair, at ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco on June 27. The award was presented in recognition of the OLA Intellectual Freedom Manual. In addition to the handsome framed award, OLA received a check for $1,000.
Discover the Future: Explore Oklahoma's Libraries

In this commemorative year, it seems appropriate to consider what 1992 means for libraries. I have chosen the theme of "Discover the Future, Explore Oklahoma's Libraries" to incorporate the Quincentennial, but also to convey the message that the world of Oklahoma's libraries is an underexplored resource. The future of our state, especially in education and economic development, will be greatly enhanced by improving and utilizing our libraries.

As my first message to the members of the Oklahoma Library Association, I thank you for electing me as your President. It is a particular honor because several librarians at Oklahoma State University have served as OLA President over the years. Both of my immediate predecessors as OSU head librarians - Edmon Low and Roscoe Rouse - served as OLA presidents (in 1949 and 1972 respectively.) Several other OSU librarians have also been presidents: Norman Nelson (1985), Della Thomas (1965), John Stratton (1957), and Elsie Hand (1927 and 1929). I am proud to continue the tradition of OSU providing leadership to OLA.

Like Immediate Past President Carol Casey, who did such a fine job, I am committed to continuing the efforts of our organization to strengthen libraries in Oklahoma. It is important that all librarians, regardless of whether they work in public, school, special, or academic libraries, work together to convey our message to the public we serve and to the agencies that provide our budgets.

In 1990, I had the privilege of attending the Governor's Conference. I learned from the experience that, while the public is generally supportive of library programs, they do not have enough information about our problems and needs. Subsequently, I was elected to attend the White House Conference and confirmed the conclusion that to marshal the support we need from our community, we first have to communicate our message.

My three major goals for the year are: 1) to strengthen alliances between all types of librarians in order to work toward our common goals; 2) to review the recommendations of the Governor's Conference and see what the organization can do to implement as many of them as possible; and 3) to develop a strong legislative agenda. There are many programs, such as providing certified school library media specialists in all schools, improving library funding, and developing a computerized network to link libraries, that need support and funding at the local and state levels.

It is an ambitious program, especially the legislative agenda, but I know there is a wealth of talent and commitment in OLA to address it. Our leadership this year is excellent. The officers and chairs of committees and roundtables have already begun representing you, the members. Speaking for them and myself, we look forward to working with all of you toward the accomplishment of our goals. We will particularly need your help in working with the Legislature this year. If you know a legislator, or would be willing to host an open house in your library, or would be willing to volunteer your services to the Legislative Committee's efforts let us know. Please feel free to contact me at any time with your suggestions or concerns. Again, thank you for your support and, in advance, thank you for being willing to donate your time and energy to the cause of improving libraries in Oklahoma.

—Ed Johnson

1992 ALA Annual Conference Report

Tension, Dismay, and Celebration marked the annual conference. 19,261 librarians, exhibitors, and guests experienced a small earthquake, the large gaylesbian parade, and for San Francisco an unusual blowing rain storm. The more than 2,000 meetings and programs had something for everyone including great speakers like Gloria Steinem, Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, and authors Steven Covey and Ann Rivers Siddons. 850 companies and their wares kept librarians feet walking, their eyes looking, and their want list growing. The lines were long for authors' signatures. The new NLW theme "Libraries change lives" attracted many to the NLW booth for buttons and stickers.

Everyone celebrated the highly successful "Call for America's Libraries" continued on p. 44
Actions on OLA Resolutions

At the May 21-22 OLA Leadership Meeting the following actions were approved on the eight resolutions presented at the General Membership Meeting at Annual Conference (the full text of the resolutions may be found in the May/June issue of the Oklahoma Librarian):

Resolution #1 Promotion of Recycling

The resolution was endorsed and passed on to the Social Responsibilities Roundtable (SRRT). SRRT will be asked to come up with recommendations for implementation.

Resolution #2 Americans with Disabilities Act

The resolution was endorsed and has been passed on to the incoming chairs of the Continuing Education and Sites Committees for incorporation in planning of CE courses, workshops and conferences.

Resolution #3 Unserved Citizens

The resolution was endorsed and passed on to the Legislative Committee.

Resolution #4 Monitoring of 1990 Governor’s Conference Resolutions

The resolution was endorsed and an ad hoc committee, chaired by Betty Estes-Rickner has been appointed to address this. The committee is composed of the White House delegates and a few other persons including a delegate from the first White House Conference.

Resolution #5 Review of OLA Scholarship Fund Program

The resolution was endorsed and referred to the Scholarship Committee and the Support Staff Roundtable. It was noted that this could result in the need to change the bylaws at which point it would be referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Resolution #6 Academic Library Funding

The resolution was endorsed. The Directors Council and the College and University Division have already sent a letter addressing this issue to the State Regents. It was suggested that these groups should also seek out and enlist the assistance of influential alumni of their institutions.

Resolution #7 Capital Improvements Bond Issue for Higher Education

The resolution was endorsed and immediate action was proposed. A fax letter with the text of the resolution was sent by Ed Johnson on behalf of the Association to several members of the Oklahoma House and Senate.

Resolution #8 Resolution of Appreciation to Mary Sherman

This resolution was acted on at the General Membership Meeting.

As further action is taken on these resolutions, we will (attempt to) inform you.

—Jennifer Paustenbaugh

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Dues to Increase on October 1

Upon the recommendation of the Budget and Finance committee, the OLA Executive Board voted to increase membership dues by ten percent, effective October 1. The Executive Board also voted to raise the registration fee at next year's annual conference by five dollars. For the average member this increase will probably mean an additional three or four dollars. Because OLA's Bylaws provide for such Board action in the case of "genuine financial need," I want to explain why the increase was necessary.

In analyzing OLA's expenditures and needs, it became clear that there were not enough anticipated funds to balance the 1992/93 budget. The primary reason is that last year's budget was balanced on the basis of an extremely large carry-over from the previous year. This year the carry-over was far less, requiring us to look for additional funds. Even with these increases it will be a very tight year in terms of the Association's finances. We budgeted very conservatively.

We believe these changes are justified and, in fact, are overdue. It has been several years since such increases were last implemented. OLA's dues increase and charges are quite low in comparison with other state library associations.

In order to plan for the future more effectively, the Long Range Planning Committee, chaired by Jan Keene, has been charged with making recommendations concerning the future financial well-being of OLA. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call me at 405-744-6321. Thank you.

—Ed Johnson, President
The OLA Executive Board carries out the official business of the association. It meets monthly, usually on the third Friday. Agenda items include reports from the president, treasurer, and executive director, as well as from division chairs, the ALA Councilor, MPLA and State Department of Education representatives and the Federal Relations Coordinator. The board authorizes expenditures and discusses and formulates action on current issues. To schedule an item on the agenda, notify the president or executive director ten (10) days before a board session. Highlights of recent board meetings appear in each issue of the Oklahoma Librarian.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<td>President</td>
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<td>Public Libraries Division</td>
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<td>Lawton Public Library</td>
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<td>James F. Beavers, Ill</td>
<td>Rose State College</td>
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<td>Kay Boies</td>
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</table>
DIVISION OFFICERS

OASLMS-Okla. Assn. of School Library Media Specialists
Jeanie Johnson (Choctaw), chair
Linda Gann (Jenks), chair-elect
Cheryl Golightly (Owasso), secretary
Virginia Parker (Norman), treasurer

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Dell Hewey (Rose State), chair-elect

Library Education Division
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Richard Paustenbaugh (OSU), chair-elect
Bea LeValley (NWSU), secretary

Public Libraries Division
Marion Donaldson (Lawton), chair
Theresa Dickson (Norman), chair-elect
Donna J. Smith (Southern Prairie), secretary
Andy Peters (Pioneer), PLAN Representative

Trustees Division
Jim Shideler (Stillwater), chair
Denise Trent (Chickasaw), chair-elect

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Awards - Lee Brawner (Metropolitan)
Budget & Finance - Edward Johnson (OSU)
Constitution & Bylaws - Carol Casey (State Dept. of Educ.)
Continuing Education - Rich Paustenbaugh (OSU)
Editorial Board - Jennifer Paustenbaugh (OSU)
Ethics - Bonnie Stout (Stillwater)
Governor's Mansion Library - Kay Leslie (Guthrie)
Intellectual Freedom - Darcy Rankin (OSU)
Interlibrary Cooperation - Helen Hill (NESU)
Legislative - Marty Thompson (OU Health Sciences)
Local Arrangements - Vicki Buttnner (OSU-OKC)
Long Range Planning - Jan Keene (Tulsa)
Membership - Pat Zachary (Walters)
Nominating - Patsy Stafford (OSU)
Program - Richard Parker (Tulsa)
Resolutions - Daphane Kerley ((Connors State)
Scholarship - Alberta Mayberry (Langston)
Sequoyah Children's Book Award - Leah Jones (Enid)
Sequoyah YA Book Award - Susan Wright (Ardmore)
Sites - Robert T. Motter, Jr. (Muskogee)

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David Corbly (SWSU), chair-elect
Kay Vincent (Stillwater), secretary

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Judy Jones (Ponca City), chair-elect

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Elizabeth Romero (Pioneer), secretary

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Ginny Dietrich (ODL), chair-elect
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Robert Patterson (UT), chair-elect

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Retha Evans (OSU-Okmulgee), chair-elect
Marquita Vincent (Enid), secretary

Technical Services
Linda West (NESU), chair
Kathleen Haynes (OU SLIS), chair-elect
James W. Pool (UT), secretary
**PANELIST: BOB ENGLAND**

Political scientist Dr. Robert England understands interest groups and the role they play in Oklahoma politics. He and colleagues George Humphreys and David Morgan spent years collecting and analyzing data on how interest groups function in the Sooner state and how Oklahoma legislators respond (or don't respond) to the pressure exerted by these groups. England, an Oklahoma native and Oklahoma State University faculty member, and his two colleagues were recently awarded the 1992 Oklahoma Book Award for nonfiction for their book *Oklahoma Politics & Policies: Governing the Sooner State* (Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1991) in which the results of their research are reported.

England, in his presentation to OLA Leadership Retreat participants, called interest groups one of three "linkage institutions" on the American political scene along with elections and political parties. In recent years interest groups have become more dominant with the decline of political parties. Almost half of all Americans (45%) surveyed believe that interest groups best represent their political interests.

In one study, Oklahoma legislators were asked to list and rank the most successful and influential interest groups in recent legislative sessions. Legislators identified 64 specific groups with education, labor, professional groups, and banking and finance being the most powerful in that order. Most in attendance were surprised to learn that legislators view education as the most powerful interest group. To this England replied, "Think what it would be like without this strength!" Although such interest groups as oil and agriculture are considered very influential, they exert their power more at the national level than at home in Oklahoma.

England also discussed techniques used by Oklahoma lobbyists. He noted that personal contact with legislators was the most used and most effective technique practiced by lobbyists. Other activities rated as highly effective were: helping to draft legislation, joint lobbying by several organizations, and mounting grassroots lobbying efforts. And how do legislators rank the influence of all these lobbying activities on the legislative process? Ten percent felt that interest groups were "crucial" to the legislative process; 44 percent felt that interest groups were "very important"; and 43 percent felt that they were "important". England concluded, "While particular issues may go away, interest groups organized around the information, service and financial sectors of Oklahoma's economy will become even more prominent in the future."

---Jennifer Paustenbaugh

**PANELIST: EMILY RAY ELLIOTT**

Eleven years on Capitol Hill working for two federal agencies has given Emily Ray Elliott the political know-how she uses daily for Oklahoma State University as Federal Relations Director and assistant to OSU president John Campbell. Elliott translated that experience into practical advice for OLA leaders (or any organizational leaders) as they put together a legislative agenda.

One of the first pieces of advice Elliott handed out was to be concise in the briefings you write for legislators. She points out that if military officials can write complicated military briefs in two pages, you can certainly describe your program with the same succinctness. You should decide what the highlights are — don't make your legislator do it!

A big mistake that people often make in contacting their legislators is they are not specific or not realistic about what they want the legislators to do. To overcome this problem Elliott suggests that you boil down your requests to three realistic initiatives. In addition, spread out the number of things you ask your legislators to do so you can get more done.

Another common error is thinking that writing a letter to your legislator is sufficient. This is a good first step, but you will need to do more if you expect to see results. Your legislator is flooded with phone calls, letters, and people making personal visits. Elliott advises that if you are petitioning a federal legislator, you will need to make a minimum of two personal visits.

Once you have made some contact with your legislators you will need to know how to interpret their support. Does support mean that the legislator says that libraries are good or does it mean they are going to write a letter to the committee chair dealing with this matter? If you have been specific about what you want from them, it will be easier for them to be specific about what they are willing to do.

Once you have gotten the support you seek, "remember to give credit where credit is due," Elliott recommends. Personal thanks are not enough. She advocates using the press to make your appreciation publicly known.

Elliott acknowledges that she is proud to be a lobbyist — "someone who educates legislators and promotes issues of social value." For organizations to be effective lobbying groups they must use all of their personnel resources. "Your entire membership must be a part of this process," she urges. "You need to cultivate involvement from the people in your organization."

---Jennifer Paustenbaugh
RESPONDENTS

Ed Johnson, President, Oklahoma Library Association
“The problem that libraries have is that they tend to be taken for granted. I doubt if there's anybody out there that's opposed to libraries. We suffer from benign neglect. We don't just need moral support, but financial support.”

Barbara Spriestersbach, Executive Director of Instructional Services, State Dept. of Education
“This is the perfect time to get into the political process. It's amazing what just one person can do. I think OLA can make a much bigger difference in the future if they will speak with one voice.”

Marty Thompson, Chair, OLA Legislative Committee
“If we don’t become politically active we’re going to find ourselves in the back seat. Libraries are facing the most expensive decade in twenty to thirty years.”

Bob Clark, Director, Oklahoma Department of Libraries
“There is a war of interest groups and we have to join the battle.”

Etiquette of the Personal Visit to Your Legislator

◊ Be timely — try to schedule your visit close to the time when the legislation will be voted on (an interim study session can be a great time to do this).
◊ Always make an appointment.
◊ Be on time (although the legislator may not be).
◊ Always be flexible.
◊ Never expect to have more than 30 minutes of his/her time (although you probably won’t get more than 10 minutes).
◊ Try to establish some personal connection with the legislator beforehand.
◊ Think through what you want to ask in advance so you don’t waste his/her time.
◊ Prepare a one to two page fact sheet to leave with him/her that contains the most salient points you have come to make. If you are visiting a federal legislator, be sure to have plenty of extra copies.
◊ Specify what kind of support you want (writing a letter to the appropriations committee, etc.).
◊ Treat staff like you would the legislator (members rely on staff so cultivate them).
◊ Follow up your visit with a letter of thanks.

—Tips from Emily Ray Elliott and Governor Henry Bellmon and participants of the OLA Leadership Meeting; prepared by Jennifer Paustenbaugh.
Dosing supporting libraries. Nationwide. interim with great aplomb. 

but the great majority were in support of the Executive 

Council 111 meeting disappeared at the Inaugural Banquet and 

Committee chaired by former 

Council should address these issues. Both the Sell Study 

Council Chambers and at the numerous receptions. The ALA 

attorney visited with Council about the situation and that 

seemed to help. All were concerned about Linda’s resigna­

tion, but the great majority were in support of the Executive 

Board’s decision and handling of the matter. Councilors felt 

deep regret that problems with the Executive Director had 

arisen and passed a resolution thanking Linda for her services 

to ALA. Peggy Sullivan is marvelous and will handle the 

interim with great aplomb. 

The other questions which were related was the direct 

election of the Executive Board by the membership instead of 

Council and the role of the Executive Board. The underlying 

sentiment was that the self study which was authorized by 

Council should address these issues. Both the Self Study 

Committee chaired by former ALA President, Bill Summers 

and an outside consultant will be used. 

Council Ill lasted four hours with much of that time 

debating proposed ALA Election rules, the way to handle the 

self study, the resolutions from the Membership meetings, 

and Marilyn Miller’s proposed “Billion Bucks for a Billion 

Books” program. Sailing through quickly were the reports and 

resolutions from the International Relations, Intellectual Free­

dom, Legislative Committees. 

Two excellent candidates for President were presented: 

Arthur Curley, Director of the Boston Public Library, and 

Sharon Hogan, University Librarian at the University of Illinois-

Chicago. Both are extremely well qualified. 

The tension of the week and the tiredness of the long 

Council Ill meeting disappeared at the Inaugural Banquet and 

reception afterwards. Marilyn Miller urged all of us as librarians and libraries to empower people to live responsibly. She urged us all to become aware of and accustomed to cultural, linguistic, ethnic, and gender differences and to approach each person as an individual not as a member of some race or ethnic group. Finally, she urged us to involve the entire library staff in constant self-development and self-empowerment. 

—Mary Sherman, Chapter Councilor

Mark Your Calendar

1993 OLA Annual Conference

"Discover the Future: Explore Oklahoma’s Libraries"

Radisson Hotel, Oklahoma City

March 31-April 3

Keynote Speaker named for MPLA/WLA Conference

Kate Rand-Lloyd, editor at large of Working Woman magazine, will be the keynote speaker at the joint Mountain Plains Library Association/Wyoming Library Association meeting in Cheyenne. Dates of the conference are Sept. 30-Oct. 3. 

Kate Rand-Lloyd will address hundreds of librarians and guests from 11 states on Oct. 1 as part of the conference’s opening session and Presidents’ program. 

She has lectured extensively on topics relating to working women across the United States; been interviewed and quoted in most major newspapers and appeared on national television shows such as “Donahue,” “Today,” and “The MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour.” Arrangements for her appearance in Cheyenne were made through the Fischer Ross Group, Inc. of New York, NY. 

Preconference activities begin on Wednesday, Sept. 30 with sessions both at the Hitching Post Inn and Holiday Inn. During the remainder of the conference most Academic Library and School Library/Media programs will be at the Hitching Post Inn and most Public Library and Trustees’ programs at the Holiday Inn. Exhibits will be at the Hitching Post. 

Some other conference highlights include sessions: “The Newest and Best in Children’s Literature, Pre-School-8th grade;” “Libraries and the Political Process;” “Library Services for Young Adults;” “Building a Better Board: Increasing Your Effectiveness as a Trustee;” and “Access: To Monticello and Back.” 

For additional information on the conference or registration contact Corky Walters, 307/777-7281.

Dr. Indestructo, also known as Professor Stewart Ryan of the University of Oklahoma Physics Department, amazed children at the Norman Public Library recently. To prove that physics is fun, Dr. Indestructo conducted an experiment with liquid nitrogen. Dressed like a mad-scientist, Ryan demonstrated scientific principles in an amusing, entertaining fashion as part of the library’s “Summer Safari” reading program. Over 500 children attended the two performances by the popular teacher.
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800-843-8482
The Oklahoma State Department of Education's ENCYCLO-MEDIA XII - THE CHALLENGE OF EXCELLENCE, will be held Sept. 17-18 at the Myriad Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Ency­clo-Media has enjoyed great success during the past 11 years and this year will be no exception. Over 100 sessions will be presented by librarians, teachers, and administrators on curriculum and instruction, literature or reading, technology, and library media administration.

The Keynote Speaker for Ency­clo-Media XII will be Mike Printz, librarian at Topeka (KS) West High School. He has received national recognition for his knowledge of young adult literature serving on the American Library Association's Best Books for Young Adults committee and chairing that committee in 1985. He currently serves as chair of the EconoClad Book Selection Committee. He was a "Library Success Stories" speaker at the President's Program at the American Library Association's Annual Meeting in Atlanta last year. The topic of Printz's address will be "A Big Fat Hen and a Couple of Ducks." OASLMS luncheon guest this year will be Robert Cormier, the award winning author of The Chocolate War and numerous other books. Cormier will also present two sessions. Also presenting is Robert F. Bocher, Automation Consultant for the Division for Library Services in Madison, WI. As such he is responsible for statewide automation planning and chairs the department's Automation Planning Committee.

For more information, contact the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Library Media Section.

-Bettie Estes-Rickner

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Raymond “Bud” Munkres, trustee for the Metropolitan Library System (MLS), was one of two recipients of the American Library Trustee Association (ALTA)/Gale Outstanding Trustee Conference Grants. Munkres, an OLA member from Midwest City, was awarded $750 to attend the recent ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco. The grants are awarded annually to trustees who have demonstrated outstanding effort and services on behalf of public libraries. Munkres, past chair and member of MLS, is credited with obtaining successful property tax increases to aid his library.

Betsy Kearns Baker, a 1979 graduate of OU SLIS, is the 1992 recipient of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Miriam Dudley Award for Bibliographic Instruction. The $1,000 award is given for contribution to the advancement of bibliographic instruction that has an impact on concepts and methods of teaching bibliography and bibliographic instruction. She is currently head of the Reference Department at Northwestern University Library in Evanston, IL. Baker, who worked as a graduate assistant in the reference department at OU’s Bizzell Library during her student days, was recognized for her research into concept-based education in the use of computerized information searching and retrieval.

Mary Sherman, Director of Pioneer Library System, was elected to ALA Council for a four year term, 1992-1996.

Pat Woodrum, Director of the Tulsa City-County Library System, was elected president of the Public Library Association for 1993-1994.

Glenpool is the site of one of the newest libraries in the Tulsa City-County Library System. Over 300 people attended an open house and ribbon-cutting at the new 5,090 square feet facility in late April. The building, designed by Braselton Dankbar, Inc., replaces the storefront location in Glenoak used for the last 6-1/2 years. The new library suffered only minor water damage during the destructive windstorm in Glenpool in late June.

Three librarians in Edmond Public Schools received awards at the school district’s Accent on Excellence ceremonies this spring. Sherry Park, Clegern Elementary media director, received an Edmond Excellence Award, given “for recognition of dynamic individuals whose enthusiastic effort result in special happenings.” Erna Stewart, Edmond Memorial High School media director, received a service award (24 years). A Retirement Award was received by Bonnie Elsner, media director at North Mid-High.

OLA Welcomes New Members!
Behnam Estemad, student, OU
Virginia M. Piper, Cyril Public Schools
Mary Ann Robinson, student, OU
Jill Rooker, University of Central Oklahoma

Sequoyah Children’s Book Award

The 1992-93 Oklahoma Sequoyah Children’s Book Award list of nominees offers enjoyment and imagination, humor and wit, and journeys to fictional and fantasy worlds. The stories give us new understanding of what shapes people’s lives as the characters face danger and intrigue, or change and new challenges.

The Sequoyah Children’s Book Award program is open to all Oklahoma students in grades three through six. The first award was given in 1959 to Old Yeller, by Fred Gipson and other winners have included Harriet the Spy, by Louise Fitzhugh, Ramona the Pest, by Beverly Cleary, The Trumpet of the Swan, by E. B. White, and last year’s winner, A Doll in the Garden, by Mary Downing Hahn. Each year a new list of nominees is compiled and students are encouraged to read as many titles on the current list as they can before voting in January for their favorite story. The winning author is invited to accept the award at the annual spring meeting of the Oklahoma Library Association.

Information and promotional materials may be ordered from the Sequoyah Children’s Book Award Committee, c/o State Department of Education; Library Resources Section, 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 or may be picked up at the Sequoyah Children’s Award Booth during Encyclo-Media XII, September 17-18, 1992 at the Myriad Convention Center, Oklahoma City. Promotional materials include brochures, posters, bookmarks, seals, stamps, T-shirts and videotapes.

—Judy A. Beyer, Publicity Chair,
Sequoyah Children’s Book Award Committee
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