LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Do you have a vision?
Ask not what your association has done for you, but what you can do for your association. Recognize that idea?
Life is busy. Maybe you make lots of contributions already—raising teenagers!, creative work in your own library, in a service club or church. Are you busy, but bored, at work? Make one small contribution to your association. I heard some people complained about the OLA conference and compared it disparagingly with the Texas Library Association. If you feel that way, make a positive contribution instead of stopping with criticism. You don't know what benefits you yourself will gain by being involved.

OLA runs on volunteer effort. Almost everything accomplished is done in addition to people's work. There are many people involved, along with some "old timers" who've been willing to work for a long time and who provide corporate memory. Nobody wants to hog the limelight. One person, when asked if she'd like to run for an office said, "I think I'm ready to get involved in OLA now. It would be a good example for my daughter, who's just become a teenager."

It's work, but it's fun too! Even if you've never done anything except come occasionally to a workshop or a conference or just look at the OLA mailings, your input is welcome. Call up and suggest something. Volunteer to be on a committee. Send in a photo or write something for the Oklahoma Librarian. Part of the reward is the sense of connection. Make some new connections with people—make some connections with new people. All it takes is willingness!

Our paths are all different, but we have much more in common than not and we can add to each other on the way. None of us is doing a perfect job, but we are working on this together. Be part of it—you are wanted by your peers. It's work, but work with great and unanticipated rewards!

ENCYCO-MEDIA

Conference brings leadership, service and inspiration to thousands.

School library media specialists, classroom teachers and administrators, children and young adult librarians came together in Oklahoma City for EncycloMedia XV, held Sept. 13-15, 1995. A grand total of 3,060 participants, speakers and exhibitors, supported by the State Department of Education Library Media Section, made it a great conference.

People chose from more than 100 programs during the three days. Possibilities ranged from copyright issues, Internet links for art education, enticing students to read contemporary fiction, building influence for the school librarian, Oklahoma public school censorship, how to write and sell children's books, "peer partners" networking, to exploring the Arbuckles, and many others.

... The start of school would not be complete without attending Encyclo-Media. The Fifteenth Annual Encyclo-Media, "From Possibilities to Opportunities," proved to be, once again, an exciting two days of learning, sharing, growing, and professional development. I am forever amazed how something as good as this conference only seems to get better each year!

I attended several sessions, but as always, there were "so many sessions, so little time," and it was difficult to choose which to attend. The "Designing Curriculum-based Education Telecommunication" with speaker Judi Harris was most helpful. It demonstrated some of the many instructional opportunities available using the Internet. I think the most helpful part was the logical order in which she presented the ideas, and the handouts which contain... continued on page 58
This year is off to a rousing start! Thanks to each of you who have taken the time to contribute by sharing thoughts, keeping minutes or doing whatever is necessary to make things happen for your group.

I have been able to attend a number of committee, roundtable, and division meetings, and the level of leadership and expertise which I see is truly impressive. I think sometimes that we (as a profession) sell ourselves short; I would put librarians and library staff members up against any other group or committee for just plain getting the job done. Not all individuals approach problem-solving with quite the degree of purpose, and I think we are to be commended.

This brings up an issue which is very much on my mind, and that is the issue of MENTORING. As you may recall, one piece of the OLA Long Range Plan as presented at last spring's conference was the inclusion of a section encouraging OLA leaders to mentor those who will eventually fill their shoes. It is only wise that, as an organization, we look to the future and ensure that those capable of and willing to lead are trained and ready to do so. We must insist that current leadership passes along its experience, intellect, and political savvy to those who follow.

As leaders of our organization, our community, and our state, we play roles that carry a fair degree of responsibility. It is not enough to simply do what we are asked to do and assume that progress will ensue. Rather, we have an obligation to see that improvements are made and to train those who would be ready to step forward and add their enhancements to current ideas.

All of this came home to me very personally and graphically this summer, when I realized that four young Oklahoma librarians had been among the 32 selected nationally for inclusion in the Snowbird Leadership Institute in Utah. This program, only five years old, is a well-spring of potential. Through the presence and guidance of library "stars" like Hardy Franklin, Pat Schuman, June Garcia, Pat O'Brien, and others, new professionals can learn what approaches, habits, and techniques work.

Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, these young librarians learn a great deal about themselves. They analyze their management style, learn what kind of leader they are or will become, and learn just what sort of potential they may have. What an enabling experience that must be! No one who has attended the conference is ever quite the same—or so I am told. We have now an alumni group of six in the state and these are the names and faces we should be grooming for real responsibility.

Once when I was in casual conversation with Dennis Day, co-founder of the program, he remarked that he felt working with Snowbird provided a small way of improving the profession and paying "dues" for all the fun he had had as a librarian. Training new faces, gaining new ideas, was an activity that Dennis very much enjoyed and which inspired him totally. In leaving the legacy of the Snowbird program, Dennis left us all better than we were.

Through mentoring a colleague in the Oklahoma Library Association, we are all better that we were before; you are, the student or colleague is, and the association is.

--Jan Sanders

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OLASCHEDULE/HOLIDAYS
October 17 ODL Fall Workshop on Library Safety
October 20 Program Committee/Executive Board - Will Rogers P.L., Claremore
October 27 TSRT Workshop, Weatherford
November 1 Oklahoma Librarian Deadline
November 2 Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 a.m.
November 3 ACRL Fall Conference
November 10 Membership Committee Meeting, MLS - 10 a.m.
Nov. 13-19 National Children's Book Week
November 17 Program Committee/Executive Board, Stillwater P.L.
November 23 Thanksgiving
December 1 FOLIO Board Meeting, Muskogee Public Library
December 7 Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 a.m.
December 10 Membership Committee Meeting, Guthrie P.L. - 10 a.m.
December 15 Program Committee/Executive Board, Guthrie P.L.
December 25 Christmas
January 1 New Year's Day
Oklahoma Librarian Deadline
January 4 Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 a.m.
Oklahoma Librarians Have Life Changing Experiences at Snowbird

Since 1990, the first year of the Snowbird Leadership Institute, approximately 192 participants and 25 mentors have experienced this unique leadership development program. Each year approximately 32 librarians, new to the profession, have spent one week at Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort in Utah's Wasatch mountains to explore their leadership style, meet and listen to library leaders, and test their own limits.

Nominated by deans of library schools, presidents of state library associations, and state librarians, candidates for the Snowbird Leadership Institute have already shown excellent academic achievement and demonstrated leadership abilities. In August 1995, librarians from 22 states and two countries participated in the Institute.

DAN CHANEY, Oklahoma State University, BETH DEGEER, Bartlesville Public Library, ANNE HARRIS, Pioneer Library System, and JULIE LIGON, Western Oklahoma State College, were chosen from Oklahoma to participate in the 1995 Snowbird Institute. This professional experience leaves lasting impressions on participants. "Snowbird was outstanding," said Anne Harris. "I learned so much from this experience, and I think I will continue learning from it for many years. It was an intense and good week, full of learning, teaching, exploring, and discovering. There was great conversation with new friends, fun and exhilarating entertainment, and beautiful scenery. For me, there was a real sense of sadness on the last day as I had to say goodbye to everyone. I realized that a very powerful experience had just come to an end."

The eight library leaders of the 1995 mentoring team were: MARGARET ANDREWS, Coordinator of Advocacy and Access for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and Past President, Canadian Library Association; RICK ASHTON, Director of the Denver Public Library; JUNE GARCIA, Director of the San Antonio Public Library and Past President, Public Library Association; LORRAINE SUMMERS, Assistant State Librarian for Florida and Councilor, American Library Association; F. WILLIAM SUMMERS, Professor and former Dean of the School of Library and Information Studies at Florida State University and Past President, American Library Association; RICHARD SWEENEY, University Librarian, New Jersey Institute of Technology and former Director, Columbus Metropolitan Library; PAUL K. SYBROWSKY, President, Visendus; Chairman, American Library Services and founder of Dynix, Inc.; and ROBERT WEDGEWORTH, University Librarian, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and President, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

For mentors, the experience is often as moving and enriching as for participants. Following the Institute, one mentor stated, "It (Snowbird) was my single best professional experience. Ever. No exceptions."

The consulting team of Becky Schreiber and John Shannon (Schreiber Shannon Associates, Placitas, New Mexico), working with Dennis Day and Nancy Tessman, developed the program which allows participants to identify their leadership style, explore alternatives, and experiment with leadership skills and techniques.

Beth DeGeer, Julie Ligon, Anne Harris, and Dan Chaney take a break during an intense week of learning at Snowbird.

A favorite feature of the Institute is "My Practice, My Passion," in which the mentors discuss the values, pivotal decisions, career choices and critical issues which have affected their leadership styles. The program takes full advantage of the magnificent mountain setting and includes opportunities to hear Amy Owen, Utah State Librarian, share her passion for wildflowers on a "Wildflower Amble in the Albion Basin" and guest astronomer Seth Jarvis share his knowledge and love for the mystery and beauty of the universe up close and personal at an elevation of 10,000 feet.

Dennis Day, Director of the Salt Lake City Public Library and founder of the Institute, died on the afternoon of the opening session as a result of an illness diagnosed in January 1995. Active in many library endeavors, Dennis had served as president of the Mountain Plains Library Association, and was currently serving on ALA Council. Many testaments to Dennis Day's vision and leadership were expressed during the course of the institute by mentors and participants who felt that his spirit and commitment to the profession were embedded in this exceptional program.

Call for Research Papers

Papers will be selected for the MPLA/Kansas Library Association Joint Conference, April 10-12, 1996, in Wichita, by a jury of peers. A panel of judges will award a prize of $100 to the best presentation. Also, the abstract of the winning presentation will be published in the MPLA Newsletter.

Guidelines for submission:
* Authors must be current members of MPLA
* Papers must be original (not published or presented elsewhere)
* Selected authors will make 20 to 30 minute presentations at the conference
* Submit an abstract of 1-1/2 to 4 pages in length
* Deadline for abstracts is December 15, 1995
* Abstracts that do not meet the above guidelines will not be considered by the jury.

Send abstracts to Juanita Karr, Director, Learning Resources Center, Northern Nevada Community College, Elko, NV 89801. (702-753-2221 PHONE; 702-753-2296 FAX)
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Passage of SQ 669 Will Be Devastating

**Oklahoma Libraries Have Long History of Support by Property Taxes**

It's rather ironic that we have one of the best public library support mechanisms in the country, but it will be destroyed if SQ 699 passes.

Much has been said about how the passage of SQ 669 would affect common education; little has been mentioned about the other property tax recipients. Allow me to share some information with you about Oklahoma's public library systems.

Prior to 1960, funding for almost all public libraries in the state was provided by city funds. However, when cities experienced financial problems, public library funding was usually the first to be cut and they often suffered badly.

In an effort to provide a better funding base, the citizens of Oklahoma voted in 1960 to allow individual counties to vote to establish multi-county and single-county library systems that would be funded by property taxes. Today, there are eight library systems in the state serving 1,884,145 people in 29 counties; 87% to 91% of their income is provided by local ad valorem taxes.

The amount of state funding available to these library systems is miniscule; Tulsa only receives 1% from the state and about the same amount from federal funding. Where will the funds come from to "bail out" the public libraries in the state if SQ 669 passes? Certainly not from the state coffers.

**Oklahoma Library Funding Is Used as a Model Nationwide**

Throughout the country many public libraries are facing a severe financial crisis; cutting hours, eliminating needed services and materials, and closing buildings.

Without a doubt, the most stable and reliable funding, controlled by local taxpayers, is that provided by property tax funding for public libraries. Oklahoma has been used as a model and library supporters throughout the country are trying to set up similar funding structures. It's rather ironic that we have one of the best public library support mechanisms in the country, but it will be destroyed if SQ 669 passes.

If SQ 669 passes, public library systems in Oklahoma will meet the same devastating fate as those in California, unless the loss of income is provided from other sources.

--Pat Woodrum

(Excerpted from her letter of September 7, 1995 to members of the Task Force on Oklahoma's Property Tax System)

On July 21, 1995, the Executive Board of the Oklahoma Library Association affirmed the position of the Association on SQ 669:

"The Oklahoma Library Association sees the results of State Question 669 as devastating to government agencies supported by property taxes, including libraries. This question removes local control of these property taxes and would not provide the necessary increases in the future required by governmental agencies funded from property taxes. The Oklahoma Library Association joins other groups in opposing SQ 669."

**Umbrella Group Organizing Statewide Campaign**

A statewide campaign against SQ 669 is being organized by many groups under the umbrella of the Taxpayers for Fairness Committee (No! State Question 669 Campaign).

On September 22, the OLA Board voted to allow "Taxpayers for Fairness" to use OLA's name as an organization opposed to SQ 669.

If your library board or Friends group opposes SQ 669, you may want to consider signing the release form issued by the Taxpayers for Fairness Committee. This gives the Committee permission to use your Board's name as an opponent of State Question 669. The Committee is located at the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce (330 NE 10th, Oklahoma City, OK 73104).

**Do You Need to Know More About SQ 669?**

Consider attending the next Committee meeting. Call the State Chamber office at 405-235-3669 for time and place. The State Chamber also has an information resource file, organized by Linda Levy, Metropolitan Library System; Donna Skvarla, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, and Kay Boies, OLA Executive Director, which you may access.

OLA's Legislative Committee is studying SQ 669. OLA's membership will receive a fact sheet on SQ 669's direct and indirect impacts on library systems and municipal libraries.

If your Library Board or Friends group opposes SQ 669, please send a copy of their resolution to Debra Engel, co-chair, OLA Legislative Committee, Pioneer Library System, 225 N. Webster, Norman, OK 73069.

--Debra Engel, Co-Chair
OLA Legislative Committee

Also, passage of SQ 669 would dramatically impact other service providers supported by property tax funding, such as public schools, community college and vo-tech libraries, as well as local government, including basics like the police department.
Are You Aware of a Challenge to Materials in an Oklahoma Library?

Last year, the Intellectual Freedom Committee created the Oklahoma Clearinghouse for Challenged Materials. This is a fancy-sounding name for a list of items which were the object of censorship attempts in Oklahoma. This voluntary list contains not only title, author and library information (library information is kept confidential), but also reports how the situations were resolved.

Because we had never asked for information of this nature before, we invited reports on items objected to in the last eighteen months, using the American Library Association intellectual freedom report form.

IFC members believed that it was time to talk about objections to library materials in order to deal with censorship as a "business-as-usual" event. Members felt strongly that sharing the information could help by:
1. eliminating the "crisis" mentality when people hate what's on your shelf;
2. establishing a helping network for those under siege and wanting contact with other professionals, and
3. removing the secrecy and even embarrassment from customer objections.

The OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee goal is to help libraries to fulfill the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association by providing access to resources and information about censorship attempts.

We received reports on twenty-three items last year. As you can see from the accompanying list, public and school libraries seem to have what it takes to maintain the great American forum for debate and freedom of opinion.

But, IFC believes that the information we received was just a small part of those items objected to in Oklahoma. When we presented our conference program in Tulsa last spring, many librarians talked to committee members about their experiences with censorship. Most of those examples were not submitted on forms.

As we enter a new year for the Intellectual Freedom Committee, I urge you to share your experience with fellow librarians. If you have had materials at your library challenged, please fill out the form sent out in every OLA bulk mailing. And, of course, Kay Boies and I welcome your call at any time. IFC and OLA are there to help.

--Theresa Dickson, Chair
Intellectual Freedom Committee

Other IFC members for 1995-96 are Jonette Ellis, Holly LaBossiere, Robin Overmier, Pauline Boyer Rodriguez, Wanda Searcy, David Snider, and Susan Wright.

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<th>Oklahoma Materials Challenged in 1995</th>
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<td><strong>Books</strong></td>
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<td>Mouse Hole</td>
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<td>Maddy's Song</td>
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<td>Mom &amp; Dad &amp; I Are Having a Baby</td>
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<td>Nightmare Poems to Trouble Your Sleep</td>
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<td>Out of Control</td>
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<td>Three Up a Tree</td>
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Encyclo-Media (continued from page 53)

all the examples she discussed, plus additional ways to facilitate instruction using the Internet as a tool.

--Buffy Edwards
Jefferson Elementary, Norman

Buffy also went with Kristin Ellis and Kim Russell, two new teachers from Jefferson and first-time Encyclomediaists, who thought the sessions were wonderful and enjoyed being enlightened about Media Specialists. They liked Internet programs, as well as a poetry session, lunchtime speaker Dale Bulla, and a program on "Plan On It: Cooperative Planning Across the Curriculum" conducted by Anna Masters, Norman Public Schools.

Take a teacher to Encyclo-Media next year!
Young Adult Sequoyah Committee Faces Challenges in 1995

The Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award Committee has had an exciting and "challenging" year. Since February, when the 1995-96 Masterlist was released, the committee has officially received and responded to six written challenges to books which appear on that masterlist. The challenges have come from parents and even a few librarians.

Members of the Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award Committee welcome the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the 1995-96 Masterlist and to the purpose of the award—to encourage students in Oklahoma to read books of literary quality.

Teens only required to read three books from list

In every challenge the committee has received this year, the problem has arisen from programs which require students to read every book on the masterlist. The Masterlist is not intended to be used in that fashion. Because not all books are at the developmental level of or are of interest to all students, the Sequoyah YA Committee requires teens to read only three of the titles on the Masterlist in order to vote.

How Sequoyah books are chosen

Books on the Sequoyah YA Masterlist are chosen each year by the Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award Committee of OLA. The 12 committee members are all library professionals who work with young adult literature, volunteering their time to read and discuss over 100 titles each year. Criteria for selection on the masterlist include:

- Published by an author living in the United States
- Copyrighted three years prior to the date of the award
- Literary quality
- Originality
- Interest and appeal for students in grades seven through nine
- Developmental levels for students in grades seven through nine

In November, when the final masterlist is chosen, only 20 or 30 books remain on the consideration list, and by that time everyone on the committee (with only an occasional exception) has read all of the books which remain under consideration. At this meeting, which usually lasts about six hours, the members fiercely debate the merits of each remaining title, and come to a consensus about which titles should appear on the final masterlist.

In order for a title to make the final list, a majority of the committee members must vote for the book. In practice, most books on the final masterlist have received affirmative votes from eight to ten out of the twelve committee members.

A diversity of books chosen for diverse readers

Committee members believe that librarians and staff should be available to help readers locate items to fit personal tastes, interests, and values. Reflecting this, books on the masterlist are chosen to reflect a multitude of viewpoints and values, even those which individual librarians and even individual Sequoyah committee members may not share.

In this way, every young adult in Oklahoma should be able to find three books on the masterlist which he or she finds appealing and which match his or her personal values and interests.

--Beth DeGeer, Chair
Sequoyah YA Committee

Letter to the Editor

I am writing in response to Lori Curtis' letter in the May-June issue of the Oklahoma Librarian. We of the Sequoyah Children's Book Award Committee would like to thank her for calling this inaccuracy to our attention. Our future promotional items will reflect that Sequoyah developed a syllabary with eighty-six symbols representing different sounds in the Cherokee language. If she has any ideas on how we can explain what a syllabary is to third to sixth graders, we welcome her suggestions.

Sincerely,

Jolene Singleterry, Chair
Sequoyah Children's Book Award Committee
Do You Know This Person?

The idea for this column came to the editor during one of those organized bonding experiences where each person tells two things about themself that the next person doesn't know. Of course, the session got quite entertaining.

The people we work with and who lead us in OLA are MUCH more interesting than just their title, library type and town. So to start, I picked someone randomly, a person with a warm and fun heart whom I'd seen many times doing OLA service. And, I asked someone who knows her to do an interview so the rest of us can share a little of the delight of knowing her.

Beverly Sprehe has fun for 23 years in the same position

On November 30, 1995, Beverly Sprehe, Cataloging Manager for the Metropolitan Library System will retire. Since she's a long time and active OLA member, we thought it would be fun to interview her about some of her experiences in OLA and with Metropolitan. After all, she must be a most unusual person to become and remain a cataloger for 23 years!!!

Beverly came to work for MLS on September 19, 1972. She was fresh out of library school and came to us as head of cataloging, and has remained in that same position for all 23 years at Metropolitan. It was and is her first and only professional library job! Her comment about these years? "Wonderful!!"

Her earliest memories of cataloging for MLS were that cards were keypunched in all caps. They called each day's cataloging "the run" because the data was "run over" to the county computer each night where the cards were made. To this day, daily work is still called "the run." Tools used by the cataloging staff were NUC and LC Proof slips and original cataloging for some new materials.

In 1975, MLS became an OCLC library and it was "the most marvelous thing to get rid of LC proof slips," says Bev. At that time her department began retrospective conversion—using the union catalog. "After 6 months with OCLC," Bev says, "I would have strangled anyone who might try to get rid of OCLC," because it simplified and made things so much better for her and her department. She feels one of her most important accomplishments was to get rid of the backlog of uncataloged materials and develop a system for seeing that those backlogs never occurred again. Currently, she and her staff maintain a 24-hour (3 working days) turnaround time for most materials added to the Metropolitan System. They do a great job.

To a non-cataloger like myself, the most interesting question posed to Bev was "how could you stand to be a cataloger for 23 years?" Bev's answer--

"Because it is fun! I like it because I am a maverick. I don't dot all the is and cross all the ts. I am sure most cataloging purists would turn over in their graves at some of the things we do, but we try to catalog materials where our customers can find them." She also equates cataloging to solving a mystery or working a jigsaw puzzle. "It is fun to figure out what goes where."

Her most memorable person at MLS? Eddie Terry of the Automation Department. He has kept life for the staff working in the Capitol Hill Library (where the cataloging department is located) most interesting and entertaining. Ask Bev about his performance at her last birthday party!!!

Bev plans to enjoy her retirement by visiting four (of her eight) children who live in "really nice places to visit," to travel, and "clean her house really good." She will be a consultant for MLS for a few months after her retirement.

Beverly has been a stalwart member of OLA and an invaluable person for a number of years on OLA's membership committee.

As a long time friend and ALA roommate, I have many fond memories of trips with BEV, including an exciting excursion to San Francisco where we ended up (unplanned) marching in the middle of the annual gay rights parade. We will miss her and wish her well as she retires!

--Donna Morris

OK ACRL Fall Conference

"Cyberspace on Campus: Policy to Practice" is the title of the fall conference of the Oklahoma Association of College and Research Libraries, OK ACRL. Speakers will examine legal and ethical issues involved in establishing policies relating to an electronic environment and will share how their respective campuses established policies dealing with computer use.

Speakers are Ann Studden, Director of Academic Computing and Network Services, Northwestern (Illinois) University; Randall Coyne, Associate Professor of Law, University of Oklahoma; June Lester, Director and Professor of Library and Information Studies, University of Oklahoma; Dan Chaney, Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian, Oklahoma State University; Paul Gandel, Associate Provost, Information and Instructional Technology, Ohio University.

The conference is on Friday, November 3, 1995, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (registration 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.), at the OSU-OKC Student Center, 3rd floor, North Conference Room, 900 North Portland Avenue Oklahoma City. Public parking is south of the Student Center. Registration is $25. Student registration is $10. Contact: Jon Woltz for more information.Voice: 918-561-8466 E-mail: woltz@vms.ocom.okstate.edu.
Leaders for Oklahoma libraries recognized by OLA

Unless you attended the Friday night banquet at the 1995 OLA Annual Conference, you might not know this year's outstanding award winners. Being so deserving of recognition, here they are again!

--Distinguished Service Award to SHARON SAULMON presented in recognition of inspired leadership, devoted service and unusual contributions to Oklahoma libraries and to the profession of librarianship.

--Citizens Recognition Award for continued support of libraries to GAIL MILLER, FROSTY TROY, and THE ROBERT M. BIRD SOCIETY.

--For outstanding contributions to an Oklahoma Library on a Special Project to JEFF WEEMS.

--For outstanding contributions to Oklahoma Libraries on a Special Project, State Question 666, to Governor HENRY BELLMON and MOLLY BOREN.

These people, whether librarian or not, are some of the TRUE FRIENDS of libraries and of people's access to information in this state. If you see them, thank them, and be alert for others who ought to be so recognized.

-Clockwise from upper left: Sharon Saulmon wins Distinguished Service Award. Gail Miller, FOLIO representative, does lots of local community work and drives from Altus to countless OLA meetings. Frosty Troy, editor of the Oklahoma Observer, tireless speaker and writer for Oklahoma libraries.

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Certification Courses for Public Librarians May Begin in 1996

Interview with Donna Morris, September 14, 1995, by Peggy Cook

...Certification for public librarians. I knew that many dedicated people from across Oklahoma had been working on this process for years... What's happening now? So I picked up the phone and called Donna Morris, a charter member of the Certification Committee, to get an update on the project. Amazingly, Donna returned my call after just returning from a meeting of that very Committee.

PC: Donna, who chairs the Certification Committee now?
DM: Marilyn Shackelford, Manager of Branch Services for Tulsa City-County Library System, is our Chair, and she does a great job of overseeing all of the things that are happening.

PC: Where is certification now?
DM: It's very close to happening. The Committee has finished the Implementation Plan. The Oklahoma Certification Manual for Librarians is written, the "Institute in Public Librarianship" is outlined, and the Oklahoma Program Approval Manual for Certification is finished.

PC: How is all of this going to happen once it starts?
DM: ODL has LSCA grant funds to implement certification. Ginny Dietrich, an ODL consultant, is assisting this project. Now that the Institute has been outlined, some of the grant funds will be used to develop the institute classes. The class content will be developed by professional educators. Then, qualified instructors can travel to different parts of the state and teach the classes.

PC: Is this ready to happen?
DM: The Certification Committee will make presentations to the ODL and OLA Boards in November, asking for final approval of the plans. Then, through an application process, librarians will demonstrate that they already have a degree, and some level of library experience, or they can take the Institute to receive the necessary training to qualify for certification. Certificates will be issued for support staff or for administrative staff (i.e. Level IV --Support Staff).

PC: Isn't there supposed to be a State Board some day to assist with this?
DM: Yes, the Certification Board will work with the ODL consultant, overseeing the process and hearing appeals. ODL and OLA will recommend the four members of that board. And, tentatively, there may be some Institute courses offered in 1996.

PC: Donna, what's been the most interesting part about serving on this committee?
DM: Going to all the public hearings we held....going to Lawton, to Woodward, to Oklahoma City, and hearing everyone's opinions and getting their input into the process.

PC: I know every time I discuss this, I have more questions that come to mind. What kind of public information are you going to provide this year?
DM: The Committee is planning on making a presentation at the OLA Conference in April, 1996. We will also have information on the OLA homepage on the Internet, and the articles in the ODL Source and Oklahoma Librarian.

PC: Donna, thank you for taking time to talk with me. I know you need to be going...
DM: Yes, I do have to go. My son's football team is getting ready to play Whittier, our archrivals, and I need to have my priorities straight!

Ethics Question

What should Donna Jones do?

Donna Jones is the Director in a public library that serves a population of 30,000. The arts council has arranged for an exhibition by a local artist in the lobby of the library. Mr. Smith, an influential patron, found out about the proposed exhibit. He finds the artist's work very offensive and threatened to withdraw his support from the library if the exhibit is shown there. The exhibit has not even been put up yet and there is already controversy. What should Donna do?

--Elizabeth Norman
Ethics Committee

Ask your fellows what they think. The OLA Ethics Committee hopes to get people thinking and stimulate discussions among colleagues and staff with these case studies. For those truly motivated, write down some comments and fax them to the editor (405-682-7585).
Executive Board Takes Action on Your Behalf

The OLA Executive Board, serving your Association as its current set of guiding lights, has been making decisions, just as it is supposed to do. In the last two meetings, the following actions were taken:

**July 21, 1995**

- Approved budget summary reports for OLA and OASLMS for the 1994/95 fiscal year.
- Voted to affirm OLA Legislative Committee position on State Question 669 (see p. 57).
- Approved 1995/96 OLA budget.
- Voted to urge the Governor to call a Contingency Review Board meeting to consider expenditure of capital improvements bond funds for expenditure of $14 million dollars to support OneNet.

**August 18, 1995**

- Voted to retain Oliver Delaney as OLA lobbyist.
- Authorized Jennifer Kidney, Director of "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma" to apply for a two year, $150,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Approved a request from OASLMS to do fundraising at Encyclo-Media to benefit OASLMS with the stipulation that this action would not set policy for OLA.
- Approved a $100 donation to the Freedom to Read Foundation in memory of Dennis Day.
- Approved expenditure of $32 to cover postage costs for an invitation to all new public library trustees to join OLA.

--John Augelli, Secretary

For further details, contact Jan Sanders, OLA President, or John Augelli, Secretary.

GPO and Oklahoma State University Open Free Web Link to Federal Information

The U. S. Government Printing Office (GPO) has opened the first "gateway" site in Oklahoma giving the public free access to many of the nation's most important Federal documents via an Internet connection or a phone call.

The Congressional Record, Federal Register, Congressional bills, U. S. Code, and other full text Federal databases are now available to off-site users on the same day of publication through the Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Gateway.

Users may access the materials through the World Wide Web by pointing their web browser to http://www.okstate.edu/gpolink.htm. For user support, call Suzanne Holcombe at OSU, 405-744-6546.

You will find three databases on the GPO Access system:
1. **Federal Register** includes proposed and final Federal regulations and Presidential documents as well as meeting and grant notices, and the semi-annual Unified Regulatory Agenda database.

2. **Congressional Record** includes the activities and debates of Congress dating back to January 1994, the History of Bills database, and the Congressional Record Indexes from 1983 to present.

3. **Legislative Service** includes all published versions of House and Senate bills from the 103rd and 104th Congresses, Public Laws of the 104th Congress, and the U. S. Code database.

Also on the system, **GAO Reports** is a free database of published reports (except the restricted and classified stuff) from the General Accounting Office. Other databases will be added.

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CATHY AUDLEY, Tulsa City-County Library, is a member of the advisory committee for the two-year Library Leadership Fundraising Training Foundation project administered by ALA. Teams of library directors and board members from 60 libraries will be trained to raise local funds. Two $100,000 grants from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York support the project.

DAN MARMION, OSU Libraries, has taken a new job as the Assistant Dean for Information Technology and Systems at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Dan is immediate past chair of the Automation Roundtable for OLA and was head, library systems at OSU.

The FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM recently gave the System $75,100, which will be used for purchase of new books, new furnishings at several libraries, a children's literature festival, promotional and other activities. The Friends' sale typically grosses over $100,000 each year.

The PIONEER LIBRARY SYSTEM has been awarded a $19,505 grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) to provide "Information Stations" by Byars, Maud, and Macomb. "We will provide a computer, modem, and printer in a school or other community facility," said project director SUSAN GREGORY, "to allow customers direct access to the library system's collection of over 300,000 books and other materials." Residents will be able to reserve a book or other title, and the library will deliver and pick-up the materials once-a-week. "The information stations will also allow rural residents to search the text-based Internet as well as a database of 400 magazines with abstracts and full text," Automation Coordinator ANDY PETERS explained. LISA WELLS, Branch Manager of the Purcell Public Library, and JUDY HARMON, Branch Manager of the Tecumseh Public Library, will serve as local contacts for the project.

The TULSA LIBRARY TRUST awarded its Allie Beth Martin Scholarship to Tulsa Jennifer Small for the 1995-96 school year. Jennifer is studying for her MLS at the University of Texas, Austin. Allie Beth Martin was Tulsa City-County Library System director from 1963-76.
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