Special report from the president

Many of you may already be aware of OLA's financial crisis. Over the past 5 to 6 years expenses rose while income declined. In FY96/97, expenses exceeded income by approximately $30,000. OLA was able to continue to operate by depleting savings and spending income from conference. At the start of this fiscal year OLA carried forward approximately $9,000 in bills including the Executive Director's June salary.

How did we get here?
A six year financial analysis shows this occurred for several reasons; some gradual, some unforeseen.
- Currently, and for the past two years, the membership has been down and the Association has not collected sufficient dues to cover the operating costs of the Association's office, committees, newsletter printing, dues, or travel.
- Scholarship and Legislative Fund donations were down sharply.
- Oklahoma Librarian revenue reached its lowest amount in the last year.
- Net income from workshops has declined.
- Net conference income is also down with an unforeseen hotel bill of $3400 received in FY96/97 from FY95/96.

What are we doing to rectify the situation?
- The Executive Board approved a bare bones budget for FY97-98 that included a one-third salary reduction for the Executive Director. The salary for the OLA lobbyist was also reduced.
- The Oklahoma Librarian will be printed only twice this year unless we obtain sponsors for ads. An advertisement committee is working to offer to vendors an advertising package that includes space in the Oklahoma Librarian, the membership directory, and conference preview.
- The Board established the cost of workshops at a $30 minimum for members and $60 minimum for non-members. Also, each workshop will build into the cost of the workshop a $10 per attendee overhead expense.
- The membership voted a dues increase at the annual meeting in May.
- This year OLA received three project grants from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. ODL will pay for membership for up to 125 participants in the Institute of Public Librarianship who have never belonged to the Association. OLA also is receiving a grant of $5,000 for use in developing and presenting the 1998 annual conference. A third grant of $20,000 will be used to provide support this year for presentation of a series of meetings in communities around the state for citizens to discuss the role of community libraries in presenting access to information. A portion of this grant is designated for project oversight. In other words, we are able through this grant to postpone a reduction in the Executive Director's salary, while adding responsibilities. These grants are a wonderful boost, but not a cure.

You can help.
- Encourage colleagues to become members in OLA. Efforts from each Division and Roundtable with assistance from Membership Committee members are being made. One board member is making it her personal goal to sign up one new OLA member per week.
- Donate to either the Scholarship or Legislative Fund. Donations to the Association are tax deductible.

Our current financial situation did not occur overnight and will take time to rectify. Be assured that your Executive Board is working hard to return the Association to solvency. The offerings of help range from project grants to paper clips to hours of volunteer time.

In a time when libraries are threatened by censorship control, the need is great for us to show unity through our diversity toward our mission of strengthening library service and continuing education for librarians. The Association also needs to continue efforts to obtain discounts for universal service and to encourage the legislature to fund libraries at a level that will allow them to continue to offer online services, including FirstSearch. The opportunity to help fortify our professional association is present for every single member.

-Susan Wright

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As we begin a new year, I wish to thank the members for affording me the opportunity, as OLA president, to help advance the association's mission. I am happy for the chance to contribute to our professional association and to get to know many of you.

The goals and purpose of the Oklahoma Library Association were echoed with pride at the Leadership Retreat at Oklahoma City Community College in June. Guided by Marianne Hartzell, Executive Director of the Michigan Library Association, we brainstormed our reasons for continued interest in the association. She called those reasons, "prouds."

Think for a moment about why you joined OLA in the first place and why you choose to renew your membership year after year. Was it the "professional thing to do?" Did a friend or colleague encourage you to join? Perhaps you took advantage of the member's discount for a workshop you were wanting to attend. Was it to learn more about the defense of Intellectual Freedom in the face of a challenge? To hear quality conference speakers and learn about programs of timely interest and use? To be part of an inclusive organization with a strong voice for libraries? To know more about legislative action affecting libraries, including your own?

You joined for a good reason, and you remain a member for many good reasons. Perhaps one of those could spark the interest of a friend, colleague, co-worker or trustee who will benefit in the same way you do now. My hope is that we each make it our mission to tell someone about the "prouds" in the Oklahoma Library Association. My hope is that you as members will seek out that person working in your library or community who is not a member, and encourage him/her to join.

Our theme for this year is "Libraries are for Life." I am currently a school librarian, but, like many of you, I have worked in many kinds of libraries: public, special and school. I have fond memories of the summer I drove a van around the Mississippi Delta to tell stories in small rural public libraries. One was housed in the same building as the city's 2-person police department. When the phone rang, the police answered first, then knocked on the wall if the call was for the librarian. Another was not in a building at all. Rather, it was under a tree where a blanket was spread for children to come hear stories and check out books.

My point is that libraries span our lives, meeting the need of man, woman and child at every stage of existence. Over the course of a lifetime, the information available to us through libraries can enrich the quality and diversity of our thought and expression. There is therefore no time better than the present in which to say, "Libraries are for Life!"

--Susan Dulaney Wright

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**OLAS CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 6-7</td>
<td>AMIGOS Fall Conference</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
<td>OK/ACRL Fall Conference, Rose State College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 13-14</td>
<td>Leadership Development Institute &quot;Crisis and Challenge&quot;</td>
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<td>November 14</td>
<td>Sequoyah YA Reading Team, ODL - 10 am</td>
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<td>November 17</td>
<td>Sequoyah Administrative Team, ODL - 10 am</td>
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<td>November 20</td>
<td>GODORT Workshop &quot;State Document Electronic Resources&quot;-ODL</td>
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<td>November 21</td>
<td>Program Committee/Executive Board, Stillwater Public Library</td>
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<td>November 22</td>
<td>Sequoyah Children's Reading Team, Norman PL - 10 am</td>
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<td>November 24</td>
<td>Sequoyah Administrative Team, ODL - 10 am</td>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>IFC, Winding Creek Elementary, Moore - 3:30 pm</td>
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<td>December 4</td>
<td>Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 am</td>
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<td>December 5</td>
<td>OASLMS Executive Board, Applewoods - 5 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>Sequoyah YA Reading Team, Martin East Reg. Lib, Tulsa - 10 am</td>
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<td>December 19</td>
<td>Program Committee/Executive Board, Norman Public Library</td>
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<td>January 5</td>
<td>Long Range Planning Committee, ODL - 1:30 pm</td>
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<td>January 8</td>
<td>Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 am</td>
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<td>January 9-15</td>
<td>ALA Midwinter Meeting, New Orleans</td>
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<td>January 16</td>
<td>Program Comm./Executive Board, Downtown Doubltree, Tulsa</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>Intellectual Freedom Committee, OUHSC - 10 am</td>
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ALA Conference in San Francisco

San Francisco was a wonderful city for an ALA conference. I think it put everyone in a good mood because it seemed to me that all the groups I met with were less contentious than usual. Or, perhaps the Gay Pride Parade was just so outrageous, ALA's antics paled in comparison!

The Council met four times and conducted business in a thoughtful manner. The first item was an apple juice toast in celebration of the recent Supreme Court decision concurring with the overturning of the "Decency Act" portion of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. At the Midwinter meeting President-elect Barbara Ford announced her intention to find ways for more ALA members to participate, particularly those who are unable to attend conferences. Council's Policy Monitoring Committee reported on the implications of using e-mail to achieve that end. Although many important questions need to be answered, it was decided to permit Barbara to select several ALA Committees to test "virtual" operation involving their entire membership, while fulfilling the intent of open meetings. Their experience will be used to guide future decisions.

The recent Executive Director search failed, and another search has begun. Mary Gikias will serve as Interim Executive Director.

The Spectrum Initiative, aimed toward giving $5,000 scholarships to 150 minority students in the next three years, is moving ahead. The number of library schools which would be involved was enlarged. A Spectrum listserv will be established soon and you may begin now to send requests to Barbara Ford for information about the scholarships. In addition to that initiative, a $1 million Minority Scholarship Endowment is being created, with all ALA staff invited to contribute. OLA will receive a letter asking for a representative to a working session at Midwinter to develop support for the Endowment.

The Legislative Committee reported on President Clinton's "America Reads Challenge." Libraries could take the lead in grant applications or participate in partnerships for grants under this major literacy initiative. Its goal is to help all children read well and independently by the end of the third grade. The $2.7 billion is to be used for effective local reading programs for preschool-aged children and children attending public and private schools. More will be available soon about this project.

ALA's financial condition is sound, according to Treasurer Bruce Daniels. Council voted to approve a $10 fee for conference exhibits passes. Council has recommended that Council terms be shortened from four to three years in order to broaden participation. That will be voted on by membership. It also passed a resolution thanking the Gates Library Foundation for its generous gift of $200 million cash and $200 million in software especially meant to give computer access to low-income neighborhoods. Many libraries have already written or called to find out how to apply.

Recommendations were adopted to assist in clarifying ALA relationships with outside non-profit organizations: who may establish them, how long they last, whether they are official or informal, etc. There will be guidelines and a glossary of terms added to the ALA Handbook.

Much time was spent discussing a resolution affirming that the use of filtering software by libraries violates the Library Bill of Rights. It passed after a good deal of debate and attempts to amend the resolution. There was general agreement that many libraries probably would have to use the filters at least on some PCs, but that avoiding their use should be the goal or standard.

A document titled "Principles for Licensing Electronic Resources" was adopted. It is meant to provide guidance to library staff in working with others in the institution and with licensors to create agreements that respect the rights and obligations of both parties. The document will be available through ALA, or I can provide a copy to anyone interested.

The Washington Office is working on a $2 million initiative to hold a "net day" for libraries in Washington, DC. Chapters would need to provide the best from each state in digital content for this project. Contributions on how libraries help people learn, get jobs, and conduct lifelong learning would be welcome. More about that will be available if they are successful in obtaining the funding.

The Washington Office also has a web page on how to be ready to take advantage of discounts (http://www.ala.org/oltp/universr.html). They are also trying to put up videoconferencing facilities so they can report directly to conferences without having to physically go to all 50 state meetings. They are looking for some "guinea pig" states. Is Oklahoma interested?

—Jan Keene, ALA Councilor

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Do you like the bright lights? Do you like telling kids what to do? Do you like being where the action is? Then this opportunity is for you! The Sequoyah Book Awards Administrative Committee is looking for a good production crew to develop and implement a video highlighting the Children's Sequoyah Masterlist for 1996. The video must use Oklahoma school-age children who tell about the Sequoyah books through book talks, readers theater, skits and etc. General and technical guidelines and application forms are available from OLA. A sample video must also be submitted for consideration. If you have questions call Jenny Stenis, Norman Public Library, 405-321-1481, ext 130. For video guidelines and application write: OLA, Sequoyah Video Application, 300 Hardy Drive, Edmond, OK 73013.
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 Ponca City Library
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 Mental Health Svcs of S. OK
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 Buckley Public Library
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 flangley@kctc.poteau.ok.us

 Sequoyah CH's Reading Team
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 mofnattfield@gmail.com

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 918-596-7897
"When we really dislike something, think it is evil, inimical to everything we stand for, and dangerous to our children, it is a natural reaction to want the government to regulate or ban it. Each of us has his or her own devil: pornography, Communism, sexual harassment, violence, abortion, welfare, poverty, religion in the classroom, or the lack of religion in the classroom. If we hate a thing and wish to ban it—or if it is already banned by the law, as violence, obscenity, religion in the classroom, and sexism in the workplace are—then it is also human nature to wish to ban speech about it." from Jonathan Wallace's Sex, Laws & Cyberspace

After months of attending Metropolitan Library System Commission meetings, and demanding removal and segregation of materials, the group Oklahomans for Children and Families moved on to new fronts, in June targeting the film "The Tin Drum" in the Metropolitan Library System. OCAF is closely connected with national organizations working to clear shelves of materials offensive to them.

Bob Anderson of OCAF gave Metropolitan's copy of the Academy Award-winning German film to Oklahoma City police on June 20. Anderson complained that the film contained child pornography. The police then asked Judge Richard W. Freeman for a judicial determination of obscenity. On June 24 Freeman told police the film contained child pornography according to Oklahoma Statutes. Police then confiscated tapes from video stores and two private homes.

Both the American Civil Liberties Union and the Video Software Dealers Association have filed suits in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. The suits charge that police and city officials violated several constitutional rights, including free speech, the Fourth Amendment's bar on unreasonable search and seizures, and due process. The lawsuits also challenge the obscenity ruling.

Oklahoma County District Attorney Bob Macy filed a suit in Oklahoma County court asking for a second ruling on the film. Macy's case was moved to federal court, where U.S. District Judge Ralph Thompson will consider the cases.

On Sept. 26 the Board of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries authorized the department to represent the state's library users by taking appropriate legal action in response to the federal court cases involving "The Tin Drum". One issue which ODL will seek to address is statewide access to the material; currently ODL, the statewide interlibrary loan referral center, cannot fulfill its mission in Oklahoma County.

Most recently, an organizational meeting for the new Citizens Supporting Open Libraries group in Oklahoma County was held on Sept. 30 at Belle Isle Library. More than 200 people showed up, seriously overloaded the room's cooling system, but generating lots of enthusiasm. Many, many people signed up for various C-SOL committees, and there was much talk about OCAF's efforts to get legislation on segregating library materials through the Oklahoma legislature in 1997. The beleaguered Metropolitan library staff were ecstatic with the response.

During this time, the Ada Public Library was also under strong pressure in regards to its circulating the "Tin Drum" video and pressure to segregate all library materials. The city council referred the matter to the library board, which held a special meeting on Aug. 19 that was well attended by library supporters. Library Director Jennifer Greenstreet did a fine job of explaining what the library was doing, and the person leading the charge said he could live with it.

Keep up-to-date with the "Tin Drum" material on ODL's home page (www.state.ok.us/~odl). It is extremely complete, well written, and frequently updated. Many thanks to Bill Young for his efforts in building this collection of material.

--Rachel Butler, with thanks again to Bill Young

Editorial

As you can see, things have changed in order to get OLA back on a firm footing. Do you believe in the importance of professional contacts and sharing of our collective wisdom? What do you think might happen without such an organization to speak up for issues of access in libraries around the state? Individually as citizens we can make an impact but together we have much more of an impact. A lot of behind the scenes work has been done by individuals representing OLA and their institutions on behalf of libraries this past year and years before. Rebuilding OLA cannot happen with just some members committed to its importance. Do you care? Recruit 2 new members. Is your library an institutional member?

As part of this rebuilding situation, the Oklahoma Librarian does not look quite like its former self. First of all, it's going from every other month to quarterly, OR, if we aren't able to get enough advertising, there will be only 2 issues this year.

If you're like a lot of us, first you flip through each issue looking for photos. No photos this year. Photos add a lot to what's communicated, but they also add a great deal to the price of printing, and at this point we cannot afford them. I am saving some wonderful pictures in hopes they may eventually appear in print. I'd like to thank all this year's officers, committee and roundtable chairs for sending me their mugshots for the Leadership directory that traditionally appears in the July/August issue. We would've had a complete set of faces!

And I'd especially like to thank all the people working to keep this volunteer association vital so we can continue to represent libraries and people's access to information in Oklahoma. Don't procrastinate. We need each other.

--Rachel Butler
The 1997 Oklahoma Legislative Session

What began as a quiet legislative session ended in a flurry of activity for librarians in the state. Throughout the long and sometimes arduous hours of the session, librarians had special interest in legislation that proposed to deregulate the telecommunications industry (OneNet), redefine the way we assess property for tax purposes ("Central Assessments"), increase tuition at institutions of higher education, provide new technology for schools, and reflected concerns about materials in libraries or on the Internet that some viewed as potentially harmful to minors.

For libraries, the session started with House Bill 2151, "An Act Relating to Minors Accessing Harmful Materials On-Line." As introduced, HB 2151 specifically targeted public libraries and by codifying the act in Title 21, in effect would have criminalized librarians for violations. The major problem with such legislation is that HB 2151 does not adequately consider the nature of the Internet, and would bring the spirit of the Internet down to the level of a child and effectively retard its further development.

Last June, a federal judge ruled regarding the Computer Decency Act that "The Internet may fairly be regarded as a never-ending worldwide conversation." He also said, "The Government may not, through the CDA, interrupt that conversation. As the most participatory form of mass speech yet developed, the Internet deserves the highest protection from Governmental intrusion."

This was the position OLA chose, also emphasizing that librarians neither subscribe to nor support any materials harmful to minors or in violation of state laws. Furthermore, it is parents and teachers who must be empowered to determine what online material is appropriate for their values and purposes. HB 2151 died in the House Committee on Science and Technology, but I am afraid we have not seen the end of this struggle locally and nationally.

Over the past years ad valorem taxation has been much debated. Who taxes what? Where are certain taxes collected and for how long are they held, if protested? As county government needs to become more self-reliant from the federal and state governments, and current recipients of local support become more concerned for their own resources, it is inevitable that any discussion of assessing property centrally will be a heated argument.

Following months of intense effort on the part of many, Oklahoma passed HB 1337 and HB 1338, an agreement forged by business and education communities. HB 1337 creates the "Task Force on Centrally Assessed Property." It will be made up of eighteen designated public members and six designated ex-officio nonvoting members from the Legislature. OLA member Pat Woodrum represents the Oklahoma Library Association on the Task Force which is reviewing the constitutional provisions, laws and procedures related to determining values of public service corporations, as used in the ad valorem tax code, and will make recommendations for changes related to centrally assessed property. A report is due by December 1997.

HB 1338 recreates the Court of Tax Review, places a moratorium on corporations changing from centrally to locally assessed properties (though 1998) and allows protested ad valorem tax payments to be paid to school districts from a separate state fund. While HB 1338 does make some needed changes in the current law, it's the work of the Citizen Task Force that will continue to demand vigilance.

The "Oklahoma Telecommunications Act of 1997," or the Telephone Bill (HB 1815) as it became known, will phase in telephone deregulation in Oklahoma over the next four years. The legislation established guidelines governing telephone competition while ensuring continuation of universal telephone service throughout the state. Throughout the debate on HB 1815, OLA had a concern with language dealing with OneNet: "Libraries across Oklahoma including school libraries, public libraries, academic libraries, and special libraries provide Internet access to users through ONENET. Many of these libraries are governmental agencies,... Depending on interpretation of the language in (HB 1815, Section 8) these libraries' ability to provide information could be severely hampered," said OLA. Because of OLA's efforts the final language in Section 8 was amended.

There are a number of other provisions of the "Telephone Bill" of interest to librarians:

* A Universal Service Fund (USF) will be maintained to ensure quality, affordable telephone service throughout the state (for rural residents and those who must have such services). The fund will be underwritten by the 44 local exchange service companies and their customers.

* $7 million in technology training will be provided to public schools across the state. HB 1921 creates the act, but HB 1815 funds it.

* Free telephone services (some) will be provided to public schools, public libraries, county courthouses and not-for-profit hospitals.

In the waning days of the session a $13 million increase in tuition fees was promoted by higher education leadership together with a $693 million appropriation to the State Regents for Higher Education. That is $57 million or 9 percent above the FY 97 level. Of the total, $37.9 million is for operation — priorities at higher education institutions: salary increases, additional staff, laboratory equipment and library materials.

As the session ended libraries were once again faced with the issue of accessibility to allegedly questionable materials. What was originally an appropriations bill to the Department of Libraries (HB 1838) became a vehicle to control any funds disbursed by the Department unless
The Three Musketeers visit the Hill!

Your representatives from OLA and ODL came home from the annual conference in Shangri-La on Saturday, May 3, to do laundry, re-pack, and abandon our homes and families for our excellent adventures in Washington, DC. Susan McVey accomplished all of the above in 2-1/2 hours; she left on Saturday afternoon in order to attend a COSLA meeting on Sunday. Donna Morris and Debra Engel required more time and didn't leave Norman, America until 5:45 a.m. on Sunday morning!

Legislative Report (cont. from p. 46) certain requirements were met. In effect HB 1836, as drafted, would replace local governing board authority and policy with those of the state. The bill died in a conference committee.

Finale

The current climate to segregate allegedly offensive materials devours valuable time and energy that could be better spent. Time and again an ominous amendment to proposed legislation was offered in the House or the Senate or a Committee promoting someone's agenda regardless of cost, usefulness or value. Children! Minors! Whose? Much like the schools, parents are being left out of the loop on these decisions. Government and/ or a very dedicated few keep trying to usurp the rights of parents and the public at large. Government has shown to be a very poor parent for all their good intentions; HB 1836 was no exception.

Most libraries neither have the vast quantity of alleged materials in question nor sufficient materials to keep up with demand. Valuable personnel resources are wasted when attacked. But it's the future. OLA and its leadership have performed a very difficult task in defending these precious rights this year at the State Capitol. Your vigilance and support are essential more than ever.

Debra Engel

The ALA Washington office organizes a "briefing" for National Library Legislative Day participants. Delegations ranged in size (from 1 to 15) and included librarians, trustees and friends. Over 500 people participated in National Library Legislative Day. The "issues" briefing the first hour was the most valuable and highlighted the recent budget deal, the America Reads initiative, LSTA, ESEA, etc.

On Monday, May 5, Debra and Donna called on Senator Nickles while Susan soloed (yes, she is faster and braver) and called on Congressman Wes Watkins. Late Monday afternoon we had a beneficial informal gathering with the ALA Washington office staff (Carol Henderson, Lynn Bradley, Andrew Magendantz) and a few others to talk "universal service."

On Tuesday, May 6, your delegation called on five Congressmen and one Senator. We visited with the educational liaisons of Senator Inhofe and Congressman Coburn, Largent, Lucas, Istook, and Watts.

The message we shared:

We talked with each staff person about the importance of federal funding for libraries in Oklahoma. We had a great talking piece produced by Bill Young (ODL) that shows the impact of federal dollars and arranged by Congressional district so it was easy to point out for each Senator and Congressman how libraries in their district had been affected positively. We have illustrations of FirstSearch.

What we learned:

1. We only had 4 appointments prior to arriving in Washington and we saw folks in all 8 offices - so don't be discouraged if you don't get an appointment, just be flexible and stop by and ask if you can visit with the educational liaison.
2. Take handouts and your cards and ask for their cards. We were able to send many of our "thank yous" via e-mail.
3. Talk with the support staff while you are waiting in the office; many are from Oklahoma and it was fun to meet folks from home. If you want to find out about the "intern" program, ask the staff.
4. Communication with our Senators and Congressmen is worthwhile. They truly enjoyed hearing some of our library stories; for the most part each of the people we met with was interested and willing to be educated. In one case we were given an economics lecture on budgeting which would not have been our preference, but it was eye-opening! One suggestion is to schedule followup visits to the Senators and Congressmen in their district offices by constituents after National Library Legislative Day.
5. We don't always agree with our Senator or Representative but we could find agreement on libraries—we have an excellent service and product. We were sharing stories about successes and asking for their help in keeping libraries successful in their home communities.
6. It really helps to be their constituent.
7. We offered libraries as "places and spaces" for town meetings.
8. We know how to use the subway that goes between the House/Senate office buildings and the Capitol, and we found the cafeteria!
9. Wear flats... and enjoy!

Yes, we did see one "live" Congressm an! Representative Istook was spotted coming out of his office and recognized Donna Morris, who introduced us to him. He proceeded to show us his OLA award hanging on his office wall.

This was the first time in years that OLA has sent an active delegation to Washington for National Library Legislative Day. We were happy to find that news of our visits and good PR for libraries quickly filtered back to the local level from the Washington legislative staff.

—Debra Engel
Statewide network and mentoring system needed

On June 11, 1997 OASLMS Chair Buffy Edwards held an information sharing meeting of outgoing and incoming officers and chairs. It was the general consensus of the group that we need to increase membership in order to develop a strong, statewide network and mentoring system of school librarians in order to inform and share information and ideas about upcoming events that will directly affect all of us.... such as:

New national guidelines - Information Power: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs is being revised and implementation will begin this fall. For the latest information on Information Power, check AASL's homepage at http://www.aasl.org.

FirstSearch Oklahoma - Internet access for all libraries is being funded by Oklahoma taxpayers and it is wonderful. If you haven't "hooked up" yet, call Paula Walker at the Oklahoma State Dept. of Education, 405/521-2956 for more information. It's great and not to be missed! Be sure and thank your legislators for supporting this service.

Information PowerLine - it will be back this fall. Be sure and look for it.

"Power Surge" - will be a new feature in Information PowerLine. Here's an example: If you have only one Internet address/access in your school or library and don't want everyone using the same e-mail address and password, connect your students and teachers to HotMail at http://www.hotmail.com. It will allow everyone to have their own e-mail address and password and there is no charge for this service. Jennifer Kilgore, LMS at Muskogee High School (e-mail kilgorej@hotmail.com) gave me this idea. If you have any good ideas to share (a real "Power Surge" for a fellow librarian), send it to me, Carol Casey, 6305 Ridgecrest, Edmond, OK 73034 or e-mail norhs@iamerica.net and we'll share it in the next Information PowerLine.

—Carol Casey

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Teach 'em while you can!

Fall is here and you have PLENTY of time to take on another project. OK, OK, so maybe that's a SLIGHT overstatement. At any rate, now it's time to contact your local legislators and do some one-on-one, face-to-face lobbying and library instruction.

As you will remember from the last legislative session, things can happen quickly and without warning. Libraries were lucky last time, in that the legislation which would have mandated age limitation and segregation of collections did not make it to the floor for a vote. However, as we all know, the issue is not dead, nor will it just go quietly into the night. Look for this question and others like it to surface with a vengeance.

Now is the time to instruct your legislators-state and federal. Bring them into the library and show them just what you have, how it is shelved, how it is merchandized and circulated, how it is used by your patrons—his/her constituents. Only when legislators KNOW what libraries are doing and how our communities utilize our resources will they be able to speak with any certainty at all. Encourage them to come and watch a children's program. Ask them to talk to others who are in the library—why are they there? What sources are important to them? Point out the FirstSearch terminal and tell them what its presence has meant to students, businessmen, city council members.

Take the time to get to know them if you do not already have that privilege. Then, when you need to call and clarify a point or give them your ideas on the bill being discussed, they will not only recognize your name immediately and take that call, they will WANT to know what you think.

Recently, several Legislative Committee members met with selected legislators to help us define effective strategy for OLA's efforts. They said the best way to make sure libraries get what they need is to be sure that each legislator has "his/her own librarian." Every legislator should have a library staff member, trustee, or friend linked to their name as a personal contact. The Legislative Committee has been laboring hard to establish OLALinc, giving us names, addresses, FAX numbers, e-mail addresses, or any other method of contact which allows us to "tap" the right person to contact a legislator. If you have a personal relationship with a legislator, or you know someone in your library community who does, please let us know. It is vitally important that our lawmakers hear from the library folks, and who better to do that than the people who already know them and have their ears.

Take the time, now. Plan and execute your own educational campaign for your legislators. When you need to grab 'em off the floor, it will be too late. Do your homework, while you have the time, the interest, and the attention of those you would instruct.

—Jan Sanders

News Bits

"Crisis & Challenge in the Library: How to Respond"

Groups and individuals are working vigorously throughout the U.S. to limit access to materials they deem undesirable. The Oklahoma Leadership Development Institute presents a 12-hour workshop Nov. 13-14, 1997 at the Hilton Inn Northwest in Oklahoma City. This workshop addresses issues that could arise should these groups and individuals seek to limit the materials on your library shelves. Presentations such as "Responding to the Faith Based Challenge" will tackle difficult philosophical questions. Others like "Responding to the Media and the Public" will be the nuts and bolts portion of the workshop. A wonderful group of presenters who've been on the firing line will share their experiences.

CDA struck down by Supreme Court Justices

"The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously struck down a law that would have made it illegal to send "indecent" or "patently offensive" material over the Internet in a way that could be seen by children. The Justices upheld a lower-court ruling that the law went too far in restricting the free-speech rights of Internet users. "We agree with the three-judge District Court that the statute abridges the freedom of speech protected by the First Amendment," Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the Court, "notwithstanding the legitimacy and importance of the "goal of protecting children from harmful materials." From the June 26, 1997 "Daily Report" on Acadeine Today (http://chronicle.com)

ALA creates website for parents and children

ALA has created a website called "50 Great Sites for Kids," which can be found at http://www.al.org/parentsgreatsites. The website was featured on NBC's Today Show on Friday, June 27. This site provides links to wonderful educational and entertaining sites.

Ruling Ok's Internet access in libraries

Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson ruled June 18 that libraries may provide Internet access to anyone, regardless of age, even though material harmful to minors can be accessed. Bob Clark, director of ODL, had raised the question because of a state law that says no person may "knowingly" display material that is harmful to minors. Edmondson said the law "does not create a blanket prohibition on the use of the Internet merely because some sites may include material harmful to minors." The question of whether a library employee had "knowingly" displayed material harmful to minors or otherwise allowed minors to view such material was "primarily a question of fact... the Legislature requires actual knowledge by a person." By that definition, (the law) does not require libraries to act as the conscience of its patrons, nor does it allow library personnel to turn a blind eye to activities within the library." from the Daily Oklahoman, June 19, 1997.
New library at UCO

University of Central Oklahoma dedicated its new Library building on June 16, 1997. The $9.8 million Max Chambers Library expansion project includes a new addition that doubles the library's former size. New are a reading room for current periodicals, six study group rooms, a first-floor microcomputer laboratory and a student lounge. The new addition is joined to the old structure by an atrium with a continuous skylight and central stairway. Reference, electronic resources, circulation/reserves and copying areas have been expanded, and seating increased from 874 to 2,034 spaces. The excellent "Dedication" booklet revealed, among other interesting things, that in 1890 the Normal School was established by the Territorial Legislature. In 1894 the Pioneer and Lyceum Societies held a literary contest and gave the entire $26 raised for purchasing the school's first library books. In 1897 the Regents voted to spend $1,000 on books, and in 1901 the Library was recognized by the Dewey Decimal System. It was a great ceremony, super reception food, and a very fine tour given by librarians.

Super Sleuths in training

Brook Jones, Alva Public Library Children's Librarian, kept lots of kids busy all during the summer with reading, being read to, solving mysteries, watching videos, decoding secret messages, being fingerprinted, and learning about real detective work, including various ways to "lift" fingerprints from different surfaces, reasons for fingerprinting, and all about the automated computer system AFIS which makes matching prints faster and more accurate. The Alva Review-Courier kept the community up-to-date!

Friends of the Ralph Ellison Library

This year OLA acknowledged the citizen support of the Friends of the Ralph Ellison Library in Oklahoma City with a Special Project Award. The Special Projects that this group has accomplished span a number of years and include: a weekly blood pressure screening program coordinated with a display of library health materials that they have done for 13 years; arts and crafts classes for both adults and children; musical experiences, including African drumming and singing led by the famous Jahnuba that brought historical and cultural awareness to the community; children's storytimes and other traditional library programs. The Asante Sana program in November 1996 bears special recognition to these hard working citizens. This program involved a major volunteer recognition reception for many individuals, groups and companies, and included an inspirational speech by the nationally known and dynamic Les Brown. People are still coming into the library to offer personal stories about how Mr. Brown's presentation affected their lives and how much they appreciate the Friends for daring to offer that event. For these and all their other acts of support, the Friends of the Ralph Ellison Library received Award at the 1997 OLA conference.

Yukon Library enjoys new space

On Sept. 8 the Yukon Library opened in a new facility at 1200 Lakeshore Drive. It now has twice the square feet, but about 2-1/2 times the usable space with the new arrangement. A $20,000 grant from ODL was matched by the city, allowing the library to buy new computers, upgrading the catalog and making online and CD-ROM resources available.

Oklahoma Library Association resolution supports libraries

Whereas, OLA supports the essence of democracy that citizens have the right of free inquiry and equally-important right of forming their own opinions, and it is of the utmost importance that free access for persons to all types of information be preserved and defended, and

Whereas, OLA has worked with Oklahoma libraries to provide collection development and policies which reflect the right to read and the right to view as well as reflect the interest of the communities served, and

Whereas, OLA supports the concept that parents should be responsible for guiding their children's choice of reading materials, and

Whereas, OLA supports the concept that a work of art should be judged as a whole, not in pieces, and

Whereas, OLA supports the concept of due process of law, now therefore

Be it resolved that OLA expresses its concerns that the recent actions in Oklahoma County concerning The Tin Drum in the Metropolitan Library System are dangerous, alarming and unwarranted, and

Be it resolved that OLA supports Oklahoma libraries continuing to develop collections which support all interests and viewpoints.

--Adopted by the OLA Executive Board on July 18, 1997

People and places

DAVID ROBINSON started a new job as library director at OSU-OKC in August. He was Assistant Director of Access Services at OSU.

SANDY ELLISON retired after 26 years as a public library consultant at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. She cheerfully encouraged, taught, and consulted with public library staffs all over the state, and contributed energetically to OLA, ALA, and to her fellows at ODL.

SUZANNE DARROW, formerly an Interlibrary Loan Library Associate, is now Government Documents Librarian at Tulsa City-County Library.

CHARLES SHANNON has been promoted to manager of Central Library, TCCL. In four years he worked his way up from library associate to reference librarian to manager. He completed his MLS in May, and has a long career in the aerospace industry and in the oil and gas industry.

DONNA DENNISTON became Director of the Oklahoma Publications Clearinghouse at ODL. She was Circulation Librarian at Oklahoma City Community College.

JULIA CRAWFORD recently took over as head of the Oklahoma State University Patent & Trademark Library and looks forward to helping inventors, businesses and others with patent or trademark research. Established in 1956, it's the only such library in Oklahoma and one of only 81 Patent & Trademark Depository Libraries in the U.S.
**Oklahoma Library Association 1997-98 Calendar as of October 27, 1997**

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>June 26-July 3</td>
<td>ALA Conference, San Francisco</td>
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<td>TSRT Planning Meeting, Stillwater Public Library</td>
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<td>July 9</td>
<td>Sequoyah Administrative Team, SDE - 10 am</td>
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<td>July 10</td>
<td>University and College Division, TU - 1 am</td>
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<td>July 10</td>
<td>Legislative Committee, Belle Isle Library, OKC - 10 am</td>
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<td>July 18</td>
<td>Tech Conf on Spec Universal Svcs, Corp Comm - 9 am</td>
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<td>July 25</td>
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<td>August 1</td>
<td>Program Comm/Executive Board, Ardmore Higher Ed Center</td>
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<td>August 1</td>
<td>Budget &amp; Finance Committee, Stillwater Public Library - 10 am</td>
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<td>August 5</td>
<td>Sequoyah Administrative Team, Lake Eufaula - 10 am</td>
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<td>August 7</td>
<td>Public Library Directors Council, ODL - 1 pm</td>
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<td>August 13</td>
<td>Dedication - Lng Res &amp; Telecom Ctr, Western St College</td>
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<td>OASLMS Executive Board, Moore Public Library</td>
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<td>Inst in Pub Librarian (Adult Svcs/Coll Dev), Wilson PL - 10 am</td>
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<td>August 21</td>
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<td>August 27</td>
<td>LDI Steering Committee, Belle Isle Branch, MLS, OKC - 9 am</td>
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<td>August 29</td>
<td>Membership Committee, Midwest City Library - 10 am</td>
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<td>Inst in Pub Librarian (Adult Svcs/Coll Dev), Woodward PL - 10 am</td>
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<td>September 4</td>
<td>Legislative/Intellectual Freedom Committees, ODL - 10 am</td>
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<td>September 5</td>
<td>Nominating Committee, Norman Public Library - 1:30 pm</td>
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<td>September 6</td>
<td>LDI Steering Committee, ODL - 1:30 pm</td>
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<td>September 8</td>
<td>Special Called Executive Board Meeting, ODL - 10 am</td>
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<td>Program Comm/Executive Board, Downtown Doubltree, Tulsa - 1:30 pm</td>
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<td>Inst in Pub Librarian (Adult Svcs/Coll Dev), Chandler PL - 1:30 pm</td>
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<td>Inst in Pub Lib (Coll Dev/Library Services), Pryor Public Library</td>
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<td>LTAIO Auction, Tribes Gallery, Norman</td>
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<td>ODL Universal Service Planning Workshop, Ada</td>
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<td>Program Committee/Executive Board, Ponca City PL</td>
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<td>Tulsa City-County Library System Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>Intellectual Freedom Committee, OUHSC - 10 am</td>
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<td>LTAIO Advisory Committee, Norman Public Library - 1 pm</td>
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<td>&quot;Libraries, Internet, 1st Amendment&quot; Nat'l Video Teleconf</td>
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<td>October 28</td>
<td>Sequoyah Administrative Team, Cascia Hall, Tulsa - 10 am</td>
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<td>October 29</td>
<td>Lillian Norberg 90th Birthday Party, TCCL</td>
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<td>Inst in Pub Lib (Serving Your Community/Ref), Blackwell PL</td>
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<td>November 1</td>
<td>ORA - &quot;Color Us Literate&quot;, Crossroads Mall</td>
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THE RUTH BROWN MEMORIAL AWARD
PRESENTED BY
THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE, OK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

To encourage and recognize programming that addresses issues of social concern as they impact Oklahoma libraries, library collections, and their communities. Limited to libraries, individuals or organizations affiliated with Oklahoma libraries.

Deadline November 30. Send to
SRRT Award Committee
300 Hardy Drive
Edmond, OK 73013
(One award presented annually)
Ruth Winifred Brown (1891-1975), became librarian of the Bartlesville Public Library in 1919. In 1946 she helped form the inter-racial Committee on the Practice of Democracy (COPD) to improve conditions for Bartlesville's African Americans. The group became the only affiliate of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) south of the Mason-Dixon Line. The COPD recruited a Black doctor, conducted a health clinic, and organized a community clean-up with the help of members of the local YWCA and the AAUW Racial Problems Study Group. Brown became increasingly active, and in February 1950, she and two teachers from the segregated school—Mary Ellen Street and Clara Cooke—sat down at the lunch counter in Hull's Drug Store and asked to be served. Refused, they left. Days later, a Citizens' Committee charged Brown with circulating subversive materials—the Nation and the New Republic—from the library. A bitter battle over censorship of the library ensued, masking the real reason for the attack on Brown—her "accelerated" attitude toward integration. In spite of support from her board (also dismissed) and the Oklahoma and American Library Associations, Brown was fired by the City Commission on July 25, 1950. Brown and a colleague on the board unsuccessfully fought her firing all the way to the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Although defeated, she was unrepentant. Even after her retirement (from Sterling, Colorado, Public Library) in 1961 at the age of 70, she chided the ALA for its failure to fight for the integration of public libraries. She remained a member of CORE until her death.

Louise Robbins, Associate Professor
School of Library and Information Studies
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Additional information:

Application Form
Ruth Brown Memorial Award

Sponsored by the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the Oklahoma Library Association

Purpose: The Social Responsibilities Round Table of the Oklahoma Library Association offers the Ruth Brown Memorial Award to encourage and recognize programming that addresses issues of social concern as they impact libraries, library collections, and the communities served by these libraries.

Name of Applicant (Group or Individual): ____________________________________________

Name of Project: ________________________________________________________________

Contact Person: ___________________ Position/Title: ________________________________

Institution/Organization: _________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________

City, State: ______________ Zip: __________________________

Phone Number: ___________________ FAX Number: ________________________________

Email Address: _________________________________________________________________

Guidelines for Award:

1. Entries are limited to libraries OR individuals or organizations affiliated with a library in the state of Oklahoma.
2. One award will be presented annually.
3. The winner will be recognized at the Annual Conference of the Oklahoma Library Association.
4. Winning entries immediately become ineligible for reentry.
5. Entries will be used by the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) for the purpose of publicizing outreach efforts and other activities which increase awareness of social concern in the Oklahoma library community.
6. Entry must be a recent (completed within the last 3 yrs.) or ongoing project.
7. Current members of the SRRT Award Committee are not eligible to submit entries.

Application must be received by: November 30, 1997

Send to: SRRT Awards Committee
         Oklahoma Library Association
         300 Hardy Drive
         Edmond, OK 73013
Application Instructions
Ruth Brown Memorial Award

Sponsored by the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the Oklahoma Library Association

Purpose: The Social Responsibilities Round Table of the Oklahoma Library Association offers the Ruth Brown Memorial Award to encourage and recognize programming that addresses issues of social concern as they impact libraries, library collections, and the communities served by these libraries.

Instructions: Use separate sheets to provide the following information. Please be sure that the name of your project and contact person appear at the top of each page.

Describe your project. Use 5 pages or less.

Please be sure to address the following points:

- Duration of the project.
- How does your project provide a creative response to a social issue?
- Describe how your project fills a demonstrated need.
- How did you identify that need within your community?
- Provide documentation about how your project had a measurable impact on the community.
- What kinds of library resources did you use and what role did they fill?
- How would you foresee another library adapting this project for their own needs?

Please include any supporting documentation you feel is relevant to your project. This evidence may be in any format or combination of formats, i.e., print materials, videos, computer files; letters of support, publicity items such as newspaper clippings, the URL for documentation available on the Internet, etc.

Your additional comments are welcomed by the SRRT Awards Committee:

Must be received by: November 30, 1997

Send to: SRRT Awards Committee
         Oklahoma Library Association
         300 Hardy Drive
         Edmond, OK 73013
MAY 16, 1997

The OLA Executive Board met at the Edmond Public Library and took the following actions:

Reviewed Financial Reports for July 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997 and for July 1, 1996 through April 30, 1997 and accepted both as submitted.

Considered the need to make a decision before June 15 regarding the investment of funds donated by the Tulsa Area Library Cooperative. These funds were donated with the stipulation that they be invested and the income used to fund a scholarship for a library science student from northeastern Oklahoma. Following discussion, the Board authorized the Finance Committee to examine investment options in more detail and make a decision before June 15.

Heard a report from Debra Engel concerning HB 1815. Approved Engel’s request that a letter be sent by Marty Thompson suggesting the need for clarification of the intent of language used in reference to governmental agencies and OneNet.

Removed from the table proposals from the Bylaws Committee that were originally submitted to the Board in February and approved proposed changes as submitted.

Removed from the table portions of the Sequoyah Book Award Committee Administrative Team recommendations that were originally submitted to the Board in March. Approved the use of a survey to obtain input from librarians on several issues relating to the awards and accepted the survey as an addendum to the original recommendations. The recommendations were then referred back to the Committee for reconsideration and submission after the results of the survey are obtained.

Heard a report from Bettie Estes-Rickner for the Sites Committee. Approved the Committee’s motion to have the 1999 OLA conference in Enid and the 2000 conference at the Adams Mark Hotel in Tulsa.

—Karen Marriott, OLA Secretary

AUGUST 15, 1997

The OLA Board met at the Moore Public Library and took the following actions:

Heard and accepted a report from conference treasurer Ken Bierman which projected OLA income of $3500 to $4000 net proceeds from conference, and thanked Ken for his extra work on behalf of the Association.

Heard a presentation by Budget & Finance Committee chair Marty Thompson detailing OLA’s severe budget problems, which have been developing over the past few years. The proposed 1997-98 budget reflected major reductions: 33% cut in the Executive Director’s salary, reduced printing, reduced postage, reduced dues to other Associations, zero funds for Committee operations, and reduced publication of the Oklahoma Librarian. Other actions to generate income were recommended. OLA will operate within the budget established unless additional income is produced. After lengthy discussion, the budget was tabled until after lunch.

Untabled the budget, and after exhaustive discussion, approved the budget as presented, with a friendly amendment to reduce the total amount for ALA and M PLA councilors’ travel by $530.

Heard a report from Vicki Phillips, Awards Committee chair, on recommended changes to the OLA Constitution, including a proposed new Oklahoma Library Service Award to recognize exemplary service at the local level. Forwarded the recommendations to the Constitution & By-Laws Committee for further action.

Heard a presentation by Linda Pye on the proposed Technical Services Round Table workshop “Go to the Head of the Class,” to be held at the Stillwater Public Library on October 24. After discussion of OLA’s financial situation, the Board approved the workshop with a registration fee of $45, and disallowed a fee for flyer design.

Agreed to hold a special Board meeting at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries on Sept. 5 to further discuss budget issues. Authorized conference treasurer Ken Bierman to send conference hotel Shangri-La a partial payment on their invoice for the 1997 conference. The remainder will be paid as outstanding conference registrations and credit card transactions are completed.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1997 Special Meeting

The Executive Board held a special meeting at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to discuss OLA budget and finances, and took the following actions:

Considered three LSCA grant proposals presented by Susan McVey, representing ODL: (1) $5,000 to fund OLA memberships for participants in the Institute for Public Librarianship; (2) $5,000 to be used for the 1998 OLA Annual Conference; and (3) $20,000 to be used to develop town meetings in several places around the state on libraries and access to information. Approved a motion to accept the LSCA grant funding proposals as presented.

Heard a report by Debra Engel, chair of the ad hoc committee to sell advertising and seek donations and sponsorships for OLA. Approved a motion to produce the newsletter in an inexpensive format as soon as possible to inform membership of OLA’s financial situation, critical need for increased membership, increased donations, consistent advertising, and sponsorships for special projects, awards, and scholarships. Accepted a revised draft of the budget and financial statements, reducing M PLA and ALA councilor travel by one half. Agreed that bulk mailing items will be included with the Oklahoma Librarian.
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