

## OLA Year in Review, 2021-22

### List of Executive Board Officers

President	Arlene Weible, State Library of Oregon
Vice President	Marci Ramiro Jenkins, McMinnville Public Library (9/21 - 3/22); Star Khan, Driftwood Public Library (6/22 - 8/22)
Past President	Kate Lasky, Josephine Community Libraries
Treasurer	Stuart Levy, Parkrose High School
Secretary	Star Khan, Driftwood Public Library
ALA Chapter Councilor	Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney, Driftwood Public Library
Member at large	Alma Plasencia, Salem Public Library (9/22 - 10/22); Sami Kerzel, Deschutes Public Library (11/21- 8/22)
ACRL President	Emily Ford, Portland State University
CSD Chair	Susan Cackler, Banks Public Library
OYAN Chair	Denise Auld, Multnomah County Libraries
PLD Chair	Halsted Bernard, Tigard Public Library
REFORMA Oregon Co-Chairs	Eduardo Arizaga / Bobbye Hernandez, Multnomah County Libraries
SSD Chair	Rinny Lakin, Multnomah County Libraries
Parliamentarian (ex officio)	Buzzy Nielsen, State Library of Oregon
State Librarian (ex officio)	Nancy Hoover (9/21 – 3/22); Wendy Cornelisen (3/22 – 8/22)
Association Manager (ex officio)	Shirley Roberts

### Location and theme of annual conference

OLA did not hold an annual conference in 2022. The Public Library Association Conference was held in Portland on March 22-25 and OLA hosted the following activities:



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- OLA held a social gathering and trivia night at the McMenamins Kennedy School on March 22. Jeopardy contestants from Oregon libraries hosted the trivia event.
- OLA hosted an exhibitor booth which included a raffle to give away items of local interest and the EDIA Toolkit.
- The Support Staff Division sponsored a preconference, Fostering a Stronger and More Inclusive Democracy Through Library Programming on March 22.
- A virtual OLA Membership and Awards Meeting was held on April 11, 2022.

Additionally, OLA divisions hosted the following conferences

- OASL Annual Conference, Virtual, October 9, 2021
  - Theme: Our Library Lifeline
- REFORMA National Conference, Virtual, November 2021 (hosted by REFORMA Oregon Chapter)
  - Theme: Somos el Cambio / We are the Change
- SSD Conference, Timberline Lodge, July 22, 2022
  - Theme: Rise Above

### **Legislative and advocacy activities**

- Passage of [HB 4092](#), creating the Connecting Oregon Libraries Fund, a state e-rate fund for libraries to improve broadband infrastructure
- Advocacy working towards stronger school libraries
  - [Media Standards Study Report](#)
  - [School Librarian Investigation—Decline or Evolution \(SLIDE\)](#)
- [OLA/OIFC Statement on Materials Challenges](#)

- OIFC provided information and advice to several library workers facing materials challenges and updated the [Intellectual Freedom Toolkit](#). It also pursued information about a book ban in the Medford School District, which included a public records request. Details are described in an [incident report](#). A report with full details will be released prior to Banned Books Week in September 2022.

### **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Antiracism**

- Board discussion of request on statement to address budget equity concern in WCCLS (Dec 2021) [summary and response](#)
- Support for petition: [Break the Library Institutional Reliance on Unpaid BIPOC Labor!](#) and [OLA Board Response to Recent Discussions on Libs-OR re: EDIA Petition](#) (Feb 2022)
- [Overdue: Weeding Out Oppression in Libraries](#) – podcast launched by the EDIA Committee on March 2022.

### **Notable awards/honorary memberships**

- OLA Distinguished Service Award - Steven Engelfried
- Library Supporter of the Year Award - Salem Public Library Foundation
- OLA Anti-Racism Recognition Award - Alma Plasencia
- OLA Librarian of the Year Award - Marci Ramiro-Jenkins
- Evelyn Sibley Lampman Award - Cathy Camper
- Pearl Award - Ericka Brunson-Rochette
- Intellectual Freedom Champion Award - Recipient will be announced at a later date

### **Other Highlights**

Marci Ramiro Jenkins resigned as OLA Vice President in March 2022. Since it was close to the annual election of officers, it was decided to run an election for the 2022-23 President and the 2022-23 Vice President concurrently. Star Khan was elected in June 2022.

**OLA Executive Board meetings** – The OLA Board experimented with holding “drop-in” meetings in months without formal business meetings. The meetings were informal and served as opportunities to have “office hours” and connect with each other and with the Association Manager and President. Topics of current concern were also discussed.

**OLA Quarterly** – OLAQ published its first issue after 2-year hiatus, with the theme [Privacy and Confidentiality](#). New [editorial guidelines](#) were adopted and a Special Committee was appointed to help with the recruitment of a managing editor. Kate Lasky has been serving as the interim Managing Editor over the course of the year and it is

hoped that a new editor can be recruited in Fall 2022. An upcoming issue on the theme Accelerated Change is set to be published in fall 2022.

**Communications and Other Infrastructure Issues** – The [Task Force on OLA Administrative Infrastructure](#) was created in February 2022 to review options for restructuring OLA's administrative infrastructure and finances to support an executive director position. A potential scope of work included:

- Coordinate internal and external communication activities
- Explore and diversify revenue streams so financial health is not so reliant on conference income
- Provide consistent training and administrative support for OLA's leaders

The turn over in OLA leadership in 2021-22 inhibited progress on this initiative, but work will continue into 2022-23.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arlene Weible  
OLA President 2021-22