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## Oregon Library Association Executive Board Meeting

January 27, 2025 at 4:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom <http://olaweb.org/ola-zoom-meeting-login-info>

Minutes approved February 24, 2025

[Agenda](#)

**Present:** Ayn Frazee (OLA President), April Witteveen (OLA Vice President), Ericka Brunson-Rochette (OLA Past President), Stuart Levy (OLA Treasurer), Buzzy Nielsen (OLA Parliamentarian), Shirley Robert (OLA Manager), Roxanne M. Renteria (OLA Secretary), Wendy Cornielensen (State Librarian), Jane M. Nichols (ACRL), Liisa Sjoblom (Leadership Committee), Kathy Street (PLD), Vickie Kromer (OYAN), Kristen Curé (REFORMA OR), Rinny Lakin (SSD), and Arlene Weible (State Library of Oregon).

**[ACTION ITEMS highlighted below] [ACTION ITEMS for everyone in yellow]**

### Welcome & Icebreaker (Ayn Frazee)

- Our [community agreement](#) during our meetings.
- Welcome and introductions, including an icebreaker option to share thoughts about the Youth Media Awards held on the morning of January 27th.

### Agenda Changes/Minutes (Ayn)

- See [November Minutes](#).
- Motion to pass the November Minutes approved with name related edits.

### ALA Advocacy Workshop (April Witteveen)

- April and Jennifer attended an ALA Council Chapter Meeting.
- Possess a flash drive containing advocacy related information, resources, and templates
- Session themes include:
  - Intellectual Freedom advocacy
  - Effective storytelling and how to deftly weave anecdotes into speeches, conversations, and interviews (television, radio, podcast, and newspapers)
  - How to activate your library community, and strategies for identifying and cultivating diverse advocates who can share their stories about the influence of the library upon their lives
  - Media relations, and how to handle media requests, including neutral, pro-library, and adversarial (role plays featured, and media kit provided)
  - Effective messaging (tailored approaches to communicating with library users)
- **ACTION ITEM: April will connect with Jennifer to discuss the possibility of making ALA**

## Advocacy Workshop flash drive content available to membership.

### Association Report (Shirley Roberts)

- OLA Conference Planning Committee duties since the last meeting include Solidifying the contract with caterers, notifying speakers about time slots and providing them with PSAs
- Currently working with OBOB to register schools for regionals, and assisting with last minute requests is taking up a fair bit of time.
- Grant reports are due to the State Library of Oregon
- Processing ERRFs and payments
- Has been in contact with the Holiday Inn Riverfront - Portland
- Financial tasks from the November meeting are pending, and will be handled in the next month or so
  - **ACTION ITEM: Shirley and Stuart will work on the language directing automatic annual transfer of money from the Connie Hull Endowment to the Connie Hull Earnings.**
  - **ACTION ITEM: Shirley and Stuart will come up with a proposal to divide up the interest from the High Yield Savings Account.**
  - **ACTION ITEM: Shirley will have Ayn added via signing a document.**
- Insurance:
  - Shirley requested permission to change insurance carriers to State Farm Insurance through Conklin Insurance Agency, La Grande, OR.
  - Motion to change insurance carrier passed.

### OLA Award Nominations (Arlene Weible)

- See [Award Committee webpage](#).
- Shared a quick reminder—it is that time of year again and the award committee is soliciting award nominations prior to the April 2025 OLA Conference in Eugene.
- Committee webpage contains award related information, bylaws and a list of Award Committee Members.
- Committee Members include:
  - Arlene Weible, Chair
  - Sonja Somerville, Salem Public Library
  - Jennifer McKenzie, OASL President
  - Bryan Miyagishima, Lincoln County Library District
  - Sara Trott, Oregon State University Libraries & Press
- Will continue to spread the word about the award cycle via various forms of communication including Libs-Or and the OLA Hotline per the usual timeline.
- **ACTION ITEM: Per Arlene, unit heads are asked to spread the word about award nominations.**

### Treasurer's Report Finance & Investment Committee Report (Stuart Levy)

- Agenda item moved to February meeting, given predetermined meeting cycle and lack of December meeting.

## State Librarian Report (Wendy Cornielensen)

- See [Report](#).
- [LibLearnX 2025](#)
  - Recently returned from The Library Learning Experience in Phoenix, Arizona
- [Show Up for Our Libraries | ALA](#)
  - Checkout Advocacy resources, which include:
    - Building Relationships
    - How to host virtual and in-person library tours
    - Digital promo items—bookmarks, graphics, and logos
- Budget Hearing
  - Scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025—which is the same date as [Legislative Day](#) (Salem, OR)
  - Support the State Library of Oregon by attending the Budget Hearing
- [Voices for Libraries](#) (Washington, D.C.)
  - Scheduled for March 5-6, 2025
  - Library advocates from every state are invited to attend and speak with legislators about the importance of libraries and the need for support
  - This event is coordinated by the [Chief Officers of State Library Agencies \(COSLA\)](#)
  - OLA delegates, typically the State Librarian of Oregon and the OLA President attend this event each year

## Legislative Committee Update (Ayn on behalf of Kate & Jeremy)

- January Legislative Committee Meeting
  - Scheduled for January 28, 2025 at 3:30pm via Zoom
  - As always, this meeting is open to all OLA Members
  - OLA's new lobbyist, [Cassie Bruske](#) from [Eames Consulting](#) will be present
- The Freedom to Read Coalition
  - FRC is still discussing Senator Lew Frederick's bill, which includes the ODE Librarian Support Staff position description
  - This position description has been reviewed and approved by many school librarians
  - Senator Frederick's bill has not yet been introduced
- Legislative Day 2025
  - Scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025
  - Will be held at the State Capitol Building in Salem, Oregon
  - News of this upcoming event will be promoted across multiple platforms
  - Prospective attendees can look up their local legislators [here](#), and should then reach out beforehand to set-up a 10-15 minute appointment with their elected official
  - That day, an orientation will be held and the legislative agenda will include tips for speaking to legislators as well as issue briefs
- Josephine County Library District (JCLD) Update
  - The Board of Josephine County Commissioners has agreed to negotiate a new lease
    - For background on this topic, refer to Ayn's January 15, 2025 "OLA State of Support for the Josephine Community Library District" that was sent

out via Memberclicks.

- Other resources include:
  - [JCLD Board Meetings and Minutes](#) (JCLD Website)
  - [Josephine County Commissioners Terminate Lease](#) (OPB article)
  - [Josephine County, Library District Have Framework to Negotiate New Lease for Grants Pass Branch Building](#) (JCLD Website)

#### **Update Conference Planning (Language to Include Affinity Groups)** (Ericka Brunson-Rochette)

- Ericka provided a quick overview of the origin of Affinity Groups at OLA Bend 2023
  - OLA Eugene 2025 was expected to be the 3rd year in a row Affinity Groups were offered for conference goers
  - Per conversations with former Conference Planning Committee chairs and members in 2023 and 2024, the belief was that Affinity groups would be de facto included in conference planning and treated with the same forthought as the PLD Dinner and the CSD Lampman Award Breakfast, and unit heads with a vested interest would be notified prior to registration going live in late January
  - Ericka reached out to the 2025 Conference Chair on behalf of the OLA EDIA Committee and REFORMA OR to gather details and inquire if facilitators were needed
    - Was informed Affinity Groups had been redacted from the conference schedule (without notice), or informing the membership that Affinity Groups should be submitted as a program proposal in 2025
    - The program schedule is tight, but the group is working with the Conference Chair to add Affinity Groups
  - In future, Ericka, the REFORMA OR Chair, and the OLA EDIA Committee Co-Chairs would like to ensure Affinity Groups are a defacto part of the conference planning process and currently need facilitator assistance for 2025
- Ayn proposed the formation of a task force to update the Conference Planning Handbook (approximately last updated 15 years ago)
  - Considerations include:
    - Where will digital copies of the Conference Handbook live?
      - Few past chairs possess physical copies
    - How will it be accessed (given Google Drive Access is limited to the Chair of the Conference Planning Committee)?
    - Should it be accessible via Memberclicks for Executive Board members and unit heads, or the membership at large?
- **ACTION ITEM: Ayn will create a Task Force to update the Conference Handbook, initial volunteers include Ayn, Ericka, Rinny, Kristen, April (Liisa as a consultant) and perhaps a few former Conference Chairs.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Ayn will reach out to Sonja Sommerville to see if she would like to join or assist.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Ericka will meet with Taylor, in order to determine next steps and follow-up regarding what information needs to be disseminated to Units when it comes to asking for facilitators.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Tentatively based on that discussion, Ayn will loop in Unit Heads about the need for Affinity Group facilitators.**

### CA Wildfire Library Support Discussion (Ayn)

- A member of the Oregon Library community reached out to inquire if OLA is planning to support libraries devastated by the California wildfires
- A short discussion was held to provide context regarding actions taken during other fires (Paradise, Maui, Santiem, etc.) and what role OLA should adopt
- Those present agreed OLA and the President' are not required to reach out directly to let fellow libraries know they have association support (after being impacted by disaster), but kindness is as always appreciated
- Those interested in offering support should use vetted charities (and mutual aid networks) such as [Connected Wellness Campaign — Altadena Library District](#)
- **ACTION ITEM: Ayn will follow up with the OLA member regarding the Altadena Wildfires**

### Review Registration Fees for Conference and Share the OLA Conference Budget for Board for Consideration and Approval (Shirley)

- Vote to increase registration fees by 5% as presented by Shirley passed
- Vote to approve final 2025 conference budget approved by the board
- Per Buzzy (Parliamentarian), registration rates did not need to be voted upon. The overall conference budget required board review and approval (which would then cover the increased conference rates).

### SSD (Rinny Latkin)

- Shared library workers and students have expressed a desire for information and training related to artificial intelligence, and would like to know if this is something Ayn and OLA will keep in mind.
- Proposed a performer database that allows library workers to leave reviews
  - Currently, the Children's Services Division (CSD) maintains the [Oregon Library Presenters Directory](#) (which does not include reviews)
  - Buzzy shared adding a review function to any presenter directory could open OLA up to allegations of slander and lawsuits

### Action Item Review/Next Meeting (Ayn/Roxanne)

- **ACTION ITEM: Shirley and Stuart will work on the language directing automatic annual transfer of money from the Connie Hull Endowment to the Connie Hull Earnings.**
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- **ACTION ITEM: Shirley will have Ayn added via signing a document.**
- **ACTION ITEM: April will connect with Jennifer to discuss the possibility of making ALA Advocacy Workshop flash drive content available to membership.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Per Arlene, Unit heads are asked to spread the word about award nominations.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Ayn will create a Task Force to update the Conference Handbook, initial volunteers include Ayn, Ericka, Rinny, Kristen, April (Liisa as a consultant) and perhaps a few former Conference Chairs.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Ayn contact 2024 OLA Conference Planning Chair Sonja Sommerville to**

see if she would like to join the Task Force or consult.

- **ACTION ITEM: Ericka will meet with Taylor, in order to determine next steps and follow-up regarding what information needs to be disseminated to Units when it comes to asking for facilitators.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Tentatively based on that discussion, Ayn will loop in Unit Heads about the need for Affinity Group facilitators.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Ayn will follow up with the OLA member regarding California Wildfires.**

**Adjourned at 6:05 p.m.**

Appendix. Common OLA Abbreviations.

- ACRL—Assoc. of College & Research Libraries
- CSD—Children’s Services Division
- EDIA—Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Antiracism Committee
- IFC—Intellectual Freedom Committee
- LEG—Legislative Committee (formerly Library Development and Legislation)
- LIOLA—Leadership Institute of OLA
- OASL—Oregon Assoc. of School Libraries
- OBOB—Oregon Battle of the Books
- ORCA—Oregon Reader’s Choice Award
- OYAN—Oregon Young Adult Network
- PLD—Public Library Division
- REFORMA—REFORMA Oregon
- SLO—State Library of Oregon
- SSD—Support Staff Division