

## Oregon Library Association Executive Board Meeting

May 19, 2025 at 4:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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

Minutes approved June 23, 2025

[Agenda](#)

**Present:** Ayn Frazee (OLA President), Ericka Brunson-Rochette (OLA Past President), April Witteveen (OLA Vice President), Stuart Levy (OLA Treasurer), Buzzy Nielsen (OLA Parliamentarian), Shirley Robert (OLA Manager), Roxanne M. Renteria (OLA Secretary), Wendy Cornelisen (State Librarian), Jaime Thoreson (CSD), LaRee Dominguez (OLA EDIA Committee), Ginny Blackson (ACRL, incoming President), Vickie Kromer (OYAN), Kathy Street (PLD), Amy Page (OASL), Kristen Curé (REFORMA OR), and Rinny Lakin (SSD).

**[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 question: *if you could instantly become an expert in something, what would it be?*

### Agenda Changes/Minutes (Ayn)

- See [March](#) minutes.
- Motion to pass the March Minutes approved.

### Treasurer's Report & Flourish Interest Options Vote (Stuart Levy)

- See [5-19-25 OLA Treasurer's Report](#).
- See [Summary of Feedback Regarding Distribution of Interest Earned](#).
- Overview Comments
  - Treasurer's Report
    - 5% increase in dues income compared to this time last year.
    - 28% increased in total expenses compared to this time last year.
    - 20% decrease in net income compared to this time last year.
    - Connected Wealth (short to medium term investments) increased.
    - Donovan Wealth (long term investments), OLA reserve decreased and this includes the \$12K transfer to investment earnings distribution.
    - Overall, Stuart assures investments are going well.
  - Flourish Update
    - Most popular option among respondents—set aside money for a special

future project.

- Comment themes include pro general fund, using funds to hire a consultant to transition to an Executive Director, coming up with hybrid disbursement options, OASL funding concerns, and new ideas.
- A short discussion was held.
  - April raised concerns about OASL's funds, and how much additional work managing Flourish funds would require.
  - Shirley's suggestion is an annual distribution to ensure OASL and small units aren't penalized, and this process should take no more than 4 hours a month.
  - Stuart shared OASL has \$180k in investments.
  - April shared funding special projects could require additional volunteers, and workload and pose an issue given the degree to which volunteerism has been impacted recently.
  - April shared funding special projects could require additional volunteers, and workload and thus, pose an issue given the degree to which volunteerism has been impacted recently.
  - She suggested OLA reach back out to divisions once the board has a better idea of what the windfall would actually look like on the account, as some units might vote differently if their windfall was under a hundred versus thousands (for example).
- Ultimately, the board decided to postpone the vote regarding distributions until after an in-depth discussion is held at the retreat.
- **ACTION ITEM: Shirley and Treasurer will determine what distributions are after August 31st.**

### Unit Reports/Updates (All)

- **PLD** (Kathy Street)
  - Vera Brosgol was wonderful!
- **OASL** (Amy Page)
  - See [State of School Libraries in Oregon 2025](#) white paper.
  - The OASL Fall 2025 Conference "[Open Books, Open Minds](#)" is scheduled for Saturday, October 4th at the North Eugene High School and will include a Pre-conference School Library Bus Tour on Friday, October 3rd.
    - Early Bird registration closes on September 12, 2025.
    - Session proposals welcome.
- **SSD** (Rinny Lakin)
  - See [report](#).
  - Changed meeting time to avoid conflict with OLA EDIA Committee meeting
  - Will spread word of newsletter.
  - Session attendance was great.
- **Leadership Committee** (Liisa Sjoblom)
  - Lori Wamsley and Liisa Sjoblom are facilitating and currently revamping the

curriculum from last year and there is an accompanying workbook. We took the best of the last three LIOLA's to create this year's content. The good news is that beyond some minor tweaks, we should be able to use this curriculum in the years to come. Note that this is a cost savings of \$15-20K.

- We have a full cohort of 20 leaders from different types of libraries all over Oregon.
- We are able to cover all scholarship requests. Thanks to other OLA units who also offered scholarships for LIOLA as this helped us meeting those requests.
- Mentors are confirmed and there is an orientation session on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30. Amy Honisett from MLC is facilitating.
  - Bryce Kozla, Washington County Cooperative Library Services
  - Theresa Lucas, Coquille Public Library
  - Bryan Miyagishima, Lincoln County Library District
  - Leigh Morlock, Jefferson High School
  - Kim Olson-Charles, Eastern Oregon University Library
  - Jordan Popoff, Curry Public Library
  - Valerie Stephenson, Southern Wasco County Library
  - Jaime Thoreson, Sherwood Public Library
- The virtual introductory session is July 7<sup>th</sup> with the in-person sessions July 17-18 at Mt Hood Resort. Three virtual sessions will follow in August with panel discussions on leadership style, DEI, and Advocacy. Most panelists have been confirmed, but we are still seeking one person for both the DEI and Advocacy sessions.
- Strengthsfinder books have been received by all participants and they have sent in their top five strengths. We are currently putting together the cohorts based on their strengths. Another consideration is their library type and where they work. We have a couple of people who work at the same library.
- Phone meet tomorrow with the Event Manager at Mt Hood Resort to discuss catering, rooming list, tech/wifi, and event space. There are a couple of minor adjustments for meal timing. Liisa toured the space in the fall to get an idea of room capacity and layout.
- **OLA EDIA Committee** (Roxanne M. Renteria)
  - OVERDUE: Weeding Out Oppression in Libraries podcast highlights include:
    - Recent episode releases include S4, E1: Decolonizing the Archive w/ Natalia Fernández (ACRL award winner), and S4, E2: Supporting BIPOC Library Workers w/ Heidi Estrada & Sophie Kenney. These episodes were released in March and April, respectively.
    - Upcoming episode guests and topics include: Angelica Novoa De Cordeiro and Maria Aguilar (of Cornelius Public Library) who will speak to Spanish Makerspaces in Oregon, and Kaetrena Davis Kendrick on the topic of low morale in libraries.
  - Professional Development Grant:
    - At present, the OLA EDIA Committee has received 6 grant applications and awarded funds in the approximate amount of \$12k.

- OLA Eugene 2025 Conference Reflections:
  - Labeling went fairly well, in terms of volunteer staffing and giveaway prizes for the activity, but Roxanne expressed some concern regarding the way some table visitors' flippant responses regarding the tabling activity—demonstrating the degree to which education and decolonization is still needed.
  - Affinity Group sessions went well, despite smaller attendance numbers—recommend these sessions be staggered and held on the first day of the 2026 conference.
  - Recommend the Buddy System take intersectional identities into account, and Ericka Brunson-Rochette mentioned she has some suggestions to ensure this element be added without issue.
- **ACRL** (Ginny Blackson)
  - Books are balanced.
  - Seeking candidates for open board positions.
- **CSD** (Jaime Thoreson)
  - OLA Eugene 2025 conference session attendance went well, as did the felt making workshop.
  - CSD is seeking candidates for open board positions, and is sending board requests through membership.
  - **ACTION ITEM: Send candidates to SSD, ACRL, REFORMA, PLD, and CSD.**
  - **ACTION ITEM: Jaime Will email Roxanne report and numbers.**
- **OYAN** (Vickie Kromer)
  - The annual OYAN drawing held at OLA Eugene 2025 went well, and sold out.
  - Incoming co-chairs secured.
  - Working toward securing incoming vice-chairs.
  - Next meeting is coming up in June or July.
- **REFORMA OR** (Kristen Curé)
  - Sponsored session at OLA Eugene 2025 was packed at 8:30am (available live).
  - REFORMA OR has a new website, and updated branding.
  - Strategizing request timeline to seek new members/volunteers—how they reach out to folks and create their calendar, next year's worth of meetings scheduled.
- **Association Manager's Report** (Shirley Roberts)
  - **ACTION: Shirley will send out profit and loss tomorrow.**
  - Currently working on job descriptions for the Conference Planning Committee positions.
    - A number of OLA members have volunteered to serve on the Conference Planning Committee, but the Chair is vacant.
    - The first conference planning meeting is scheduled for July 14, and will be held on the second Monday of every month.
    - **ACTION ITEM: April, as incoming OLA President, will need to select a**

### **theme for OLA Portland 2026.**

- Motion to utilize Whova as the conference app until 2027 passed.
- The annual OLA Retreat and August Executive Board Meeting are scheduled for Thursday, August 14th and Friday, August 15th.
  - April and Shirley are still working out location details.

### **Rainbow Roundtable Announcement (Ayn)**

- Formation of an OLA Rainbow Roundtable has been approved, and there is a high degree of interest.

### **State Librarian's Report (Wendy Cornelisen)**

- See [OLA State Library Report \(May 2025\)](#)
- Overview Comments:
  - Similar to the report for the April SLO board meeting
- Roxanne expressed concern regarding the future of SLO, the prioritization of staff retention (particularly those positions funded via LSTA), and the ripple effect on Oregon libraries given Executive Order 14238, directing the elimination of IMLS and other agencies (to the maximum extent allowed by law), asking "what contingency planning is underway?"
- Wendy mentioned [Tell Congress to #FundLibraries | ALA](#), sharing there are 4 congresspeople and 1 senator from Oregon that have not signed the Dear Appropriator letter.
- Jeremy Skinner revealed he was planning to touch upon the issue during his Legislative Committee Update.

### **Legislative Committee Update (Jeremy Skinner)**

- Update: Senate Bill 1098 has been waylaid at the House Education Committee for a while due to changes in the membership/leadership.
- Jeremy echoed Roxanne's concerns, sharing he not only believes in contingency planning to offset funding shortfalls and minimize service disruptions as a library director, but also being overly diligent and having backup contingency plans.
- Continuing, Jeremy revealed the Legislative Committee is seeking guidance from OLA regarding whether or not to proceed with advocacy in support of the State Library of Oregon.
- Roxanne expressed a desire for the Legislative Committee to advocate on behalf of SLO to ensure the prioritization of staff retention, asked about alternative funding options, and if it might be possible to seek state funding for the foreseeable future.
- April shared she is in favor of continuing in this direction and appreciates updates as they are available.
- Also, she suggested OLA might want to mobilize our communications folks to boost messages and activism opportunities in a quick manner short but passionate discussion followed.
- A short but passionate discussion was held, and a couple of other unit heads expressed support for SLO the Legislative Committee advocating on the State Library of Oregon's behalf, particularly when it comes to staff retention.
- Jeremy needs assistance with ALA Advocacy.

- **ACTION ITEM: Jeremy and Ayn will draft an ask regarding the ALA Advocacy App needs (for Lex).**
- **ACTION ITEM: Jeremy, Ayn and April will engage in regular communication on this topic.**

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

- **ACTION ITEM: Shirley and Treasurer will determine what Flouish interest distributions are after August 31st (vote to be postponed). In Depth discussion to be delayed until Retreat. –double check recording to get Shirley's updated language.**
- **ACTION: Shirley will send out profit and loss tomorrow.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Jaime will email Roxanne report and numbers.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Send candidates to SSD, ACRL, REFORMA, PLD, and CSD.**
- **ACTION ITEM: April, as incoming OLA President, will need to select a theme for OLA Portland 2026.**
- **ACTION ITEM: April and Shirley will confirm a location in Bend or Redmond for the August OLA Retreat.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Jeremy and Ayn will draft an ask regarding the ALA Advocacy App needs (for Lex)**
- **ACTION ITEM: Jeremy, Ayn and April will engage in regular communication on this topic.**

**Adjourned at 5:55 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