



Oregon Library Association Executive Board Meeting

December 3, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88373665691>

Minutes approved with edits January 7, 2026

[Agenda](#) & [Meeting Packet](#)

Present: April Witteveen (OLA President), Bryan Miyagishima (OLA VP elect), Ayn Reyes Frazee (OLA Past President), Jordan Popoff (OLA Treasurer), Roxanne M. Renteria (OLA Secretary), Jerianne Thompson (ALA Chapter Representative), Buzzy Nielsen (OLA Parliamentarian), Shirley Roberts (OLA Manager), Wendy Cornelisen (SLO), Melissa Anderson (OLA Quarterly), Kate Thornhill (ACRL), Anna Bruce (CSD), LaRee Dominguez (EDIA), Kate Lasky (LEG), Ruth Headley (OYAN), Rinny Lakin (SSD), and Brystan Strong (STRT).

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

Welcome & Intros (April Witteveen)

- Our [community agreement](#) during our meetings.
- Welcome and introductions.
- Attendees answered an icebreaker question about winter traditions.

Agenda Changes/Minutes (April)

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

State Library Report (Wendy Cornelisen)

- See [OLA State Library Report Dec 2](#).
- Overview Comments
 - Wendy thanked the OLA Board for calling an emergency meeting and voting to approve a motion to provide a \$90,000 contribution to cover SLO staff salaries and prevent layoffs.
 - This led to a short, but related conversation about the necessity of improving emergency communication procedures, and creating a shared contact list..
 - ACTION ITEM: Shirley will create a Google Doc containing a shared list of contact information for unit heads, to include (voluntary) cell phone numbers.
 - Wendy provided an overview of the State Librarian Report, and shared related financial and legal updates.
 - While the IMLS Lawsuit is ongoing, the court has granted temporary restraining orders to halt the dismantling process, and issued injunctions to restore IMLS staff, reverse the cancellation of grants, and resume payments to grant recipients. [See ALA December 2025 update](#) and [IMLS News](#).
 - The final state budget will be determined during the Short Legislative Session,

which runs February 2, 2026–March 9, 2026.

- Wendy was directed to complete two reduction exercises (first round is 2.5% in cuts, and the second round is 5%), both of which could negatively impact SLO staff retention and services.
 - Roxanne asked: One, do you have an idea how many other state libraries have been able to negotiate draw downs in an amount to cover impacted staff salaries for months or the full fiscal year? ...and two, what is the status of crisis planning to explore the possibility of rolling staff salaries into the state operating budget?
 - To which Wendy replied, she only knows of 1 state library that requested to draw down the entirety of their fiscal funds.
 - Bryan Miyagishima expressed concerns over the impact loss of LSTA funding could have upon statewide services such as SAGE Courier, OBOB and Ocelis hosting.
 - Wendy shared this was touched upon during previous board meetings.
 - Per the chat, Buzzy commented “That's an item-by-item response, but generally speaking, we've pre-paid half of all of the statewide grants (e.g. Sage, OBOB). We've also paid the Answerland and OSLIS hosting bills through the year.”

President's Report (April)

- See [President's Report](#).
- Overview Comments
 - The report includes updates on Presidential Priorities.
 - April was unable to draft a letter to the membership by Thanksgiving as planned, and intends to complete this task by the end of the year.
 - ACTION ITEM: draft to the membership by the end of the year.
 - Reminder: the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color is scheduled for October 7-11, 2026 in Spokane, WA—and this is an opportunity for OLA to support, [sponsor](#), and get involved.

Association Report (Shirley Roberts)

- Per Shirley, inactive Round Tables have been purged, members were notified, membership renewal forms have been updated, and affiliations in Personify were removed—the website is up to date.
 - April suggested inactive RT information be redacted entirely from the website.
 - ACTION ITEM: Shirley will remove RT information from the website.
- The Grand Public Library in La Grande has been secured as the site of the 2026 OLA Retreat, which is scheduled for August.
 - Potential accommodations and pricing options were discussed, and April suggested pumping up the budget to account for mileage reimbursement.
 - ACTION ITEM: Shirley will book a block of rooms at Best Western Plus Rama Inn & Suites in La Grande.
 - Per Buzzy, a vote was not needed.
 - Shirley expects to know more about booking rooms after the conference.
- Shirley and Rinny Lakin revealed a member of SSD reached out about the possibility of donating their estate to fund scholarships for future SSD members, and provided a short overview.
 - This future scholarship program would include the Oregon Community Foundation (mistakenly listed as the Oregon Humanities Foundation in the agenda) and SSD.

- Shirley noted OASL (Connie Hull) is an example of an estate donation.
- The individual is already working with Oregon Community Foundation, and they are helping her with scholarship language and criteria.
- At this time, the individual would like the scholarship to benefit library workers who are attending college part-time, covering 12 credits a year for 7 years, to include a graduate level degree (but not necessarily an MLIS).
- OCF would like a member of SSD to sit on the scholarship board.
- This is an FYI for the board, more information to come, and whether OLA wants to be involved.
- Moreover, OLA needs details regarding the specific state law the Oregon Community Foundation is quoting in regard to part-time enrollment.

2026 OLA/PNLA Conference (Shirley)

- Shirley noted the second call for program proposals closes on Friday, December 5th.
- The menu selections should be completed by December 5th.
- The [conference website](#) is up and running.
- The conference app (Whova) is a work in progress.
- Registration forms are being developed, with testing expected to occur in mid-late January and go live by February 2nd.
- Circling back to the topic of auctions and the Author Fair mentioned during the November board meeting, Anna Bruce (CSD) shared that Greta Bergquist (SLO) did not submit a proposal for the Author Fair in 2026 (but she welcomed others to do so).

Treasure's Report (Jordan Popoff)

- Agenda update: this agenda item was discussed later than intended, following the OLA Quarterly update.
- See [Report](#).
- Overview Comments
 - Jordan provided a brief overview of the Treasurer's Report, noting the change in format which includes visuals.
 - Jordan and Shirley reminded the board reports are due every other month at the "business meeting".
 - Checks over \$500 now require a second signature.

OLA Quarterly Update (Melissa Anderson)

- Agenda update: this agenda item was discussed earlier than intended, preceding the Treasurer's Report.
- See [OLA Quarterly info](#).
- Overview Comments
 - Melissa provided an overview of her experience working as the editor of OLA Quarterly, and highlighted ongoing challenges.
 - OLA Quarterly is funded for 2 issues a year, which includes a \$1000 stipend for Melissa (per issue).
 - Authors, reviewers, and the guest editor do not receive financial compensation.
 - Notable challenges include: limited or insufficient submissions, delayed responses or missed deadlines from authors and the copy editor, authors who cancel, and authors who need a high level of editorial support (particularly last minute).

- Melissa is facing an increased workload due to budget constraints at her academic library, which means she is hard pressed to cover tasks that fall outside of the publishing timeline.
- April asked “what is your ideal publication schedule, and how many pieces does it take to build out an issue?”
- Melissa shared 2 issues a year is doable but thought leeway based on season might help.
- She went on to say, curating 12 articles can be difficult, and she has tried to strike a balance between academic and public—noting publishing for tenure is not a need in public libraries.
- Kate Thornhill noted “the proof is in the pudding, paying is an incentive”, and pointed out the publication schedule may need to be adjusted.
- Melissa noted the publication undergoes editorial review but not a peer review, and the theme is shared with the editorial board.
- Drawing from her experience as a guest editor for *Public Libraries*, Jerrienne Thompson shared her perspective, noting Melissa may want to consider reaching out directly to prospective authors whose knowledge/experience align with the theme, and the OLA board could be used for suggestions/referrals.
- The group suggested putting together a conference panel session on writing for OLAQ or professional writing for non-academic librarians, and April expressed interest in joining Melissa on the panel.
- ACTION ITEM: April will follow-up with Melissa Anderson regarding OLA Q and a prospective panel presentation at OLA 2026.
- Roxanne suggested putting together a presentation that incorporates EDIA related concerns and best practices—including support for writers from marginalized backgrounds, sharing information about how access to a copy editor might incentivize ESL writers, and amplifying diverse voices.
- Shirley noted hybrid sessions are an option.
- Both Kate and Bryan offered to write articles.
- Both Ayn Frazee (OASL) and Kate offered to cross promote the call for articles via their respective units.
- ACTION ITEM: Melissa will follow up with Bryan and Kate regarding offers to write articles.

Division and Committee Updates Reports (All)

- See [Board Report Responses](#) from OYAN, CSD, and OASL.
- IFC (April)
 - ACTION ITEM: Unit Heads asked to pass along referrals for prospective new members to the co-chairs of IFC.
- Legislative Committee (Kate Lasky)
 - Kate thanked the board for voting in favor of covering the salaries of SLO staff at risk of being laid off.

- Kate shared an update on the state revenue forecast (looking slightly better), and what our lobbyist from [Eames Consulting](#) has been up to.
 - At present, our lobbyist, [Cassie Bruske](#), recommends adopting a realistic approach—so the Legislative Committee’s current strategy is to protect the Ready to Read grant from any reductions, and protect the State Library of Oregon from any cuts (as cuts will cause a long term and devastating impact).
 - Cassie’s recommendation is to hold the line for Ready to Read and build value for the library services division (specifically as it relates to the 10 impacted staff, and the value of their specific work).
 - Cassie is developing a one page document, including data regarding the impact of cuts (first round is 2.5% in cuts, and the second round is 5%).
 - Emphasis will be placed on illustrating what this explicitly means (i.e. 100 daycare visits cut in Multnomah).
 - OLA is working on advocating with the State Legislature—toward that end, the legislative committee would love to see the SLO budget so they can better advocate.
 - Per Buzzy, the State Library of Oregon budget is available via the website, but he (or Wendy) would be happy to view the document with Jeremy and Kate.
- **SSD (Rinny)**
 - The annual budget is complete.
 - Gene Iparraguirre will serve as the new SSD Treasurer.
 - The SSD Conference is scheduled for September 17-18, 2026 and STRT and TSRT have been invited to attend.

Parking Lot (April/Roxanne)

- April is very interested in appointing a Sage Library employee to serve as Member at Large (noting Kathy Street, PLD, meets that criteria but wasn’t present at this meeting).

Action Item Review/Next Meeting: January 7th (April/Roxanne)

- ACTION ITEM: Shirley will create a Google Doc containing a shared list of contact information for unit heads, to include (voluntary) cell phone numbers.
- ACTION ITEM: Shirley will remove RT information from the website.
- ACTION ITEM: April will follow-up with Melissa Anderson regarding OLA Q and a prospective panel presentation at OLA 2026.
- ACTION ITEM: draft to the membership by the end of the year.
- ACTION ITEM: Melissa will follow up with Bryan and Kate regarding offers to write articles.
- ACTION ITEM: Unit Heads asked to pass along referrals for prospective new members to the co-chairs of IFC.

Adjourned at 5:54 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