



Oregon Library Association Executive Board Meeting

February 4, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84419617993>

Minutes approved April 1, 2026

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

Present: April Witteveen (OLA President), Bryan Miyagishima (OLA VP Elect), Jordan Popoff (OLA Treasurer), Roxanne M. Renteria (OLA Secretary), Buzzy Nielsen (OLA Parliamentarian), Shirley Roberts (OLA Manager), Wendy Cornelisen (SLO), Anna Bruce (CSD), LaRee Dominguez (EDIA), Jeremy Skinner (Legislative), Amy Page (OASL), Brianna Sowinski (OYAN), Rachel Diego Leon-Kalnins (REFORMA), Rinny Lakin (SSD), Brystan Strong (STRT), and Melissa Molek (member).

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

Welcome & Intros (April Witteveen)

- Our [community agreement](#) during our meetings.
- Welcome and introductions.

Agenda Changes/Minutes (April)

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

State Library Report (Wendy Cornelisen)

- Overview Comments:
 - Recording begins 10 minutes late.
 - LSTA 2026 award letter was received, funds are approved, and the budget will be just a touch higher.
 - Will attend [Chief Officers of State Library Agencies](#) (COSLA) "Voices for Libraries 2026" event during the first week of March in Washington, D.C.
 - Wendy has plans to meet with Stephanie Chase and use some of the design thinking work SLO staff did on Monday to conduct another focus group (not a listening session), perhaps something smaller.
 - The draft report shared with SLO staff last week is 22 pages long, and likely to grow in page count as information gathered from staff is incorporated.
 - An executive summary will be added as well.
 - She expressed her appreciation for board and state support, and thanked those who shared feedback during the listening sessions.

President's Report (April)

- See [February President's Report](#).
- Overview Comments:
 - April revealed the Presidential team (Ayn, April, and Bryan) met, and then conferred

with Shirley—action team updates are as follows:

- Phase 1: this year OLA will rely on an MLIS student intern to work through report recommendations from Elena and Spencer (onboarding meeting going over report).
- Phase 2: an RFP at board level, moving into OLA's next year (Fall 2026).
- April noted she had an issue getting a hold of the internship coordinator from the University of Denver that Brianna recommended, noting it could be an email permissions issue.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Brianna will follow up with Ashley the internship coordinator at the University of Denver about getting an internship set up.**
- April received a lot of helpful onboarding information from ACRL-OR and OASL.
 - **ACTION ITEM: April will convene action group next month (OASL/ACRL)**
- April is not attending ALA's [National Library Legislative Day 2026](#) on February 25 & 26th in Washington, D.C., so that opportunity has been transferred to Robin Doughty, from the Legislative Committee (and North Plains Library Director).
 - Other Oregon library workers are scheduled to attend the event as well.
- April noted the [Chief Officers of State Library Agencies](#) (COSLA) "Voices for Libraries 2026" event will be held during the first week of March in Washington, D.C., with Wendy, Perry Stokes, and a Jackson County District Trustee going.
- **ACTION ITEM: April will give Bryan 15 min next month to chat about the ALA Advocacy Workshop meeting.**
- April expressed her admiration for the Georgia Library Association's Carterette Series Webinars, and recommended the board Google these and consider how OLA might go about offering something similar.
 - She noted the Reference Summit is similar but not regular.
 - The Carterette Series is funded via an endowment.
 - Wendy has connections.
- **ACTION ITEM: April will review the Georgia Library Association's Carterette webinar series.**

Association Report (Shirley Roberts)

- Overview Comments:
 - Shirley has been busy handling regular association duties, and processed payments, checks, and drafted business emails.
 - She is in the middle of assisting with OBOB and getting the certificate of liability.
 - She reported 1099s to the IRS for individuals who received stipends over \$600.
 - Shirley plans to follow up with Memberclicks regarding last month's action item (April noted Shirley has time given the timeline shared above, specifically in relation to phase 2).

2026 OLA/PNLA Conference Report (Shirley)

- Overview Comments:
 - January was a busy month.
 - Added speakers to the Whova conference app.
 - Shirley noted a software oddity—returning speakers 2026 information was overridden by last year's data—which means speakers will need to double check for accuracy.
 - The conference program schedule is done and available online.

- There are 35 exhibitors, and roughly 2 dozen poster tables.
- Shirley is scheduled to meet with Fern to double check the layout to accommodate everyone.
- Sponsorships are going well this year, and more ads are being placed.
- Merchandize is up and available...link on the website.
- Registration is open.
 - Shirley budgeted for 100 PNLA attendees (their total membership is 200 so that might be high).
 - She is currently working on printed programs, addresses, and letters of welcome from Wendy and April.
 - Do note: no outside food is permitted during unit meetings.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Shirley will clarify if snacks or candy is allowed.**
 - Shirley is working to accommodate speaker's needs, and seeking a second mic from the AV team (outside mics not permitted).
 - She sent out the unit table/meeting form to unit heads.
 - Shirley reminded everyone about awards, and passed along a request from Arlene and the Award Committee.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Arlene has requested unit heads nominate members for awards.**
 - Regrettably, Shirley noted virtual access might not be offered this year based on lack of responses during the first round of queries.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Shirley will send a second query to conference speakers about recording virtual sessions.**

Treasurer's Report (Jordan Popoff)

- See [report](#).
- Overview Comments:
 - Dues Income is sitting at \$16k+ for both years, with a slight increase this year compared to last.
 - Current Total Income is over \$45k compared to last year at over \$32k.
 - Expenses (due to Conference Expenses) are significantly greater than last year.
 - Shirley noted a lot of renewals occur in January and February ahead of the conference.
 - Shirley shared the donation was made to JCLC as discussed last year.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Jordan and Shirley will follow up with JCLC about registration.**

Legislative Committee (Jeremy Skinner)

- Overview Comments:
 - The Legislative Committee has been quietly planning behind the scenes in preparation for the Short Session, which moves quickly.
 - Jeremy noted there is a short turn around when it comes to contacting folks to testify (usually 48 hours or less).
 - The Chairs received last minute notice of the Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means meeting, which Kate was able to attend remotely but was not called on to testify.
 - Other agencies and institutions are in agreement with their expressed concerns: cuts will have an outsized impact on their agency, however Jeremy pointed out OLA has better odds of support.
 - Jeremy notes this is a fight despite the fact the revenue forecast is looking slightly better.

- The chairs have been able to review all of the bills.
- Do note: each legislator is allowed to support 2 bills, and many pertain to education which could eventually impact school libraries (but nothing serious at this time).
- Jeremy has his eye on...
 - State library funding.
 - Legislation that seeks to roll Dolly Parton Imagination Library into the state budget, without money but would create a fund for it, so eventually it could be hardwired into the state law to include funding.
 - Legislation related to all special districts, including special district libraries, is put in place requiring them to report cyber security threats to the state, which would involve putting in place cyber security parameters as well.
 - Jeremy has asked Cassie to keep an eye on that in case there are budget implications.
- Cassie was able to connect Jeremy and Kate with members of the Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means, so he could explain why budget cuts would have an outsized effect upon libraries.
 - The Legislative Committee's current focus is to identify librarians across the state, from those districts, who have relationships with those legislative committee members, and provide a 2 pager, which will eventually be shared with the whole Oregon library community.
 - Jeremy shared his screen so the board could view the 2 page document.
- Jeremy and Kate were invited to attend the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology meeting on Friday, and the focus will be on what libraries are doing to educate patrons on cyber security, AI, and ...
 - Click here to know more: [Information Management and Technology Joint 2025-2026 Interim - Oregon Legislative Information System](#)
- The Legislative Committee is seeking a librarian to apply to be on the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council to take over after Kari May is expected to complete her period of service (click here to learn more: [Business Oregon: Oregon Broadband Advisory Council: Broadband Advisory Council: State of Oregon](#)).
- Jeremy thanked the board for approving the hiring of Eames Consulting, and noted the Legislative Committee is receiving more behind the scenes invites, and has been able to have informal conversations with legislators as well.
- Both Jeremy and Kate were invited to Senator Merkley's town halls in southern Oregon.
 - Have been meeting with staff to educate them on the state of libraries and our impact, and establish open dialog.
 - Provided them with the 2-page document.
- Getting into the nitty gritty, Jeremy shared there appear to be 2 funding strategies right now.
 - First, tap into reserves to cover gaps in the budget.
 - Second, divest from the Federal Income Tax structure.
 - Republicans are advocating for tapping into reserves.
 - Jeremy has heard it is not a caucus priority to ensure the SLO budget remains intact, but believes we're in a good position with them given the degree to which public libraries support job seekers and the workforce (a priority for Republicans).

Workflows/Process for Requesting Funds for Your Unit/RT/Committee, etc. (Shirley)

- Overview Comments:
 - Shirley provided an overview of her conversation with the OLA accountant, given questions that arose after 2 units made requests for additional funds in 2025-2026.
 - As a general rule of thumb, the accountant suggested units retain, at minimum, 1 year's expenses as their reserve and spend down to that limit before requesting additional funds from OLA.
 - Shirley noted OLA created the form and ability to request, but at present does not have a rubric or set procedures and policies or an assessment in place.
 - Shirley hopes to have this framework in place by next year.
 - CSD Chair, Anna, shared better onboarding and education would be helpful so incoming unit heads understand to what degree reserves are replenished.
 - Shirley reminded everyone about the Flourish Account.
 - April stated this year we can take this on a one-by-one basis, as we work toward building a framework and establishing policy language.
 - Both April and Roxanne expressed concerns about being overly fiscally conservative during a period when the profession is under attack, and members could deeply benefit from additional support and professional development—calling for a shift in thinking that better aligns with EDIA best practices.
 - **ACTION ITEM: April and Shirley will bring language to the next meeting.**

Division and Committee Updates (All)

- See [February 2026 OLA Board Report \(Responses\)](#).
- Verbal share-outs around the table
- **OASL: The Future of OSLIS** (Amy Page)
 - Overview Comments:
 - Amy and April revealed the OASL Board discussed options if funding for OSLIS was lost, but that conversation has been tabled for now given the most recent funding news.
 - April inquired if private schools in Oregon can access OSLIS, and Buzzy shared that anyone in the state of Oregon (including private schools) can access the OSLIS databases via the Libraries of Oregon website (which is geo-authenticated).
 - Private schools may not have a selector.
- **EDI & Antiracism Committee** (Roxanne M. Renteria)
 - Overview Comments:
 - The OLA EDIA Committee has two upcoming episodes in post-production scheduled for end of February, and end of March release.
 - The February episode focuses on Indigenizing library spaces, revealing how academic librarians on Oahu support Native students, and student parents on campus.
 - The March episode will need to be split into two parts given the length of the recording, and features CA Deane, a former law librarian, but current corporate librarian who speaks to the topic of disability justice and the degree to which library workers are under paid.
 - As mentioned earlier, Ericka Brunson Rochette is coordinating the update of the

OLA EDIA Committee Toolkit.

- There are two work groups—1 focused on content and research, and 1 handling formatting and design.
- As far as the conference is concerned, the EDIAC is ready to move forward with facilitating the 3 affinity groups (BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, and Neurodivergence/Disability), and has been brainstorming ways to informally facilitate connection at the conference.
- Finally, the EDIAC still has PD scholarship funds (administered by the SLO) that can be used for OLA, and the chairs will continue to send out reminders every 3 weeks.

STRT/Mentor Match (Brystan Strong)

- They have received a handful of pairings, and Brystan is checking to ensure the pairings work.
- The workload is currently manageable.
- She will give a lightning talk at SSD in the Fall, which should increase participation.

SSD (Rinny Lakin)

- In the process of fine tuning the venue contract with a location in Florence.
- The venue is smaller, and can host 100 people.
- Looking at a Friday date.
- Will offer 2 \$500 scholarships for the 2026 OLA/PNLA Joint Conference.

Parking Lot (April/Roxanne)

- April will reach out to a couple of the ALA's [National Library Legislative Day 2026](#) attendees to get them on a future agenda.

Action Item Review/Next Meeting: April 1st (April/Roxanne)

- **ACTION ITEM:** Shirley will clarify if snacks or candy is allowed (at unit tables).
- **ACTION ITEM:** Shirley will send a second query to speakers regarding recording virtual sessions.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Jordan and Shirley will follow up with JCLC about registration.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Brianna will follow up with Ashley the internship coordinator at the University of Denver about getting an internship set up.
- **ACTION ITEM:** April will convene the launch kit/onboarding workgroup next month (OASL/ACRL).
- **ACTION ITEM:** April will give Bryan 15 min at March Board meeting to discuss the ALA Advocacy Toolkit.
- **ACTION ITEM:** April will review the Georgia Library Association's Carterette webinar series.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Arlene has requested unit heads nominate members for awards.
- **ACTION ITEM:** April and Shirley will bring language related to units asking for budget increases to the next meeting.

Adjourned at 5:52 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