

OLA Legislative Committee

Thursday, November 9, 2017 • 10 AM to 12 Noon

Oregon State Library, Room 202 • 250 Winter St SE, Salem

Attending: Amanda Dalton, Becky Gillham, Jane Corry (CSD), Elsa Loftis (Past President), Karen Muller (PLD), Kim Olson-Charles (ACRL), Sue Ludington, Stephanie Lind, Sara Charlton (PLA), Ted Smith, Diedre Conkling, Buzzy Nielson, MaryKay Dahlgreen, Rachel Bridgewater, Abigail Elder

1. Lobbyist Report

- Legislature getting ready for the short session with very limited bill options
- Senators can introduce 1 bill; Representatives can submit 2 bills; the Governor can introduce 5 bills; and committees are limited to 3 bills
- Do not anticipate any legislation that would impact libraries, but will monitor
- Sen Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin) and Sen Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day) are leaving the Senate to serve on the NW Power and Conservation Council, plus a number of other legislators are likely to announce retirements or resignations soon

2. Leave Behind Piece

- Amanda and Diedre shared a print piece produced by the Florida Library Association that summarizes the FLA position on active bills, along with general information about FLA and its values. They use it to “leave behind” after a visit with a legislator.
- We agreed that something similar would be a useful piece for OLA members, with information on Ready to Read, TBABS, State Library budget, and other “perennial” topics.
- Diedre and Ted will work on a first draft.

3. State Librarian Report

- The State Library is currently recruiting for a Youth Services Consultant; MaryKay is pleased with the pool of applicants so far.
- Wallowa County will be voting on a possible library district in May. The county ~~runs two libraries,~~ provides outreach to unincorporated Wallowa County and service to two small communities and there are three libraries operated by cities (Enterprise, Joseph, Wallowa.) ~~The cities would transfer the libraries to the county if the district passes.~~ The district would cover the entire county so consolidate library services. There would need to be discussions about transfer of buildings. The group is working with Ruth Metz, and in the process of forming a PAC. They do not need anything from OLA at this time.
- Roseburg (Douglas County) has hired Penny Hummel to consider options to restore some library services.
- Drain (Douglas County) will likely vote on a library district measure in May. The proposed district would follow the boundaries of the North Umpqua School District and Park District.
- MaryKay attended the state librarians meeting in Nashville last week, and the group discussed the privatization of public libraries. LSS is actively promoting to city and county officials. LSS is run by a hedge fund and operates differently than its predecessor, LSSI. LSS operates the

Jackson County library system, but most Oregon libraries are probably too small to be profitable for LSS.

- Falls City (Polk County) is in the process of closing their library, as the city lacks funds to keep it running and decided not to pursue a local option levy. Expect to close in 2018; patrons will have limited access to other CCRLS libraries.
- All of the library election issues on Tuesday's ballot passed, including a bond measure for the Salem Public Library; a new local option levy in Union; and a levy renewal in Warrenton.

4. National Library Legislative Day:

- Scheduled for May 7-8, 2018, and we should figure out who is attending soon.
- State Library will schedule the appointments with legislators.
- MaryKay, Kim, and Sara are planning to attend. OLA sends the president-elect (Esther Moberg)

5. State Law Librarian Report:

- Cathryn did not attend but Sue reported that there is a strong interest in public libraries to host lawyers who can meet with patrons for short consultations.
- Deschutes Public Library and Columbia County Law Library both have programs, while Klamath County Library holds a number of legal information programs.

6. Definition of a public library

- MaryKay wants to update the language in ORS that defines what is a public library in Oregon, and create minimum service criteria to qualify.
- PLD is working on the public library standards that could feed into the administrative rules
- MaryKay needs to figure out if the Governor will sponsor such a bill, or if OLA will need to find a legislator to introduce.
- Diedre noted that SPAO would likely support this legislation
- **Action item:** MaryKay will determine the best path forward and report back to OLA; goal is to have the legislative concept ready by June 2018

7. Summer Lunch, Learn, Libraries (SL3)

- This initiative by OregonASK has been introduced several times over the past years
- Seeks to open school libraries during the summer in coordination with the summer lunch program
- OLA likes the concept but is concerned about how the libraries would be staffed and how the initiative would be funded
- **Action item:** Stephanie and her staff will keep in touch with OregonASK
- **Action item:** Jane will share this information with CSD.

8. Children's services district

- Last session, Senator Riley introduced SB 123 that would have allowed for the formation of special districts focused on children's services. The bill passed the Senate but not the House.
- We expect that the legislation would focus on Washington County only.

- OLA has concerns that the district’s work would duplicate work already done by libraries, and move some entities into compression which could limit local option levies. (Washington County Libraries receive about 25% of their county funding through a LOL.)
- **Action item:** Amanda, Abigail and Stephanie will monitor and report back as needed.

9. Vision screenings:

- Last year, SB 187 provided some reimbursement for educational institutions that provide vision screenings.
- We are interested in libraries being eligible for reimbursement; however, we have been asked to not introduce this until 2019. This is not an urgent matter for OLA, and we can wait until then.
- **Action item:** Jane will share this information with CSD, gather information about how many libraries conduct vision screenings and what their costs are.

10. Engage Site

- We agreed that we could move some of our legislative content from the OLA Memberclicks site to Engage.
- Sue and Rachel will make a recommendation on how we can best use the Engage website

11. Conference Update

- We submitted two conference proposals: one on guns in libraries, and one on the limits of free expression in libraries.
- We will hear back by November 17 if our proposals are accepted.

12. Public Library Association Update

- Sara serves on the PLA Legislative Committee. They have created the “E’s of Libraries” with information on how libraries help with Education, Employment, Empowerment, Engagement and Everyone Benefits.
- PLA is working on partnership “stages” and will present this information to ALA.

13. General Updates

- Elsa is convening a focus group to determine next steps for the OLA Memberclicks website, including how to incorporate NW Central content.
- Karen reported that PLD held a successful public library directors meeting, and a Project Outcome training. This year, PLD’s main focus is refreshing the public library standards.
- Kim noted that the national president of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) is Cheryl Middleton from OSU. Kim will be attending National Library Legislative Day on behalf of ACRL-Oregon.
- Diedre commented that most special district ballot measures around the state passed this week. SDAO is monitoring possible legislation that might be introduced this coming session.
- Jane is working on the OLA Leadership Institute scheduled for May in Pendleton.
- Stephanie has received guidance on Pay Equity and will share on libs-or.

Outstanding Action Items:

- Abigail to draft a model gun policy. Kate, Buzzy and Diedre will review it.

Future Meetings: Thursdays 10 AM -12 PM at Oregon State Library: January 11 • March 8 • May 10