

Oregon Library Association Public Library Division Executive Board Meeting

September 10, 2021, via Zoom

Present: Halsted Bernard (Tigard Public Library), chair; Amanda Bressler (Albany Public Library), at-large; Darci Hanning, State Library of Oregon liaison, Laura Kimberly (Newport Public Library), past chair; Haley Lagasse (North Bend Public Library), chair-elect; Beka Murcray (Molalla Public Library), at-large; Chris Myers (Lake Oswego Public Library), secretary; Will O’Hearn (Eugene Public Library), at-large; Greg Williams (Oregon City Public Library), at-large.

Absent: none

1. Call to Order

Chair Halsted Bernard called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

2. Approval of minutes of August 20, 2021, meeting

The minutes of the board’s August 20 meeting are pending and will be bundled with the minutes from the September 10 meeting

New Business

3. Introductions of new members

We welcomed newly elected at-large board members Beka Murcray of Molalla Public Library and Greg Williams of Oregon City Public Library.

4. Trello introduction

Halsted walked us through the Trello platform that we will use to plan and organize. It includes “cards” for upcoming meetings and ongoing projects. She urged everyone to sign up for a free Trello account. The tour of Trello included some discussion of old business:

Old Business

5. PLD Training on Intellectual Freedom

- We are waiting for a writeup from Emily O’Neal (Deschutes Public Library) and Perry Stokes (Baker Public Library), co-chairs of the OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee, and we’ll use that to structure the day and publicize the event. Halsted will contact Emily and Perry to discuss this with them and ask them about the possibility of inviting a speaker from the American Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Office to present as part of the training.

- We agreed that this training would be aimed not just at library directors but more broadly at all public-library staff members who are interested.
- Time/date: 10 a.m.-noon Friday, October 29, on Zoom.

6. 2022 PLA Conference

- OLA won't present an EDI/anti-racism preconference session. Marci Ramiro-Jenkins (immediate past co-chair of the OLA EDI Antiracism Committee), in consultation with others in OLA, decided against it for a number of reasons. Our board is in full support of Marci's decision, and we agreed that this situation highlights the need for introspection, self-evaluation, and long-term change on the part of the institutional structure of the Public Library Association and ALA more broadly.
- Chris reported that he has emailed the PLA Conference's local-events contact in regard to the possibility of our hosting or co-hosting an evening karaoke event / social in Portland during the conference, and heard no response. He will now follow up with a phone call and post any updates on Trello.

7. Public Library Standards Update

Haley Lagasse reported that the standards committee has meetings scheduled in October and November. The committee hasn't met since June, but is still on track to complete planned annual revisions for 2021.

8. PLD Communications

Discussed a regular PLD communication in the OLA Hotline. We may need an internal discussion to clarify what we do and what we want to do. Halsted asked us to take a look at PLD bylaws and charter and come to next meeting with one thing we do well and should keep doing, and one thing that we could improve or change or add.

9. PLD Fundraising

No update at this time. Halsted is very interested in a T-shirt based fundraiser. Chris said some kind of passive, swag-based fundraiser could come out of our November discussion of the purpose and aim of PLD, and could enhance PLD branding. Greg asked how much money we are trying to raise. Haley said it was in the \$5000-\$10,000 range—just enough money to fund the Pearl Award, technical writing contracts or the standards, and similar small-ticket items. Beka asked if a PLD logo exists, and we agreed there is not one—another opportunity for branding.

10. State Library of Oregon Update

Darci Hanning, public-library consultant and continuing-education coordinator for the State Library of Oregon, provided the following updates from the State Library:

- We have several updates in the realm of Continuing Education: requests for pre-paid registrations to REFORMA National and the virtual portions of ARSL conferences are available through 9/15. We have expanded our CE opportunities to include 200+ previously recorded and weekly live webinars from People Connect Institute (PCI). In order to integrate all this content and to meet the licensing requirements from the vendor, we have made two changes to the Oregon Library Staff Academy (Niche Academy): a free account is now required to access the content – learners can typically request an account from the home page as needed or use the registration form; and the home page has been redesigned to display topics in categories. More information about CE opportunities can be found here:
 - <https://libguides.osl.state.or.us/conted>
- We awarded \$2.1 million in competitive grants to 61 organizations thanks to the additional funds we received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The full list of awardees is available here:
 - <https://libguides.osl.state.or.us/istagrants/arpaawards>
- We already have candidates expressing interest in the open State Librarian position. We are contracting with the recruitment firm Bradbury Miller, which specializes in libraries and has helped with several other state librarian searches, including the search that brought us Jennifer Patterson. SLO is also hiring for several other positions. The State Librarian job posting is available here:
 - <https://bradburymiller.com/job/slo/>
- Answerland usage has jumped almost 100% over the last year, likely due to the pandemic. Libraries have increasingly been using it to handle reference questions, and some have even used it to handle curbside pickup appointments.
- We are partnering with several community college libraries (including Umpqua CC!) and one public library to pilot using Northstar Digital Literacy, a tool to help measure and teach patrons critical digital literacy skills.
 - <https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/>
- The Youth Services Summit is coming up, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. September 24 and 25. It's free, and Greta has sent out more info to the youth services listservs.
- We have updated the library COVID-19 guidance to account for the indoor mask mandate. Please also be advised that masks are required for outdoor programming, too, if physical distancing isn't possible. The latest library guidance is available here, although it doesn't yet include information about masking during outdoor events. Stay tuned.

◦ <https://libguides.osl.state.or.us/coronavirus/operations>

- We're partnering with Oregon Heritage and the Washington State Library on a new project, Northwest Digital Heritage. The project aggregates information about digital collections held by libraries, museums, and other heritage institutions in Oregon and Washington and makes them searchable in the Digital Public Library of America's national database. Northwest Digital Heritage is the second DPLA hub in the Northwest, the other being the Orbis-Cascade Alliance's hub. More info is available on the project site:

◦ <https://www.northwestdigitalheritage.org/>

- We are very excited that one of the State Library's own, Arlene Weible, started her term as OLA President this month!

11. Oregon Digital Library Consortium Update

Elizabeth Sonstegaard, chair of the Oregon Digital Library Consortium, emailed the news that ODLC received \$30,000 in LSTA grant money from the State Library of Oregon to bolster its Spanish-language content and representation of Own Voices authors.

12. Upcoming meeting dates

We set the following as 2022 meeting dates (all Fridays at 10 a.m.): January 14, March 11, May 13, July 8, September 9.

13. Next regular meeting: 10 a.m.-noon Friday, November 12, on Zoom

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.