

OLA Hotline

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Association News

Message from OLA President, Aletha Bonebrake

This past year has been a very difficult one for many Oregon libraries. Our hearts go out to those who worked so hard to preserve quality library service for their communities and were met with unpredictable political vagaries that thwart good campaigns. Certainly the lack of decisiveness by Congress to give a timely decision on O & C payments to Oregon counties left many voters without a clear understanding of the impacts that would result.

Jackson County Library System is perhaps the most startling victim of this grave problem. For a well-run library system in a growing population area where voters have supported a massive building program for all its branch libraries in the recent past, and successful serial levies for operations as long as anyone can remember, the failure of the serial levy renewal is tragic and confusing. Yet the voters were left in limbo when Congress adjourned without renewing the timber safety net, and seemed to be relying on the pig in the poke held in the hands of Congress to keep their county services afloat. The failure of the federal revenues to finally come through at the end of the year is a huge factor in the indeterminate closure of one of our great county libraries.

The double-majority law also seriously affected the success of many library campaigns. First, for the first time in years, voter turnout in the May primary in all but a handful of small towns fell short of the 50% required to pass money measures, and the new Malheur County Library District, one of four that would have passed in May but for the double majority law, failed in the November election. Second, since the double majority has a chilling effect on placing money measures on the May ballot, most governmental bodies choose the general election.

Here a cacophony of messages dilutes attention to cogent arguments, and a lot of negative campaigning wearies the voter, while competition for money among several entities frightens others. Worst of all, everybody gets their tax bill just before the election.

Without dwelling further on the failures of our taxing system to deliver stable library service in Oregon, which, in spite of roller coaster funding, has the second highest per capita circulation of all 50 states, it is an honor to acknowledge the hard work that is done in Oregon by very dedicated librarians and trustees to serve the people with this most fundamental right. This is a time for us all to thank them for their courage to face the risks of the ballot box for the betterment of their communities, and for their faith and perseverance in seeking solutions. From what I have read, none are giving up.

It must be with hope that we look forward to this New Year. Perhaps the shock to communities who have lost libraries or face reduced hours will bring citizens to the polls next May with resounding affirmations. Perhaps the Legislature will renew the interest it showed last session in changing the double-majority law to exempt primary elections. Perhaps the dismal prospects of many cities and counties to fund their most basic services under current tax law will give new impetus to success of library district formation.

It is heartening to note that seven of the thirteen library measures in November did pass, including the new library district in Wasco County and a building bond for the Lebanon library. It is heartening that this is a legislative year when OLA can be a resource for our legislators to hear the voice of libraries among the many, and to raise awareness about the unique role libraries play in promoting early childhood literacy initiatives.

But the best news for the New Year is Governor Kulongoski's tremendous support of libraries, literacy, and schools. This is reflected in his budget, which proposes a 4.8% increase for the State Library, and includes funding of Ready-to-Read at \$1 per child for early childhood literacy and summer reading programs. It also shined out in his theme for several gala inaugural events around the State. The Governor asked each attendee to bring a new Dr. Seuss book, which will be given to children in the SMART program, as their entree to the events.

See my thank you letter to the governor below.

I hope this year brings new wisdom to all of us, and mutual support in all of our endeavors. This is what OLA is for, so listen for your neighbors' needs and help wherever you can. And speak up for your own needs, so we can collect our wisdom into solutions.

OLA's Thanks to the Governor (from Aletha)

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

On behalf of the Oregon Library Association I want to thank you for the outstanding support you give to libraries and for your championing of the early childhood literacy initiative in Oregon.

Your proposed budget provides important funding for the State Library, whose Library Development Office is a crucial partner in coordinating successful programs for children and their families in literacy awareness. We also applaud your proposal for increased funding for our community partners in education, from K-12 through the universities. We know that when our schools and universities are well-funded, the information resources which undergird the curricula and research programs are more current and more readily available. When education of our young people is a priority of our leaders, it raises the consciousness of our whole society to value an educated citizenry and workforce and the investment this requires.

We in the library community are deeply committed to filling the gap from birth to school, so that our children are more successful when they enter school. We know that critical skills develop at important stages long before the child reaches kindergarten. Libraries have always had story hours for pre-school exposure to pre-literacy skills and summer reading programs to help keep reading skills sharp during the school breaks. Libraries are adding lap-sit story hours for infants and toddlers and outreach programs to daycares, as well as literature and programs for parents on how literacy develops.

These programs have been traditionally funded in Oregon by the Ready-to-Read grants, which your budget has funded at \$1 per child. We are deeply grateful for this support. Through the

guidance of the State Library, the library community has committed to restricting Ready-to-Read grants to programs in early childhood literacy and summer reading and for ensuring a minimum grant of \$1,000 to any public library with a qualifying program, so that the smallest and most rural of our communities will have adequate resources to accomplish these shared goals.

You can count on the Oregon Library Association to be a staunch supporter of every effort you undertake to improve the chances for our children to succeed in school. Please call on us whenever we can be of help.

OLA Service Opportunities!

Would you like to get more involved in OLA? Membership is made up of librarians from all types of libraries and all areas of interest and expertise, so there is a special place for you. You may want to serve on a committee where there is need, or you may want to bring some new interest to our attention, as was recently done by a Disaster Preparedness Interest Group.

Currently there is an opening on the Intellectual Freedom Committee. It operates in a stimulating environment of ethical and professional responsibility to our First Amendment freedoms. Its charge, in part, is:

- To aid development of OLA's position on intellectual freedom, interpret it to the public, and act in support of this position.
- To inform membership of pending legislation, present recommendations, and tender OLA's support of such legislation.
- To promote development by libraries of a selection policy.
- To determine facts in cases of public controversy over censorship, develop a statement of OLA's position, and present OLA's position to all interested parties.

There are also two openings on the Membership Committee, which is going through exciting changes with the management of a member services database through an electronic interface called MemberClicks. This committee offers a rewarding opportunity to someone who would like to become expert in this database and help OLA members learn to use it for

registrations, mailings, and more. The Membership Committee would also benefit greatly from a person interested in marketing the many benefits of OLA to the staffs of multi-type libraries in Oregon. This would increase membership and our ability to share wisdom and increase our voice in public issues.

If you have skill in web design, you may be interested in working on an OLA web interface project. OLA is setting up a Web Design Task Force to look into how we can effectively use blogs, wikis and new things coming down the road to enhance our web appearance and functionality. This should be a great project!

If you are into the booming new library specialty of IT support and would like to network with your peers but haven't found an OLA niche for this, we are looking to create one and welcome expressed interest. It is a gleam in the eye, so email me if you think you might enjoy participating in a Technology Round Table, which could offer presentations on topics of interest to IT personnel and networking at the OLA Conference. Your email doesn't bind you to participate; we are just looking for extent of interest. If you feel called to take a lead role in forming the group, let me know that, too.

I look forward to hearing of your interest in any service activity or committee appointment, or any new ideas you might have for an as yet undeveloped interest group. Please email me, Aletha Bonebrake, at alethab@my180.net.

Annual Conference Registration Opens Soon!

The OLA conference theme is "Finding Community: Civics, Cyberspace, and Change." Mark your calendars for the end of January when registration for this exciting conference will be open. This inspiring conference will broaden professional capabilities, stimulate creative thinking and ideas, and provide many opportunities to learn about services and systems that enhance the communities we serve. Here are key details:

- Pre-Conference: Wednesday, April 18
- Conference: Thursday and Friday, April 19 and 20
- Location: LaSells Stewart & CH2M Alumni Center in Corvallis
- Keynote: Rivkah Sass, LJ Librarian of the Year 2006

- & Director, Omaha Public Library
- Banquet Speaker: Maria Amparo Escandon, author of "Esperanza's Box of Saints" and "Gonzalez & Daughter Trucking Company"
 - Luncheon Speaker: Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director, ALA Washington Office

The conference program and registration information will be available on the OLA conference site by the end of January. Hotel accommodations and contact information are available now at the [conference website](#).

Legislative News

Your Chance to Visit Salem - OLA Legislative Day!

Every Legislative Session the Oregon Library Association sets aside one day to visit the Oregon State Legislature. This year's OLA Legislative Day is on Wednesday, February 7. Please join us in making a strong impression on our legislators about the importance of all libraries to the people of Oregon.

Activities will include:

- An issue briefing by Nan Heim, our excellent lobbyist
- Appointments to talk one-on-one with legislators
- A picture book giveaway so legislators can choose a book for their library
- Photo opportunities for legislators to appear in "Read" posters
- Lunch with colleagues
- And much more.

Come to Salem and join the fun. Make an appointment with your legislator. If the 7th doesn't work, do it next time you're in Salem. Check the [OLA Legislative Committee wiki](#) for the evolving appointment schedule. Contact [Diedre Conkling](#), OLA Legislative Network Coordinator, if you are shy about making appointments or just not sure how to do it. Contact your legislator about library issues by email, letter or phone if you cannot come in person on February 7th. Issue Briefs are also available on the wiki. Contact Diedre or [Janet Webster](#), OLA Legislative Committee Chair, if you have further questions.

Capitol Report from OLA Lobbyist, Nan Heim

The 74th Oregon Legislative Assembly convened Monday, January 8. The ninety legislators sworn in include Rep. Nancy Nathanson (D-Eugene), an OLA member, and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Portland), sister of OLA member Andrew Bonamici. Another legislator is Rep. Brian Clem (D- Salem), who has said he plans to be a big library supporter. Three OLA Legislators of the Year are also back this session: Rep. Vicki Berger (R-Salem), Senator Ginny Burdick (D-Portland) and Senator Ben Westlund (D-Bend).

One of the first bills was House Bill 2116, introduced by Governor Kulongoski at the request of the State Library Trustees. HB 2116 makes two changes in the state's Ready to Read grant program. The bill proposes that public libraries use Ready to Read grants either for programs for children age five and under, or for summer reading programs for children age 14 and under. The bill also establishes a minimum amount of \$1,000 for Ready to Read grants.

In addition, the Governor's budget proposes restoring Ready to Read grants to \$1 per child. OLA supports House Bill 2116 and we will advocate funding the grants at \$2 a child.

Our other interests this session include legislation that will be introduced soon to rewrite the state's obscenity statutes. OLA is working to be sure that librarians at public, school and academic libraries are exempt from prosecution for furnishing materials to minors that are later claimed to be pornographic.

OLA has requested a bill to protect the privacy of library patrons' email addresses. Senator Ginny Burdick (D-Portland) will be introducing that bill as soon as it is drafted by Legislative Counsel.

These are just some of the issues that OLA will be addressing in this legislative session. To help advance OLA's agenda, make your plans now to come to OLA's Legislative Day!

OLA Awards and Scholarships

OLE Award Nominations Due by February 13

OLA's Public Library Division is looking for nominations for the person deserving of this year's OLE Award. This award is presented to a deserving person employed in any capacity in an Oregon public library who has displayed exceptional effort and excellence. The annual Ole Award was so named in recognition of the recipients' efforts to "take the bull by the horns" and get the job done.

Please send your nomination, along with a one-page statement about your candidate and why he or she is deserving of the award to [Linda Lybecker](#), Hillsboro Public Library, 2453 NW 185th Ave, Hillsboro, OR 97124.

Apply for OLA MLS Scholarships by March 1

Last month, OLA launched its new scholarship program for Oregon residents enrolled, or planning to enroll, full-time in a graduate course of study for the Masters in Library Science degree. Over \$17,000 in scholarship awards is available. The deadline for applications is March 1. However, applicants who submit their completed application by February 15 will be entered into drawings for twenty-three, \$500 awards. More information is available in a [previous Hotline](#).

OYEA! Awards Nominations Due by March 5

Last fall, April Witteveen, Chair of the Oregon Young Adult Network (OYAN), announced the creation of the group's new OYEA! [OYAN's You're Excellent!] Award created to recognize outstanding contributions to teens in Oregon libraries.

The annual award, to be presented during the 2007 OLA Conference, will be granted to an individual, library, organization, program, or initiative as a way to acknowledge and celebrate the recipient's efforts. The prize will consist of an engraved plaque as well as a monetary donation made to the teen services program chosen by the award's recipient.

Do you know of a person, organization, or program that deserves recognition for their role in providing exceptional teen library services in Oregon? Please send the nominee's name, your contact information, and a description of the

positive and significant contribution to teens via email or snail mail to the OYAN Awards Committee Chair: [Sue Ludington](#), 3727 SE Gladstone, Portland, OR 97202.

Nominations are being accepted now, with a deadline of March 5, 2007. Preference will be given to nominees who are supported by a letter of recommendation written and submitted by a teen. For further information on eligibility and complete award procedures, please refer to the [OLA Bylaws](#). The Awards Committee knows that there are many wonderful things Oregon libraries are doing for teens; please submit your deserving nominee today!

OLA Annual Awards - Nominations Due by March 15

Honor your exceptional colleagues with OLA Awards! OLA's Honors & Awards Committee seeks nominations for four special awards (Oregon Librarian of the Year, Oregon Library Employee of the Year, Oregon Library Supporter of the Year, Oregon Library Association Distinguished Service Award).

Be sure to read the [awards guidelines](#), which were revised recently. These awards will be presented to recipients at the 2007 OLA Conference in Corvallis.

Nomination letters are due on the Ides of March, Thursday, March 15, 2007. Your letter of nomination should include the following information, if pertinent, and be as informational as possible:

- Provide nominees' current position
- Past positions held and summary of major accomplishments
- OLA activities: committee appointments, etc.
- Brief description of other noteworthy accomplishments
- Your name and how you can be reached if the committee has questions

Letters of support are encouraged with, or following, the original nominating letter. Submit no more than six letters of support.

Questions can be directed to [Connie Bennett](#), Chair, Honors & Awards Committee, by email or 541-682-5363.

Happenings

Earn Your MLS in Oregon

Emporia State University's School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) will begin a new cohort for the MLS degree in June 2007. Information about the program and application process can be found at the [SLIM website](#).

Apply for OCH Grants by February 1

The [Oregon Council for the Humanities \(OCH\)](#) spring 2007 public program grant cycle is a targeted cycle that will fund community reading and discussion groups including, but not limited to, those modeled on the One Book or Everybody Reads programs. OCH's budget for this grant cycle is \$40,000; grant requests may range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. A public library must be involved in the program but need not act as the grant's sponsoring organization. The postmark deadline for letters of intent to apply in this cycle is February 1.

If you have any questions regarding OCH's public programs, please call or email [Carol E. Hickman](#) at (503) 241-0543 in Portland, (800) 735-0543.

Employment Opportunities

Calendar