

OLA Executive Board Meeting
April 29, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Present via Zoom:

Elaine Hirsch (President), Esther Moberg (Past President), Lori Wamsley (Treasurer), Laura Baca (Secretary), Jennifer Patterson (State Librarian), Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney (ALA Representative), Shirley Roberts (Association Manager), Laurie Nordahl (OASL President), Candise Branum (ACRL-OR), Elsa Loftis (Awards Committee), Jian Wang (IRRT), Liisa Sjoblom (Conference Chair), Lacey Legel (Incoming Conference Chair), Deborah VanDetta (CSD), Keli Yeats (OYAN), Rachel Timmons (OYAN), Jane Corry (member), Marci Ramiro-Jenkins (REFORMA, EDI Task Force), Martín Blasco (REFORMA, EDI Task Force), Charles Wood (Communications/OLAQ)

Approval of February 7th meeting minutes

Esther Moberg moved to approve the minutes; Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney seconded. Motion carried.

OLA Elections (Esther Moberg)

- Candidates for secretary: Kim Olson-Charles and possibly Steve Silver
- Candidate for Vice President: Stephanie Debner (we may need another candidate for the ballot)
- Whether REFORMA can become a division – Buzzy Nielsen believes this should be at a business meeting before the majority of our membership

OLA Awards (Elsa Loftis)

- Lack of nominees was a problem – this fell off people's radar because of COVID-19
- Not giving as many awards as would have liked to
- Sara Charlton will be the winner of the distinguished service award

OLA 2020 survey report on preliminary data (Elaine Hirsch)

- 194 responses, of which 85% were members
- Most expressed appreciation of the network of colleagues
- Priorities: emphasis on professional development opportunities and EDI
- Lack of awareness about mentorship program & LIOLA
- 2 gift cards awarded to participants
- Survey results will be used in strategic planning

Discussion of OLA statement and/or guidance on:

- closures/reopening plans (Elaine Hirsch)
 - ALA's new state-level task forces group is looking at reopening frameworks in various states
 - Do we have a role in guiding libraries about reopening?
 - Jennifer has met with CA & WA state librarians (other states joining). State libraries are connecting to share information and plans. She is asking Arlene & Tamara to provide framework for Oregon libraries; OLA could be involved
 - The Governor's new framework is expected Monday, May 4th
 - We concluded that OLA can provide advocacy, make a statement about the value of libraries and collaborate with the State Library
- "Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19: Guidance for Governors" (Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney)
 - Libraries were initially classified to be in a safer level than they should have been, but this has been revised to say that libraries have the same level of risk as a community center

State Librarian's Report (Jennifer Patterson)

- CARES act funding: IMLS received \$50 million, \$30 million of which will be distributed to states. Oregon's \$380,000 portion will be targeted for specific purposes (such as digital inclusion, technology & COVID-19 response) and must be spent by 2021. The State Library is looking into a partnership that would help us with broadband access or other needs.
- Announcement of mini grants. Smaller libraries will be eligible to apply first in increments of \$500, \$1500 or \$3000.
- State budget: What might the impact be in response to COVID-19? We are looking at 8.5 percent cuts to the general funds in the 2019-2021 budget, which is \$357,000. The State Library is looking at strategies including reductions in: vacancies (although many positions not funded by general funds), operations, rent, and Ready to Read grant funds. This exercise is just one step in the process and is due to the governor by May 8th for review. Will we get any federal aid? There will also be conversations with union leadership about freezing pay increases, etc.

Unit Reports

OASL (Laurie Nordhal)

- The state affiliate award went to Tennessee and not Oregon as hoped
- OBOB titles and Beverly Cleary choice awards are listed for next year

- They are hoping to have a board retreat in the summer
- They recently had elections: Grace Butler will be the new president-elect and Kate Weber will be stepping into the presidency and will be part of the OLA board in June
- They will have a joint conference in October and are considering a virtual option

Intellectual Freedom Committee and ALA Councilor Report (Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney)

- Considering what to do about Intellectual Freedom champion award
- ALA: plans for virtual library legislative day (no registration fee required)
- Shirley shared that ALA's June conference will be virtual

ACRL (Candise Branum)

- They are doing webinars and looking into more
- They have changed their professional development scholarship structure
- Regarding their elections, they have enough nominees for members at large, but only one for vice president/president-elect
- ACRL's OR/WA joint conference is slated for October. They will be meeting about whether to proceed, go virtual or cancel.
- They are updating their website to a mobile-friendly design

CSD (Deborah VanDetta)

- They are also looking for candidates this election cycle
- They are considering online training to replace their spring conference and workshop
- They will eventually have an in-person celebration for the Lampman award

OYAN (Keli Yeats & Rachel Timmons)

- Difficulty filling elected positions
- They've been meeting every two weeks to discuss summer reading, digital equity, reaching out to schools and ways to do online programming with minors (as this brings up privacy concerns)
- They are forgoing their raffle this year

IRRT (Jian Wang)

- Hosted event in early March in collaboration with PSU's international affairs: 3 speakers shared their experiences of visiting China and Nigeria
- Budget: IRRT healthy
- Next Horner Exchange postponed until next year

Conference Committee report (Liisa Sjoblom)

- Our annual conference was canceled on March 17th without issue from the Riverhouse in Bend. We may consider them for a future conference.
- Did not request \$1500 deposit back; could request that be a deposit for a future conference.
- All registrations have been refunded
- Challenges this year included: requests for additional/alternate speakers after the OLAQ article controversy, inexperienced team members, getting sponsors, and, of course, COVID-19.
- The local arrangements team was fantastic

Association Manager's Report (Shirley Roberts)

- Refunded over \$60,000 to conference registrants, exhibitors, sponsorships
- Refunding for Lampman Awards, CSD workshop, etc.
- The offer she extended to libraries to use our Zoom account has been utilized
- 3rd quarter grant reports for OSLIS & OBOB complete
- Zoom meeting for annual meeting to vote on REFORMA is being planned
- What will we look like in spring 2021? We should consider a virtual component for Salem conference
- WLA is currently proceeding with their conference in October
- We don't have a succession plan for OLA if something happened to our association manager, but one is being drafted and will be complete by June
- Shirley reminded the unit heads that she can help with elections and ballots
- She will continue work on our online store and our fundraising policy

Treasurer's Report (Lori Wamsley)

(see separate report for details)

- We are about \$26,000 down because of the canceled conference & other lost income
- Revenue committee recognizes that we may have a drop in membership. They are requesting input from board on having automated quarterly payments for membership as an option. The board is in favor of exploring this. Shirley is experimenting with making this possible in Memberclicks.
- Finance and investment committee: changes to our current portfolio have been recommended by our financial advisor. The committee will convene. A board vote can happen by e-mail before our June meeting if needed.

EDI Task Force Recommendations (Marci Ramiro-Jenkins and Martín Blasco)

(see separate report from the task force)

- The chairs of the EDI Task Force presented their recommendations, which will inform our strategic planning
- They want OLA to be the head of anti-racism and best practices
- They want directors, managers & supervisors to make libraries more inclusive
- Elaine stated that these recommendations can be widely distributed and approves of the addition of an EDI committee.
- Two of the specific recommendations relate to the State Library. Jennifer shared that the State Library just passed new strategic plan framework. One of our focus areas is around EDI & they also have a task force for internal competencies for staff. They will be looking at policies and procedures through an equity lens.
- Kirsten stated that these recommendations can be incorporated into Public Library Division standards.
- We will discuss these further at our June meeting.

OLAQ transition to OSU/Editorial guidelines (Charles Wood, Elaine Hirsch)

This agenda item will be pushed back to the June agenda because of lack of time.

Next meeting: June 5th, 2020