

## OLA Information, 2005-2006

### List of Officers

**President:** Leah Griffith, Newberg Public Library

**Vice President:** Aletha Bonebrake, Baker County Library

**Past President:** Maureen Cole, Eugene Public Library

**Treasurer:** Julia Longbrake, Mt. Hood Community College Library

**Secretary:** Steven Engelfried, Beaverton City Library

**Parliamentarian:** Steve Skidmore, Siuslaw Library District

**ALA Representative:** Carolyn Rawles-Heiser, Corvallis Benton County Public Library

**OEMA Representative:** Allen Kopf, Umatilla School District

**PNLA Representative:** MaryKay Dahlgreen, OSL

**Member at large:** Patrick Duke, Wilsonville Public Library

**State Librarian:** Jim Scheppke, OSL

### Location and theme of annual conference

Thriving on Change, Embrace the Possibilities

Salem Conference Center/Phoenix Grand Hotel April 5-7, 2006

Notable speakers: Deborah Jacobs, director of Seattle Public Library, spoke on change in libraries and how she had embraced change from a children's librarian in Bend to director at Corvallis-Benton County Public Library to the leap to the directorship of the Seattle Public Library.

Gene Ambaum and Bill Barnes, the writer and artist for the library comic strip, *Unshelved*, entertained the banquet attendees with their humor and stories of the how and why of a daily online comic strip. The line to buy their books at the end was huge.

After the banquet, the Past Presidents held their first MLS Scholarship fundraiser, the George Bell Film Festival, featuring state librarian Jim Scheppke and George (honorary life member) regaling the crowd with stories from George's film debut as an extra in a 1950's film of Lewis and Clark. Their comments were more entertaining than the movie.

The Conference Chair, Robin Beerbower, of Salem Public Library, and her committee made a profit of over \$50,000, a record at that time.

The location was so good, the OLA board voted to hold the conference in odd years (legislative years) at the Salem Conference Center.

### Legislative activity

While it wasn't a legislative year, the Oregon State Library led an effort to revise the Ready to Read program to focus on early literacy and the summer reading program and provide a \$1,000 minimum grant to libraries. It was successful.

**Notable awards/honorary memberships**

**OLA Legislator of the Year:** State Representative Vicki Berger (R-Salem)

**OLA Librarian of the Year:** Caleb Tucker-Raymond, LNet/Multnomah Cnty Library  
Marie Baldo, Hermiston Public Library

**Library Employee of the Year:** Carolee Harrison, PSU

**Library Supporter of the Year:** Alsea Community Effort

Wayne and Jeanne Holm, Cindy Hirst, and The Friends of the North Plains Library

Barbara Wright, Hillsboro Public Library Friends.

**Honorary Life Membership:** Judi Harold, Springfield Public Library

**Intellectual Freedom Committee Award:** ACLU-Oregon

**Evelyn Sibley Lampman Award:** Cynthia Rylant, author

**Ole Award:** Robin Beerbower, Salem Public Library

**Outstanding events that you remember**

This year saw more collaboration between OLA and OEMA, which changed its name to OASL (Oregon Association of School Libraries). OLA and OEMA joined together to sponsor the Oregon Literacy Conference.

Maureen Cole, brought the OLA history up to date by getting all the past presidents to complete their yearend reports.

OLA moved to MemberClicks to manage its membership online with Camila Gabaldon of Western Oregon University Library, taking the lead.

The President's Award was developed to allow the president to award "anyone" for outstanding efforts.

The OLA scholarship program for MLS scholarships was developed with a \$10,000 LSTA grant as seed money and the program developed for granting scholarships led by Gary Sharp of North Bend Public Library.

Early literacy efforts really kicked off with LSTA sponsored statewide training and the change in Ready to Read grants to focus on early literacy.

Oregon Reads started its efforts as OLA's sesquicentennial event, a statewide everybody reads program.

I consider the most significant event was OLA's partnering with the Priddy Trust. The partnership started the last week of my presidency and has culminated in the Trust supporting Oregon's small/rural libraries with 40 stipends to attend OLA and PLA conferences from 2008 to 2010 and to place 500+ children's Spanish and bi-lingual

books in each of 20 small libraries around the state in 2010. The Trust has given over \$270,000 to OLA for these programs and tens of thousands more to individual rural libraries.