

Oregon Library Association Public Library Division Executive Board Meeting

March 11, 2022, via Zoom

Present: Halsted Bernard (Tigard Public Library), chair; Amanda Bressler (Albany Public Library), at-large; Darci Hanning, State Library of Oregon rep; Laura Kimberly (Newport Public Library), past chair; Haley Lagasse (North Bend Public Library), chair-elect; Beka Murcay (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 10:05 a.m.

2. Approval of minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the board's January 14 meeting were approved without change. They have been posted on the PLD website.

Old Business

3. OLA Strategic Work Plan

- Discussion of petition re EDI/Anti-racism on Libs-Or. Halsted said it has been illuminating to see what has unfolded afterwards. We have to take a tone of providing resources and open up the discussion so people can learn. She mentioned that OLA has launched a Learning While White cohort.
- As a next step Halsted is going to have a Zoom call with Ericka and Pia (co-chairs of the EDI Anti-Racism Committee to talk about ways PLD can promote use of the toolkit and dovetail with State Library's efforts on this topic. Haley, Laura, Greg, and maybe Darci will join this call.
- Laura suggested looping in Libros for Oregon and REFORMA into the discussion. She also mentioned the importance of trying to achieve congruence with the EDI policies/goals of the cities or municipalities where our libraries are located.
- Greg echoed this point, and said one of the challenges as libraries is to integrate ourselves into the city's journey on these issues. This would be a great topic for a training.
- Amanda mentioned in Albany the library is doing very coordinated EDI work/training and leading ahead of the rest of the city, but the danger is that

- sometimes this work becomes performative. So libraries should continue to put in the time, work, and money, and can push to move things forward.
- Haley asked how we could move forward with this work long-term. One of the challenges working within framework of government is library may have different values than the government officials in some cases. Sometimes you can't change their minds, but in order to enact systemic change we have to keep going. It would be helpful as library administrators to help develop some resources we can use to work with government, use systems in place to create change and progress. How do we keep working to achieve fairness when faced with some of these challenges.
 - Darci said she would like to figure out a way for PLD to partner with existing OLA committees and organizations to flesh out EDI resources.
 - Halsted said we could have a conversation project from the Oregon Humanities Conversation Project for a future PLD training. Darci mentioned she had attended a conversation project on privilege and power hosted by Multnomah County Library.

4. OLA Executive Board Updates

- Board had a special meeting to respond to petition and create statement on it.
- Halsted trying to attend Support Staff Division meetings and articulate between the two divisions. The two groups are working on many of the same issues.
- Discussing future of OLA and financial sustainability of the organization.

5. Public Library Standards

- We just adopted the 2021 standards and are beginning next round of revisions.
- Last meeting the primary focus was basically applying an equity lens to the standards. How can we make sure the standards are more inclusive.
- Committee was looking at governance and materials sections, and Darci mentioned that there is some very traditional language.
- Darci mentioned that defining the word "professional," for example, is a never-ending challenge.
- Haley said we need to update the standards section on staffing to make it more inclusive, and it would be optimal to then provide training and resources to help institutions meet the standards.
- Laura emphasized that the standards are a really valuable advocacy tool for libraries.
- Next meeting is not set yet, but probably will be in April.

6. PLD Communications

- We need to come up with a regular schedule of communications.
- Halsted will send out agenda a week in advance to board and PLD Memberclicks listserv.
- Darci suggested announcing that there will be a meeting three weeks in advance

7. Fundraising

- Chris will convene a Zoom meeting of the subcommittee (Beka, Chris, Greg, and Haley) to begin planning virtual race between and among public libraries, based on model of Coos County Marathon.

New Business

8. PLD Spring Directors Training

- Halsted will convene subcommittee to start planning in earnest
- Shooting for early June: Maybe Friday, June 3

9. OLA at PLA Conference

- Contact Lacey Legel lacey.legel@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering at the OLA booth at PLA
- Chris is helping score at OLA Trivia Night at Kennedy School March 22, and we hope to see many of you there.

10. Pearl Award

- Beka has done a great job publicizing the nomination window for this
- We have 13 nominations for nine people total
- Beka will send out forms to board members next week; get responses/evaluation back to her as soon as possible.

11. State Library Update

a. New State Librarian

- Wendy Cornelisen joins us from Georgia, she started on March 1 and will be moving to Oregon in the April timeframe
- She will be presenting at PLA: **Georgia Approach to EDI: Multiple Agency Initiatives**

b. The State Library building will be opening to the public on May 1. Most staff from Library Support will be working from home most of the time.

c. Library Support continues to work on the Five-Year LSTA Plan evaluation which will inform the next Five-Year Plan for the federal funds we receive from the Institute of

Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

d. Grant opportunities:

- [Teen Internship Grant](#): Applications due March 15, 2022

e. Updating OARs for Minimum Conditions DRAFT

- (10) The Board may grant temporary waivers to libraries that are unable to comply with the minimum conditions, as outlined in sections (2) and (3), due to states of emergency declared by the Governor, emergencies declared by local governing bodies, or extraordinary events beyond the library's control that prevent safe access to the library's facilities. Waivers will be reviewed annually to assess whether they continue to be needed.

f. New [Basic Skills Academy](#)

- Open to everyone no account required but creating one enables Niche Academy to track where you left off.

g. Monthly training announcements have a new look, thanks to the State Library's communications person. Related to this, a new announcement-only mailing list for training opportunities will be launched later this week.

h. Public Library board member training is available for free from United for Libraries and other resources around challenges and complaints.

i. Ross recently put out a survey to the library directors and other statistical contacts at library to assess a few changes that hopefully will make the annual public library statistics easier and more useful for libraries.

j. [HB 4092](#) passed in the Legislature. The bill's main purpose was to restructure the state's approach to broadband to better serve communities. However, a part of the bill created the Connecting Oregon Libraries Fund, which can match federal monies that libraries receive for broadband. A similar fund exists for schools. Notably, the bill only created the mechanism of the fund; it did not include funding, which must be added by the legislature. The school fund, for instance, does not get funded annually.

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

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.