

# OREGON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (OLA)

## BOARD MEETING

September 27, 2002

9:30 AM

The Atrium Building

Eugene

### **Present:**

*Voting Members:* Connie Bennett (President), Dana Campbell (Children's Services Division), Faye Chadwell (Vice-President/President-elect), Cindy Gibbon (Public Libraries Division), Anne Guevara (Oregon Young Adult Network), Ellen Mueller (Support Staff Division), Carol Reich (PNLA Representative), Suzanne Sager (Treasurer), Jim Scheppke (State Librarian), Stephen Skidmore (Secretary), Dale Vidmar (Member at Large), Heather Ward (Academic/ACRL Division), Janet Webster (Past President).

*Non-voting Members:* Ed House (Parliamentarian).

*Other OLA Units, Members, and Guests:* Bonnie Allen (Legislative Committee), Debra Bogart, Deb Carver, Linda Cochran (Oregon Community College Library Association), Maureen Cole (OEMA), Diedre Conkling (Legislative Network), John Helmer (Orbis), Cara List (Intellectual Freedom Committee), Bob Russell, Sheryl Steinke (OEMA).

The meeting was called to order by President Bennett at 9:51 AM.

### **1. Housekeeping**

Self-introductions of those attending were made. Connie indicated that lunch would be at 11:30 AM and that it would be a working lunch. A hearing regarding a change in LSTA funding will take place at the conclusion of the Board meeting.

A Board roster with names, address, and phone numbers was sent around the table and Connie asked everyone to check their entry. There is still a vacancy on the Board for a trustees/friends representative. Connie indicated that Melanie Lightbody was talking with someone about filling this spot.

Ed asked that a report on the Executive Director/OLA/OEMA Consideration Committee be added to the agenda. He also said that he had a by-laws change for consideration. Connie asked that the bylaws change be held over until the November meeting. Janet asked that a report on her study of OLAs arrangement with Professional Administrative Services (PAS) be added to the agenda.

The August 23, 2002, minutes had the following changes:

- Cindy Gibbon should be added to the attendance list.
- Ginnie Cooper's first name was misspelled.
- Connie appointed Faye Chadwell, not Janet, to the Executive Director/OLA/OEMA Consideration Committee.

With these changes, Janet moved and Dana seconded that the minutes of the August 23, 2002, meeting be approved. Ayes: all.

## **2. OFFICER REPORTS**

### **a. State Librarian Jim Schepcke**

- i. Jim reported on the fifth special legislative session. There will be an election on January 28, 2003, to increase state income taxes for three years to resolve the funding deficit in state government. The second special session had cut \$64,000 from the State Library's budget. If the January 28 special election fails, the State Library will be looking at an additional cut of \$112,000. Staff will have a recommendation for State Library Board consideration at their December meeting at Mt. Angel Abbey Library. Jim is encouraging comments from the library community. "Ready to Read" grants have been adversely affected by recent budget cuts.
- ii. A group leader for the Library Development section has been selected. Her name is Denise Davis, and she is presently director of statistics and surveys for NCLIS. She also has worked for the Maryland State Library and has a long record of service in both public and academic libraries. Her start date is December 2.

### **b. Treasurer Suzanne Sager**

Suzanne distributed line item budgets for 2001/02 with actual vs. budgeted income and expenditure figures, a balance sheet as of 8/31/2002, and a spreadsheet of membership income for the past five years. Income from the 2002 joint conference, which OLA held with the Washington Library Association, has not yet been received from the OLA/WLA Joint Conference Treasurer.

### **c. President Connie Bennett**

- i. Connie has appointed Dale Vidmar from Southern Oregon University as the member-at-large. She and Bonnie are working on appointments to the Legislative Committee. Appointments have been made for two out of the three members of the Nominations Committee.
- ii. Connie distributed a very preliminary budget for 2002/03. Until we receive the income from the joint conference from the OLA/WLA Joint Conference Treasurer, Connie is reluctant to submit a formal budget for Board consideration. Connie asked that anyone who has comments and/or questions about the budget should e-mail them to her.
- iii. A certificate of appreciation from 250 children from the Milton-Freewater Public Library who

participated in the summer reading program has been received.

d. Past President Janet Webster

Janet had indicated that OLA would be making an appointment to a statewide committee organizing a Lewis and Clark commemoration project. The groups website is down, and Janet suggests that we wait until the committee/project are better defined and/or more stable.

e. ALA Councillor Wyma Rogers

Due to Wyma's absence, there was no report.

f. PNLA Representative Carol Reich

There will be a PNLA Leadership Institute Committee meeting on November 1.

### 3. Division Reports

a. Childrens Services Division Dana Campbell

- i. "Stories by the Sea" was held in Newport last weekend. Dana has a CD for sale for \$10.00 featuring the work of various storytellers who performed at "Stories by the Sea."
- ii. Performers Showcase will be held in October.
- iii. The fall workshop will be held in November in Springfield.

b. Support Staff Division Ellen Mueller

- i. The Executive Committee met last week.
- ii. The Division is looking for a site for its 2003 conference.
- iii. Three goals have been selected by the Division to work on in the coming year.
- iv. The Divisions Membership Committee is dormant. Ellen suggested that perhaps a strong Support Staff member could be appointed to OLA's Membership Committee.
- v. Ellen distributed a statement drafted by the Division regarding the use of the word "librarian" and "library staff" in written and oral OLA communication. The Division recommends that "library staff" be used, rather than "librarian." There was Board consensus that OLA should be sensitive to all members of the organization, irrespective of the type of degree, and be inclusive in our language. Cindy moved and Janet seconded to use the term "library staff" in all written and oral OLA communication. Ayes: all.

c. Public Library Division Cindy Gibbon<

- i. The election of officers by mail/e-mail is now taking place. The new board will hold their first meeting in October.
- ii. All of the conference programs proposed by the Division have been approved. Revenue from the PLD Wednesday evening dinner, held prior to the first full day of the 2001 Conference, has now

been properly credited to the PLD Enterprise Fund. To avoid similar problems in the future, the Conference Committee needs to provide information to the John McCulley of PAS on how such revenues are to be credited.

d. ACRL/OR Heather Ward

As Heather did not arrive until later in the meeting, Bonnie Allen gave the report. The fall conference will be held in Menucha (<http://www.olaweb.org/acrl/menucha02.html>) and the theme will be the "post-modern library." Non-academic library staff is invited to attend the two-day conference.

e. OYAN Anne Guevara

OYAN has proposed a pre-conference on graphic novels but have not heard whether their program was approved. They will be holding their first meeting of the year in October.

#### 4. Committee Reports

a. Conference Teresa Landers

Teresa was absent. Connie mentioned that she had received a tentative budget from the Committee.

b. Publications Fred Reenstjerna

Fred was absent. Faye is guest editor of the spring issue on "Diversity" and needs suggestions for articles.

c. Library Development and Legislation Bonnie Allen

- i. Bonnie distributed a draft of OLA legislative agenda. Final discussion and vote on the agenda will take place at the November Board meeting. Bonnie also went through the Committees 5-year plan. Based on the Boards earlier action, the term "librarian" will be changed to "library staff." The final draft of the agenda will be sent out electronically.
- ii. Bonnie stated that the Committee is urging the OLA Board to take a position in opposition to the "Family Integrity Act" and to support the efforts of the "Protect All Oregon Kids" organization to fight this measure. The "Family Integrity Act" is being proposed as a ballot measure in seven Oregon counties. It is on the ballot at present only in Columbia County for the March, 2003, election. Janet moved and Cindy seconded to oppose the "Family Integrity Act" and to support the efforts of "Protect All Oregon Kids" to resist the efforts of those proposing the Act. Ayes: all. Connie will consider making a donation to "Protect All Oregon Kids" as part of her 2002/2003 budget.
- iii. Bonnie mentioned that the effort being made in eastern Washington to disband a public library district is a good opportunity to spread the word about the value of a library to a community.
- iv. Dale asked what efforts were being made to monitor the effects of the Homeland Security/Patriot Act. Several 2003 Conference programs are being planned on this topic. There will be an ALA teleconference on the Patriot Act on December 11 and this activity will be placed on the OLA

calendar.

d. Membership Leah Griffith

Due to Leah's absence, there was no report.

e. OLA/OEMA Committee on School Library Cooperation Maureen Cole

A possible merger between OLA and OEMA is being explored.

f. Intellectual Freedom Cara List

The Committee will be meeting in October.

g. Executive Director Exploration Committee Ed House

This special Committee has been appointed to look into the hiring of an executive director. The idea was considered several years ago. How this position would be financed is the most important consideration. The Committee will come up with a timeline for implementation.

## 5. Roundtable Reports

There were none.

## 6. Other Business

- i. Janet reported on her investigation on the history of OLAs relationship with Professional Administrative Services and PAS request for an increase in compensation. Janet believes that an increase is justified. OLA and PAS have not had a contract since 1999. She did discuss with John the issues which the Board has identified as concerns. OLAs rolling membership year creates the greatest amount of additional work for PAS. Janet moved and Jim seconded to increase PAS compensation to \$1,340 per month, a 12% increase. Ayes: all. Janet moved and Cindy seconded that she and Connie re-negotiate a letter of agreement with McCulley and PAS. Ayes: all. McCulley said that he would like to attend the January 31 OLA Board meeting in Salem. Ed suggested that the annual Board retreat include a section on communications with people like McCulley, Nan Heim, Pam North, etc.
- ii. As Barbara O'Neill was not in attendance, there was no Archives Task Force report

## 7. Summer Reading Program

There was a one-hour discussion of the large surpluses and deficits surrounding the Summer Reading Program (SRP) over the past three years. This discussion was led by Janet and Dana, the two individuals who have studied this situation in some detail over the past few months. Dana distributed a financial summary of SRP for the past three years. Dana emphasized that the SRP and Childrens Services Division (CSD) are separate and distinct from each other.

As of August 31, 2002, there was a deficit of \$38,694 in the SRP. Because the SRP is only one part of OLAs Enterprise Fund and the Fund was never itemized and showed an overall surplus, the Board was unaware of the deficit in the SRP. Over the past three years, there was a great deal of confusion re: grants, income, and expenditures.

OLA has a contract with Metropolitan Group for fund-raising. One of the organizations from which Metropolitan Group secured a grant for OLA was the Craig Berkman Foundation. For some reason, the funds for the second-year commitment from the Berkman group were never received.

Other reasons for the financial situation are the state of the Oregon economy, lack of a major sponsor for the 2002 program, funding cycles that do not match the time of need for money, financial confusion, and wrong assumptions.

Dana itemized the various options that she, Janet, Dan White, and Connie have identified to deal with the situation. They are:

- Apply the Vendor-Link, sponsor for the 2003 SRP, check to the current debt.
- Allow Metropolitan Group to demonstrate that they can successfully raise the funds for the 2003 SRP.
- Create a more manageable accounting system for all parties involved.
- CSD contribute \$2,000 toward the debt.
- Use LSTA funds to subsidize statewide SRP.
- Charge OLA a sponsorship fee.
- Have a CSD raffle.
- Create a SRP surcharge to public libraries in Oregon, based on size of library.

There was lengthy discussion on these options.

There was consensus to continue OLA support of SRP, to continue one more year with Metropolitan Group with more realistic expectations, and have the Executive Director Exploration Committee incorporate SRP responsibilities into their consideration.

Jim moved and Cindy seconded to authorize Janet, Connie, and Dana to negotiate a contract with

Metropolitan Group for next year.

The Executive Board meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.

## **8. Public Hearing on Oregon State Library Net Lender Reimbursement Proposal**

The public hearing commenced at 1:20 PM. Jim distributed a draft of legislation that is to be brought before the Senate Interim Task Force on Library Cooperation. If approved, the draft legislation would bring Oregon law into line with "Vision 2010." There will be a Task Force meeting on October 21.

In 1993, legislation was adopted which authorized subsidies for an interlibrary loan program to be funded with LSTA dollars, also known as the net lender reimbursement program. The draft legislation proposes that the net lender reimbursement program be discontinued, and that a statewide database licensing program be funded instead. Under this program, public and academic libraries would get subsidized general periodicals databases (e. g., EBSCO) and public, academic and school libraries would get free access to *The Oregonian* database. Other statewide licenses might also be negotiated in the future (as LSTA funding and other priorities permit) under this program.

State funds have been used to fund a management position that oversees the Library Development Services and Talking Book and Braille Services (TBABS) programs. Jim is recommending that with the increased responsibility for the new database licensing program, Library Development would need a full time manager. To do this the existing position split between the two programs could be used and the position could be funded 100% with LSTA funds. TBABS would then be without a manager. The existing Librarian position in TBABS could be upgraded using the state funds freed up from funding the Library Development manager with state funds. There also would be state funds left over to deal with other shortfalls in the TBABS budget and perhaps to restore some of the cuts made in the 2001-03 biennium to the "Ready to Read" grant program.

Ed expressed Washington County library directors support for additional LSTA funding for childrens services in light of "Ready to Read" cuts. Bob Russell stated that he also supports added funding of childrens programs.

Diedre spoke about the e-reference proposal which will be submitted next week. There will be the capability to send in reference questions 24 hours a day via e-mail. There will be live reference service for much of the day via a chat room.

There would be a link on each librarys website to e-reference service. The patron can go directly to the service without going through a librarian, even if the patron was using a library computer. New Jersey has a model e-reference service program. The service rotates every two hours or so between major libraries in the state.

Connie asked Jim if larger libraries (Salem Public, OSU, etc.) had been asked about the cessation of net

lender reimbursements. Jim said that he had not heard of any strong objection to ending the reimbursements.

John Helmer (Orbis) suggested leaving net lender reimbursement language in the statute but simply not funding it.

Courier service is a more pressing need for some libraries, especially in eastern Oregon, than database subsidies.

Connie asked how a "no" vote in the January, 2003, special election would affect this legislation. Jim said that there would be no effect because the election regards state funding, and this draft legislation is about federal LSTA funding.

The OLA Board will take up this issue at its November meeting and will consider endorsing the draft legislation.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen C. Skidmore

Secretary