

Director's Report
ODL Board of Directors Meeting
November 30, 2001

Since only three weeks have elapsed since my last Board report, this one will be brief. I'm sorry more of you weren't able to attend our October 26th Board meeting in Ardmore. It was a beautiful day and a beautiful library. As I told the Board members present at the meeting, the Ardmore Public Library has the type of facilities we would like all citizens in Oklahoma to have. The children's room was particularly wonderful with the puppet theater and all the great puppets. The minutes from that meeting are included in this packet for your information.

National Family Literacy Day. This event was celebrated on November 1st this year and I had the privilege of reading to a kindergarten class at the Hawthorne school in Oklahoma City. This school is part of the FirstBook program that our Literacy Resources Office manages. Colleen Woolery is the ODL staff member who oversees this program. If any of you have any interest in participating in reading to a group of children, please let us know. There will be an opportunity on Dr. Seuss' birthday, March 2, 2002.

New Development Officer. It is my pleasure to announce that Susan Feller will be the first Executive Director of the Oklahoma Endowment for Literacy and Reading. Susan is originally from Oklahoma but has been living in California for the last several years. Susan has excellent fund raising and association management experience. Five candidates for the position were interviewed and I sat in with Bob Clark on all of the interviews. I believe you will be very pleased with our new staff member. Since Susan lives in California, she will not begin work at ODL until mid-December. We will introduce Susan to you at the next ODL Board meeting and let her brief you on her plans for the OELR.

Budget Meeting. On Wednesday, November 14th I met with the Secretary of Education Floyd Coppedge and members of the Budget Office. In addition, the Senate fiscal analyst joined us for my presentation to the group on the ODL strategic plan and our budget request. I was very pleased to learn that the strategic plan that we submitted was well received. The group was very positive about our first effort with the process. The remainder of the time was spent on presenting the request for new monies. Our first priority the preschool literacy request was very appealing to them. I was told that the amount requested was probably too high for the current budget situation but to consider phasing in the project over several years with a lower initial cost. I am examining some alternatives now and will re-submit a revised plan to the budget office in time for consideration and possible inclusion in the governor's budget.

Department Reports. Due to the short time since our last Board meeting, most of the departments have chosen not to include reports on their activities in this packet. Bill Young does have a report of the First Amendment Congress that follows my report. We will have some new staff to introduce to you at the Board meeting. I look forward to seeing you on November 30th. Happy Thanksgiving!