

ODL Director's Report
ODL Board Meeting of January 31, 2003

The start of a new legislative session is like the start of school. There are a lot of activities and functions where we get to wear new clothes and see old friends. I feel excitement and apprehension about the work ahead but I'm ready to get started.

Budget situation. . This area continues to be the focus of my attention. For the current fiscal year we continue to economize by not filling vacant positions and scrutinizing all purchases. For the coming fiscal year, ODL was asked to prepare information for the Office of State Finance concerning how we would handle an additional 10, 15 and 20% budget reduction. You will find more about that in the deputy director's report and in tab D. Vicki Sullivan and I will brief you on the reasons for the options we have presented for further budget reductions and ask for your input. Be sure to read the Deputy Director's report in this section for more information. Because of the importance of the budget reductions on our ability to deliver services to our customers, I am planning on spending the majority of our coming ODL Board meeting on this topic. I expect that the information we provided to the Office of State Finance will be used in preparation of the governor's budget, which will be available in early February. We will also begin having meetings with legislative appropriation committees regarding our budget about that time as well. In order to be prepared to respond to executive and legislative initiatives for budget reductions, we need to know the Board's positions and priorities. I certainly expect that we will have a challenging time but I am hopeful that we will continue to be able to provide vital services to state government and public libraries in Oklahoma. .

On the road again. Since we last met, I've attended two library openings following remodeling: the Guthrie Public Library and the Nathan Hale Branch of the Tulsa City-County Library System. Both of them are small in space but large in vision and impact. The Guthrie Public Library renovation was partially funded by a grant from ODL so we were particularly pleased with how much they accomplished on a small budget. Both openings had big turnouts of local residents who were glad to get their library and its services back.

In addition to these two events, I made visits to two public library systems, the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System headquartered in Muskogee and the Southern Prairie Library System, headquartered in Altus. I have found these visits to be very rewarding. It's a real help to me to have the experience of meeting the library trustees in their home environment and hear about the challenges they are facing. Now that I have made the complete circuit of all the library systems, I intend to start attending some of the larger independent or unaffiliated library board meetings.

Another trip was to Weatherford for a workshop on Native American Library grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. A staff person from Washington had traveled to Oklahoma to be part of this program. One of the faculty from the University of Oklahoma Graduate School of Library and Information Studies program, Lotsee Patterson, was also a participant in the workshop. Dr. Patterson is extremely knowledgeable about tribal libraries and hosted Terry Brown from the Institute of Museum and Library Services on tours to some local tribal libraries as well. It was a good opportunity on the drive to Weatherford to share information and get to know each other. I gave a brief presentation on services offered by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to all libraries in the state including the Institute in Public Librarianship, access to electronic resources, and training in our computer lab. One of the attendees plans to participate in our spring certification classes so we've already had a return on the investment! Hopefully, more of the Oklahoma tribal libraries will be funded for grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as well.

Results of the opinion poll on library services conducted by OU for ODL. This project funded by the Library Services and Technology Act grant that you approved was very positive. I don't believe any of you will be surprised with the outcomes of the approximately twenty questions that were asked: Oklahomans appreciate and support their libraries! We'll share the preliminary results with you at the Board meeting. The importance of the survey results is that the information is current and is based not just on our impressions or from feedback of people using a library but from a broad range of Oklahomans.

Oklahoma Department of Libraries Board

**Oklahoma Department of Libraries
200 N.E. 18th Street
South Conference Room, 2nd Floor
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105**

Agenda

January 31, 2003

10:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call*
3. Action on minutes of November 1, 2002 regular meeting* (tab b)
4. Director's report and related announcements (tab c)
5. Discussion and possible vote on future budget reductions for ODL* (tab d)
6. Adjournment*

*Requires Board action

If you will be unable to attend, please contact Karen Currie at kcurrie@oltn.odl.state.ok.us or 1-800-522-8116 or 522-3172.