

Director's Report
ODL Board Meeting of December 5, 2003

ODL Board Meeting moved. Unfortunately, the Ft. Gibson public library has experienced delays in finishing their new library building so we will be meeting at the Muskogee Public Library this month instead of in Ft. Gibson. Rep. Barbara Staggs will be joining us to provide an overview of the upcoming legislative session and the implications for ODL and libraries.

Legislative committee meetings. ODL has presented to both the Senate and House General Conference Subcommittees on Education Appropriations regarding zero based budgeting. I believe the legislators are taking this responsibility very seriously and are attempting to examine existing programs for their costs and benefits. I enjoyed the opportunity to provide more information about the services of ODL that we usually are provided.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. ODL has been notified that our grant application has been funded. We have received a check for \$140,000 from the Gates Foundation to use to upgrade the connection of most public libraries to a T-1 digital connection. The Gates funds are being matched by a Library Services and Technology grant. Vicki Mohr is the public library development staff person who wrote the grant to the Gates Foundation and will be the lead officer in implementing the purchase of the equipment and completion of the project.

Trustee workshops. One of the most important activities that ODL undertakes is the continuing education for citizens serving on library board. The goal of the program was to acquaint trustees with the new guidelines for library service and youth service advisory guidelines that the ODL Board adopted earlier. Each community was given a handout that showed how services reported in their last annual report compared to the guidelines in the Models of Library Service. Evaluations of the workshop were positive and I believe the guidelines are better understood now and will be used more frequently. Library development staff will contact communities not represented at the workshops and offer to make presentations to those boards on the guidelines. We hope to build an understanding among all library trustees as to how to evaluate the services their library offers to their community. It is also an opportunity for me to thank the library board members for their service. I respect the commitment of time and resources these volunteers make to their communities and want to recognize them for their support.

Book Festivals. This year I attended the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. with Glenda Carlile of the Oklahoma Center for the Book. The Institute for Museum and Library Services gave a grant to fund state libraries for their attendance at the event. The grant covered the cost of our travel and shipping. The festival is located on the Capitol Mall and has theme pavilions set up featuring topics such as Mystery/Thriller, Children and Youth, or History/Biography. Glenda and I were located in The Pavilion of the States where each state had a booth. We had shipped 1500 summer reading program book bags, 1000 of the posters on Oklahoma dinosaurs, Oklahoma maps and travel

guides, call for entries for the Oklahoma Book Award, and stickers from the summer reading program. The festival distributed a map of the United States and each state had a stamp featuring an author or children's book with the goal being to get all states filled in with a stamp. Our stamp featured a cowboy hat and Will Rogers. We took our posts at 8:30 in the morning and didn't stop until 5 p.m. The response was huge and the estimated attendance was 75,000 people. I believe every one of them stopped by our booth. The book bags were a hit as were all the summer reading program materials. I was very impressed with the work that the Library of Congress put into the project. Last year Glenda was the only representative from Oklahoma because the grant only paid for one person. This year the size of the grant was doubled allowing for two people to attend plus volunteers from the Junior League were on hand to help. This gave us three people at the booth and we were barely able to keep up with the traffic. None of us sat down until after about 2 o'clock. I got a chance to see some of the authors speaking at the festival on C-Span and believe it is a wonderful event.

Two weeks following the National Book Festival, the first Red Dirt Book Festival was held in Shawnee. The Pioneer Library System, St. Gregory's University and Oklahoma Baptist University collaborated to put this project together. Bill Young, Glenda Carlile, Kitty Pittman, and I attended this wonderful event. ODL had a booth where we sold Oklahoma Almanacs, Literary Maps of Oklahoma, and had a ballot box for the Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma 2004 book.. Each of us were able to attend a few of the panel presentations which featured Oklahoma authors. Glenda Kilmer of the ODL Board attended as well.

The Russians are coming. One of the more interesting experiences in international library relations resulted from the Southeastern Public Library System hosting a group of Russian librarians for a week. Wayne Hanway invited the Public Library Directors Council to meet in McAlester in early October so that the Russian librarians would have the opportunity to meet librarians from all parts of the state. The visiting librarians had a translator accompanying them which aided in our conversations. I was impressed with the Russian librarians dedication and interest in learning about how American public libraries work as well as with sharing information about their home libraries. Wayne arranged for the visiting librarians to spend a day in Oklahoma City as well. In the morning they came to ODL where we had presentations on the summer reading program, the literacy program, and the Oklahoma Center for the Book. One of the Russian librarians had an interest in serving patrons with special needs so she spent time touring the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. In the afternoon the group toured the Metropolitan Library System where they got a chance to see the new Downtown Library and discuss marketing programs. I believe that Wayne and the Southeastern system did a terrific job in representing Oklahoma and the United States in this effort.

Read Y'all. I participated in the governor's press conference for the new public awareness campaign for literacy programs that was launched by the Oklahoma Library Association, the Metropolitan Library System, the Tulsa City-County Library System and ODL. The initiative is using the Read Y'all slogan. There was a good deal of press coverage of the event and I saw articles on it in several newspapers. Our literacy office

staff were present and provided information on literacy programs currently available in the state to those reporters who had questions.

Archives and Records. ODL has another governing board that serves the state. It is the Archives and Records Commission. The Commission meets quarterly. The Commission's role is to approve the retention or destruction of records generated by state agencies. As Director of ODL, I serve on the Commission as do designees of the Auditor and Inspector's Office, the office of the Treasurer, the Lieutenant Governor's Office, and a citizen chair appointed by the governor. Debra Schwartz, our Attorney General liaison, attends the meetings and provides legal counsel to the Commission. More details about the work of the Commission appears in Gary Harrington's reports. I wanted to highlight the work of the Commission because we have new members to the ODL Board.

Another important accomplishment of the Archives and Records staff since our last ODL Board meeting was the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board Forum on Developing Effective Volunteer Leadership. Three ODL Board members were in attendance at this event: Duchess Bartmass, Betty Bass, and Glenda Kilmer. The event was held at the Oklahoma City Zoo educational building and was the last of three forums designed to prepare attendees to build their organizations through fund raising, board development, and public relations. All of the forums have been successful and well received by attendees. Susan Feller has been the driving force behind these events ably assisted by Jan Davis.

Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness. I attended a two day retreat for this new group established by state law last year. The public private partnership is designed to improve the coordination of efforts among various state agencies who serve children under five and their families. The organizational meeting was attended by the First Lady, Kim Henry who has made it a focus of her time. We met at the Reed Center in Midwest City and I believe had an excellent overview of existing needs and programs to help address those needs of the young children in Oklahoma. I believe this group will be an active one and will require a sizeable time commitment from me.

Tulsa City-County Library Recognized. Tulsa City-County Library received the inaugural "Federal Depository of the Year Award" for their comprehensive efforts in providing access to federal government documents. The award was presented by the Federal Depository Library Council in Arlington, VA. Administered by the U.S. Government Printing Office, the Federal Depository Library Program partners with approximately 1,250 libraries nationwide to provide local, no-fee public access to information produced by the Federal Government and distributed to libraries in print, microform, CD-ROM, and online access. "This is a tremendous achievement for Tulsa City-County Library and Oklahoma. It recognizes a passion to connect government information to customers when and how they need it," said Linda Saferite, TCCL chief executive officer. Congratulations to Suzanne Sears, head documents librarian at the Tulsa City-County Library, and everyone at TCCL on this wonderful recognition.