

## **ODL Director's Report for the April 1, 2005 Board Meeting**

**Legislative Activity.** Since our last regular Board meeting, the legislative session has gotten underway. There has been a meeting with the House Appropriations subcommittee on Education. The meeting was well attended and focused on the ODL budget request that would restore funding previously eliminated due to revenue shortfalls in the last two years. The meeting was very congenial and positive. The committee members all seemed to be supportive of libraries and ODL. The committee chair, Representative Tad Jones, said that the committee would address our request for new monies at a subsequent meeting of the committee. A meeting with the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on Education has been scheduled. The legislature has passed two general agency appropriations bills which will fund state agencies in the coming fiscal year. I always regard the passage of these bills as comforting. The revenue news also seems to be positive.

**Special events.** March is a month for special events. Read Across America Day was March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This event celebrates Dr. Seuss' birthday and is used to highlight literacy efforts by encouraging young children to have fun reading. The Literacy Resources Office had a very successful program at Capitol Hill honoring Dr. Seuss and we will have a full report at our Board meeting. Judi Knapp and Duchess Bartmess were present at the Book Awards and I hope they will share their experience with you at the Board meeting. I thought it was a very well done event. Other special events included the Midwest City Library's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Both the Chickasha Public Library and the Ladies Library Club in Yukon are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in March. ODL was well represented at all these events. It is wonderful to participate in such happy occasions.

**Models of Archival Administration.** The Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board hosted a two day workshop at the University of Central Oklahoma on March 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. The workshop focused on collection development and processing of materials. Susan Feller and Jan Davis of the ODL staff continue to produce outstanding programs with the assistance of OHRAB members Jennifer Paustenbaugh of OSU and Nicole Willard of UCO. Grant recipients for the Models of Archival Administration are the primary audience for these workshops but we continue to make them available to as many as possible. I believe the workshops are meeting a real need for high quality training that is affordable for everyone.

**Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) conference.** Our upcoming Board meeting will be held at the site of the OLA annual conference in Norman. This meeting will offer Board members the opportunity to meet some of the dedicated professionals and volunteers who deliver library services to the citizens of Oklahoma. I encourage all of you to allow some extra time after the Board meeting to visit the exhibits and visit with some of the conference attendees to find out what is happening in their library. We have a lot of wonderful things happening in libraries across the state.