

**Director's Report  
for ODL Board Meeting of March 31, 2006**

**Legislative Session.** Since our last Board meeting, the Second Session of the 50<sup>th</sup> Oklahoma Legislature has begun. It has been a very active session. The number of bills being considered has shrunk since the deadline for bills to be reported out of committee in the House of Origin and out of the House of Origin have passed. The Appropriations process is not very active right now but that will change when the General Conference Committee on Appropriations is appointed and the deliberations begin probably in April.

The bill that is receiving the most attention right now is HB 2158. This is one of the bills that the Board discussed at our last meeting. A copy of the letter Chair Judi Knapp wrote to Representative Sally Kern on behalf of the Board is included in Tab E along with a copy of the latest version of the bill. As you will see from reading the bill, significant changes have been made to the bill. Enclosed in this section you will also find articles about the bill from the Oklahoman. Discussion and consideration of the bill is on the agenda for our next meeting.

**Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA).** I attended a Board retreat for the COSLA Board in Chicago on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Our new COSLA president, Gary Nickels from Maine is beginning his three year term and felt that it would be a good idea for us to meet together to discuss goals and action items to address. I thought it was very worthwhile although Chicago in February is probably not high on most travel agendas. Since our meeting was in a hotel at the airport and we never had to go outside, it was both convenient and allowed us to get a great deal done in a short time. This group composed of all state librarians is a very task oriented and positive organization. It is a pleasure to work with my colleagues in this group.

**Duncan Public Library Opening.** Another very enjoyable event since we last met was the dedication of the new Duncan Public Library. The library is one of the recipients of ODL's construction grants so it was particularly satisfying to see the lovely new facility. The library was able to swap its former location for a much larger building with ample parking and a separate programming building. The building is notable for its natural light and the beautiful furnishings the Friends of the Library and the city of Duncan have purchased for the new location.

**Oklahoma Center for the Book Awards.** Judi Knapp and Wally Turner were able to join us for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Book Awards on March 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a lovely affair thanks to the hard work of the ODL Public Information Division staff and the Friends of the Center for the Book. I hope that Judi and Wally will share their views of the event at the Board meeting. I certainly appreciate the effort the Board members make to attend these events.

**Ethics Commission filings due.** Board members should have received a mailing from the Oklahoma Ethics Commission regarding your annual statement of financial interests.

This is due by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you do not receive this mailing so we can provide you with one.