

**Director's Report**  
**For the ODL Board of Directors Meeting of August 18, 2006**

**Budget.** The Oklahoma Department of Libraries appropriation was decided during the second special session of the Oklahoma legislature in June. ODL received partial funding for the mandated 5% pay increase for state employees and an increase of \$100,000 for state aid to public libraries. ODL uses federal funds to pay salaries and benefits for some ODL staff and the legislature does not appropriate any funds to pay for these positions.

Another piece of legislation that will have an impact on ODL will blend the insurance premiums for current and retired state employees. The insurance premium rates will be set in August but will not take effect until January. Blending of the rates will raise the cost of insurance to state agencies an estimated 15%. The legislature did not include any funding for the mandated increases to retirement, health insurance, etc. It is estimated that these unfunded mandates which will have to come from ODL's operating budget will amount to over \$50,000.

I was very pleased that the ODL staff will receive a 5% increase beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The staff has worked under challenging conditions for several years as the revenue shortfalls have impacted staffing. Unlike other ODL staff, the Board has to take action to increase the director's salary to the level authorized by the legislature. I have included the job description and comparative data on state librarian salaries for your consideration. The fall meeting is when the Board does the director's evaluation. Both items are on this meeting's agenda.

It was a disappointment that the state aid to public libraries request did not receive full funding. The Board will be voting on the agency's budget request to the legislature at our August meeting for next fiscal year. We are requesting the balance needed to fully fund the state aid so that municipal libraries will receive the per capita funding for those living in the county but outside the city limits of communities providing library service as well restoring the mileage and per capita to the FY02 levels for all public libraries.

**Library Legends.** In addition to the state, the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To celebrate the OLA centennial, 100 Library Legends were selected for their contributions to the library community. Listed below are the current and former ODL staff members who were selected for this high honor:

Ken Bierman  
Bob Clark  
Aarone Corwin  
Oliver Delaney  
Dorothea Dale  
Sandy Ellison

Esther Mae Henke  
John Hinkle  
Susan McVey  
Donna Norvell  
Donna Skvarla  
Marilyn Vesely  
Mary Ann Wentroth  
Bill Young

It is indicative of the caliber of ODL staff that so many were nominated by their peers for this recognition. A publication and web site will be created to mark this anniversary.

**Tribal libraries, museums, and archives conference coming to Oklahoma City in 2007.** We learned in June that the Institute of Museum and Library Services approved the application of the Western Council of State Libraries to host the next three conferences. The 2007 conference will be in Oklahoma City. We were so pleased to get this opportunity. The previous two conferences have been held in Arizona. Only a limited number of Oklahoma tribal representatives were able to attend those conferences but those that did were impressed. One of our objectives in applying for this grant was to bring this continuing education to Oklahoma so all of our heritage community could benefit from these presentations. In addition, we love to show off Oklahoma. The conference will be held in late October, 2007 at the Sheraton in downtown Oklahoma City. We are anticipating an attendance of 500. We are developing our local arrangement committees now. We'll keep you posted as the conference develops.