

**[ODL Board Meeting of June 27, 2008]**  
**Director's Report**

**Legislative Session ends.** The Oklahoma legislature finished business and adjourned a week early on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The legislative leadership agreed to a stand still budget for state agencies and this proved to be the case for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Our appropriation bill gave us the same amount of funding for next year as we have had this year. We were allowed to make changes within categories which will help us meet the new guidelines from the Institute of Museums and Library Services on how to spend our federal dollars. Since we have mandated increases in contributions to retirement and insurance, however, we will have less discretionary operating funds than last year.

**On the road.** Since our last Board meeting, I have attended two out of state meetings. The first was the spring meeting of the Western Council of State Libraries which was held in Salt Lake City. The meeting was held in the new Salt Lake Public Library which is a beautiful facility. In addition we were given tours of the Family History and the Church History Libraries located in Salt Lake City. Both are extremely impressive in terms of both their buildings and their customer service.

The next trip was to attend the spring meeting of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies in Washington, D.C. and National Library Legislative Day on the following day. Oklahoma had a delegation of six librarians for National Library Legislative Day. For the first time since I have been attending, we had a representative from all five of the Oklahoma Congressional districts. We had positive visits with the staff with whom we met and continued to build relationships with our federal representatives and senators.

**Hail and farewell.** The last week of the Oklahoma legislative session a new ODL Board member was confirmed to replace Judi Knapp. Our newest ODL Board member is Shelly Pitt-Wilson from Norman. I hope that Shelly will be able to attend our next Board meeting. I have told her that she will find the work of the Board to be exciting and challenging.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to Judi Knapp for her service on the ODL Board. Because she filled an unexpired term and then was confirmed for a full six year term of her own, Judi has served on the ODL Board for eight years. During that time she served as Chair of the Board during some challenging times. Judi was a gift to us with her leadership style of friendly persuasion. She never gave an inch but she did it with such humor and style that you rarely realized it until after the fact. I wish Judi and her husband Roy much happiness in their retirement. I know she will continue to build the understanding of how libraries make our lives and our world a better place to live.