

## Director's Report

The time since our last ODL Board meeting has flown by for me. The spring is always a busy time with legislative session in full swing but this year there have been a number of additional projects and events.

**Broadband Grant application** to the National Telecommunications and Infrastructure Administration. ODL submitted a Public Computing Center application on March 15<sup>th</sup> to NTIA. The application process was extremely time consuming and intense. The grant ODL received from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support this application provided consultant support from the CSMG firm in Boston. This support was critical to the quality of our application and I believe in our eventual successful funding.

The work done by the ODL team on our application was recognized by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation staff and the CSMG consultants as being exceptional. The team was recognized as being the hardest working and most engaged team as well as having developed an application that was used as a model for other states in the Bill and Melinda Gates broadband grant. The members of the ODL team were Vicki Mohr, Judy Tirey, and Cathy Van Hoy. I am confident that we have an extremely competitive application which I believe will be funded.

**Update on the Filing Fee for Corner Records.** I thought you would be interested in the progress of the rule changes that you voted on at our last Board meeting. As I mentioned at the Board meeting, the process to establish or amend a rule has multiple steps. The governor has approved the amendment to charge a filing fee for corner records. The legislature has until April 14<sup>th</sup> to take action. If the legislature does not take action to disapprove the rule, it is considered approved.

I was contacted to make a presentation to the House Government Modernization Committee concerning our proposed rules. On March 16<sup>th</sup> I provided a briefing to the House committee that considers administrative rule changes. There were some questions from legislators but no action was taken at the meeting.

**Letters about Literature.** A special highlight of this spring was the ceremony in the Blue Room of the State Capitol to recognize the state winners of the Letters about Literature program developed by the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. This program encourages young people to write letters to authors of books that have inspired them. The first place winners read their letters to the group. I was impressed by the quality of the letters, by the participation of the families whose children were selected for recognition, and by how well organized the event was.

Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins was the Mistress of Ceremonies presenting the awards to each winner as well as reading legislative proclamations for the winners. The Lieutenant Governor's involvement was so helpful in highlighting the importance of the event. It was a wonderful

event and very successful particularly for the first time it has been tried. I want to recognize Connie Armstrong, the new Director of the Center for the Book, for originating the idea and Lynn McIntosh, director of the Chickasaw Regional Library System and the president of the Friends of the Center for the Book, for the support she and the Friends of the Center for the Book always provide.

**Oklahoma Library Association Legislative Day.** Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> was the Legislative Day at the State Capitol for the Oklahoma Library Association. The focus of the message was to protect existing services provided by school librarians and funding for public libraries.

**Update on Legislative Session.** The economic downturn has focused most legislative activity on the budget process. There is widespread discussion of budget reductions for next fiscal year but few specifics as to what the percentages will be or whether the reductions will be to our starting appropriation or to our current level of funding. There have been no committee meetings or hearings so we rely on what we read in the newspaper. Stay tuned!

**Next meeting at the Oklahoma Library Association conference.** Just a reminder that our meeting will be at a different location and on a different day at our April meeting. Each year we try to hold one meeting in conjunction with the Oklahoma Library Association annual conference. This makes it possible for more of the library community to attend an ODL Board meeting. This year the conference is a joint one with the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA).

The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities. The Association meets annually in joint conferences with member states on a rotational basis, and this year it is meeting in Oklahoma.

We will be meeting on a Wednesday instead of a Friday this time. The conference is being held at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City. Here is a link for directions: <http://www.mapquest.com/maps?2pn=Cox+Business+Svc+Convention&2a=1+Myriad+Gdns&2c=Oklahoma+City&2s=OK&2z=73102&2y=US>

We will be meeting in the Native American Room which is on the second floor of the Cox Center on the far east end. We have met in this room before so some of you will recognize the room and location. I look forward to seeing all of you on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>!