

## Director's Report

**Legislative Session.** The Oklahoma legislature adjourned on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> as constitutionally mandated. While initial reports felt the session would end early, this proved not to be the case with the House of Representatives still in consideration of a bill when 5 p.m. arrived. The debates over potential reductions to the income tax continued to hold up the budget deliberations and consumed the time and attention of the legislature. Eventually a stalemate was reached that prohibited any additional adjustments to the income tax which allowed budgets for agencies to be finalized. The ODL budget was funded at the same level for next year as we were funded this year. I am very appreciative that our agency will not have to enact additional major budget cuts for the coming year. Rising costs will require reductions in some areas but the level funding will help our federal maintenance of effort situation.

The bills being monitored for their impact on libraries had a mixed result. Some bills that were positive for libraries passed but some were not heard. Others that would impact library funding negatively passed while others did not. Approximately 5% of the bills being monitored passed the Oklahoma legislature.

Bills that would impact the ODL Board had about the same percentage of final action. None of the bills that would impact appointment to agency boards passed. Additional good news is that the governor appointed and the Senate confirmed two new appointees to our Board. Replacing Wally Turner from Enid is Ann Ritchie also from Enid representing the Oklahoma Third Congressional district. Replacing Tom Terry will be Don Evans from Oklahoma City representing the Oklahoma Fifth Congressional district. They will be invited to attend our June Board meeting and I hope their schedule and the short notice will allow.

I have included a copy of the budget agreement and the bill tracking reports at the end of my report.

**Thank you.** I want to express my appreciation to Tom Terry for his service on the ODL Board. His last meeting will be our June meeting. Tom is a gift to any effort that he joins. His good will and knowledge of libraries has benefitted the ODL Board. Tom has followed up after Board meetings and alerted me to areas needing more attention on more than one occasion. I appreciate so much his contributions to the Board and to ODL.