

Minutes
ODL Board of Directors
Special Meeting, February 28, 2005
10:00 a.m.
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
South Conference Room
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Chair Judi Knapp called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for roll call. Board members present: Betty Bass, Anne Geurkink, Hannibal Johnson, Doyle Kinney, Judi Knapp, and Susan McVey, ex officio. Absent: Duchess Bartmess, Sherry Roberts.

Guests and staff present: Carolyn Baird, Gloria Boelte, Alison Boyd, Brook Burnhardt, Carmen Cain, David Cockrell, Diane Cotton, Terri Crawford, Karen Currie, Ginny Dietrich, Wendy Devine, Debbie Elmhurst, Carol Fox, Susan Gilley, Susan Green, Kathy Hall, Mary Hardin, Vaudine Hiller, Sharon Hornbuckle, Gary Harrington, Jane Janzen, Marcia Johnson, Melody Kellogg, Sandra Kieg, Holly LaBossiere, Wilita Larrison, Janice Mobley, Vicki Mohr, Elda Moore, Heather Newman, Jeanie Norman, Maxine Pruitt, Lynda Reynolds, Linda Saferite, Debra Schwartz, Mary Sherman, Daniel Shreve, Rachel Sides, Pat Sprowls, Vicki Sullivan, Larry Thorne, Ernestine Titus, Cathy Van Hoy, Alba Weaver, Desiree Webber, Pat Williams, and Janie Wilson.

Knapp said the purpose of this special meeting was to provide the best library service for the State of Oklahoma. Knapp thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Board member Roberts arrived. Knapp asked for public comment on the Public Library Directors Council's (PLDC) plan for changes in the formula for state aid or to discuss the Senate Bills 428 and 429.

Available for public comment were David Cockrell, Kathy Hale, Mary Haney, Wayne Hanway, Annette Harness, Jane Janzen, Sandra Keig, Patti Lehman, Lynn McIntosh, Mary Alice McLeod, Linda Saferite, Mary Sherman, Pat Sprowls, Larry Thorne, and Desiree Webber.

During public comment, many thanked the board for their time in volunteering to serve on the ODL board. The ODL staff was complimented for their assistance in many areas, such as children's programming, training, interlibrary loan, grants and statewide databases. Many spoke of how state aid was invaluable and allowed them to participate in interlibrary loan, and to supplement their materials budget. State Aid also helps to provide internet access and needed technology updates, improvement of buildings, assistance in providing bookmobile service, and helps with costs for books by mail. Generally, the feeling was that those present supported a change in the current state aid formula extending the mileage per county in addition to the per capita to non-system libraries, provided an increase in funding occurred. The PLDC voted to recommend to the ODL Board that the group strongly supported the change if additional money were included.

Lynn McIntosh, the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) president, reported that OLA supports and will work hard for ODL's budget request and especially for the new money requested. Most

felt no one should be penalized or receive reduced state aid allotments if additional money were not provided by the legislature. It was recognized that demand for services far exceeds the funding in many small towns. Many communities have no schools, sports, or community programs. The library is a valuable resource and outlet for the community.

Many felt state aid funds should be disbursed uniformly and equitably. The proposed formula from PLDC is based on receiving additional monies and would give non-system libraries with 3,000 population and under a base grant of \$1,500. Non-system libraries serving outside their city limits but within their county would be able to count the population and mileage served. A county with more than one library would divide the funds according to the percentage of the cities' populations in relation to one another with no library receiving less than ten percent. It was felt that the ODL Board should embrace the concept and act to unify the library community.

Board Chair Knapp encouraged everyone to attend April 13th Library Legislative Day and talk with their legislators. Some thought the formula should be created by the board and not the legislature and not be placed in statutes. Another speaker said if SB 429 passes, there will be no flexibility.

There was discussion of Senate Bill 428 which would change the way ODL Board members are appointed. The change would be that every other term, a person from a non-system area would be appointed. One person spoke in favor of SB 428. A system director said currently, the Governor makes appointments to the ODL Board and the agency, systems, and non-system libraries do not make recommendations to the Governor on who should be appointed and what part of the state they are from. A board member's duty is to represent the whole state, not specific libraries or areas. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Board member Hannibal Johnson moved that ODL support new state funding for Oklahoma libraries, in the interest of greater public service and greater funding equity; the formula for library systems be applied to municipal libraries and that a minimum allocation be guaranteed for small libraries as advocated by the Public Library Directors Council, a specific formula to be approved at a later date. Geurkink seconded. Knapp asked if the basic premise or gist is that new money should provide square mileage and populations for municipal libraries as well as systems. There was agreement on the board. The votes were as follows: Bass, yes; Geurkink, yes; Johnson, yes; Kinney, yes; Knapp, yes; Roberts, yes. Absent: Bartmess.

Kinney thanked the audience for attending the meeting and hoped they would continue to give the board input. Kinney made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Geurkink seconded. Votes were as follows: Bass, yes; Johnson, yes; Kinney, yes; Knapp, yes; Geurkink, Roberts, yes; Bartmess, absent. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:40.

Susan McVey, Secretary