

Minutes
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
ODL Board of Directors
February 13, 2009
10:00 a.m.
South Conference Room

Chair Ann Geurkink called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for roll call. Board members present: Betty Bass, Ann Geurkink, Hannibal Johnson, Tom Terry, Wally Turner, Harlene Wills, and Susan McVey, ex officio. Absent: Shelly Pitt-Wilson.

Guests and staff members present: Connie Armstrong, Adrienne Butler, Karen Currie, Jan Davis, Gengy Edwards, Leslie Gelders, Susan Gilley, Heather Kitchen, Marilyn Miller, Vicki Mohr, Kitty Pittman, Debra Schwartz, Vicki Sullivan, Judy Tirey, Lucy Usiukiewicz, Pat Williams, and Bill Young.

In conformity with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, advance notice of the 2009 regularly scheduled meetings was transmitted to the Oklahoma Secretary of State on December 11, 2008 and public notice of this meeting, together with the agenda, was posted in prominent public view on the glass exterior walls of the Allan Wright Memorial Building, 200 NE 18th Street, Oklahoma City, on February 10th, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. In addition, an email announcement of the meeting with agenda was sent to all Oklahoma public libraries on February 12th, 2009 at 1:42 p.m. and the announcement of the Board meeting and agenda were posted on the ODL website February 12th, 2009.

Geurkink asked for consideration of the board minutes of the December 5, 2008 board meeting. Johnson moved the minutes be approved. Bass seconded. Votes were as follows: Bass, yes; Geurkink, yes; Johnson, yes; Terry, yes; Turner, yes; Wills, yes; Pitt-Wilson, absent. The motion passed and the minutes were approved. Pitt-Wilson arrived after the vote.

McVey asked for branch reports. Susan Gilley, Law Library, introduced new staff member Heather Kitchen. Kitchen formerly worked for the Metropolitan Library System's Ralph Ellison Branch Library and is an adjunct professor at Redlands Community College with an MLIS degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Leslie Gelders announced Oklahoma's first *Adult Learner Day* was held at the state capitol, sponsored by the Oklahoma Literacy Coalition. Governor Henry proclaimed February 11th, 2009 as *Oklahoma Adult Learners Day*. The Lieutenant Governor hosted a reception in the Blue Room for participants.

Target has given thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the annual Children's *Read Across America* event to be held at the zoo on April 7th, 2009.

Connie Armstrong reported the 2009-2010 *Almanac* will be ready by mid-April. The theme is “*Oklahoma State of the Arts.*”

Betty Bass attended the Martin Luther King Banquet in McAlester where board member Hannibal Johnson spoke. Author Rilla Askew was also in attendance.

Adrienne Butler reported the 2009 Summer Reading Program’s theme this year is “*Music and the Arts.*” Workshops will be held in late February and early March. Sonic will provide book bags and coupons again this year and the Oklahoma College Savings Plan will have a sweepstakes and give away eight thousand dollars: the winner will receive five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and the winner’s library fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500), with ODL also receiving fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500). Details are being worked out.

McVey reported on several items: The Governor’s State of the State address and the joint session of the House and Senate were February 2nd. Thirty-five hundred (3,500) bills were introduced this legislative session. Many bills will be consolidated or drop off as there is no way all can be heard. Several proposed bills decrease the grocery, property, and sales taxes which would have major impact on the state budget and libraries’ budgets; Senate Bill 652 related to public library systems and establishing a library within the system; and Senate Bill 268 exempts school libraries from most regulations, including the requirement of having a certified school library media specialist in public school libraries.

McVey visited new legislators, sixteen (16) Representatives and six (6) Senators to deliver the *Almanac* and the *ABC* publications as well as the *Your State Library* brochure. The Oklahoma Library Association’s Legislative Committee visited the Capitol the first week of session to share and discuss library issues with legislators.

McVey reported libraries are experiencing heavy usage during the economic downturn. The increase in patrons has resulted in double digit increases in circulation, program attendance, computer usage, use of online applications and job resources. Many libraries now provide wireless access to the internet. Oklahoma libraries fall in the top ten in the nation for IT training, broadband connection and wireless access to the internet. Outreach by the Office of Library Development on e-rate and using grants for equipment has helped with the rate of connectivity in Oklahoma’s public libraries.

The Consumer Product Safety Council had a bill in Congress last summer that would severely reduce the amount of lead that children were exposed to which would require testing and a phase in process. Thrift stores reselling children’s products would be severely impacted. New and old books were not exempted. This would greatly impact libraries with children’s library books. It was not the Consumer Product Safety Council’s intent to affect libraries. The bill’s implementation has been waived until February of 2010. The Consumer Product Safety Council is currently discussing how far-reaching this bill will be.

Geurkink asked for public comment. Tom Terry reported the Shawnee Library is having a complete makeover with new carpet and moving of the children’s section. Meeker Library’s open house was on February 14th. Originally an all volunteer library, it has doubled its size

and has had Mobile employee volunteers and received grants from the Mobile Foundation. Towns of Talala, Salina and Hydro have established libraries and County Commissioners are interested in library service for the Beggs community.

Agenda item #6: Consideration and possible vote on options for meeting possible budget reductions in SFY10: In the Governor's State of the State address, the FY2010's budget which starts July 1, 2009, and the legislature was anticipating a budget hole of around three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000). Education, career tech and higher education were to be held harmless with a five percent cut for the rest of agencies which would amount to a cut of three hundred and sixty four thousand seven hundred and forty three dollars (\$364,743) for ODL. In addition, an across the board travel reduction of ten percent for all agencies was recommended, which for ODL would be seven thousand and seventy seven dollars (\$7,077).

Since then, the amount has increased to a nine hundred million (\$900,000,000) shortfall. The Equalization Board will meet soon to put forward a figure as to what they project the revenue situation will be next year. ODL has not filled five vacancies and is expecting retirement for a half time position. The last downturn was in 2002-2004. Original ODL staffing was eighty two point eight (82.8) and currently stands at fifty-nine (59) to sixty (60) positions. The current fiscal year appears to be safe but the following year could see cuts and possibly furloughs depending on the percentage of cut. Federal funding amounts are still unknown at this time. Some reductions will have to occur in higher and common education, and career tech with the anticipated nine hundred million dollar (\$900,000,000) shortfall. The board postponed a vote on any actions until further information is received.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. The next board meeting will be Wednesday, April 22nd, 2009 at 10 a.m. during the Oklahoma Library Association Conference in Midwest City at the Reed Conference Center, Rice Meeting Room, 2nd floor, 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City, OK, 405/741-7333.

Susan McVey, Secretary