

TRUSTEEtalk

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A publication of the Office of Library Development in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Meet ODL's Interim Director



Welcome to *Trustee Talk*! Let me introduce myself: I'm Susan McVey, the interim Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. The Department of Libraries is committed to enhancing the library service citizens receive from their local

public library. To that end, the Office of Library Development at ODL has hosted special workshops for trustees in recent years. These workshops have given ODL an opportunity to present important information to the trustees. The workshops have also provided trustees the opportunity to network with other public library board members from their area. We believe everyone benefits from these workshops.

Trustee Talk is another outreach effort to bring important information to the trustees across the state in an ongoing manner. We hope that you will find the newsletter provides you with a broader perspective of the issues facing libraries and will help you to better serve as a trustee. Please let us hear from you about issues you would like to see addressed in future editions of this newsletter.

What is TRUSTEEtalk?

Trustee Talk is a new publication of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries designed specifically for public library trustees. New issues will be sent to your library in March and in September for your director to distribute to all board members. Because Oklahoma's public libraries serve diverse communities, Oklahoma's library boards can be either a governing or an advisory board and may serve a large system, a metropolitan area or a rural community. Therefore, some information in *Trustee Talk* may not be useful to you and your library. However, we hope that everyone will find something useful in each issue.

If you have questions on anything you read, please contact your regional consultant at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. If you would like to suggest topics for future issues, please contact Ginny Dietrich, editor, at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, 800-522-8116 or gdietrich@oltn.odl.state.ok.us. We hope you enjoy this first issue!

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Planning for Next Year

Ensuring that the library has adequate funding to serve its customers is one of the most important duties of the library board. Now is the time to begin planning for next year.

First, review the current library budget. Was there enough money to offer good service and a variety of materials to the people in the community? Or did money for new books run out in February? Are there enough staff members to run the library, or does your librarian look permanently frazzled? Did technology expenses match the amount budgeted? Were there categories in the budget that were not spent or did not have enough funding?

“Now is the time to begin planning for next year.”

Then, as a board, do some dreaming. Some library boards develop long range plans that set goals for their libraries to meet over the next three to five years. If your library has a long range plan, take a few minutes to look at it again and discuss how the 2002 budget can help to meet those goals and improve library services. If your library does not have a long range plan, take some time during the next board meeting to talk about what the library should accomplish in the next year. It could be as simple as getting donations to increase the book budget, adding another computer for customers to access the internet, or offering a series of programs to daycare or senior citizen centers. No matter how big or small the library, each director and board should set at least one or two goals each year. Working toward goals helps the library move forward and improves services offered to the people in the community.

When the needs are identified and goals are set, the board then has the job of letting the community know what the library needs. In a city library, this might include talking to the mayor, city manager, city council members or town trustees. Having a group of library supporters attend the council meeting when the library budget is considered can be very effective. If city or county funding is not enough to meet the library's needs, board

members can also present the library's goals to community groups and organizations and ask for their help.

It seems in life that success brings more success. Public libraries that know where they're going and present their services and importance in a positive light are often surprised by how much their communities will support them.

Learning Opportunity

The Oklahoma Library Association will hold its Annual Conference from April 18th to 20th at the Myriad Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Dr. Robin Meyers, Senior Minister of Mayflower Congregational Church in Oklahoma City, will be the keynote speaker on Thursday, the 19th, talking on this year's theme of *Librarians: Navigating the Information Future*. Friday's banquet speaker will be Dr. Jim Boren from Northeastern Oklahoma State University who will offer a wonderfully humorous look at politics, government and Oklahoma life. Other Conference programs of specific interest to trustees include:

✓ ***Libraries Build Sustainable Communities*** on Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Explore ways that your library can help your community to grow and develop in economically and environmentally sound ways, insuring equitable opportunities for everyone. Discuss how public libraries can fit into the national trend toward sustainable communities.

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Did YOU KNOW? — Oklahomans are served by 106 public libraries and eight public library systems. Every county has at least one public library. Public library systems serve residents in 29 counties and are funded by property taxes. The other 48 counties have city or county libraries supported by sales tax revenues.

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2001 Legislative Goals

Every year the Oklahoma Library Association's legislative committee selects specific goals for all libraries to support on a statewide basis. The goals for this year are as follows:

***The Oklahoma Library Association
and Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma
support the Plan and the Promise for
Better Libraries in Oklahoma***

- Increase the funding for statewide electronic databases as requested in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries budget.
- Provide the funding to replace or renovate obsolete or inadequate library buildings.
- Provide the funding to upgrade technology in Oklahoma libraries.
- Preserve Oklahoma's heritage and historical records through the construction of a new state archives facility.
- Ensure quality information services to Oklahoma school children by staffing our school libraries with certified, masters level school library media specialists.
- Preserve Oklahoma's tradition of local control of libraries.

These goals are presented to state legislators in several ways. Each year OLA sponsors a Legislative Day at the State Capitol where librarians, trustees and friends visit their legislators, deliver a packet of information, and talk about how their libraries are affected by the statewide goals. This year, Legislative Day was held on Tuesday, February 27th. Librarians and trustees from the following public libraries attended:

Ada	Hennessey	Perry
Bartlesville	Kansas	Ponca City
Boise City	Kellyville	Pryor
Bristow	Lindsay	Seminole
Chickasha	Mannford	Watonga
Cleveland	Medford	Wetumka
Durant	Newkirk	Wynnewood
Fairview	Okemah	Yukon
Chickasaw Regional Library System		Southeastern Public Library System
Eastern OK. District Library System		Southern Prairie Library System
Metropolitan Library System		Tulsa City County Library
Pioneer Library System		

Librarians and trustees who cannot attend Legislative Day often write or call their legislators, visit their legislators another time, or invite their legislators to tour their libraries and see how such state services as the online databases are used.

Did YOU KNOW? — in a national survey conducted by Clarion University, adults were asked about the impact of public libraries on their daily lives. The results were reported in the January, 2000, issue of *American Libraries*. 51% said that public libraries contributed to their quality of life; 48% felt that public libraries are increasing in importance; and 47% stated that public libraries make people's lives better.

(Learning Opportunity continued from page 2)

✓ **Planned Giving 101 on Thursday** from 1:45 to 3:15 p.m. David Battles, Vice President for Planned Giving and Director of the Tulsa Office of the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation, will discuss the benefits of a planned giving program, how to get it started and the different ways of making a planned gift.

✓ **Serving the Poor: What Can Your Library Do?** on Thursday from 1:45 to 3:15 p.m. Listen as librarians share what their libraries are doing to serve the poor, and discuss possible ways that your library can “do more”.

✓ **ALA Forum: Libraries, the Cornerstone of Democracy** on Friday from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. Nancy Kranich, the President of the American Library Association, will address the need for library advocacy to build community support for libraries. Connie Van Fleet from the University of Oklahoma’s Library School will also discuss issues that impact the level and quality of access to information for various segments of the public.

These are just some examples of the programs that will be offered at the Conference. For more information, contact Kay Boies, the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Library Association, 405-348-0506 or kboies@ionet.net. You may also visit their website at <http://www.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola/conf.htm>

Did YOU KNOW? —This year ODL will award \$1,651,482 to public libraries in state aid. Federal LSTA grants in the amount of \$1,803,338 will enable public libraries to purchase children’s books, automate their collections, attend workshops and classes, offer high quality summer reading program activities, access national information databases over the internet, and share resources with other libraries.

Did YOU KNOW? —That *The Yearling* by Marjorie K. Rawlings is Carol Burnett’s favorite book. Or that Mel Gibson prefers *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Check out what your favorite celebrities like to read at www.gpl.lib.me.us/wrw.htm.

Useful Government Websites

How does your school district compare to other schools in Oklahoma? This site, sponsored by the Education Oversight Board, will give you reports on individual schools and school districts with information about your community and how it compares to the entire state:

<http://www.schoolreportcard.org/reports.htm>

What state law governs public libraries? What state laws do hog farms have to comply with? Does the estate tax apply to me?

You can search for information in the 1999 Oklahoma Statutes at this website sponsored by the Office of the Attorney General:

<http://oklegal.onenet.net/statutes.basic.html>

You can read the text of current House and Senate bills at this website sponsored by the Legislative Service Bureau:

<http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/docs/billtext.html>

Where can I get BBQ in Holdenville? What is there to do in Sayre? Which state parks have cabins I can rent? All of this information and more can be found at this website sponsored by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department:

<http://www.travelok.com/>

Pictures and documents bringing American History to life, sites for families to learn and have fun, copyright forms, and national legislative issues—all can be found at the library of Congress. Of course, information about the library’s collections and services is also included at: <http://www.loc.gov>

ODL Online, the web site for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, provides information about such ODL services as literacy, the Center for the Book, the Summer reading Program, Census 2000 and current library legislation. It’s a great way to find links to Oklahoma and national libraries, library associations and other state agencies. <http://www.odl.state.ok.us>