

## **OCALD Membership Meeting**

**Oklahoma Department of Libraries – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

**February 27, 2014**

**10:00a.m.-3:30p.m.**

### **Attending:**

Members: Bettye Black – Langston University, Jason Dupree – Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Tamie Willis – Oklahoma Christian University, Adrianna Lancaster – East Central University, Stewart Brower – OU Tulsa, Melissa Huffman – Rose State College, Suzanne Rooker – Western Oklahoma State College, Sherry Young – Cameron University, Nancy Draper – Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Beth Freeman – OSU Tulsa, Christine Dettlaff – Redlands Community College, Paula Settoon – Tulsa Community College, Annette Villines (Representing William (Bill) Jernigan) – Oral Roberts University, Joy Summers-Ables – University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, Sarah Clark – Rogers State University, Katie King – Southern Nazarene University, Mary Rixen – Murray State College, Sharon Morrison – Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Sarah Robbins – OU Norman, Anita Semtner – St. Gregory's University, Paul Roberts – Oklahoma Baptist University, Faye Davis – Bacone College  
Guests: Susan McVey – Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Phil Moss, Marty Thompson, Representative Lee Denney – Oklahoma State Legislature - House of Representatives (District 33), Senator Sandra Paddack – Oklahoma State Legislature - Senate (District 19), Blake Sonobe – Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

### **Welcome and Introductions – Adrianna Lancaster, OCALD Chair**

- Stewart Brower will be determining candidates for the Executive Committee. Online voting will take place for Chair Elect and Member at Large. Anyone interested in the position needs to contact Stewart.
- OCALD will not meet in March.

### **Legislative 101 – Susan McVey**

- ODL has down sized from an agency of eighty-two employees to an agency of fifty.
- ODL receives funding from the government's LSTA and from grants.
- LSTA funds are using to purchase EBSCO, OCLC Worldcat and other vendor content
- State funds must be spent to receive federal funds.
- The Maintenance of Effort (MOE) target must be met by ODL in order to receive federal funding.
- *What Institutions Can Do*
  - Library Directors need to share information with their campus administration about the impact losing ODL funding would be for students, other patrons, budgets and on the community.
  - Explain to campus administrators how patrons are benefiting from our libraries resources and tell Susan McVey
  - Institution's administrators need to share with legislators how we partner with ODL
  - Participate on National Library Legislative Day on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

- Communicate with legislators via written correspondence, in person or over the phone.
- *Tips for Communicating with Legislators via written correspondence*
  - Keep your letter one page or less
  - Fax your letter
  - Explain that you are a constituent of their district and explain what you have in common with them
  - Be brief and to the point
  - Thank them
- *Tips for Communicating with Legislators in person*
  - Attend Town Hall meetings of your state and federal elected officials and candidates
  - Speak to your legislators about your concerns
- *Tips for Communicating with Legislators over the phone*
  - Introduce yourself and explain that you are a constituent of their district
  - Mention the bill number you are calling about
  - Be brief and get to the point
  - Be courteous
- If five different constituents contact a legislator on the state level regarding a bill it is usually enough to get the legislator's attention.
- Oklahoma Senators typically have four year terms, however because Senator Tom Colburn is retiring early the election will take place early, in 2014.

#### **Personal Reflection on Legislative Process – Marty Thompson**

- Library Directors need to make sure that our institutional administrators are educated as to what ODL and OKSRHE are doing to stretch our budgets
- Librarians can represent themselves or Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) on issues they care about, rather than representing their institution
- Talk to public librarians about interacting with legislators
- Keep your staff informed and use them to help with legislature issues
- *Oklahoma Teacher's Retirement System (OTRS) Current Issues*
  - OTRS is looking at making changes in retirement
  - Possibly doing away with OTRS and putting money into a 401K as well as merging all retirement systems into one board
  - Legislature has declined to put money into the University of Oklahoma's OTRS for the last three years

#### **Personal Reflection on Legislative Process – Phil Moss**

- OSRHE was created to de-politicize higher education
- OSRHE distributes money to fund higher education
- These college and university administrators and staff members contact OSRHE regularly

- Chancellor and Executive Staff
- Legislative Relations Staff
- President of the university or college
- Legislators are focused on fiscal issues and social issues (i.e. guns on campus)
- More college and university presidents today come from administrative backgrounds rather than academic backgrounds, thus they have greater experience overseeing funding and other monetary related issues.
- OCALD serves as an official advisory council to the state regents
- We as OCALD members should interact with the presidents and vice presidents of our colleges and universities to keep them informed on why certain issues are important and how they impact students and funding received by our institutions.
- When talking to institutional administrators we should insure that all issues are being covered and providing them information on questions they might have, such as the databases we subscribe to.

**Break for lunch 11:30am – 1:00pm**

**Legislators’ Perspectives – Representative Lee Denney (Oklahoma House of Representatives – District 33)**

- Suggested asking legislators how they feel about libraries and let your legislator know what is going on in your library.
- People need to get engaged in voting, because legislators make decisions that affect our jobs as well as the rest of our lives.
- When writing your legislator include
  - Your town and phone number
  - Send the letter to your legislator, not someone who is not from your district
  - Be courteous
  - Write less than a page or five paragraphs

**Legislators’ Perspectives – Senator Sandra Paddack (Oklahoma Senate – District 13)**

- Try to build relationships with your representative
- Discuss with your legislators about the cause and effect of voting one way or the other on issues.
- Talk to your elected officials who think like you and talk to those who don’t think like you, because legislators are supposed to represent the people in their district.
- By not voting you are letting other people make decisions for you.

**Q & A with Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – Blake Sonobe**

- OSRHE Chancellors and Presidents have asked that we not lobby as representatives for higher education and our institutions. However, we can lobby as individual members of the voting public.

- We should share with our Vice Presidents of Academic and Student Affairs the money we save through ODL and participating in cost-savings via OCALD.
- Dr. Sonobe expects our databases to remain at the same funding level as last year and budgets for these services are not expected to be cut.

#### *Questions and Answers*

- Q: Would a resolution from OCALD be necessary?
  - A: Dr. Sonobe will have to talk to the Chancellor to determine if a resolution from OCALD will be necessary.
- Q: What are non-fiscal issues that the Council of Presidents focus on?
  - A: OK Promise
  - Religious college exemptions
  - Unaccredited institutions trying to get same level degrees as accredited institutions
  - Federal government wanting greater control of private schools
  - Oklahoma's plan to join the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)
  - OSRHE has oversight of public institutions and to some degree private institutions, but they need to have oversight of all institutions
- Q: Are legislators looking at increasing tuition and fees to generate more revenue?
  - A: Legislators are beginning to understand how decreased funding from the government means colleges and universities have to pay more funding
  - We have increased our revenue collections from last year
  - The state government has recommended a cut of 5% from last year's budget
  - OSRHE is looking to determine how libraries can help students academically and help retain students

#### **Assessment Committee Report – Sherry Young**

- Cameron University will be sponsoring the assessment workshop *Planning, Assessing and Communicating Library Impact* on May 2, 2014 at 10:00am at Cameron University.

#### **Cooperative Collection Development and Resource Sharing Committee – Bonnie McNeely**

- Bonnie McNeely has replaced Barbara King as a member of the Cooperative Collection Development and Resource Sharing Committee.

#### **New Business – Tammy Willis**

Discussion over whether or not we should continue to subscribe to Newspaper Source Plus and instead use the money to pay for Academic Search Premier. However, we decided to wait until we renew next year before we decide how we want to proceed. Sherry

Young agreed to find out the usage figures from EBSCO regarding the Newspaper Source Plus database.

Bonnie McNeely will send the technical requirements for the Request for Proposal (RFP) to those who wish to view it and make any editing suggestions.

### **Next Steps**

Following is an overview of what we as well as our institutions need to do to prepare for Legislative Day on April 29<sup>th</sup>

- Partner with public librarians
- Explain to individuals at your institution the issues concerning libraries
- Contact legislators before Legislative Day to schedule appointments
- Learn about your legislators
- We need to keep our MOE up so we do not lose money for the state library, which could mean losing our databases, summer reading programs and other resources. ODL is two years behind and will not make their target MOE from 2014-2016.
- Susan McVey agreed to send out more talking points to help us discuss with our legislators the issues that concern us.
- OLA's lobbyist Vicki White Rankin is available by contacting Lori at Tulsa Community College library.
- All OLA members are welcome to come to the OLA Legislative Committee meetings, which take place the first Friday of every month at ODL.