OLA Legislative Committee  
Thursday, May 11, 2017

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Oregon State Library Room 102

Participants: **:** Janet Webster, MaryKay Dahlgreen, Diedre Conkling, Nan Heim, Elsa Loftis, Sue Ludington, Ted Smith, Buzzy Nielsen, Robin Rolfe, Jane Corey, Sue Ludington, Carol Dinges, Amanda Dalton, Rachel Bridgewater, Alyssa Bennett

1. **Lobbyist Report** (Nan)

The session is past the halfway mark. If bills did not get a hearing and referral, they have died. Legislators can still introduce priority bills, though. There is little to no Republican support for more revenue, so Nan thinks a draconian budget will be passed with cuts across the board. This will cause consternation and probably lead to a special session in September. Below are updates on the bills we have been monitoring.

* HB 5018 State Library Budget: A work session is schedule for May 18th at 3. Amanda and Nan will support OLA’s issue brief into the record. We discussed other actions to take in the next week. MaryKay and Nan expect either a partial or full restoration of the Ready to Read reduction. Constituents and Legislative Committee members should contact the Ways and Means Sub-committee on Government members – Senators B. Johnson, Manning, DeBoer, and Representatives G. Smith, Marsh, Fahey, Gomberg and Nearman. The message should be:

“HB 5018, the State Library Budget includes funding for the Ready to Read Grant Program. OLA supports restoring $487,000 so the program remains at current funding levels. Here is how my community library uses these funds….”

* SB 75 Expansion of Ready to Read. This died with OLA’s knowledge. There wasn’t any money to fund the expansion.)
* SB 123 Children’s districts –(Work session 5/15 8:30) This will not go very far but some action will happen.
* SB 822 Post notice on copiers, scanners that information may be digitally stored: This died. Diedre pointed out that the new generation of equipment deletes this information or just doesn’t store it.
* SB 1002 Private tutors (Public hearing in House 5/22 3 pm): Libraries are now exempted. The School Districts are strongly opposing it.
* HB 2729 Open Ed Resources for Higher Ed: This is in Ways and Means waiting for funding. OLA’s letter of support is in the record.
* HB 2859 Sunsetting of tax exemptions: This died.
* HB 3191 Summer Learning: This is in Ways and Means with an amendment that funding would not come from existing programs (is. Ready to Read).
  + SB 787 Curry, Coos, Douglas & Josephine special district carve out: This died. It would have potentially affected library special districts.
  + HB 3455 Age 3 to Grade 4 Reading Initiative: This was just introduced by Mark Johnson and co-sponsored by Buehler. Sue sent out the press release on it which included this description: *“HB 3455 instructs the Oregon Department of Education to award grants to school districts who are eligible by meeting certain requirements. In order to be eligible for the grants, school districts must commit to implementing early reading programs that focus on students who are expected to be a grade level behind or who are struggling to read. “* Nan and Amanda will investigate.

Janet reminded committee members to review their use of work email and political activity. We have had some heated conversations on our committee list. Nan does not want anyone getting into trouble for improper political activity on work time or resources. Committee members should send Janet the email they want on the committee email list. We do not use Memberclicks as this would probably default to work emails. Janet will put in the generic addresses for OLA and OASL officers.

On a brighter note, Nan shared a conversation she has at a fund raiser. She sat next to Michael Powell who reminded her of a favorite quote: “Libraries are democracy’s best kept promise.” (The only attribution I can find for this is the Metropolitan Group. Others may find something more definitive.)

1. **State Law Librarian Report**

Cathryn was unable to attend. She will be sending out a survey on use of Fastcase. Please respond, as it will help her justify funding.

1. **State Librarian Report** (MaryKay)

The State Library budget looks to be fairly stable compared to other units. There is a hiring freeze at a time when two long-term employees retired. They might have a space reduction as they pay DAS for space. MaryKay has been talking to the Chief Education Officer about moving to the State Library. The new brand was released at the OLA Conference.

MaryKay has been in touch and visited Wallowa County. The County Library provides outreach to homebound and early literacy programs throughout the county including the three city libraries (Joseph, Enterprise and Wallowa). It also maintains stations in Troy and Imnaha. She informed the commissioners that state library statute requires 2 hearings 90 days apart if a library or district funding is proposed for elimination. The commissioners will keep the county system open at some level until September. The county library has been very successful in grant funding, but it is unclear if that would continue without some local funding. We agreed that Wallowa County is a good candidate for a district. MaryKay will send the commissioners a list of districts in the state with contacts. She is also keeping Aletha Bonebrake informed as she was part of the Baker County library district formation and familiar with the issue of sparsely populated eastern Oregon. The committee agreed to wait and see what transpires.

People in Douglas County remain active in searching for solutions. The Douglas County SD is possibly interested in moving into the Roseburg building and providing some type of service. The Commissioners have had a presentation from LS&S (formerly LSSI) and will getting one from SAGE about joining that network. Diedre has talked to Reedsport about joining the Chinook Library Network. All take some funding. The situation evolves.

1. **National Legislative Day follow-up**

Ruth and Buzzy reported of a successful visit. Legislative staff members liked the OLA postcards and the district profiles of LSTA funding created by the State Library. Buzzy had his best interaction with Walden’s office ever with Nolan, a key staff member. LSTA should go through at current levels for FY17. We will have to start working on FY18 and that can be confusing to OLA members in terms of asking the Congressional delegation to sign onto letters of support – are these for FY17 or FY18?

MaryKay brought up the idea of using the LSTA reports as a press release. We agreed that would be useful although timing is not critical. She will also send them to the Congressional field offices.

The FCC is taking comments on the proposed changes to the Ney Neutrality regulations (https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/proceedings?q=name:((17-108). Rachel agreed to write up a brief statement to share with OLA members who want to comment.

1. **Public Library Advocacy Standards** (Buzzy)

The public Library Division is revising its standards. Buzzy lead a discussion about the advocacy standards. MaryKay explained her interest in revising state library law to bring the statute up to date. I t does not reflect the current environment or society’s changes. Much of the discussion was around the how advocacy is used and what we expect from our public libraries and their staff in terms of marketing, lobbying and local advocacy. Specific comments on the existing documents were made. All can send Buzzy suggestions for additions, deletions and clarifications of the existing standards.

1. **OLA Hotline news items**

Janet asked for suggestions for the upcoming Hotline. Here is what she’ll sending: State Library Budget work session and need to contact committee members; restoration of LSTA in FY17 and need to push for FY18, work on Net Neutrality, update on success of postcard campaign.

1. **Committee Housekeeping:** 
   * We will keep July 13the on our schedules in case we need a summer meeting
   * The 2017/18 committee roster will have several open slots (two three year slots and one one year slot). We agreed to look for another school library and would like someone familiar with children;’s/youth services. Continuing members include
     1. Abigail Elder, *Beaverton City Library* (2018)
     2. Sue Ludington, *Washington County Law Library* (2020)
     3. Alyssa Bennett, *Deschutes Public Library (*2018)
     4. Kate Lasky, *Josephine Community Libraries* (2018)
     5. Rachel Bridgewater, *Portland Community College* (2019)
     6. Brooke Robertshaw, *Oregon State University* (2019)
     7. Ted Smith, *Newport Public Library* (2019)
   * Janet and Abigail will contact people to gauge interest and then share with committee members and Buzzy as president-elect.
2. **General Updates**

LSS&S appears to be gearing up its promotion for new customers. We think we should counter with a renewed presence at the major conferences of Oregon’s governmental entities – LOC, AOC and the school superintendents or school boards. We can use LSS&S promotion pieces as a starting point. Buzzy will look into a strategy.

**Outstanding Action Items:**

* Abigail will draft a model gun policy and have it reviewed by Kate, Buzzy and Diedre.
* Sue and Janet will continue to work on the Engage site.
* DONE - Janet will send MaryKay an example of a district report done by Oregon Humanities.
* DONE - Janet and Diedre agreed to draft a web presence of the values statement for review.
* Robin will do some follow-up with the school librarians receiving books from Legislative Day.
* DONE- Nan will check with Senator Gelser on the origins of SB 0822.
* DONE- Nan will send Senator Roblan’s office our concerns on SB 1002.
* DONE- Janet will contact Tillamook, Coos and Multnomah Counties’ libraries on HB 2859.
* DONE- Nan will meet with Smith-Warner to get a better sense of how HB 3191 ended up looking like it does.
* DONE- Nan will look into SB 787.
* DONE- Janet will get input on the Johnson Amendment repeal from the Federal of State Humanities Councils.
* DONE- Sue and Diedre will design postcards that we can have at the Legal Reference Roundtable for members to write to our congressional delegation.