



President's Report OLA Information, 2023- 2024

Executive Board Officers

President: Ericka Brunson-Rochette, Deschutes Public Library/State Library of Oregon (*Feb- Aug 2024*); Brittany Young, Lane County Law Library (*Sept '23-Jan '24*)

Vice President: Ayn Frazee, Franklin High School (*June-August 2024*); Vacant (*Feb-May 2024*) Ericka Brunson-Rochette, Deschutes Public Library/State Library of Oregon (*Sept '23- Jan '24*)

Past President: Star Khan, Driftwood Public Library

Treasurer: Stuart Levy, Retired

Secretary: Roxanne M. Renteria, Deschutes Public Library

ALA Chapter Councilor: Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney, Driftwood Public Library

Member at large: Liisa Sjoblom, Deschutes Public Library (*August 2024*)

ACRL Chair: Carly Lamphere, Reed College

CSD Co-Chairs: Monica Hoffman, Umatilla County Special Library District

OASL Chair: Ayn Frazee, Franklin High School (*through April 2023*); Jennifer McKenzie, Siuslaw School District (*May 2024- Current*)

OYAN Chair: Mark Richardson, Co-chair, Cedar Mill Library
Ian Duncanson, Co-chair, Beaverton Public Library

PLD Chair: Megan Dazey, North Sweet Home Public Library

REFORMA Oregon Chair: Brandace Rojo, Josephine Public Library

SSD Chair: Rinny Lakin, Multnomah County Library

Parliamentarian: Buzzy Nielsen, State Library of Oregon

State Librarian: Wendy Cornelisen. State Library of Oregon

Association Manager: Shirley Roberts

Location and theme of annual conference

City: Salem, OR

Hotel/Location: Salem Convention Center

Dates: April 24 – 27, 2024

Conference Chair: Sonja Sommerville, Salem Public Library

Programs Chair: Taylor Worley, Eugene Public Library

Theme: *All Together Now*



*We welcome you to join your colleagues in lovely Salem, Oregon for four days of workshops, presentations, and networking! The conference theme is **All Together Now** and we are looking to celebrate all the ways that libraries collaborate through partnerships, resource and information sharing, how libraries are welcoming spaces, and more!*

Overview/Highlights:

Registration and profit were down significantly from the 2023 conference in Bend
Spent 27k on Tech/AV

- 430+ registrants (many were one day-ers, not the full conference)
- Spent 27k on Tech/AV
- Food was optional---impacted income

- This was the first year with the Conference Buddies (29 pairs) program and the Sensory Room and Craft Room. All were a huge success.
- Raffle Baskets @ President's party to support Leadership Committee (participating units raised- \$291.10)

Notable speakers:

Keynote Address: Bryce Kozla

Fostering supportive workplaces in overwhelming times

Featured Author: Jonathan Hill

The Power of Encouragement

- (OYAN) Pre-Conference: Teen Mental Health: After the Pandemic - What's Next? On Wednesday, April 24th from 8:30-12:00 pm in Santiam 1 (4 mental health organizations who work with teens coming to present different segments to the attendees)
- IFC sponsored preconference -Library Policies: Best Practices for Strong Library Policies

Notable awards/honorary memberships

President's Award: Liisa Sjoblom, Deschutes Public Library

President's Accomplice Award (*optional*): Darci Hanning, State Library of Oregon

EDI & Antiracism Award: Roxanne M. Renteria, Deschutes Public Library and
LaRee Dominguez, Albany Public Library

Distinguished Service Award: N/A

OLA Legislator of the Year: Senator Lew Frederick (D-N/NE Portland) and Rep. Pam Marsh (D-Southern Jackson County)

OLA Librarian of the Year: Emily O'Neal, Deschutes Public Library

Library Employee of the Year: Robin Dawson, Gladstone and Oak Lodge Library

Library Supporter of the Year: Friends of Driftwood Library

Honorary Life Membership: MaryKay Dahlgreen

Intellectual Freedom Committee Award: Miranda Doyle, Southern ESD

Evelyn Sibley Lampman Award: Monica Hoffman

Pearl Award (PLD): N/A

OYEA (OYAN): Brianna Sowinski, North Planes Public Library

ACRL-OR- N/A

Legislative activity

2024 was a short, but active, legislative session

OLA Bills of Interest (from: [2024 Legislative Session OLA Report- Tess Milio](#) report-03/27/24)

Broadband Funding

The budget bill (SB5701) gave the OBO a \$500,000 spending limitation increase “for grants for libraries for technical assistance associated with accessing Federal broadband funding awards.”.

Affordable Textbooks

HB 4162 was the textbook affordability grant bill. OLA signed on to support the legislation ahead of session after being asked by the Oregon Student Association. The bill passed early out of the House Committee to the Joint Ways and Means for further consideration. **However, the bill never received funding and was stuck in Ways and Means at the final gavel.**

Summer Learning

HB 4082, the Governor-supported summer learning bill, had a public hearing on the first day of session. There was a -1 amendment introduced by the supporters of the bill to allow schools to partner with community programs and institutions like libraries to administer the programs. After learning about the amendment, OLA's Legislative

Committee voted to support the legislation. The bill had a work session where it was amended and moved unanimously out of committee to Ways and Means. **The bill ultimately passed with \$30M in funding, instead of the full \$50M requested. It has been signed into law and became effective on March 12, 2024.**

SB 1583 - Freedom to Read Act

- Senator Lew Frederick was going to introduce a bill aimed at book banning during the legislative days in mid-January- SB 1583
- SB 1583 was designed to prevent book ban proposals that discriminated against a protected class. OLA brought the Senator's office four specific amendment requests which were accepted, submitted for drafting and eventually adopted into the bill
- **Soon after, the Freedom to Read Coalition was formed with a range of organizations that included, OLA, Oregon Education Association (OEA), Basic Rights Oregon (BRO), ACLU, American Teachers Federation, the Rural Organizing Project, Next Up and more**
- Once the first public hearing was scheduled, letters in opposition to the bill began piling up on the record. The coalition activated their networks to counter that effort, eventually drawing in over 1000 letters of support, far surpassing the 600 or so in opposition. to a policy committee on the House side, so it was assigned to House Rules to stay alive
- With another minority report attached in the House, the bill could not be on the Floor until Friday March 8th. **The decision was made to close session a few days early, on March 7th, leaving SB 1583 behind at its final legislative hurdle**

OLA's Contract Termination w/Milio Consulting

(see details in Outstanding Events)

Outstanding Events that you remember:

New OLA Hotline Editor

- Ericka Brunson-Rochette connected Lex Faller, undergraduate student at Portland State University, with Shirley Roberts as a potential Hotline Editor in early October, as an attempt to build more opportunities for mutual support between OLA and students (specially LIS students)
- Lex Faller officially took over as Hotline Editor mid-October

Creation of an OLA Social Media Policy

- The OLA board, with help from OLA Parliamentarian Buzzy Nielsen, drafted a social media policy to address what is encouraged and not allowed when posting, commenting and engaging in social media using OLA affiliated accounts- [OLA Social Media Policy](#)
- Instituting this new social media policy passed by a unanimous board vote at the Dec 15 board meeting.

Cease Fire Request- December 15, 2023

- In November of 2023, Oregon Library Association leadership was approached by a concerned association member with a request for OLA to release a statement calling for a permanent ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. This was added to the December 15th Exec. Board meeting agenda as a discussion item
- OLA leadership at the time (Brittany Young, Star Khan, and Ericka Brunson-Rochette) met to discuss in mid-January. We recommend that the OLA Executive Board not move forward with continued conversations, or vote, around releasing a ceasefire statement
- Details around the request and subsequent decision were shared out with the Executive Board via email on February 14, 2024 by Ericka Brunson-Rochette

Change in leadership- February 9, 2024

- On February 9, 2024 Brittany Young resigned from position of OLA President
- Immediately following, Ericka Brunson-Rochette, OLA VP, assumed the position of President for the remainder of the term
- Note from 2.16 meeting: *Per the by-laws, when the President resigns the Vice-President becomes the new President. Timing is a factor, and in a situation such as the current one in which a President resigns before March 1st, a special election must be held to fill the Vice-President vacancy for an abbreviated term of 6 months until that individual becomes President, and the current President assumes the role of Past President*

Online Store Front

- At the February 16, 2024 Board meeting, Roxanne M. Renteria, co-chair of the EDI & Antiracism Committee, proposed opening an EDIA online storefront offering wearable merchandise and other swag in order to and center BIPOC voices, opportunities and support efforts
- The idea was well received by the board, and other units were excited to get involved. A motion to create the storefront was passed at this same meeting

Elections

- Annual Elections, and a special election to elect an incoming OLA President, took place following the 2024 OLA Conference, with ballots closing on 5/30
- In a special election, Ayn Frazee, Franklin High School, was elected as 2024-2025 OLA President, and finished out the remainder of the 2023-24 term as OLA VP/President-Elect
- April Witteveen, OSU Cascades, was elected as the 2024-2025 OLA Vice President/President Elect
- Roxanne M. Renteria was re-elected to stay on as OLA Secretary for the 2024-2025 term

SB 1583 (taken from LC's 2023/2024 report)

- This year was an Oregon Legislature short session. The session was busier than expected with the introduction of Senator Frederick's SB 1583. The Legislative Committee worked with stakeholders to review the bill language, and then with extensive support of the IFC, we gathered support and testimony for the bill. Although the bill did not make it to the floor for a vote, we were impressed with the widespread engagement of OLA members and support for the bill
- The response was some of the strongest we have seen in many years. Because of the awareness this bill brought to the challenges of censorship and funding facing school libraries, the Legislative Committee decided to recognize Senator Frederick as Legislator of the Year at the OLA conference. Senator Frederick's speech supporting libraries and freedom to read was an exciting culmination of our committee's work for the year

Horner Exchange 2024

- Oregon State Library for the past three decades
- In May 2024, the Fujian Provincial Library sent four delegates for two weeks to Oregon
- The International Relations Roundtable in collaboration with the Oregon State Library, will be sending three delegates and the Oregon State Librarian to China for three weeks in late October 2024
- Work was started on drafting an MOU for the 2027 & 2030 exchange details with a possible name change to happen

OLA Website Audit & Feedback Session- May 10, 2024

- An audit of the OLA website was conducted by two of the 2023/24 LIOLA leaders/mentees, Elena Gleason, Tigard Public Library and Spencer Ellis, Jackson County Library Services- [OLA Website Audit.xlsx](#)
- Spencer and Elena provided a comprehensive audit review and walked the Executive Board through their findings and suggestions at a special meeting on May 10, 2024- [OLA Website Audit Presentation.pptx](#)

Termination of OLA Lobbying Contract w/Milio Consulting

- A special meeting was called on June 7, 2024 to discuss OLA's Lobbying contract with Milio Capitol Consulting and a vote occurred to terminate said contract
- One main reason for this is that expenditures on the lobbyist exceeded the 15% allowable limit, which mean the scope of lobbying activities had to be reduced
- Legislative Committee Chairs, Jeremy Skinner and Kate Lasky, sent a letter to lobbyist Tess Milio on June 12th informing her of this decision, and providing the 60 day notice of termination outlined in the contract. They had follow-up meetings on 6/24 and 7/24th prior to the termination of contract, and the contract terminated on August 11, 2024
- Legislative Committee is still investigating next steps with contracting with a new lobbyist/ reallocating advocacy duties

Exploration of Affiliate Memberships

- Ericka connected with Virginia Library Association Executive Director Lisa Varga at ALA 2024 and learned about VLA's [Affiliate Membership](#) option--- which is an association membership paid for by each library (costs are based on budget) and allows all employees to become association members.
- Ericka, along with Association Manager Shirley Roberts and Vice President Ayn Frazee, met virtually with Lisa in early August to learn more
- At the August 16th Board Meeting Ericka presented the idea of Affiliate Memberships as something for OLA to explore further for the following reasons, and more:
 - Reduce barriers to resources, information and opportunities within OLA; increase membership, membership engagement and volunteering; increase association income, etc.
- This idea will be further explored during the coming term

Other timely events:

- PNLA Joint '26 Conference Request received on 4/3; not moving forward at this time
- REFORMA OR Bylaw Changes -- still in progress as of 8/29/24; email vote to come
- AASL Conference 2027 Letter of Support --- still in progress as of 8/29/24
- Carrie Turney Ross addressed the Board at the 8/16 meeting asking to resurrect the inactive Outreach Round Table. This idea was voted on and approved

Unit Activity (optional)



ACRL-OR

- Created a website blogpost signup for board members, will eventually develop guidelines for members to submit material in the future
- ACRL-OR and ACRL-WA will be having a joint fall conference on October 25, 2024 at Reed College with a “New Connections” theme



CSD

- Hosted a two Mock Giesel events:
December 13th–Virtual; January 13th– was supposed to be hybrid in Eugene, but moved to fully virtual due to weather
- Successful Spring Auction held online between March 23-April 15th



OASL

- Successful OASL 2023 Conference held in Lincoln City with registration 1/3 higher than in previous years--- 178 registrations
- OASL continues to create and publish via OASL / ODE foundational guiding documents; in addition to their Strong School Library Rubric, and Job Description Exemplars documents, they recently published a certified Teacher Librarian evaluation rubric

- OLA sent a cohort to Bend to attend the Libraries Leading with Equity training, and positive feedback
- One day conference in Portland at Grant High School on Saturday, October 5th (attendees are able to register early)



OYAN

- OYAN introduced regional pod meetings for a portion of the OYAN meetings, allowing members at different libraries to meet in smaller groups and talk about how they have been serving teens locally
- They had a successful raffle and preconference this year. They polled OYAN members at the beginning of the year to see what they would like the preconference subject to be – teen mental health was the overwhelming winner. They invited representatives from Youthline, NAMI, Project Bravery, and HOOTS to present on what they have been seeing with teen mental health post-pandemic and their work with youth
- They revised some of the outdated bylaws this year and are also working on updating the task descriptions for board members. They are bringing back the Mock Printz workshop in 2025 after taking a year off



PLD

- Held a Public Library Division public library director's get together at North Bend Public Library on January 29th to discuss topics related to: supporting staff, staff safety and general policy writing and enforcement



SSD

- Donated mini-kits to the OASL conference
- They reviewed the recommendations about the Personify [SSD website](#) and made most of the updates (hats off for being the first unit to do this!!)
- No SSD conference in 2024 or 2025, but looking forward to 2026 w/the hope that SSD can give LIOLA graduates an opportunity to help plan the conference
- We have been generously offered \$1,600 to boost our scholarship offerings
 - For 2025, SSD plans to offer:
 - \$1,000 to sponsor someone to LIOLA 2025
 - \$300 towards 2025 OLA Conference attendance in Eugene
 - \$400 other relevant education opportunity



REFORMA OR

- Since May 2024, the REFORMA division has seen a large shift in engagement with someone running for each open leadership position.
- New members and founding REFORMA Oregon members from libraries across the state helped the leadership team determine areas that could use improvement to boost engagement during the spring 2024 meeting. After that meeting, a subcommittee was created to work on rebranding and a new website build. REFORMA is contracting with graphic design Sarah Meyer from Grants Pass on the project which kicked off in July 2024.
- Updates to the REFORMA division bylaws are in the works to incorporate language that will include REFORMA members who join through REFORMA National as opposed to through OLA in voting. It will also allow members who join through REFORMA National to hold leadership positions.



OREGON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

EDI &
ANTIRACISM
COMMITTEE

EDI & Anti-Racism Committee

- Storefront- At the February 16, 2024 Board meeting, Roxanne M. Renteria, co-chair of the EDI & Antiracism Committee, proposed opening an EDIA online storefront offering wearable merchandise and other swag in order to and center BIPOC voices, opportunities and support efforts
- Social Media—Committee members Ericka Brunson-Rochette and Joan Vigil started a Facebook page for the committee which Joan Vigil facilitates and posts on regularly: https://www.facebook.com/OLAEDIA/?_rdr
- The OVERDUE: Weeding Out Oppression in Libraries podcast recorded 10 new episodes in the 23-24 year
- Committee member Ericka Brunson-Rochette, and past committee co-chair Pia Alliende, were invited to present a Big Ideas General Session at the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) conference in Denver in September of 2024



Intellect
Freedom
Committee

IFC

- IFC were advocates for over 45 libraries as they experienced challenge situations this year
- Continued work with OSBA to develop model policies
- Showed significant support and action for SB 1583
- IFC partnered with [Parents Defending Schools and Libraries \(Book Resumes\)](#)
- Emily attended a training in Chicago (ALA OIF) “Law for Libraries”, ALA’s counsel and Harvard Law Librarians were on hand to assist. This was a “train the trainer” program, with the expectation that attendees would pass along this information
- Received OLA Board approval via email on May 22 to apply for a 10k ALA grant to “expand upon the organization’s existing efforts to support librarians and educators addressing censorship in their institutions.”

Leadership Committee

- Awarded a record number of scholarships from a record number of applications (12!)--- funded 6
- LIOLA 2023 concluded in September 2023 with the final virtual sessions...
- Doubled the size of the committee in July (added 5 new members) to handle all aspects of LIOLA 2025



Oregon Authors Project

- The Oregon Authors Project has experienced significant growth this past year. Their database has grown from roughly 2,200 Oregon authors in our December to about 3,200 authors; nearly 1,000 new Oregon Authors were added in seven months!
- They finished implementing several new fields about Oregon authors in their database and now highlight authors who identify as BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA+
- They hope to develop a few leadership roles this coming year and invite OLA members to participate



ORCA

- Successful in growing membership back up from just five people last year, due to promotion via Instagram, the OASL listserve, and the OLA Hotline newsletter
- ORCA was part of a session at the annual OASL 2023 Conference in Bend and plans participate in a similar session at the 2024 OASL Conference.
- Formed a plan to create downloadable ORCA bookmarks and posters for the website
- Held at least 2 virtual meetings for the Committee this year

Technical Services Round Table (TSRT)

- TSRT successfully supported two OLA Conference sessions, the first was a co-Sponsor (with IFC) pre-conference on library policies. The second was cataloging Spanish materials, and supporting inclusive language in the library catalog
- The website resources page is in-process and hopefully will update with the new 2024-2025 year
- TSRT has a scholarship, which includes active participation in TSRT for the following year

Staff Training Round Table (STRT)

- STRT continues to meet monthly
- One member presented, "Fostering Good Patron Behavior: A Framework for Staff Training" online last fall, and we had a presence at the annual OLA Conference.
- We have a new Chair-Elect and Secretary for the upcoming year

Finance/Investment Committee

- Recommended that OLA move the 2.5% of our Connected Wealth investments that are currently in real estate and add it to our current investments in alternative lending
- Recommended that OLA take a 1.5% distribution of our Donivan Wealth investments to help pay for our annual expenses
- Asked that we authorize our Donivan Wealth investments advisor to reinvest maturing short-term treasury bills to intermediate bonds given investment environment status
- Board approved all recommendations