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# OELMA News

## Presidents Message



by Marie Sabol

House Bill 1, testimony, state senate members and their home districts- these are the things I have been worrying about for the last 12 weeks! Your OELMA Board and Advocacy Committee have been working hard to provide up- to- date information for all members on the status of HB1, as well as developing testimony to be given at various hearings around the state. Even if funding for certified school library media specialists does not appear in this budget, Ohio legislators have heard from our members and understand our importance in teaching 21st Century skills. The big push has come the last few weeks- but what lead us to this point? The answer is- past efforts by OELMA leadership for many years. Much of that leadership has come from past president, Award of Merit winner and former advocacy chair Sheila Benedum. Sheila has been holding down the important post of advocacy chair for the past three years. Because of her dedicated work- we have the foundation of a strong advocacy platform which we are using as the basis of our advocacy program today. Thank you to Sheila, and all members who have made our state legislators aware of what it means to be a library media specialist in the 21st Century.

Taking over for Sheila as advocacy chair this year is Deb Logan (Mount Gilead Schools). Deb is working with Sue Subel (Kenston Local Schools) and Kathy Fredrick (Shaker Heights City Schools). The three of them will continue to keep us informed as we move forward with our advocacy efforts in Ohio.

## HB1 - What can I do?

HB1- the budget for the state of Ohio- is now in the hands of a bipartisan committee made up of:

Representative Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) 614/466-3100  
Representative Ron Amstutz (R-Wooster) 614/466-1474  
Representative Jay Goyal (D-Mansfield) 614/466-5802  
Senator John Carey (R-Wellston) 614/466-8156  
Senator Dale Miller (D-Cleveland) 614/466-5123  
Senator Mark Wagoner (R-Toledo) 614/466-8060

Take some time to call the offices of the committee members listed above to explain the importance of 21st Century Skills for Ohio students.

Give examples of students who are not learning these skills due to the fact that they do not have the services of a certified librarian in their school. Use the talking points- <http://oelmatalkpts.wikispaces.com/Talking+Points> that the Advocacy Committee is maintaining for us. Let's make sure that the state legislators know how librarians contribute to 21st Century learning. This needs to be a part of the 2010 budget!

## OELMA Conference 2009: Educating 21st Century Leaders

by Sarah Thornbery

Can you believe that summer is almost here? It is amazing how quickly this school year has gone. With summer approaching, we know that a new school year is approaching as well. This means that one of the best professional development opportunities is coming as well: OELMA Annual Conference.

This year's conference committee has been busy in preparing a great conference for Ohio's school library community. The conference will feature nationally known speakers, such as David Loertscher and Nancy J. Keane (who was listed as one of Library Journal's 2009 Movers & Shakers). We also have some great authors that are in store for you at conference, such as Betsy Lewin, Pete Hautman, Lauren Myracle, and Tony Abbott. We are very excited also to have Ingrid Law, author of Savvy, which was selected as a 2009 Newbery Honor book.

Conference is a great value. In one conference, you will be able to hear national speakers and authors, learn about best practices in the school library field, visit with vendors about products and services, and network with your colleagues. Mark your calendar to be at OELMA's Annual Conference in Columbus, OH on Oct. 21-23, 2009.

## 2009 OELMA Awards Announced

by Vicky Schmarr

Chair, Scholarship & Awards Committee

There's lots of good work going on in Ohio's school libraries! Nominations for this year's awards highly praised administrators, school librarians, and school library programs. In fact, 2009 nominations totalled the highest number in OELMA's awards program history.



"OELMA proudly announces the 2009 award honorees," said President Marie Sabol. "Their experience and accomplishments exhibit the highest standards of librarianship and excellence in education."

TollGateMiddle School Principal Mark Jones has been named OELMA's 2009 Administrator-of-the-Year. This Pickerington City Schools' administrator's personal commitment to student learning, literacy, and libraries is demonstrated by his professional practice. Principal Jones visits classrooms daily to read with students during schoolwide SSR time. Colleagues report Principal Jones' continued advocacy for full-time library media specialists and well-funded school libraries "has

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effectively empowered the media program to improve student achievement."

For innovative leadership in her school district and long-time service to OELMA, Susan Yutzey has been selected as the 2009 Award of Merit recipient. Susan is the director of the Upper Arlington High School Media Center, Upper Arlington City Schools. Not only does the high school media center boast a strong instructional program, but Susan has shared instructional strategies through professional publications and conference presentations. OELMA has benefitted greatly from Susan's dedication to school librarianship; she has served OELMA in multiple leadership roles, including Secretary, Central Region Director, and Membership Chair.

The OELMA/Follett Library Resources Library Media Specialist-of-the-Year is Marcia Waters, IMC Director, ClineElementary School, CentervilleCitySchools. According to her principal, Marcia is a role-model for the entire staff - a National Board Certified Teacher who teaches literacy, library skills, and technology applications. In addition, Marcia coordinates the services of 20 dedicated parent volunteers. Through dedicated efforts, Marcia has earned high praise from colleagues, including Cline's principal, who states: Marcia is "the best of the best."

Amy Bloomberg, librarian at Roxboro Middle School, Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, is recognized with the ProQuest/SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award. Amy's defense of intellectual freedom made national news and earned the support of the American Civil Liberties Union. By her dedicated support of students' right to read, Amy has earned this honor.

The OELMA Scholarship is awarded to Joshua Boles, a graduate student in the Wright State University School Library Media Program. Gaining real-world experience as a technical assistant at Wright State Library, Joshua recently completed an internship at Springboro Junior High.

Jennifer Halen is the recipient of the J. Allen Oakum Scholarship. A member of OELMA, Jennifer is currently enrolled in KentStateUniversity's (Columbus Campus) School of Library and Information Science graduate program.

The Library of Distinction Award recognizes exemplary school library programs in Ohio. This first-time award honors school libraries - both district-wide programs and building-level programs - that have established excellent instructional initiatives, while building strong school and community partnerships.

The Library of Distinction Award recognizes two exemplary school district library programs: Beachwood City Schools and Centerville City Schools.

The Library of Distinction Award recognizes five exemplary building-level library programs: Hudson High School, Hudson City Schools; Hudson Middle School, Hudson City Schools; Ricky River High School, Rocky River School District; Thomas Worthington High School, Worthington City Schools; and Upper Arlington High School, Upper Arlington Schools.

OELMA's Emerging Leader Award recognizes school librarians' commitment to stepping-up, making a difference, and getting things

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done. The future of OELMA - and school librarianship - depends on dedicated professionals, like these honorees:

Jenniffer Flaherty, Librarian  
BrydenElementary School  
Beachwood City Schools

Brenda Gehm  
Director of Library Services  
Monroe Local Schools

David Hogan  
Fifth Grade Teacher &  
Newly Certified LMS  
Monroe Local Schools

Stacy Holbrook  
Library Media Specialist  
Tri-CountyCareerCenter, Nelsonville

Margie Miller  
Library Media Specialist  
FieldLocalSchools, Mogadore

Annette Speidel  
Library Media Specialist  
Ravenna Schools

Congratulations! Award honorees will be recognized at the Awards Luncheon, Friday, October 23, during OELMA's Annual Conference at the ColumbusConvention Center.

Members of the 2009 Scholarship & Awards Committee include Cheryl Cartwright, Central; Jenniffer Flaherty, Northeast; Ted Gifford, South; Kathy Halsey, Past President; Julie Paladino, East; and Vicky Schmarr, Chair.

### Ohio Educational Library Media Association

17 S. High St. Ste. 200  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: 614-221-1900  
Fax: 614-221-1989  
[aelma@assnoffices.com](mailto:aelma@assnoffices.com)  
[www.oelma.org](http://www.oelma.org)

The Ohio Educational Library Media Association | 17 South High St. | Ste. 200 | Columbus | OH | 43215