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Presidents Message



by Marie Sabol

It's that time of year again- you'll be hearing from your OELMA board about a variety of issues over the next few weeks. We are gearing up for the end of the school year, and preparing for next year. And- April is School Library Media Month- so we'll also be sending you ideas on how you can celebrate the month with your students, teachers and administrators. So what will OELMA be asking of you over the next few weeks?

Nomination Time. The nominations committee is ready to go, and they are actively seeking your input on who should be running this organization for the next two years. Don't wait to be asked- consider stepping up and volunteering to run for office. Our new strategic plan has created some new goals for us, and many of you have ideas on how we can accomplish those goals. This could be your time to help move our organization forward.

Conference Planning Time. Vice President Sarah Thornbery will soon be asking you to volunteer to present at our fall conference. We know you are doing great things in your library- it's time to share your techniques and strategies. Ohio school librarians need to hear how you use Web 2.0 tools, how you conduct reading incentives, or how you advocate with your administrators.

Scholarship and Award Time. Scholarship chair Vicky Schmarr has already sent out one request for nominations for OELMA's various awards and scholarships. It doesn't take too long to nominate a colleague that you feel needs to be recognized by OELMA. What a great way to recognize those who make us shine!

Legislative Action Time. Advocacy Chairs Deb Logan and Sue Subel and Kathy Fredrick are busy working on a plan to take advantage of the current cry from our legislature for 21st Century skills to be taught in our schools. Look for information on how you can help by talking with your stakeholders about how you contribute to those 21st Century skills.

So don't delete those emails, take some time to get involved and help move our profession into the spotlight in Ohio.

AASL's Collaborative Leadership Institute Has Members Wanting More!!!!

by Kathy Halsey

Close to 60 members found that OELMA's Midwinter offering had what they were looking for: a chance to work together to solve common dilemmas that face school librarians today with their core constituents-administrators, parents, teachers and students. Presenter and institute creator Betty Bankhead had this to say about OELMA and Midwinter, "OELMA's midwinter conference was one of the best I have facilitated due to the high level of professionalism OELMA's leadership and members brought to the day. Not only was it was great to see the participants' commitment to learning more about leadership, but it was even more exciting to see how they collaborated to help each other develop practical ideas to take back to their own schools. The enthusiasm and expertise of the Ohio library media specialists made the time spent working together to develop their leadership plans a real highlight for me."

Betty Bankhead began the day by having us reframe our concerns/issue in terms of school-wide instructional issues instead of "library issues." She urged us to start professional conversations and spent the day teaching us how to do just that! Our messages must be positive, meaningful, research-based and tell a story. We learned to look at our issues from the perceptions and agenda of those we work with and for in our own respective districts. Betty gave us strategies for taking the initiative and for setting goals with action plans that are attainable with the help of other institute members who acted as sounding-boards and champions.

Midwinter attendees concurred that they CAN make their goals reality! From the institute's evaluations, 87% of our participants said that they would be taking specific actions as a result of the workshop. The good news is, according to Betty, collaboration, information literacy, 21st century skills - they are all too big to tackle alone! Midwinter participants feel they have the strategies and skills necessary to go back and make important changes that will impact their teaching and their careers.

We will let several satisfied participants tell you the rest of the story...

> Thank you to OELMA's Mid-Winter planning committee for the Great AASL Leadership Institute: Collaborative Leadership presented by Betty Bankhead. It was very motivational. Betty was awesome! She gave us a binder full of handouts - packed full a great strategy tools & useful articles. I walked away with lots of inspiring ideas. It was just what a Mid-winter Conference needs to be.

> Mid-Winter was FANTASTIC this year. The best one ever! It was worth every penny of the \$75 fee and definitely worth getting up at 5:00 a.m. to get to Dublin on time. I went home refreshed, invigorated, and motivated. Even better, I went home with specific goals to work on toward improving our district's library program. The articles and activities in the notebook are top quality and loaded with practical information. Best of all, we were given time to dialogue with others who work at our same grade levels. The sharing of

problems, hurdles, issues, solutions, and ideas was incredibly useful. I wish we could all get back together for a follow-up workshop in a couple of months, just to see how we are all doing and to share our strategies some more! Many, many thanks to OELMA for providing this program for us.

OELMA may be able to provide just the venue for these continued Collaborative Leadership conversations at our fall conference or on the blog or via a wiki! You may want to join one of these conversations to see what you missed!

OPEN CALL FOR CANDIDATES

If you believe that libraries change lives, now is the time to become even more involved in support of that belief. The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for enthusiastic members with new ideas. Your voice makes a difference in the future of your professional organization. Submit the name of an OELMA member (including yourself) that you feel has the qualifications to help run your organization.

Join colleagues from across the state to take advantage of this great professional development opportunity by becoming involved. Expand your borders. Get involved by running for an office or regional director. Your expertise is needed to help mold the library profession for the 21st century workplace. Only through effective advocacy, innovative learning, and successful networking can the organization continue to grow with your help.

If you don't take the time, who will?

OELMA Scholarships & Awards

**by Vicky Schmarr, Chair
2009 Scholarship & Awards Committee**

Honor an outstanding school librarian. Say "Thank You!" to an administrator who's a school library advocate. Recognize an exemplary school library program. Encourage students enrolled in LMS graduate school courses.

It's easy to recognize those who represent the very best in school librarianship: Nominate an administrator, a colleague, or yourself for OELMA's scholarships and awards.

Awards descriptions and nomination details are posted on OELMA's Web site: <http://www.oelma.org/awards/default.asp>

"OELMA's awards program is an important way to support the vision of our organization and to honor those who make valuable contributions to Ohio's school libraries," said OELMA President Marie Sabol. "We all know committed individuals who should be recognized for their efforts and dedication to our profession," she observed.

Nine awards and scholarships are being offered in 2009:

OELMA Scholarship -- A \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a student enrolled in library media specialist coursework. Membership in OELMA is preferred, but not required.

J. Allen Oakum Scholarship -- A \$500 scholarship is awarded to a student studying to become a school library media specialist. Membership in OELMA is preferred, but not required.

Administrator of the Year Award -- Any educational administrator -- superintendent, assistant superintendent, director, coordinator, or principal (excluding current library/media supervisor) -- is eligible. OELMA members must make nominations.

Award of Merit -- This award honors a library/media specialist who has provided outstanding contributions to education while actively participating in OELMA. Nominees must have two years of continuous membership in OELMA to be considered for this award.

OELMA Emerging Leader Award - First awarded in 2008, this award recognizes new leaders who have recently taken on a leadership role - either at their school building or school district or in OELMA. Membership in OELMA is required..

OELMA Library of Distinction Award - New in 2009! This award recognizes noteworthy school library media centers or a district-wide school library program for implementing research-based best practices. Membership in OELMA is required for Library media specialists at recognized school library program or at recognized district-wide library program.

OELMA/Follett School Librarian of the Year Award -- This award is presented to the building-level school library media specialist who is committed to providing services to both students and staff. Nominees must have two consecutive years of OELMA membership to be considered for this award.

ProQuest/SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award - This award honors educators who have demonstrated support for the ALA tenets of intellectual freedom. OELMA membership required.

Be sure to visit the OELMA awards page for additional information. There you will find complete award descriptions, selection criteria, and nomination forms. Here's the link to the awards page:
<http://www.oelma.org/awards/default.asp>

If you know an outstanding library media specialist or a promising student working to join our profession, let others know by nominating them for an award or scholarship.

All applications must be submitted to the OELMA Office by Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

Don't miss this opportunity to recognize outstanding accomplishments of Ohio's school librarians!

Call for Programs is Open for the OELMA Conference

The OELMA Conference will take place Oct. 21-23, 2009, at the

Columbus Convention Center. How are you transforming yourself into a 21st Century Leader? How are you turning your library or school district into a 21st Century Classroom? How are you impacting students to become lifelong learners? One of the most important components of an organization is the ability to provide value to its members. An annual conference provides members the opportunity to learn about new educational technologies, literacy products and initiatives, and how to implement these in your library setting as well as provide networking opportunities with colleagues and vendors. Our focus for presentations is new and cutting-edge applications for the K-12 library world. Literacy initiatives, evidence-based practice, and assessment are other key components for conference proposals.

As in prior years, the conference sessions will be organized into strands. For 2009, the strands will be aligned with the State Library guidelines and educational initiatives in the forefront of school library media. These include: Library 2.0, Reading and Literacy, Library Assessment, Advocacy, Information Literacy, Technological & Media Literacy, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Science).

We need YOU to share your leadership with your OELMA colleagues! You are the transformational part of the OELMA model. How have you reinvented your library program to create 21st Century learners? Show us how you have become a leader on these strands in your library instructional program. How are you advocating for students and quality library programs? Tell us about instructional collaboration with teachers and your use of Web 2.0 in your library program. Share your assessment strategies for informed library practices through your evidenced-based practice.

Let us not become the cassette tape in the MP3 world! It is time for us to lead our schools and districts into the 21st Century!

CALL FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS MUST BE RETURNED BY MAY 4, 2009. <https://www.tandmservices.com/oelma2009/>

Conference Authors

The following Authors have been confirmed for the 2009 OELMA Conference. Watch your email inbox for more to come!

Tony Abbott

Over 8 million of Tony Abbott's books have been sold worldwide, and his series and novels combined have been translated into Italian, Spanish, Korean, French, Japanese, Polish, Turkish, and Russian. *Danger Guys* was named a Children's Book-of-the-Month Club Main Selection, and the American Booksellers Association voted *The Secrets of Droon* among the "Top 10 List of Books to Read while Waiting for the Next Harry Potter." The series was also a Main Selection of the Children's Book-of-the-Month Club, and is on many school and library reading lists. In 2007, his novel *Firegirl* won the Golden Kite Award for Fiction presented by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. It is the only award given by children's writers to children's writers. It was also a selection of the Junior Library Guild.

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

Betsy Lewin

Betsy Lewin grew up in Clearfield, Pennsylvania. She always loved to

draw and can't remember wanting to be anything but an artist. After graduating from Pratt Institute where she studied illustration, Betsy designed greeting cards. Then she began to write and illustrate stories for children's magazines. Many of Betsy's books have appeared on the New York Times Best Seller List and she has garnered many awards including a silver medal from the Society of Illustrators, and a Caldecott Honor for Click, Clack, Moo; Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin. Gorilla Walk is her first collaboration with her husband Ted and is about their trek to see the mountain gorillas in Uganda. <http://www.betsylewin.com/>

David Loertscher

David V. Loertscher has degrees from the University of Utah, the University of Washington and a Ph.D. from Indiana University. He has been a school library media specialist in Nevada and Idaho at both the elementary and secondary school levels. He has taught at Purdue University, The University of Arkansas, The University of Oklahoma, and is presently a professor at the School of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University. He served as head of the editorial department at Libraries Unlimited for ten years and is President of Hi Willow Research & Publishing (distributed by LMC Source at www.lmcsource.com). He is a past president of the American Association of School Librarians.

<http://www.davidvl.org/Davidvl.org/Home.html>

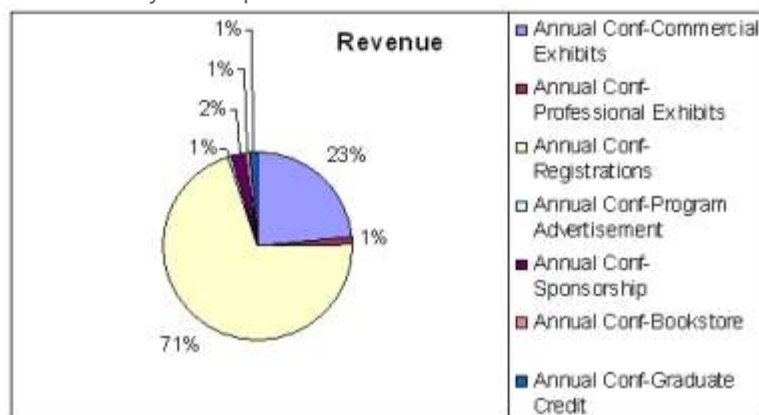
<http://davidloertscher.wordpress.com/>

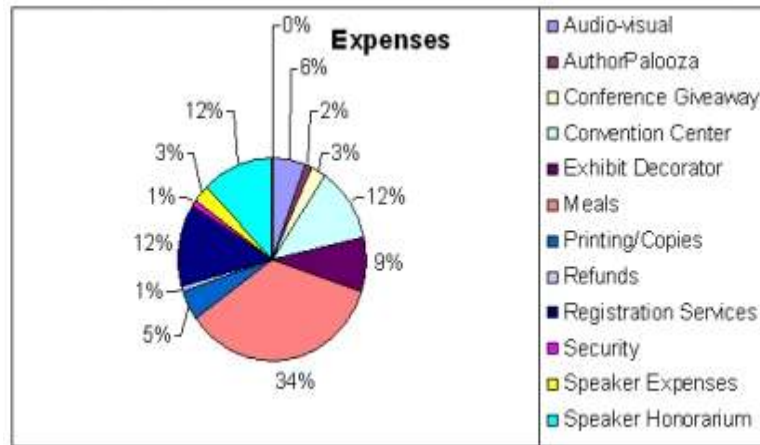
OELMA Conference FAQ's

Often the OELMA office and/or the Conference Chair are asked questions about why we handle the decisions regarding the planning of the OELMA Conference the way we do. Here is a list of frequently asked questions about the conference, and their answers.

1. How are the conference revenues spent?

The charts below explain where the conference revenues come from, and how they are expensed.





2. The Meals cost is the largest expense. Why is it so expensive?

The Columbus Convention Center, like all hotels and conference centers, requires that all food and beverage be purchased through their in-house caterer, Aramark Foods. Because there is no competition, costs can be quite high, with a 20% service charge on top of the price of each item. The meals expense also includes the cost for the water coolers that OELMA provides, snacks and breaks, the lunches and breakfasts that are all part of the Conference.

3. What is OELMA doing to hold down expenses?

OELMA recognizes that our conference is one of several choices available to members, and we are working to keep costs affordable. In 2008 and 2009, OELMA has secured an in-kind sponsor for the majority of the conference audio-visual equipment, saving approximately \$7,000. In addition, in 2008 we moved to a smaller portion of the Convention Center to save on facility costs.

4. Why doesn't the Conference have more (or bigger name) authors?

OELMA spends approximately 15 percent of the conference expenses on authors and their travel costs. Various authors have different rates, but most of OELMA's conference authors range in price from \$1,000 to \$3,500 per appearance. This is one expense item that hasn't been cut in recent years, but is maintained in our effort to bring in quality authors.

5. Why is the Conference held at the Columbus Convention Center each year?

The Columbus Convention Center is the only location in Central Ohio that has enough meeting space for all of the Conference sessions, PLUS a large ballroom for the meal functions and large speaker events, PLUS a large ballroom for the exhibit hall. OELMA negotiates costs with the Convention Center based upon our history there.

6. Why doesn't the OELMA Conference provide internet access for attendees and speakers?

The Convention Center, like most hotels and conference centers, requires that internet access be purchased through their preferred provider. Costs for this have risen considerably. It would cost approximately \$8,000 to have internet access for every room OELMA uses during Conference.

7. Why is the 2009 Conference scheduled for Wednesday-Friday, instead of Thursday-Saturday?

In an effort to accommodate members who cannot always get away for the conference during the week, OELMA had decided to schedule the 2009 Conference to start on Thursday and end on Saturday. However, feedback from exhibitors and attendees at the 2008 Conference was strongly against this. Many people indicated that they would not attend on a Saturday. OELMA revised the dates for this year's conference to start on Wednesday, Oct. 21, and end on Friday, Oct. 23.

Member Needs Survey

Last Fall, the Membership Committee prepared and sent to all members a survey. Nearly 33 percent of OELMA members completed the survey - results far greater than we were expecting! Here are some of the results.

What OELMA services are most valued by its members?

The answer that received the highest percentage of Excellent Value ratings (57.8%) was Lobbying for Student Achievement through the Retention of School Librarians and Libraries. OELMA is continuing this work in 2009 through our active pursuit of including Library Media Programs in the state Budget Bill, our work connecting Library Media programs with members of the State Board of Education, and our efforts to contact districts that are reducing their library media specialists and explaining to them why this is detrimental to student achievement.

The OELMA Conference received the second highest number of Excellent Value ratings, at 52.5%. The Conference planning for 2009 is well underway, and it is shaping up to be our best yet!

How well is OELMA communicating?

Over 45% of respondents rated the OELMA listserv as Excellent Value. The second highest rated communication tool was the OELMA Newsletter. Nearly 43% of respondents agreed that in communicating to its membership, OELMA does an excellent job. Just over 39% stated that OELMA does a good job, with 13.2% answering that OELMA's communication with members is Adequate and 4.6% felt that OELMA does a poor job communicating with members. This is an area where we continue to strive to improve. OELMA recently created a new blog for additional communication, and we are currently working on a major update to the OELMA web site.

One question asked if members were interested in changing the current cycle for paying dues (January through December). Nearly half of respondents indicated that OELMA should keep the current payment timeline. Just over 20% indicated that they would prefer that the dues calendar change to October 1 to September 30. OELMA has no plans to change the dues calendar at this time.

Respondents were asked to indicate one reason for choosing membership in OELMA. Comments include...

1. I feel connected to the library world through OELMA.
 2. It keeps me in touch with other Ohio librarians. I can learn what people in other districts are doing with their students, and that is exciting.
 3. No one else advocates for the library profession in Ohio to the extent that OELMA does.
 4. Aside from ALA/AASL, OELMA is the finest organization promoting library/media craft there is. In fact, I rely on and look to OELMA more often than ALA.
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5. I am a department of one - being the only certified media specialist/librarian in my school district. I crave interaction with other colleagues, and OELMA provides that!
6. It enhances my effectiveness in my position.
7. I originally joined OELMA b/c it was highly suggested that I do so by my employer. I have continued membership for the opportunity to serve in leadership roles to support OELMA and school libraries.

Member News

Karen Hildebrand, Delaware City Schools, Library Media Specialist in the Central Ohio Region has been selected to serve on IRA's Notable Books for a Global Society National Selection Committee for a 3-year term; as a part of the 10 person committee

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