



Suellyn's Speculations

...Continued from front page

...Correspondingly, the instructional intervention by the school librarian goes beyond teaching students how to use technology tools to access and evaluate information, but also providing instruction in how to use these tools effectively and reflectively to create products. (Todd and Kuhlthau, 12/3)

From the initial findings the Todd/Kuhlthau research study, ...understanding how to do research effectively, understanding how to identify key ideas, analyzing, synthesizing and evaluating information, testing their own ideas, developing personal conclusions are fundamental to students constructing their own understanding of a topic. These are complex cognitive dimensions of learning, and the students appear to indicate that the school library — not as a passive supply agency, but as an instructional agency — helps them substantially learn. Students appear to be empowered in their learning by the instructional intervention of the school librarian in relation to their learning.” (Todd and Kuhlthau, 12/03)

Further, the school library plays an important role in helping students determine the “quality” of information:

...particularly with the availability of information, misinformation and disinformation on the Internet. Nearly 93% of students indicated help in this aspect. Students’ statements identify and value the role of school librarians’ instruction (individual or class) in developing this capacity to judge quality, appropriate information.” (Todd and Kuhlthau, 12/03)

(Student Comments from the study)

“When you go to the librarian for help, the librarian gets you to explain in your own words the questions you have to answer in your project. She makes sure you understand what you are going to do and then helps you get into it.” (#789)

“Once, earlier this semester, we were doing a persuasive essay on discrimination. I wanted to do my essay on discrimination against musically and theatrically talented students and adults. Through the library’s help, staff and resources

available I was able to narrow my topic down to discrimination against the fine arts. I pin-pointed it down to every detail I was able to find, and the librarian gave me pointers on how I could find specific information on what I was looking for. My essay turned out to be an A+ paper, and I couldn’t have done it without the library’s help. That took the pain out of finding the info and writing the paper. (#2783)

“I needed help doing a project ... that had to do with presidents and they had so many books and then the librarian help me find websites. But then they gave me ways of sorting through all the ideas to extract the key points so I could get my head around it all.” (#100)

“Whenever I have a research paper, the librarians direct me to exactly where I can find information about my topic and still let me find it. They help me but don’t do it for me so that next time I can do it all by myself by remembering what they showed me and thinking it out.” (#3835)

Todd goes on to say that:

...by providing diverse resources and instruction in the use of multiple formats, the school library helps students access multiple viewpoints on an issue, phenomena or event, and to enable them to construct their own viewpoint. This embraces understanding different views, identifying different arguments / cases, and dealing with conflicting viewpoints. (Todd and Kuhlthau, 12/03)

(Student Comments)

“The school library really helped me with my language arts project on the death penalty. I found a lot of good information, but it made me think about whether we should have it or not. I don’t think we should now.” (#1402)

I was once doing a project in Science, and I was really trusting our library to have many different facts on my topic. So, I did, and found all kinds of stuff! Some of the facts were the same, but I found my different ones too which puzzled me and helped me work out what I really thought. So, my school library has helped me a lot in my school work. I can also find a lot of good books on the

topics I love the most. Like ghosts, and the universe, and under the ocean. (#1389)

“With the resources of our library, I have been able to learn a lot more about topics such as abortion and stem cell research. Before I researched and knew exactly what stem cell research was I believed that it was a good thing for science in every aspect, but through research I found that I didn’t totally agree with it. I learned from a library computer that aborted babies’ stem cells are used. In my opinion, you can’t take a life to save a life. The library helped me to learn more about this topic and how it affects people.” (#10102)

(A full presentation of students’ comments will appear in the full web-based documentation.)

The Ohio Research Study, Todd says, provides evidence that:

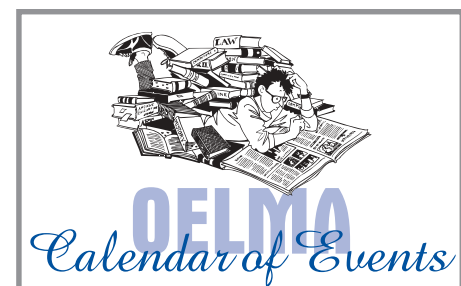
“an effective school library, lead by a credentialed school librarian, one who is particularly engaged in an instructional process centering on the development of students’ intellectual scaffolds for engaging with and using information for building knowledge, clearly plays a vital role in facilitating student learning. An effective school library and its professional, curriculum-centered school librarian represent a major opportunity for students in Ohio to learn.” (Todd and Kuhlthau, 12/03)

There is a clear message here to all education stakeholders: School librarians do make a difference and without effective school libraries, students will be left behind! Let’s get the proof out there people! Keep checking the OELMA website (www.oelma.org) for more information on contacting educators and legislators in a united effort that will facilitate change in Ohio. OELMA will be posting reports, documents, PowerPoint presentations, press releases, etc. as they become available so OELMA members and others can access and use the findings of the research study.

It looks like a wonderful new year!

Author/Illustrator Visit Info

If you are thinking about an author/illustrator visit — we’d like to help. We are a literacy initiative that will do all the ground work for you. Our help is free to schools and libraries. Because we work so closely with the authors/illustrators we can arrange the lowest honorarium possible for that particular author/illustrator. We have several authors and illustrators we are working with this year including: Jim Aylesworth, Carol Gorman, Franny Billingsley, Tanya Lee Stone, and Jeni Reeves. Find out more by checking <http://www.mcelmeel.com/bookauthor>. We can still help arrange visits for 2003–04 and are scheduling into the 2004 – 05 year. We are willing to answer general inquiries about author/illustrator visits and suggest other authors/illustrators as well. Contact: mcelmeel@mcelmeel.com or phone (319) 393-2562, Sharron McElmeel.



January, 2004
22 – Using INFOhio Databases, 4:30-6:30 pm, Upper Arlington High School

February, 2004
5 – Krista Tarachuk, Weeding and Collection Development, 4:30-6:30 pm, Upper Arlington High School

March, 2004
4 – Melanie Myers, Update on Young Adult Literature, 4:30-6:30 pm, Metropolitan Educational Council

April, 2004
1 – Deb Logan, Collaborating with Classroom Teachers, 4:30-6:30 pm, Upper Arlington High School

May, 2004
6 – Best Practices, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Upper Arlington High School

Celebrating School Librarians

Carla Southers, Assistant Director,
Office of Curriculum & Instruction Ohio Department of Education

I would like to begin the New Year not by making resolutions — but by paying compliments to several OELMA leaders. **Suellyn Stotts**, OELMA President has lead OELMA through a period of enormous organizational change. The transition to the management company has been smooth and Suellyn should be commended for the many long hard hours she has spent working through the details of OELMA’s various business needs and policy concerns.

I have had the pleasure of working with Suellyn for several years now, through conferences, library guidelines, ALA presentations, AASL meetings, focus groups, grants, awards, testimony, and a host of other library adventures. I can not thank her enough for her friendship and dedication to the advancement of school librarianship. I also know that Suellyn has a love of literacy and promotes literacy through the school library. She is involved in several statewide literacy initiatives.

We are all aware of **Linda Cornette’s** (Immediate Past President) commitment to intellectual freedom and the fight against censorship, but we may not be as

familiar with her work on the Ohio Education Coalition and with Ohio’s Learning First Alliance. Linda has been trumpeting the contribution of school librarians as educators to the ODE and Ohio’s education leaders. She has placed OELMA at the Ed Coalition leadership table which allows our story to be heard. This is a voice that we have not had in the past. Linda has also been instrumental in requiring the make-up of OLFA school improvement teams to include a credentialed school librarian. **Gayle Geitgey** (Past President) has played a strong role in positioning librarians at the heart of educational initiatives. I want to thank Gayle for leading the Library Guidelines Alignment Team and serving as an advisor to the Technology Standards development process. She has lobbied, testified, provided information and worked with the ODE on so many projects that I just can’t mention them all.

I want to compliment **Kathy Fredrick** who led the drafting of the information literacy component of Ohio’s Technology Standards; as well as, **Deb Logan** and **Susan Berg** who did double-duty by serving on both the Technology Standards and the Library Guidelines writing teams.

Board Motions

...Continued from page 4

NOTE: Current AWARD Nomination forms are available from the OELMA Office and on the OELMA website. Application deadline is March 1. All Awards are presented at the Annual Conference unless otherwise noted. OELMA will maintain a list of all past and present awards and will publish them in the annual membership directory.

Web Master – responsible, along with Director of Services, for Home Page Maintenance

1. Monitors OELMA home page information, including links, to ensure it remains timely and accurate
2. Reviews requests from other webmasters to link to their sites.
3. Works with Director of Services, OELMA officers and Technology Department to assure quality of web site.
4. Ensures that IPS and Director of Services keep a backup of the site.

5. Maintains an awareness of ongoing OELMA policy and management initiatives, and identifies opportunities to use the Internet to facilitate initiatives in OELMA.
6. Monitors regional, committee and division pages to identify topics that might be fitting for new sections of the home page and trends or items that could be of interest to the program contacts. Suggest changes to the Board.
7. Determines, with approval of President and/or OELMA Board, and working through the Director of Services, the placement of all new information submitted by program areas, as instructed and trained by the web development company.

Seconded by Leeann Galloway. Motion passed.



OELMA News

Wisconsin Meeting Info

Mark your calendars for the 2004 Wisconsin Educational Media Association conference, April 18th – 20th at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. This year’s theme is **The Right Stuff: Tools for the Future**. This theme, along with the conference focus on advocacy, reflects the impact the library media specialist and the school library have on student test scores and achievement.

Featured presenters will include nationally recognized speakers: Gary Hartzell, Judith Krug, Keith Curry Lance, and Will Hobbs. Conference participants will have a unique opportunity to interact with their elected officials during Tuesday morning’s Legislative Breakfast sponsored by Inacom. For individuals who wish to come, but are unable to attend the full conference, a Sunday Special is offered including admission to the Author Fair, CCBC Display, Judith Krug Banquet and President’s Reception.

For more information on programs and registration, please visit us on the Web at www.wema.org.

Central Region Update

The Central Region is sponsoring 5 great workshops for you to attend in the New Year. Check the calendar of events section for dates, times and session titles. These workshops are part of our “Planning an Effective School Library Program” Series. The cost per session is \$20 for OELMA members and \$24 for non-OELMA members. More information is available online at <http://www.oelma.org/centralworkshops.htm>

Suellyn's Speculations

Suellyn Stotts, OELMA President



Dear OELMA members,

Are you ready for some exciting holiday news? We can provide that thanks to results from the OELMA research study “Student Learning through Ohio School Libraries” conducted by Dr. Ross Todd and Dr. Carol Kuhlthau. Along with this newsletter you will find a two page pull-out section you can share with building administrators and an 8 page document that represents the first formal findings of the Todd/Kuhlthau research study.

“Searching is a life skill. We are always seeking information. What car or stereo should I buy? Which college should I choose? Which book should I read next? How can I sell this idea to my boss? How can I convince the school board to act on my proposal?”

Information helps us reach conclusions, make our choices, and communicate more effectively. But the good stuff is often buried in heaps of junk.

We need to continue to improve our searching and evaluating skills in a changing information environment.” (Joyce Kasman Valenza, Dec. 2, 2003, www.joycevalenza.com)

So begins Joyce Valenza’s webpage, *The Neverending Story*. In 2001, Valenza wrote an article with similar conclusions, but relating specifically to college freshmen. In “Skills that College Freshmen Need,” (April 26, 2001, online) Ms. Valenza explored the idea that most entering college students today are computer-savvy but know little about research and information ethics. In this article Ms. Valenza quoted a college professor:

“Catherine Schifter, associate professor in Temple University’s department of

curriculum, instruction and technology in education, finds her students “come into the college environment with a lack of understanding of how to interpret material — what’s good, what’s not good. They are not clear on ethical issues of how to cite. They don’t know that it is not appropriate to steal clip art. They may have been taught that there are copyright rules, but the concept of intellectual property hasn’t sunk in. Most believe if it’s this easy, it must be OK.”

Little has changed in the time since Valenza’s article first appeared. In Walter Minkel’s 2002 Pew study, Mr. Minkel reported what many school librarians already know: students overwhelmingly (78%) prefer to use the Net to do research even though “the kids often don’t know how a search engine works...or even how the Internet works.” (Minkel, “Pew Study: Students Prefer “Virtual Library.” SLJ, Oct. 2002, pp. 28-30.)

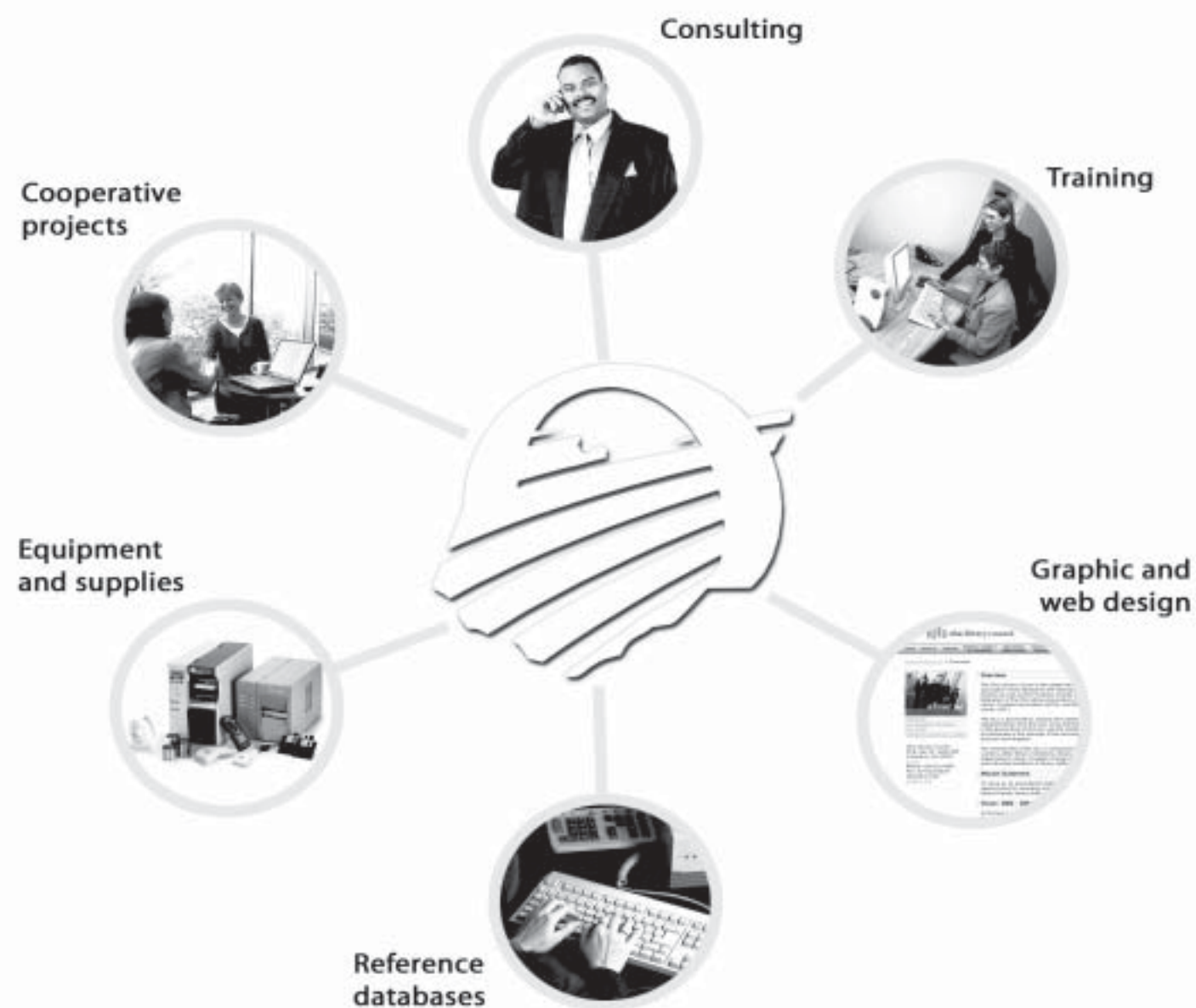
Why does this situation exist? I would posit one important reason is that not enough schools have licensed library media specialists who have a schedule that permits them to actively engage with students and teachers at their point of need on just these topics as well as other issues of information literacy. **With the OELMA research study “Student Learning through Ohio School Libraries” conducted by Dr. Ross Todd, we now have positive proof of how effective school libraries, with actively involved school library media specialists, positively affect students’ development of research, ethical usage and other information literacy skills.**

Ranked highest by the students, the effective school library’s role in information technology goes well beyond that of information access.

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Your Library and Information Partner



OHIONET is a membership-driven organization that provides cost-effective information sharing with integrity, innovation, and responsive customer service. OHIONET provides support, training and consultation related to all services from the OCLC Online Computer Library Center. Serving libraries in Ohio and its environs, OHIONET offers group purchasing for reference products and technology-related products, web design services, and continuing education programs. OHIONET promotes cooperative partnerships within the library and information community.

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January 11, 2003

Motion 2003-1: Sue Subel moved the minutes be accepted as corrected. Seconded by Susan Yutzey. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-2: Joanna McNally moved that the Board approve the OELMA 2003 Annual Conference rates as stipulated on the Memo to the Board of Directors with the addition of a 'one day Non-Member rate' of \$150.00 and a professional exhibitor rate of \$125.00. Seconded by Bob Williams. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-3: Bob Williams moved that the OELMA budget for 2003 be approved with the following changes: 1). Addition of \$3,000 received from Ashland University college credit to be budgeted for a new web page. 2). Add a line in venue for college graduate credit receipts. Seconded by Joanna McNally. Motion passed.

March 14 – 15, 2003

Motion 2003-4: Joanna McNally moved that OELMA agree to contract with T&M Services as our registration needs at GOTEK 2003 for the contracted price of \$8,985.00. Seconded by Linda Cornette. Motion passed March 14, 2003.

Motion 2003-5: Bernie Nichols moved that the By Laws Committee will review and revise the current By Laws and Policies of OELMA and submit to the Board by August 1, 2003.

Motion 2003-6: Kathy Fredrick moved that Suellyn Stotts, OELMA President, send a letter of authorization on behalf of OELMA to Rutgers University Institutional Review Board for the "Student Learning Through Ohio School Libraries" Project. Seconded by Cynthia Husted. Motion passed March 14, 2003.

Motion 2003-7: Bernie Nichols moved that we accept the proposed awards from the OELMA Scholarship and Awards Committee and extend the deadline for the attached list until May 1, 2003. Seconded by Cynthia Husted. Motion passed March 15, 2003.

Attached list consisted of: Edgar Dale Award, Intellectual Freedom Award, Educational Resources Scholarship, Educational Resources Software Award, and Bound to Stay Bound Scholarship.

Motion 2003-8: Linda Cornette moved that the Board approve the Slate of Ballot of nominations as presented. Seconded by Bernie Nichols. Motion passed March 15, 2003.

The Officers Slate:

Vice President: Chris Findlay (West Region)
Treasurer: Doug Dillon (South Region)
Regional Director: Cynthia Husted (Central Region)
Regional Director: Jane Puleo (Northeast Region)
Regional Director: Elaine McGuire (West Region)
Regional Director: Emily Zauss Colpi (South Region)**
Regional Director: Jennifer Farthing (East Region)**
Regional Director: Cynthia Skiver (Northwest Region)

Roll call vote:

Linda Cornette Yes
 Elaine Ezell Yes
 Bernie Nichols Yes
 Jackie Yambert Yes
 Joanna McNally No
 Jane Puleo No
 Becky Roetgerman No
 Doug Dillon Abstention
 Kathy Fredrick Abstention
 Leeann Gallaway Abstention
 Cynthia Husted Abstention
 Sue Subel Abstention
 Bob Williams Abstention

**These positions were filled at a later date.

May 10, 2003

Motion 2003-9: Susan Yutzey moved that the March 14-15, 2003 minutes be approved as corrected. Seconded by Bob Williams. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-10: Bob Williams moved that the following revisions be made to the OELMA 2003 Budget: Account 51002 "Association Management Exp" be reduced by \$1,200.00 to \$300.00 and that Account 51065 "Professional Meeting" be increased by \$1,200.00 to \$5,200.00. Seconded by Linda Cornette. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-11: Bob Williams moved that the 2004 Annual Conference in October take place at the Columbus Convention Center and that the check issued

for \$5,00,000+ be made for the deposit. Seconded by Cynthia Husted. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-12: Joanna McNally moved that OELMA incorporate a Collaborator Rate for administrators to attend the Annual Conference at a rate of \$75.00. Seconded by Bernie Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-13: Joanna McNally moved that OELMA approve a contract with CAMLS to develop a new OELMA Website. Seconded by Bob Williams. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-14: Susan Yutzey moved for the Membership Committee that the categories for membership be adopted as follows: Active (Certified), Active (Classified), Retired, Student, Lifetime, Corporate be presented to the membership for a vote. Motion defeated.

September 6, 2003

Motion 2003-15: Sue Subel moved that the OELMA Board put forth a membership dues increase that will be phased in at \$65.00 for calendar year 2004 and \$75.00 for calendar year 2005. Seconded by Doug Dillon. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-16: Cynthia Husted moved that the OELMA Board put forth a membership dues increase that will be phased in at \$30.00 for Retired/Student in calendar year 2004 and \$35.00 for calendar year 2005. Seconded by Jane Puleo. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-17: Joanna McNally moved that the OELMA Board approve the revised 2003 Annual Conference rates as stipulated on the Memo to the Board of Directors with the addition of an Exhibits pass for \$30.00. Seconded by Bernie Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-18: Joanna McNally moved that the OELMA Board approve a contract to hire a commercial ISP to host the new OELMA web site not to exceed \$40.00 per month. Seconded by Elaine Ezell. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-19: Bernie Nichols moved that the balance of the unencumbered LSTA Grant monies be committed to billable services for promotion of the Student Learning Through Ohio School

OELMA Board Motions 2003

Libraries monies, and give the OELMA Executive Committee permission to make any further decisions related to the LSTA Grant monies. Seconded by Cynthia Husted. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-20: Bernie Nichols moved that the Executive Committee of OELMA be given permission to expend up to \$10,000.00 to produce a CD of the Student Learning Through Ohio Schools Libraries project for future profit. Seconded by Linda Cornette. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-21: I move that we (OELMA Board) defer the proposed Membership Survey being sent to the members. Seconded by Elaine Ezell. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-22: Elaine Ezell moved that we accept the document "The Policy Statement of The Ohio Educational Library Media Association" as revised. Seconded by Linda Cornette. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-23: Bob Williams moved

that the minutes from the September Board Meeting with a change of sponsorship totals for GOTEK 2003 \$9750.00 be approved. Seconded by Elaine Ezell. Motion passed.

Motion 2003-24: Linda Cornette moved that we approve last year's 2002 minutes of the OELMA Annual Meeting. Seconded by Chris Findlay. Motion passed.

November 19, 2003

(E-mail vote with 12 votes for yes, four people did not vote.)

Motion 2003-25: Linda Cornette moved that OELMA Board accept the following changes to OELMA's Policy:

- Scholarship and Awards Committee**
1. Consists of a chair, a Past President, and at least three (3) members.
 2. Implements the criteria for awarding scholarships and other awards of the Association.
 3. Oversees the number and dollar amounts of the scholarships and

awards to be presented as approved by the Board, and submits a budget to cover committee expenses.

4. Recommends a time line for applications and nominations to the Board of Directors.
5. Publicizes the scholarship and award programs through Association and similar publications and mailings.
6. Presents the names of recipients and alternates for scholarships and awards to the Board of Directors for approval no later than the May Board meeting.
7. Prepares a list of plaques and other awards to be presented at the Annual Conference. Presents list of award winners to Director of Services by August 1.
8. Revises the applications and nominations forms as necessary.
9. Maintains a list of past winners and provides that list to the Director of Services for publication in the membership directory and at annual conference.

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