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Oklahoma MPLA Board Report

February 22, 2005

by Wayne Hanway, Oklahoma Library Association Representative

Legislative Issues

A top legislative priority for OLA this year is supporting the Oklahoma Department of Libraries budget request for additional funds to remove a long-term disparity between the state aid formula for library systems and the formula for municipal libraries. A surprise bill that would have changed the formula without the additional funding was defeated in a committee hearing. OLA's annual legislative day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th.

New Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma Selection

"Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma" is a four year program that is featuring a book on the Oklahoma experience to be read and discussed statewide each year through Oklahoma's centennial year in 2007, and has been designated an official centennial program. The books are chosen by a statewide vote. The book selected for 2005 is *Walking the Choctaw Road*, by Choctaw storyteller Tim Tingle. For more details go to the website: <http://www.okreadsok.org/>.

Beth Avery and Nancy Pearl Among Speakers for 2005 OLA Conference

The 2005 annual conference of the Oklahoma Library Association is just around the corner, March 30th – April 1st, at the National Employee Development Center in Norman. The conference theme is "A New Spin @ Your Library." Program information and registration forms are available online at www.oklibs.org. Featured speakers include author Rilla Askew, MPLA President Beth Avery, and noted readers' advisor and model for the librarian action figure Nancy Pearl. There will be a special event at a Norman theater on March 30th in memory of Donna Norvell, former Children's Library Services Coordinator at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and former MPLA Childrens and School section chair. OLA is also working on plans to sponsor a children's book award named for Donna Norvell.

Coming OLA workshops include (for more information, go to www.ok.libs.org):

- May 6 – Help Wanted: Recruiting and Utilizing Volunteers, sponsored by the Public Library Division. At Stillwater Public Library.