

ST-9

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Oklahoma Library Association Representative

Wayne Hanway

The Governor of Oklahoma, Brad Henry, held a press conference on October 15th to announce the Read Y'All Campaign. The campaign is to increase awareness of the problem of illiteracy in Oklahoma and to promote the libraries, literacy organizations, and others who offer assistance to those who want to improve their reading abilities. The Governor and First Lady are featured on a poster for the campaign. Their photograph was taken by the noted photographer, David Fitzgerald. The Read Y'All campaign is a joint project of the Metropolitan Library System, the Oklahoma Library Association, the Tulsa City-County Library, and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

The Buffalo Public Library had a grand opening following their renovation. The library received a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and donations from private individuals to fund the renovation. The library doubled its available space.

The Oklahoma Library Association plans to hold its first OLA Leadership Institute November 3 – 6, 2004, at the Noble Foundation, in Ardmore.

A delegation of Russian library managers visited the Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma the week of October 5 – 12, sponsored by the Open World Leadership Program at the Library of Congress. Some highlights of the week included a meeting with the Public Library Directors Council, a meeting with the OLA Public Relations Committee, visits to 9 southeast Oklahoma libraries, a hard hat tour of the nearing-completion new downtown library in Oklahoma City, seeing a high school football game, and a day in Tulsa visiting the Gilcrease Museum and then shopping. The success of the visit was summed up by an English-speaking member of the delegation in an e-mail she sent after returning to Moscow: "I'd like to say that all my girls are very enthusiastic about sharing their new knowledge and experience with their colleagues, relatives and friends. I think they will be very successful at their work after they learned so much. They didn't expect to meet such wonderful people and they said that no kind of politics will be able to change their opinion about Americans."

The Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma Museum Association, and the Oklahoma Historical Society sponsored a forum on August 15th. The program was "Developing Public Image and Expanding Local Support." More than 100 librarians, historians, and museum professionals and volunteers attended the event at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History located at the University of Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries held seven public library trustee workshops in September. The program was designed to acquaint library trustees with two important planning documents recently approved by ODL: the Models of Library Service document (originally developed by the Public Library Directors Council); and the Oklahoma Youth Services Guidelines. Both documents are available for review on the ODL web site.

The fifth annual First Amendment Congress will be November 6th and 7th at the University of Central Oklahoma, in Edmond. The Congress is sponsored by Freedom of Information Oklahoma, with co-sponsorship by fourteen other organizations, including the Oklahoma Library Association, the Oklahoma Bar Association, the Associated Press, the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters, and the Oklahoma Press Association. The theme this year is "Homeland Security: Redefining Freedom." The programs Nov. 6th will be geared to high school and college students, and educators. The programs on Nov. 7th are intended for professionals, whether in libraries, law, or journalism. Check the ODL web site (www.odl.state.ok.us/fyi/foi/) for more information.

The Oklahoma Library Association has launched an endowment drive and has already been successful in meeting a challenge grant.

A workshop, "Be Your Own Legal Beagle: Tracking Down Federal and Oklahoma Laws," will be presented by the OLA Government Documents Round Table on March 18, 2004, at the Oklahoma State University Library, in Stillwater.

Three prominent Oklahoma librarians have either retired recently or plan to retire soon. Ray Lau, long time director of the Northwestern State University Library and former Oklahoma Library Association Chapter Councillor, retired this summer. Jan Keene, Assistant Director of the Tulsa City-County Library, retired on September 30th after forty years. Dr. Ed Johnson, dean of libraries at Oklahoma State University, has announced that he plans to retire in February of 2004.

Congratulations to Marilyn Hinshaw, Executive Director of the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System and past president of MPLA, for the MPLA Distinguished Service Award she will be presented at the MPLA/NLA/REFORMA conference at Tahoe.