

ST-9

Oklahoma Report  
January 8, 2009

In November, Kay Boies celebrated her 25th anniversary as Executive Director for the Oklahoma Library Association. We have appreciated all she does for the betterment of libraries in Oklahoma.

Beginning with a focus group at the State Department of Education sponsored workshop, Encyclo-media, the membership committee is working to increase membership for OLA. Findings from that session indicated the importance of contacting people and asking them to join an organization. The group indicated that an email was fine as long as it was not a bulk mailing. The membership committee of OLA is working to contact every school librarian not currently a member of OLA. The value of membership will be promoted as well as the conference to be held in April. It will be interesting to see if a personal email will make a difference.

The Sequoyah Committee is planning its 50th anniversary to be celebrated at the OLA conference. The Sequoyah Children's Book Award was given in April, 1959, making the award the third oldest children's choice award in the nation. In 1988, the first Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award was given. Interest from librarians serving high school youth has resulted in the first high school reading team. The children's list is designed for those in 3rd through 5th grades, the intermediate list is for those in grades 6th through 8th , and the high school list is grades 9th through 12th.

There has been much discussion on generating revenue for OLA. We are trying various methods to cut cost. One is to advertise electronically instead of using the mail.

Plans are underway for the joint conference with MPLA. Attendees should have a variety of activities to choose from during the conference. Sightseeing around downtown Oklahoma City is very informative and entertaining. The Myriad Botanical Gardens and Crystal Bridge, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum is but a few.

Respectfully submitted  
Barbara Ray