

ST-08

to: MPLA Executive Board

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from: Theresa Dickson, Oklahoma Library Association Representative

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT TULSA

We're almost there! After months of planning, the Tulsa conference is ready to go. From April 26th- 29th, librarians from all over the state will visit vendors, see old friends, and have the opportunity to learn through a variety of offerings. A sampling of the topics covered: Licensing Electronic Information; Internet Searching Techniques & Websites; Completing the Picture: Rounding Out Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Collections in Academic Libraries; Human Resource Skills; Distance Education; Hardware and Software Troubleshooting; Hate Crimes, Hate Speech & the 1st Amendment; Time Management for the Log-jammed Professional; Understanding & Planning for Change; Community Outreach; DVDs in Libraries; Best New Reference Resources; Reading Motivation; E-Books; Ethical Decision-Making; ILL Changes and Discussion; Consumer Health & Alternative Medicine.

In addition, Oklahoma's Sequoyah Children's Book Award for Children and Young Adults will be presented to the winning authors. This year, "The Million Dollar Shot" by Dan Gutman won for Children; "I Have Lived A Thousand Years: Growing Up In The Holocaust" by Livia Bitton-Jackson for Young Adults.

Other authors who will be attending the conference are Patti Dickinson ("Hollywood & The Hard Way: A Cowboy's Journal"), Elvira Woodruff ("Dear Austin: Letters From The Underground Railroad"), Nancy Pickard (the Jenny Cain mysteries) and Oklahoma authors Kim Doner, Howard Stein, Molly Griffis, and Desiree Webber.

Keynote speakers include Dr. George Henderson, author of "Our Souls to Keep: Black/White Relations in America," Bill Gordon, Executive Director of ALA, and Frosty Troy on Grassroot Politics.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

April 13th has been scheduled for the annual Library Legislative Day at the State Capitol. Librarians and supporters statewide will converge on our elected officials and tell them how much libraries do and how much more we could do with increased funds.

UCITA (the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act) has been quickly reviewed by the Oklahoma House Judiciary Committee and will now be sent to a Joint Conference Committee for further work. OLA has joined several other concerned groups to urge the legislators to look closely at this item.

OLA TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

"Book Challenges: Success or Failure and How to Survive in Either Case" was a great success on February 25, with 60 attendees. And in March 9th, "Libraries, 'Lectronic Resources & the Law" netted much praise and thirty participants. "Don't Look Now- I'm Virtual: Effective Web Teaching Strategies" was another winner on the 23rd, with 30 librarians showing up to learn how to teach the public about online resources.

Other workshops are planned in May and June: “American Fact Finder – Census 1990 & 2000: Where to Find Those Numbers” on May 9th; “Violence and Safety, Fact & Fiction! How to Have a Safety Plan of Action And a Healthy Work Place” on June 16th; and a reference resources training is planned for June.

IN ADDITION

On February 25th, Pat Woodrum, retired Executive Director of the Tulsa City-County Library System, was honored by the University of Oklahoma College of Arts and Sciences as an exceptional alumni of the college. Woodrum, with three other honorees, spoke at a University ceremony, where she discussed libraries and managing public libraries in the 21st Century.

The University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Science has announced the appointment of a new Director of the department. Dr. Danny Wallace, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will begin his work on July 1, 2000. In addition, his wife, Dr. Connie Van Fleet, will join the Library School faculty as an Associate Professor on August 16th.

The External Review Panel for the Committee on American Library Association Accreditation will begin their work at the library school this week. Faculty has been notified that the committee may want to review curriculum and ask other accreditation question over the next few months.

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries has developed cooperative trainings, to provide internet skills for library staff. “Children’s Literature Websites” is a resource training which occurs not only in the ODL computer lab, but is also ‘taken on the road’ to computer labs around the state. In cooperation with the State Department of Education, ODL trainers have also provided computer lab hands-on trainings (15-two hour sessions) on Oklahoma’s statewide shared databases for school librarians. And in April, “Funding and Grant Resources From the Web” will train librarians on fund-raising, targeting construction, renovation, materials, and special programming resources.

ODL also reports that the number of libraries connected digitally has grown. For public libraries, all but seven are now digital (only twenty were digital in 1997), have at least two internet connections, and their computers are 56K or above. In other areas, registration with ODL for the statewide databases has bloomed: school library registration is at 907 (about half); there are 62 academic locations; and 79 special libraries (including government) are on board.

