

ST-9 Oklahoma State Report

June 15, 2016

MPLA Activities

- Attended OLA Monthly Executive Board Meetings on March 18th
- Conducted a “lunch and learn” session on the value of MPLA Membership at the Oklahoma Library Association Conference
- Manned MPLA table in the vendor area. Ten gift memberships given away by drawing.

Oklahoma Library Association News

- The 2017 Oklahoma State budget was passed on the last day of the Legislative session. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) 2017 budget allocation is 15% less than 2016. Correspondingly, ODL will cut state aid to publicly libraries by 15%. Libraries actually fared well in budget negotiations. Many state agencies were cut 20% or more. Higher Education’s was cut 23% from 2016 to 2017. Several regional libraries in Oklahoma have begun consolidation of professional library positions.
- The OLA Legislative Committee was able to defeat a measure introduced late in the legislative session that would have consolidated ODL into the Secretary of State’s office. This measure has surfaced periodically over the last few years and libraries have mobilized to keep ODL an independent state agency.
- The OLA Presidential Leadership Retreat will be July 14th and 14th. This annual retreat, hosted by the incoming OLA president, allows the 10 elected officers of OLA and the incoming and outgoing chairs of its 23 committees to meet and discuss the organizations priorities for the next year. The MPLA Representative, as an elected officer, is invited to this retreat and I plan to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Miller, Oklahoma Representative