



ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ♦ P. O. Box 81084, FAIRBANKS, AK 99708 ♦ WWW.AKLA.ORG

January 20, 2011

## President's Report

Dear Colleagues,

The holidays and vacations that occurred during December and into January did nothing to slow down Association business – much of which has continued throughout the year. There was progress to report on the same four issues that I reported on in November. Those four issues were the American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska's complaint against the State (SB222), The Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program, the BTOP grant and the ANLAMS conference.

1. "The issue is not yet concluded, but it would seem things are going in our favor." This was what I wrote in November, however talks between ACLU lawyers and the Attorney General's office proved unfruitful and on December 27<sup>th</sup> the ACLU filed a motion for summary judgment, requesting that the challenged statute be declared unconstitutional and permanently enjoined.
2. Governor Parnell unveiled his budget on December 15<sup>th</sup> and despite writing to him, his staff and Senator Stedman in early December requesting the inclusion of funding for the Library Construction Grant Program, it was not to be so. The next recourse was to have communities submit grant applications by the January 7<sup>th</sup> deadline. I'm happy to report that the anticipated communities did so, four in all including Kodiak, Soldotna, Skagway and Ketchikan. Our subcommittee plans on continuing to work with the DCCED and Commissioner Bell to review and improve the grant regulations. The latest version of the construction matrix was completed about December 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. The state legislature accepted the broadband initiative funding from the federal government. The kickoff meeting of OWL, Online With Libraries, the State Library's BTOP grant occurred December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Also sponsored by the Rasmusen Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, this meeting drew together the directors of most of the public libraries in the state. I spoke on several occasions as did other AkLA members. An RFP for the project was posted on January 9<sup>th</sup>.
4. The Alaska Native Libraries, Archives and Museums Summit saw an increase in activity as the summit draws near. I received an estimate from Lyrasis to provide registration services which was rejected by the committee as being far outside the budget allotted for that activity. I have also been corresponding with author Lael Morgan who is organizing a Ray Wise Mala film festival which might be shown at the summit.

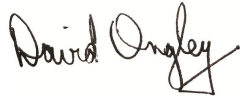
Additionally, I will attend the Ak-ACLU Liberty Award ceremony on this Saturday. They will be honoring AkLA as one of the **40 Heroes of Constitutional Liberties and Civil Rights**. Several other AkLA members will also be in attendance. Many thanks to Nancy Lesh and June Pinnell-

Stephens for preparing the AkLA summary history for the program. AkLA has purchased an ad for the awards program.

Here is the bulleted list of other activities and communications:

- The updated association Strategic Plan is now posted to the E-Council wiki.
- Forwarded the 2011 Legislative Priorities to lobbyist Clark Gruening.
- Communicated with Mary Jennings on AkLA business
- Communicated with MJ Grande about the Juneau conference planning.
- Appointed President Elect Michael Robinson to DCCED Broadband Task Force.
- Edited the text for the updated Construction Grant Matrix.
- Signed 1 Interlibrary Cooperation Grant for the 2011 Conference.
- Corresponded with Honorary Lifetime Member and former AkLA President Isabelle Mudd (1974-75) concerning the jade gavel and new storage box.
- Communicated with Senator Murkowski's office concerning the reauthorization bill for IMLS.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Ongley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

David Ongley, President  
Alaska Library Association