

OLL Committee Reports

BOD Meeting 9/18/2025

Terrace Talks

Terrace Talks Committee did not meet this month. David Myler and Linda Farthing continue to fill the Talk calendar for the coming season.

-Carol Ringold

Excursions report by Dottie

1. Tentative hiking schedule has been developed for next season, averaging 3 hikes a week. Current van provider submitted an unacceptable rate increase, so we will be meeting with him and possibly selecting another provider. In any case a substantial fee increase is likely, but we would still keep OLL hiking fees lower than commercial providers in Oaxaca.
2. Five Day of the Dead Out & About tours are being planned. Currently negotiating with EnVia for possible shared tours and with van provider.
3. Tanya informally surveyed a few other tour groups in town, who say tourism is down about 40%, so we will be focusing on filling the events we offer rather than offering large numbers of events.
4. Tanya also met with the Finance Committee for guidance on handling incidental expenses during events that may not be covered by a factura.

-Dottie Bellinger

Finance Committee plus Excursions Committee

September 11, 2025

The following Summary is being submitted under the Finance Committee banner in order to maintain a reference to the important topics raised by the Excursion Committee.

The Excursion Committee on request was invited to meet with the Finance Committee to discuss a few questions it has regarding costs, fees and financial planning for the Excursions groups (Hoofing it in Oaxaca and Out & About).

The Finance Committee released its time to Excursions and the following is the summary of that meeting held at the library's terrace.

-Ralph Gault

Joint excursions report by Tanya

1. Paying our Partners and Providers

Some of our excursions involve paying providers or villages for entrances, local guiding fees, services provided, etc. The way we manage it today is that the OLL Online Sale covers transportation, and then the chaperone or guide collects additional fees as people are checked in for the bus. The reason we wanted to explore doing it differently (including everything in the price) was that some participants mentioned that it would be nice to include everything in the price and not be "nickel and dimed".

Key takeaways:

where a provider or municipality can provide a factura for services rendered or fees collected, we should do this. as it decreases the IVA we are required to pay. In that case, the fee to the user can be inclusive.

We should always be including IVA in the calculation of our ticket prices.

Communication is key for ensuring people understand why we do things the way we do things.

2. "Hidden" costs in overnight trips

When we plan overnight trips, there are expenses that we need to consider (getting garafons of water for everyone, cabins for chaperones, derecho de piso fees in villages, etc.) We discussed what made the most sense for paying for these incidentals. There are three options for the committee to consider:

Where we can get a factura, get one, and the OLL can expense this

Calculate the cost of these things when people are getting on the bus, including it in whatever additional fees are collected.

The coordinator could cover them and include them in the invoice she provides to the OLL.

3. Posting hikes and outings with more than 30 days advance booking

We discussed if it made any sense, now that we don't do refunds, to allow people to book hikes and outings earlier than 30 days.

In short, no. Considering the transportation cost invoices are a major write-off for the OLL to avoid paying IVA (paid on a monthly basis), there could potentially be a disadvantage to the OLL if we take in event income without having an invoice from a provider for that outing to write off the IVA.

We will bring up the "hidden costs" for overnight trips and other incidentals with each committee and revert back to the Finance Committee how we decide to manage them for this upcoming season.

Also required is a statement of work from the coordinator outlining responsibilities for which she can charge the OLL.

-Tanya Lapierre

p.s. Elvis my Foster Dog attended the meeting and he thought it was boring and we didn't even bring any snacks.

Terrace talks committee

We met in August to discuss some basic plans for the new season. It is already shaping up to be a good one!

-Gail Ament

Welcome to Oaxaca

Attendance for August remained low per usual at this time of year. However, we are pleased to report:

Ian Hawley has joined our WTO team as a presenter. He is both knowledgeable and is very good dealing with attendees. We will continue to search for more knowledgeable residents to bolster our team numbers during the high season. We anticipate that there may be an unusually high influx of possible retirees/new residents fleeing the turmoil in the US.

Social

We are working on the Bazaar subcommittee, getting organized, and finalizing our budget. Linda Farthing and Bonny Weil will co-chair. We've chosen December 14th as our event date. November 18th, 4:00 pm will be our first sort date. We've had a very strong showing of donations to the Bazaar this year.

-Bonny Weil

Nominating

The committee, (B.J. Fergusen, Carlos Landa, & Lauren Beihl) held our first meeting on the 8th, we elected B.J. Fergusen as chair, and came up with our initial list of people to contact in order to gauge interest and take some more suggestions for folks who might be interested in taking on a board position.

Each of us has committed to reach out to a handful of people from the list and we are working on that before our next meeting in a week. We have decided on meeting every other week for

now, with an aim to hopefully have our work completed early, (ideally by the end of November), So that we aren't scrambling during the holidays. I'm sure we'll have more news after our next meeting.

-B.J. Fergusen

Books

Members: Sara Boskivich, Diana Carr, Siobhan Grogan, Kate Hart, Joyce Hinton, Gabrielle Larew, Peter McCallion, David Myler, Cathy Pikel, Liz Renn, Patricia Saull, Shannon Sheppard.

Circulation: 643 items

Fines collected: 2,369 pesos

Book Sale income: 2,840 pesos

ACTIVITIES:

- Shelved books, magazines and DVDs
- Trained volunteers in shelving and other tasks
- Gave tours to visitors and new members
- Staffed Circulation Desk
- Catalogued new and donated books
- Managed Wish List and communicated with donors
- Accepted, evaluated, and organized book donations
- Managed Book Sale; continued successful online book sale
- Provided readers advisory to users
- Continued weeding/de-accessioning English Fiction according to Collection Development Policy guidelines
- Mobile Book Displays: "Crime Pays" and "Summertime, Where the Reading is Easy"
- Continued to update "Recommended Reading" on OLL website
- Completed weeding/de-accessioning DVDs according to Collection Development Policy guidelines
- Improved signage for Special Collections Room (behind Circulation Desk)
- Poetry, Language Learning, Travel, Large Print, Short Stories, Bilingual
- Accepted donations of contemporary Teen LGBTQ+ in Spanish
- Participated in 2026 Library Anniversary Task Force
- Communicated with Authors for future Book & Author Talks

Outreach Committee

1. Interim Committee Chair: The committee has temporarily appointed Viviana Ruiz as the interim representative (in-chair) of the Outreach Committee until a permanent person is officially designated for the role.

2. Collaboration with Task Force for the 60'th Anniversary: José Luis Zárate is actively participating in the celebration task force. He has proposed organizing a "Calenda Literaria" and believes that with the support of the Libros Para Pueblos staff, this event can be successfully organized. Viviana Ruiz has also expressed her interest in collaborating on this initiative.

3. Collaboration Agreements with Schools: The collaboration agreement with Technical High School No. 6 is currently on hold. This is due to the recent retirement of the school's principal. However, José Luis continues to maintain contact with the current vice-principal, and we must wait for the SEP (Secretariat of Public Education) to appoint a new principal to resume discussions.

Additionally, José Luis has made contact with another high school in the Santa Lucía del Camino neighborhood that has also expressed interest in a similar collaboration agreement with OLL.

We will explore this opportunity further.

-Viviana Ru Bo

Volunteers

Nothing to report this month

- Dottie Bellinger

Technology

No report

Facilities & Design

No report