

Trustee Newsletter

Summer 2017

IN THIS ISSUE...

State's Two-Year Budget Sets PLF at 1.68% - 1

Library Leaders Join OLC's Advocacy Efforts - 1

2017 OLC Elections: Vote for Board of Directors - 2

Ohio Department of Taxation Issues First PLF Distribution for Fiscal Year 2018 - 2

Public Library Levies on Spring Ballot Pass - 2

Ohio BWC Gives Back a Billion to Ohio Employers - 2

OLC Presents Two Advocacy Awards - 3

OLC Board Approves Free Download of All OLC Publications - 3

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine to Address Ohio's Opioid Crisis During Convention & Expo - 3

Prepare For Your Library's Next Ballot Initiative - 3

2017 OLC Convention & Expo: Libraries in Balance - 4

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State's Two-Year Budget Sets PLF at 1.68%

The Ohio General Assembly completed its work on House Bill (HB) 49, the state's two-year main operating budget bill, in late June. The final bill, passed by both chambers, spends more than \$65.4 billion from the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF).

On June 30, Gov. Kasich signed HB 49 just before the midnight deadline and the start of Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. He line-item vetoed 47 provisions before signing the bill into law (the most ever for this governor). The language temporarily setting the Public Library Fund (PLF) at 1.68% of the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF) for FY18-19 was NOT vetoed and became effective immediately upon the governor's signature.

The OLC would like to thank everyone who contacted legislators and shared our message to Protect the PLF. It would not have been possible to minimize the originally proposed reduction in the PLF without the help of certain key supporters in the Senate including Senate President Larry Obhof and Senate Majority Floor Leader Randy Gardner.

More details on the state budget and its impact on public libraries is available on the OLC website including a free, informational webinar. Learn more at olc.org/resources/news/.

Library Leaders Join OLC's Advocacy Efforts

Ohio's public libraries were at the forefront of the OLC's advocacy efforts on library funding as more than 250 trustees, administrators and friends converged on the Statehouse for OLC's Legislative Day. Library supporters spent the morning meeting with members of the Ohio General Assembly, sharing examples of how their libraries are transforming local communities with essential services such as workforce development and early literacy programs. They also urged state legislators to support Ohio's public libraries by rejecting spending cuts in the state budget.

Debbie Saunders, Director of the Bossard Memorial Library in Gallia County, and Michelle Francis, OLC Director of Government and Legal Services, testified before the House Finance Committee on the state budget bill proposal, HB 49. They shared examples of how public libraries around the state are serving Ohio's 8.7 million cardholders and asked legislators not to cut funding.

The OLC also presented two advocacy awards during a luncheon with legislators in the Statehouse Atrium. See page 3 of this newsletter for more information on the award winners.



Ida Rupp Public Library Director Tim Hagen (left), and Board President James Widmer pose with a sign in support of public libraries during the 2017 Legislative Day at the Ohio Statehouse. See highlights from the day at olc.org/resources/government-relations/legislative-day/.

2017 OLC Election: Board of Directors

It's time to cast your vote for OLC leadership. If you haven't done so already, you have the opportunity to vote for four members of the OLC Board of Directors, including one MLIS position, one library trustee position, and two at-large positions. Biographical information and candidate position statements are included with the online (and paper) ballots. The OLC is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for election to three-year terms beginning January 2018:

Library Trustee



Carol L. Herrick,
Trustee,
Washington-
Centerville Public
Library



Lynn Mercer,
Trustee,
Kate Love
Simpson-
Morgan County
Library
[incumbent]

Library Levies on Spring Ballot Pass

On May 2, 2017, Ohioans overwhelming approved all three library issues on the ballot. The levies for the Medina County District Library, Orrville Public Library, and Wright Memorial Public Library (Oakwood) all passed by significant margins (more than 66%). Election results can be found on the OLC website.

MLIS Director



Tom Dillie,
Director,
Minerva Public
Library



Brian C. Hare,
Director, Reed
Memorial Library
(Ravenna)

At-Large Director



Laura Lee Wilson,
Director,
Huron County
Community Library



Don Yarman,
Deputy Director,
Delaware County
District Library
[incumbent]

At-Large Director



Rachel A. Gut,
Deputy Executive
Director,
Dayton Metro
Library



Richard Rubin,
Trustee,
Cuyahoga Falls
Library

If you haven't done so already, please cast your vote. If you have questions about the voting process, contact OLC at (614) 410-8092 or send an email to olc@olc.org.

ODT Issues First PLF Distribution for FY 2018

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) recently posted the July 2017 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution. This is the first distribution for fiscal year (FY) 2018 with the PLF set at 1.68% of the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF) instead of the 1.7% that was in temporary law in the previous state budget.

The July 2017 distribution of \$37,537,498 is higher than both the July 2016 distribution and the July 2017 estimate from ODT.

The state ended fiscal year (FY) 2017 with \$170.9 million in unobligated funds that will be carried over into FY 2018. Overall, state tax receipts for FY 2017 came in \$849 million (-3.7%) below the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) projections. For the past year, state tax revenues have consistently trailed estimates.

A look at the PLF distribution for the past three years and each county's distribution totals can be found at olc.org/resources/government-relations/funding/.

Ohio BWC Gives a Billion Back to Ohio Employers

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) is giving a billion dollars back to both public and private employers in Ohio. Due to improved safety and good returns on investments, the Ohio BWC is able to provide a return of premiums for the third time since 2011. The BWC began distributing checks to eligible employers on July 10. More details are available at bwc.ohio.gov.

OLC Presents Two Advocacy Awards

The OLC presented two awards during the 2017 Legislative Day, March 29, at the Ohio Statehouse in downtown Columbus.

Ryan Smith

The Andrew Carnegie Award was presented to Ohio Representative Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) for his unwavering support of Ohio's public libraries and their efforts to provide quality public library service to all Ohioans. Rep. Smith is currently serving his third term in the Ohio House of Representatives and is the Chairman of the House Finance Committee which oversees the state operating budget proposal. Chairman Smith has been a champion for public libraries and has recognized the essential role they play in communities all across the state. His efforts to assure quality public library service to all Ohioans exemplify the spirit of Andrew Carnegie, the father of the modern public library.

Kim Fender

Kim Fender, The Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Director of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, received the A. Chapman Parsons award for her outstanding work on behalf of Ohio's public libraries. Ms. Fender currently serves as the Chair of the OLC's Government Relations Committee and has testified many times before the Ohio General Assembly on issues that impact public libraries across the state. She was instrumental in the release of the OLC's 2016 Return on Investment Study which quantified the value of Ohio's public libraries in clear and understandable economic terms. Ms. Fender has had a distinguished career in library services serving as the Executive Director of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County since 1999.



Ohio Representative Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Kim Fender, Director, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County accepted their awards during an OLC ceremony at the Statehouse on March 29, 2017.

Attorney General to Address Ohio's Opioid Crisis During Convention & Expo

As the nation's deadly opioid crisis spirals out of control, health experts say Ohio is the epicenter of the problem, with more overdose deaths than any other state. Ohio's public libraries are seeing evidence of this crisis first-hand with drug dealing and overdoses happening in and around their facilities.

At the 2017 OLC Convention and Expo, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine will talk about the impact of addiction on communities, what his office is doing to combat the drug and heroin problem in Ohio, and how public libraries can be part of the solution. Make plans now to attend this informative keynote presentation on Thurs., Oct. 5, at 1:15 p.m., at the Dayton Convention Center.

Ballot Issues Workshop Set for October 26

Is your library considering going on the local ballot with a new levy, renewing an existing levy, or possibly modifying a levy that's been in place for some time? The OLC's Ballot Issues Workshop will provide the information you need as you prepare for your ballot initiative. This program will be held October 26 in Columbus. The fee is \$65 for staff and trustees of OLC Institutional members (\$130 for non-members). Register at olc.org.

OLC Board Approves Free Download of All OLC Publications

The OLC Board of Directors recently approved a new policy making all OLC publications available in a free electronic format for OLC members, including the *Ohio Public Library Trustees' Handbook*. In addition, attendees at OLC conferences, such as the Library Trustee Workshop and the Ballot Issues Workshop, will receive a free copy of the OLC publication relevant to the event. To request a publication and learn more, go to olc.org/resources/publications/.



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2017 Convention & Expo: Libraries in Balance

The OLC Convention & Expo will be held Oct. 4-6, 2017 at the Dayton Convention Center. This year's convention features a powerful line-up of critically-acclaimed authors and speakers as well as educational programs, exhibits, networking opportunities, a Career Fair and more. Registration opens soon, but you can reserve your hotel room now at a reduced rate.

Go to olc.org/events/convention-expo/ for more information.

