

# Trustee Newsletter

Winter 2017

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Ohio Library Council  
1105 Schrock Road  
Suite 440  
Columbus, Ohio 43229-1167  
Phone: 614.410.8092  
Fax: 614.410.8098  
olc.org

## OLC's Legislative Day Slated for March 29

The Governor's State Budget proposal for FY18-19 (HB 49) is currently being debated at the Statehouse and it proposes cuts in state funding for Ohio's public libraries. Now is the time for your voice to be heard! It's important to get the message out on the vital role we play and to put a local face on the impact public libraries have on Ohioans.

There's still time to register for the OLC's Legislative Day on March 29 at the Statehouse. This important event is an opportunity for you to come to Columbus, meet with your legislators, and advocate on behalf of Ohio's public libraries. Don't miss this chance to share the essential work your library is doing and how you are transforming your communities!

### New for 2017

This year, Legislative Day will include a luncheon for attendees and legislators, a special awards ceremony and featured speakers. The registration fee is \$40 and includes the luncheon. Please register by March 23, 2017. Learn more at [olc.org/advocacy-and-government-relations/](http://olc.org/advocacy-and-government-relations/).



Library professionals from across the state will gather at the Ohio Statehouse on Wed., March 29 for OLC's Legislative Day.

## Library Trustee Workshop Scheduled for March 25 in Columbus

The 2017 Library Trustee Workshop will be held Sat., Mar. 25, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Quest Conference Center in North Columbus. Although this workshop is designed for relatively new library trustees, those with years of experience may find this program to be a good refresher.

You will learn how to: be an effective Board member and how to work with your library's director and staff; make sense of your library's finances and understand how libraries are funded in Ohio; get an update on the latest legislative issues at the Statehouse including the Public Library Fund (PLF); gain a better understanding of the legal questions library trustees often ask; and learn more about the services that OLC provides to Trustees.

The registration fee is \$65. For a list of hotels near the Quest Conference Center, please contact [olc@olc.org](mailto:olc@olc.org) or call 614-410-8092. Visit the OLC website at [olc.org](http://olc.org) for more information. Register online or call the OLC office to reserve your seat.

## OLC Launches “Protect the PLF” website

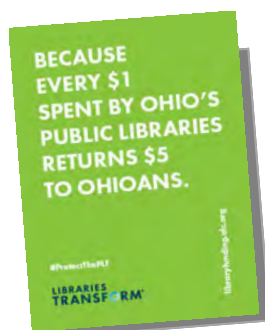
The 132<sup>nd</sup> Ohio General Assembly is in full swing, with 22 newly-elected House members and seven new members in the Senate. The OLC is actively working to educate all members of the new General Assembly on the importance of protecting the Public Library Fund (PLF). Earlier this year, the OLC launched a new website dedicated to informing libraries, legislators and the general public on the status of public library funding in Ohio. You are encouraged to review the information and access the advocacy tools and resources available at [libraryfunding.olic.org](http://libraryfunding.olic.org).

On Jan. 26, the OLC hosted a free webinar for library directors and other staff members to explain how to use the new advocacy tools as well as how to build relationships with legislators. *Advocating for Public Libraries with the New Ohio Legislature* has been archived on the OLC website (You can view it at [olic.org/resources/education/webinars-online-learning/](http://olic.org/resources/education/webinars-online-learning/)). It's important for all of Ohio's public libraries to work together, with an united voice to Protect the PLF and to share the message of how Ohio libraries transform lives.

The new website also has a section for the media with answers to commonly asked questions, fact sheets about library funding and results from the OLC's Statewide Return on Investment Report.

Several media outlets have already highlighted the proposed cuts in library funding when reporting on Gov. Kasich's budget proposal, including the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* (2/2/17) and the *Columbus Dispatch* (2/5/17).

Libraries can also direct their patrons to this website to learn more about the PLF, the essential services libraries provide to Ohio's residents, as well as how to contact their legislators.



This customizable postcard is just one example of the tools available on the new Protect the PLF website. See more at [libraryfunding.olic.org](http://libraryfunding.olic.org)

## 2017 PLF Distribution Under ODT Estimates

When the Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) released the February 2017 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution, state tax revenues were down again, making it the seventh consecutive month that state revenues have missed projections. With only a few months remaining in State Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, overall state tax receipts are \$388 million (2.9%) below the current budget.

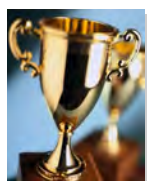
February's PLF distribution of \$35,728,786 is \$1,396,560 (3.8%) below ODT's estimate for the month, and \$625,016 (1.7%) less than the distribution in February 2016.

The ODT updated the PLF certification for calendar year (CY) 2017 in December 2016. The official updated statewide estimate of \$395,111,079 remained unchanged from this past summer's initial estimates even though state revenues came in below estimates for CY16.

More details about the PLF and a county-by-county breakdown (Excel spreadsheet) are available on the OLC website at [olic.org/resources/government-relations/funding/](http://olic.org/resources/government-relations/funding/).

On Jan. 30, Gov. Kasich released his budget proposal for FY18-19. His plan would cut state funding to Ohio's public libraries by more than \$7 million in FY18 by reducing the PLF from 1.7% to 1.66% of the state's General Revenue Fund. Learn what you can do to Protect the PLF at [libraryfunding.olic.org](http://libraryfunding.olic.org).

## Nominate a Colleague for the OLC's Trustee/Board of Trustees Award of Achievement



The Trustee/Board of Trustees Award of Achievement recognizes an individual library board member or entire board of trustees that demonstrates distinguished service and innovative leadership within the community or across Ohio. The recipient(s) will be recognized at the 2017 Convention and Expo, Oct. 4-6, at the Dayton Convention Center. Nomination forms are due by May 19. Supporting materials must be submitted by June 2. The form and information about all of the OLC Awards and Honors can be found on the OLC website at [olic.org/about-us/awards/](http://olic.org/about-us/awards/).

## 2017 Trustee Dinners: Discuss Current Issues Impacting Ohio's Public Libraries

This spring, the Ohio Library Council will once again host dinner meetings throughout the state for public library trustees and administrators. These events are great opportunities for library leaders to get essential information about what the OLC is doing to address the issues impacting Ohio's public libraries ... and how trustees and administrators should be involved.

### Traditional Dinner Programs in Four Locations

At four locations — Central, Northeast, Eastern, and Northwest Ohio — the dinner program will include the traditional update on the OLC activities, a discussion about the issues impacting public libraries, and important information that public library trustees and administrators can use to be effective advocates for their libraries and serve their communities.

### New Program Formats in Two Locations

New this year, at two locations — Southwest and Northern Ohio — the dinner will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and small plate entrees, and the program will include interactive, roundtable discussions to talk about the challenges facing library trustees and administrators. Andrew Mangels, Chair of the OLC Board of Directors, along with OLC staff will facilitate the discussions, and present an update on the latest issues impacting libraries. The registration fee for each event is \$40 per person. Register online at [olc.org](http://olc.org) or call 614-410-8092.

## 2017 Trustee Dinner Schedule

### Central Ohio

March 23  
Holiday Inn , Worthington

### Southwest Ohio

April 4  
Great Wolf Lodge, Mason

### Northern Ohio

April 26  
Holiday Inn, Independence

### Northeast Ohio

May 3  
Embassy Suites, North Canton

### Eastern Ohio

May 4  
Guernsey County Public Library (Crossroad Branch), Cambridge

### Northwest Ohio

May 11  
Bowling Green State University (Student Union)

## OLC Board Elects Officers, Approves Budget for 2017

At its meeting on Jan. 13, the OLC Board of Directors elected its officers for 2017, including

Chair of the Board:

**Andrew Mangels**, Director,  
Westlake Porter Public Library

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect:

**Nick Tepe**, Director, Athens County  
Public Libraries

Secretary-Treasurer:

**Don Yarman**, Deputy Director,  
Delaware Co. Dist. Library

Immediate Past Chair:

**Alan Radnor**, Trustee, Bexley  
Public Library

Among other actions at the meeting, the Board approved the OLC's 2017 operational budget and selected the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Sandusky as the site of the 2018 Convention and Expo.

## Ballot Issues Workshop Set for May 25

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 May 25 in Columbus. Register at [olc.org](http://olc.org) or call 614-410-8092.



1105 Schrock Road  
Suite 440  
Columbus, OH 43229-1167

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## Upcoming Events for Library Trustees

### **Library Trustee Workshop**

March 25, 2017  
Quest Conference Center (North Columbus)

### **Trustee Dinners**

Six locations around Ohio  
March - May (see page 3 for dates and locations)

### **Legislative Day**

March 29, 2017  
Ohio Statehouse

Look inside for more details or go online at [olc.org/events/library-trustees/](http://olc.org/events/library-trustees/)