

Trustee Newsletter

Winter 2019

IN THIS ISSUE...

Legislative Day - 1

Library Trustee Workshop - 1

2019 Trustee Dinners - 2

Nominate a Colleague for an OLC Award - 2

OLC Executive Director Announces Retirement - 2

OLC Prepares for Next State Budget - 3

OLC Board Elects Officers - 3

Ballot Issues Workshop - 3

Key Dates for Library Trustees - 4

OLC's Legislative Day Slated for April 9

Ohio's new governor, Mike DeWine, will introduce his first, two-year state budget proposal in March. Then, the General Assembly will start deliberating. Now is the time for your voice to be heard! Plan now to attend OLC's Legislative Day on Tues., April 9, at the Ohio Statehouse. Library trustees are an integral part of the OLC's grassroots advocacy efforts. It's important to get the message out on the vital role libraries play and to put a local face on the impact public libraries have on Ohioans.



Library leaders met with former Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) and Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) at last year's Legislative Day at the Ohio Statehouse. Gardner is now serving as Ohio's Chancellor of Higher Education. Rep. Gavarone is a current member of the Ohio House.

Legislative Day 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 opportunity to share the essential work

your library is doing and how you are having an impact on your community. This year, Legislative Day will include a luncheon for attendees and legislators. The registration fee is \$45 and includes the luncheon. For more information, visit olc.org/legislative-day/.

Library Trustee Workshop Scheduled for March 9 in Columbus

The 2019 Library Trustee Workshop will be held Sat., Mar. 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. 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 to:

- work with your library's director and staff and be an effective board member;
- make sense of your library's finances and understand how libraries are funded in Ohio;
- get an update on the latest legislative issues 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.

All attendees will receive a free copy of the *Ohio Public Library Trustees' Handbook*. Register online at olc.org or call the OLC office to reserve your seat. For a list of hotels near the Quest Conference Center, please contact olc@olc.org or call 614-410-8092.

Ohio Library Council
1105 Schrock Road
Suite 440
Columbus, Ohio 43229-1167
Phone: 614-410-8092
Fax: 614-410-8098
olc.org

2019 Trustee Dinners: Discuss Issues Impacting Ohio's Public Libraries

This spring, the OLC will once again host dinner meetings around the state for public library trustees and administrators. These events provide essential information for trustees and are a great opportunity to share information and ideas with fellow trustees throughout the region. The program will include an update on the latest legislative issues including the state's 2020-21 operating budget and the Public Library Fund (PLF). The event will also include instruction on how to be an effective advocate for your library. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the challenges and opportunities ahead for Ohio's public libraries.

2019 Trustee Dinner Schedule:

April 4

Aladdin Shrine Center
Grove City, Ohio

April 25

Holiday Inn Independence
Independence, Ohio

May 2

Stoneridge Golf Club
Bowling Green, Ohio

May 9

Guernsey Public Library
Cambridge, Ohio

The registration fee is \$40 for members (trustees and staff of OLC Institutional member libraries). Please note: the deadline to register is seven days prior to each dinner. For details, visit olc.org/library-trustees/.

OLC Executive Director Announces Retirement



Doug Evans

At the Ohio Library Council Board of Directors meeting on Jan. 18, Doug Evans announced his plans to retire as OLC Executive Director effective June 28. Evans has served in the role as the OLC's executive director since June 2002.

"We are incredibly grateful to Doug for his leadership over these many years," said Kacie Armstrong, Chair of the OLC Board. "He has guided the OLC through change and challenges, and has worked tirelessly with the OLC staff and library directors throughout the state in the

best interests of Ohio's public libraries. His mark on Ohio's public library community will be felt for years to come."

The OLC Board of Directors has initiated the search process for the new executive leadership. A subcommittee of the Board of Directors chaired by Nick Tepe, Director, Athens County Public Libraries and Immediate Past Chair of the OLC Board, will oversee the search process, with the goal of identifying a new Executive Director prior to Evans's departure. During the six months leading up to his retirement, Evans will work with the OLC Board as they search for and transition to new executive leadership.

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

If you're amazed by how your library system seems to keep running in the middle of building projects, levies and staff changes, chances are you have a team that's worthy of the OLC's Trustee/Board of Trustees Award of Achievement.

This prestigious award recognizes an individual library board member or entire board of trustees that demonstrates distinguished service and innovative leadership within the community or across Ohio.

Has your board as a whole, or a particular board member, been instrumental in steering your organization through change? Have they approached an old problem in an innovative or groundbreaking way? Please tell us about them and help us recognize the best of Ohio's public library community.

The OLC is now accepting nominations through April 30, 2019. Detailed award descriptions, eligibility information and nomination instructions are available on the OLC website at olc.org/about-us/awards/.

Award winners will be recognized during a special ceremony at the 2019 Convention and Expo, set for Sept. 25-27, at the Duke Energy Convention Center in downtown Cincinnati.



OLC Prepares for Next State Budget

The 133rd Ohio General Assembly is in full swing, with 33 Freshman members in the House and 11 in the Senate. The OLC is actively working to educate all members of the new General Assembly on the importance of restoring the Public Library Fund (PLF). Even though Governor DeWine will not officially present his biennial state budget proposal to the Ohio General Assembly until March, the behind the scenes process of formulating his budget proposal has already begun.

OLC's Director of Government and Legal Services, Michelle Francis, met with library directors last fall on her "Road Ahead Tour" to discuss OLC's advocacy strategy and tools for libraries to utilize as we continue to protect public library funding at the state level.

Restore the PLF to 2.22%

Public libraries currently receive 1.68% of the state's total General Revenue Fund. State funding for public libraries will be automatically cut to 1.66% on July 1, 2019 as the current level of funding is only temporary law. Greater use of libraries means increased costs and more demand on staff, equipment and resources. The need for our services and the expectations of Ohioans related to technology, broadband access, educational services and workforce development has increased, but library funding has not fully recovered from the economic downturn. Today, public libraries receive \$113 million less than they did 18 years ago. Now is the time to restore the PLF to its 2008 level of 2.22% of the General Revenue Fund.

Advocacy Tools

As library advocates, trustees play a key role in educating their communities about why libraries are essential. Trustees are encouraged to share real-life examples of how the library is building the foundation for reading and school readiness. Be sure to talk about what the library is doing to help individuals find jobs or start a business. The OLC has put together a variety of resources and tools to help trustees educate the community and legislators. Please take a moment to review the advocacy tools available at libraryfunding.olic.org.

On Jan. 31, the OLC hosted a free webinar for libraries to explain how to use the new advocacy tools as well as how to build relationships with legislators. *Advocacy and the New 133rd General Assembly Webinar*, has been archived on the OLC website at olic.org/resources/advocacy-tools-libraries/. Trustees are encouraged to watch this one-hour webinar. It's important for all of Ohio's public libraries to work together, with a united voice to Restore the PLF and to share the message of how Ohio libraries play an essential role in the community and give everyone a chance to succeed.



This customizable infographic is just one example of the tools available on the new "Restore the PLF" website. See more at libraryfunding.olic.org

OLC Board Elects Officers, Approves Budget for 2019

At its meeting on Jan. 18, the OLC Board of Directors elected its officers for 2019, including

Chair of the Board:
Kacie Armstrong, Director,
Euclid Public Library

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect:
Cheryl Kuonen, Director,
Mentor Public Library

Secretary-Treasurer:
Paula Brehm-Heeger, Director,
Public Library of Cincinnati and
Hamilton County

Immediate Past Chair:
Nick Tepe, Director, Athens County
Public Libraries

In addition to accepting OLC Executive Director Doug Evans' resignation (see page 2), the Board approved the OLC's 2019 operational budget.

Ballot Issues Workshop Set for May 23

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 23 in Columbus. Register at olic.org or call 614-410-8092.



1105 Schrock Road
Suite 440
Columbus, OH 43229-1167

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Columbus, OH
Permit No. 1018

Upcoming Events for Library Trustees



Library Trustee Workshop

March 9, 2019
Quest Conference Center
North Columbus

2019 Trustee Dinners

See page 2 for dates and locations

Legislative Day

April 9, 2019
Ohio Statehouse
Downtown Columbus

Look inside for more information or visit olc.org/library-trustees/