

Trustee Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2019

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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

New State Budget Increases Public Library Funding — PLF Set at 1.7%

On July 18, Gov. Mike DeWine signed Ohio's fiscal year (FY) 2020-2021 operating budget into law increasing the Public Library Fund (PLF) from 1.68 to 1.7% of the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF). Before signing the bill into law the Governor line-item vetoed 25 provisions, including the two tax-related provisions that the OLC opposed and asked the Governor to veto (*See OLC's successful veto requests on page 2*).

The budget also included a true-up amendment that made public libraries whole for the month of July. When the General Assembly missed the budget deadline, the July PLF distribution was based on the PLF at 1.66%. The true-up language in the new budget appropriated an additional \$916,705 from the state's General Revenue Fund to the PLF.

Our strong advocacy efforts made a real difference during the state budget process.

Overall, we were able to:

- increase public library funding to 1.7% for the next two years
- make the PLF whole for the month of July with the true-up amendment
- get two tax-related provisions that would have been harmful to public libraries vetoed by the Governor.

The PLF increase will result in approximately \$20 million in additional funding to public libraries over the next two years. Thank you to everyone who contacted legislators and worked tirelessly to restore the PLF. Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the entire OLC membership working together with a single voice. More information on the state budget is available at <http://libraryfunding.olc.org/resources/news/>.



Gov. DeWine talks with staff from the Akron-Summit County Public Library inside the Statehouse Rotunda for the Library Showcase during the OLC's Legislative Day on April 9. The Library Showcase gave elected officials the opportunity to learn more about in-demand programs and innovative services offered at public libraries around the state. A recap of the event is available at <http://olc.org/legislative-day/>.



Kacie Armstrong (left), Chair of the OLC Board of Directors, stands with Ohio Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights). Senator Yuko, Senate President Larry Obhoff (R-Medina), and Gov. DeWine each addressed the capacity crowd in the Statehouse Atrium during OLC's Legislative Day.

State Budget (from pg. 1)

Before signing the state budget bill into law the Governor line-item vetoed 25 provisions, including the two tax-related provisions that the OLC opposed and asked the Governor to veto:

■ **Veto-Item #23 - Exemption of Residential Development Property**

(HB 149 - Property Tax Exemption for Homebuilders)

This item would have required that agricultural property subdivided into residential units be valued at a rate other than market value. This language would have negatively impacted local governments including public libraries. The OLC was part of a larger coalition of 15 organizations that opposed this item.

■ **Veto-Item #25 - Property Tax Notices and Ballot Language**

(HB 76 – Ballot Language)

This item would have changed the way a property tax levy was described on a ballot. The goal was to increase transparency for property tax levy ballot language. However, the change was confusing and would have adversely affected public libraries. The OLC was pleased to see the Governor veto this item.

Provide your e-mail address and stay up-to-date!

As a benefit of membership, library trustees are entitled to receive the OLC's *Access Weekly* e-newsletter. This is delivered every Wednesday to your inbox. Don't miss out—please send your e-mail address to olc@olc.org and ask to be added to the *Access Weekly* list.

Washington-Centerville Public Library Trustee Receives OLC Award of Achievement



Barbara Denison

The OLC is proud to recognize Barbara Denison as the Trustee of the Year for 2019. As a member of the Washington-Centerville Public Library Board, Denison has made a significant impact on the library system and the community it serves. She devoted a career to educating people and that passion did not end when she retired as a professor at Wright State University.

Denison was instrumental in the recent renovation and expansion of the Woodbourne Branch of the Washington-Centerville Public Library system. She made it a priority to get the most value for the tax dollars invested. Her active involvement in every step of the project demonstrates her dedication to the library and the community. Denison launched an Art Speaks Volumes project with fellow trustees and local citizens to create original works of art for the library. The response from local artists was tremendous and original artwork is now on display for everyone to enjoy. Denison also directed the planning for the Sneak Peek Fundraiser Gala to celebrate the library's grand opening. The event drew more than 200 attendees and raised nearly \$40,000. Those funds were used to add an interactive wall in the children's area.

Denison, along with the other OLC Awards and Honors recipients listed below, will be recognized for her accomplishments at the Convention and Expo Awards and Honors Luncheon, Wed., Sept. 25 at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati. All trustees are invited to attend this luncheon. Registration details are available at <http://conventionexpo.olc.org/convention/special-events/>.

2019 Awards and Honors Recipients

Hall of Fame Librarian:

Alan Hall, Retired Director, Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County

Librarian of the Year:

Jeff Winkle, Director, Findlay-Hancock County Public Library

Service Excellence Award:

Grace Walker, Youth Services Assistant, Pickerington Public Library

John Philip Outreach Award:

Stephanie Brown and Brittany Labinger, Library Outreach, Lorain Public Library System

Diana Vescelius Emerging Leader Award:

Pamela Brockway, Early Learning Team Leader, Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County

Library Innovation Award:

Andrea Francis, West Toledo Branch Manager, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Grandparent Project

Citizen of the Year:

Doug Evans, Retired Executive Director, Ohio Library Council

Francis Named OLC's New Executive Director



Michelle Francis

Earlier this summer, the OLC Board of Directors selected Michelle Francis as the OLC's new Executive Director. Francis has been with the OLC since 2014 as the Director of Government and Legal Services. She took on her new role on June 29 following the retirement of Doug Evans.

The OLC Board conducted a national search with the assistance of a Cleveland-based firm that specializes in executive placement. In selecting Francis, the Board sought the best candidate to advance the organization's strategic direction in the years ahead.

"The OLC Board is very excited to have Michelle as our new chief executive officer," said Kacie Armstrong, Chair of the OLC Board and Director of the Euclid Public Library. "Her five years of experience with the OLC and the leadership she has shown while directing our successful advocacy efforts and legal services make her the ideal candidate to lead our professional association."

Although she's just six weeks into the new position, Francis has hit the ground running meeting with library directors around the state. One of her top priorities is to select her successor to direct the OLC's government relations activities and legal services. Francis will also present two live webinars in the coming weeks: one on the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 state budget and its impact on public library funding; and another in conjunction with the Ohio Opioid Education Alliance to help public libraries educate families about the dangers of opioids.

Governor Appoints Francis to Census 2020 Commission

Ohio's public libraries will have a seat at the table and play an important role on the Governor's Census 2020 Complete Count Commission. OLC's Executive Director Michelle Francis was recently appointed to the Commission by Gov. Mike DeWine. The Commission will help oversee Ohio's Census count and come up with strategies to reach hard-to-count populations. The 2020 Census will take place primarily online for the first time. Libraries are already preparing for the Census, especially the online response option and the increase demand for computer access. As part of the Governor's Commission, OLC can show how public libraries are vital partners for a complete and accurate count.

Ballot Issues Workshop Scheduled for October 18

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 18 at the OLC offices in Columbus. The fee is \$70 for staff and trustees of OLC Institutional members (\$140 for non-members). Register at olc.org or call 614-410-8092.

2019 OLC Election Results

The Ohio Library Council's 2019 elections have concluded and the results have been certified by Nick Tepe, Chair of the Nominations Committee. The OLC congratulates the following members who have been elected to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors.



MLIS DIRECTOR
Kacie Armstrong,
Euclid Public Library



LIBRARY TRUSTEE
DIRECTOR
Chad Seeberg,
Marysville Public
Library



AT-LARGE DIRECTOR
Paula Brehm-Heeger,
Public Library of
Cincinnati and
Hamilton County



AT-LARGE DIRECTOR
Sarah Clevidence,
Findlay-Hancock
County Public Library

*Their terms will begin
in January 2020.*

Ohio Library News

There is so much happening in Ohio's public libraries. It's why Ohio enjoys the highest library use per capita in the nation. Check out a recap of Ohio library news and unique events at <http://olc.org/ohio-library-news/>.



1105 Schrock Road
Suite 440
Columbus, OH 43229-1167

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2019 Convention and Expo: September 25-27 in Cincinnati



The OLC's Convention and Expo will be held Sept. 25-27, 2019 at the Duke Energy Convention Center and Hilton in downtown Cincinnati. This year's Convention features a powerful line-up of critically-acclaimed authors and speakers, educational programs, exhibits, networking opportunities, and more. For details, visit conventionexpo.olic.org.

2019 Keynotes:



HENA KHAN



JARRETT KROSOCZKA



MOSES MBESEHA &
KARLOS MARSHALL