OLC Hosts Annual Convention and Expo in downtown Cincinnati

The Ohio Library Council held its annual Convention and Expo on Sept. 28-30, 2019 at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati. Nearly 700 library professionals had the opportunity to participate in a variety of professional development sessions, exchange ideas, and hear from some of the nation’s top library leaders and authors. This year’s event also featured a special evening reception at the Main Library of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. More than 75 vendors were on hand in the exhibit hall. Highlights from the Convention and Expo can be seen on OLC’s Vimeo page at https://vimeo.com/363904533.

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The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (PLCHC) hosted a reception at the Main Library during the Convention and Expo. Pictured from left: Staci Dennison, Chief Development Officer, PLCHC; Michelle Francis, Executive Director, OLC; Bill Moran, Trustee, PLCHC; Kathy Bach, Regional Manager, PLCHC; and Paula Brehm-Heeger, Director, PLCHC.

Over 229,000 Sign eBooks Petition


eBook licensing terms with publishers have shifted in an alarming direction jeopardizing your library’s ability to provide equitable access to information. Earlier this year, the OLC joined the American Library Association’s (ALA) national campaign which called upon Macmillan Publishers to reverse its restrictive eBook policy which limits a library to just a single copy of a new release. The OLC’s Board of Directors adopted a formal resolution at its September meeting calling for publishers to engage in a meaningful dialogue with libraries and create new policies that ensure equitable access for Ohio’s 8.5 million library cardholders.

To date, more than 229,000 people have signed the ALA’s petition to Macmillan’s CEO at ebooksforall.org (Ohio had the most signatures of any state!). Despite the strong outcry from the library community and general public, Macmillan Publishers began its library embargo of new eBook releases on Nov. 1. Now, the ALA has broadened its advocacy efforts to include Congress. The ALA filed a report about restrictive licensing and unfair digital content pricing with the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law. There’s still time to voice your concern, please sign and share the ALA’s petition at ebooksforall.org.
**Convention** (from page 1)

A special thanks goes to Patty Marsh, Convention and Expo Chair; Trinity Lescallett, Program Committee Chair; Kathy Bach, Local Arrangements Committee Chair; Steve Moser, Expo Committee Chair, and all of their respective committee members for their leadership and hard work. Planning is already underway for the 2020 Convention and Expo which will be held Oct. 28-30 in Columbus.

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**Library Trustee Workshop Set for March 7, 2020 in Columbus**

The 2020 Library Trustee Workshop will be held Sat., March 7, from 9:00 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 how to:

- work with your library’s director and staff to be an effective board;
- 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*. Registration will open in January. For a list of hotels near the Quest Conference Center, please contact olc@olc.org or call 614-410-8092.

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**Countdown to the 2020 Census**

The 2020 Census mailings will begin in March with Census Day on April 1. The results will shape economic and political opportunity for Ohioans for years to come. A complete count is not only mandated in the U.S. Constitution; it’s essential in order to be allocated the appropriate number of Congressional and Electoral College representatives as well as federal funding dollars (such as grants under the Library Services and Technology Act).

For the first time, the Census will be conducted primarily online. Ohio’s public libraries are working with their communities to help achieve a complete count, from delivering accurate information about the Census to providing computers and internet access for residents to complete the questionnaire online. To help libraries prepare, a number of resources are available at olc.org/census.

Trustees are uniquely positioned to ensure a fair and accurate count of their communities—particularly in hard-to-count areas. As a public library trustee, you are invited to become a Library Census Champion. This is a new network of library trustees helping their libraries and communities prepare for the 2020 census. Sign up at [http://bit.ly/LibraryCensusChampions](http://bit.ly/LibraryCensusChampions).

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**Ohioans Approve 29 Out of 30 Public Library Ballot Issues**

Voters approved 29 of 30 public library issues on local ballots around Ohio this past November. The successful library ballot issues included two new levies, 22 renewals, two replacements, two renewals with an increase, and one replacement with an increase. The average voter approval rating was 66 percent. A recount was held on Dec. 2, 2019 for the Ashtabula County District Public Library levy which ultimately passed by two votes! A spreadsheet with each library’s issue, including millage, term, and vote count is available on the OLC website at [olc.org/levies](http://olc.org/levies).

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

The OLC will begin accepting nominations for the 2020 Trustee/Board of Trustees Award of Achievement starting January 1. 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. Award descriptions for all OLC awards, selection criteria, and nomination instructions are available on the OLC website at [olc.org/about-us/awards](http://olc.org/about-us/awards).

If you have a great colleague in mind, please tell us about them and help us recognize the best of Ohio’s public library community. Award winners will be recognized during a special ceremony at the 2020 Convention and Expo, set for Oct. 28-30, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in downtown Columbus.
OLC Selects New Director of Government and Legal Services

The Ohio Library Council has selected Jay Smith as its new Director of Government and Legal Services. He joined the OLC staff on Nov. 18.

Jay is the former Deputy Director of Legislative Services for the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) and was a lobbyist for the organization from 2010-2019. Prior to his work at OSBA, Smith served as the State Director of Government Affairs for the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio and as a legislative aide in the Ohio House of Representatives. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from The Ohio State University and completed post-graduate coursework at the University of Akron’s Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics in campaign management and lobbying.

Jay brings a wealth of legislative experience to the OLC team and will expand our effectiveness at both the state and national level. He has worked with OLC staff and representatives of other local government organizations for many years, and is well respected by his peers and members of the Ohio General Assembly. His background has ideally equipped him to lead our legislative initiatives and effectively advocate on behalf of Ohio’s public libraries.

As Director of Government and Legal Services, Jay will be responsible for monitoring state and federal legislation relating to library issues, directing OLC’s lobbying efforts, sharing information with OLC members on legislative issues, and helping members respond to legal questions and changes in regulations.

Jay was selected for the position through an extensive process that involved an OLC Ad Hoc Committee that assisted staff in conducting the candidate search process, participating in the interviews, and recommending final candidates. The Ad Hoc Committee included members of OLC’s Board of Directors, Government Relations Committee, and Legislative Network as well as a public library trustee and fiscal officer.

Jay will be attending a number of OLC events in the coming months, including the Library Trustee Workshop on March 7, Legislative Day on April 21, and the OLC Trustee Dinners held around the state this spring. Please join us in welcoming Jay to the OLC team and the public library community!

OLC’s Legislative Day Scheduled for April 21

Plan now to attend OLC’s Legislative Day on April 21, in downtown Columbus. Don’t miss this opportunity to meet with your legislators and share the essential work your library is doing in the community. The day will kick off with a morning briefing about important legislative issues impacting Ohio’s public libraries. This year, Legislative Day registration and briefing sessions will take place at the Sheraton on Capitol Square, across the street from the Ohio Statehouse. Registration will open in February. Learn more at olc.org/legislative-day.

Annual Organizational Meeting Checklist

The Ohio Revised Code 3375.32 requires that boards of trustees of public libraries (not including association libraries) hold organizational meetings each January (or December of the preceding year) to elect officers and appoint a fiscal officer as well as complete a few other tasks. Here is a short checklist of the items that should be completed:

- Elect officers from the board (president, vice-president, and secretary) to serve a one-year term.

- Appoint a fiscal officer (and deputy fiscal officer if necessary). Fiscal officer salaries need to be authorized by resolution. Also, state law requires a surety bond (or “employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy” as authorized by ORC 3.061) for the fiscal officer to be approved by the library board. The term of the bond coverage for the fiscal officer needs to go from organizational meeting of the current year to the organizational meeting of the following year.

- Administer the oath of office to newly-appointed trustees. Notaries, Ohio legislators, and judges may administer the oaths. Also, other elected officials may administer oaths to people within the geographical limits of their constituencies with certain limitations. It is important to note that library board members or fiscal officers are not authorized to administer these oaths, unless they are commissioned as notaries.

- Appoint standing committees.

- Approve the annual board meeting calendar.

If you have questions about the annual checklist, please contact the OLC office at 614-410-8092.
Trustee Dinners Scheduled for Spring 2020

This spring, the OLC will host dinner meetings around the state for public library trustees and administrators. The Trustee Dinners are a great opportunity for you to share information and ideas with your fellow trustees throughout the region. Don’t miss this chance to learn more about the challenges and opportunities ahead for Ohio’s public libraries. Plan now to attend one of the four dinner meetings.

2020 Trustee Dinner Schedule:

- April 2 | Aladdin Shrine Center, Grove City
- April 9 | Holiday Inn Cleveland South, Independence
- April 30 | Hilton Garden Inn, Perrysburg
- May 7 | Guernsey County Public Library (Crossroads Branch), Cambridge

The registration fee is $40/person for trustees and staff of OLC Institutional member libraries. Register at olc.org/library-trustees or call 614-410-8092.