Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ITEM NO.: 3.D MEETING DATE: Sept. 18, 2020
SUBJECT: Andrew Carnegie Award SUBMITTED BY: Michelle Francis

REPORT FOR ACTION

About the Andrew Carnegie Award
This award is presented to government officials who have exhibited outstanding support of public libraries and their efforts to assure quality public library services to all Ohioans. Previous recipients of this award include Governors, Ohio House Speakers, Ohio Senate Presidents and members of the General Assembly. This award is so named because no one person has given more to public libraries than Andrew Carnegie.

Senate President Obhof
Earlier this year, the OLC Government Relations Committee (GRC) was planning to present Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) with the Andrew Carnegie Award at OLC’s 2020 Legislative Day. Unfortunately, that event had to be canceled due to the pandemic.

The GRC and OLC staff would like to continue our tradition of recognizing individuals who support Ohio’s public libraries and advocate on their behalf in the state legislature. President Obhof has never wavered in his support of Ohio’s public libraries and their efforts to provide quality public library service to all Ohioans.

• During the state budget negotiations for FY 2020-2021, he sponsored the amendment to set the Public Library Fund at 1.7% and he held firm in his support through Conference Committee.
• He was instrumental in the Ohio Controlling Board awarding $18.3 million through the Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to Ohio’s public libraries. The funds are to be used to help offset the unanticipated costs of safely operating library facilities during the pandemic. Under the CARES Act CRF funds, each library system will receive up to $25,000 for each main and branch location(s).

President Obhof is currently serving his second term in the Ohio Senate and his term will end December 31, 2020.

RESOLVED, That the Andrew Carnegie Award be presented to Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina).