

ITEM 2.B.

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SPECIAL ZOOM MEETING
Monday, June 15, 2020
3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE Kacie Armstrong, Euclid
Paula Brehm-Heeger, Cincinnati
Sarah Clevidence, Findlay
Tom Dillie, Minerva
Aimee Fifarek, Youngstown
Carol Herrick, Centerville
Cheryl Kuonen, Mentor
Lynn Mercer, Zanesville
Rick Rubin, Cuyahoga Falls
Chad Seeburg, Marysville
Jennifer Slone, Chillicothe
Mark Whitaker, Loudonville
Laura Lee Wilson, Huron County

STAFF Michelle Francis, Executive Director
Jeanine D’Andrea, Director, Member Services
Jason Gandee, Event Manager
Angie Jacobsen, Director, Communications
Denise Kise, Accounting/Data Services

AGENDA Kuonen called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Francis. Francis noted there were three topics for the agenda: (1) the 2020 Convention & Expo; (2) Social Justice; and (3) Workers Comp.

2020 CONVENTION AND EXPO At the May meeting, the board asked OLC staff to work with OLC’s consultant Shonna Nitzel (Experient) and to reach out to the Hilton and the Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC) to renegotiate cancellation fees, possibly reschedule for 2022, etc.

Francis reported that most event contracts have been cancelled and utilized the force majeure clauses through September. However, now that the Stay-at-Home orders have been lifted, the Convention and Visitors Bureau indicated that they plan to be open this fall. Some associations are cancelling their events as far out as February 2021. The GCCC cancellation fee would mean a loss of the \$6,000 deposit that is not refundable. In addition, the GCCC is refusing to reduce the \$22,430 fee. The GCCC will not open conversations regarding 2022. Gandee noted their normal policy is to not book events of OLC’s size more than 18 months in advance.

In regards to OLC’s contract with the Conference Hotel (the Hilton), the pandemic has complicated negotiations further. Francis reported that because of the pandemic and the impact on the hospitality industry, conversations and negotiations are no longer at the local level with OLC’s local relationships. Negotiations are accelerated to attorneys and higher level decision makers in the organizations. Experient has indicated that 60% of hotels are going to close

completely. Originally, if OLC were to cancel between April 26 and June 25 the cancellation fee would have been \$51,238. The Hilton has indicated that they are willing to reduce the cancellation fee by 50%. If OLC cancels and provides notification by June 25, the cancellation fee would be \$25, 619.

Francis noted that if OLC cancels the hotel and GCCC contracts, an audit can still be done during the original event dates. If the hotel and/or GCCC space is rebooked, OLC may be able to reduce our fees.

As far as other revenue streams for the event, OLC did have sponsorship commitments from OPLIN and others. However, no payments have been received so no refunds are required at this time. As far as advertising for the on-site program, only one vendor submitted payment and would need to be refunded. No contracts have been signed yet with Fern for the expo hall and no contracts have been signed for AV. So, there is no cancellation cost on those items. However, vendors have purchased \$15,637 worth of booth space for the expo hall. Vendors could be given the option of a refund or credit towards the 2021 Convention & Expo.

In total, OLC would have to pay out of pocket just over \$54,000 in cancellation fees to the Convention Center and the Hotel. The original 2020 budget approved by the Board was anticipating a loss of \$13,000 on the C&E. Therefore, cancelling the event would cost about \$40,000. It was noted that the OLC Convention & Expo has never been a significant source of revenue for the organization.

All three keynote speakers have indicated there would be no penalty if it is cancelled, they would be willing to reschedule for 2021. It also was noted that if the event does go forward, speakers could cancel as well.

With restrictions on travel, it is anticipated that attendance would be down approximately 50%. Also, volunteers may no longer be able to attend.

Clevidence asked if OLC could still provide educational content that the membership needs now? Francis noted that staff has already started to look at professional development that could be offered virtually. Fifarek noted that divisions have been active and could come up with new ideas that could be adapted for online training. In order to make it work we would have to make a significant investment in technology. In the short term it would probably be better to make 1 hour sessions and not as rigid.

FIFAREK MOVED AND HERRICK SECONDED TO CANCEL THE 2020 CONVENTION AND EXPO. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Armstrong thanked Francis and Gandee for their work and asked them to please pass the Board's thanks on to the Convention and Expo planning committees.

Francis, Gandee and Jacobsen will send special notifications to members, vendors and all other partners.

Francis noted that staff will have updated financials at the July Board meeting. Based on the Board's policy and dependent on where we are in September, we may need to dip into reserves, but there will be a clearer picture after July.

CLEVIDENCE MOVED AND FIFAREK SECONDED TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT TO THE HILTON HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER ANY CANCELLATION FEES DUE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board directed Gandee to work with Experient on the best form to notify the Convention Center.

Rubin noted two very important things: (1) It is extremely hard to do an online conference without adding stress to people; (2) Out of adversity some exciting things can happen. He stressed that OLC should seriously consider a much more sophisticated online education system. He indicated that it may take 2-5 years to become a cutting-edge leader. Francis reported that staff will be looking at much more sophisticated platforms. In the next 3-6 months, staff would like to come back to the Board with an overview of options

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Francis noted it has been difficult with the pandemic and then the horrible situation with the death of George Floyd. The past three weeks have been hard for our libraries. OLC sent an update and statement to our members outright opposing racism and violence. Staff worked with the Diversity Committee to develop a special page of resources on the website for our libraries. For our directors and members, many will be looking to OLC for direction. Discrimination and racism are completely unacceptable. Francis thanked Kuonen and Armstrong for their input on next steps. Staff conducted a series of forums with library directors to talk about racism and what they are seeing. There were four regional Zoom meetings held and Kuonen and Armstrong were on each of those meetings. These were honest and frank conversations. More than 100 library directors participated in the hard conversations and we were able to expand our knowledge base. Lots of good ideas were gathered and several will be considered for implementation. Francis would like to host a conversation with Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely on their book "All American Boys." Also, the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Foundation is hosting a virtual conference and has opened it up to our members. Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease is hosting a Discrimination and Unconscious Bias webinar free of charge to our members.

Rubin suggested a book with a little bit of historical note titled "Not Free, Not for All: Public Libraries in the Age of Jim Crow" by Cheryl Knott. He noted that the roots of our problem should be discussed as well as what is currently happening.

WORKERS COMP GROUP RATING

OLC sponsors a Workers Comp Group rating program to our institutional libraries at a discount through CareWorks Comp. OLC's program is in partnership with the Ohio School Boards Association, the Ohio Township Association and with OhioNet. More than 140 public library systems participate. The more libraries that participate, the greater the savings on premiums to the group.

Francis noted that two weeks ago at the State Library Board meeting, it came to our attention that the Regional library systems are contracting with Sheakley to provide this service. There is concern for our members because they are being asked to sign multi-year contracts. NEO-RLS already signed a contract. It was noted that this is a revenue stream for OLC. Last year, the OLC received approximately \$26,000 of which Ohionet gets 10%. Wilson, who is also on the NORWELD Board, noted that prior to the Stay-at-Home order, NORWELD had not signed a contract, and they have a Board meeting on Wednesday. She is not sure if Sheakley is requiring all four regionals to join. While NEO has signed, NORWELD has not.

ANNOUNCEMENTS The next OLC Board meeting is scheduled for July 17, and will most likely will be held by Zoom.

Jacobsen, Gandee and Francis will work on notification and getting the Convention officially cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.