

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.E**

MEETING DATE: **May 13, 2022**

SUBJECT: **Executive Director's Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

2022 Institutional Membership Dues

As of May 10, I am happy to report that 245 public library systems are Institutional Members of OLC. We have two library systems that are still in the process of renewing their memberships and submitting payment.

The following four public library systems have not paid any portion of their 2022 dues and were not included in the revenue projections for the 2022 OLC operational budget:

Library	2022 Dues
Bettsville Public Library	406
Franklin Public Library	4,843
New London Public Library	794
Plain City Public Library	1,542
TOTAL	7,585

OPERS Board Vacancy

In March the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) Board of Trustees appointed Stewart Smith to fill the Miscellaneous Employee Representative vacancy on their board. You may recall that OLC sent a letter in December to the OPERS Board encouraging them to consider a public library representative to fill the vacancy. Stewart currently serves as the Director of Finance and Deputy Fiscal Officer for the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

Library Levies on May Ballot

On May 3, voters approved all six public library issues on local ballots around Ohio. The successful library ballot issues included three renewals, two renewals with an increase, and one replacement. The levies passed by significant margins with the average voter approval rate of 71% percent. More information is available on OLC's website: <https://olc.org/blog/2022/05/04/ohioans-approve-100-of-public-library-levies-3/>

COSI Learning Lunchboxes

OLC is excited to announce that we will again be partnering with the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) to distribute [Learning Lunchboxes for FREE](#) to Ohio's public libraries this summer. Jay and I have been meeting with the team from COSI over the past few weeks. This year, each public library system can receive 100 FREE Learning Lunchboxes – COSI is doubling the distribution from last year. This year the Learning Lunchboxes will offer dinosaur-themed kits with five days' worth of learning content. Also, COSI will be putting together a special toolkit for our members that will tie into the Summer Reading theme. We will be holding a special [webinar](#) with more information for OLC members on Monday, May 16th and a joint press release between OLC and COSI will be issued next week. Jay and I will be out on the road this summer distributing the boxes at certain pick-up locations across the state. COSI is giving us 25,000 boxes and they would normally cost about \$30 each. This means we are saving OLC members \$750,000.

<https://olc.org/blog/event/2022-cosi-learning-lunchbox-webinar/>

Trustee Dinners

This spring, OLC returned to our tradition of having in-person Trustee Dinners around the state. These are dinner meetings throughout the state for public library trustees and administrators. These events focus on the challenges and opportunities ahead for Ohio's public libraries and provide a venue for library trustees and administrators to share information and ideas with their counterparts throughout the region. Below is a summary of attendance for this year (in-person) and last year (virtual).

Date	2022 Locations (In-Person)	Attendance
April 21	SE Ohio – Rep. Don Jones	30
May 5	NW Ohio – Rep. Haraz Ghanbari & Chancellor Randy Gardner	40
May 12	NE Ohio – Rep. Gayle Manning	60
May 19	SW Ohio – Rep. Jessica Miranda	20

Date	2021 Locations (Virtual)	Attendance
May 10	Central Ohio – Sen. President Pro Temp Jay Hottinger	41
May 13	SW Ohio – Sen. Steve Wilson	26
May 20	NE Ohio – Sen. Jerry Cirino	21
May 24	NW Ohio – Sen. Theresa Gavarone	44

Learning Loss Caused by the Pandemic

Jay and I have been meeting with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) regarding the [learning loss](#) from the pandemic.

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/education/2022/04/18/ohio-students-reading-skills-dropped-pandemic-columbus/7271841001/>

The impact of the pandemic on student learning has been significant, leaving many of Ohio's youngest students behind in reading. According to ODE, the third-grade reading proficiency decreased statewide from 67% in the 2018-19 school year to 51.9% in 2020-21. ODE is looking for options to utilize their federal funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) to address this issue.

We know our libraries have initiated several programs and services to help close achievement gaps, especially in early childhood literacy. We recently asked our members to complete a brief survey so that we can share this information with ODE and other state agencies on what libraries are doing to address the learning loss caused by the pandemic.

Censorship Program

I had the honor of presenting with one of my former law school professors on March 29th at a special event on censorship sponsored by the Bexley Public Library. We discussed the first amendment, book challenges and what is currently happening in public libraries and school libraries.

ALA Unite Against Book Bans

On April 4, ALA launched their national campaign – Unite Against Book Bans. This national campaign is focused on empowering readers everywhere to stand together in the fight against censorship. More information is available at [uniteagainstbookbans.org](https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2022/04/national-library-week-kicks-state-america-s-libraries-report-annual-top-10).

<https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2022/04/national-library-week-kicks-state-america-s-libraries-report-annual-top-10>

ALA recently announced that more than 25 national organizations have joined the campaign to raise awareness, including some of the following:

- Authors Guild
- Baker & Taylor
- Macmillan Publishers
- National Book Foundation
- Overdrive Inc.
- Penguin Random House
- Simon & Schuster

<https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2022/05/organizations-join-ala-unite-against-book-bans>

PLA 2022

The 2022 PLA Conference in Portland was a worthwhile trip to the west coast. It was great to see so many of our members in-person. I attended several important meetings while there:

- Met w/fellow Library State Assoc. Executive Directors from Virginia and Washington as well as the new Executive Director of COSLA.
- Met w/PLA's Executive Director to discuss PLA 2024 in Columbus.
- Met w/ALA's Executive Director, the ALA President, ALA Communications team and ALA Advocacy team on their nationwide advocacy campaign regarding book challenges and polling results.
- Met w/Blackstone Audio/Publishing regarding changes in their eBook licensing.
- Supported our OLC members as they presented in more than 10 different breakout sessions.

Digital Navigator Pop-ups

OLC is working with OPLIN and the Connectivity Champions from ODE on a pilot program for Digital Navigator Pop-ups in public libraries in certain regions of the state. This is a work in progress, and we are in the early stages of discussion. More information will be provided at the next board meeting.

OLC Staff Anniversaries

Recent OLC staff anniversaries include:

- Angie Jacobsen: March 28 – 6 years
- Laurie Miller: April 19 – 1 year
- Ro Swanson: May 8 – 22 years

Activities

Activities since the last Board meeting include:

Mar. 7	Leadership & Management Conf. Planning Comm. Meeting Lunch Meeting w/CML
Mar. 9	Meeting w/Brian Moore (Morgan Stanley)
Mar. 10	Adult Services & Ref. Virtual Conference.
Mar. 11	OLC Board of Directors Meeting

Mar. 12 OLC Library Trustee Workshop
 Mar. 14 Leadership & Management Conf. Planning Comm. Meeting
 Mar. 15 Meeting w/Brian Moore (Morgan Stanley)
 Mar. 16 Meeting w/OhioKAN (Kinship & Adoption Navigator Program)
 Mar. 17 Meeting w/School Principals Assoc.
 State Library of Ohio Board Meeting
 C&E Program Comm. Meeting
 C&E Expo Comm. Meeting
 Ohio Opioid Education Alliance Meeting
 Mar. 18 Meeting w/ODE about Learning Loss
 Meeting w/OLC Legal Counsel
 Meeting w/Connectivity Champions
 Mar. 21 Meeting w/BroadbandOhio on ACP
 Meeting w/Mayor's Alliance ED
 OLC Leg Day Prep Webinar
 Mar. 22 Meeting w/COSI on Learning Lunchboxes
 Meeting w/Wil Haygood
 Mar. 23-25 PLA 2022 in Portland
 Mar. 28 OLC Intellectual Freedom Webinar
 Mar. 29 Meeting w/BroadbandOhio on ACP
 Meeting w/OGIL
 Censorship Program w/Bexley PL
 Apr. 5 RemotEDx Coordinating Council Meeting
 Apr. 6 OLC Legislative Day at the Statehouse
 Apr. 7 Congressional Hearing on Censorship
 Meeting w/Ohio Opioid Education Alliance
 Apr. 8 Meeting w/Awards & Honors Chair
 Meeting on Cleveland Contracts
 Apr. 9 Interview w/Spectrum News
 Apr. 11 Meeting w/C&E Chairs
 Meeting w/Bob Hinkle (AOS)
 Meeting w/Dave Thompson (AOS)
 Apr. 12 United for Libraries Webinar on ALA Campaign
 Digital Navigator Meeting w/OPLIN
 Apr. 13-14 OLC Library Fiscal Officers CPIM Conference
 Meeting w/OLC Library Accounting Division
 Apr. 18 State Library of Ohio Webinar on Intellectual Freedom
 Apr. 19 Meeting w/BroadbandOhio on ACP
 Meeting w/COSI on Learning Lunchboxes
 Meeting w/OPLIN & Connectivity Champions on Digital Navigators
 Apr. 20 OLC Auditors
 Interview w/Cap. Journal
 Meeting w/Metro Directors
 Meeting w/ODE on Learning Loss
 Apr. 21 SE Ohio OLC Trustee Dinner in Cambridge
 Apr. 22 OPLIN Board Meeting
 OLC Small Libraries Division Action Council Meeting
 Apr. 26 Meeting w/Kent State iSchool Advisory Board
 Apr. 27 Meeting w/ODE on Learning Loss
 OLC Nominating Committee Meeting
 Meeting w/HBM Architects
 Apr. 28 Meeting w/Stifel
 Apr. 29 Meeting w/Howard Fleeter
 May 2 OLC Rightclick 2.0 Webinar: Cybersecurity & TechCred
 May 3 Meeting w/COSI on Learning Lunchboxes
 May 4 Meeting w/Metro Directors

May 5 NW Ohio OLC Trustee Dinner in Bowling Green
May 6 OLC Legislative Network Meeting
May 9 Meeting w/Rep. Oelslager
Meeting w/Shonna (Maritz Global Events)