

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.F**

MEETING DATE: **Sept. 15, 2023**

SUBJECT: **OPLIN Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Don Yarman**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

OPLIN Board Vacancy

With Travis Bautz's election to the OLC Board, he will be resigning from the OPLIN Board effective in December. I've announced the call for nominations to fill the remainder of his term, which expires June 30, 2025. Currently, we only have one Board member representing northwest Ohio. There are two library trustees on the OPLIN Board, but both have retired from their library boards—an active trustee or fiscal officer might be a good addition.

Statewide Branch 470, Year Two

Last year, 37 libraries put one or more branch circuits out for bid on our first statewide "omnibus" branch 470. While many libraries decided they were happy with their current service, in the end we placed 48 new orders for 22 library systems. Our expectation that libraries could get better vendor attention going through us was borne out, so we're going to keep at it. Libraries can go to www.oplin.ohio.gov/branch470 to input the basic information we need to get started. We plan to release the 470 in November. Anyone with a contract ending before January 2026 is encouraged to sign on.

LinkedIn Learning

LinkedIn Learning is in its last year of the current agreement. When I started at OPLIN almost 6 years ago, there was a sizable cash balance in excess of the agency's allotted spending authority. The goal was to spend that down to a fiscally and politically prudent level, and five years later, that's where we are. I expect the company to insist on price increases of 3-10%, and that is simply not affordable. I believe we have strong arguments on our side for negotiating with LinkedIn for reining in the price, but our experience with the company does not buoy my optimism.