

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.G**

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

SUBJECT: **Executive Director's Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

OLC Board Elections

OLC Elections ended on July 30. The results were reviewed with Tom Dillie, Chair of the OLC Board of Directors Nominating Committee on August 3. There was a 19% return rate for the Board. Board candidates were notified by phone, and all candidates for division action councils were notified by letter. A full report of the results was published in *Access Weekly*.

Columbus Metropolitan Club Forum on Preserving Intellectual Freedom

At the end of July, I was asked to participate in a panel discussion on preserving intellectual freedom in public libraries at a CMC Forum. Other panelists included Patrick Losinski, CEO, Columbus Metropolitan Library; Felton Thomas, Jr., Executive Director, CEO, Cleveland Public Library; and Matthew Besser, Principal, Bolek Besser Glesius and General Counsel for ACLU of Ohio. David E. Weaver, Executive Director, Ohioana Library Association served as the moderator. A recording of the event is available online:

<https://www.wcbe.org/podcast/columbus-metropolitan-club/2023-08-01/preserving-intellectual-freedom-in-public-libraries>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SueXLVoiMoQ>

COSI Learning Lunchboxes

OLC staff recently met with COSI and the State Library of Ohio regarding the distribution of the COSI STEM kits. The kit this year will be a water kit especially assembled for Ohio's public libraries. The kits normally retail for \$40 each but they will be provided to Ohio's public libraries free of charge through this partnership. This will save Ohio's public libraries about \$1 million. Metro library systems will be working with OLC to pick up their boxes directly from the warehouse in Westerville and the State Library of Ohio will be distributing the boxes to other library systems across the state. COSI, OLC and the State Library will be doing a webinar soon for all public libraries on the water kits.

[COSI Connects Kits - Activity Videos](#)

Small Library Directors' Forums

The OLC Small Libraries Division are hosting discussion forums for directors of small libraries around the state of Ohio. These forums are designed for directors of small libraries to discuss issues of common interest and to share ideas on how to deal with challenges unique to small libraries. The discussions also include an update on OLC activities, legislative issues, and library funding. About 50 directors have registered for the forums.

- August 10 at the Amherst Public Library
- August 24 at the Perry County District Library – Somerset Branch
- October 12 at the Delaware County District Library – Liberty Branch

OLC 2024 Planning & Leadership Kickoff

In an effort to better meet the needs of our members and volunteers, OLC will be adjusting the format again this year for our “Leadership Conference.” This is an opportunity for OLC Committees and Division Action Councils to meet and plan for 2024. We will hold a live kickoff virtual event on Thursday, Nov. 16. OLC Committees and Division Action Councils will then have until Thursday, Dec. 14 to meet separately. Formal invitations will be distributed. This is an invitation only virtual event and registration will be required, but there will be no charge.

Activities

Activities since the July 14 meeting include:

- July 17 IMLS 2023 National Medal Breakfast Reception
 IMLS 2023 National Medal Ceremony
 Dinner Celebrating TLCPL – IMLS 2023 National Medal Winner

- July 19 OLC Library Facilities Conference

 Meeting w/Robin Enterprises
 Meeting w/Local Arrangements Chair
 Interview w/EdSource

- July 20 Meeting w/TLCPL on Digital Equity & Civics

- July 21 OLC New Directors 1 Workshop

- July 26 Columbus Metropolitan Club Forum on Preserving Intellectual Freedom

- Aug. 2 ALA Chapter Leadership Meetings

- Aug. 3 Meeting to Review OLC Election Results
 Assoc. Management Software Meeting
 OLC Final State Budget Update Webinar

- Aug. 4 COSI Learning Lunchbox Distribution – Lorain Public Library

- Aug. 8 Meeting w/Metro Library Directors

- Aug. 10 Small Libraries Forum – Amherst Public Library

- Aug. 11 Meeting w/Maritz & CLE on 2025
 OPLIN Board Meeting
 Meeting w/Melissa Cropper/OFT

- Aug. 14 Meeting w/Ragan Snead/NEO
 Meeting w/OLC Legal Counsel

- Aug. 15 Meeting w/Howard Fleeter

- Aug. 17 OLC New Directors 2 Workshop

Aug. 21	PLA 2024 Planning Meeting Meeting w/North Hill Consulting
Aug. 22	Meeting w/Blackstone Publishing Meeting w/ALA Leadership
Aug. 23	AOS Levy FAQ Webinar Meeting w/ODHE on FAFSA Changes
Aug. 24	Small Libraries Forum – Perry County District Library OLC Board of Directors Update
Aug. 25	ETM Meeting
Aug. 28	Meeting w/Ohio Dept. of Taxation Meeting w/PLA PLA 2024 Local Arrangements Comm. Meeting
Aug. 29	ReadOhio Initiative Meeting w/Gov.'s Staff COSI STEM Kits Meeting w/COSI & SLO
Aug. 30	OLC New Directors 3 Workshop
Aug. 31	OLC Library Fiscal Officers 102 Workshop
Sept. 1	OLC Board Update Media Call
Sept. 7	OLC GRC Meeting
Sept. 8	Assoc. Management Software Meeting
Sept. 11	Meeting w/Howard Fleeter Meeting w/PLA
Sept. 12	OLC New Directors 4 Workshop