

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORSVia Zoom  
July 14, 2023  
10:00 A.M.

PRESENT	Kathy Bach, Cincinnati Julianne Bedel, Medina (virtual) Sarah Clevidence, Findlay Tom Dillie, Minerva Aimee Fifarek, Youngstown Carol Herrick, Centerville Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton (virtual) Robbie Jenkins, Gallipolis (virtual) Cheryl Kuonen, Mentor (virtual) Melissa Marolt, New Lexington Rick Rubin, Cuyahoga Falls Jennifer Slone, Chillicothe Laura Lee Wilson, Huron County, Willard
GUESTS	Wendy Knapp, State Library of Ohio Brian Moore, The Fortis Group at Morgan Stanley Don Yarman, OPLIN
GUESTS ABSENT	Nick Tepe, ALA Councilor
STAFF	Michelle Francis, Executive Director Jeanine D'Andrea, Director, Membership Services Angie Jacobsen, Director, Communications Denise Kise, Accounting/Data Services Laurie Miller, Director, Professional Development Jay Smith, Director of Government and Legal Services
CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 10:00 a.m. Wilson welcomed members and guests. She noted Brian Moore of the Fortis Group at Morgan Stanley will be providing the Board with an update on OLC's investments under Item 4.A on the agenda. Wilson reminded members there will be an Executive Session at the end of the meeting.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	FIFAREK MOVED AND MAROLT SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	CLEVIDENCE MOVED AND RUBIN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE MAY 19, 2023, MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
FINANCIAL REPORT MONTH-END MAY 2023	Francis presented the financial report for Month-End May 2023.  <u>Revenue.</u> Dues Income is over budget by \$58,393. Institutional Membership is over budget by \$56,059 due to timing of payments. Other Institutions is over budget by \$1,000 due to timing of payments and Personal Memberships are over budget by \$1,334. Publications are slightly under budget by \$195. Continuing Education is over budget by \$44,700. Legislative Day is over budget by \$2,220 due to attendance. Convention and Expo is over budget \$36,075 due to early

sponsorships and workshops are over budget by \$6,405 due to strong attendance \$6,405. Contract Income is over budget due to increased usage of the Sourcing Office. Other Income is over budget by \$18,139. Interest and Dividends is over budget \$8,388 due to returns. Workers' Compensation is under budget by \$5,839 due to timing of payments & BWC rebates. Unrealized Gain is over budget by \$15,140 and reflects a rebound in the market. Jobline is over budget \$415 due to out-of-state postings.

Expenses. Salaries and benefits are under budget \$6,859 due to timing of payments. Accrued vacation is over budget by \$23,670. Retirement is under budget by \$1,152 due to timing of plan contributions. Health Insurance is under budget by \$2,729 due to selection of plan. Payroll taxes are over budget \$4,988 due to timing of payments. Consultants and Contractors are under budget by \$3,206. Speaker honoraria is over budget by \$1,750 due to timing of payments. Legal Services is under budget \$6,771 due to timing of payments. Supplies and Resources are over budget by \$3,411. Subscription/Resource Materials are under budget by \$2,991 due to timing of payments. Space rental is over budget due to timing of payment and CAM. Workshops are over budget \$6,891 for the adjustments for CPIM conference space. Travel is under budget \$7,556 for staff travel.

**The Net Change in Assets is \$104,491.**

HERRICK MOVED AND JENKINS SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE MONTH-END MAY 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### OLC FINANCIAL INVESTMENT REPORT

Francis introduced Brian Moore, The Fortis Group at Morgan Stanley. She shared that OLC does have an Investment Policy. Moore shared inflation is one of the unfortunate by-products of what has been happening with the US Federal Reserve rate-hike campaign. The Fed raised rates at a pace we haven't seen since the '80's. Inflation is moving down in the US and somewhat globally. Last year, OLC's balanced portfolio was down about 17%. Nearly half of the assets are held in a money market fund paying 4.9%. The overall portfolio year-to-date is up about 4.6% and will continue to move up. Most funds are in treasury money-market fund. There is a CD due in September. In his opinion it is probably best situated to sit there. There is no advisory fee and no minimum hold on it. The long-term pool (formerly TRAK) now Pathway Program (underlying mutual funds) is designed to be very conservative with 40% equities and 60% bonds. Moore appreciates the relationship and looks forward to working with OLC.

#### STATE BUDGET UPDATE

Francis reported that the budget has passed. She thanked the Board for their support and flexibility.

Smith reported the State Budget did pass by the June 30 deadline. Gov. DeWine signed the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 state operating budget. The Public Library Fund (PLF) is now set in permanent law at 1.70% of the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF). The OLC is currently reviewing the final provisions of the 9,212-page bill and will provide more detailed information during a State Budget Update Webinar on Thurs., Aug. 3 at 2 p.m.

The language eliminating replacement levies was restored so public libraries and other local governments will continue to have that option for levies.

#### FREEDOM TO READ

Wilson directed the Board to the email they received this morning. Francis reported that the OLC Board of Directors adopted an Intellectual Freedom Policy

on December 7, 2001, and revised that policy on May 19, 2017. The policy endorses the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights Interpretations, Freedom to Read Statement; Freedom to View Statement; Code of Ethics; Libraries: An American Value; All Policy Statements and Resolutions. ALA's Freedom to Read Statement was originally adopted in 1953. On June 25, 2023, ALA, along with the Association of American Publishers issued a press release reaffirming the 1953 Freedom to Read Statement. They were joined in the press release by the Authors Guild and the American Booksellers Association.

During discussion, Francis shared that Ohio's public libraries receive more state funding than any other state in the nation. OLC's advocacy goal was to make it to the end of the state budget process without any issues. Since ALA Annual at the end of June, two different articles from "Save Libraries" have appeared in the Statehouse Newsclips. The Montana State Library dropped their ALA membership in response to comments and remarks from the new president of ALA. ALA responded yesterday, and Francis shared that with Wilson. They wanted to show the value of what ALA was from the State of Montana. IMLS grants, emerging leader grants. The Montana Library Association has not dropped their membership. In addition, there are rumblings in other states.

If the Board does choose to take action on anything going forward, it would be important for it to be Ohio's Freedom to Read Statement, Ohio specific and Ohio championed. It would be good to include the GRC if there are any discussions.

Kuonen noted it is a good policy we have and was revised in 2017. She noted that OLC is not changing its stance and not changing what we are doing due to the current environment. Herrick was supportive of Kuonen's comments. Wilson thanked Francis for keeping the Board updated.

#### 2025 OLC C&E LOCATION

Francis reported OLC staff has been researching options for the 2025 OLC Convention and Expo. Maritz Global Events sent out an RFP for potential locations statewide. Staff is requesting feedback on the location and authority to move forward. Francis acknowledged Laurie Miller for putting the information in a readable format. OLC received responses from Cleveland and Kalahari. OLC was at Kalahari in 2018 and in Cleveland in 2003. Kuonen recommended Cleveland since it has been 20 years since OLC has been there. There was discussion about the décor at Kalahari and the lack of options for other dining. Fifarek agreed to Cleveland. It was the sense of the Board to give OLC staff the authority to move forward with Maritz Global on negotiations for Cleveland, Ohio.

#### ALA COUNCILOR REPORT

Tepe provided a written report and was not able to participate in the meeting.

#### STATE LIBRARY REPORT

In addition to her written report, Knapp reported on the following:

State Budget. The State Budget passed with a 3% increase for the State Library of Ohio. This is the first increase in over 20 years.

Board Retreat. The State Library of Ohio Board retreat is scheduled for July 19, 2023.

Software Migration. The State Library of Ohio will be migrating to new software, and maybe incorporating the new Ohio "The Heart of It All" logo.

Staffing. The State Library of Ohio is currently interviewing for the open position of Research and Catalog Services.

#### OPLIN REPORT

In addition to his written report, Yarman reported on the following:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

Statewide Databases. Yarman reported there were a few hiccups with the umbrella renewal. However, now everything has gone through.

PCs for People and Sharing OPLIN Internet. One of the programs the nonprofit organization PCs for People offers is to work with anchor institutions (like libraries) to provide wireless, LTE internet service to surrounding neighborhoods. PCs for People may request that libraries further engage by piggybacking on the library's existing internet connection. While it is the library's prerogative to donate part of its bandwidth to an outside organization, OPLIN cannot continue to pay for the circuit.

Cybersecurity. Francis noted she just received a press release from the Governor's Office on Cybersecurity. Yarman stated there is some movement within the rules for a pilot project on cybersecurity and the FCC.

In addition to her written report, Francis reported on the following:

ALA Annual Conference. Francis thanked the Board for authorizing permission to take other staff to ALA Annual. Miller, D'Andrea and Jacobsen attended. It was extremely valuable for exposure and staff promoted PLA 2024. ALA attendance was over 9,000 with 6,375 exhibitors for a total attendance of 15,851. Francis and Tepe attended the Chapter Leaders Forum.

Small Library Directors Forums. The Small Libraries Division will host discussion forums for directors of small libraries at three locations around Ohio this fall. August 10, Amherst Public Library; August 24 at Perry County District Library – Somerset Branch; and October 12 at Delaware County District Library – Liberty Branch.

OLC Elections. The 2023 OLC Elections opened on June 20 and run through July 30. Francis thanked Ro Swanson and D'Andrea for their work on the balloting.

IRS Form 990. Following the completion of the 2022 financial audit, the OLC auditors prepared the IRS Form 990. Francis thanked Kise for her work on the audit. Per OLC policy, the form will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and filed.

COSI STEM Kits. Francis thanked Knapp at the State Library about the possibility of continuing to distribute the COSI STEM Kits to Ohio public libraries. There will be a separate distribution with the Metro Libraries.

OLC Staff. Francis acknowledged Denise Kise's 10-year anniversary.

IMLS Ceremony. Francis is heading to Washington DC along with Knapp to attend the IMLS Medal ceremony at the White House. The presentation ceremony will be led by First Lady Dr. Jill Biden. The Toledo Lucas County Public Library was one of just four library systems nationwide to receive the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that demonstrate excellence in service to their communities.

Intellectual Freedom. At the request of the Columbus Metropolitan Club, Michelle Francis, OLC; Pat Losinski, Columbus and Felton Thomas, Cleveland have been invited to discuss Intellectual Freedom during a forum on July 26.

GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

In addition to his written report, Smith reported on the following:

Public Library Fund. The July distribution is the first distribution for Fiscal Year 2024. According to the Office of Budget and Management overall state tax receipts were 3.6% above estimate for the fiscal year. OLC will work with Fleeter & Associates to update the PLF distribution estimates for the remainder of CY23.

Virtual meetings will be proactively pursued. Smith encourages having continued relationships with legislators. Legislators are at home through July and August. here are committee hearings set for September, October and November.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

In addition to her written report, Miller reported on the following:

2023 Convention and Expo. There are currently 42 exhibitors. Jacobsen will be promoting Keynotes in the newsletters. Registration opens at the end of July.

Professional Development Programs. The Facilities conference is scheduled for July 19 and the Outreach Retreat will be held in August. The New Directors Workshop series begins soon.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

In addition to her written report, Jacobsen reported on the following:

Government Relations. The OLC website and Library Funding microsite were updated at each step of the state budget process.

Convention and Expo Microsite. A promotional brochure will be sent on July 21. Development of the Convention and Expo website and OLC app are underway. Registration will open later this month.

ALA Annual Conference. Jacobsen shared that she truly enjoyed going to the ALA Convention as an attendee. Staff came away with a lot of ideas, especially for the Award winners.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES REPORT

In addition to her written report, D'Andrea reported on the following:

ALA Annual Conference. D'Andrea echoed her appreciation for the opportunity to attend the ALA Convention. It was exciting to see ideas that we could potentially use at the OLC Convention.

Nominations and Elections. Voting is open through July 30. A reminder to vote will be sent the last week in July.

Committee Appointments. Staff are working to identify openings on OLC Committees. They will send a report to the Appointments Committee including Aimee Fifarek, Chair, Jenn Slone and Laura Lee Wilson by late August.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sept. 15 meeting will be via Zoom and the Nov. 17 meeting will be in-person.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

FIFAREK MOVED AND HERRICK SECONDED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:44 A.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 P.M.