

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OLC Offices  
Nov. 17, 2023  
10:00 A.M.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| PRESENT             | Kathy Bach, Cincinnati<br>Julianne Bedel, Medina<br>Sarah Clevidence, Findlay<br>Tom Dillie, Minerva<br>Aimee Fifarek, Youngstown<br>Carol Herrick, Centerville<br>Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton<br>Robbie Jenkins, Gallipolis<br>Cheryl Kuonen, Mentor<br>Melissa Marolt, New Lexington<br>Rick Rubin, Cuyahoga Falls<br>Jennifer Slone, Chillicothe (Virtual)<br>Laura Lee Wilson, Huron County, Willard |
| GUESTS              | Travis Bautz, OLC Incoming Board Member<br>Nick Tepe, ALA Councilor (Virtual)<br>Don Yarman, OPLIN  |
| GUESTS ABSENT       | Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, OLC Incoming Board Member<br>Wendy Knapp, State Librarian of Ohio<br>Stacey Russell, OLC Incoming Board Member  |
| STAFF               | Michelle Francis, Executive Director<br>Jeanine D'Andrea, Director of Membership Services<br>Angie Jacobsen, Director of Communications<br>Denise Kise, Accounting/Data Services<br>Jay Smith, Director of Government and Legal Services  |
| STAFF ABSENT        | Laurie Miller, Director of Professional Development   |
| CALL TO ORDER       | The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 10:09 a.m.<br>Wilson welcomed incoming Board members/Wilson noted Jen Slone and Nick Tepe will be joining via Zoom.  |
| APPROVAL OF AGENDA  | ICAZA MOVED AND RUBIN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.<br>MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.  |
| APPROVAL OF MINUTES | FIFAREK MOVED AND HERRICK SECONDED APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.<br><br>Herrick has one correction to the September 15, 2023 Executive Committee minutes to note: Herrick was in attendance. CLEVIDENCE MOVED AND MAROLT SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES AS CORRECTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.             |

FINANCIAL REPORT  
MONTH-END –  
SEPTEMBER 2023

Francis presented the Financial Report: Month-End September 2023.

Revenue. Dues Income is over budget by \$66,263. Publications are slightly under budget by \$255.00. Continuing Education is over budget by \$82,310. Convention and Expo is over budget \$80,085 due to sponsorships. Contract Income is over budget \$1,610. Other Income is over budget by \$46,258. Interest and Dividends is over budget \$28,668 due to returns. Workers' Compensation is over budget \$13,199 due to timing of payments. Unrealized Gain reflects a rebound in market \$4,101. Jobline is over budget \$115 due to out-of-state postings.

Expenses. Salaries and benefits are over budget \$2,861 due to timing of payments. Salaries are under budget \$9,302. Health Insurance is under budget \$6,032 due to selection of plan. Consultants and Contractors are under budget \$19,363 due to timing of payments. Speaker honoraria is under budget \$5,750 due to timing of payments. Legal Services are under budget \$17,648 due to timing of payments. Space rental is over budget \$13,103. Travel is under budget \$12,209 mostly due to timing of reimbursements and payments for presenter travel. Management expenses are under budget \$38,247. Catering and other meals are under budget to timing of payments and coding \$38,140.

The Net Change in Assets is \$274,071.

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

BOARD MEETING DATES

The proposed 2024 Board meeting dates are as follows:  
Jan. 12; Mar. 15; May 17; Jul. 19; Sept. 20; and Nov. 15.

CLEVIDENCE MOVED AND JENKINS SECONDED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED 2024 BOARD MEETING DATES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RATIFICATION OF  
COMMITTEE  
APPOINTMENTS

Francis presented the 2024 Committee Appointments. OLC Staff will continue to work to fulfill the openings.

BEDEL MOVED AND FIFAREK SECONDED TO ACCEPT THE RATIFICATION OF THE OLC COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONVENTION & EXPO

Francis thanked the Board members who were able to attend the 2023 Convention and Expo in Cincinnati. She thanked the Chairs, volunteers, and staff. We have received responses that the Convention was very successful. There were 60 exhibit booths, sponsorships of \$64,000, and some vendors are already looking ahead for 2025 in Cleveland. Attendance for the Convention was 788. She thanked the Board again for their support.

2024 PLANNING AND  
LEADERSHIP KICKOFF

The 2024 Planning and Leadership Kickoff was Thursday, November 16. The kickoff was held as a webinar as staff continue to look for options in the future to meet in person. Committees and Divisions will plan to meet between now and Dec. 21.

PLA 2024

Registration for PLA opened just after the OLC C&E. Individual members of OLC receive a significant discount. Emails went out to PLA members, and then PLA emailed OLC Individual Members. To date, registration for PLA is 961 and 143

are from Ohio. PLA is hoping for a final registration of 5,000. OLC is offering two pre-con workshops on April 2. One is related to Broadband and Digital Navigators and the second one is on the Science of Reading. There will be more to come on a welcome reception.

#### STATE OF OLC 2023

Francis gave an overview of the 2023 State of OLC. Francis presented a summary of what we have accomplished throughout the year with strategic priorities of Advocacy, Education, Collaboration and Communication. Francis noted what's ahead for OLC are book challenges and AMS Software. Francis thanked the State Library of Ohio for their partnership on the COSI Stem Kits. OLC worked with the Metro Libraries on picking up their boxes directly from the warehouse and the SLO distributed boxes through their Statewide Delivery System.

Advocacy - PLF is expected to increase CY 2023 to more than \$505 million; Legislative Day; State Representatives attending Trustee Dinners.

Education – Increase in paid attendance at webinars, workshops and C&E. Youth Services Conference and Library Facilities Conference.

Collaboration – Governor's Inauguration; Imagination Library; COSI STEM Kits; Ohio Department of Education; BroadbandOhio; Small Libraries Forum.

Communication – Legal/Statehouse Updates; Press Releases, What's Happening in PLs; This Week; Access Weekly; Division Newsletters.

#### CHAIR REPORT

Wilson noted OLC is doing a good job, and is grateful for the work Francis and her team accomplish.

#### OLC BOARD OFFICER NOMINATIONS 2024

The Executive Committee of the board met to put forward names for 2024 Vice Chair and Secretary-Treasurer. The Committee submits the following nominations for the officers of the 2024 OLC Board of Directors: Mary Ellen Icaza as Vice Chair and Stacey Russell as Secretary-Treasurer. They have accepted the nominations. The nominations remain open through the January Board meeting. The vote will take place at the Jan. 12 board meeting.

#### OLC BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The proposed assignments for the 2024 Committees of the Board were presented. Any member requesting changes should notify Clevidence or Francis by Dec. 31. Approval of the Committee assignments will take place at the Board meeting on Jan. 12 board meeting.

#### ALA COUNCILOR REPORT

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

Executive Director Tracie Hall Resigns. Tracie Hall resigned as Executive Director of ALA effective October 6. Leslie Burger was appointed Interim Director as of Nov. 15. ALA will launch a nationwide search for the next Executive Director. ALA Council meeting is Nov. 30 to discuss the permanent director search process.

Preliminary Data on 2023 Book Challenges. Between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31, 2023, ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom reported 695 attempts to censor library materials and services and documented challenges to 1,915 unique titles. This is an increase of 20% from the same reporting period in 2022.

Texas School Book Law (HB 900). Federal judge Alan Albright issued a substantive 59-page written opinion and order officially blocking Texas's controversial book rating law, HB 900 from taking effect. Texas State officials have indicated they will appeal the ruling.

2024 World Library and Information Congress. The International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) was informed on Oct. 3 of the decision to withdraw the invitation to hold the 2024 World Library and Information Congress in Dubai. As Dubai was the only viable bid, there will now not be a World Library and Information Conference in 2024.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT

A written report was available in Knapp's absence.

Francis highlighted the State Library has launched *Libraries by the Numbers*, an online tool to help Ohio public libraries create custom infographics to visualize data from their IMLS Public Library Surveys.

OPLIN REPORT

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

Board Members. Yarman noted that Holly Richards is leaving Dayton and therefore will resign from the OPLIN Board.

E-rate. The deadline has officially passed for listing branches on the statewide, omnibus 470.

LinkedIn Learning. OPLIN shared the news of the potential subscription loss of LinkedIn Learning at the OLC Convention.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

2024 OLC Budget. The Finance Committee of the Board will be meeting in early January.

ALA Emerging Leaders Program. ALA has selected Hannah Van Sile, Adult Services Program Specialist, Stark Library to participate in the 2024 Emerging Leaders program. OLC will provide a \$1,500 stipend to help offset expenses associated with participation in the program and attendance at the ALA's LibLearnX and ALA's Annual Conference.

Amicus Brief. OLC joined our local government partners and signed on to an Amicus Brief in the case of Hicks v. Union Township, Clermont County Board of Trustees – stemming from a Court of Claims public records case. Other statewide organizations partnering with OLC include: the Ohio Township Association (lead), Buckeye Association of School Administrators, Ohio Association of School Business Officials, Ohio Municipal League and County Commissioners Association of Ohio.

Association Management Software Project. OLC staff participated in the American Society of Association Executives Management Software Demo Days. Staff participated in 19 different high-level demonstrations over the two-day period. We are currently working to narrow our options to five or six vendors for more detailed discussions.

OLC Board Orientation. Francis scheduled and met with Hedlund Tunnell, Bautz and Russell for Board orientation discussions.

Ohioans Approve 25 out of 26 Public Library Levies. Contact was made with the libraries. Conversations have been had with the unsuccessful library to try to assist them.

GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL  
SERVICES REPORT

Staff Anniversaries.

Jay Smith – 4 years on Nov. 18

Sandy Diosy – 8 years on Nov. 2

Beth Ann Yablonski – 8 years on Oct. 19

Institutional Members. A Membership Satisfaction Survey was sent out Monday to Institutional Libraries.

Amazon Business. Francis met with Amazon Business Prime. The Michigan Library Association has a statewide contract. This could be an answer to some libraries having limits on their credit cards.

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

PLF Update. The November 2023 distribution of \$42,022,696 is \$1 million or 2.33.% below ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2022; and \$1.77 million or +4.44% above ODT's updated estimate issued in December 2022.

Ohio General Election Ballot Issues. Issue 2 passed and will legalize adult-use marijuana in the state of Ohio. It was not a constitutional amendment – it was an initiated statute which means the legislature can still make changes to its implementation. The statute becomes effective on Dec. 7. The rule making process for recreational use is not expected to be complete until later in 2024.

Hb 187 – Property Taxes. The Ohio House of Representatives passed HB 187 which makes several changes to the information that the Ohio Department of Taxation uses to review and update property values for tax purposes. The bill would also temporarily modify the method for valuing farmland in addition to other real property. Senate Bill 153 is a companion bill to HB 187 and is currently being heard in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

HB 257 – Virtual Meetings. Passed out of House Government Oversight Committee. One change includes a requirement for public bodies to define in their virtual meeting policies what would constitute a “major nonroutine expenditure” or “significant hiring decision,” which are factors that can trigger a requirement to meet in person.

HB 245 – Adult Cabaret Performances. Looks at obscenity Laws and material harmful to juveniles. This bill will not be moving out of the House this year.

OPERS. The OPERS Board voted to allow OPERS staff to seek legislative support to increase the employer contribution from 14 percent to 18 percent for its general population plan and from 19.5 to 24 percent for its law enforcement and public safety employee plans. At this time, no legislation has been introduced.

Solar Eclipse Webinar. The Solar Eclipse Webinar is scheduled for Dec. 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Book Ban Update Webinar. To help libraries prepare for current and emerging challenges, the OLC will host a free webinar on Nov. 30 at 2:00 p.m. on how to manage these difficult situations.

Road Ahead Tour. Throughout the month of October, the Road Ahead Tour made 13 stops around the state to discuss our strategy in advocating for library funding. OLC is encouraging library directors to reach out to their state

representatives and senators to educate decision-makers on the partnership we have with the state of Ohio through the Public Library Fund.

PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT REPORT

A written report was available in Miller's absence.

Francis reported the Professional Development Committee has slated an Adult Services/Customer Service Conference in August and Library Management & Leadership Conference in October.

COMMUNICATIONS  
REPORT

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

Convention and Expo. There was an increase in the number of active users on the OLC app and it has been expanded for other conferences.

Library Ballot Results. Levy results were posted on the OLC website and announced via news release. They were also featured in the Nov. 8 issue of Access.

Awards and Honors. OLC continues to receive media coverage for its Awards and Honors program. Several news outlets recently shared stories about the award winners.

Other Division/Committee Projects. The Membership Committee added a Member Spotlight to Access and the OLC Website. The New Member Referral Program was promoted. A Member Satisfaction Survey (Institutional Members) ran in the Nov. 13 issue of *This Week*.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES  
REPORT

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

2023 Individual Membership. The final Individual Membership total for 2023 was 2358 members in comparison to the 2022 final total of 2375. Staff acknowledged KT Mockensturm, Chair and all members of the 2023 Membership Committee for their dedicated work.

2024 Membership. The first membership renewal notice is scheduled to be mailed the week of Nov. 27. The first renewal is in print format, the remaining two notices will be via email. OLC has received several inquiries regarding joining for the purpose of attending PLA at a reduced rate.

New Member Referral Program. The New Member Referral Program will run from Nov. 1, 2023 through Feb. 1, 2024. The winner will receive \$50 in credit toward any OLC continuing education within the 2024 calendar year.

Committee Tracking. Updates to OLC's rosters for Committees and Division Action Councils will be made after the 2024 Planning and Leadership Kickoff.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Jan. 12, 2024. A decision will be made later whether it will be in-person or virtual.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

FIFAREK MOVED AND RUBIN SECONDED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:06 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

FIFAREK MOVED AND MAROLT SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:31 PM. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.