

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OLC Offices
May 17, 2024
10:00 A.M.

PRESENT Kathy Bach, Cincinnati
Travis Bautz, Middletown
Julianne Bedel, Medina
Sarah Clevidence, Findlay
Aimee Fifarek, Youngstown
Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, Ashland
Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton
Robbie Jenkins, Gallipolis (virtual)
Cheryl Kuonen, Mentor
Rick Rubin, Cuyahoga Falls
Stacey Russell, Zanesville
Jennifer Slone, Chillicothe
Laura Lee Wilson, Huron County, Willard

GUESTS Beverly Cain, Interim State Librarian
Nick Tepe, ALA Councilor
Don Yarman, OPLIN

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 Clevidence at 10:01 a.m. Clevidence noted that Robbie Jenkins is joining us via Zoom. Clevidence welcomed Beverly Cain, Interim State Librarian and noted Michael Goldberg, Perks Pusateri & Co CPAs would be joining the meeting to report on Item 3.B. 2023 Financial Audit.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Clevidence requested a motion to move Item 3.C. Nominating Committee Report to the end of the agenda to be discussed in Executive Session. FIFAREK MOVED AND ICAZA SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA WITH THE CHANGE NOTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES RUBIN MOVED AND BEDEL SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 15, 2024, MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINANCIAL REPORT MONTH-END MARCH Francis presented the financial report for Month-End March 2024.

Revenue. Dues Income is under budget due to delayed invoicing. As discussed previously, there was a delay in information from county auditors. To date, there are 236 public libraries who have paid in full. Individual Memberships are over budget due to increase in membership related to PLA. Continuing Education is over budget due to increased attendance at Legislative Day and Workshops.

Contract Income is slightly under budget due to timing of Q1 payment.

Other Income is over budget due to returns on short-term investments, returns on long-term investments, and Management/Consulting Revenue is over budget due to background checks.

Expenses. Computer Software/Supplies is over budget due to the timing of payments and coding due to equipment software support for the one-year renewal for OLC's association management software.

The Net Change in Assets is (\$28,705).

RUSSELL MOVED AND FIFAREK SECONDED APPROVAL OF MONTH-END MARCH 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2023 FINANCIAL AUDIT

Clevidence noted the Board would come back to Item 3.B 2024 Financial Audit once we hear back from Michael Goldberg.

NOMNIATING COMMITTEE

Discussion regarding the Nominating Committee was moved to the end of the agenda and discussed in Executive Session.

The OLC Nominating Committee conducted a virtual meeting on May 2 to discuss potential candidates for the 2024 OLC Board of Directors elections. Members of the committee include Sarah Clevidence, Ex-Officio; Laura Lee Wilson, Chair; Kathy Bach; Nieca Nowels; Michael Penrod; and Tara Sidwell. OLC staff members Michelle Francis and Jeanine D'Andrea also participated in the meeting.

The committee recommended the following slate of candidates for election to three-year terms beginning in January 2025.

MLIS Director [one to be elected]
Elizabeth Muether, Director/CFO, Mercer County District Library

Library Trustee Director [one to be elected]
Bernie Rochford, Trustee, Akron Summit County Public Library

At-Large Director [one to be elected]
Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Deputy Director, Cleveland Heights-University Heights PL
Andrew Harant, Director, Cuyahoga Falls Public Library

At-Large Director [one to be elected]
Monica Baughman, Director of Support Services, Worthington Libraries

At-Large Director [one to be elected]
William Rutger, Director, Avon Lake Public Library

In addition to the OLC Board of Directors slate, the following individuals are running for ALA Councilor:

ALA Councilor [one to be elected]
James Hill, Executive Director, Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library
Tony Howard, Director, Pickerington Public Library
Nick Tepe, Director, Athens County Public Libraries, *Incumbent*

NEW ASSOCIATION
MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Staff has been reviewing and analyzing options for new Association Management Software (AMS). Last fall, OLC staff participated in the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) AMS Demo Days. Over a two-day period, staff were able to preview the various AMS vendors available nationwide and their platforms. As indicated at the March Board meeting, OLC will be updating our website as well as our AMS.

Francis shared a chart of the current AMS software costs and or Current Website pages.

Growth Zone – Option 1.
Enterprise Package w/Website
Estimate: \$20,549

IMIS – Option 2.
Annual Subscription for 8 staff users
One-Time Setup Fee
Estimate: \$75,000

SLONE MOVED AND RUBIN SECONDED TO GIVE PERMISSION TO STAFF TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH POSSIBLE VENDORS AND AUTHORIZATION FOR UP TO \$50,000 OF SPENDING AUTHORITY. OLC STAFF WILL RETURN TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL IF NEEDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

AMAZON BUSINESS

Francis reported that the Amazon Business Prime program has been a huge success. 189 libraries have taken advantage of the program to date.

Some libraries are waiting for year two. Amazon has approved the partnership with OLC for up to 3 years. There are four states involved in the program to date and Amazon has paused expansion. Tessa Sullivan (Amazon rep.) did have an opportunity to speak at CPIM and with the State Auditor's Office. Special thanks to Kathy Bach and CHPL who provided additional feedback on book pricing and discounts.

PLA 2024

Francis thanked the OLC staff for their work at PLA. Overall, there were over 7500 registrants (1300 of those were from Ohio). The pre-con registration for the Science of Reading was 75. We are hopeful this will lead to additional partnership with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. Many were disappointed that the welcome reception was cancelled; however, public safety was the main concern. The caterer put the food into coolers and redistributed it through Life Care Alliance to food banks and Life Care Alliance seniors. The Interim Executive Director of ALA met with Francis.

Francis reported that ALA runs about 60 days behind on financials. OLC will receive about \$14,000 in revenue after expenses have been paid.

AWARDS & HONORS

The Awards and Honors Committee proposed the following changes to the Awards and Honors program to make it more inclusive and address feedback from OLC members who have found submitting awards challenging.

Additional discussion is necessary, the board will appoint an ad hoc committee to discuss these recommendations.

FIFAREK MOVED AND RUBIN SECONDED TO APPROVE THE FORMATION OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE AWARDS AND HONORS

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS. MEMBERS INCLUDE: MARY ELLEN ICAZA; JENNIFER SLONE AND TRAVIS BAUTZ. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Staff members Francis and D'Andrea will be included in these conversations.

2023 FINANCIAL AUDIT

There was miscommunication between OLC and Michael Goldberg regarding his attendance at the meeting. Goldberg did not attend the meeting to provide the Board with an update. Even though Goldberg was not able to attend the meeting, Francis noted the management/opinion letter in the draft audit indicating the financial statements were presented fairly in material respects.

KUONEN MOVED AND FIFAREK SECONDED TO REFER THE 2023 FINANCIAL AUDIT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Clevidence asked Board members to review the audit and direct any comments or suggestions to the Finance Committee. Francis will email the Finance Committee to schedule a call.

ALA COUNCILOR's REPORT

Tepe reported on the following:

ALA President and Council Election Results.

Raymond Pun, Alder Graduate School of Education in California has been elected 2024-2025 president-elect of the American Library Association. Bradley Kuykendall, Dayton Metro Library branch manager was elected as Councilor-at-Large.

State of America's Libraries 2024 Report. Censorship attempts took center stage again. The number of unique titles targeted for censorship surged by 65% from 2022 to 2023, reaching the highest levels ever documented by ALA.

LibLearnX 2026 Cancelled. ALA announced that its Executive Board has decided not to hold LibLearnX in 2026, citing financial reasons and other factors. The next LibLearnX will be held January 24-27, 2025 in Phoenix as scheduled.

ALA Councilor to OLC. Tepe is running as an incumbent for the ALA Councilor position.

ALA Executive Director Search. The current interim director, Leslie Burger is doing internal housekeeping, working on the website, staffing, health insurance, etc. The deadline for applications for the Executive Director position is June 1.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT

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

State Librarian. An RFP for search firms to begin looking for the new State Librarian by July 1 is out. Their timeline is to have a State Librarian named by October 1.

State Library Board. The State Library of Ohio Board awarded a combined total of \$2,080,778 in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants for the statewide Libraries Connect Ohio core set of databases, seventeen public libraries to hire Guiding Ohio Online technology trainers, and Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled to supplement state funding. All awards are contingent upon the release of State Fiscal Year 2025 federal appropriations.

OPLIN REPORT

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Ohio Persistent Cyber Improvement Program. OPCI starts its free, in-person cybersecurity training in Hocking County on May 23. Twenty-three counties are on OPCI's agenda to train in 2024. If your county is not scheduled and you need help persuading your county leadership to sign the MOU with the Cyber Range, there are two handouts outlining the training on OPCI's website.

OPLIN Board. Three new members were appointed to the OPLIN Board; Shawn Walsh, Madison; Mohamed Ragheb, CLEVNET; and Andrea Ralston, Washington County Public Library.

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

Institutional Dues. New London Public Library is now a member. Francis thanked Wilson for reaching out to New London. There are now only three public library systems that historically do not join OLC as Institutional Members.

Trustee Dinners. Trustee Dinners this year did not include legislators as speakers. Instead, the focus was on book bans and how to prepare trustees for public comment. We had more trustees in attendance than before. Rubin thanked Francis and Smith, and preferred that they continue to present rather than politicians.

Science of Reading. OLC has done 3 webinars and has had over 2,000 hits. Governor DeWine held regional Literacy Roundtables this spring. He made stops in Youngstown, Toledo, Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati. The Toledo Lucas County Public Library and the Cleveland Public Library hosted two of the sessions.

Legal Update Webinar. OLC will host a Legal Update Webinar on June 5. It will cover the new US Department of Labor Overtime Rule/Salary Threshold; the EEOC Guidance on Workplace Harassment; the new Pregnant Workforce Fairness Act (PWFA) Rules; and Federal and State Changes Related to Marijuana/Cannabis.

OLC Staff Anniversaries. Francis acknowledged staff anniversaries.
Angie Jacobsen – 8 years
Laurie Miller – 3 years
Ro Swanson – 24 years

New Director's Workshop. Francis thanked Yarman, Cain and Struble for a great job with the New Director's Workshop.

GOVERNMENT AND
LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

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

PLF Update. State tax receipts came in below estimate again last month by \$224.4 million. OBM has indicated that the shortfall is related to higher-than expected personal income tax refunds. The May 2024 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution was \$3.9 million below ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2023; and \$3.87 million below ODT's updated estimate issued in December 2023.

Statehouse Update. More than 70 bills were introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives last week to meet the House's May 15th deadline. Bills introduced by May 15 are guaranteed at least one hearing. One of those bills was House Bill (HB) 556 sponsored by Rep. Adam Mathews (R-Lebanon).

HB 556. HB 556 seeks to create criminal liability for certain teachers and librarians for the offense of pandering obscenity. The bill further defines a “school librarian” to include librarians employed in a school district public library. Rep. Mathews is the only sponsor of this bill. There are no co-sponsors at this time.

OLC reached out to Rep. Mathews’ office and we have scheduled a meeting with him. They appreciated OLC reaching out and have indicated that changes will be made to the legislation. OLC will be meeting with Rep. Mathews to discuss our concerns. HB 556 is similar to other legislation being introduced around the country targeting school districts and school librarians over curriculum and materials.

One-Time State Funding (OTSCIF). OLC is attempting to reframe the conversation at the Statehouse on funding Ohio Public Library Facilities. Currently the Ohio Senate is considering what projects should be prioritized around the state in utilizing a portion of the \$700 million that was appropriated through last year’s biennial budget. Libraries submitted more than 60 projects on the Senate side.

Joint Committee on Property Tax Reform. OLC will testify on behalf of public libraries on May 22. Recently, Dr. Howard Fleeter also testified before this committee on behalf of the Ohio Education Policy Institute.

HB 344 - Replacement Levies. This bill seeks to eliminate the authority of political subdivisions to levy replacement property tax levies. OLC provided testimony in opposition to HB 344 on January 23. The bill was voted out of the House Ways and Means Committee on a party line vote.

Legislative Day. For it being a non-budget year, this year’s Library Legislative Day was a success. The property tax legislative panel discussion with Sen. Bill Blessing and Rep. Dan Troy provided attendees with some insight as to what the committee is discussing and where it’s heading. Steve Dackin, Director of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce was able to speak to attendees about the importance of the Science of Reading. We heard from legislators that libraries are doing what they need to do and should continue.

Virtual Ballot Issues Workshop. OLC will host the Ballot Issues Workshop on June 12 as a virtual only event. It will provide all the elements needed to run a successful levy campaign in an environment that’s making it harder to pass local levies.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

Stand-Alone Conferences. There are two stand-alone conferences this year. A call for programs has gone out for the Adult Services and Customer Service Conference. We will soon be opening a call for programs for the Library Management Conference, as well as the Outreach Retreat.

Science of Reading Webinars. Webinars have been posted. The Department of Education and Workforce is promoting them to OELMA as well.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

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

Legislative Day. Resources and advocacy tools were added to the OLC website, including a new template on how libraries are funded and how the funds are spent. Jacobsen would like feedback on the new advocacy tools.

PLA Conference. OLC had a table in the main concourse near the registration area. Membership materials and other resources were distributed, including OLC-branded eclipse glasses.

Library Levies. The five out of seven library levies that passed did so by significant margins with an average voter approval rate of 67%.

Science of Reading. Governor DeWine hosted roundtable discussions to discuss child literacy and the science of reading. Two were held at public libraries. The special screening of The Right to Read film on April 16 was promoted in This Week and covered on OLC's social media pages.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
REPORT

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

2024 Membership. There are 2580 Individual Members of OLC as of May 8. An increase of 345 members as compared to 2023.

2024 Nominations and Elections. Candidates for each Division Action Council are being finalized. IT and Special Collections are still in need of candidates. If you have suggestions, please forward to D'Andrea.

Voting. A pre-ballot email verifying contact information and division selections will be sent soon. Ballots open June 30 and close July 30.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WILSON MOVED AND BAUTZ SECONDED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:08 P.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RUBIN MOVED AND SLONE SECONDED TO CONCLUDE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:41 P.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
REORT

BAUTZ MOVED AND BACH SECONDED TO ACCEPT THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES AS PRESENTED BY THE OLC NOMINATING COMMITTEE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for July 19 via Zoom.

ADJOURNEMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.