OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Via Zoom
Sept. 25, 2026
9:00 A.M.

PRESENT	Kathy Bach, Cincinnati Monica Baughman, Worthington Travis Bautz, Middletown Julianne Bedel, Medina Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Twinsburg Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, Ashland Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton Cindy Lombardo, Peninsula Elizabeth Muether, Celina Bernie Rochford, Akron Stacey Russell, Zanesville William Rutger, Sandusky
ABSENT	Susan Titkemeier, Marion
GUESTS	Evan Struble, State Library of Ohio Nick Tepe, ALA Councilor Don Yarman, OPLIN
STAFF	Michelle Francis, Executive Director Jeanine D'Andrea, Director, Membership Services Angie Jacobsen, Director of Communications Denise Kise, Accounting/Data Services Laurie Miller, Director, Professional Development
CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order by Chair Russell at 9:02 a.m. Russell noted that Susan Titkemeier is unable to join today. Also, Jay Smith is unable to join today, but Francis will be available for questions regarding his report. Guest Mandy Knapp is also unable to join, but Evan Struble is available to answer questions regarding the State Library of Ohio report. Today is Dolly Parton 9-to-5 day. Last week was the First Lady's Luncheon with Mrs. DeWine and Trisha Yearwood, and this week was the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Appreciation Luncheon at the Governor's Residence.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	DeNERO-ACKROYD MOVED AND RUTGER SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
APROVAL OF MINUTES	LOMBARDO MOVED AND ICAZA SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE JULY 17, 2026 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MUETHER MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE JULY 17, 2026 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
FINANCIAL REPORT MONTH-END July 2026	Francis presented the financial report for the month-end July 2026. <u>Revenue.</u>

Dues. Institutional Dues are slightly under budget. Other Institutions are under budget. Individual Memberships are under budget due to a decrease in personal membership. Individual Membership is down by about 500 as compared to 2024. Friends are under budget.

Continuing Education. Convention and Expo is over budget due to timing of accrual. Workshops are under budget due to decrease in registration and timing of events. Francis noted issues and concerns with competing professional development opportunities.

Contract Income. Sourcing office is slightly under budget.

Other Income. Interest and Dividends are over budget due to returns on short-term investments. Unrealized Gain/(Loss) is over budget due to returns on long-term investments. Workers' Comp is over budget due to timing of payments. JobLine is under budget due to decrease in non-member postings. Management and Consulting is under budget due to decrease in background check requests.

Expenses.
Salaries and Benefits. Staff salaries are under budget due to timing of 2026 adjustments. Retirement is slightly under budget due to timing of plan contributions. Health Insurance is under budget. Payroll Taxes are under budget.

Consultants and Contractors. Speaker Honoraria is under budget due to timing of payment. Legal Services are under budget due to timing of invoices. Expo Contractors are under budget due to timing of payments. Other consultants and contractors are under budget due to timing of payments.

Supplies and Resources. Supplies are over budget due to timing of purchasing. Subscription/Resource Materials are under budget. Computer Software/Supplies are under budget.

Communications. Telephone and Internet are on budget. Postage/Courier Service is under budget.

Printing and Design. Printing is under budget due to timing of payment. Copying is on budget.

Maintenance and Equipment. Rental equipment is under budget. Equipment Maintenance is under budget. Software support is slightly over budget due to timing of payments.

Space Rental. Office space is slightly over budget due to CAM. Workshops/Meetings are under budget.

Travel and Meals. Board is slightly over budget due to strategic planning. Staff travel is under budget due to timing.

Management Expenses. Bank services is under budget. Investment fees are slightly over budget. Depreciation is slightly under budget. Organization Memberships are under budget due to timing of payments. Staff Development and Memberships are over budget due to timing. Advertising is under budget due to timing of purchases. Catering and other meals is under budget due to timing of payments.

The net change in assets is over budget $115,698.

LOMBARDO MOVED AND DeNERO-ACKROYD SECONDED TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT: MONTH END JULY 2026 AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

STRATEGIC PLANNING MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Russell thanked the members of the OLC Executive Committee for meeting and their thoughtful discussion.

The OLC Executive Committee of the Board met via Zoom on Aug. 28, 2026. Prior to the meeting, the OLC Executive Director provided an agenda and Vista Cova's OLC Strategic Planning Retreat summary document.

The group discussed the three-year vision and goal areas as presented in the OLC Strategic Planning Retreat summary. The group discussed multiple options before settling on the following recommendations for vision and mission statements.

Vision: Thriving public libraries. Stronger Ohio communities.

Mission: Unite Ohio's public libraries through collaboration, education and advocacy.

Goal areas:

- Communicating the Value of Public Libraries
- Enhancing Member Education
- Building Collaborative Communities
- Thriving Organization

BEDEL MOVED AND MUETHER SECONDED THE APPROVAL OF THE OLC STRATEGIC PLANNING MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS AND GOAL AREAS AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLC OFFICE LEASE

Francis reported OLC's current office lease expires in the summer of 2027. She is working with OLC's commercial real estate consultant at Newmark to review possible options. They toured eight possible locations based on OLC's square footage needs. We are following up with an RFP for three of those locations in addition to our current space. Additional information will be shared at the November board meeting.

2026 CONVENTION & EXPO

Francis and Miller gave an updated report on the Convention and Expo. Expo Hall booths are almost sold out. Painting again in the Expo Hall. Gadget Gallery is a big highlight. Pete the Cat will be roaming the Expo Hall. We met our room block. Local Arrangements is really geared up for Thursday night's activities.

OLC COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Openings have been identified, and OLC staff are working to fulfill the appointments. A full report will be provided to the Appointments Committee upon completion and presented for action at the November 2026 Board meeting.

2026 OLC ELECTIONS

Francis noted the elections ran through July 30, 2026. A list of individuals elected to leadership positions was included in the background materials. Welcome to new Board Members Ben Heckman, Bexley Public Library; and Beth Steiner, Auglaize County Public District Library. Re-elected members include Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, Ashland Public Library, Stacey Russell, Muskingum County Library System.

OLC BOARD MEETING DATES

Francis presented the proposed OLC Board Meeting Dates for 2027. Final approval of the schedule will take place at the Nov. 13 meeting. Please reach out to Francis with any conflicts prior to the November meeting.

ALA COUNCILOR REPORT

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

ALSC and YALSA Reunification. The Association for Library Service to Children and Young Adult Library Services Association divisions officially reunited on Sept. 1. Beginning on Sept. 1, all YALSA memberships will transition to ALSC members. The division will continue operating under the ALSC name during the initial transition period while a comprehensive rebranding process takes place.

Incidents Against Immigrants in Libraries Reporting Form. ALA's new tool provides a confidential way to document anti-immigrant incidents occurring in libraries.

Tepe is continuing to work behind the scenes on committee structure.

STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO

In addition to the written report, Struble reported the following:

Facilities Update. Staff are in 35 E. Chestnut. The State Library Collection is in Gahanna. They are working toward public access and reworking their service model. The Reading Room will be dedicated at the Board meeting in December, and open houses will begin in 2027. All correspondence might have some legacy addresses so be sure to change them to the 35 E. Chestnut address.

LSTA Five-Year Plan. Progress was made on the evaluation of the current Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) Five-Year plan. There is an opportunity to participate in surveys, etc. The new plan is for 2028-2032.

LSTA Competitive Grants. Applications for competitive grants are open now. Libraries may request up to $50,000 with a 25% cash match. Three areas of focus are: Literacy, Library as Community Anchor and Outreach. There will be drop-in office hours on Oct. 5.

Consortium. Serving Every Ohioan Consortium has chosen Polaris as its next integrated library system (ILS). The projected start date is Fall 2027.

Search Ohio. The State Library is hiring a Library Consultant. They have received 60 applications. They are lining up interviews, and MOUs are being worked on. The next meeting is Nov. 2.

Ohio Digital Network. The Ohio Digital Network Fest is in person on Oct. 8 at the CML's Dublin Branch.

OPLIN REPORT

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

OPLIN Board Comments on E-Rate Rules.
The comment letter to the FCC regarding proposed E-Rate rules highlights the importance of E-Rate to OPLIN's mission, noting that a loss of funding cannot be "made up" through other means, and would result in a direct, significant impact on all public libraries in Ohio. The letter voices concern with the proposal that each library in a consortium must directly submit their own form 479 in the E-Rate portal. OPLIN supports allowing consortia to continue to act as the administrative agents for their members.

New Sanborn Maps interface debuting at OLC Convention. OPLIN's interface to the Ohio Sanborn Maps collection required necessary work to bring it up to accessibility standards. They are implementing the International Image Operability Framework to facilitate API integration. The new interface will have significantly better search capability to expose the more valuable historical content that the maps contain. Also, the "Statewide Database Booster Program" site is scheduled to launch shortly before the OLC Convention. Libraries will be invited to pledge their financial support for sharing the cost with OPLIN to "boost" select, locally purchased resources to statewide access for all. OhioLINK has a long record of success with this type of shared funding model.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Francis thanked Board members for attending the First Lady's Luncheon. OLC presented the Andrew Carnegie Award to the Governor and First Lady. They may record a "Thank You" video that can be shared.

OLC Board Elections. OLC elections ended on July 30. The results were reviewed with Mary Ellen Icaza, Chair of the OLC Board Nominating Committee, on Aug. 5. The return rate for the Board was 16%.

OLC Workers Comp Program. More than 190 public library systems will be participating in OLC's 2027 Group Rating and Group Retrospective Rating Program. The total estimated savings for the participating OLC Institutional Members is $366,192.

Amazon Business Prime. There are currently 226 public library systems participating in OLC's Amazon Business Prime Program. Participating OLC Institutional Member library systems have saved $510,984 on purchases and shipping over the past year. There was a rebate in the first year, the second year, OLC may receive about $31,000 in Q1 2027.

Library Card Sign-Up Month. September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, a time when OLC and libraries nationwide join with the ALA to remind parents, caregivers, and students that signing up for a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning.

Special Meeting for Association Libraries. OLC held a special meeting on Aug. 6 for the 19 Institutional Member Association Libraries to address legal and legislative issues impacting them.

OLC 2027 Planning and Leadership Conference. This event will be all virtual on Thursday, Dec. 3. Formal invitations will be distributed, and registration will be required.

DeNero-Akroyd asked about the Sustainable Libraries Initiative. Francis noted that only a few libraries in Ohio participate, but OLC will promote it as we do other ALA programs.

GOVERNMENT & LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

A written report was provided. Francis noted the following:

Survey to Directors and Fiscal Officers. OLC distributed a survey to directors and fiscal officers on the PLF and Certifications for 2027. Each county is handling it differently. 120 libraries have responded to date, so the deadline may be extended.

Ballot Issues. The Secretary of State's Office posted the issues that are on the November Ballot. There are 16 libraries on the ballot.

Road Ahead Tour. The work to protect and strengthen library funding starts now. The Road Ahead Meetings will ensure Ohio libraries are informed, prepared and speaking with one strong voice. All Library Directors are encouraged to attend one of the meetings, along with Trustees and Fiscal Officers.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

2026 OLC Convention and Expo. There are currently 74 exhibitors and 15 sponsors. Online registration closes Oct. 7. There are currently 504 registered. Hotel reservation cutoff is Sept. 28. Keynote speakers include a Media Panel with Tom Suddes, Jo Ingles and Noah Blundo; Beth Z, Your Nerdy Best Friend; and Anthony W. Scott, Esq. Special events will be held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

2027 Professional Development. Staff is reviewing Professional Development in 2027 and re-tooling it to benefit the members. What is missing, what do we need, and what we're already doing. Quality over quantity.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

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

Library Card Sign-Up Month. Promotions for Library Card Sign-Up Month are ongoing throughout September. OLC issued a press release encouraging Ohioans to get a library card and highlighting the many resources and services available through their local libraries.

Awards and Honors Media Coverage
A press release announcing the 2026 award recipients was distributed, and the winners were featured in Access and on the OLC website. The Awards and Honors spotlight series continues in Access each week. OLC has received significant media coverage.

Convention and Expo. Updates for the 2026 Convention and Expo continue to be added to the OLC website. Ongoing promotional efforts are being carried out through Access, social media, and the OLC website.

Work continues on the on-site guide. Development of the C&E mobile app is also underway. Planning is underway for the new OLC booth in the Exhibit Hall. The OLC Connects area has changed to the "Member Info Hub". Rather than hosting individual Division and Committee tables, there will be one large, interactive booth in the Exhibit Hall.

OLC Website. The top performing pages on the OLC website over the past 60 days are: JobLine; Convention and Expo; Calendar, Ohio Public Library Directory, Library Funding/PLF.

Axios. A Sept. 18 story from Axios highlighted newly released Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) data showing that Ohio residents checked out more than 13 library items per person in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, more than twice the national average of 6.5.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES REPORT

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

Individual Membership. As of Sept. 1, there are 2,167 Individual Members as compared to 2,128 on September 1, 2025. There are currently 1746 renewals; 390 new and 31 Lifetime. There are 1723 Trustees; 42 Friends Groups; 7 Associate and 5 Other.

Proration of Individual Membership dues began on July 1 and continues through Sept. 30. To date, OLC has received 75 new members throughout the proration period.

Committee Appointments. Committee openings have been identified and shared with staff for fulfillment. A full report of appointments will be shared with the Appointments Committee when completed and presented at the November 2026 Board meeting for action.

Nominations and Elections. Divisions had a return rate between 27% - 49%. All candidates for Division Action Councils were notified by email, and a full report of the results was published in *Access*.

Convention and Expo. OLC Connects in now the "OLC Member Info Hub". Members can learn more about "How to Get Involved", navigating the OLC Member Info Hub platform, and learn more about the work of OLC Committees and Divisions. Having volunteers choose one time slot during the exclusive viewing times alleviates the time commitment during Convention programming for volunteers to attend sessions.

Awards and Honors. OLC has received positive feedback regarding this year's selection of award winners. Details for the Awards Luncheon are moving forward. Board members were encouraged to attend.

New Member Meet and Greet. The New Member Meet and Greet will be held on Oct. 21 from 4:00-4:30 in the Indigo Bay Room. Board members were encouraged to attend if possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rutger noted Board members will receive an email from Ro Swanson regarding Francis' self-evaluation by Oct. 9 and encouraged members to respond by Oct. 30. Rutger would like to review the responses with the Personnel Committee by Nov. 6, prior to the Nov. 13 Board meeting.

Rutger congratulated Kim DeNero-Ackroyd on her new position as Director of the Twinsburg Public Library beginning Oct. 5. Rochford welcomed her to the Summit County systems.

The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 13 at the OLC office. There will be an Executive Session to discuss the Executive Director's evaluation.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

BACH MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED THE MEETING ADJOURN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.