

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OLC Offices
March 13, 2026
10:00 A.M.

PRESENT Kathy Bach, Cincinnati
Monica Baughman, Worthington
Travis Bautz, Middletown (Via Zoom)
Julianne Bedel, Medina
Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Cleveland Heights
Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, Ashland
Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton
Cindy Lombardo, Peninsula
Elizabeth Muether, Celina
Bernie Rochford, Akron
Stacey Russell, Zanesville
William Rutger, Sandusky
Susan Titkemeier, Marion

GUESTS Jason Elvers, Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease
Evan Struble, State Library of Ohio
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, Government and Legal Services

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chair Russell at 10:01 a.m. Russell noted Travis Bautz is participating via Zoom. Nick Tepe was unable to attend so the ALA Councilor report was written only. Mandy Knapp was unable to attend, but Evan Struble was available to answer questions regarding the State Library of Ohio report.

Russell welcomed guest Jason Elvers, OLC's Legal Counsel from Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP. He will be speaking under Item 3.A on the agenda.

Russell thanked Mary Ellen Icaza for her work as Chair in 2025 and noted her leadership over the past year. She was presented with a gift on behalf of the Board and OLC staff.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA RUTGER MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES LOMBARDO MOVED AND ICAZA SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 16, 2026 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2026 OLC BOARD Francis introduced Jason Elvers of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease who

ORIENTATION

discussed the roles and responsibilities as a member of the OLC Board of Directors. He discussed the fiduciary responsibilities of a Board member through the Duty of Care and the Duty of Loyalty.

Each member of the 2026 OLC Board of Directors is asked to sign the Conflict-of-Interest form to acknowledge an understanding of the policy and agree to comply with it.

Francis thanked Elvers for his time.

FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR-END 2025

Francis presented the Financial Report Year-End 2025.

Revenue.

Dues. Institutional Membership was over budget due to Plain City PL joining. Other Institutions were under budget. Individual Memberships are under budget due to decrease in personal memberships. Friends are under budget due to decrease in Friends membership.

Continuing Education. Legislative Day was over budget due to increased attendance. Convention & Expo was over budget due to increased attendance. Leadership and Workshops were under budget due to low attendance.

Contract Income. Contract Income was over budget due to one-time Amazon rebate.

Other Income.

Interest and Dividends were over budget due to returns on short-term investments. Workers' Comp was under budget due to rate reductions. Unrealized Gain was over budget due to returns on long-term investments. JobLine was under budget due to decrease in non-member postings. Management & Consulting Revenue was under budget due to decrease in background checks.

Expenses.

Salaries and Benefits. Staff salaries were over budget due to timing of 2025 adjustments. Accrued vacation reflects accrued vacation. Retirement was under budget due to timing of plan contributions. Health Insurance was under budget due to timing of 2025 adjustments.

Consultants and Contractors. Auditor and Speaker Honoraria were slightly over budget. Legal Services were under budget due to delayed invoicing. Expo Contractors were over budget. Consultants/Contractors were over budget due to timing of payments.

Supplies and Resources. Computer Software/Supplies were under budget.

Communications. Postage/Mailing/Courier Service were under budget.

Printing and Design. Printing and copying were under budget due to timing of payments.

Maintenance and Equipment. Equipment Rental was over budget due to coding. Equipment Maintenance was under budget.

Travel and Meals. Board travel was under budget due to reimbursements. Staff travel and presenters was under budget due to timing of reimbursements.

Management Expenses. Bank services and investment fees were over budget. Depreciation Replacement was over budget. Organization Memberships are over budget due to timing of payments.

The net change in assets is under budget by \$142,408.

RUTGER MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT: YEAR-END – 2025 AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLC NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

HEDLUND TUNNELL MOVED AND BACH SECONDED THAT THE OLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINT CHRIS MAY, DIRECTOR, MANSFIELD-RICHLAND COUNTY LIBRARY, TO SERVE AS AN AT-LARGE MEMBER ON THE OLC NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM (2026-2028). MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ANDREW CARNEGIE AWARD

ROCHFORD MOVED AND RUTGER SECONDED BY THAT THE ANDREW CARNEGIE AWARD BE PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE AND FIRST LADY FRAN DEWINE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. It was noted that the Government Relations Committee also recommended that it be given to both Governor DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine.

ENDORSEMENT PLA PRESIDENT-ELECT

ICAZA MOVED AND DE-NERO ACKROYD SECONDED TO ENDORSE AIMEE FIFAREK, DIRECTOR AND CEO, PUBLIC LIBRARY OF YOUNGSTOWN AND MAHONING COUNTY, FOR PLA PRESIDENT-ELECT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT ACRL CONFERENCE 2031

DE-NERO MOVED AND TITKEMEIER SECONDED TO PROVIDE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE 2031 ACRL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN COLUMBUS ON MARCH 18-21, 2031. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2026 OLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Francis reported there are four positions open on the ballot including one MLIS position, one Trustee position, and two At-Large positions. Current Board members serving in these positions and their eligibility for re-election include:

MLIS	Bautz	2024-26	Eligible
Trustee	Hedlund Tunnell	2024-26	Eligible
At-Large	Russell	2024-26	Eligible
At-Large	Icaza	2024-26	Not eligible

Current Board members eligible for re-election are asked to indicate whether they wish to be candidates for re-election. The OLC Nominating Committee will be responsible for identifying and recommending candidates for election, including incumbents as well as new candidates for election to the Board.

A call for candidates interested in being considered for election to the Board will be included in *This Week* and *Access* and posted on the OLC website beginning the Monday following the March Board meeting and continuing through April. The Nominating Committee uses this information to select the nominees and create the election slate.

OLC STRATEGIC PLANNING 2026

Francis noted that OLC has contracted with Vista Cova for strategic planning. Important Dates are April 6, 3:00 p.m. pre-retreat session via Zoom; Strategic Planning Retreat April 21 – 22. A Resource Library for the Board and for the

Team is available on the OLC website and is password protected. A Leadership Survey was sent to the Board and Staff to complete by March 20. Former members of the OLC Board were asked to participate in the retreat to help provide institutional knowledge.

OLC PR CAMPAIGN/
POLLING

The January 2026 research, conducted by Public Opinion Strategies on behalf of the Ohio Library Council and the Ohio Township Association, examined voter attitudes toward libraries, townships and local funding. The findings show overwhelming appreciation for library services and broad agreement across party lines that libraries are worthwhile public investment. Libraries also rank among the most trusted and highly valued public services in Ohio.

Jacobsen has started to include positive results in *This Week*. It will be one of the lead-ins for Legislative Day. There will be more to come. Francis noted we need to do some education on how libraries are funded and bullet points will be provided.

ALA COUNCILOR
REPORT

A written report was provided by ALA Councilor, Nick Tepe.

STATE LIBRARY
REPORT

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

SLO Facility. Additional progress was made towards a new facility for the State Library's research collection. An announcement will be made in April.

Guiding Ohio Online. Applications are now open for Guiding Ohio Online LSTA Grant. The grant period runs from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

Digital Public Library of America. Knapp presented as part of a panel on changes to the Digital Public Library of America at the Knight Foundation Library Leaders Conference.

SearchOhio. The State Library of Ohio will assume administration of SearchOhio.

Library Leadership Ohio. Library Leadership Ohio will be held July 21-23 at the Hocking Hills State Park Lodge & Conference Center in Logan Ohio.

OPLIN REPORT

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

Washington Visits. Yarman reported that the Washington visits before ALA National Legislative Day went well.

SMS Messages. If libraries send SMS messages to patrons, remember to include the library name in the text message so they know who you are.

WhoFi. The State Library of Ohio is dropping WhoFi Library/Community Software. OPLIN has selected a platform for web kit to manage for libraries. OPLIN will host a webinar to manage those changes.

OhioLINK. OhioLINK provides some NPR databases statewide. Yarman will look at this and has meetings with vendors at PLA.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

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

GOVERNMENT AND
LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

Institutional Dues Billing. There are still a few public libraries where staff is working to correct inaccurate information from a few county auditors in order to send invoices.

OLC Employee Benefits.

Health insurance was renewed with Medical Mutual Insurance at 23% increase in premiums. Dental Insurance was renewed with Ameritas Insurance with a 7% increase in premiums. Vision insurance was renewed with VSP Insurance with no change in premium. Life Insurance was renewed with OneAmerica American United Life Insurance Company with no change in premium. Long-Term Disability Insurance was renewed with Hartford Insurance with no change in premium.

Staff Notes. Michelle Francis celebrated her 12th Anniversary on February 12.

Trustee Dinners/Lunch. These events will focus on OLC's PR Campaign and provide a venue for library trustees and administrators to share information and ideas with their counterparts throughout the region.

Coalition Steering Committee.

The OLC is serving on the Steering Committee of the Coalition to Protect Public Services. This broad-based, statewide group is working to raise awareness about the potential impacts of eliminating property taxes without a replacement plan.

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

Public Library Fund. The March distribution came in at \$40,419,668 which is \$393,641 (or +0.98%) above ODT's original estimate. Tax receipts for February came in above estimates. State revenues are continuing to exceed expectations as we enter the final third of FY26.

Pending Legislation.

HB 137 – Presents a serious threat to public libraries by granting sole authority to a library taxing authority to decide whether a library may place a property tax levy on the ballot. The legislation has not been placed on the floor calendar for a House vote.

HB 466 – Specifies that any local taxing authority whose membership includes nonelected officers to obtain approval by the elected body before submitting a property tax to voters. This has not come up for additional testimony.

HB 314 – Disruptive Public Records Requests. Provides a judicial framework for responding to public records requests that are deemed to be harassing or disruptive. This legislation empowers public offices and people responsible for public records to seek a court order to limit or deny a public records request. This bill is currently being heard in the House Judiciary Committee.

HB 420 – Eliminates Continuing Levies. Seeks to eliminate continuing term levies after tax year 2029. It is currently being heard in the House Ways and Means Committee.

HB 422 – Seeks to increase voter approval thresholds for new levies based on the amount of millage being considered.

HB 583 – Provides compliance requirements for entities that provide digital or online library database resources to a public school, public library, or state

agency. HB 583 received its first hearing on March 3 in the House Finance Committee.

OLC Library Legislative Day. Library Legislative Day is being held on March 18 at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel.

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

2026 Convention & Expo. OLC is working on floor plans, registration for exhibitors, and general session speakers. The Program Committee is judging the submissions this month and will meet in person in April to discuss the results.

COMMUNICATIONS
REPORT

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

Statewide Survey and PR Campaign. The results from a statewide poll show strong bipartisan support for Ohio's public libraries. There is a full press release, memo from Public Opinion Strategies and an executive summary of the findings on the OLC website.

Legislative Day. Resources and advocacy tools have been added to the OLC website. Collateral materials are being developed for the day of the event.

Convention and Expo. Exhibitor information will be added to the website and sent via email. A promotional postcard will be mailed in June.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
REPORT

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

2026 Individual Membership. A third renewal was emailed to 726 members who have not currently renewed for 2026. A second Membership Meet Up is scheduled for April 6. There were 42 people registered for the first Membership Meet Up on February 9.

Nominations and Elections. Staff work with Division Coordinators to identify candidates for election. Slates of candidates are due to OLC by April 15.

Awards and Honors. The deadline for nominations is April 30. Promotional articles continue to be included in *Access*. Flyers will go to all in-person events.

NEXT MEETING

The next business meeting of the OLC Board of Directors is May 16 at the OLC Office.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

HEDLUND TUNNELL MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED TO ADJOURN AT 11:53 A.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.