

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 15, 2026
10:00 A.M.

PRESENT	Kathy Bach, Cincinnati Monica Baughman, Worthington Travis Bautz, Middletown (Virtual) Julianne Bedel, Medina Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Cleveland Heights Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, Ashland Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton (Virtual) Cindy Lombardo, Peninsula Elizabeth Muether, Celina Bernie Rochford, Akron Stacey Russell, Zanesville William Rutger, Sandusky (Virtual) Susan Titkemeier, Marion
GUESTS	Michael Goldberg, Perks, Pusateri & Co. Mandy Knapp, State Library of Ohio Nick Tepe, ALA Councilor (Virtual) 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, Government and Legal Services
CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order by Chair Russell at 10:04 a.m. She noted Icaza, Bautz, Rutger and Nick Tepe, ALA Councilor are participating via Zoom. Russell welcomed guest Michael Goldberg, Perks Pusateri & Co. He is attending the meeting to discuss the 2025 Financial Audit under Item 3.B.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	HEDLUND TUNNELL MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	LOMBARDO MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 13, 2026 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
FINANCIAL REPORT MONTH-END March 2026	Francis presented the financial report for the month-end March 2026. <u>Revenue.</u> <u>Dues.</u> Institutional Dues income is under budget due to delayed invoicing. More than usual delays from County auditors. As of the meeting, 235 libraries have paid out of 249. Other institutions are under budget due to delayed invoicing. Individual Memberships are under budget due to decrease in personal membership. Friends are under budget due to delayed invoicing.

Continuing Education. Legislative Day is under budget due to timing. Convention & Expo is under budget due to timing of accrual. Workshops are under budget due to timing of registration payments.

Contract Income. Sourcing Office is under budget due to decrease in library purchases.

Other Income.

Interest and Dividends are over budget due to returns on short-term investments. Unrealized gain is over budget due to returns on long-term investments. Workers' Comp is over budget due to timing of payments.

Expenses.

Salaries and Benefits. Salaries are under budget due to timing of 2026 adjustments. Accrued vacation reflects accrued vacation. Retirement is under budget due to timing of plan contributions. Payroll taxes are slightly under budget.

Consultants and Contractors. Speaker Honoraria is over budget due to timing of payments. Legal Services is under budget due to timing of invoices. Expo Contractors is under budget due to timing of payments. Consultants/Contractors are under budget due to timing of payments.

Supplies and Resources. Computer Software/Supplies were over budget due to timing of payments.

Communications. Postage/Courier Service is under budget.

Printing and Design. Printing was over budget due to timing of payments. Copying was on budget.

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

Travel. Board travel is under budget due to reimbursements. Staff travel is under budget.

Management Expenses. Bank services are under budget. Investment Fees were slightly over budget. Employee Hiring is under budget for library background checks. Staff Development and Memberships are slightly over budget due to timing. Catering is under budget due to timing of payments and attendance.

The net change in assets is under budget by (\$137,190).

BAUGHMAN MOVED AND HEDLUND TUNNELL SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE MONTH-END – MARCH 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 FINANCIAL AUDIT

Francis introduced Michael Goldberg from Perks Pusateri & Co.

Goldberg gave an overview of the audit and reported the accounting process has proper oversight and approvals. He noted the OLC received a clean opinion, meaning that the financial statements referred to in the report are presented fairly, in all material respects. Goldberg expressed his gratitude for a very solid, very organized audit.

BEDEL MOVED AND LOMBARDO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE DRAFT AUDIT AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The OLC Nominating Committee met on May 1 to discuss potential candidates for the 2026 OLC Board of Directors elections. The committee recommends the following slate for election to three-year terms beginning in January 2027:

MLIS Director [one to be elected]

Travis Bautz, Executive Director, MidPointe Library System
Ben Heckman, Director, Bexley Public Library

Library Trustee Director [one to be elected]

Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, Trustee, Ashland Public Library
Robert Jenkins, Trustee, Bossard Memorial Library of Gallia County

At-Large Director [one to be elected]

Travis McAfee, Assistant Director, Way Public Library
Stacey Russell, Executive Director, Muskingum County Library System

At-Large Director [one to be elected]

Bryan Howard, Director, Delaware County District Library
Amy Young, Director, Reed Memorial Library

ROCHFORD MOVED AND MUETHER SECONDED ACCEPTANCE OF THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THREE-YEAR TERMS BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2027. MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYE VOTES, AND 3 ABSTENTIONS (Bautz, Hedlund Tunnell, Russell).

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Francis thanked the Board and others for their participation in the full strategic planning retreat session with Lowell Applebaum, Vista Cova. She just received the Summary, and will review it and meet with Applebaum, and then with Russell. The Summary will be shared with the full board once reviewed. Russell has had several members reach out. She is reminding members that give and take is necessary for growth. Rochford liked the process. DeNero Ackroyd thought it was energizing and liked mixing up our groups.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN

Francis reported that OLC contracted with Public Opinion Strategies to conduct a statewide poll in January. OLC released the results in February. Neil Newhouse from Public Opinion Strategies crafted a memo summarizing the poll results that could be shared publicly. Toolkit pieces were developed and can be found in the Member Info Hub under: Resources/Directors and Fiscal Officers Only/PR Toolkit. More pieces to the toolkit will be added. These pieces help to reinforce the messages when meeting with legislators. Francis would like to do this every two-years to help with the state budget.

Feedback is appreciated. Jacobsen is certain there are times of the year that these pieces would be helpful with back to school; library sign up month; summer reading. Smith noted OLC will be getting ready in August for the next State Budget.

OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES

Francis reported OLC is on the steering committee. More than 75 statewide organizations have joined the coalition. The group is strictly providing information as a public education effort; it is not a campaign. More information can be found on the OLC website, and directors can find the Toolkit in the Member Info Hub under the Property Tax folder.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The OLC Board of Directors is responsible for identifying nominees and selecting the winner of the OLC Citizen of the Year Award. Nominations for the Citizen of the Year will be solicited from the membership through announcements in *Access Weekly* and *This Week*, and on the OLC website. Staff will make recommendations to the OLC Board at the July meeting.

ALA COUNCILOR REPORT

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

ALA Annual Conference. Action is moving forward ahead of Annual Conference including a new Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries, produced by the ALA Artificial Intelligence Policy Working Group, and a new statement on “Liberty and the Library” produced by the Intellectual Freedom Committee. IFC is accepting feedback on the proposed statement through May 28th.

Concerns continue to be expressed by members regarding ALA's financial situation and how the organization is responding to that. The Council and the Executive Board are taking those concerns very seriously and are working with staff leadership to address the situation while remaining true to their core values. There is a member-led resolution regarding transparency. The resolution is counter-productive currently.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT

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

IMLS. The IMLS is gathering Library Directors on July 22. The topic is America 250.

Relocation. State Library Staff offices are relocating to downtown Columbus, 35 East Chestnut Street, while the collections are moving to a specialized archival facility with state-of-the-art environmental controls at 1831 Deffenbaugh Court in Gahanna.

Strategic Plan. The State Library Board set high level goals at the March Board meeting. It will be finalized by the July SLO Board Retreat.

Serving Every Ohioan (SEO). RFPs were sent for a new LSP for ILS with 6 responses. They will evaluate them on May 22.

SearchOhio. Work continues as SLO takes the administrative lead on SearchOhio.

Francis asked if Ohioana is also moving to the new space. Knapp reported that they were offered the opportunity and have declined to move with the State Library. They are moving to Grove City.

OPLIN REPORT

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

E-Rate. Be careful of phishing when it comes to E-Rate. The originating domain is usac.org NOT usac.com. Nearly every Category 2 request is being met with a square footage review. You can request a letter from Don Yarman. By August 2026, all applicants invoicing for E-Rate reimbursements will require an active SAM.gov registration for payment.

Cooperative Database Subscription Funding. Yarman has been negotiating with a few vendors to try a “NPR Model” of cooperative database subscription funding. A “GoFundMe” type campaign where he would post the cost negotiated,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

libraries pledge the amounts they're willing to contribute and see if we reach the target. More to come this summer.

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

Institutional Membership. As of May 8, 235 public library systems are Institutional Members of OLC. There are 14 library systems that are still in the process of renewing their membership. Only two library systems have not paid their 2026 dues and were not included in the revenue projections for the 2026 OLC operational budget.

Library Levies on May Primary Ballot. Voters across Ohio approved 12 of the 14 library levies on the ballot on May 5. It is important to keep in mind that most requests were placed on the ballot to maintain current services, not necessarily to expand services.

OLC Staff Anniversaries. Angie Jacobsen celebrated her 10 year anniversary on March 28; Laurie Miller celebrated 5 years on April 19; and Ro Swanson celebrated 26 years on May 8.

Trustee Lunch/Dinners. This spring, OLC hosted four regional Trustee Dinners/Lunch. The events focused on OLC's PR Campaign and property taxes. If you have any feedback, send to Francis. Hedlund Tunnell asked if they are always in March/April. Usually in a budget year, trustees want to hear more about the next State Budget. People like networking.

GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

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

Public Library Fund Update. The May 2026 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution of \$40,419,668 – which is \$393,641 or (+0.98%) more than ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2025. The state's General Revenue Fund tax receipts for April 2026 came in \$338.9 million or 13.3% above estimate. This means the total GRF tax receipts to-date for FY 2026 are exceeding estimates by 1.16 billion or 4.9%. The final PLF distribution for the current fiscal year will be posted and distributed at the beginning of June. Once the final distribution is posted, OLC will provide a complete analysis and comparison of the PLF as a line-item appropriation vs a percentage of the GRF for FY 2026.

Statehouse Update. The legislature has been on recess for most of April. Moving forward, both the House and Senate plan to meet throughout May and into June. Over the next several weeks, the primary focus will be on the Capital Budget.

Constitutional Amendment to Eliminate Property Taxes.

The OLC continues to serve on the Steering Committee for Ohioans to Protect Public Services (OPPS), a coalition of more than 65 statewide organizations working to educate Ohioans about the serious consequences of eliminating all property taxes on homes and businesses, with no plan to replace the revenue. Additional information is available at protectpublicservices.org.

As discussions surrounding property taxes continue, it remains important to share clear, factual information about how public services are funded and the essential role libraries play in local communities. Public libraries receive just 2.5% of all property taxes collected statewide.

We encourage you to continue utilizing OLC's Public Libraries and Property Taxes Fact Sheet along with the resources provided by OPPS.

Recently, the coalition partnered with four former directors of the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) on an op-ed published in The Columbus Dispatch. This piece describes the far-reaching consequences of eliminating property taxes without a viable replacement revenue source.

Post Primary – Impact Ohio Event. OLC staff recently attended a post-election conference featuring party chairs, strategists and legislative leadership.

137th Ohio General Assembly Senate President. Jerry Cirino has formally ended his bid in the race to become the next Senate President. This gives Senator Bill Reineke a clearer path to succeed President Rob McColley next year.

Library Ballot Issues Workshop. This workshop will be hosted virtually on July 9.

OLC Library Legislative Day 2027. Save the Date – next year's Library Legislative Day will take place on Wednesday, May 19, 2027.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

2026 Convention & Expo. The Program committee met in-person on April 14 to discuss program selection. Approval emails are being sent through the app, and the deadline to accept is today. There are 12 poster sessions. Staff is currently working on the program grid to solidify dates and times of breakout sessions. OLC is still researching General Session speakers for Wednesday and Friday.

Miller thanked Mary Ellen Icaza, Kacie Armstrong and Anastasia Diamond-Ortiz for their participation in the Mentorship Webinar Series where they shared goals and inspirations. There will be 3 more webinars in the series.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

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

Legislative Day. Legislative Day and the Preparing for Legislative Day webinar were promoted through This Week and Access. Advocacy resources and tools were added to the OLC website and Member Info Hub. OLC received some local news coverage. Good traction with sample press release. Strong engagement with #OhioLibraryDay.

Library Levies. A press release was issued about Ohio voters approving 12 of the 14 public library levies on the May primary ballot.

Statewide Coalition – Ohioans to Protect Public Services. Information was shared in This Week, Access and the OLC website about OLC serving on the steering Committee of Ohioans to Protect Public Services. The coalition launched its website on April 16. Jacobsen will post the social media guide. Updated property tax sheet.

Convention and Expo. Preliminary work has begun on the 2026 Convention and Expo website. A save-the-date postcard will be sent in June. The Exhibitor Prospectus was mailed in March. Sponsorship opportunities were updated on the website. Goal is to get registration open July 8.

Strategic Planning. Information about the OLC's strategic planning process was shared in This Week, Access and social media.

GZ Learn. Training has begun on the new GrowthZone Learning module to support implementation. GZ Learn will be used to deliver the Ohio Reference Excellence (ORE) courses as well as other online professional development opportunities for members.

Francis mentioned the HR Workshop 101 and 102. There is an amazing lineup of attorneys appealing to different parts of our membership on presentations to hiring, HR basics, evaluations, disciplinary action. It is a hybrid event.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES REPORT

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

2026 Individual Membership. Individual membership is consistent with last year's numbers. A retention letter was sent to 388 prior members on April 30. A thank you letter to those libraries that responded to the survey on Individual Dues support will be sent shortly. A second Membership Meet-Up was held on April 6. There were 24 members registered. Discussion centered on how members can get involved in OLC, and how to navigate certain areas of the Member Info Hub.

Nominations and Elections. D'Andrea is working directly with division coordinators to complete their states. Nomination acceptance forms were sent on May 13 to candidates requesting biographical information. Potential Board candidates will receive their letter after approval at today's Board meeting.

Awards and Honors. Promotion continues through This Week, Access and Director memos. The deadline for nominations is May 29th.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the OLC Board of Directors is scheduled for July 17 virtually.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

HEDLUND TUNNELL MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED THE MEETING
ADJOURN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.