

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Via Zoom
July 17, 2026
10:00 A.M.

PRESENT	Kathy Bach, Cincinnati Monica Baughman, Worthington Travis Bautz, Middletown Julianne Bedel, Medina Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Cleveland Heights Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton Cindy Lombardo, Peninsula Elizabeth Muether, Celina Bernie Rochford, Akron Stacey Russell, Zanesville William Rutger, Sandusky Susan Titkemeier, Marion
ABSENT	Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, Ashland
GUESTS	Mandy Knapp, State Library of Ohio Christine Morris, OPLIN Nick Tepe, ALA Councilor
STAFF	Michelle Francis, Executive Director Jeanine D'Andrea, Director, Membership 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. She noted Christine Morris would be attending on behalf of OPLIN.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Russell noted the Board will meet in Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting. Also, she noted the four agenda items sent to Board members only. BAUGHMAN MOVED AND ICAZA SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	TITKEMEIER MOVED AND DeNERO-ACKROYD SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE MAY 15, 2026 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
FINANCIAL REPORT MONTH-END May 2026	Francis presented the financial report for the month-end May 2026. <u>Revenue.</u> <u>Dues.</u> Institutional Dues income is slightly under budget due to delayed payments. Individual Memberships are under budget due to decrease in personal membership. Friends are under budget due to delayed invoicing. <u>Continuing Education.</u> Convention and Expo is under budget due to timing of accrual. Workshops are under budget due to decrease in registration and timing of events.

Contract Income. Sourcing office is slightly over budget due to increase in library purchases.

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.

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. Health Insurance and payroll taxes are slightly 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.

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

Communications. Postage/Courier Service is under budget.

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

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

Travel and Meals. Board Travel 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. 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 over budget due to timing of payments.

The net change in assets is under budget by (\$4,352).

MUETHER MOVED AND BAUTZ SECONDED TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT: MONTH END MAY 2026 AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RATIFICATION OF ACTION
WITHOUT A MEETING

LOMBARDO MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED ACCEPTANCE OF THE RATIFICATION OF ACTION WITHOUT A MEETING: TO REPLACE AMY YOUNG ON THE SLATE AS A CANDIDATE IN THE AT-LARGE POSITION WITH BETH STEINER, DIRECTOR OF THE AUGLAIZE COUNTY PUBLIC DISTRICT LIBRARY. MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYE VOTES AND 2 ABSTENTIONS (Bautz, Russell).

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The OLC Strategic Planning Retreat report was distributed to members of the OLC Board of Directors for review. Francis noted pages 8-11 of the report discuss the next steps in the process. The group decided to refer the report to the Executive Committee for further discussion. The Executive Committee will

have further discussion and come back to the full Board with recommendations on the vision and mission in September. Feedback from certain Board members was that they were impressed with the process and facilitation.

OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES

Francis noted a June 2026 Progress Report from Ohioans to Protect Public Services was included in the background packet for members of the Board. The Steering Committee will continue to have monthly meetings.

ALA COUNCILOR REPORT

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

ALA Council Actions at ALA Annual Conference. Council held three very productive sessions. Council passed the resolutions brought by the Policy Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Organization that continue the necessary reorganizing work that has come from ongoing efforts to streamline the Association. Council reviewed Treasurer Larry Neal's report, including the five-year plan to close the Association's multi-million-dollar structural deficit. Finally, Council passed a resolution recognizing the ALA staff for their work and dedication in honor of the Association's 150th anniversary.

Also, Council adopted a new resource to help libraries develop thoughtful policies for the use of artificial intelligence (AI). It was developed by ALA's AI Policy Working Group. ALA plans to offer learning opportunities to help library staff understand and implement the recommendations.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT

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

Office Relocation. The State Library of Ohio has moved and is settling in at 35 East Chestnut Street, Columbus. The collection of state and federal government documents, rare books and other items were moved to the new book depository in Gahanna.

Strategic Planning. Work continues on the State Library Strategic Plan, which may be approved next week.

LSTA Grants. The State Library awarded a combined total of \$2,137,403 in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants for the Libraries Connect Ohio core set of databases known as Ohio Web Library, eighteen public libraries to hire Guiding Ohio Online technology trainers, and Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled to supplement state funding. The House Appropriations Committee recommended flat funding for LSTA.

Serving Every Ohioan. The SEO membership has given a final recommendation to the Advisory Committee on securing a Library Services Platform for the Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Consortium.

OPLIN REPORT

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

Competitive Bidding Portal. The Government Accountability Office has praised the E-Rate program for its low error rate and for the fiscal controls that thwart waste, fraud and abuse. In April the FCC ordered the creation of a portal that all applicants must use to receive proposals for all 470s issued after July 1, 2027. SHLB and ALA are working to help ensure the new requirement does not create unnecessary burdens for libraries and schools.

Existential Threat to E-Rate. The FCC voted to advance proposals that target a variety of elements in the E-Rate program. The FCC is questioning whether the

program should be limited or sunset, whether limiting children's screen time should be a condition of funding, whether CIPA requirements should be expanded, and how consultants might be regulated. OPLIN is particularly concerned about a proposal that will require each member of a consortium to individually file their CIPA compliance within the E-Rate portal. Currently, OPLIN streamlines this process for libraries.

Francis noted that SHLB has been extremely active on E-rate and has an upcoming webinar. SHLB is the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition and is a nonprofit, advocacy organization that supports open, affordable, high-quality broadband connections for anchor institutions and their surrounding communities.

OPLIN Core Network Maintenance. OPLIN and OIT completed extensive maintenance activities for OPLIN's network core. The core router had been online without interruption for nearly seven years. Completion of this maintenance ensures that OPLIN's core router components are fully upgraded and supported. It also positions OPLIN to upgrade our library internet paths to OARnet from 20G and 10G to 100G over the next year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

IRS Form 990. The OLC auditors prepared the IRS Form 990, the informational tax return that 501(c)(6) organizations are required to file under the IRS tax code. Per OLC policy, the form was reviewed by the Finance Committee and filed.

ALA Annual Conference. Francis attended the Chapter Leaders Forum. Not every state has full-time paid staff like Ohio. The registration count for the full conference was close to 9,000 paid attendees. Francis, Michelle Alleman, Akron; and Michael Penrod, Wood County Public Library met with Amazon.

OLC Elections. The final day to vote in the OLC elections is July 30. Staff will meet with Mary Ellen Icaza to review and certify the results on August 5.

Special Meeting for Association Libraries. A special meeting for Association Libraries is scheduled for August 6 to address legal and legislative issues impacting them.

OLC Staff Anniversaries. Denise Kise is celebrating 13 years with OLC.

Office Lease. Francis met with Ken Isenberger to look at commercial office space as our office lease is up next summer. Isenberger will put together a list for review.

Kent State University Advisory Board. Francis has agreed to serve on the KSU Advisory Board. Knapp was also asked to join.

GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

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

Public Library Fund Update. According to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), state tax receipts for the month of June came in at \$306.5 million (or +11.3%) above estimate. Preliminary data shows that overall state revenues for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 were \$1.8 billion (or +6.1%) over estimates.

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted the first Public Library Fund (PLF) monthly distribution for FY 2027. The July 2026 PLF distribution is

\$40,251,502 – consistent with ODT’s original estimate issued in July 2025 and ODT’s updated estimate issued in December 2025. The PLF Calendar Year (CY) 2026 year-to-date total is \$280,303,983.

ODT Posts Final CY 2026 PLF Certification Update. ODT issued their final estimates for the Public Library Fund (PLF) distributions for each county for Calendar Year 2026 (CY 2026). Overall, ODT is now estimating the total CY 2026 PLF distribution will be \$484,704,271, which is consistent with the original ODT certification issued in July 2025.

FY 2027 Cash Transfers from PLF.

OPLIN: \$3,689,788
Library for the Blind: \$1,274,194
Ohioana Library Association: \$310,516
Regional Library Systems: \$494,000
State Library of Ohio: \$4,527,474

OBM recently shared an updated [schedule](#) of the cash transfers for FY 2027. These deductions and [transfers](#) from the PLF are made prior to the PLF distributions to public libraries. After the cash transfers are deducted, the actual PLF amount distributed to public libraries will be \$489,704,028.

Statehouse Update Webinar: Mid-Year Legislative Review and Outlook.

OLC hosted a Statehouse Update Webinar on Tuesday, July 14 at 10 a.m. The session provided an overview of legislative activity during the first half of the year and offered insight into issues expected to shape the remainder of the 136th Ohio General Assembly.

OLC Library Legislative Day 2027. 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. Currently have 30 Exhibitors and 10 Sponsors. The online registration is open and available until October 7. All other information is linked on the C&E Event page.

Mentorship Series. The Mentorship series was great with good conversations. Miller extended her thanks to Nick Tepe.

COMMUNICATIONS
REPORT

In addition to the written report, Francis reported on the following as Jacobsen was ill:

Francis thanked Russell for her Op-ed published in the *Columbus Dispatch* highlighting the critical role Ohio’s public libraries play in supporting summer learning and serving as trusted community resources. It reinforced key advocacy messages about the value of public libraries and provided an opportunity to elevate the visibility of libraries statewide.

Summer Reading. OLC developed and distributed a Summer Reading PR Toolkit through the Member Info Hub.

Convention and Expo. A promotional save-the-date postcard was mailed at the end of June. Registration details are now open on the OLC Website.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

REPORT

2026 Individual Membership. The June 30 Individual Membership Statistics show 2,113 Individual members as compared to 2,066 on June 30, 2025. Proration of dues for **new** members opened on July 1 and goes through Sept. 30.

Nominations and Elections. The 2026 Elections opened on June 30. A reminder email will be sent next week and voting closes on July 30. Staff will review the results with the chair of the Nominating Committee and then results will be shared with all candidates prior to posting to the website.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the OLC Board of Directors is September 18 at the OLC Office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BACH MOVED AND RUTGER SECONDED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE AT 11:11 A.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:34 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

BAUTZ MOVED AND RUTGER SECONDED THE MEETING ADJOURN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.