

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 18, 2025
10:00 A.M.
Via Zoom

PRESENT	Kathy Bach, Cincinnati Monica Baughman, Worthington Travis Bautz, Middletown Julianne Bedel, Medina Sarah Clevidence, Findlay Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Cleveland Heights Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, Ashland Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton Robbie Jenkins, Gallipolis Elizabeth Muether, Celina Bernie Rochford, Akron Stacey Russell, Zanesville William Rutger, Avon Lake
GUESTS	Stewart Smith, OPERS & Columbus Metropolitan Library Mandy Knapp, State Library of Ohio 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	<p>The meeting was called to order by Chair Icaza at 10:02 a.m. Icaza welcomed guest Stewart Smith, current member of the OPERS Board and Director of Finance at Columbus Metropolitan Library. She noted that Don Yarman is unable to participate in today's meeting and the OPLIN report is a written only report.</p> <p>Smith thanked the Board for allowing him to address the Board. He is honored to be a 3-year member of the OPERS Board. The role is deeply personal to him. Smith's current term is coming to an end, and he would like to run for re-election for that position. Petition signatures are required, and he asked for support for his nomination and to encourage others in their libraries to sign the petition. He will email the petition form to Francis, and she will pass it on. Smith thanked the Board for their time.</p>
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	<p>Icaza noted the OPLIN report is a written report only.</p> <p>BAUTZ MOVED AND RUSSELL SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	MUETHER MOVED AND RUTGER SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE MAY 16, 2025 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINANCIAL REPORT
MONTH-END
May 2025

Francis thanked the Board for their support the past 6 months.

Francis presented the financial report for the month-end May 2025.

Revenue.

Dues. Institutional dues are over budget due to Plain City Public Library joining. Other Institutions are under budget due to delayed invoicing. Individual Memberships are under budget due to decrease in personal membership possibly caused by the instability of the State Budget, PLA and the new Association Software system.

Continuing Education. Legislative Day is over budget due to increased attendance. Convention & Expo is under budget due to timing of accrual. Workshops are under budget due to low attendance.

Contract Income. Sourcing Office is over budget due to library purchases.

Other Income. Interest and Dividends is over budget due to returns on short-term investments. Unrealized Gain is over budget due to returns on long-term investments. Management & Consulting Revenue is under budget due to less background checks.

Expenses.

Salaries and Benefits. Salaries are under budget due to timing of 2025 adjustments. Retirement is under budget due to timing of plan contributions. Workers' Comp is slightly under budget due to BWC rebates.

Supplies and Resources. Supplies are under budget.

Communications. Postage/Courier Service is under budget.

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

Maintenance and Equipment. Equipment Rental is over budget due to expenses for the CPIM conference, coding issue, and Legislative Day.

Travel and Meals. Board is under budget due to reduced request for reimbursement. Staff slightly over budget due to increased travel. Committees and Divisions under budget due to reduced requests for reimbursement.

Management Expenses. Bank services are over budget. Insurance is slightly over budget. Organization Memberships is under budget. Staff Development and Memberships is under budget due to timing. Catering and meals is under budget due to reduced registrations.

The net change in assets is under budget by (16,407).

RUSSELL MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT: MONTH-END – MAY 2025 AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 OLC CITIZEN OF
THE YEAR

Francis reported that nominations for the Citizen of the Year Award were solicited from the membership through articles in *Access* and on the OLC website. No nominations were submitted by the general membership related to statewide

impact. If the OLC Board of Directors chooses to award the Citizen of the Year in 2025, the staff recommends either of the following individuals:

Bob Hinkle, Chief Deputy Auditor for Ohio Auditor of State, Keith Faber, or Thomas Suddes, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Instruction, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University.

RUSSELL MOVED AND BACH SECONDED TO ACCEPT THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION OF PRESENTING THE 2025 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD TO BOB HINKLE AND TO KEEP THOMAS SUDDER IN MIND FOR THE FUTURE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 OLC AWARDS AND HONORS

D'Andrea presented the OLC Awards & Honors Committee recommendations. There was a question regarding not awarding the Librarian of the Year Award. D'Andrea noted the low number of nominations and Muether described the reasons behind not wanting to change the criteria or the parameters of the Librarian of the Year Award.

Hall of Fame Librarian: Molly Carver, Sandusky Library (Retired)

Librarian of the Year: The Awards and Honors Committee has chosen not to present the Librarian of the Year award this year.

Service Excellence Award: Kristy Szkudlarek, Findlay-Hancock County Public Library

Local Library Champion: Barry Romich, Wayne County

Emerging Leader Award: Collin Kuhn, Ritter Public Library

Library Innovation Award: Huron Beacon Podcast, Huron Public Library

DENERO AKROYD MOVED AND JENKINS SECONDED ACCEPTANCE OF THE AWARDS AND HONORS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED WITH 12 YEA VOTES AND ONE ABSTENTION (Clevidence).

FY 2026-2027 STATE BUDGET UPDAT

Smith reported on the State Budget.

Public Library Fund.

- Reduces actual state funding for public libraries from \$504.59 million in FY25 to \$479.7 million in FY26 and \$489.7 million FY27.
- Changes the Public Library Fund (PLF) from a percentage of General Revenue Fund (GRF) tax receipts to a line-item appropriation.
- Funds the PLF at \$490 million in FY26 and \$500 million in FY27 through a line-item appropriation instead of a percentage of state tax receipts as proposed by the Governor.
- The Senate added language to deduct more than \$10.3 million in each fiscal year from the PLF line-item appropriation to fund the following entities: State Library of Ohio, OPLIN, Library for the Blind, Regional Library Systems, and the Ohioana Library Association.

Library Materials.

- Requires public libraries to place material related to sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in a portion of the library that is not primarily

open to the view of individuals under the age of 18. ***The Governor vetoed this provision in the budget. Certain legislators have publicly called for this veto to be overridden.

County Budget Commissions

- Allows a county budget commission to reduce millage on any voter-approved tax levy, aside from a debt levy, if the commission finds it reasonably necessary or prudent to avoid unnecessary, excessive, or unneeded property tax collections. ***The Governor vetoed these provisions in the budget. The Ohio House has scheduled a session on Monday, July 21 to override this veto.

Income Tax Changes

- Reduces Ohio state income tax to a flat rate of 2.75% starting in Tax Year 2026.

Replacement Levies

- Eliminates replacement property tax levies beginning with elections held on or after January 1, 2026. ***The Governor vetoed this provision in the budget. The Ohio House has scheduled a session on Monday, July 21 to override this veto.

Library Trustee Terms

- Reduces the term of office for school district library trustees and county district trustees from seven to four years.

Cybersecurity

- Requires the legislative authority of a political subdivision to adopt a cybersecurity program that safeguards the political subdivision's data and makes other changes.

2027 OLC CONVENTION AND EXPO LOCATION

Francis reported that staff has been researching options for the 2027 Convention and Expo. OLC staff is requesting feedback on the location and authority to move forward with negotiations to secure a location for 2027.

Option 1. Sharonville Convention Center (NE suburb of Cincinnati)

Option 2. Dayton Convention Center

Option 3. Hyatt Regency Columbus

[Discussion]

Bach – Sharonville CC is recently renovated. It is about 40 minutes to downtown. She thinks about it more for a stand-alone. Forest Park Branch is stunning and would be a good place to host a reception or tour. Bautz asked about hotels in Dayton.

Clevidence – Asked about cancellation clauses if OLC had to cancel due to low registration or cuts in state funding.

Rochford – Sharonville sounds like best option from financial risk. Concern of things to do after the convention.

Icaza – Asked about contracts and cancellation fees. She asked if other state associations have conventions every year or every other year. State Associations

in Ohio do annual or every other year. Some do 1½ day or 2 day. Others are also see reducing their professional development offerings. It varies.

DeNero Akroyd – In 2027 there is no PLA and ALA is in New Orleans just to think about competing professional development opportunities.

Clevidence – Asked if OLC is committed to an annual convention.

From a financial perspective, the Board can create an Ad Hoc Committee and come back to the September meeting with recommendations.

Rutger – It's worth exploring an Ad Hoc Committee. Every other year or just 2 days. Is there a financial benefit to go to the same location? Would a hotel and convention center hold a space with first right of refusal?

[END DISCUSSION]

HEDLUND TUNNEL MOVED AND RUTGER SECONDED TO CREATE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUTURE ANNUAL CONVENTION OPTIONS AND BRING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board Members interested in serving on that Ad Hoc Committee are: Baughman, Hedlund Tunnell, Rochford, and Rutger.

AMAZON BUSINESS

OLC is currently in the second year of our Amazon Business Prime Association Accounts Program. There is no cost to OLC or to our members through year 3. OLC will receive a one-time rebate payment of \$116,232.14 as part of the rebate program.

OLC Staff would like feedback on the following expenditures and authority to move forward:

\$20,000 – New OLC Laptops, Docking Stations and Printers
\$20,000 – OLC 2025 Convention & Expo 130th Anniversary Reception
\$30,000 – Update Sample Policies for OLC Institutional Members
\$15,000 – New Furniture and Technology for Hybrid Training
\$31,000 – New OLC Office Furniture/Desks

Clevidence asked if this year's budget includes resources for strategic planning. Rutger indicated the Board may want to see how the State Budget plays out before tackling a new strategic plan.

RUSSELL MOVED AND BEDEL SECONDED TO GIVE OLC STAFF AUTHORITY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE EXPENDITURES AS OUTLINED ABOVE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLC DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES

Francis reported there are currently 2,066 Individual Members; 7 Standing Committees and 14 Divisions. In 2023 OLC merged the Adult and Reference Services Divisions. There has been some conversations that Digital & Media Services and Special Collections could merge. There has also been some requests for a maker-space division. Some divisions are struggling to find volunteers to serve on Division Action Councils.

DeNero Akroyd asked if there was potential for an additional Committee and additional Division. She would like to propose a Sustainability Committee. Her

library embarked on the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and is undergoing that certification.

She would also like to recommend a new Division on Safety and Security. There is an informal group of 24 people representing 15 libraries throughout the state already meeting virtually informally about every 8 weeks. They do have purpose statements, duties, they are organized but don't have a body.

She recognizes there is a human cost with staff liaisons, and board liaisons, but thought it was a way to serve membership and garner new memberships.

Francis noted OLC did have a stand-alone conference on safety and security in 2019.

Rutger shared it would be a good opportunity to review with the Management and Administration Division to get things rolling.

Icaza asked what would be the process for consideration? The OLC Professional Development Committee meets in August and Stand Alone Conference are determined in September. Rutger will reach out to the MAD Division. PDC will discuss further in August.

ALA COUNCILOR REPORT

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

Council Actions at Annual Conference. Tepe reported the Council sessions were productive and hopefully turned the corner with the organization.

New ALA Strategic Plan. Tepe feels this is a strong plan and that there is a driving desire to ensure fiscal stability with ALA.

Merritt Fund. A Resolution was introduced to increase awareness for the Merritt Fund. Donations are not tax deductible. A Toolkit is available.

ALA Executive Director. ALA has selected Daniel J. Montgomery to be its next Executive Director. He will officially start at ALA on November 10.

Francis reported the ALA Annual attendance was 14,000, yet paid attendees was 8,000. They are considering an all-virtual event in January.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT

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

Location. The State Library continues to investigate options for a new facility with the Department of Administrative Services. The first location they viewed will not hold the weight of books.

Listening Tour.

Knapp met with Meg Brown of Thurber House, OhioNet Director Katy Mathuews, Director of INFOhio Erica Clay, Ohioana staff, Ohio Center for the Book staff, Coshocton Public Library Director, Homer Public Library Director, Staff from Columbus Metropolitan Library, Worthington Public Library and Upper Arlington Public Library along with many others.

Early Literacy Workshops. Registration is open for Early Literacy 101 workshops in Steubenville on August 20 and Medina on September 22. Registration will open in August for workshops in Powell and Circleville.

Science of Reading Grant. The State Library of Ohio is pleased to announce that Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) has been awarded \$48,000 in federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) LSTA funds for a multi-year collaborative project titled "The Science of Reading: A Guide for Ohio's Public Libraries to Help Raise Literacy Achievement."

OPLIN REPORT

A written report was provided by Yarman.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

IRS Form 990. The IRS Form 990 was reviewed by the Finance Committee and filed.

ALA Annual Conference. Francis was able to attend a portion of the ALA Annual Conference due to state budget discussions. Francis met with Amazon and was able to have e-book pricing conversations.

OLC Elections. Francis thanked the staff for getting the election ballots out. Results will be sent to all candidates and then posted on the OLC website.

Small Library Directors' Forums. Francis is working with the Small Libraries Division Action Council to schedule dates for these forums which are designed for directors of small libraries to discuss issues of common interest and to share ideas on how to deal with challenges unique to small libraries.

OLC Staff Anniversaries. Denise Kise celebrated 12 years with OLC on July 1.

GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

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

Public Library Fund. The new fiscal year began on July 1 and Ohio's public libraries are facing a decrease in funding compared to last year. The PLF is now a line-item appropriation instead of being calculated as a percentage of the state's general revenue fund.

Constitutional Amendment to Eliminate Property Taxes. Citizens for Property Tax Reform has fallen short of the 413,487 signatures needed to get a constitutional amendment added to the November 2025 ballot. It was reported that the group is now focusing on the 2026 ballot instead.

Budget Wrap Up Webinar. A Budget Wrap Up Webinar is scheduled for July 30 at 10:00 a.m.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

Convention & Expo. OLC currently has 38 exhibitors and 13 sponsors. The keynote speaker for Wednesday is Ruta Sepetys; Thursday is Andre Norman; and Friday is Peter H. Reynolds. Registration opens in September.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

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

State Budget. OLC issued a press release expressing serious concerns about the state budget. OLC staff conducted follow-up interviews and provided additional information to reporters to ensure accurate coverage and to amplify the message. Consistent press releases were sent during the budget process. OLC is seen as a trusted source for information.

Convention & Expo. A promotional postcard will be sent at the end of July. Development of the website and OLC app are underway. The Exhibit Hall map was added to the website. The announcement of Awards and Honors winners was posted in Access.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

2025 Individual Membership. The proration of membership dues began on July 1 and goes through October 1. The Membership Committee will meet on July 22 via Zoom.

Nominations and Elections. Elections began on July 1. There was a 99.7% delivery rate. A reminder email will be sent one week prior to the closure of voting on July 30. As of Tuesday, July 15, there was a 14% return on the Board and between 27-53% return on Divisions. Staff will review the results with the chair of the Nominating Committee and final results will be sent to all candidates prior to posting on the website.

Awards and Honors. Following the Board's approval of the recommendations, the winners will be notified, press releases issued and planning for the Awards luncheon will begin.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the OLC Board of Directors is scheduled for Sept. 19 at the OLC Office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RUSSELL MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:40 A.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RUTGER MOVED AND MUETHER SECONDED A MOTION TO EXIT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:45 PM. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

CLEVIDENCE MOVED AND BEDEL SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 12:45 PM. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.