

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sept. 19, 2025
10:00 A.M.
OLC Office

PRESENT	Monica Baughman, Worthington Travis Bautz, Middletown Julianne Bedel, Medina Sarah Clevidence, Findlay Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Cleveland Heights (Virtual) Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, Ashland Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton Robbie Jenkins, Gallipolis (Virtual) Elizabeth Muether, Celina Bernie Rochford, Akron William Rutger, Sandusky (Virtual)
ABSENT	Kathy Bach, Cincinnati Stacey Russell, Zanesville
GUESTS	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 Icaza at 10:01 a.m. Icaza noted that Stacey Russell and Kathy Bach were unable to attend. Russell asked Icaza to remind Board members that the evaluation forms for the OLC Executive Director will be coming soon. Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Robbie Jenkins and William Rutger are participating virtually. Nick Tepe is participating virtually for the ALA Councilor Report. The Board held a moment of silence for Alan Hall who passed away on September 12. Alan was Director Emeritus of the Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County; 2019 OLC Hall of Fame Librarian; 1989 OLC Librarian of the Year; Member of the OLC Board of Directors; Member of the State Library Board 2019-2022; Lifetime Member of OLC and one of our strongest supporters and advocates. Francis shared that flowers are being delivered to the funeral today on behalf of the OLC Board of Directors and Staff.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	CLEVIDENCE MOVED AND MUETHER SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	HEDLUND TUNNEL MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE JULY 18, 2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

BEDEL MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE JULY 18, 2025 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINANCIAL REPORT
MONTH-END JULY 2025

Francis presented the financial report for the month-end July 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.

Continuing Education. Legislative Day came in over budget due to increased attendance. Workshop attendance is down and under budget.

Contract Income. Sourcing Office is over budget \$117,000 due to the one-time Amazon rebate.

Other Income. Unrealized gains on long-term investments is over budget. Interest and Dividends are over budget due to returns on short-term investments.

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.

Consultants and Contractors. Consultants and Contractors are under budget due to delayed invoicing from Vorys for legal services. Expo contractors is under budget due to timing of payments.

Communications. Communications is under budget due to fewer mailings.

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

Maintenance and Equipment. Equipment Rental is over budget due to CPIM rental equipment and coding.

Travel and Meals. Travel is under budget due to fewer Board, Committees and Division requests for reimbursements.

Management Expenses. Management Expenses are under budget for catering and other meals at events.

The net change in assets is ahead of budget by \$176,285.

HEDLUND TUNNELL MOVED AND CLEVIDENCE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT: MONTH-END – JULY 2025 AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

AMERICA 250

Francis reported Ohio 250 approached OLC about highlighting America 250 book clubs next year. Possibly focusing on one book each month, with a focus on revolutionary war era titles. Francis asked the Board for their feedback.

Hedlund Tunnell is involved with another organization that hosts a Book Club. She asked if that would be something OLC would highlight. Francis clarified that OLC would highlight it, not manage it.

Icaza noted their library already has strong recommendations for Spring booklist, in connection with the nation's celebration.

Francis would like to open it up to the membership that if you are going to be doing a book club let OLC know, and we can highlight it and Ohio 250 would highlight it as well.

2027 OLC CONVENTION & EXPO AD HOC

Francis reported the Ad Hoc Committee on the 2027 OLC Convention & Expo Committee met on August 6. She thanked Hedlund Tunnel, Rutger, Baughman and Rochford for volunteering as members of the Ad Hoc Committee. The recommendation was to go to Sharonville Convention Center and add language with a clause for OLC if there are state funding concerns. OLC staff was able to negotiate in this language. OLC will have up to 90 days prior to cancel the Convention space with the understanding that OLC will reschedule at a later date. 2027 is a state budget year. The only restriction is that OLC would have to agree to re-book at the next available opportunity.

Clevidence asked if the Committee discussed holding the Convention every year or every other year. While this was discussed, there is no formal recommendation at this time. Clevidence noted that the Board should remain cognizant if future conventions should remain every year.

Bautz asked about Chapter Conferences. Francis noted it is hard to get the same content in 4-5 regional locations. There are several options. The Board can make those decisions as we move forward.

DeNero Ackroyd asked about no convention in 2024 with PLA being in Columbus. It's hard to access what will work and not work. It varies on the content and what other competitors are offering. OLC is committed to offering some things hybrid next year. Not having a convention is less workload – OLC will continue to give our members new options. Hosting workshops offsite with a virtual option is extremely expensive.

CLEVIDENCE MOVED AND BAUTZ SECONDED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH SIGNING THE SHARONVILLE CONTRACT WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FINANCIAL OUT CLAUSE ADDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Francis noted that future conversations may be needed later to discuss other options.

2025 CONVENTION & EXPO UPDATE

Francis noted that Sponsorship is at \$78,500. The exhibit hall is sold out. She thanked the staff for their work. Registration opened last week. Miller reported the General Session speakers are all set. There was a site visit with chairs and some committee members. There is not a Cleveland Cavaliers game Thursday evening, and Cleveland Public Library is hosting a game night. Wednesday night is a reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. The Thursday luncheon speaker for the Professional Development Luncheon is the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Librarian. Registration is off to a good start. OLC is working with the Foundation for Hospital Art to have 6 canvases which create 1 large picture for attendees to help paint at their leisure. Once completed, it will be provided to a hospital in need.

2026 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Committee openings have been identified and OLC staff are working on fulfilling those appointments. A full report will be provided to the Appointments Committee upon completion and presented for action at the November 2025 Board meeting.

2025 ELECTIONS REPORT

Staff met with Clevidence on August 4 to certify the election results. Francis has set meeting dates for orientation with new incoming Board members Titkemeier and Lombardo in October. They will also be invited to attend the November Board meeting. Clevidence commended D'Andrea for her organization of the nominations and elections process.

OLC BOARD MEETING DATES

The proposed dates for the 2026 OLC Board meetings are as follows: Jan. 16; March 13; May 15; July 17; Sept. 18; Nov. 13. Final approval will take place at the Nov. 7 meeting.

ALA COUNCILOR REPORT

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

Council Activity. The Executive Board recommended that Round Table elections be limited to the same positions that are elected for other ALA officers; Chair-Elect/Coordinator-Elect/President-Elect and Treasurer. An amendment was successfully added to keep Secretary as an elected position. The elected officers would be free to appoint any positions necessary to carry out the work of the Round Table.

The Executive Board also recommended that all ALA, division, round table and office publications be published by ALA Publishing & Media.

Tepe is continuing his work as part of an Ad-Hoc Committee making a recommendation to the Executive Board on how the organization manages the nomination and election of Executive Board members. Tepe has also started his term on the Committee on Organization, where they will finish the work of reviewing all ALA committees and making recommendations for any changes to the current structure.

STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO REPORT

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

Facility. The State Library was working with the Ohio Expo Commission on space. They are not able to move forward with that. In the meantime, the State Library is pursuing improvements to their center in Caldwell so that they can relocate some items.

LSTA Grants. LSTA Competitive Grant applications are open through October 20, with awards announced in December. The Competitive Grant offers eligible libraries the opportunity to apply for up to \$50,000 in LSTA funds for projects that address one of three focus areas: Literacy Library as Community Anchor, and Outreach and Engagement.

Legislature. The legislative tone has changed. State Library staff are generally feeling more relaxed. IMLS has received its normal funding. There is a continuing resolution for October 1.

Video Series. Knapp thanked those who submitted videos which showcases the statewide impact of federal library funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act.

Cybersecurity. The State Library is beginning a pilot program with smaller libraries on the essentials of Cybersecurity and where to get started – asset inventory; fiscal officer only access, etc. If the pilot goes well for smaller libraries, they will expand the program.

Listening Tour. Knapp's listening tour continues. She will have her final report to the State Library of Ohio Board at the end of the year.

America 250. Knapp received a message from the federal government they would like to see Ohio 250 programs. The Freedom Truck is a travelling exhibit space with different items relating to the founding of our country.

OPLIN REPORT

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

Wi-Fi Hotspot E-Rate. The chairman of the FCC has announced his intention to overturn the eligibility of hotspots for E-rate support. E-rate is for facilities not for services outside of the facilities. There is concern for school bus wi-fi coverage.

Statewide Web-Based Digital Skills Platform. BroadbandOhio has contracted with Northstar as the statewide digital literacy training platform. OPLIN is in the process of reactivating accounts and will relaunch Northstar later this year.

WhoFi. More than half of the libraries using OPLIN's Webkit service use the Community Calendar product. OPLIN will be looking for a way to continue paying for the libraries that use it. OPLIN will not be paying for the Wifi Analytics piece, though OhioNet is exploring group pricing. Clevnet is picking up the cost for their members.

Cybersecurity Requirements. OPLIN is working with OLC and the State Library to help libraries with the new requirements.

Managed Branch Connections. Sign-ups are open now for OPLIN to provide connections to library branches. They are also exploring a less expensive, lower tier of service for smaller locations. They will pilot in Portage and Tuscarawas County libraries to use copper versus fiber.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Meeting Update. Francis noted OLC is partnering with Highlights and Google on Internet literacy. Google gave Highlights 10,000 kits to distribute to schools and libraries. There are 100 kits in a box. This program is completely optional. It is geared toward grades 2-5. OLC will host a webinar in the beginning of October. Highlights and Google will be shipping all the kits. There will be materials at the OLC booth in the Expo Hall at Convention. They are starting this program in Ohio first. Their goal is to distribute 1 million kits.

Workers Comp. Francis reported more than 180 public library systems will be participating in OLC's 2026 Group Rating Program.

Director Forums for Small Libraries. These forums 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. To date 60 directors have registered for the forums.

GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL
SERVICES REPORT

Regional Meetings for Directors. OLC is hosting a series of regional meetings for library directors and fiscal officers. These meetings will provide timely updates and insight into several key financial and policy issues impacting Ohio's public libraries. The content is different from the forums for Small Libraries.

Planning and Leadership Conference. The Planning and Leadership Conference is scheduled for Nov. 18, the Tuesday before the Convention & Expo. This will be a half-day meeting. Invitations will be sent in October.

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

PLF Update. Distribution for September was \$40,419,668 which is -14.47% below ODT's original estimate and \$5.2 million or -11.67% below ODT's updated estimate issued in December 2024. The state's General Revenue Fund tax receipts for August 2025 came in about \$52.1 million of 2.1% above estimate. As of July 2025, the state's rainy-day fund reached a record level at \$3.942 billion.

ODT Issues Initial CY 2026 PLF Certification. The Ohio Department of Taxation posted its initial county-by-county certifications for the Public Library Fund (PLF) for calendar year (CY) 2026. ODT's initial statewide PLF distribution estimate for CY 2026 is \$484,704,267 which is \$29.6 million less than CY 2025. As required by law, these estimates will be updated again in December 2025.

HB 96 State Budget Update. OLC held a State Budget Wrap-Up Webinar on July 30. The webinar provided an in-depth review of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 state budget and what it means for Ohio's public Libraries. OLC has prepared a detailed analysis of House Bill 96, outlining the key provisions of the state budget and is available in the Member Info Hub.

Congressional Redistricting. The Legislature is tasked with Congressional Redistricting. The new maps must be in place for the 2026 primary elections. If a bipartisan map is agreed upon, that map will last 10 years, yet if there is no bipartisan agreement, or the legislature passes a map by simple majority, the map will last for four years.

Hedlund Tunnell asked about the big picture and how OLC can be more proactive. The Government Relations Committee is meeting next week. Being proactive with the legislature is key.

Francis noted that over the past 8-9 months, legislative action has been unprecedented. Part of the purpose for the regional meetings is to get our members ready. We are in conversations with other organizations about a campaign. We don't talk enough about how we share resources, partnerships, we have to tell our story more.

Rochford stated that we have to educate the legislature. Remind them that our constituents are their constituents. We have 27 new members in the Ohio House and 25 have never served in the legislature.

Rutger was contacted by a member with concerns that wonders if OLC is putting enough energy into education of members to prepare for anything that might come down the pike. Specifically, how to start a Foundation or a Friends Group or alternatives for funding.

Clevidence noted that if legislators see OLC providing training on creating foundations and Friends groups, would that indicate that we no longer need state funding. It's been a few years since OLC had a conference on Foundations and Friends groups.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

Convention and Expo. The Exhibit Hall booths are sold out with 64 exhibitors. There are a total of 17 sponsors.

Meetings. Staff met with the Adult and Reference Services Division, the Professional Development Committee, Digital and Media Services Division and a meeting with Mac's Books about the Bookstore at Convention.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

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

Awards and Honors. OLC has received significant media coverage and has been a positive narrative change in front of the media.

Convention and Expo. Updates continue to be added to the OLC website. Registration opened on Sept. 10. Staff is working on the on-site guide. Development of the Convention and Expo mobile app is also underway. Collateral materials for OLC Connects to support the work of Divisions and Committees are being developed.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES REPORT

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

Individual Membership. The proration of dues for new members began on July 1 and continues through September 30. To date OLC has received 55 new members through the proration period.

Membership Committee. Staff has been in contact with current Chair Bradley Kuykendall regarding scheduling the October meeting and transition of the Chair to Sheila Ward.

Awards and Honors. Staff is currently working on the Awards and Honors Luncheon details. Members of the Board are invited to attend on Nov. 19 at 11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required.

New Member Meet and Greet. Staff is currently working with Chair Kuykendall on a timeline for the New Member Meet and Greet. Board members are encouraged to attend on Wed., Nov. 19 at 4:00 p.m.

Francis thanked the Board for the moment of silence for Alan Hall. She noted that Hall would send notes throughout the State Budget process. He will be greatly missed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the OLC Board of Directors is scheduled for Nov. 7 at the OLC Office.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.