

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **4.D**

MEETING DATE: **May 15, 2026**

SUBJECT: **OLC Citizen of the Year Award**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

The OLC Board of Directors is responsible for identifying nominees and selecting the winner of the OLC Citizen of the Year Award. The criteria for the Citizen of the Year Award is as follows:

The OLC Citizen of the Year Award recognizes a citizen, or a group of citizens in Ohio who has/have made a noteworthy contribution that has had a positive influence on library services throughout the State of Ohio.

Nominations for the Citizen of the Year Award will be solicited from the membership through announcements in *Access Weekly*, *This Week*, and on the OLC website. Staff also will suggest possible candidates and make recommendations to the OLC Board at the meeting on July 17.

Previous Awardees:

2025 – Bob Hinkle
2023 – Peter Voderberg
2022 – Mark Hamlin and Benjamin Anderson
2021 – Terry Fouts
2019 – Doug Evans
2018 – Ryan Burgess
2017 – Stephen Hedges
2015 – Jon Iten
2014 – Bill Morris
2009 – Regina Brett
2007 – Sibongile (Bongi) Sithe
2004 – Kathy Catazaro-Perry
2003 – Marah Walker
1998 – Dr. Thomas W. Flechtner
1996 – Joan Bennett
1995 – Maynard Sauder
1994 – Robert H. Russell. Sr.
1993 – Thomas Dennis, Mark Powell