

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.E.3**

MEETING DATE: **July 17, 2026**

SUBJECT: **Communications Report**

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REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Summer Reading

To support libraries during the summer reading season, OLC developed and distributed a Summer Reading PR Toolkit through the Member Info Hub. The toolkit includes customizable communications resources, such as a sample press release, letters to the editor, radio public service announcements, and social media content to help libraries promote their summer programming and community impact.

In addition, OLC Board Chair Stacey Russell authored an 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. The op-ed reinforced key advocacy messages about the value of public libraries and provided an opportunity to elevate the visibility of libraries statewide during the busy summer reading season.

[Ohio libraries aren't luxuries or just buildings for books](#)

The Columbus Dispatch, May 27, 2026

Library Funding

The proposed constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxes did not collect enough signatures to qualify for the November 2026 ballot; however, conversations surrounding property taxes and library funding continue. OLC's "Property Tax" folder remains available in the Member Info Hub and provides members with tools to help explain this complex issue, including flyers, sample letters to the editor, and guidance for responding to questions and comments on social media. The Public Libraries and Property Taxes fact sheet and other library funding resources are available on the OLC website.

With the start of the new fiscal year, OLC responded to a media inquiry from WBNS-10TV regarding the Public Library Fund (PLF). Executive Director Michelle Francis discussed the \$25 million reduction in funding. The article, [Ohio libraries struggle with reduced funding as demand for services rises](#), helped bring additional attention to the funding challenges facing Ohio's public libraries and was subsequently shared by several media outlets around the state.

Convention and Expo

A promotional save-the-date postcard was mailed on June 26. Keynote speaker information, daily schedules, hotel accommodations, and registration details are now available on the OLC website. Registration for the Convention and Expo opened on July 8. Development of the OLC mobile app is underway, and exhibitor and sponsorship information continues to be updated online. An interactive Exhibit Hall map has also been added to the OLC website.

5.E.3: Communications Report

Division/Committee Projects

- Information on voting for OLC Leadership was included in Access, This Week and on the OLC website.
- The Adult and Reference Services Division sent its quarterly newsletter on May 19.
- The 2026 Awards and Honors program was featured weekly in Access. The deadline for submissions was extended to May 29.
- The Technical Services Division sent its quarterly newsletter on June 8.
- A call for the Citizen of the Year Award was included in This Week and Access.
- Information on dues proration was shared in Access and on the OLC website.
- A Call for Programs for the new Safety and Security Conference as well as the Outreach and Special Services Retreat was included in This Week, Access and on the OLC website.
- The Children's Services Division sent its quarterly newsletter on June 9.

Website

The most popular pages on the OLC website over the past two months are:

1. Jobs
2. Convention and Expo
3. Calendar
4. 2026 OLC Elections Begin June 30
5. Voter Registration Responsibilities for Public Libraries
6. Library Funding/PLF
7. 2026 Hybrid Outreach and Special Services Retreat
8. Expo
9. Institutional Member Directory
10. Certification