

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

AGENDA

March 14, 2025
OLC Offices
10:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda (#)*
2. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Jan. 17, 2025 – Regular Meeting (#)*
3. 2025 OLC Board Orientation
 - A. OLC Board of Directors – Roles and Responsibilities
(Jason Elvers, OLC Legal Counsel; Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP)
 - B. OLC Board of Directors Conflict of Interest Policy (#)
4. Reports for Action
 - A. Financial Report: Year-End – 2024 (#)*
 - B. Nominating Committee Appointment (#)*
5. Reports for Discussion
 - A. OLC Board of Directors Elections – 2025 (#)
 - B. Amazon Business Prime for Ohio’s Public Libraries
 - C. FY 2026-2027 State Budget
6. Reports for Information
 - A. ALA Councilor Report (#)
 - B. State Library of Ohio Report (#)
 - C. OPLIN Report (#)
 - D. Executive Director’s Report (#)
 - E. Staff Reports
 1. Government and Legal Services Report (#)
 2. Professional Development Report (#)
 3. Communications Report (#)
 4. Membership Services Report (#)
7. Announcements – Next Meeting: May 16 – OLC Office
8. Adjournment

(#) Report included in background packet

* Action Item

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Via Zoom
January 17, 2025
10:00 A.M.

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	Mandy Knapp, State Library of Ohio Nick Tepe, ALA Councilor 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
CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order by Chair Clevidence at 10:03 a.m. Clevidence welcomed new Board members, Monica Baughman, Worthington; Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Cleveland Heights; Liz Muether, Celina; Bernie Rochford, Akron; and William Rutger, Avon Lake. She introduced Mandy Knapp, State Librarian. Clevidence noted that Jason Elvers, OLC's Legal Counsel from Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP will be joining us at the March Board meeting for the Board's orientation on fiduciary responsibilities and conflicts of interest. The March meeting to be in-person at the OLC Office.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	BAUTZ MOVED AND RUSSELL SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES	ICAZA MOVED AND BAUTZ SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2024, MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED WITH 8 YEA VOTES AND 5 ABSTENTIONS (Baughman, DeNero-Ackroyd, Muether, Rochford, Rutger).
APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE EXECUTIVE SESSION	RUSSELL MOVED AND BEDEL SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2024 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED WITH 8 YEA VOTES AND 5 ABSTENTIONS (Baughman, DeNero-Ackroyd, Muether, Rochford, Rutger).

RUSSELL MOVED AND BAUTZ SECONDED APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 16, 2024 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED WITH 8 YEA VOTES AND 5 ABSTENTIONS (Baughman, DeNero-Ackroyd, Muether, Rochford, Rutger).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2025

The Executive Committee submitted the following nominations for the 2025 officers:

Stacey Russell, Vice Chair of the Board/Chair-Elect
Travis Bautz, Secretary-Treasurer

No other nominations were received. BEDEL MOVED AND DeNERO-ACKROYD SECONDED TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. The NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2025 OFFICERS WERE VOTED IN BY ACCLAMATION.

Clevidence congratulated Russell and Bautz on their elections and thanked them for accepting their leadership roles in the organization. Clevidence then turned the meeting over to Mary Ellen Icaza as the 2025 Chair of the Board. Icaza thanked Clevidence for her work. Icaza thanked the Board for their work in 2024 and looks forward to working with them in 2025.

Francis reported a Press release about the election of officers will be sent after this meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT MONTH-END NOV 2024

Francis presented the Financial Report-Month-End Nov. 2024.

Revenue. Institutional Memberships are slightly under budget. Other institutions are under budget due to delayed invoicing. Individual Memberships are over budget due to an increase in membership. Publications are under budget due to less demand for printed copies. Continuing Education is under budget \$18,645. Legislative Day is over budget due to increased attendance. Convention & Expo is over budget due to bookstore revenue carryover. Planning and Leadership Conference is under budget due to low attendance. Workshops are under budget due to timing of events. Interest and Dividends are over budget due to short term investments. Workers' Compensation is over budget due to timing of payments. Unrealized Gain is over budget due to returns on long-term investments. JobLine is under budget due to less use of out-of-state postings.

Expenses. Salary and benefits are under budget due to timing of 2024 adjustments and openings. Retirement is under budget due to vacancy and timing of plan contributions. Payroll taxes under budget. Legal Services is under budget due to timing of payments. Consultants/Contractors slightly over budget due to AMS migration. Supplies are under budget. Subscription/Resource Materials are under budget due to timing of payments and coding. Computer Software/Supplies is over budget due to timing of payments for GZ subscription and Election Runner software. Software Support is over budget due to one-year AMS renewal. Office Space is under budget due to CAM. Workshops/Meetings is over budget due to timing of invoices. Staff travel is under budget due to timing. Presenters is over budget due to timing of invoices. Bank Services and depreciation replacement are under budget. Staff Development over budget due to coding. Catering and Other Meals is under budget.

The net change in assets is over budget by \$163,226

BAUTZ MOVED AND RUSSELL SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE MONTH-END NOVEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLC BOARD
COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS

RUSSELL MOVED AND BACH SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE 2025 BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLC BOARD LIAISONS
ASSIGNMENTS

CLEVIDENCE MOVED AND MUETHER SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE OLC BOARD LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 OPERATING BUDGET

Francis thanked the Finance Committee who met via Zoom on Jan. 10 to review the proposed operating budget for 2025. The Committee is recommending the following budget.

Francis noted the change to a new association management software system would help to reduce costs. In addition, OLC is no longer hosting our own website and would no longer be responsible for PCI compliance. Also, the new online renewal saves on mailing and postage fees.

Francis also noted increases in costs and expenses. The OLC app subscription is increasing and the Decorator fees for Convention is increasing. Food and beverage costs are up 11%. Possible Health insurance increase of 13.8%.

REVENUE:

Dues – \$1,006,690. Anticipating a \$60,000 reduction in Institutional Dues from the previous year based on decrease in PLF funding in 2024. Based on the current dues formula of 0.27% of the 2024 PLF distribution plus the 0.055% of 2024 property tax receipts - assuming retention of 248 member libraries. Individual Dues: No increase in 2025. Individual dues are self-reported.

Publications – projections based on sale of publications in 2024. Most of our publications are free and downloadable.

Continuing Education – Legislative Day is based on a registration fee of \$65 per person for 275 attendees for the Statehouse Atrium as it is a state budget year.

Convention and Expo – Proposes a \$40 across the board increase in registration; \$15 increase in exhibit booth rental and \$10 increase for luncheons to cover substantial increase in costs.

Planning & Leadership Conference – Assumes an in-person event prior to the C&E with a \$55 registration fee to cover the cost for food and beverage for 150 attendees. Utilizes space already contracted for C&E to reduce costs.

Professional Development – Proposes a minor increase in registration fees of \$10-\$15 for webinars and \$10 increase for CPIM to cover increases in costs. Proposes a \$15 increase in certification fees to cover costs for materials and postage.

Contract Income – Projected revenue of \$5,000 based on past performance and increasing use of services.

Other Income – Projected revenue of \$65,375 based upon past performance.

TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE: \$ 1,771,915

EXPENSES:

Staff Salaries – Estimating an average increase of 4 to 4.5% based on performance as compared to 2024. Does include the Executive Director's compensation as approved by the Board in December 2024. Retirement Contribution – Restores OLC's contribution to employees' 401(k) plan at 10% of salary for all qualifying employees. This was reduced in 2010 with cuts to state funding from 10% to 5%. In 2024, the Board raised it to 8% in a good faith effort. Health Insurance includes health, dental, and vision insurance for qualifying employees and dependents; assumes retention of the OLC's high-deductible health insurance plan and health savings account. At this time, four employees utilize OLC's health insurance, and five employees utilize dental and vision insurance.

Auditor – Assumes no increase in auditor fees from 2024. Speaker Honoraria – Includes anticipated costs for non-library speakers at Convention and Expo, two stand-alone conferences and Outreach Retreat. Supplies and Resource Materials – Includes supplies for Legislative Day, membership services, certified librarian and staff programs, unit projects, publications and general overhead.

Maintenance and Equipment – Includes office copier and postage machine, AV for C&E, stand-alone conferences, Legislative Day, Trustee Dinners and other professional development off-site. Software Support – Includes outside support and licensure expenses for Great Plains accounting software, but staff is reviewing other options for accounting software going forward. Management Expenses – Bank Services and Investment Fees includes fees for commercial banking, credit card services, and long-term investment management.

TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES: \$1,787,873

Russell noted that Francis did present the Finance Committee with a balanced budget. The Finance Committee made the change for the increased staff retirement.

BAUTZ MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE 2025 OPERATING BUDGET AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Francis thanked the Finance Committee and Board for restoring the retirement contribution.

**TRUSTEE DINNERS/
LUNCHEONS**

Francis reported on attendance at the 2024 Trustee Dinners and requested feedback. Last year was just Francis and Smith, no legislators. This year should not be an issue because of discussion about the state budget. This is a great opportunity for Trustees. Staff would like to hear from Trustees on the Board regarding the time and type of place. OLC will try to keep them on Thursdays due to budget testimony.

Bautz – Many prefer Board meeting times that are during the workday. Volunteered to host Southwest Ohio. Rochford – Very helpful and seems like attendance is good. Possibly regional and absolutely vital.

**ALA COUNCILOR
REPORT**

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

Standing up for Libraries. He mentioned Icaza's panel discussion with PLA. Tepe has been appointed to a task force that is working on ALA's Strategic Plan and is looking forward to serving on that Task Force.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT

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

Listening Tour. Knapp is starting a listening tour to learn about perceptions about what the State Library is doing well. Phase one is with state library staff and phase two will be with trusted partners.

Space. The State Library location is in a rented facility. Staff toured a potential new location for the Library.

SEO. SEO doing exciting things. They will pilot with Guernsey County on IT as a managed service. How they may provide assistance to libraries, possibly through a tiered system.

ILEAD Ohio. – Applications are open for that and are due Feb. 17.

COSLA. Knapp thanked Jay Smith for participating in COSLA's fly-in. His recommendations are extremely valuable identifying folks to travel to DC.

OPLIN REPORT

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

OPLIN received three proposals for library hotspots in response to their statewide call for bids. Libraries can request funding against these bids or issue a 470 to gather bids separately. The FCC will not likely continue that hotspot order after this year. OPLIN is celebrating their 30th anniversary.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

All incoming board members received Board orientation. Francis is excited to welcome them to the Board and thanked them for volunteering their time.

Institutional Dues. Institutional Membership invoices will be emailed to public library systems over the next couple of weeks.

Institutional Membership Survey. OLC received a very low response to the Institutional Membership Survey sent in December of 2024. All responses were positive.

Staff Notes. D'Andrea's 32nd Anniversary was on Jan. 11.

GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

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

Public Library Fund – The January 2025 PLF distribution is 6.3 million (or+18%) above ODT's original estimate that was issued in July and 0.19% below ODT's updated estimate issued in December 2024.

Lame Duck Session Recap. House Bill 257, legislation which allows certain boards, including public library boards, to hold and attend meetings by video conference, passed during the lame duck session and takes effect in April.

SB 290 - Dolly Parton License Plate. SB 290 was amended into HB 315 which became a "Christmas tree" bill. Some of the issues included in this bill are

updates to notary laws, and the inclusion of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Advisory Board and licenses plate program.

136th Ohio General Assembly. Both chambers of the legislature convened an opening session on Jan 6 where members were sworn in and votes for leadership were taken.

Social Security Fairness Act. President Biden signed The Social Security Fairness Act which repeals a pair of provisions that limit benefits for recipients who pay into and receive benefits from other public pension systems. The new law rescinds the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset.

Legislative Day. Legislative Day is scheduled for April 8 at the Statehouse. Registration will open soon.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

Convention and Expo. The call for programs for Convention & Expo went out in Access this week. Staff are working on volunteer interests on the Program, Expo and LA Committees. OLC will be celebrating our 130th anniversary and OPLIN's 30th anniversary.

Convention & Expo 2026. Staff are working on a revised contract for Kalahari for 2026.

Stand Alone Conferences – Unconventional to Conventional at OCLC in June; New to Libraries in Dayton area in September.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

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

OLC Website and Member Info Hub. The OLC Website and Member Info Hub launched on Nov. 20. OLC has had 1143 people create their credentials and 553 members who have accessed resources.

Webinars. A number of webinars were added to the Member Info Hub and can be accessed for free by OLC members.

JobLine. Members are getting the hang of posting their own jobs on JobLine. It reduces a significant amount of administrative work for staff. JobLine continues to be the most popular page.

Advocacy Resources. OLC is adding new resources continuously. Advocacy tools and templates, talking points, etc.

Awards and Honors. The Awards and Honors nominations opened on Jan. 8. Online forms are up and the deadline to nominate is April 30.

Jacobsen would appreciate any feedback regarding the new website.

Francis noted that supplemental files are still coming over. Once all of that is over, members can see more history on their individual profiles.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES REPORT

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

2025 Membership. Individual dues are coming in steadily and a little ahead of last year. The first renewal was sent electronically on Dec. 5, 2024. A second renewal reminder will be sent soon. A printed invoice will be sent to only those members who have not provided OLC with an email address. The Membership Committee is scheduled to meet via Zoom on Jan. 23.

Several fiscal officers have indicated their intention to send memberships in for their staff electronically rather than by check, and they appreciate that change in our process.

Lifetime membership was promoted in Jan. 8 Access newsletter and one potential lifetime membership is already expected.

Awards and Honors. The Awards and Honors program was opened on Jan. 8. The submission process has been simplified. Watch for weekly articles in Access. The Awards and Honors Committee is scheduled to meet via Zoom on Feb. 27.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Mar. 14, 2025 at the OLC Office.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. JENKINS MOVED AND BAUTZ SECONDED TO ADJOURN AT 11:40 A.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **3.B**

MEETING DATE: **March 14, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Conflict of Interest Policy and
Acknowledgement Form**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

BOARD ORIENTATION

In 2008, the Ohio Library Council Board of Directors adopted the following Conflict of Interest Policy:

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

This conflict of interest policy is designed to help directors and officers of the Ohio Library Council identify situations that present potential conflicts of interest and to provide the Ohio Library Council ("OLC") with a procedure which, if observed, will allow a transaction to be treated as valid and binding even though a director or officer has or may have a conflict of interest with respect to the transaction. The policy is intended to comply with the procedure prescribed in Ohio Revised Code Section 1702.301, governing conflicts of interest for directors of nonprofit corporations. In the event there is an inconsistency between the requirements and procedures prescribed herein and those in ORC Section 1702.301, the statute shall control.

1. Definitions

- 1.1 Interested Person. Any director or officer who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.
- 1.2 Financial Interest. A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment or family:
 - a. An ownership interest in any entity with which the OLC has a transaction or arrangement;
 - b. A compensation arrangement with the OLC or with any entity or individual with which the OLC is negotiating a transaction or arrangement; or
 - c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the OLC is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Section 2.2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the Board decides that a conflict of interest exists.

2. Procedures

- 2.1 Duty to Disclose. In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and all material facts related thereto to the Board or committee of the Board considering a proposed transaction or arrangement.
- 2.2 Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists. After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the Board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining Board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.
- 2.3 Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest.
 - a. If the Board determines that a conflict of interest exists, the interested person may make a presentation at the Board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the conflict of interest.
 - b. The chairperson of the Board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
 - c. After exercising due diligence, the Board or committee shall determine whether the OLC can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
 - d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the Board or committee may proceed with the proposed transaction or arrangement only if it determines, by a majority vote of the disinterested directors, that the proposed transaction or arrangement is in the OLC's best interest, for its own benefit, and is fair and reasonable.
- 2.4 Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy
 - a. If the Board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a director or officer has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the person of the basis for such belief and afford the director or officer an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
 - b. If, after hearing the director or officer's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the Board or committee determines the director or officer has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

3. Records of Proceedings

The minutes of the Board and all committees with Board-delegated powers shall contain:

- a. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of

interest was present, and the Board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.

- b. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

4. Compensation

- a. A voting member of the Board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the OLC for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- b. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the OLC for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- c. No voting member of the Board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the OLC, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

5. Annual Statements

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with Board delegated powers shall:

5.1 annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- b. Has read and understands the policy,
- c. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- d. Understands the OLC is an entity described in Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes; and

5.2 annually disclose information concerning possible conflicts of interest.

Each member of the 2025 OLC Board of Directors is asked to sign the attached form to acknowledge an understanding of the policy and to agree to comply with it.

**Ohio Library Council
Board of Directors**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
2025**

As a member of the 2025 OLC Board of Directors:

I hereby confirm that I have read and understand the Ohio Library Council Board of Directors' Conflict of Interest Policy and pledge to act in accordance with the policy to the best of my information and belief.

I understand that I shall disclose to the Board, preferably in writing, the material facts as to the personal interest in the transaction and in any corporation, partnership, association, or other organization involved in the transaction prior to the meeting at which the Board acts upon the transaction.

I understand that I shall disclose any interests that could give rise to conflicts of interest, including names of family members, substantial business, or investment holdings, and other transactions or affiliations with businesses and other organizations or those of family members.

I understand that I will excuse myself from the meeting while the transaction is discussed and acted upon.

I agree that if I become aware of any information that might indicate that I am no longer in compliance with this policy, I will notify the Executive Director or Chair of the OLC Board of Directors immediately.

Print Name

Date

Signature

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: 4.A

MEETING DATE: March 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Financial Report: Year-End 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Michelle Francis

REPORT FOR ACTION

REVENUE

Cost Center	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Dues	\$ 1,309,653	\$ 1,299,450	\$ 10,203
Publications	385	1,000	(615)
Continuing Education	150,530	173,300	(22,770)
Contract Income	6,176	5,000	1,176
Other Income	129,853	72,750	57,103
TOTAL	\$ 1,596,597	\$ 1,551,500	\$ 45,097

Dues Income (+ \$10,203)

- Institutional Membership: slightly under budget (- \$1,591).
- Other Institutions: slightly under budget (- \$900).
- Individual Memberships: over budget due to increase in membership (+ \$12,669).
- Friends: on budget (+ \$25).

Publications (- \$615)

- Sales: under budget due to less demand for printed copies (- \$615).

Continuing Education (- \$22,770)

- Legislative Day: over budget due to increased attendance (+ \$405).
- Convention & Expo: over budget due to bookstore revenue carryover (+ \$111).
- Planning & Leadership: under budget due to low attendance (- \$5,935).
- Workshops: under budget due to timing of events (- \$17,351).

Contract Income (+ \$1,176)

- Sourcing Office: over budget due to usage by libraries (+ \$1,176).

Other Income (+ \$57,103)

- Interest and Dividends: over budget due to returns on short-term investments (+ \$29,634).
- Worker's Compensation: on budget (+ \$1,269).
- Unrealized Gain/(Loss): over budget due to returns on long-term investments (+ \$27,244).
- JobLine: under budget due to less use of out-of-state postings (- \$1,120).
- Management/Consulting Revenue: over budget due to background checks (+ \$165).

EXPENSES

Cost Center	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 932,073	\$ 932,085	\$ (12)
Consultants and Contractors	118,317	140,532	(22,215)
Supplies and Resources	43,810	39,770	4,040
Communications	18,436	25,998	(7,562)
Printing/Design	1,605	6,500	(4,895)
Maintenance and Equipment	62,291	21,615	40,676
Space Rental	134,782	133,470	1,312
Travel and Catering	25,815	46,000	(20,185)
Management Expenses	125,298	164,420	(39,122)
TOTAL	\$ 1,462,427	\$ 1,510,390	\$ (47,963)

Salaries and Benefits (- \$12)

- Staff Salaries: under budget due to timing of 2024 adjustments and openings (- \$5,200).
- Accrued Vacation: reflects accrued vacation (+ \$14,605).
- Retirement: on budget (- \$235).
- Health Insurance: slightly under budget due to selection of plan (- \$2,653).
- Worker's Compensation: on budget (- \$293).
- Payroll Taxes: under budget (- \$6,106).
- LTD & Life Insurance: on budget (- \$130).

Consultants and Contractors (- \$22,215)

- Auditor: slightly over (+ \$250).
- Speaker Honoraria: under budget (- \$1,800).
- Legal Services: under budget due to timing of invoices (- \$24,457).
- Consultants/Contractors: slightly over budget due to AMS migration (+ \$3,792).

Supplies and Resources (+ \$4,040)

- Supplies: under budget (- \$8,784).
- Subscription/Resource Materials: on budget (- \$42).
- Computer Software/Supplies: over budget due to new AMS subscription (+ \$12,867).

Communications (- \$7,562)

- Telephone: Local/Mobile Calls: slightly over budget (+ \$829).
- Postage/Mailing Service/Courier Service: under budget (- \$4,138).
- Internet: under budget due to timing of payments (- \$4,253).

Printing and Design (- \$4,895)

- Printing: under budget due to reduced printing (- \$3,958).
- Copying: under budget (- \$936).

Maintenance and Equipment (+ \$40,676)

- Equipment Rental: over budget due to coding and CPIM AV costs(+ \$3,095).

- Equipment Maintenance: under budget (- \$2,011).
- Software Support: over budget due to one-year AMS renewal (+ \$39,592).

Space Rental (+ \$1,312)

- Office Space: under budget due to CAM (- \$8,812).
- Workshops / Meetings: over budget due to timing of invoices (+ \$10,124).

Travel and Meals (- \$20,185)

- Board: on budget (- \$202).
- Staff: under budget (- \$16,783).
- Committees and Divisions: under budget due to reduced requests for reimbursement (- \$3,500).
- Presenters: over budget due to timing of invoices (+ \$300).

Management Expenses (- \$39,122)

- Bank Services: under budget (- \$4,348).
- Investment Fees: on budget (+ \$593).
- Depreciation Replacement: under budget (- \$4,777).
- Employee Hiring: slightly over budget due to increase in library background checks (+ \$105).
- Insurance: under budget (- \$604).
- Organization Memberships: under budget (- \$343).
- Staff Development and Memberships: over budget due to coding (+ \$2,722).
- Catering and Other Meals: under budget (- \$32,469).

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Net Change in Assets	\$ 134,170	\$ 41,110	\$ 93,060

Ohio Library Council
Income Statement
For the 12 Months Ending Tuesday, December 31, 2024

	December			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
REVENUE						
Dues						
Institutional	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,066,409.00	\$1,068,000.00	(\$1,591.00)
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,975.00	8,875.00	(900.00)
Personal	(3,225.50)	0.00	(3,225.50)	232,668.50	220,000.00	12,668.50
Friends	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,600.00	2,575.00	25.00
Subtotal	(\$3,225.50)	\$0.00	(\$3,225.50)	\$1,309,652.50	\$1,299,450.00	\$10,202.50
Publications						
Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	385.00	1,000.00	(615.00)
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$385.00	\$1,000.00	(\$615.00)
Continuing Education						
Legislative Day	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,405.00	9,000.00	405.00
Convention & Expo	0.00	0.00	0.00	110.70	0.00	110.70
Leadership	55.00	500.00	(445.00)	4,565.00	10,500.00	(5,935.00)
Workshops	340.00	4,125.00	(3,785.00)	136,449.50	153,800.00	(17,350.50)
Subtotal	\$395.00	\$4,625.00	(\$4,230.00)	\$150,530.20	\$173,300.00	(\$22,769.80)
Contract Income						
Sourcing Office	0.00	1,250.00	(1,250.00)	6,176.41	5,000.00	1,176.41
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	(\$1,250.00)	\$6,176.41	\$5,000.00	\$1,176.41
Other Income						
Interest & Dividends	27,471.68	3,337.00	24,134.68	69,634.48	40,000.00	29,634.48
Workers Compensation	(1,156.88)	10,000.00	(11,156.88)	31,269.38	30,000.00	1,269.38
Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	(52,764.90)	0.00	(52,764.90)	27,244.26	0.00	27,244.26
Jobline	0.00	185.00	(185.00)	880.00	2,000.00	(1,120.00)
Mgmt & Consulting Revenue	0.00	60.00	(60.00)	915.00	750.00	165.00
Misc	(90.00)	0.00	(90.00)	(90.00)	0.00	(90.00)
Subtotal	(\$26,540.10)	\$13,582.00	(\$40,122.10)	\$129,853.12	\$72,750.00	\$57,103.12
Total Revenue	(\$29,370.60)	\$19,457.00	(\$48,827.60)	\$1,596,597.23	\$1,551,500.00	\$45,097.23

Ohio Library Council
Income Statement
For the 12 Months Ending Tuesday, December 31, 2024

	December			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
EXPENSES						
Salary & Benefits						
Staff Salaries	\$87,494.18	\$61,062.00	\$26,432.18	\$727,455.88	\$732,656.00	(\$5,200.12)
Accrued Vacation	(8,626.27)	0.00	(8,626.27)	14,604.74	0.00	14,604.74
Retirement Contribution	8,153.52	4,814.00	3,339.52	57,510.98	57,746.00	(235.02)
Health Insurance	8,450.71	6,273.00	2,177.71	72,611.63	75,265.00	(2,653.37)
Workers' Compensation	(1.18)	48.00	(49.18)	283.50	576.00	(292.50)
Payroll Taxes	9,129.87	5,105.00	4,024.87	55,153.59	61,260.00	(6,106.41)
LTD & Life Insurance	309.62	391.00	(81.38)	4,452.23	4,582.00	(129.77)
Subtotal	\$104,910.45	\$77,693.00	\$27,217.45	\$932,072.55	\$932,085.00	(\$12.45)
Consultants & Contractors						
Auditor	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	7,750.00	250.00
Speaker Honoraria	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	2,000.00	(1,800.00)
Legal Services	3,099.50	8,750.00	(5,650.50)	10,543.03	35,000.00	(24,456.97)
Consult / Contractors	7,204.47	8,002.00	(797.53)	99,573.76	95,782.00	3,791.76
Subtotal	\$10,303.97	\$16,752.00	(\$6,448.03)	\$118,316.79	\$140,532.00	(\$22,215.21)
Supplies & Resources						
Supplies	474.84	1,310.00	(835.16)	11,215.64	20,000.00	(8,784.36)
Subscriptions / Res Mat	509.87	90.00	419.87	6,337.40	6,380.00	(42.60)
Computer Sftwr / Supplies	918.17	1,110.00	(191.83)	26,256.58	13,390.00	12,866.58
Subtotal	\$1,902.88	\$2,510.00	(\$607.12)	\$43,809.62	\$39,770.00	\$4,039.62
Communications						
Telephone - Local	1,988.51	285.00	1,703.51	4,247.30	3,418.00	829.30
Postage	386.24	150.00	236.24	2,640.63	5,500.00	(2,859.37)
Mailing Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	(1,200.00)
Courier / Special	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.19	100.00	(78.81)
Internet	960.60	1,315.00	(354.40)	11,527.20	15,780.00	(4,252.80)
Subtotal	\$3,335.35	\$1,750.00	\$1,585.35	\$18,436.32	\$25,998.00	(\$7,561.68)
Printing & Typesetting						
Printing	0.00	165.00	(165.00)	41.90	4,000.00	(3,958.10)
Copying	0.00	102.00	(102.00)	1,563.55	2,500.00	(936.45)
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$267.00	(\$267.00)	\$1,605.45	\$6,500.00	(\$4,894.55)

Ohio Library Council
Income Statement
For the 12 Months Ending Tuesday, December 31, 2024

	December			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Maintenance & Equip						
Equipment Rental	\$800.14	\$938.00	(\$137.86)	\$21,020.02	\$17,925.00	\$3,095.02
Equipment Maintenance	0.00	231.00	(231.00)	764.08	2,775.00	(2,010.92)
Software Support	736.92	76.00	660.92	40,506.82	915.00	39,591.82
Subtotal	\$1,537.06	\$1,245.00	\$292.06	\$62,290.92	\$21,615.00	\$40,675.92
Space Rental						
Office Space	9,996.06	10,170.00	(173.94)	113,188.23	122,000.00	(8,811.77)
Workshops / Meetings	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,593.93	11,470.00	10,123.93
Subtotal	\$9,996.06	\$10,170.00	(\$173.94)	\$134,782.16	\$133,470.00	\$1,312.16
Travel						
Board	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	7,298.37	7,500.00	(201.63)
Staff Travel	3,221.80	2,855.00	366.80	18,216.67	35,000.00	(16,783.33)
Committees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,400.00	(1,400.00)
Divisions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,100.00	(2,100.00)
Presenters	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
Subtotal	\$4,721.80	\$2,855.00	\$1,866.80	\$25,815.04	\$46,000.00	(\$20,184.96)
Management Expenses						
Bank Services	836.95	1,000.00	(163.05)	7,651.85	12,000.00	(4,348.15)
Investment Fees	557.53	491.00	66.53	6,488.40	5,895.00	593.40
Depreciation	1,027.34	1,340.00	(312.66)	11,302.69	16,080.00	(4,777.31)
Employee Hiring	0.00	56.00	(56.00)	780.00	675.00	105.00
Insurance	0.00	657.00	(657.00)	7,285.70	7,890.00	(604.30)
Organizational Mbrshps	0.00	0.00	0.00	857.00	1,200.00	(343.00)
Staff Devel & Mbrshps	708.00	0.00	708.00	5,722.00	3,000.00	2,722.00
Catering & Other Meals	744.07	2,624.00	(1,879.93)	85,210.68	117,680.00	(32,469.32)
Subtotal	\$3,873.89	\$6,168.00	(\$2,294.11)	\$125,298.32	\$164,420.00	(\$39,121.68)
Total Expenses	\$140,581.46	\$119,410.00	\$21,171.46	\$1,462,427.17	\$1,510,390.00	(\$47,962.83)
Net Change in Assets	<u>(\$169,952.06)</u>	<u>(\$99,953.00)</u>	<u>(\$69,999.06)</u>	<u>\$134,170.06</u>	<u>\$41,110.00</u>	<u>\$93,060.06</u>

Ohio Library Council
Balance Sheet
As of Tuesday, December 31, 2024

ASSETS

Cash and Short Term Investments

Commerce Nat'l Bank - Checking	\$76,881.40
Commerce Nat'l Bank- Money Market	89,164.95
Investments - Money Market	2,992.99
Investments - TRAK Account	587,815.29
Investments - Mutual Funds	790,863.14
Total Cash and Short Term Investments	<u>\$1,547,717.77</u>

Other Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	3,690.42
Office Equipment (net of Accum Depr)	60,481.68
Prepaid Postage	1,774.69
Prepayments	47,225.98
Total Other Current Assets	<u>\$113,172.77</u>

Total Assets

\$1,660,890.54

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$14,175.52
Advances	50,277.36
Accrued Salaries	6,232.29
Accrued Vacation	44,566.53
Accrued PR Taxes	694.80
Accrued Insurance	497.57
Total Liabilities	<u>\$116,444.07</u>

Net Assets

Unappropriated Fund Balance	1,410,276.41
YTD Change in Net Assets	134,170.06
Total Net Assets	<u>\$1,544,446.47</u>

Total Liabilities & Net Assets

\$1,660,890.54

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **4.B**

MEETING DATE: **March 14, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Nominating Committee
Appointment**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR ACTION

In addition to Sarah Clevidence, Chair, and William Rutger, who represent the OLC Board of Directors, the OLC Nominating Committee includes three At-Large (non-OLC Board members) members who serve three-year terms. Current At-Large members include Michael Penrod, Director, Wood County District Public Library (2025) and Tara Sidwell, Director, Kate Love Simpson Morgan County Library (2026). A vacancy exists for the third At-Large position as the term of Nieca Nowels, Director, Marysville Public Library, expired at the end of 2024.

As is past practice, candidates for this position were considered based upon the current composition of the current committee and the demographic criteria that should be represented – e.g., geographic area of the state, size of library, etc. Staff recommends the following action:

Recommended Action:

That the OLC Board of Directors appoint Ryan McDonnell, Director, Grandview Heights Public Library, to serve as an At-Large member on the OLC Nominating Committee for a three-year term (2025-2027).

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.A**

MEETING DATE: **March 14, 2025**

SUBJECT: **OLC Board of Directors
Elections – 2025**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

In the 2025 OLC elections, four positions on the Board of Directors will be on the ballot, including one MLIS position, one Trustee position, and two At-Large positions. Current Board members serving in these positions (and their eligibility for re-election) include:

Position	Board Member	Term(s) of Service	Eligible for Re-Election
MLIS	Julianne Bedel	2023-25	Yes
Trustee	Robert Jenkins	2023-25	Yes
At-Large	Kathy Bach	2023-25	Yes
At-Large	Sarah Clevidence	2023-25	No

Current Board members eligible for re-election are asked to indicate whether they wish to be candidates for re-election. The OLC Nominating Committee will be responsible for identifying and recommending candidates for election, including incumbents as well as new candidates for election to the Board.

In the past, a call for candidates interested in being considered for election to the Board has been included in *This Week* and *Access* and posted on the OLC website beginning on the Monday following the March Board meeting and continuing through April. The posting includes a link to an online form that interested members are asked to submit. It includes contact information, details about their library and OLC experience, and a statement regarding their interest in serving on the OLC Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee uses this information to select the nominees and create the election slate. Based on feedback and discussion in 2024, OLC staff will work with former members of the OLC Board of Directors on encouraging volunteers to run for the board.

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.A**

MEETING DATE: **Mar. 14, 2025**

SUBJECT: **ALA Councilor Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Nick Tepe**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

ALA Council activities at LLX

From January 24-27 I attended the final LibLearnX in Phoenix, and while the conference as a whole was fairly low key due to this being the final effort to hold this type of event in January, Council activity was engaged and energetic both in session and networking between sessions. It was particularly interesting to be at this event with my colleagues while many of the new administration's actions that will affect libraries were being handed down. I was in a meeting working on the revision of the Intellectual Freedom manual when the administration published a press release stating that book bans were a hoax, and we had many conversations over the next few days about how best to manage these sorts of attention-grabbing attacks, as they will undoubtedly continue. [You can see ALA's official response here.](#)

In Council's regular work we covered a fairly wide variety of topics. Council voted to not approve the creation of a new Round Table for Makerspaces, largely because the work that was outlined for this group was already happening with the Core division. We approved an update to the Prisoners' Right to Read interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. We also approved minor updates to the Policy Manual and Bylaws.

Council also voted to amend the Bylaws to undo the designated seats on the executive board to represent specific segments of membership that was passed with the new bylaws two years ago. Since this is a change to the Bylaws it will now go to the membership for a vote in our regular elections starting March 10th. The Council vote to approve this change was close, so this will not be an easy decision. I encourage all members to read the pro and con statements closely when deciding whether or not to approve this change.

Finally, 4 new members were elected to serve on the Executive Board. K. C. Boyd, Tatanisha Love, Janice Moore Newsum, and Ziba Pérez were elected to a three-year term beginning in July 2025 and concluding in June 2028. Boyd is a school librarian at Jefferson Middle School Academy in Washington, D.C.; Love is a school library media specialist at Southwest Academy in Baltimore; Newsum is a retired associate professor at University of Houston; and Pérez is a young adult librarian at Los Angeles Public Library. The full press release can be seen [here](#).

ALA Elections

The 2025 ALA Election electronic ballot will open on March 10, 2025, and run through April 2, 2025. As I mentioned above, members will be voting on proposed changes to the [ALA bylaws](#). Members will be asked to vote "Yes" or "No" on the following amendments:

- ACTION ITEM 1: The ALA Council approved the [Resolution on the ALA Executive Board Composition CD 48](#) at their Council Meeting on Saturday, January 25, 2025 (The Library Learning Experience 2025).

6.A: ALA Councilor Report

- ACTION ITEM 2: The ALA Council approved the [Removal of Annual Estimates of Income reference in the ALA Bylaws ALA CD 25.1](#) at their Council Meeting on June 30, 2024 (Annual Conference 2024).

In addition to the Bylaws vote, all ALA members will have the option to vote for ALA President-elect, ALA Treasurer and ALA Councilor at Large. If you are a member of a Division and/or Round Table, you will receive access to vote in those specific ballots.

It was just announced that Andrea Jamison, assistant professor of school librarianship at Illinois State University, has withdrawn her candidacy for the American Library Association (ALA) president-elect and Intellectual Freedom Round Table director at large. Her name will be removed from the election ballot, which will be sent to ALA members Monday, March 10. Two candidates remain in the race: Lindsay Cronk, Dean of Libraries, Tulane University, New Orleans; and Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries, Cambridge Public Library, Massachusetts.

ALA is partnering with an election vendor, YES Elections, to conduct our spring elections. Members will receive an e-mail from "ALA Governance Office" (Help+ALA@yeselections.com) on Monday, March 10, 2025, with instructions on how to cast your vote. For more information, please visit the [ALA Election Website](#).

For Our Libraries Campaign

In ALA's ongoing efforts to respond to challenging dynamics we are all currently experiencing, a new campaign to engage the general public with ALA has been launched. From president Cindy Hohl:

[The new For Our Libraries campaign] gives the public the opportunity to become a supporter at a crucial time for libraries in our country's history.

The money will help ALA support libraries across the nation and the vital services you offer, such as:

- *Library funding: The ALA advocates for funding in the halls of Congress and state and local governments.*
- *Right to read: The ALA champions everyone's right to read, without censorship.*
- *Internet for all: The ALA advocates for broadband funding.*
- *Grants and scholarships: The ALA provides grant opportunities to small and rural libraries and scholarships for aspiring library professionals.*

To support this initiative:

- *Contribute: We are especially looking for recurring donations.*
- *Give a gift: Do you know a library lover? Give them the gift of supporting something dear to their hearts. From Valentine's Day to a birthday, this is a gift that will help them feel all their feelings.*
- *Spread the word: Tell your library-loving friends and family to contribute. Find social media graphics and messages in this toolkit to share on social media. Our hashtag is #ForOurLibraries because that's what the ALA is all about: serving you.*

How do you get started? Head to ilovelibraries.org and check out the redesigned website where you'll find a link to the donation site.

6.A: ALA Councilor Report

Monthly Report, February 28, 2025

Reports are posted on the State Library of Ohio website at

<https://library.ohio.gov/about/publications/state-librarian-reports>

Updates from the State Librarian

- On February 11, State Librarian Mandy Knapp gave testimony on the State Library's budget to the Ohio House Committee on Workforce and Higher Education. She outlined the budgetary needs of the organization and explained the agency's use of federal funds. We have received positive feedback on the impact of the testimony and are tentatively optimistic about State Library funding.
- In February, the State Library completed the biannual State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAA) survey. This survey shares many similarities to the Public Library Survey. The data is useful to the federal and state executive and legislative branches of government, state library agencies, library and public policy researchers, the public, journalists, and others.
- Mandy is well underway in her Listening Tour to gather feedback on perceptions of the State Library throughout the Ohio library community. The Listening Tour has three phases: the first phase is to meet with staff at all levels at the State Library. The second phase is to meet with representatives from trusted partners and individuals who serve on advisory committees for the State Library. The third phase is to meet with other members of the Ohio library community. The Listening Tour is currently in phase one.
- Mandy and Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley had the exciting opportunity to meet with Executive Director Todd Kleismit and Operations Director Quanta Brown of the **America 250-Ohio Commission**. The 29-member commission is charged with preparing the state to participate in the United States of America's 250th anniversary which culminates on July 4, 2026. We shared materials from America's bicentennial and centennial. They were very interested in our materials.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

- IRS-certified AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers will be at our location to provide free tax assistance each Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. This in-person service ends April 10 and requires a previously arranged appointment.
- The program is open to taxpayers of all ages. AARP membership is not required. Call AARP Foundation Tax-Aide at 614-547-2442 to schedule an appointment at the State Library location. Free tax preparation is also available at dozens of other locations; call 1-888-227-7669 to find out more.
- For more information about the program including taxpayer responsibilities and what to bring with you, visit the AARP website at <https://taxaide.aarpfoundation.org/>.

Announcements

[What's New](#) on the State Library website and distributed via email lists



- [Applications Open for LSTA Guiding Ohio Online Grant](#), February 19, 2025



- [Janet Ingraham Dwyer Receives 2025 Ohio Afterschool Network Ignite and Inspire Award](#), February 24, 2025



- [The State Library of Ohio Will Launch a New Library Services System in June](#), February 27, 2025

Choose to Read Ohio

- The 2025 [Choose to Read Ohio](#) (CTRO) booklist features 20 notable titles for all ages and reading levels, encompassing fiction and nonfiction and a variety of geographic and cultural interests.
- The CTRO Advisory Council creates a [readers' toolkit](#) for each CTRO book, featuring author biographies, discussion questions, activities, and resources to engage curiosity and explore themes in depth. Toolkits for all 155 books selected to CTRO since its inception in 2009 are available for free download on the CTRO website. Starting with the 2025 CTRO booklist, toolkits are being published as webpages instead of PDFs for accessibility and findability.
- ***The Voice in the Hollow*** by Will Hillenbrand has been named the tenth annual [Floyd's Pick Book Award](#) winner, awarded by the CTRO Advisory Council in memory of children's literature expert, advocate, and librarian Floyd Dickman.
- The Floyd's Pick Book Award is given annually to a book written by an Ohio author or illustrated by an Ohio illustrator that is representative of high-quality literature created for children. It aims to carry on the legacy of Floyd Dickman's joyful work to support and share children's literature.
- The CTRO Advisory Council has also selected two Floyd's Pick Honor Books for 2025: ***My Thoughts Have Wings*** by Maggie Smith, illustrated by Leanne Hatch, and ***The Yellow Bus*** by Loren Long.
- Contact [Janet Ingraham Dwyer](#) with any questions about CTRO and Floyd's Pick.

Guiding Ohio Online

- The application window is currently open for the State Library of Ohio's LSTA Guiding Ohio Online (GOO) grant. The GOO grant supports public libraries serving rural populations in Ohio by providing funds to hire a contracted technology/digital literacy trainer for their community. GOO applications will remain open through Sunday March 23. For more information on the GOO grant initiative visit <https://library.ohio.gov/libraries/grants/guiding-ohio-online>.
 - A drop-in open office hour devoted to questions regarding Guiding Ohio Online was hosted on February 25 by Anne Kennedy, Jeff Regensburger, and Evan Struble.

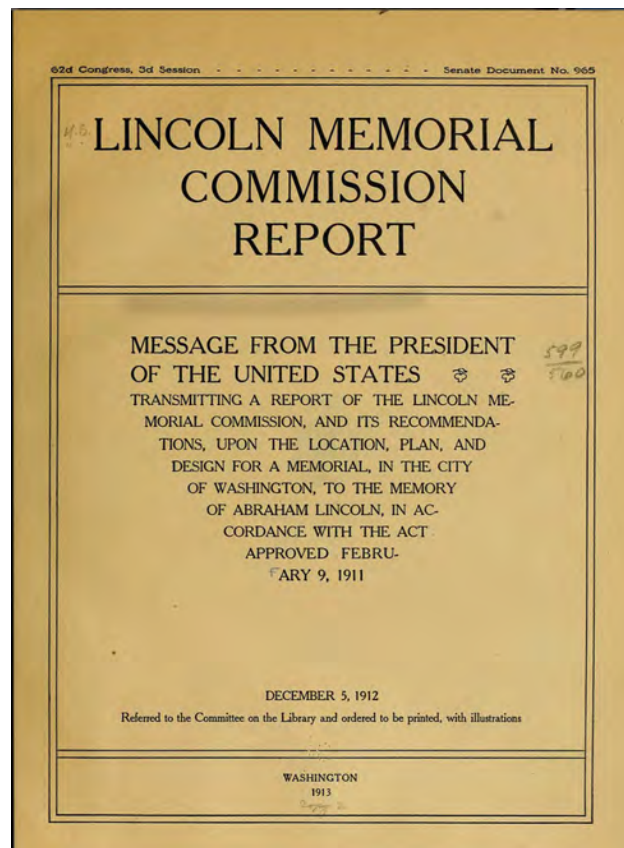
- If you have any questions regarding the funding or budget of Guiding Ohio Online, please contact the LSTA Office at LSTA@library.ohio.gov.
- If you have any questions regarding Guiding Ohio Online trainers (hiring, best practices, etc.), please contact Anne Kennedy, Technology Consultant, at akennedy@library.ohio.gov or by calling 614-466-1710.

ILEAD Ohio

- The State Library of Ohio and [OhioNet](#) are pleased to announce the return of [ILEAD Ohio](#) in 2025. ILEAD Ohio is a transformative 9-month program designed to develop the leadership and project management skills of library staff across the state. By working in teams to address real community needs, participants will gain hands-on experience in project management, team building, and community collaboration.
 - The application period for ILEAD Ohio 2025 has closed; applications are currently under review, and accepted teams will be notified in mid-March.
 - If you have any questions regarding ILEAD Ohio, please contact Erin Kelsey, Library Consultant, at ekelsey@library.ohio.gov or 614-644-6889.

Instagram

- State Library [posts](#) featuring items in our special collections and government documents collections in February included:



- o In recognition of Abraham Lincoln's birthday today we share some pages in a report from our government publications collection: "**Lincoln Memorial Commission Report: Message From The President Of The United States Transmitting a Report Of The Lincoln Memorial Commission, And Its Recommendations, Upon the Location, Plan, and Design For A Memorial, in the City of Washington, to the Memory of Abraham Lincoln, in Accordance With The Act Approved February 9, 1911.**" William Howard Taft was Chairman of the Lincoln Memorial Commission. Includes 10 images. Posted on February 12, 2025.
https://www.instagram.com/p/DF_JOX_SHf9/?img_index=1



- o From our Special Collections: "**American Medicinal Plants: An Illustrated and Descriptive Guide to the American Plants Used as Homeopathic Remedies: Their History, Preparation, Chemistry and Physiological Effects** by Charles F. Millspaugh (1854 – 1923); illustrated from drawings of each plant in situ, by the author. Published in 1884. Sharing this item does not constitute an endorsement by the State Library on the safety and effectiveness of the remedies included in this publication. Includes 8 images. Posted February 18, 2025.
https://www.instagram.com/p/DGOTIBSSsPh/?img_index=2



- From our Special Collections: **Formes et Couleurs; Vingt Planches en Couleurs Contenant Soixante-sept Motifs Décoratifs**. 1920 - 1929 (Approximate) by Auguste H. Thomas. This is a portfolio of 20 decorative plates in the Art Nouveau and Art Deco styles, printed in vivid colors using the pochoir process. Pochoir is a stenciling technique used for reproducing original color artworks. From 1895 to 1935, it was utilized in France by renowned artists and craftsmen to create illustrated deluxe portfolios, books, limited-edition journals, as well as decorative and fine-art prints. Includes 4 images. Posted on February 25, 2025.
https://www.instagram.com/p/DGgiKZPSzCM/?img_index=3

List of New Acquisitions



- A list of print books, ebooks, and audiobooks recently added to the State Library's collection for February is available on our [website](#).

LSTA

- The State Library of Ohio awarded 29 **Celebrating Ohio Book Awards and Authors (COBAA)** grants in February. Awardees included 7 academic libraries, 8 public libraries, and 15 school libraries from across the state. The LSTA COBAA grant program provides these libraries up to \$2000 in funds to support collection development and collection-related program initiatives for their communities. The initiative supports the purchase of books by Ohio authors as well as books recognized by Ohio-based book award programs. Details regarding the COBAA grant can be found here: <https://library.ohio.gov/libraries/grants/cobaa>.
- A total of 6 **LSTA Open Grants** were awarded by the State Library of Ohio in February to the following institutions: Carroll County District Library, Elida Local Schools, Lloyd Library & Museum, the Northern Buckeye Educational Council, Sylvania Southview High School, and the University of Findlay. The LSTA Open Grant provides libraries up to \$4,999 in federal funds to support projects that align with a library's stated need and the [State Library of Ohio's LSTA Five-Year Plan](#).
- The application window for the State Library of Ohio's **LSTA Summer Library Program (SLP)** grant program closed on Tuesday, February 18. Applications that were received by the deadline are now under review by State Library of Ohio staff. The SLP grant program provides libraries up to \$2,000 to support library efforts to enhance their 2025 summer programs with library-led activities that spark creativity and learning, engage individuals of all ages, and benefit their communities. Award notifications will be made in mid-March. The grant project term will run April 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025. More information on the SLP grant initiative can be found here: <https://library.ohio.gov/libraries/grants/summer-library-program-grant>.
- Questions regarding the LSTA program should be addressed to Jeff Regensburger, Library Consultant/LSTA Coordinator, at LSTA@library.ohio.gov.

Meeting Rooms

- The State Library of Ohio provides meeting rooms that can be booked by State of Ohio agencies and members of the library community. In February 426 hours of meetings were held in our 7 meeting spaces by these groups.
- Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our meeting rooms.

Ohio Collection Analysis Initiative

- The [Ohio Collection Analysis Initiative](#) (OCAI) is an original, self-paced, collection analysis tool for considering collections that empower children and young adult readers by respecting and appreciating what makes them different and the same. OCAI is a collaborative project of the State Library of Ohio and TeachingBooks.net. The project is funded in whole or in part with Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funds, granted to the State Library of Ohio. [Register for access here!](#)
- Notable highlights from this impactful initiative:
 - Free for staff working in all types of Ohio libraries! It is available at no cost to you.
 - There are no time constraints for completing this program. Set your own goals and progress at your own pace.
 - Personalized support. You have access to a dedicated, full-time specialist for assistance at any time.
 - Unlimited access to a Collection Analysis Toolkit. This toolkit complements the collection development work you already have in place.
 - Unlimited access to a vetted collection of materials about children's & young adult books and authors.
 - Identifiable action steps. You will receive a custom Implementation Plan that outlines your collection development decisions and next steps.
- [Click here](#) to check out recorded workshops and webinars related to the Ohio Collection Analysis Initiative to learn more.
- Through February, OCAI has over 800 users in 88 of 88 Ohio counties!
- Erin Kelsey and TeachingBooks staff continue to host a slate of [thematic webinars and workshops](#), teaching users how to enhance their youth-focused library collections. Upcoming webinars and workshops for 2025 include:
 - Analyzing Nonfiction Collections with TeachingBooks
 - Learn about the unique aspects of using Collection Analysis Reports to examine your nonfiction titles. Wondering about how to organize an audit of your nonfiction collections? Curious why some of your nonfiction titles may not appear on TeachingBooks? Review the basics of uploading titles and generating reports as well as exploring how to use the data to inform the management of your nonfiction collections. This webinar is intended for public library staff, but open to anyone working with children's and young adult books.
 - Audience: Libraries & PK-12 | All Educators, Library Staff, and Administrators
 - When: Thursday, March 13, 3:30-4:30 p.m. EST
 - [Register Here](#)

- Navigating the Early Literacy Landscape
 - Create and analyze collections of picture books to support early literacy. Enhance your reading program components with additional titles and resources that build background knowledge and broaden vocabulary. Reinforce concepts learned during the school year with diverse and engaging lists of titles for families. This webinar is intended for K-12 librarians and educators, but open to anyone working with children’s and young adult books.
 - Audience: Libraries & PK–12 | All Educators, Library Staff, and Administrators
 - When: Thursday, April 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m. EST
 - [Register Here](#)
- Finding Diverse Readalikes with Collection Analysis
 - It’s almost summer, and your copies of popular titles are already flying off the shelves. Explore ways to use the Collection Analysis Toolkit to find readalikes and create diverse, balanced recommendation lists and displays that meet community needs. Analyze, augment, and promote sets of titles to keep young readers engaged and reading. This webinar is intended for public library staff, but open to anyone working with children’s and young adult books.
 - Audience: Libraries & PK–12 | All Educators, Library Staff, and Administrators
 - When: Thursday, May 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m. EST
 - [Register Here](#)
- Additionally, Erin Kelsey and TeachingBooks staff continue to host drop-in [Office Hours](#), where interested parties can ask a quick question or learn more about the initiative.
 - Drop in Office Hours for 2025 are on Thursdays at 3:30-4:30 EST on the following dates:
 - March 20
 - April 17
 - May 15

Ohio Digital Library

- In the month of February, ODL patrons checked out 862,473 items. 2025 year-to-date checkouts stand at 1,820,106.
 - The most popular non-magazine title in February was *The Things We Leave Unfinished*, by Rebecca Yarros, a book that follows the journey of two broken souls, brought together by fate and haunted by their pasts. The most popular magazine title was *The New Yorker*.
- In mid-March 2020, ODL enabled the opportunity for Ohioans to take advantage of the OverDrive [Instant Digital Card](#). A user can sign up with their phone number and gain quick access to e-content via ODL. Users that sign up via the Instant Digital Card will be directed to their local library to fill out a physical library card. In February 2025, 4,094 registrations took place.
- Curious about what’s being checked out? Take a look at [the real-time checkouts and holds](#).

Ohio Digital Network [Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) Project]

- After the winter ingest, 42 Ohio institutions have contributed over 416,000 records to DPLA through ODN.
- SAVE THE DATE: ODNFest 2025 will be held on Tuesday, September 30! Complete details will be shared soon.

- Penelope Shumaker is available to speak to libraries and cultural heritage institutions about DPLA and ODN. For details, contact Penelope at pshumaker@library.ohio.gov.
- For those interested in being a part of the ODN or who want to learn more, please visit the ODN Website and subscribe to the ODN listserv: <https://lists.library.ohio.gov/mailman/listinfo/odn>.
- Questions on DPLA or the Ohio Digital Network should be addressed to Penelope Shumaker, pshumaker@library.ohio.gov.

Ohio Ready to Read

- Ohio Ready to Read (ORTR) provides library-oriented resources on the [science of reading](#), including webinar recordings, articles, and other tools. This resource collection is part of ORTR's [Kindergarten Readiness and Student Learning](#) guide for Ohio public libraries.
- [Early Literacy 101](#) is a free, full-day (6 contact hour) hands-on workshop to help library staff build a firm foundation in early literacy. Participants learn how brain development impacts how young children learn; discover effective, research-based early literacy resources and activities; and explore how storytime supports early literacy. [Learn more about the workshop](#). 2025 workshop dates will be announced in coming months. Public libraries may request to host an Early Literacy 101 workshop via the link above.
- Contact [Janet Ingraham Dwyer](#) with any questions about ORTR.

Presentations

- Janet Ingraham Dwyer co-presented a mini-session on Ohio book awards at the Ohio Council of English Language Arts Teachers (OCTELA) Conference on February 21. Janet and co-presenter Liz Deskins, Adjunct at the Kent State iSchool, also staffed a display table for the Buckeye Children's and Teen Book Awards at OCTELA.
- Janet Ingraham Dwyer participated on a panel, "Libraries as Partners," at the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Summer Summit, an annual meeting of Ohio Summer Food Service Program sponsors, on February 24. Over 40 attendees attended this session, which also featured Nieca Nowels from Marysville Public Library and Amanda Toth from The Lane Libraries.
- On Monday February 17, Jeff Regensburger traveled to Toledo to present an overview of intellectual freedom concepts as they relate to libraries to the staff of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. This presentation was part of an All-Staff Development Day that covered a variety of topics of interest to staff.
- Katy Hite presented "Summer Reading, Not Just For Kids," an overview of Collaborative Summer Library Program and state resources, at the NEO-RLS Adult Summer Reading program on February 13.
- As part of her work with the Ohio Collection Analysis Initiative, Erin Kelsey, along with staff from TeachingBooks, led the webinar, "Supporting Book Purchasing Decisions with Collections Analysis" on February 13.

Reference Services

- In February we provided research assistance to State Agencies, Businesses, Universities and to the public. Here are just a few of the organizations, business and agencies that we served this month:
 - Canal Fulton Public Library
 - Ohio Attorney General
 - Ohio Department of Aging

- Ohio Department of Public Safety
- Royal Canin Incorporated
- Supreme Court of Ohio

Reimagining School Readiness

- The State Library of Ohio is proud to support the [Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit](#), a suite of research-backed resources created for library staff to help families prepare children ages birth to 8 years for success in school and in life. The toolkit was developed by the [Bay Area Discovery Museum](#) in collaboration with the California State Library and the Pacific Library Partnership.
- The State Library of Ohio will host an in-person Reimagining School Readiness workshop on April 30. More information and registration for the event can be found [here](#).
- Please keep an eye on the various library listservs and traditional communication channels for additional workshop announcements and registration openings.
 - These workshops cover such topics as:
 - key findings from current cognitive and developmental psychology research
 - the implications of those findings for library staff's daily work
 - practical ready-to-implement ideas for activities
 - resources for staff training and for parents/caregivers
 - If your library is interested in hosting a Reimagining School Readiness training for your staff, contact Penelope Shumaker, pshumaker@library.ohio.gov.
- Additional information about this initiative can be found [here](#). Questions regarding Reimagining School Readiness should be addressed to Penelope Shumaker (pshumaker@library.ohio.gov).

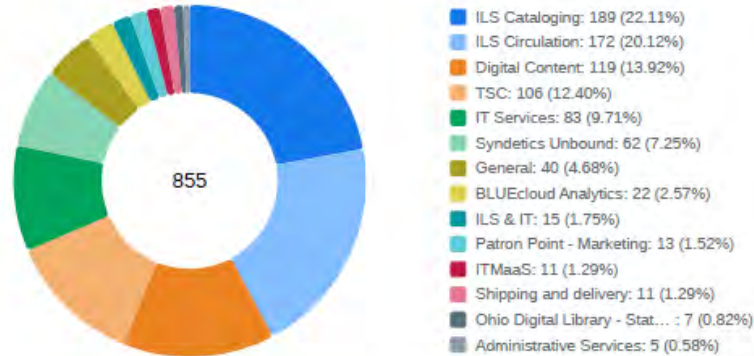
Return of Rare Ohio Historic Letters and Documents

- In 1974, the State Library of Ohio loaned the Ohio Historical Society (now Ohio History Connection) a sizable number of letters and documents from early Ohio governors to be microfilmed and to be returned in 1979. For reasons lost to time, the letters and documents were never returned.
- We are excited to share that on March 10, these one of kind materials will return to the State Library of Ohio. These documents include the personal letters of several famous Ohioans including Ethan Allen Brown, Daniel Decatur Emmett, Samuel Huntington, Jonathan Meigs, Jr, Arthur St. Clair and Thomas Worthington.
- Check out <https://ohiomemory.org/> to find rare and interesting historic Ohio documents digitized by the State Library of Ohio.

SEO Service Center

- Total automation consortium circulation for the past 30 days—**968,141**
- Total number of new users created in the past 30 days—**6,292**
- In-house periodicals filled—**1**
- Interlibrary loans initiated for the past 30 days—**734**
- Total number of support tickets created for the previous month—**855**
- Support tickets logged with Integrated Library Software (ILS) vendor SirsiDynix—**13**

Total Tickets by Month



- ### Consortium Service Highlights

- The collections for Mt. Gilead, Bucyrus, and Galion Public Libraries became available to SEO members on February 18, 24, and 27, respectively.
 - The Library Software Support Team introduced two quality-of-life updates for the WorkFlows software: SMS address move and User Lost Card wizard.
 - Paula Clark hosted 1 Patron Point onboarding session for 2 member libraries with 3 attendees.
 - Paula hosted 1 WorldShare Interlibrary Loan training session for 3 member libraries with 7 attendees.
 - On February 6, Heather Miller completed ABLE 5: Introduction to Technical Services and Cataloging training.
 - On February 7, Heather completed ABLE 7: Introduction to Dewey Classification training.
 - On February 19, The Library Software and IT Support Teams hosted the Open Office Hour with 24 attendees.
 - On February 20, Heather met with the Montpelier Public Library Director.
 - On February 25, Heather met with the Evergreen Community Library Director.
 - On February 25, new garage doors were installed at the SEO Service Center facility.
 - The Library Software Support Team started the annual optional bill purge for member libraries.
 - On February 27, the SEO Advisory Committee met.

- ### Niche Academy Stats

- Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorials views—**1,809**
 - Online Catalog Tutorial views—**1,049**
 - Technical Services Committee—**8**

Staffing

- The State Library of Ohio is pleased to announce that Angelyn Hellman has joined our staff as Talking Books Supervisor. She is responsible for the Talking Book Program services at State Library, coordinating our efforts with Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (OLBPD) and the National Library Service. Angelyn processes applications, provides customer service support to patrons and oversees the machine lending for Talking Book machines, Braille e-readers and accessories for the entire state of Ohio. Angelyn earned a Master of Archival Studies and Master of Library and Information Studies (MASLIS) from University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia and a Bachelor of Science from Kent State University.

Strategic Planning

- Libraries currently receiving strategic planning services from State Library consultants include:
 - Mansfield-Richland County Public Library
 - Briggs-Lawrence County Public Library
 - London Public Library
 - Logan-Hocking County District Library
 - Minerva Public Library
 - Canal Fulton Public Library
 - Portage county Public Library
 - Ashland Public Library
 - Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
 - Marvin Memorial Library
- If you have questions about the [State Library's strategic planning services](#), or would like to be placed on the waiting list for this service, please contact Evan Struble at estruble@library.ohio.gov.

Summer Food Service Program/SUN Meals

- Many libraries in Ohio and around the USA participate in the **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), now branded as SUN Meals**. This USDA-funded program provides free meals and snacks to children ages 0-18 in communities with high levels of need. Besides the obvious benefits of addressing hunger and supporting vulnerable youth, SUN Meals participation benefits libraries through:
 - Access to new user groups, especially underserved and marginalized populations
 - Increased visibility of the library as a community asset
 - Opportunities for new partnerships
 - Positioning of the library as an important stakeholder in community well-being and positive child outcomes
 - Support for summer library programming through increased attendance
- If you are already a SUN Meals / SFSP site or have been in the past, work with your current/previous sponsor to prepare for summer 2025.
- If you want to become a SUN Meals site, the Collaborative Summer Library Program offers a thorough, clear how-to guide: [Libraries and Summer Food](#) provides a step-by-step for libraries interested in becoming SUN Meals sites, or otherwise getting involved in addressing child food insecurity during the summer.
- The State Library also offers a basic guide for Ohio libraries: library.ohio.gov/summer-food.

- The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce administers SUN Meals in Ohio. [Contact the ODEW](#) with questions or for assistance in identifying a potential sponsor.
- A non-congregate option for rural communities allows sites in rural-designated areas to provide grab-and-go meals. [Find out if your library is in a rural-designated area.](#)

Take 5

- The 2025 Take 5 event will take place at the Main Library Annex, Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library, on Friday, May 2. [Registration is open.](#) The cost is \$30, which includes lunch and light morning refreshments.
- The event will feature a participatory Nonviolent Communication mini-workshop with [Compassionate Communication Center of Ohio](#) coach and facilitator [Zach Yocum](#) and inspiration and wisdom from author, filmmaker, and educator [Donte Woods-Spikes](#), plus talk tables, a teens-and-librarians panel, and more.
- Take 5 is a day of dialogue and discovery for public library teen and youth services specialists, school librarians, and other youth advocates. Take 5 events feature active learning opportunities, speaker sessions with allies within and outside the library field, hands-on activities, and networking. Take 5 is a peer-to-peer event, planned and produced by collaborating librarians with support from host libraries.
- Take 5 is also supported by the State Library of Ohio with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The 2025 event is cosponsored by SERLS. [Learn more about Take 5.](#)

Tour



- On February 3, 2025, we welcomed the **Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC) Fellowship Program** Class of 2024-2025 for a tour of the State Library. The day began with a brief presentation about our services and resources for state employees. Each year participants in the LSC Fellowship Program visit the library as part of their professional development. View 10 photos posted to Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/p/DGBRV34xWjT/?img_index=1.

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.C**

MEETING DATE: **Mar. 14, 2025**

SUBJECT: **OPLIN Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Don Yarman**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

E-Rate Miscellany

- The 471 Window to request services for July 2025 – June 2026 will close on Wednesday, March 26.
- If requesting coverage for hotspot purchases and services (from your own 470 or from one of the statewide bids OPLIN received), be aware that funding will likely be available only for one year—or less. Not only does FCC Chairman Carr oppose this program expansion, and will likely end it once the fifth FCC commissioner Olivia Trusty is confirmed, but [Senator Cruz has issued a resolution to nullify the order](#).
- Despite this, I think it's worth the effort to apply for hotspot discounts. Our applications will firm the value of the program, both to Congress and to the vendors who created the new bids that align with program rules. Even without E-Rate discounts, the vendor proposals do offer libraries significant cost savings over current service plans.
- The Supreme Court's review of the constitutionality of E-Rate will take place March 26. As a reminder, the 5th Circuit found that USF is a "tax" and that the FCC's delegation of admin responsibilities to USAC is unconstitutional. Appellate courts in the 6th and 11th Circuit courts had previously upheld the USF funding system as constitutional. A decision from the Supreme Court is likely before June 30, 2025.

Statewide Web Based Digital Skills RFP

Broadband Ohio released an RFP for a digital literacy training platform (Northstar or equivalent) in February, and received five proposals before the deadline. OPLIN is part of the evaluation committee to select the platform that will be available from public libraries and will support the state's digital literacy education efforts in correctional facilities. Final approval of grant funds to support this project may be further delayed due to administration changes at federal agencies.

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.D**

MEETING DATE: **March 14, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Executive Director's Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Institutional Membership Dues Billing

Invoices for 2025 Institutional Membership dues have been processed. We still have a few public libraries where we are working to correct inaccurate information from a few county auditors. Invoices are being sent to all public libraries in the state regardless of their past OLC membership. Most invoices were sent by the end of January, but a few were delayed because of delays in PLF and property tax revenue reports from county auditors. As of March 13, 163 library systems have paid their 2025 Institutional Membership dues.

2025 Short-Term Reserves

As has been past practice, \$600,000 from the OLC's revenue received in the first few months of 2025 will be assigned to the OLC's advisors at Morgan Stanley to invest in short-term investments. Based on advice from OLC's investment advisor and consistent with our investment policy, some will be invested in CDs and some will be deposited into our short-term account to produce a higher yield when the cash is needed.

OLC Employee Benefits

As of March 1, the following employee benefits were renewed:

- Health: renewed with Medical Mutual Insurance at a 13.48% increase in premiums (OLC pays 90% of employee premium and 80% of dependent premium, plus makes a \$1,000 contribution to each participating employee's health savings account).
- Dental Insurance: renewed with Ameritas Insurance with a small increase in monthly premium (\$2.08 for individual; \$2.28 for dependent; \$4.40 for family) (OLC pays 100% of premium for employees and 90% of premium for dependents).
- Vision Insurance: renewed with VSP Insurance no change in premium (OLC pays 100% of premium for employees and 90% of premium for dependents).
- Life Insurance: renewed with OneAmerica American United Life Insurance Company with no change in premium (OLC pays 100% of premium for employees).
- Long-Term Disability Insurance: renewed with Hartford Insurance with no change in premium (OLC pays 100% of premium for employees).

OLC Staff Notes

My 11th Anniversary on the OLC staff was on Feb. 12.

Trustee Dinners/Lunch

This spring, OLC will have regional trustee dinners/lunch. These are meetings throughout the state for public library trustees and administrators. The events will focus on the FY 26-27 State Budget and provide a venue for library trustees and administrators to share information and ideas with their counterparts throughout the region.

Date	2025 Locations (In-Person)	
Mar. 20	SE Ohio – Guernsey County Library, Cambridge	Dinner
Apr. 3	NW Ohio – Stone Ridge Golf Club, Bowling Green	Dinner
Apr. 24	SW Ohio – MidPointe Library, West Chester	Lunch
May 8	NE Ohio – Embassy Suites, Independence	Dinner

Activities

Activities since the Jan. 17 Board meeting include:

- Jan. 23 ODEW Meeting
- Jan. 23-26 LibLearnX
- Jan. 24 LibLearnX
State Assoc. ED Dinner
- Jan. 25 LibLearnX
Meeting w/ALA Councilor
ALA Strategic Planning Focus Group
ALA at 150 Panel
Core 101 Session
Committee on Library Advocacy Meeting
Session on Freedom of Information Laws
Impact of Book Bans on Library Patrons
Meeting w/Mary Davis Fournier (PLA)
Meeting w/Kacie Armstrong (OLC Committees)
- Jan. 26 LibLearnX
- Jan. 28 Meeting w/Dept. of Developmental Disabilities
Meeting w/North Hill Consulting
- Jan. 29 Meeting w/C&E LA Chair
Meeting w/Rep. Roemer
Meeting w/C&E Volunteers
- Jan. 30 Small Libraries Division Action Council Meeting
- Jan. 31 Meeting w/Vorys (OLC Legal Counsel)
- Feb. 4 House Finance Committee Hearing (OBM & LSC Testimony)
- Feb. 5 Meeting w/Rep. Bird
Meeting w/Rep. Brewer
Meeting w/Rep. Schmidt
Meeting w/Rep. Oelslager
Meeting w/Metro Library Directors
- Feb. 6 Meeting w/OTA
Meeting w/Opportunities for Ohioans w/Disabilities
House Finance Committee Meeting (ODEW Testimony)
Meeting w/Rep. Ritter
- Feb. 7 Legislative Breakfast @ Herrick Memorial Library
Institutional Member Library Director Discussion Group
- Feb. 10 OLC C&E Sponsorship Meeting
Meeting w/HBM
- Feb. 11 Meeting w/Rep. Fowler Arthur
Meeting w/Rep. Hall
- Feb.12 Meeting w/Rep. Manning
Meeting w/Rep. Daniels
ALA/NEA Meeting w/State Chapters

Feb. 13 OLC State Budget Advocacy Webinar
 Feb. 14 OLC C&E Sponsorship Meeting
 GRC Meeting
 Meeting w/Senate Budget Caucus Staff
 Feb. 18 Meeting w/Steve Potash
 Meeting w/Sen. Antonio
 Feb. 19 Meeting w/North Hill Consulting
 Meeting w/Rep. Ray
 Meeting w/Vorys (OLC Legal Counsel)
 Feb. 20 America 250 – Ohio Goes to the Movies Meeting
 OLC Legislative Network Meeting
 Meeting w/House Budget Caucus Staff
 Feb. 21 Meeting w/Rep. Piccolantonio
 ETM Meeting
 Feb. 24 Legislative Breakfast @ Cincinnati & Hamilton County PL
 Meeting w/Steve Potash
 Feb. 25 Freedom of Information Laws Webinar
 2025 C&E Program Committee Meeting
 State Budget Update for Cuyahoga County PL Board of Trustees
 Feb. 26 Meeting w/North Hill Consulting
 Feb. 27 Meeting w/Rep. Creech
 Feb. 28 Meeting w/Playaway
 Mar. 3 Leg Day Planning Meeting
 Meeting w/Rep. John
 Mar. 4 Meeting w/C&E LA Chair
 2025 C&E Expo Committee Meeting
 Mar. 5 Meeting w/Sen. Cirino
 Meeting w/BroadbandOhio
 Meeting w/OLC Legal Counsel (Vorys)
 Meeting w/Metro Library Directors
 2025 C&E Local Arrangements Committee Meeting
 Mar. 6 ODEW Meeting
 Mar. 7 Meeting w/Amazon Business
 Mar. 8 OLC Trustee Workshop
 Mar. 10 Meeting w/Rep. Lawson-Rowe
 Meeting w/Rock Hall of Fame
 Mar. 11 House Finance Committee (OLC Testimony)
 Mar. 12 Meeting w/Rep. Kishman
 Meeting w/Rep. Abdullahi
 State of the State Speech
 Meeting w/Rep. White
 Meeting w/Perera
 Mar. 13 Meeting w/Rep. Willis
 Meeting w/Rep. Lett
 Meeting w/Rep. Tims
 Meeting w/Amazon Business
 Small Libraries Division Action Council Meeting

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.E.1**

MEETING DATE: **Mar. 14, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Government and Legal
Services Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Jay Smith**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

PLF Update

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted the March 2025 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution of \$37,744,508 – which is \$887,936 (or - 2.30%) below ODT’s original estimate that was issued in July 2024; and \$620,326 (or + 1.67%) above ODT’s updated estimate issued in December 2024.

According to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), total General Revenue Fund (GRF) tax receipts for the month of February came in \$93.9 million (- 4.2%) below estimate with three of the four major categories failing to meet expectations. The Commercial Activity Tax underperformed by 9.4% and the Personal Income Tax collections came in 5.4% below estimates.

A look at the PLF distribution for the past three years and a link to an Excel spreadsheet listing each county’s distribution total for March 2025 can be found on the [OLC website](#).

HB 96 State Budget Update

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to their Ohio House Member. While we are hearing some positive feedback and responses from some House offices regarding library funding in the FY 2026-2027 State Budget (HB 96), it is important that we continue communicating with legislators. We cannot let a small minority shape the future of our libraries or control the narrative. It’s crucial that we continue to share our story – use the [Talking Points](#) and use the [Advocacy Action Plan](#).

If you have not already done so, we are asking library directors, trustees, and fiscal officers to email or call your member(s) of the Ohio House. A directory is available at [ohiohouse.gov](#). At this time, we are NOT asking other library staff and/or patrons to make contacts. Should that be necessary, we'll let you know but we are not at that level of response.

Please use the following talking points on the state budget:

- State funding for public libraries was cut by almost \$27 million in calendar year 2024.
- We are currently receiving the same level of state funding that we received 25 years ago (Year 2000) with no adjustment for inflation.
- Restore the Public Library Fund to 2%.
- Public libraries are different from schools and other local governments:
 - No County Sales Tax
 - No City Income Tax
 - No Casino Revenue
 - No Funding for Facilities in Capital Budget

6.E.1: Government and Legal Services Report

- No ARPA Funds
- No Inside Millage

More will be discussed at the board meeting.

HB 137 Levy Authority

Recently, legislation was introduced by Rep. [Brian Lorenz](#) (R-Powell) that would allow taxing authorities to deny public libraries access to the ballot.

HB 137 would allow a library taxing authority to decide not to move forward with a library levy request. This means they could prevent public libraries from going to the ballot and deny voters a say in their local property taxes. HB 137 would give sole discretion to a library's taxing authority with regards to moving a levy request to the county board of elections. HB 137 [Bill Language](#)

OLC is strongly opposed to this legislation and has reached out to Rep. Lorenz for a meeting. However, we DO want library directors, fiscal officers and trustees to contact only their Ohio House Member and [Rep. Lorenz](#) on this legislation and to express strong opposition. [Contacts](#) can be made by phone, email or U.S. mail.

Contacts: Only Library Directors, Fiscal Officers and Trustees. We do NOT need patrons or other library staff making contacts on this bill yet.

Message/Talking Points:

- Ohioans love their public libraries and strongly support them at the ballot.
- Over the past 15 years, 92% of Ohio Public Library Levies have passed.
- 203 of Ohio's 251 library systems (81%) have a levy and rely on that support to supplement their state funding.
- HB 137 could prevent public libraries from going to the ballot and deny voters a say in their local property taxes.
- HB 137 would give sole discretion to a library's taxing authority with regards to moving a levy request to the county board of elections.
- Not all library boundaries match the boundaries of their taxing authority. This means there could be elected officials denying taxpayers the ability to vote if they are outside of their jurisdiction. We have several library systems that have service areas in multiple counties and multiple school districts.

While communicating with your House members, it should be noted that OLC is strongly opposed to this bill. At this time, we do not know what sort of traction this bill will get as the House is primarily focused on the State Budget.

HB 28 Replacement Levies

The House Ways and Means Committee is currently having hearings on House Bill (HB) 28. If passed, HB 28 will eliminate the option for a political subdivision, including libraries, to seek a replacement property tax levy. The bill is sponsored by Reps. Adam Mathews (R-Lebanon) and Thomas Hall (R-Middletown). OLC opposed similar legislation during the last general assembly and will continue to oppose the proposal in HB 28 during the 136th General Assembly.

COSLA Voices Event

OLC recently participated in a fly-in event in Washington DC with the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies. After participating in a legislative briefing, Ohio's delegation headed up by the State Library, met with most of Ohio's congressional offices on issues related to Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), broadband access, and all the great services offered by Ohio's public libraries.

Regional Trustee Dinners Scheduled

The program will focus on how library trustees and administrators can be effective advocates, especially as the Ohio legislature focuses its attention on the FY26-27 state budget. OLC staff will share the most up-to-date information on the budget process, its implications for the Public Library Fund, and offer guidance on how library leaders can effectively engage in the discussion. Register for the Trustee event near you on OLC website.

Trustee Dinner Events:

- [March 20, 2025](#) | Eastern Ohio Trustee Dinner, Guernsey County Public Library (Crossroads Branch), Cambridge
- [April 3, 2025](#) | Northwest Ohio Trustee Dinner, Stone Ridge Golf Club, Bowling Green
- [May 8, 2025](#) | Northeast Ohio Trustee Dinner, Embassy Suites Cleveland Rockside, Independence

Trustee Lunch Event:

- [April 24, 2025](#) | Southwest Ohio Trustee Lunch, MidPointe Library, West Chester

Legal Webinar on Virtual Meetings Law

On March 17 at 2pm, OLC will be hosting a free legal webinar on virtual meetings requirements. HB 257 passed during the lame duck session last year and will become effective on April 9. However, certain requirements and actions need to be taken by a library's board of trustees prior to hosting a virtual meeting or having members participate in a meeting virtually. During the webinar, OLC staff will provide background information on the legislation and OLC's legal counsel will review a sample policy and discuss what public library boards need to consider before adopting a policy.

OLC Library Legislative Day on April 8

Legislative Day is your day at the Statehouse. It's an opportunity for you to come to Columbus, meet with your legislators, and advocate on behalf of Ohio's public libraries. The OLC will host morning briefings, displays in the Statehouse Rotunda, and lunch with legislators in the Statehouse Atrium.

Legislative Day falls within National Library Week (April 6-12, 2025). It's the perfect time to share the essential work your library is doing!

To help you prepare for this important advocacy event, Jay Smith, OLC's Director of Government and Legal Services, will host a free webinar on Thursday, March 27 from 2-3 p.m. He will provide the latest information from the Statehouse, key steps to take before Legislative Day, and key talking points to use with legislators.

6.E.1: Government and Legal Services Report

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.E.2**

MEETING DATE: **Mar. 14, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Professional Development
Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Laurie Miller**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Stand Alone Conference Updates:

The **Unconventional to Conventional Conference** will be held on June 12 at the Conference Center at OCLC in Dublin. The event will focus on effective strategies for developing and implementing materials and services that make a tangible impact; insights on how to embrace new programs, tools, or ways of thinking; creative ideas, case studies, and fresh, unconventional approaches to better serve patrons; practical methods that drive innovation and foster staff participation, regardless of experience level or library size. Jenn Eyer, Staff Development Coordinator at Worthington Libraries, will serve as Chair of this conference.

The **New to Libraries Conference** will be held on September 12 at the Marriott University of Dayton. This conference will focus on developing new library staff and helping them gain a better understanding of the library's mission, their role within it and intricacies of library operations. Conference Chair and Committee members are still being confirmed. The call for programs for this conference will be open May 7 – 30.

Meetings participation:

- Digital and Media Services Division Meeting – January 21, virtual
- Professional Development Committee Meeting – January 23, virtual
- Outreach Coffee Chat – February 21, virtual
- Digital and Media Services Division Meeting – February 25, virtual
- 2025 C&E Program Committee Meeting – February 25, virtual
- Outreach & Special Services Division Meeting – February 27, virtual
- OSAP February Coffee Talk – February 28, virtual
- Stand Alone Chair Onboarding Call with Jenn Eyer – March 3, virtual
- 2025 C&E Expo Committee Meeting – March 4, virtual
- 2025 C&E Local Arrangements Committee Meeting – March 5, virtual
- OSAP Q1 Luncheon Meeting – March 10, Columbus Marriott NW
- ASAE Tech Tuesday – March 11, virtual
- Adult & Reference Services Division Meeting – March 12, virtual

2025 Events & Networking Opportunities	Date	Location	Attendance
State Budget Advocacy Webinar	Jan. 9	Virtual	119
Newspaper Photo Archive Webinar	Jan. 28	Virtual	34
Teen Services Talk	Jan. 29	Virtual	32
State Budget Update Webinar	Feb. 13	Virtual	213
Library of Things Webinar	Feb. 18	Virtual	114
Outreach Coffee Chat	Feb. 21	Virtual	25
Library Trustee Workshop I	Mar. 8	OLC/Virtual	78
Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled Webinar	Mar. 11	Virtual	118
IT Division Rackside Chat	Mar. 14	Virtual	5
Legal Webinar on New Virtual Meetings Law	Mar. 17	Virtual	84
America 250-Ohio Goes to the Movies	Mar. 18	Virtual	89
Library Trustees Dinner (East)	Mar. 20	Guernsey County Library, Cambridge	13
Teen Services Talk – Summer Reading	Mar. 25	Virtual	20
Preparing for Legislative Day Webinar	Mar. 27	Virtual	52
Library Trustees Dinner (NW)	Apr. 3	Stone Ridge Golf Club, Bowling Green	20
Library Legislative Day	Apr. 8	Ohio Statehouse	148
HR Huddle	Apr. 10	Virtual	14
Library Trustees Dinner (SW)	Apr. 24	MidPointe Library, West Chester	1
CPIM – Public Library Fiscal Officer Conf.	May 1-2	Nationwide Hotel & CC, Columbus	Not Open
Teen Services Talk	May 8	Virtual	2
Library Trustees Dinner (NE)	May 8	Embassy Suites, Independence	5
New Director Workshop 1 of 4	May 20	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
Human Resources Workshop	TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
IT Division Rackside Chat	Jun. 6	Virtual	2
Ballot Issues Workshop #1	June TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
Unconventional to Conventional Conference	Jun. 12	OCLC	Not Open
Outreach Coffee Chat	Jun. 20	Virtual	4
New Director Workshop 2 of 4	Jun. 24	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
New Director Workshop 3 of 4	Jul. 23	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
Outreach and Special Services Retreat	Aug. 1 or 8	TBD	Not Open
New Director Workshop 4 of 4	Aug. 27	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
IT Division Rackside Chat	Sept. 5	Virtual	1
Library Fiscal Officer 102	Sept. TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open

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New to Libraries Conference	Sept. 12	Marriott, Dayton	Not Open
Outreach Coffee Chat	Oct. 10	Virtual	3
Ballot Issues Workshop #2	Oct. TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
OLC Planning & Leadership Conference	Nov. 18	Huntington Convention Center, Cleveland	Not Open
2025 OLC Convention & Expo	Nov. 19-21	Huntington Convention Center, Cleveland	Not Open
Right Click Conference	Dec. 5	Quest Conf. Center, Columbus	Not Open
2026 OLC Convention & Expo	Oct. 21-23	Kalahari	Not Open

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.E.3**

MEETING DATE: **March 14, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Communications Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Angie Jacobsen**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

State Budget

Resources have been added to the OLC website and Member Info Hub. The site now includes Fiscal Year 2026-2027 state budget news; archived OLC budget webinars; advocacy tools; frequently asked questions about the Public Library Fund (PLF); talking points; Ohio General Assembly contact information; and Legislative Network contact information (with House and Senate districts). A new Advocacy Action Plan was created to strengthen our collective voice and keep us organized, consistent and aligned with OLC's statewide advocacy goals. Advocacy materials are available at olc.org/government-relations/advocacy.

Legislative Day

Legislative Day continues to be promoted via *This Week*, *Access*, social media and OLC website. Resources and advocacy tools for the event have been added to the [OLC website](http://olc.org). Collateral materials are being developed for the day of the event. A media advisory will be sent on April 7.

Media Coverage:

A press release was sent about the new Chair of the OLC Board.

[Stark Library director to lead Ohio Library Council Board](#)

Canton Repository, Jan. 25, 2025

[Library Council Names Icaza of Stark County as Board Chair](#)

Hannah News, Jan. 21, 2025

Convention and Expo

Information continues to be added to the OLC website about the 2025 Convention and Expo. The deadline for the call for programs is April 9. A promotional postcard will be mailed at the end of May. Sponsorship opportunities have been updated and added to the OLC website. Exhibitor information (including the Early-Bird booth rate) will be added to the website and sent via email.

Standalone Conferences

A call for Planning Committee members was published in *Access* and on the OLC website. An online application form was created for volunteers to submit. The call for programs for the Unconventional to Conventional Conference is underway and the New to Libraries Conference call for programs will open in May.

Trustee Events

The Library Trustee Workshop and Trustee Dinners/Lunch have been promoted using targeted e-mails, *This Week*, *Access* and the OLC website.

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Division/Committee Projects

- Online nomination forms were created for the six award categories. The Awards and Honors program nomination period runs from January 1-May 30. Promotional award articles are running weekly in *Access*.
- Teen Services Division hosted a Teen Service Talk on Jan. 29. 22 people participated in the online discussion. The next one is planned for March 25.
- Marketing and PR Division sent an e-newsletter to division members on Feb. 14.
- Adult and Reference Services Division sent an e-newsletter on Jan. 28.
- Technical Services Division sent an e-newsletter on Jan. 9.
- CPL or CPLS certification holders (new and renewals) were featured in *Access* and on the OLC website.
- Articles on the OLC New Member Referral Program and Individual membership renewal were included in *Access* and the OLC website. Instructions were also included about how to select Divisions in the new Member Info Hub.

Website

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

1. Jobs
2. State Budget Information
3. Convention and Expo
4. Library Funding/PLF
5. Advocacy Tools for Libraries
6. Webinars and Online Learning
7. Event Calendar
8. Legislative Day
9. CPIM – Public Library Fiscal Officer Conference
10. News

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.E.4**

MEETING DATE: **March 14, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Membership Services Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Jeanine D'Andrea**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

2025 Membership

As of Feb. 27, there was a total of 1890 members as compared to 2252 on Feb. 27, 2024. There are currently 1666 renewals and 224 new. Friends groups, other institutions and associate members have recently been billed.

The Membership Committee met via Zoom on Jan. 23 and again on Feb. 20. Agenda items included: Statistics; 2025 Timeline; student update; new member update; Lifetime Membership; Final renewal email, and Access Article possibilities. The Committee is scheduled to meet again on Mar. 13 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom.

The third and final renewal was emailed on Feb. 26 to 899 members. In comparison the third renewal was sent to 642 in 2024 and 694 in 2023. The date to drop 2024 Individual members for non-renewal is March 10.

The Committee welcomes new Student Representative Raven Fountain who was recommended by Dr. Belinda Boon. Raven has been updated on the Student Representative guidelines and plans to attend our next meeting.

Membership Recruitment and Retention

Many members find joining divisions to be a key part of maximizing their membership benefits. An Access article on walking members through the process of selecting an unlimited number of divisions was published in the Feb. 25 edition of Access.

New members receive an automatic email from OLC when we receive their dues. A second email is being sent to New Members as an effort to continue to promote the value of OLC.

Membership Meetups

Membership Mondays is hosted by PLA the first Monday of each month. They are virtual meetups where PLA members can hear from leaders within the association, discover ways to get involved, ask questions, share ideas and grow their networks.

The OLC Membership Committee is working on a version similar to PLA's for the OLC Membership. They are currently working on details for topics and facilitators and hope to launch in May 2025 as an added member benefit. These meetups would be held once per month for one-half hour; free to OLC Individual members and they must register to participate in the Zoom meet-up.

Lifetime Members

OLC has gained the following three Lifetime Members since January: James Miley, SEO Library Center; Allison Howell, Mansfield/Richland County Public Library and Molly Ernst, Mansfield/Richland County Public Library. They were acknowledged in Access and have

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been sent a thank you email on behalf of the Membership Committee. A permanent OLC membership card has also been sent to them.

New Member Referral Program

The New Member Referral Program closed on Feb. 1. OLC received 10 new members who joined through the program. By comparison, there were 8 received in 2024; and 12 received in 2023. Emily Shellhouse, Granville Public Library will receive \$50 in credit toward any OLC Professional Development event in 2025 for referring new member Melissa Wandle. The announcement was made in *Access*.

Nominations and Elections

All OLC Division Action Council Coordinators will be sent a roster of members from their unit along with a list of any members who sent in a membership participation form requesting to serve, to assist them with identifying potential candidates for election. Slates of candidates are due to OLC by April 1. Staff will work directly with these coordinators to answer questions, send broadcast emails and assist them with the nomination process.

Awards and Honors

The Awards and Honors Committee met on Feb. 27 and is scheduled to meet again on March 27. A promotional flyer has been printed to take to all OLC events. The deadline has been changed to May 30 for nomination submissions.