

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

AGENDA

May 16, 2025
OLC Offices
10:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda (#)*
2. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Mar. 14, 2025 – Regular Meeting (#)*
 - B. Apr. 16, 2025 – Special Meeting (#)*
 - C. Apr. 25, 2025 – Special Meeting (#)*
3. Reports for Action
 - A. Financial Report: Month-End – March 2025 (#)*
 - B. 2024 Financial Audit (#)* *[Board Members Only]*
 - C. Nominating Committee Report: 2025 OLC Board of Directors Election Slate (#)*
4. Reports for Discussion
 - A. State Budget Update
 - B. 2025 OLC Citizen of the Year Award (#)
5. 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 (#)
6. Announcements – Next Meeting: July 18 – Via Zoom
7. Adjournment

(#) Report included in background packet

* Action Item

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 14, 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 (Virtual) Elizabeth Muether, Celina Bernie Rochford, Akron Stacey Russell, Zanesville William Rutger, Avon Lake
GUESTS	Jason Elvers, Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease Mandy Knapp, State Library of Ohio Don Yarman, OPLIN
GUESTS ABSENT	Nick Tepe, ALA Councilor
STAFF	Michelle Francis, Executive Director Jeanine D'Andrea, Director, Membership Services Angie Jacobsen, Director, Communications Denise Kise, Accounting/Data Services Laurie Miller, Director, Professional Development Jay Smith, Director, Government and Legal Services
CALL TO ORDER	<p>The meeting was called to order by Chair Icaza at 10:02 a.m. Icaza welcomed Jason Elvers, OLC's Legal Counsel from Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP and noted he will be joining us under Item 3.A as we discuss the Boards Roles and Responsibilities. Robbie Jenkins is joining us via Zoom, and guest Nick Tepe is unable to join us.</p> <p>On behalf of the Board, Icaza recognized and thanked Sarah Clevidence for her service as the 2024 Chair of the Board and presented her with a gift.</p>
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Icaza noted that the ALA Councilor Report is written only, as Tepe cannot join us today. RUSSELL MOVED AND BACH SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	BEDEL MOVED AND BAUTZ SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 17, 2025, MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
OLC BOARD ORIENTATION	Francis introduced Jason Elvers of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP who discussed the roles and responsibilities as an OLC Board Member. He discussed the fiduciary responsibilities of a Board member through the Duty of Care and the Duty of Loyalty.

FINANCIAL REPORT
YEAR-END 2024

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

Francis thanked Elvers for his time.

Francis presented the financial report for year-end November 2024.

Revenue.

Dues. Dues income is over budget (+\$10,203). Institutional Memberships are slightly under budget. Other institutions are under budget due to delayed invoicing. Individual Memberships are over budget \$12,669 due to an increase in membership.

Publications. Publications are under budget due to less demand for printed copies.

Continuing Education. Continuing Education is under budget (-\$22,770). 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.

Other Income. Other Income is over budget (+\$57,103). Interest and Dividends are over budget due to short term investments. 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. Staff salaries are under budget due to timing of 2024 adjustments and openings. Health Insurance and Payroll taxes are under budget.

Consultants and Contractors. Consultants and Contractors is under budget (-\$22,215). Speaker Honoraria is under budget. Legal Services is under budget due to timing of invoices. Consultants/Contractors over budget due to AMS migration.

Supplies and Resource Materials. Supplies are under budget (-\$8,784). Computer Software/Supplies is over budget (+\$12,867) due to new AMS subscription.

Communications. Communications is under budget (-\$7,562). Telephone is slightly over budget. Postage/Mailing Services is under budget. Internet is under budget due to timing of payments.

Printing and Design. Printing is under budget (-\$4,895) due to reduced printing. Copying is under budget.

Maintenance and Equipment. Equipment Rental is over budget (+\$40,676) due to coding and CPIM AV costs. Software Support is over budget due to one-year AMS renewal.

Space Rental. Office Space is under budget due to CAM. Workshops/Meetings is over budget due to timing of invoices.

Travel and Meals. Travel and Meals is under budget (-\$20,185). Board travel is on budget. Staff travel is under budget. Committees and Divisions are under budget due to reduced requests for reimbursement. Presenters is over budget due to the timing of invoices.

Management Expenses. Management Expenses is under budget (-\$39,122). Bank Services are under budget. Depreciation Replacement is 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 \$93,060

HEDLUND TUNNELL MOVED AND RUSSELL SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE YEAR-END 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE RUTGER MOVED AND BAUTZ SECONDED 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). MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 OLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION Francis reported there are four positions open 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:

MLIS	Julianne Bedel	2023-25	Eligible
Trustee	Robert Jenkins	2023-25	Eligible
At-Large	Kathy Bach	2023-25	Eligible
At-Large	Sarah Clevidence	2023-25	Not eligible

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.

A call for candidates interested in being considered for election to the Board will be included in *This Week* and *Access* and posted on the OLC website beginning the Monday following the March Board meeting and continuing through April. The Nominating Committee uses this information to select the nominees and create the election slate.

AMAZON BUSINESS Francis reported that OLC is finishing the first year of the contract with Amazon Business. The program has been highly successful. The Board approved for up to three years for our members to receive it for free. During the first year of the agreement, OLC will receive a rebate. Staff are reviewing various options and needs for the one-time funds: 1. Video conferencing equipment and computers. 2. Update sample policies with Vorys. 3. Strategic Planning and 4. Convention and Expo Reception at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Amazon’s legal counsel will have guardrails on the program going forward. It will probably be July or August when we learn more.

FY 2026-2027 STATE Smith reported on the State Budget. Smith thanked everyone for their advocacy

BUDGET

efforts and noted it is having an impact. The Governor introduced his proposed budget. The current proposal for the PLF goes from 1.7 to 1.75%. Some legislators have been vocal and are not supportive of increased funding for libraries. It is extremely important to educate legislators. OLC is encouraging library directors, fiscal officers and trustees to continue having weekly conversations with Legislators. You are not overeducating them. The Advocacy Action Plan is extremely useful.

OLC testified in the House Finance Committee. The House Substitute Bill is due on April 1. April 8 is the Omnibus Amendment. The full House will vote on April 9. Then it all starts again in the Senate.

Francis noted OLC has received questions regarding the Call to Action.

DeNero-Akroyd indicated the CTA has been very helpful. There is a lot of noise at the Statehouse right now.

Rochford asked if they should be copying OLC on any correspondence. OLC would like to hear what feedback they receive in responses.

Jenkins asked if OLC has talked with the Lt. Governor.

ALA COUNCILOR REPORT

A written report was available from Nick Tepe.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT

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

Public Library Survey. The annual Ohio Public Library Survey is open and results are due by April 1. Contact Kristin Krumsee with any questions.

State Library Budget. 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.

America 250 – Ohio Commission. Staff met with Executive Director and Operations Director of America 250-Ohio Commission. One emphasis is on Ohio Goes to the Movies. There are many ways for libraries to become involved. OLC is hosting a Webinar.

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. These documents include the personal letters of several famous Ohioans including Ethan Allen Brown, Daniel Decatur Emmett, Samuel Huntington, Jonathan Meigs, Jr and Thomas Worthington. The State Library is working on digitizing them.

Guiding Ohio Online. Guiding Ohio Online Grant applications are open through Mar. 23. This grant will provide funds to hire a contracted technology/digital literacy trainer for their community.

OPLIN REPORT

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

COSLA. Yarman was in D.C. last week attending the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies meeting.

E-Rate. The window to request services for July 2025-June 2026 will close on Mar. 26. If requesting coverage for hotspot purchases be aware that funding will likely be available only for one year – or less. U.S. Senator Cruz has issued a resolution to nullify this order. Ohio's 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.

Statewide Web Based Digital Skills RFP. 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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Institutional Dues Billing. There are still a few public libraries where staff is working to correct inaccurate information from a few county auditors in order to send invoices.

Short Term Reserves. As past practice, \$600,000 from 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.

OLC Employee Benefits. Health Insurance was renewed with Medical Mutual at a 13.48% increase in premiums. Dental Insurance was renewed with Ameritas Insurance with a small increase in monthly premium. Vision Insurance was renewed with VSP Insurance with no change in premium. Life Insurance was renewed with OneAmerica American United Life Insurance with no change in premium. Long-Term Disability Insurance renewed with Hartford Insurance with no change in premium.

Staff Notes. Francis celebrated her 11th anniversary on staff on February 12.

Trustee Dinners/Lunch. These events will focus on the FY 26-27 State Budget and provide a venue for library trustees and administrators to share information. One will be a luncheon, at the MidPointe Library, West Chester Branch.

LibLearnX. Francis attended LibLearnX in Phoenix. Attendance was low. It was a great opportunity to see Ohio Library staff.

Legislative Breakfasts. Francis congratulated those libraries that have had Legislative Breakfasts. To date there has been one in Cincinnati, Avon Lake and one in Central Ohio. Please contact OLC if you host one.

GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

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

PLF Update. The March 2025 PLF distribution was -2.30% below ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2024 and +1.67% above ODT updated estimate issued in December 2024.

HB 137 – Levy Authority. Legislation was introduced that would allow taxing authorities to deny public libraries access to the ballot. HB 137 would allow a library taxing authority to deny the request for 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. OLC is strongly opposed to this legislation. OLC does want library directors, fiscal officers and trustees to contact only their Ohio House Member and Rep. Lorenz on this legislation to express strong opposition.

HB 28 – Replacement Levies. Will eliminate the option for a political subdivision, including libraries, to seek a replacement property tax levy. OLC offered written opposition testimony.

Legal Webinar on Virtual Meetings Law. OLC is hosting a free legal webinar on virtual meetings law which takes effect on April 9. Library Boards must pass a policy first before they can utilize the new option and in limited situations. OLC Legal Counsel will be presenting on that webinar.

Library Legislative Day. Legislative Day is Tuesday, April 8 in the Statehouse Atrium and Rotunda. The Governor has been invited.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

A chair has been named for the Unconventional to Conventional Conference. A call for programs has been posted.

Convention and Expo 2027. OLC has received questions regarding the 2027 Convention and Expo. Staff will be looking at Cincinnati, Dayton and Toledo to see what is available.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

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

State Budget Resources. Jacobsen thanked the Board for utilizing the advocacy tools. A new Advocacy Action Plan was created to strengthen our collective voice and to keep us consistent and aligned with OLC's statewide advocacy goals.

Legislative Day Tools. Resources and advocacy tools for the event have been added to the OLC website. 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, Mary Ellen Icaza.

Convention & Expo. The deadline for the call for programs is April 9. Sponsorship opportunities have been added to the OLC website. Exhibitor information will be added to the website and sent via email. A promotional postcard will be mailed at the end of May.

Standalone Conferences. A call for planning Committee members was published in Access and on the website. 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 emails, *This Week*, Access and the OLC website.

Division/Committee Projects. The Teen Service Talk had 22 participating in the online discussion. These talks lead to many program ideas.

Website. The most popular pages over the past two months are: JobLine, State Budget Information, Convention and Expo and Library Funding/PLF.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

2025 Individual Membership. The Individual membership count as of Feb. 27 was 1890 as compared to 2252 in 2024. The third and final renewal was sent to 899 members on Feb. 26. Friends groups, other institutional and associate members have recently been billed. The new Student Member to the Committee is Raven Fountain and will attend our next meeting.

Many members find joining divisions to be a key part of maximizing their membership benefits. Division selections do not carry over from year to year, and many of our members have not selected divisions. We have included articles in Access with instructions on how to select Divisions in the new Member Info Hub to encourage Division participation.

Membership Meetups. The Membership Committee will launch "Membership Meetups" beginning in May as an added member benefit. These meetups will 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. The Committee is currently working on monthly topics, and speakers for these. Preliminary topics are: OLC Works for You; How to get involved, etc.

Nominations and Elections. 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 "Get Involved" form requesting to serve, to assist them with identifying potential candidates for election. Slates are due to OLC by Apr. 15.

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

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the OLC Board of Directors is scheduled for May 16 at the OLC Office. The auditor should be available to attend this meeting. Please give your signed Conflict of Interest forms to Francis before leaving.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Special Meeting Via Zoom
April 16, 2025
4:00 P.M.

PRESENT	Kathy Bach, Cincinnati Monica Baughman, Worthington Travis Bautz, Middletown Julianne Bedel, Medina Sarah Clevidence, Findlay Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Cleveland Heights Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, Ashland Elizabeth Muether, Celina Bernie Rochford, Akron Stacey Russell, Zanesville
ABSENT	Robbie Jenkins, Gallipolis William Rutger, Avon Lake
GUESTS	Dr. Howard Fleeter, Howard Fleeter & Associates
STAFF	Michelle Francis, Executive Director Jeanine D'Andrea, Director, Membership Services Angie Jacobsen, Director, Communications Jay Smith, Director of Government and Legal Services
CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order by Chair Icaza at 4:08 p.m. Francis thanked the Board for being available on short notice and their quick response to the meeting. She noted that Dr. Howard Fleeter is joining the meeting to provide background information to the Board and answer their questions. OLC has worked with Dr. Fleeter for 20+ years. He worked with OLC as a part of Levin, Driscoll and Fleeter, and we have had a long-respected relationship.
FY 2026-2027 STATE BUDGET	<p>Francis and Smith gave an overview of the House version of the State Budget.</p> <p><u>Funding.</u> House Bill 96, as passed by the Ohio House, proposes a major shift in how the state funds public libraries. Instead of allocating a fixed 1.7% of the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF) to the Public Library Fund (PLF) — as established in permanent law — the PLF would now receive a specific line-item appropriation.</p> <p>This change removes the PLF's current protection under state law and makes it more vulnerable to funding cuts or even elimination in future budgets. Notably, the Local Government Fund (LGF) would continue and would receive 1.75% of the GRF, as recommended by the Governor — highlighting a concerning inconsistency.</p> <p>The House line-item appropriation includes \$490 million in FY 2026 and \$500 million in FY 2027. However, this proposal still falls \$90.8 million short of Governor DeWine's plan over the biennium. The governor raised the PLF to 1.75% of the General Revenue Fund (GRF) in his state budget proposal.</p>

The \$490 million the House is proposing in FY 2026 is less than:

- Ohio House estimated PLF distribution in FY 2025 of \$493.4 million
- Ohio Office of Budget and Management estimated PLF distribution in FY 2025 of \$530 million
- Governor's proposal and estimate in FY 2026 of \$531.7 million

OPLIN and Library for the Blind Funding.

Currently, funding for OPLIN and the Library for the Blind (totaling about \$4.9 million/year) is deducted directly from the PLF. The House budget shifts this responsibility to the General Revenue Fund.

Distribution. The formula the House originally proposed would have cut state funding to 93 library systems in 39 counties on July 1. The final version of the House bill changed the distribution formula back to the formula as it exists in current law. With that, there is no new money. This is not an increase related to inflation. No longer deducting OPLIN and library for the blind from the PLF.

Next Steps. House Bill 96 has now advanced to the Ohio Senate, where legislators will begin crafting their version of the state budget.

OLC is calling on the Ohio Senate to restore the Public Library Fund to 1.75% of the General Revenue Fund, as proposed in Governor DeWine's budget.

FRANKLIN-SPRINGBORO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

On April 11, OLC staff received an email from library directors in Warren County expressing their recommendations for changing the PLF distribution formula. Franklin-Springboro Public Library, in Warren County, has not been an Institutional Member of OLC since 2009.

Franklin-Springboro, Plain City, and Bettsville are the only 3 public library systems in the state of Ohio who are not Institutional Members of OLC. On April 15, the director of the Franklin-Springboro Public Library distributed an email to other public library directors across the state encouraging them to sign on to a letter asking the Senate to address a new distribution formula. OLC staff notified the OLC Board and shared the email that had been distributed across the state. Francis reminded Board members the state budget is a process, and many things can change.

PLF DISTRIBUTION

Francis thanked Dr. Fleeter for joining the Board meeting. Fleeter gave an overview of the history of the PLF and previous studies and reports. The OLC 2009 report was done due to concerns from Franklin-Springboro Public Library. There was a study done by the Task Force on Local Government Reform with 7 appendices; and an Ohio Library Survey Commission from 1947. There have also been studies at the county level. Fleeter did a report for Cuyahoga County Libraries. Anytime there's been a study at the state or county level, libraries have looked at multiple measures. Circulation, square footage, poverty, local property tax effort, etc. Ohio is different from other states. We have library boundaries that cover more than just one county. Some go up to 4 or 5 counties.

Under any of the previous formulas, there was much more money than there was now. The problem is not OLC making their case, it is the state not upholding their commitment.

2000 was the last year we had an equalization. Once the money started to dry up at the state level, it meant there was no excess to go into the equalization process. Overall, the formula we had in place is not flawed, it just hasn't been funded at the correct rate.

Francis noted the GRC and Legislative Network is meeting tomorrow to discuss this.

Fleeter noted we've only been thinking about this for 2 weeks. The first step is to stop this bad thing and the second step is to think about ways to make changes without unduly hurting others.

Muether asked if the history of the distribution was available. Francis noted the history of funding is on the website, and the formula for distribution is in a Fleeter report from 2009. Francis will be sure to share that.

Icaza thanked Francis for pulling this all together and appreciated Fleeter being here to explain things. She knows there is a lot happening and wants to be sure the Board is supporting the OLC staff and the organization.

After much discussion it was the sense of the Board to send a letter to Ohio's public library directors with the message of unity and a commitment to study the PLF distribution formula. While our immediate focus must be restoring the PLF, we recognize that there are questions and concerns about the current PLF distribution formula that need to be addressed. Once the current state budget process is complete, the OLC Board is committed to establishing an institutional member-driven study to review the formula thoroughly.

NEXT MEETING

The Board is scheduled to meet again on April 25, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Special Meeting Via Zoom
April 25, 2025
1:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Kathy Bach, Cincinnati
Monica Baughman, Worthington
Travis Bautz, Middletown
Julianne Bedel, Medina
Sarah Clevidence, Findlay
Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Cleveland Heights
Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton
Elizabeth Muether, Celina
Bernie Rochford, Akron
Stacey Russell, Zanesville
William Rutger, Avon Lake

ABSENT

Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, Ashland
Robbie Jenkins, Gallipolis

STAFF

Michelle Francis, Executive Director
Jeanine D'Andrea, Director, Membership Services
Angie Jacobsen, Director, Communications
Jay Smith, Director of Government and Legal Services

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Icaza at 1:02 p.m.

FY 2026-2027
STATE BUDGET

Francis noted that not much has changed on the FY 2026-2027 State Budget within the past week as the legislature is still on recess. She thanked the Board for their support. Francis and Smith have had many meetings with various groups and directors across the state. The legislature will be back next week and OLC has started to reach out to certain directors from certain districts to schedule them for testimony in the Senate. There are many conversations with individual legislators that cannot be disclosed or discussed publicly.

Clevidence asked about an article in Gongwer about support from mayors and the Ohio Municipal League (OML). Francis mentioned continuous conversations over the past several weeks with other local government organizations. Some of the individual local mayors have reached out to their local libraries as well.

BOARD LETTER ON
UNIFICATION

Icaza asked for feedback on the draft letter for review. The intent is for the letter to show Board support for OLC's advocacy and a call for unity.

[Discussion]

Bautz shared concerns regarding intellectual freedom and the funding formula. Russell has had conversations with staff and libraries in her area. Librarians are concerned about Intellectual Freedom. They don't feel the time has passed to send the letter. With the Senate going back into session, it might be time to reinforce unification.

Rutger agreed with Russell's comments. Some of the directors expressing concern don't see the day-to-day process.

Bach asked for more clarification of the Intellectual Freedom concerns.

Bautz believes Intellectual Freedom and Funding should be included in the statement. However, he feels including language about a study dismisses some concerns.

Bedel asked about appropriate timing of a study during the state budget process.

Francis noted the last time there was a formal letter sent to the Board was in 2008 from the Franklin-Springboro Public Library. The Middletown Director shared concerns as well. An OLC study was done in 2009. There was some discussion following the great recession in 2009. In 2011, OLC created a taskforce to review local government services and shared services. This was in response to a larger study on consolidation at the state level. There is discussion in that report about the distribution model. Since that time, the distribution model has not come up formally until July 2024. There was nothing formal brought to the Board.

Rochford asked about members that are not happy with OLC's approach.

Clevidence thought Icaza did a great job on letter and appreciated the thoughtful discussion. The original purpose and intent of the letter was to hopefully take some of the burden off OLC staff. If the letter is sent now, would it increase the number of emails? DeNero asked about the letter and timing of distribution.

Bautz shared that concerns have been known since the early 2000's and this is not new. Questions have come from legislators, senators, what do you want instead? They're having some discussions on bringing ideas to the legislature.

Francis noted OLC is part of these discussions and there are lots of conversations taking place.

Clevidence stated she wasn't advocating for ignoring conversation around the formula. She is simply asking if sending any version of the letter would calm the number of emails staff are receiving.

Icaza noted that whatever is put in the letter, it's not going to make everyone happy. Are those concerns better to be held as personal conversations?

It was the sense of the Board to send the letter. Muether and Russell thought the letter was important if OLC staff are comfortable with the timing.

Francis noted if not everyone can get behind the letter as drafted, it would raise more questions.

BEDEL MOVED AND DeNERO-ACKROYD SECONDED TO SEND THE LETTER AS DRAFTED. THE MOTION FAILED WITH 5 YEA VOTES. No letter will be sent at this time. Icaza offered Francis assistance from the Board if needed.

NEXT MEETING

The Board is scheduled to meet in-person at the OLC Office on May 16, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 pm.

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **3.A**

MEETING DATE: **May 16, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Financial Report: March 2025**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR ACTION

REVENUE

Cost Center	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Dues	\$ 998,904	\$ 1,188,171	\$ (189,268)
Publications	145	175	(30)
Continuing Education	49,195	65,444	(16,249)
Contract Income	1,728	1,250	478
Other Income	15,401	8,165	7,236
TOTAL	\$ 1,065,383	\$ 1,263,205	\$ (197,832)

Dues Income (- \$189,268)

- Institutional Membership: under budget due to delayed invoicing (- \$152,467).
- Other Institutions: under budget due to delayed invoicing (- \$5,625).
- Individual Memberships: under budget due to decrease in personal membership (- \$29,676).
- Friends: under budget due to delayed invoicing (- \$1,500).

Publications (- \$30)

- Sales: on budget (- \$30).

Continuing Education (- \$16,249)

- Legislative Day: over budget due to increased attendance (+ \$1,660).
- Convention & Expo: under budget due to timing of accrual (- \$7,064).
- Workshops: under budget due to timing of registration payments (- \$10,845).

Contract Income (+ \$478)

- Sourcing Office: over budget due to library purchases (+ \$478).

Other Income (+ \$7,236)

- Interest and Dividends: over budget due to returns on short-term investments (+ \$2,651).
- Unrealized Gain/(Loss): over budget due to returns on long-term investments (+ \$4,585).

EXPENSES

Cost Center	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 242,163	\$ 244,470	\$ (2,307)
Consultants and Contractors	33,412	33,124	288
Supplies and Resources	13,968	12,910	1,058
Communications	3,578	4,763	(1,185)
Printing/Design	268	1,811	(1,543)
Maintenance and Equipment	3,977	3,980	(3)
Space Rental	29,788	30,333	(545)
Travel and Catering	7,099	7,992	(893)
Management Expenses	20,656	19,256	1,400
TOTAL	\$ 354,909	\$ 358,639	\$ (3,730)

Salaries and Benefits (- \$2,307)

- Staff Salaries: slightly under budget due to timing of 2025 adjustments (- \$1,230).
- Accrued Vacation: reflects accrued vacation (+ \$3,139).
- Retirement: under budget due to timing of plan contributions (- \$4,843).
- Health Insurance: slightly over budget due to timing of transition (+ \$1,655).
- Worker's Compensation: slightly under budget due to BWC rebates (- \$116).
- Payroll Taxes: under budget (- \$983).
- LTD & Life Insurance: on budget (+ \$70).

Consultants and Contractors (+ \$288)

- Legal Services: under budget due to timing of payments (- \$3,697).
- Expo Contractors: over budget due to timing of payments (+ \$3,000).
- Consultants/Contractors: slightly over budget due to timing of payments (+ \$985).

Supplies and Resources (+ \$1,058)

- Supplies: slightly over budget (+ \$946).
- Subscription/Resource Materials: slightly under budget (- \$127).
- Computer Software/Supplies: slightly over budget due to timing of payments (+ \$239).

Communications (- \$1,185)

- Telephone: Local/Mobile/Conf. Calls: under budget (- \$298).
- Postage/Courier Service: under budget (- \$887).
- Internet: on budget (+ \$1).

Printing and Design (- \$1,543)

- Printing: under budget due to timing of payments (- \$1,595).
- Copying: on budget (+ \$52).

Maintenance and Equipment (- \$3)

- Equipment Rental: on budget (+ \$23).

- Equipment Maintenance: on budget (- \$36).
- Software Support: on budget (+ \$11).

Space Rental (- \$545)

- Office Space: under budget due to CAM (- \$545).

Travel and Meals (- \$893)

- Board: under budget due to ALA Councilor reimbursements (- \$1,017).
- Staff: slightly over budget due to increased travel (+ \$916).
- Committees and Divisions: under budget due to reduced requests for reimbursement (- \$792).

Management Expenses (+ \$1,400)

- Bank Services: over budget (+ \$3,268).
- Investment Fees: on budget (+ \$48).
- Depreciation Replacement: on budget (+ \$180).
- Employee Hiring: on budget for library background checks (+ \$17).
- Insurance: slightly over budget (+ \$222).
- Organization Memberships: under budget (- \$1,150).
- Staff Development and Memberships: under budget due to timing (- \$2,614).
- Catering and Other Meals: slightly over budget due to timing of payments (+ \$1,430).

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Net Change in Assets	\$ 710,464	\$ 904,566	\$ (194,102)

Ohio Library Council
Income Statement
For the 3 Months Ending Monday, March 31, 2025

	March			Year to Date		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
REVENUE						
Dues						
Institutional	\$161,478.67	\$71,697.00	\$89,781.67	\$808,761.50	\$961,228.00	(\$152,466.50)
Other	450.00	2,075.00	(1,625.00)	1,800.00	7,425.00	(5,625.00)
Personal	10,091.00	19,078.00	(8,987.00)	187,517.00	217,193.00	(29,676.00)
Friends	300.00	525.00	(225.00)	825.00	2,325.00	(1,500.00)
Subtotal	\$172,319.67	\$93,375.00	\$78,944.67	\$998,903.50	\$1,188,171.00	(\$189,267.50)
Publications						
Sales	0.00	60.00	(60.00)	145.00	175.00	(30.00)
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$60.00	(\$60.00)	\$145.00	\$175.00	(\$30.00)
Continuing Education						
Legislative Day	11,505.00	10,890.00	615.00	19,045.00	17,385.00	1,660.00
Convention & Expo	0.00	7,064.00	(7,064.00)	0.00	7,064.00	(7,064.00)
Workshops	20,605.00	25,620.00	(5,015.00)	30,150.00	40,995.00	(10,845.00)
Subtotal	\$32,110.00	\$43,574.00	(\$11,464.00)	\$49,195.00	\$65,444.00	(\$16,249.00)
Contract Income						
Sourcing Office	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,727.92	1,250.00	477.92
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,727.92	\$1,250.00	\$477.92
Other Income						
Interest & Dividends	3,881.63	2,500.00	1,381.63	10,151.48	7,500.00	2,651.48
Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	(18,736.55)	0.00	(18,736.55)	4,584.82	0.00	4,584.82
Jobline	280.00	280.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	0.00
Mgmt & Consulting Revenue	110.00	110.00	0.00	265.00	265.00	0.00
Subtotal	(\$14,464.92)	\$2,890.00	(\$17,354.92)	\$15,401.30	\$8,165.00	\$7,236.30
Total Revenue	\$189,964.75	\$139,899.00	\$50,065.75	\$1,065,372.72	\$1,263,205.00	(\$197,832.28)

Ohio Library Council
Income Statement
For the 3 Months Ending Monday, March 31, 2025

	March			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
EXPENSES						
Salary & Benefits						
Staff Salaries	\$59,949.50	\$59,949.00	\$0.50	\$181,473.49	\$182,703.00	(\$1,229.51)
Accrued Vacation	3,325.98	0.00	3,325.98	3,138.77	0.00	3,138.77
Retirement Contribution	4,730.04	5,978.00	(1,247.96)	13,090.90	17,934.00	(4,843.10)
Health Insurance	13,187.86	12,178.00	1,009.86	28,721.48	27,066.00	1,655.48
Workers' Compensation	(27.90)	50.00	(77.90)	(16.42)	100.00	(116.42)
Payroll Taxes	4,304.39	5,244.00	(939.61)	14,644.48	15,627.00	(982.52)
LTD & Life Insurance	377.88	341.00	36.88	1,109.89	1,040.00	69.89
Subtotal	\$85,847.75	\$83,740.00	\$2,107.75	\$242,162.59	\$244,470.00	(\$2,307.41)
Consultants & Contractors						
Legal Services	5,053.00	8,750.00	(3,697.00)	5,053.00	8,750.00	(3,697.00)
Expo Contractors	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Consult / Contractors	11,395.92	9,710.00	1,685.92	25,359.05	24,374.00	985.05
Subtotal	\$16,448.92	\$18,460.00	(\$2,011.08)	\$33,412.05	\$33,124.00	\$288.05
Supplies & Resources						
Supplies	2,219.24	1,681.00	538.24	5,000.26	4,054.00	946.26
Subscriptions / Res Mat	509.83	524.00	(14.17)	1,444.62	1,572.00	(127.38)
Computer Sftwr / Supplies	2,304.61	2,429.00	(124.39)	7,523.32	7,284.00	239.32
Subtotal	\$5,033.68	\$4,634.00	\$399.68	\$13,968.20	\$12,910.00	\$1,058.20
Communications						
Telephone - Local	188.51	288.00	(99.49)	565.53	864.00	(298.47)
Postage	51.96	502.00	(450.04)	130.68	994.00	(863.32)
Courier / Special	0.00	8.00	(8.00)	0.00	24.00	(24.00)
Internet	960.60	961.00	(0.40)	2,881.80	2,881.00	0.80
Subtotal	\$1,201.07	\$1,759.00	(\$557.93)	\$3,578.01	\$4,763.00	(\$1,184.99)
Printing & Typesetting						
Printing	0.00	665.00	(665.00)	0.00	1,595.00	(1,595.00)
Copying	118.66	72.00	46.66	267.51	216.00	51.51
Subtotal	\$118.66	\$737.00	(\$618.34)	\$267.51	\$1,811.00	(\$1,543.49)

Ohio Library Council
Income Statement
For the 3 Months Ending Monday, March 31, 2025

	March			Year to Date		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Maintenance & Equip						
Equipment Rental	\$810.79	\$800.00	\$10.79	\$2,973.60	\$2,951.00	\$22.60
Equipment Maintenance	636.72	800.00	(163.28)	764.06	800.00	(35.94)
Software Support	79.91	77.00	2.91	239.73	229.00	10.73
Subtotal	\$1,527.42	\$1,677.00	(\$149.58)	\$3,977.39	\$3,980.00	(\$2.61)
Space Rental						
Office Space	9,795.45	10,113.00	(317.55)	29,787.57	30,333.00	(545.43)
Subtotal	\$9,795.45	\$10,113.00	(\$317.55)	\$29,787.57	\$30,333.00	(\$545.43)
Travel						
Board	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	1,732.86	2,750.00	(1,017.14)
Staff Travel	1,679.78	1,550.00	129.78	5,366.45	4,450.00	916.45
Committees	0.00	96.00	(96.00)	0.00	288.00	(288.00)
Divisions	0.00	168.00	(168.00)	0.00	504.00	(504.00)
Subtotal	\$1,679.78	\$2,064.00	(\$384.22)	\$7,099.31	\$7,992.00	(\$892.69)
Management Expenses						
Bank Services	1,630.35	581.00	1,049.35	5,010.98	1,743.00	3,267.98
Investment Fees	557.88	520.00	37.88	1,608.05	1,560.00	48.05
Depreciation	1,045.27	977.00	68.27	3,117.86	2,938.00	179.86
Employee Hiring	0.00	66.00	(66.00)	215.00	198.00	17.00
Insurance	732.01	694.00	38.01	2,303.83	2,082.00	221.83
Organizational Mbrshps	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	1,200.00	(1,150.00)
Staff Devel & Mbrshps	552.00	0.00	552.00	2,386.00	5,000.00	(2,614.00)
Catering & Other Meals	2,205.09	2,595.00	(389.91)	5,964.51	4,535.00	1,429.51
Subtotal	\$6,722.60	\$5,433.00	\$1,289.60	\$20,656.23	\$19,256.00	\$1,400.23
Total Expenses	\$128,375.33	\$128,617.00	(\$241.67)	\$354,908.86	\$358,639.00	(\$3,730.14)
Net Change in Assets	\$61,589.42	\$11,282.00	\$50,307.42	\$710,463.86	\$904,566.00	(\$194,102.14)

**Ohio Library Council
Balance Sheet
As of Monday, March 31, 2025**

ASSETS

Cash and Short Term Investments

Commerce Nat'l Bank - Checking	\$196,619.58
Commerce Nat'l Bank- Money Market	614,191.78
Investments - Money Market	4,389.27
Investments - TRAK Account	587,224.02
Investments - Mutual Funds	803,159.55
Total Cash and Short Term Investments	\$2,205,584.20

Other Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	14,734.83
Office Equipment (net of Accum Depr)	59,523.82
Prepaid Postage	1,667.87
Prepayments	59,005.31
Total Other Current Assets	\$134,931.83

Total Assets	<u>\$2,340,516.03</u>
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$18,454.63
Advances	1,249.86
Accrued Salaries	17,128.43
Accrued Vacation	47,705.30
Accrued Insurance	875.44
Total Liabilities	\$85,413.66

Net Assets

Unappropriated Fund Balance	1,544,638.51
YTD Change in Net Assets	710,463.86
Total Net Assets	\$2,255,102.37

Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>\$2,340,516.03</u>
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**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **3.C**

MEETING DATE: **May 16, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Nominating Committee Report:
2025 OLC Board of Directors
Election Slate**

SUBMITTED BY: **Sarah Clevidence, Chair**

REPORT FOR ACTION

The OLC Nominating Committee conducted a virtual meeting on April 29 to discuss potential candidates for the 2025 OLC Board of Directors elections. Members of the committee include Mary Ellen Icaza, Ex-Officio; Sarah Clevidence, Chair; William Rutger; Michael Penrod; Tara Sidwell; and Ryan McDonnell. OLC staff members Michelle Francis and Jeanine D'Andrea also participated in the meeting.

The committee recommends the following slate of candidates for election to three-year terms beginning in January 2026.

MLIS Director [one to be elected]

Julianne Bedel, Executive Director, Medina County District Library

Andrew Harant, Director, Cuyahoga Falls Public Library

Daniel Slife, Director, Wadsworth Public Library

Library Trustee Director [one to be elected]

Robert Jenkins, Trustee, Bossard Memorial Library of Gallia County

Cindy Lombardo, Trustee, Peninsula Library & Historical Society

At-Large Director [one to be elected]

Kathy Bach, Director of Public Services, Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library

Angela Bronson, Regional Manager, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

At-Large Director [one to be elected]

Michel Limer, Director, Guernsey County District Public Library

Susan Titkemeier, Information Services Manager, Marion Public Library

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **4.B**

MEETING DATE: **May 16, 2025**

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

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

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

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

Nominations for the Citizen of the Year Award will be solicited from the membership through announcements in *Access Weekly*, *This Week*, and on the OLC website. Staff also will suggest possible candidates and make recommendations to the OLC Board at the meeting on July 18.

Previous Awardees:

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

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.A**

MEETING DATE: **May 16, 2025**

SUBJECT: **ALA Councilor Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Nick Tepe**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

ALA Election Results

The results of the ALA 2025 elections were announced on April 7th. Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries, Cambridge Public Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was elected 2025-2026 president-elect.

McCauley, who was a Spectrum Scholar, is a current member of Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures; the Public Library Association; and the Association of College and Research Libraries. She is also a current member of the Rainbow Round Table, Sustainability Round Table, Intellectual Freedom Round Table, and the International Relations Round Table. She is also a member of the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, Chinese American Librarians Association, Black Caucus of ALA, REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking, and the American Indian Library Association, and the Freedom to Read Foundation. She is also a member of the Massachusetts Library Association and the New England Library Association.

She has held several leadership positions, including At-Large Councilor, ALA Council, Executive Board member, and Fiscal and Audit Committee. She also was PLA president (2022-23) and a PLA board member.

McCauley holds a Doctor of Philosophy, Managerial Leadership in the Information Professions, Simmons University; an MLIS from University of Pittsburgh; a BA in Theater from Ohio Wesleyan University; Leadership Certificate Program, Northeastern University; Library Leadership for New Managers Program, Association of Research Libraries (ARL). [Full election results can be found here.](#)

State of American Libraries Report

During National Library Week April 7-11, ALA released the annual State of American Libraries Report, including the top 10 challenged books of 2024. New data reported to ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) shows that the majority of book censorship attempts are now originating from organized movements. Pressure groups and government entities that include elected officials, board members and administrators initiated 72% of demands to censor books in school and public libraries. Parents only accounted for 16% of demands to censor books, while 5% of challenges were brought by individual library users. The 120 titles most frequently targeted for censorship during 2024 are all identified on partisan book rating sites which provide tools for activists to demand the censorship of library books. This is a significant shift from past years when parents were a much more significant segment of individuals challenging library materials.

Overall challenges were down from 2023, with 5,813 books challenged in 2024 compared to 9,021 in 2023, and 821 censorship attempts in 2024 compared to 1,247 in 2023. However this is still the third highest number of challenges since ALA started tracking in 1990. I have also heard some speculation that the decrease may have been due to many of the activists pushing book challenges being more focused on the election in 2024. [The full report can be found here.](#)

ALA sues to challenge gutting of IMLS

Following the shutdown of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) pursuant to an executive order issued on March 14th, ALA has been active in opposing the administration's efforts to eliminate the agency. In addition to efforts to increase public awareness of the value of IMLS and advocate with legislators to [preserve IMLS funding in the next budget](#), ALA is also taking direct action to counter the dismantling of IMLS.

ALA has joined forces with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the largest union representing museum and library workers, in a lawsuit that challenges the administration's gutting of IMLS. The legal actions were filed on behalf of ALA and AFSCME by Democracy Forward and co-counsel Gair Gallo Eberhard LLP, asking the court to immediately block the dismantling of IMLS as directed by the executive order on March 14. The full press release can be found [here](#).

On May 1st the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted a temporary restraining order to block the dismantling of IMLS. The temporary restraining order was issued days before the mass layoff of nearly all IMLS employees was set to take effect on May 4. Then on May 6th a federal judge issued a [preliminary injunction](#) to halt the dismantling of IMLS and several other agencies, in response to a separate lawsuit brought by the attorneys general of 21 states. While there is still a long way to go, these early results are encouraging.

Message from the State Librarian

Since becoming State Librarian around the first of this year, I have been on a Listening Tour to learn about perceptions of the State Library in the library community. The first phase of this plan was to meet with State Library staff to hear their feedback.

The State Library's staff take great pride in assisting libraries and Ohioans more broadly. Many staff mentioned a good work culture, where they feel listened to and valued. Areas for improvement include internal and external communication, concerns about funding and strategic planning. These themes were presented to staff at the April All-Staff meeting.

Next, I'll move on to Phase 2 of the Listening Tour, which is to meet with close partners and members of State Library's various advisory boards. I'm looking forward to getting out and seeing some beautiful libraries.



Highlights

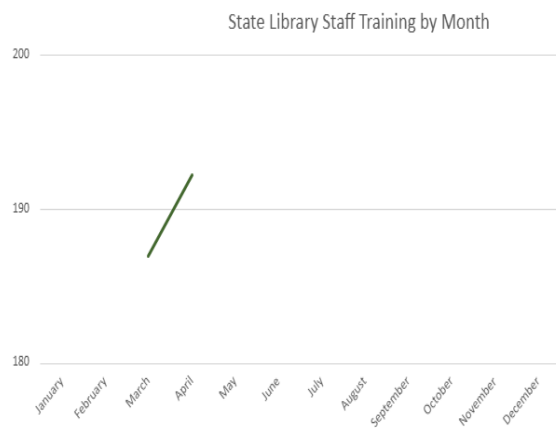
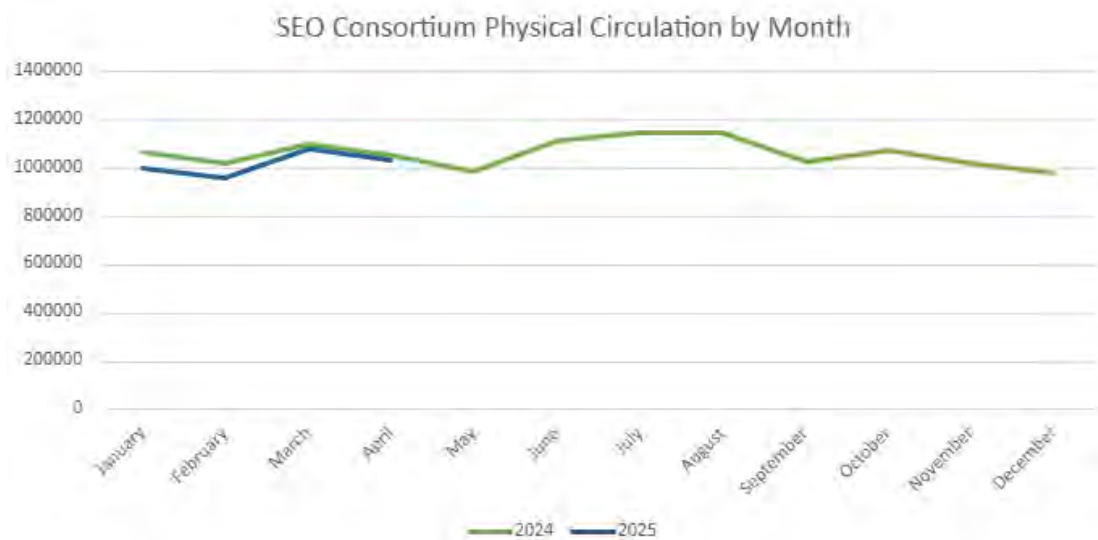
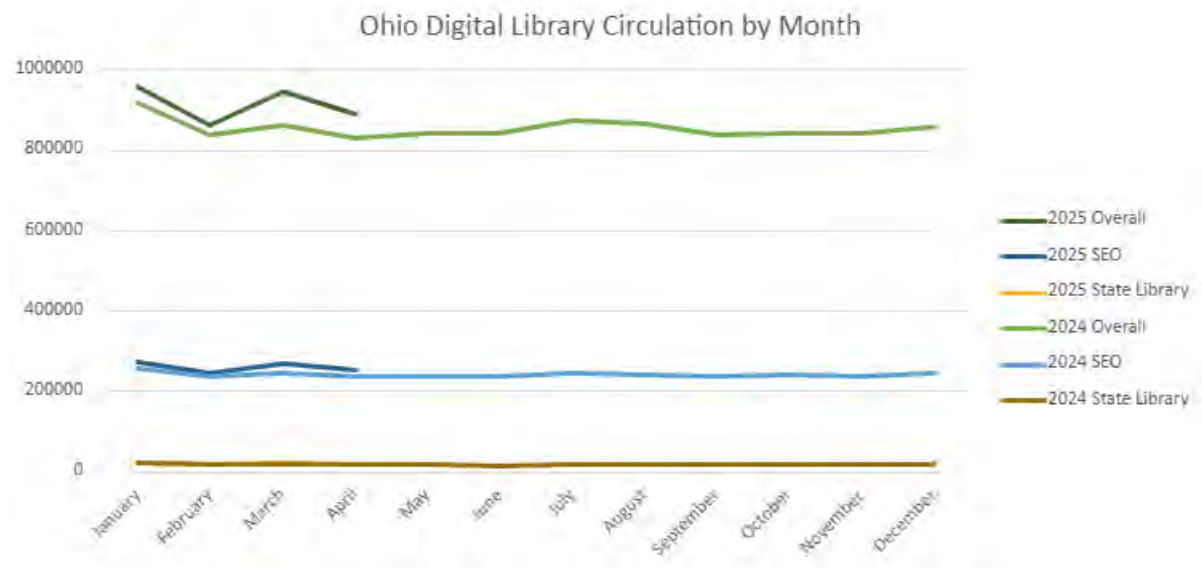
- ◆ The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) presented the John G. Lorenz award to Ohio for the timely and accurate completion of the FY 2024 SLAA survey. The SLAA survey is the only federal survey that collects information about State Library Administrative Agencies in the United States and their services to public libraries.
- ◆ On April 8, State Librarian Mandy Knapp, Library Consultant Kirstin Krumsee and dozens of library supporters across Ohio came to the statehouse for Ohio Library Council's Legislative Day to share the importance of libraries.
- ◆ On April 12, Mandy attended the opening of the new Louisville Public Library. Staff kindly gave a tour, and it was delightful to see how sensory equipment from an LSTA grant was thoughtfully and mindfully incorporated into the new story time space.
- ◆ On her listening tour, Mandy visited the Byesville Branch of the Guernsey County Library on April 23 and Olentangy Orange Middle School's school library on April 30.



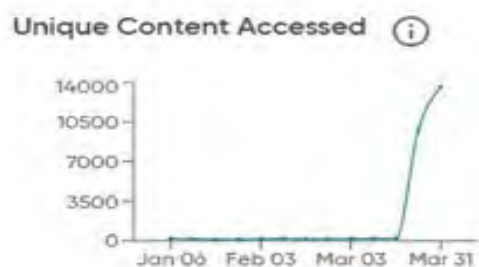
State Librarian and Louisville Public Library director Brock Hutchison



A warm welcome at the Olentangy Orange Middle School



Library Services—April 2025



O'Reilly Online Learning Increased Usage

The Library Services Department outreach efforts have shown results in April in positive feedback and increased usage of our premium resources. **State Rep. Thad Claggett, Chair of the House Technology and Innovation Committee**, and his committee members have been using our **O'Reilly Learning Database** since our training in March and due to this we have seen a large increase in the usage of this resource ever since our meeting. (See graph above.)

We also received this positive message from Mercer County District Libraries IT Manager Eric Lochtefeld :



“I was recently appointed to the Mercer County Board of Elections and last week attended a Swearing-In Ceremony hosted by the Secretary of State at the Statehouse with over 40 new election officials. Before the ceremony, Representative Claggett gave a prayer that began with a story of [Deputy Director Burley] recently sharing some old and rare books with him. He was very positive about his interaction with you and the impression you made. It is always great to hear libraries being spoken about in a positive way at the Statehouse.”

“Wow!! This is incredibly helpful. Thank you so much. I can hardly wait to share this with my colleagues! Please express our thanks to the reference librarians that put this together.” **America 250-Ohio Commission Executive Director Todd Kleismit’s compliment for our reference librarian’s research help**



April 14 Tour for Women’s Connection Group

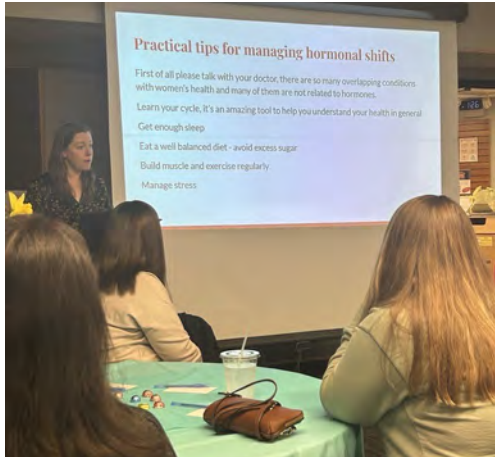
On April 8 Kevin Osborne, Head of Network Services Section for the **National Library Service**, visited our location and toured our operations.

On April 10 we held our Spring **Talking Book Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting** sharing updates and getting feedback from committee members. Library Services staff continued to do tours and presentations for organizations this month.

On April 14 we gave a tour to the **Women’s Connection Network**.

On 4/17 we gave a presentation to the **NORWELD board and Membership** meeting, speaking about our resources and state budgeting process.

Library Programs & Development—April 2025



Left: Ashland Public Library hosted a Hormonal Health program as part of its Know Your Flow Ohio LSTA grant expenditures. Right: Mechanicsburg Public Library Director Rebecca Wilden (right) shows off her library's menstrual product dispenser, purchased with Know Your Flow Ohio LSTA grant funds, alongside Katy Hite, Adult Services Library Consultant at the State Library of Ohio (left).

SAVE THE DATE: The State Library of Ohio will be hosting the 7th Annual ODNFest in-person on **September 30, 2025**. ODNFest is an opportunity for library and museum digitization professionals to gather and explore current and relevant digitization topics. The ODNFest name comes from the Ohio Digital Network (ODN), Ohio's Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)'s service hub. Attendees do not have to be contributors to ODN participate or present at ODNFest. Registration will open this summer. Featured speakers for the event have been announced: Rachel Weiher, Macalester College Collections

archivist, and Erin McBrien, curator of Upper Midwest Literary Archives at the University of Minnesota, will lead the session, "Looking at Vicarious Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care in Archives."

Additionally, we are **seeking proposals** for programs on the topic of libraries and digitization, digital collections, digital curation, digital archiving and more. Program formats may include standard presentation, panel presentation, or poster session. Proposals will be accepted [via this form](#) until July 7, 2025.

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. If your library is already a SUN Meals/SFSP site or have been in the past,

work with your current/previous sponsor to prepare for summer 2025. If your library wants to become a SUN Meals site, the Collaborative Summer Library Program offers a thorough, clear how-to guide: [Libraries and Summer Food](#). 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](#).

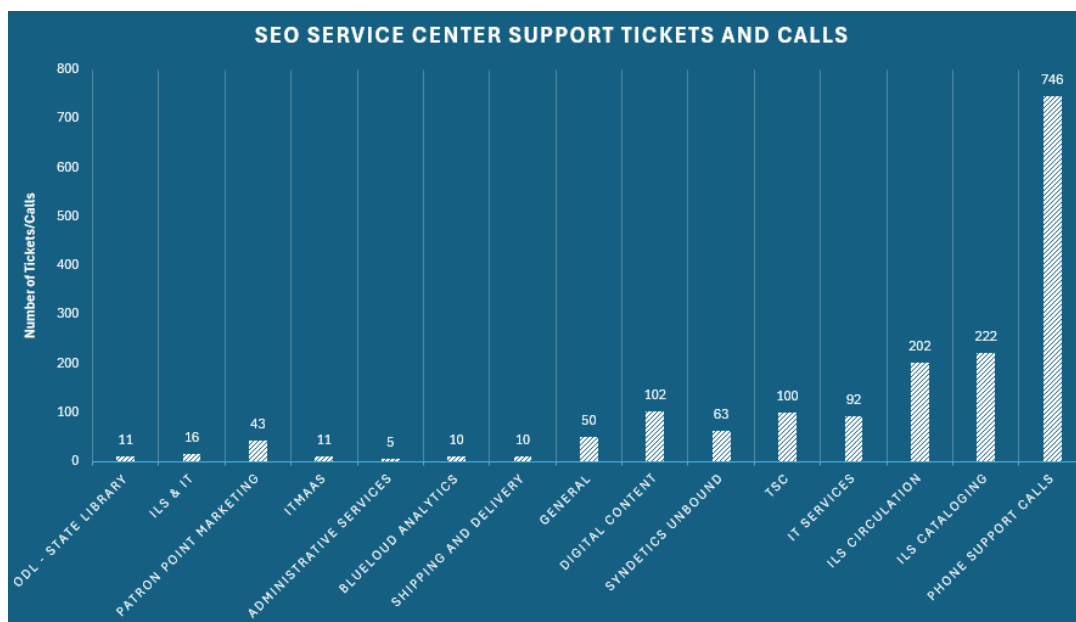
Libraries and Literacy

Early Literacy 101 is a free, full-day 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](#). Summer/Fall 2025 workshop dates will be announced beginning in June. Public libraries may request to host an Early Literacy 101 workshop via the link above.

SCIENCE OF READING SUPPORT

Ohio Ready to Read 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.

SEO Service Center—April 2025



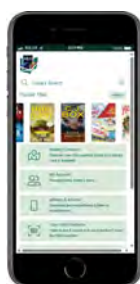
The SEO Service Center team answered over 1,600 tickets and customer calls during the month of April.

Key service highlights include:

- The support team hosted **12 training sessions** on offered services.
- Visits** were made to 3 member libraries.
- SEO Libraries App **received an upgrade**.

For the past 30 days, the Consortium experienced significant activity:

- Over 1 million items were circulated.
- 7,444 new users created.
- 183,576 holds were created; 192,445 holds were filled.
- 556 interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- 940 support tickets were created, with 19 relayed to the software vendor.



Mobile App Stats	2024	2025	% Change
New Devices	3,100	4,417	↑ 42%
Holds Placed	25,087	28,587	↑ 14%
App Launched	71,690	84,585	↑ 18%
Searches	78,616	86,560	↑ 10%

Niche Academy usage showed:

- Strong engagement with **staff tutorials** (531 views) and the **online catalog tutorial** (1,907 views).
- Lower engagement with the **Technical Services Committee** (31 views) and **ASL Storytime** (12 views) tutorials.



Patron Point Marketing e-mails showed:

- Heavy use in **Announcement and Newsletters** being sent (435,180 emails)
- Medium use in **Birthday/Anniversary** campaigns (2,626 emails)
- Light use of **Winback** (144 emails) and **Coming of Age** (14 emails) of age campaigns.

News—April 2025



This is National Library Week

April 7, 2025: National Library Week is April 6 – 12, 2025

National Library Week is an opportunity to honor the valuable contributions of libraries and librarians in Ohio and across the nation, while also encouraging the use and support of these essential institutions.

State Librarian Mandy Knapp recorded the following message for National Library Week 2025: [View the recording.](#)



A message from State Librarian Mandy Knapp

State Librarian Announces Library Listening Tour

April 16, 2025: Mandy Knapp outlines the reasoning and strategy for her library listening tour scheduled for 2025.

[View the recording.](#)

On April 23, 2025, State Librarian Mandy Knapp visited the Guernsey County District Public Library and met with GCDPL Director Michael Limer. The visit was part of her 2025 Ohio Library Listening Tour.



State Library to Limit Access to Accounts During Transition to a New Library Services Platform

April 28, 2025: We recently announced an exciting change to our library services platform (LSP) this summer: we will be transitioning to Ex Libris's Alma-Primo. Beginning May 23, our existing patrons will have limited access to their State Library accounts and will not be able to borrow, request or renew physical library materials again until late June. This includes borrowing from the OhioLINK and SearchOhio consortium. Online resources, including library databases and the Ohio Digital Library, will remain available. In addition, registration for new library accounts will be suspended until late June.

[Read more.](#)

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.C**

MEETING DATE: **May 16, 2025**

SUBJECT: **OPLIN Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Don Yarman**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

E-Rate at the Supreme Court

On March 26, the Supreme Court heard arguments in the case *FCC v. Consumers' Research* over the constitutionality of the E-Rate program ([transcript](#)). Consumers' Research has challenged that the Universal Service Fund is a tax, and the FCC has improperly delegated authority over those funds to another party (away from Congressional oversight). The hearing was anticipated to last an hour, but ran to three hours. Most observers have the sense that the majority of the Justices are reluctant to overturn USF, recognizing that the program has a long track record of success, that actual USF expenses have grown little over the long history, and that overturning it based on a "nondelegation principle" would impact many other federal programs. The Court is likely to issue its decision before June 30, 2025.

Statewide Web Based Digital Skills RFP

A proposal has been selected to provide a statewide digital literacy training platform (Northstar or equivalent), and final approvals are working their way through the state's OhioBuys platform and the release of federal funds.

Statewide Databases

Except for the genealogy resources, the statewide databases are partially funded by an LSTA grant to the "Libraries Connect Ohio" partnership—OPLIN, INFOhio, and OhioLINK. It was feared that the federal spending pause and disruptions to IMLS might necessitate cuts in the statewide subscriptions. I expect that Mandy Knapp will share what details she can regarding the current state of federal funds the State Library can access; for my part, I can report that we have been given permission to ask for LSTA support for Year Three of the current database subscription package at the next State Library Board meeting, May 15. We are therefore not expecting any changes to statewide subscriptions for the next fiscal year.

Email-to-Text Gateways

Major cell carriers have long offered email-to-text gateways, but most SMS carriers will be [discontinuing](#) that service by June 2025. If your library sends ILS notices to <patronnumber>@<carrier.tld>, we invite you to switch to using OPLIN's service. OPLIN's SMS service delivers library notices to patrons as native SMS, and complies with federal laws for spam prevention. We currently send over 10,000 SMS/day. Cell carriers disabling their email-to-text gateways will not affect delivery through OPLIN's service. Learn more at <https://www.oplin.ohio.gov/sms>.

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.D**

MEETING DATE: **May 16, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Executive Director's Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

2025 Institutional Membership Dues

As of May 13, I am happy to report that 229 public library systems are Institutional Members of OLC. We have 20 library systems that are still in the process of renewing their memberships and submitting payment. We did have a few counties where invoices were delayed due to inaccurate information from county auditors.

I am happy to report that Plain City Public Library has decided to join OLC as an Institutional Member. More details will be shared at the Board Meeting.

The following two public library systems have not paid any portion of their 2025 dues and were not included in the revenue projections for the 2025 OLC operational budget:

Library	2025 Dues
Bettsville Public Library	437
Franklin Public Library	5,142
TOTAL	5,579

Library Levies on May Primary Ballot

On May 6, voters across Ohio delivered a resounding show of support for their public libraries, approving every levy on the ballot. The approved measures included eight renewals, two replacements, two additional/new, and one bond. Unofficial results are available on the [OLC website](#).

OLC Staff Anniversaries

Recent OLC staff anniversaries include:

- Angie Jacobsen: March 28 – 9 years
- Laurie Miller: April 19 – 4 years
- Ro Swanson: May 8 – 25 years

Trustee Dinners

This spring, OLC hosted four regional Trustee Dinners/Lunch. These are meetings throughout the state for public library trustees and administrators. The events focused on the FY 26-27 State Budget and provided a venue for library trustees and administrators to share information and ideas with their counterparts throughout the region.

Date	2025 Locations (In-Person)	Attendance
Mar. 20	SE Ohio – Guernsey County Library, Cambridge	28
Apr. 3	NW Ohio – Stone Ridge Golf Club, Bowling Green	52
Apr. 24	SW Ohio – MidPointe Library, West Chester	43
May 8	NE Ohio – Embassy Suites, Independence	95

Date	2024 Locations (In-Person)	Attendance
Mar. 28	SE Ohio – Guernsey County Library	16
Apr. 11	NW Ohio – Stone Ridge Golf Club, Bowling Green	45
Apr. 25	SW Ohio – Walnut Grove Country Club, Dayton	21
May 2	NE Ohio – Embassy Suites, Independence	85

Date	2023 Locations (In-Person)	Attendance
Mar. 30	SE Ohio – Sen. Hoagland	16
April 6	NW Ohio – Rep. Ghanbari	42
April 20	SW Ohio – Sen. Hackett	29
May 4	NE Ohio – OLC Staff	88

Date	2022 Locations (In-Person)	Attendance
April 21	SE Ohio – Rep. Don Jones	30
May 5	NW Ohio – Rep. Haraz Ghanbari & Chancellor Randy Gardner	40
May 12	NE Ohio – Rep. Gayle Manning	66
May 19	SW Ohio – Rep. Jessica Miranda	22

Date	2021 Locations (Virtual)	Attendance
May 10	Central Ohio – Sen. President Pro Temp Jay Hottinger	41
May 13	SW Ohio – Sen. Steve Wilson	26
May 20	NE Ohio – Sen. Jerry Cirino	21
May 24	NW Ohio – Sen. Theresa Gavarone	44

Activities

Activities since the last Board meeting include:

Mar. 17	Meeting w/Bostwick Design Partnership OLC Staff Meeting OLC Legal Webinar on New Virtual Meetings Law
Mar. 18	OLC Webinar on America 250 – Ohio Goes to the Movies Meeting w/School Principals Association
Mar. 19	Meeting w/Rep. Dovilla Meeting w/Rep. Joe Miller House Local Gov. Committee House Ways and Means Committee
Mar. 20	Meeting w/State Librarian OGIL Celebration w/Mrs. DeWine @ Greene County PL OLC Legislative Network & GRC Meeting OLC SE Ohio Trustee Dinner @ Guernsey County DL
Mar. 21	Media Interview w/Ohio Capital Journal
Mar. 26	Meeting w/Sen. Roegner
Mar. 27	OLC Legislative Day Prep Webinar
Mar. 28	Meeting w/North Hill Consulting Meeting w/OLC Legal Counsel
Mar. 31	Cuyahoga County Library Directors Legislative Luncheon @ OverDrive
Apr. 1	House Finance Committee Meeting w/Senate President McColley Meeting w/Sen. Gavarone Meeting w/Sen. O'Brien
Apr. 2	OLC Legislative Network & GRC Meeting Meeting w/Metro Library Directors Meeting w/Sen. Blessing Emergency Zoom Meeting w/Library Directors
Apr. 3	Media Interview w/Anna Staver (Cleveland.com) Media Interview w/Ideastream Media Interview w/NBC 4 Spectrum Colleen Marshall OLC NW Ohio Trustee Dinner @ Stone Ridge Golf Club in Bowling Green
Apr. 7	Media Interview w/WOSU & CML Emergency Zoom Webinar for Library Directors & Fiscal Officers OLC Staff Meeting Media Interview w/WSYX (Tom Bosco) Media Interview w/NPR Sound of Ideas Media Interview w/The Chronicle Telegram
Apr. 8	OLC Legislative Day at the Statehouse Meeting w/Rep. Lorenz
Apr. 9	House Session Meeting w/Sen. Koehler
Apr. 10	Media Interview w/Fox 8 Cleveland
Apr. 14	OLC Staff Meeting
Apr. 15	Meeting w/Fleeter & Associates
Apr. 16	Media Interview w/WOSU All Sides w/Amy Juravich Special OLC Board of Directors Zoom Meeting
Apr. 17	City Club Luncheon w/Sen. Cirino & Cuyahoga County Library Directors OLC Legislative Network & GRC Meeting
Apr. 18	OLC State Budget Update Webinar Meeting w/Senate Budget Caucus Staff
Apr. 21	OLC Staff Meeting
Apr. 22	Meeting w/School Principals Association

Apr. 23	Media Interview w/The Ohio Newsroom OLC 2024 Audit Meeting w/T-Mobile
Apr. 24	Meeting w/Fleeter & Associates Meeting w/Sen. Blessing OLC SW Ohio Trustee Luncheon @ MidPointe Library
Apr. 25	Meeting w/OLC Legal Counsel Meeting w/DOLLARS Library Directors Special OLC Board of Directors Meeting
Apr. 28	OLC Staff Meeting OLC Workgroup on Funding Meeting w/Sen. Brenner
Apr. 29	Meeting w/HBM OLC Nominating Committee Meeting Meeting w/State Librarian
Apr. 30	Meeting w/CCAO Executive Director Meeting w/Sen. Weinstein Meeting w/Metro Library Directors
May 1	OLC CPIM Library Fiscal Officer Conference Library Fiscal Officer 102 Planning Meeting w/Library Accounting DAC
May 2	OLC CPIM Library Fiscal Officer Conference Meeting w/Fleeter & Associates
May 5	OLC Workgroup on Funding Meeting w/Ohio Dept. of Taxation
May 6	Meeting w/Sen. Gavarone
May 7	Senate Session Meeting w/Sen. Huffman Meeting w/Sen. Wilson
May 8	OLC NE Ohio Trustee Dinner @ Independence
May 9	Media Interview w/WTOL Meeting w/OLC Diversity Committee Meeting w/State Librarian
May 12	Meeting w/Sen. Manchester Prep Meeting for OLC Testimony OLC Senate Education Committee Testimony on State Budget

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.E.1**

MEETING DATE: **May 16, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Government and Legal
Services Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Jay Smith**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

PLF Update

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted the May 2025 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution of \$45,076,823 – which is \$1,046,999 (or +2.38%) above ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2024; and \$971,762 (or +2.20%) above ODT's updated estimate issued in December 2024. This brings the fiscal year (FY) 2025 PLF Year-to-Date to \$455,483,127 and the calendar year (CY) 2025 PLF Year-to-Date to \$204,712,603.

According to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), overall state tax receipts for the month of April came in 0.8% or \$20 million above estimates. So far, for FY25, state tax collections are \$550 million or 2.4% ahead of expectations. This is especially important as the state budget discussion is underway in the Ohio Senate.

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 May 2025 can be found on the [OLC website](#).

HB 96 State Budget Update

The Ohio House passed their version of the budget on April 9th by a vote of 60-39. During the voting session Rep. Jack Daniels (R-New Franklin) addressed Ohio's public libraries in his floor speech – both good and bad as well as discussing carryovers and consolidation. Please see the video on the [Ohio Channel](#) from [2:05:18 to 2:13:16](#). This is not something new as we have been hearing this in private conversations over the past several weeks. However, it is important for directors and fiscal officers to understand what this means for purposes of our discussions in the Senate. When they reference consolidation, they are not just referring to merging independent library systems together under one system in each county. The bigger picture conversation is about changing the organizational structure so that it is similar to other states where libraries are under city or county government.

PLF – Amended Sub. HB 96, as passed by the House, proposes to create a line-item appropriation, instead of a percentage of the General Revenue Fund (GRF), to provide state funding to Ohio's public libraries. This means the Public Library Fund (PLF) would no longer receive 1.7% of the state's GRF as stated in permanent law. Instead, the PLF would be a line-item appropriation and vulnerable for elimination in the next state budget. The House did not use the same approach with the Local Government Fund (LGF). They chose to keep the Governor's proposal of setting the LGF at 1.75% of the GRF. It is important to share that we spoke with House and Senate members from both sides of the aisle who clearly indicated that this change – changing from a percentage of GRF to a line-item appropriation – is setting the stage for public library funding from the state to be eliminated in future budget legislation.

5.E.1: Government and Legal Services Report

PLF Distribution Formula – The per capita distribution model proposed in the substitute bill was changed in the omnibus amendment. The proposed line-item appropriations are \$490 million in FY26 and \$500 million in FY27. It's important to note that this proposal compared to Governor DeWine's proposal still falls \$90.8 million short for public libraries over the biennium. In addition, even though state tax receipts for FY25 are running ahead of estimates, the House is currently estimating the PLF will receive \$493.4 million in FY25 while LSC and OBM are estimating \$530 million in FY25.

OPLIN & Library for the Blind – Under current law, funding for both OPLIN and Library for the Blind is deducted from the PLF each year. The House version of the budget proposes making those deductions directly from the GRF and not the PLF. We believe this where they are counting/shuffling their \$7.22 million "increase" over the biennium under their distribution spreadsheet. Currently, the state deducts \$4.9 million each year from the PLF for OPLIN (\$3,689,788) and Library for the Blind (\$1,274,194). The House simply moved that deduction to the GRF instead of the PLF. This is part of the reason they are saying it is an "increase."

Library Materials - The House budget includes language that would require a public library to place material related to sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression in a portion of the library that is not primarily open to the view of minors.

Library Board Terms - The House budget includes language that reduces the number of years a trustee serves from seven to four years. This provision would apply to library trustees serving on a school district free public library, county library district, or regional library district.

Menstrual Products - The House budget prohibits a government entity, including public libraries, from placing menstrual products in the men's restroom of a public building.

Imagination Library - The House budget proposes an increase to the Imagination Library from \$8 million to \$8,250,000 in each year of the biennium. This is a decrease when compared to the Governor's proposal of \$3.5 million over the biennium or \$10 million each year.

County Budget Commissions - The House budget makes a change in the makeup of the County Budget Commission by removing county prosecutors and replacing them with a county commissioner. Other members of the commission would remain, including the county auditor and county treasurer.

More will be discussed at the board meeting.

HB 137 Levy Authority

HB 137, introduced by Rep. [Brian Lorenz](#) (R-Powell), 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 met with Rep. Lorenz. The bill had sponsor testimony in the House Local Government Committee on March 19.

HB 28 Replacement Levies

The Ohio House passed HB 28 on March 19. 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. The bill is now before the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Regional Trustee Events

Over the last couple of months OLC hosted several events with a focus on how library trustees and administrators can be effective advocates, especially as the Ohio legislature is working on the FY26-27 state budget. OLC staff shared the most up-to-date information on the budget process, its implications for the Public Library Fund, and offered guidance on how library leaders can effectively engage in the discussion. Trustee Dinners were held in Cambridge, Bowling Green, and Independence. A Trustee Lunch was held in West Chester.

OLC Library Legislative Day on April 8

Library Legislative Day was a great success this year with more than 300 attendees filling the Statehouse Atrium. The Showcase in the Rotunda was also well received. We want to thank everyone who participated and advocated for libraries. It truly makes a statement when we have so many passionate members.

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.E.2**

MEETING DATE: **May 16, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Professional Development
Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Laurie Miller**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Meetings participation:

- Professional Development Committee Meeting – March 20, virtual
- Destination Cleveland Meeting – March 24, virtual
- Learning Meeting – March 25, virtual
- Technical Services Division Meeting – March 26, virtual
- GrowthZone Office Hours Call – March 26, virtual
- Unconventional to Conventional Committee Meeting – April 1, virtual
- NHCC-CPIM Conference Call – April 9, virtual
- New To Libraries Conference Chair Onboarding Call – April 14, virtual
- GroupSync Demo – April 17, virtual
- Bartha Quote Discussion Lunch – April 23, Easton
- NHCC-CPIM Conference Call – May 8, virtual
- C&E Expo Committee Meeting – May 13, virtual
- Adult & Reference Services Division Meeting – May 14, virtual
- ASAE Free Webinar - Insuring Success: Navigating Risk & Insurance for Events – May 15, virtual

OLC Convention & Expo 2027 Site Visit Day

I toured the newly expanded and renovated Sharonville Convention Center (LEED certified sustainable facility), which is 16 miles North of Downtown Cincinnati on 75, but still inside the 275 Loop. I also toured the two hotels connected to the center – a Hyatt Place (125 rooms) and the LivINN Hotel (130 rooms). There is also a Delta Hotel by Marriott (175 rooms) across the street that I did not have time to tour on this trip. While space rental at the convention center was more than I was expecting, there is complimentary parking, robust Wi-Fi, podiums and access to house sound, and a carpeted exhibit hall space with nice concession stands. There is Third Eye Brewing Company Restaurant across the street as well as a nearby Bob Evans, Ruby Tuesday, Cracker Barrel and Skyline Chili (local favorite). All three hotels are offering a \$30 room rebate to offset the costs of the rental of the convention center space and Visit Cincy is offering a \$3K incentive to book as well. The Cincinnati Airport is 35 miles away in Northern KY.

From there, I drove up 75 to tour the newly renovated Dayton Convention Center and available hotels. There is a parking garage that services the convention center, but there would be a flat rate event parking price while we are there. The upgrades to the center are nice and our event would take up the majority of the space at the center. The Dayton Vitality Hotel is the renovated hotel connected to the center via walkway (it used to be the Radisson). It is due to open this year and will be a clean convention center hotel with a new self-check in option available. Destination Dayton is also offering a \$2,500 incentive to book that could be used to provide transportation to other downtown hotels. I toured the Hilton Garden Inn (less than 2 blocks away) which is due to open soon and it is a beautifully

5.E.2: Professional Development Report

renovated historic building connected to the Dayton Arcade which will have shops and restaurants located throughout. I also toured the Hotel Ardent which is a Tapestry Collection Hotel by Hilton. It houses an upscale Italian Steakhouse, Bistecca and the Victoria Theatre is directly across the street.

There is an offer from Toledo as well using the Glass City Center, attached Hilton, Renaissance by Marriott (2 blocks away) and Delta by Marriott 5.7 miles away.

Columbus Hyatt Regency has also offered full use of its hotel and meeting space, but we would need the connected Columbus Convention Center Battelle Ballroom for exhibit space, and the center is not willing to offer this space now because they are wanting to offer it to exclusive citywide events.

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	77
Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled Webinar	Mar. 11	Virtual	118
IT Division Rackside Chat	Mar. 14	Virtual	11
Legal Webinar on New Virtual Meetings Law	Mar. 17	Virtual	133
America 250-Ohio Goes to the Movies	Mar. 18	Virtual	121
Library Trustees Dinner (East)	Mar. 20	Guernsey County Library, Cambridge	28
Teen Services Talk – Summer Reading	Mar. 25	Virtual	30
Preparing for Legislative Day Webinar	Mar. 27	Virtual	145
Library Trustees Dinner (NW)	Apr. 3	Stone Ridge Golf Club, Bowling Green	52
Library Legislative Day	Apr. 8	Ohio Statehouse	339
HR Huddle	Apr. 10	Virtual	30
Library Trustees Dinner (SW)	Apr. 24	MidPointe Library, West Chester	43
CPIM – Public Library Fiscal Officer Conf.	May 1-2	Nationwide Hotel & CC, Columbus	132
Teen Services Talk	May 8	Virtual	19
Library Trustees Dinner (NE)	May 8	Embassy Suites, Independence	95
New Director Workshop 1 of 4	May 20	OLC/Virtual	9
IT Division Rackside Chat	Jun. 6	Virtual	5
Unconventional to Conventional Conference	Jun. 12	OCLC	4

5.E.2: Professional Development Report

Outreach Coffee Chat	Jun. 20	Virtual	9
New Director Workshop 2 of 4	Jun. 24	OLC/Virtual	3
Ballot Issues Workshop #1	July TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
New Director Workshop 3 of 4	Jul. 23	OLC/Virtual	3
Outreach and Special Services Retreat	Aug. 15	OCLC	Not Open
Human Resources Workshop	TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
New Director Workshop 4 of 4	Aug. 27	OLC/Virtual	3
IT Division Rackside Chat	Sept. 5	Virtual	2
Library Fiscal Officer 102	Sept. 10	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
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.: **5.E.3**

MEETING DATE: **May 16, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Communications Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Angie Jacobsen**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

State Budget

The OLC issued a [press release](#) on April 2 after the Ohio House of Representatives announced its proposed biennial budget, Sub. House Bill 96. The release explained the House's proposed cuts and implications, while emphasizing the historical partnership between the state and public libraries. This release prompted extensive media coverage statewide. To date, more than 50 news articles have been published, reflecting growing public concern and reinforcing the importance of maintaining adequate funding for libraries in the final state budget.

Sample media coverage:

[Ohio House budget draft slashes library funding, risking vital services, library advocates say](#)

[Ohio House proposed state budget cuts \\$100 million in funding for public libraries](#)

[Ohio libraries worry about cuts after house budget proposal slashes funding](#)

[Libraries are vital to our communities. Don't discard Ohio's long standing bipartisan funding formula](#)

[War against libraries yet another sign Ohio just can't have nice things](#)

[Ohioans love their libraries, won't fall for GOP funding sleight-of-hand](#)

Legislative Day

Resources and advocacy tools were added to the OLC website and distributed to attendees on the day of the event. A [media advisory](#) was sent on April 7. Library Legislative Day received significant media coverage, and the event also gained traction on social media using #OhioLibraryDay. Libraries around the state also utilized the sample news release on the OLC website and received local media coverage

Sample media coverage:

[Ohio Library Day brings fight for library funding right to the Statehouse](#)

[Libraries push back on proposed funding cuts in Ohio House budget](#)

[Ohio House budget proposal would cut public library funding by more than \\$100 million over next 2 years, advocates say](#)

[Local reps push for more library funding](#)

5.E.3: Communications Report

Response to Ohio House Budget

On April 9, the OLC issued another [press release](#) expressing gratitude to library patrons for their support while highlighting how the House budget still falls short of the Governor's proposed funding for libraries.

Sample media coverage:

[Ohio House budget increases library funding but falls short of advocates' hopes](#)

[Are Ohio lawmakers cutting library funding?: What we know now](#)

[The impact of funding cuts](#)

Library Levies

A press release was sent about Ohio voters approving all 13 public library levies on the May 6th ballot. Press release and levy results: <https://members.olc.org/news/Details/ohio-voters-approve-100-of-public-library-levies-265886>

Sample media coverage:

[Ohio libraries win big Tuesday](#)

[Ohio Libraries Win Big in Tuesday Elections](#)

[Here's how Northeast Ohio library levies fared in the 2025](#)

Division/Committee Projects

- Marketing and PR Division sent an e-newsletter on April 11.
- Special Collections Division an e-newsletter on April 11.
- Children's Services Division sent its quarterly e-newsletter on April 15.
- Adult and Reference Services Division sent an e-newsletter on April 24.
- Teen Services Division hosted two virtual discussions: March 25 and May 8.
- Call for Board of Directors nominations was published in This Week, Access and the OLC website.
- Nominations for the 2025 Awards and Honors were promoted in This Week, Access, OLC website and social media.
- A Call for Programs was issued for the new Unconventional to Conventional Conference. The conference is scheduled for June 12.
- The names and libraries of new and renewed certification holders (CPL/CPLS) were listed in Access and the OLC website along with more information on the Ohio Public Library Certification program.

Website

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

1. Jobs
2. Ohio Library Advocates Thank Ohioans for Support
3. State Budget
4. Ohio House Budget Reduces Public Library Funding by \$100 Million
5. OLC Calendar

5.E.3: Communications Report

6. Ohio Voters Approve 100% of Public Library Levies
7. 2025 Convention and Expo
8. CPIM - Public Library Fiscal Officer Conference
9. Library Funding/PLF
10. OLC News

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.E.4**

MEETING DATE: **May 17, 2024**

SUBJECT: **Membership Services Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Jeanine D'Andrea**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

2025 Membership

As of May 8, 2025, there was a total of 2031 Individual Members as compared to 2580 in 2024. There are currently 1732 renewals; 268 new; and 31 Lifetime. Friends groups, other institutions and associate members have recently been billed and continue to come in.

The Membership Committee met via Zoom on March 13. Agenda items included: Statistics; Lifetime Membership; New members; Student Member raffle; and the potential drop date of March 10 for non-renewals. A second drip email was sent to new members as an effort to continue to promote the value of OLC.

Several reminders have been published in Access regarding Division selections. A direct email was also sent to Division Action Council members, as many have not updated their selections in the Member Info Hub.

Bradley Kuykendall, Chair and D'Andrea met via phone call on May 6 to discuss several upcoming projects. The Quick Poll that is generally sent to directors to inquire about whether they will pay all, some or none of their staffs' Individual Dues was sent on March 24th with only 53 responses. The decision to continue to send reminders was halted due to the consideration of time and the influx of emails directors are currently receiving regarding the State Budget. We will resume this project in 2026.

The launch of the Membership Meetups is being postponed to a later date. Discussion has begun to delay the launch of the Membership Meetups until the OLC Convention and Expo. The intention is to launch the first meeting in-person along with the New Member Meet -n-Greet. They plan to have a complete list of topics; dates and facilitators to be shared at the in-person meeting noting the remainder meetings will be virtual, and free to OLC Individual members. The Committee is scheduled to meet again on June 12 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Leadership Tracking

A review of our records of those participating on a Division Action Council or Committee identified 10 people who had not renewed their dues for 2025. A reminder was sent and 9 have been renewed. One is no longer working in libraries and has been removed from the roster. Updates have been made to our Leadership Tracking system and reflected on the Website.

Nominations and Elections

Slates of candidates for Division Action Councils were due to OLC by April 15. Staff continues to work directly with each division coordinator to complete their slates. A nomination acceptance form will be sent to candidates requesting biographical information for the ballots.

Awards and Honors

The Awards and Honors Committee met via Zoom on May 8 to discuss the current number of submissions and any concerns. We continue to promote the Awards program in *Access* and *This Week*. A promotional flyer has been printed to take to all OLC events. The deadline for submissions is May 30.