

ITEM 2.A

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Via Zoom
March 11, 2022
10:00 A.M.

PRESENT Kacie Armstrong, Euclid
Paula Brehm-Heeger, Cincinnati
Sarah Clevidence, Findlay
Tom Dillie, Minerva
Aimee Fifarek, Youngstown
Carol Herrick, Centerville
Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton
Cheryl Kuonen, Mentor
Melissa Marolt, New Lexington
Rick Rubin, Cuyahoga Falls
Chad Seeberg, Marysville
Laura Lee Wilson, Huron County, Willard

ABSENT Jennifer Slone, Chillicothe

GUESTS Wendy 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
Jay Smith, Director, Government and Legal Services

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chair Dillie at 10:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Dillie noted there will be an Executive Session at the end of the meeting. ICAZA MOVED AND FIFAREK SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES SEEBERG MOVED AND CLEVIDENCE SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 14, 2022, MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

BREHM-HEEGER MOVED AND SEEBERG SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 14, 2022, EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR-END 2021 Francis presented the Financial Report for year-end 2021.

Revenue. Institutional Membership Dues were over budget due to new library systems joining. Personal (individual) memberships were down by \$11,742 due to fewer renewals. Convention & Expo was over budget by \$9,335 primarily due to sponsorships. Workshops were under budget due to low attendance at virtual

events. Other income came in over budget by \$31,499 due to interest and dividends on short-term investments.

Expenses. Salaries and benefits came in under budget. Health insurance was under budget by \$39,000 due to less staff participating in the program. Payroll taxes are over budget due to payouts. Legal services are under budget due to delay and correction with invoices. Convention & Expo contractors are under budget due to being held at a smaller venue. Postage is under budget by \$4600 due to fewer mailings. Printing and Design is under budget by more than \$10,000 due to in-house design and less copying. Equipment rental for Convention & Expo was over budget by \$10,520 due to additional AV expenses and some C&E speakers switching to virtual. Convention & Expo space rental was under budget by \$8,900 due to location.

Overall, the organization came in \$131,000 to the positive for year-end. The audit is scheduled for the end of April and the Board will have a presentation from the auditors at the May meeting.

FIFAREK MOVED AND RUBIN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE YEAR-END 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

KUONEN MOVED AND ICAZA SECONDED THAT THE OLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINT NIECA NOWELS, DIRECTOR, MARYSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, TO SERVE AS AN AT-LARGE MEMBER ON THE OLC NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM (2022-2024). MOTION PASSED WITH 11 AYE VOTES AND ONE ABSTENTION (Seeberg).

ENDORSEMENT-PLA

Francis noted the PLA election will be held March 14 – April 6, 2022. Mary Ellen Icaza, CEO/Director, Stark County District Library is a candidate for the position of PLA Director-at-Large and has asked for the endorsement of the Ohio Library Council. Icaza is honored to be on the ballot and thanks OLC for their consideration of endorsement.

FIFAREK MOVED AND CLEVIDENCE SECONDED TO ENDORSE MARY ELLEN ICAZA AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF PLA DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE. MOTION PASSED WITH 11 AYE VOTES AND ONE ABSTENTION (Icaza). In addition to Icaza, OLC individual member Wendy Tressler from Columbus Metropolitan Library is on the ballot for ALA CORE President.

2023 CONVENTION

The OLC staff worked with Maritz Global Events and issued an RFP for the 2023 Convention. The two options presented to the Board are Cincinnati, Sept 27-29 at Duke Energy Convention Center and Cleveland Huntington Convention Center and Global Center for Health Innovation October 25-27. As a reminder, PLA will be in Columbus in 2024.

Armstrong noted that those in Cleveland or Northeast Ohio appreciate the thought of Cleveland. OLC has a large contingency of membership from North and Northeast Ohio. Francis noted the goal for today's agenda item is to get authorization to move forward with negotiations with Cincinnati or Cleveland.

ARMSTRONG MOVED AND KUONEN SECONDED TO GIVE OLC STAFF AUTHORIZATION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH NEGOTIATIONS WITH CLEVELAND FOR THE OLC CONVENTION IN 2023.

BREHM-HEEGER OFFERED AN AMENDMENT TO THE PREVIOUS MOTION AND ARMSTRONG SECONDED: TO GIVE OLC STAFF AUTHORIZATION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH NEGOTIATIONS WITH CLEVELAND FOR THE OLC CONVENTION IN 2023, AND FOR THE BOARD TO CONSIDER CINCINNATI FOR THE NEXT FULL OLC CONVENTION.

ARMSTRONG MOVED AND BREHM-HEEGER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

BREHM-HEEGER MOVED AND ARMSTRONG SECONDED TO APPROVE THE FULL MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Until there is a signed contract, there will be no formal announcement.

ANDREW CARNEGIE
AWARD

The Andrew Carnegie Award is an organizational award of OLC, given to government officials to recognize their support of public Libraries. The OLC Government Relations Committee recommends that Ohio Senate President Pro Tempore Jay Hottinger be presented the Andrew Carnegie Award.

SEEBERG MOVED AND HERRICK SECONDED THE ANDREW CARNEGIE AWARD BE PRESENTED TO OHIO SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE JAY HOTTINGER (R-NEWARK). MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

JAMES COOK
TEEN BOOK AWARD

Francis reported the OLC currently has 11 Organizational Awards, with 8 recommended by the Awards and Honors Committee, 2 recommended by the Government Relations Committee and 1 directly recommended by the OLC Board of Directors. All OLC Organizational Awards must go through the OLC Board of Directors for final approval. In 2006, the OLC Young Adult Division proposed creating the James Cook Teen Book Award. At that time, the Board decided to not make it an organizational award, and to keep it under what is now the Teen Services Division. The award is given every other year by the Teen Services Division. The Teen Services Division then created their own James Cook Teen Book Award (JCBA) Committee that reads up to 50 books for the award and discusses the titles. Since that time, they have added their own page to the OLC website and posted the James Cook Memory Project on OLC's website. One of the original concerns the Board had was creating "memorial awards." At this time, the Teen Services Division is proposing changes to the award criteria. By way of additional background, typically only the chair of the JCBA Committee attends the Awards & Honors luncheon. At this time, the staff is recommending this be referred to the Awards and Honors Committee for additional review and have them report back to the Board with recommendations at the July Board meeting. In addition, OLC has other partnerships with outside organizations where book awards are presented and OLC provides financial support – the Buckeye Children's & Teen Book Award and the Ohioana Book Awards.

KUONEN MOVED AND RUBIN SECONDED TO REFER THE INFORMATION FROM THE BACKGROUND REPORT FOR THE JAMES COOK BOOK AWARD TO THE AWARDS AND HONORS COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE OLC BOARD BY THE JULY BOARD MEETING. THE BOARD MAY STILL DECIDE TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC COMMITTEE AFTER THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLC BOARD OF ELECTIONS Francis noted there are four positions open on the OLC Board for election. One MLIS; One Trustee and two At-Large of which one incumbent is eligible for re-election. Starting next week, OLC will do a call for candidates in *Access Weekly*.

OLC CHAIR'S REPORT Dillie has no additional report.

ALA COUNCILOR REPORT Tepe reported that ALA completed the work on the agenda at the meeting formerly known as Mid-Winter. The Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) committee was convened at the recommendation of the Forward Together working group to determine how to make ALA governance more effective, and after several years of work brought recommendations to the Council at the midwinter meetings. The resolutions were postponed to the March 10 meeting.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT Knapp had a conflict and will be joining the meeting later.

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

OPLIN Staff and Board. Karl Jendretzky has accepted an opportunity with Columbus Metropolitan Library. Jessica Dooley is taking over as OPLIN's new Technology Project Manager.

NorthStar Digital Literacy. OPLIN's public-facing NorthStar portal is at www.digitalskillsohio.org. As soon as half the population of Ohio lives within the service district of a library offering NorthStar, OPLIN will add that page to the Ohio Web Library list.

E-rate. The FCC is proposing to take over the bidding process for e-rate and so far all of the major interest groups are universally opposed. Moving to a single federal portal would be difficult. There is a link in *Access Weekly* for a petition coordinated by Funds for Learning. It encourages members to sign and add your comments.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT In addition to her written report, Francis reported on the following:

Institutional Dues. Invoices for Institutional Dues have been sent. There are a few stragglers. To date, 200 library systems paid in full, 9 paid partial and 42 have not paid any portion. Payments since Monday are not reflected in this report. We will follow up in a couple weeks.

Lifetime Members. We are excited to report that we have received four lifetime members since January. They were acknowledged in *Access Weekly*, sent thank you notes from the Membership Committee and a personal thank you note from Francis on behalf of the Board.

2022 Short-Term Reserves. As has been past practice, \$450,000 from the OLC's revenue received in the first few months of 2022 will be assigned to the OLC's advisors at Morgan Stanley to invest in short-term investments.

OLC Employee Benefits. We renewed with Medical Mutual Insurance. Only a small number of staff participate in OLC's plan. OLC pays 90% of the employee premium for health insurance, 80% for dependent health insurance and contributes \$1,000 to their HSA. There was a very slight increase in dental insurance.

OPERS Board Vacancy. Francis sent a letter on behalf of the OLC Board encouraging OPERS to consider a public library representative to fill the vacancy. They will make a final decision at the upcoming board meeting March 15-16.

OLC Staff Notes. Francis celebrated her 8th anniversary on February 12.

Other Projects. Francis was asked to review and provide feedback on the LSTA review. Francis participated in workgroup on ALA's intellectual freedom campaign, to be proactive as far as book challenges and changing the conversation.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT

Knapp joined the call at 11:10 a.m. and reported on the following:

Statewide Delivery. After a stringent competitive bid process and making every effort to resolve issues with the current statewide delivery service provider, the State Library, OhioLINK and Ohio Department of Administrative Services agreed to terminate the contract. Service by the vendor will end on April 15 and the new service will begin on April 18.

LSTA Five-Year Plan Evaluation. The SLO is hoping to have the plan evaluation completed by the end of the month. Every state is doing their 5-year plans.

State Library Budget. The State Library of Ohio's budget has been cut over time and there is a downturn in the number of staff. This is causing a backlog of work with government document depositories.

Brehm-Heeger asked for information regarding the SearchOhio consortia and the pause in service. Knapp reported she just heard about it and is beginning to learn that it is set up differently than she thought. The consortia decided to stop lending, noting that each consortia makes its own decision. Kuonen asked about rehiring drivers. Knapp reported there are many applicants for driver positions.

GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

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

Public Library Fund. State tax revenues continue to be healthy. The February PLF was up 10% over ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2021; and \$4 million more than ODT's updated estimate issued in December 2021. In March we continue to see that rising to 16% above ODT estimates.

HB 327 – Divisive Concepts – OLC put out a Call-to-Action last Friday regarding the bill and the possibility of it being scheduled for a committee hearing. HB 327 did not appear on the agenda. Smith thanked the Board and OLC members for reaching out to legislators.

Rubin asked if OLC is coordinating behind the scenes with schools and academic libraries. OLC has had conversations day in and day out with them. Francis noted there is a joint draft letter. We are all working together, and several of the local government groups are signing on to OLC's letter. There are certain strategies in the works.

HB 51 – Open Meetings. This legislation passed and was signed by the Governor. It allows for temporary flexibility around open meetings and will expire July 1, 2022. There is conversation regarding permanent flexibility.

OLC Legislative Day. Legislative Day is scheduled for April 6 at the Sheraton on Capitol Square. Talking points and resources are available on the OLC website. Sen. Jay Hottinger has been invited to receive the Andrew Carnegie award. Also, First Lady Fran DeWine has been invited to receive a special recognition for her work with Early Child Literacy and the Imagination Library.

OLC Legislative Day Prep Webinar. OLC will be hosting a Legislative Day Preparation webinar on March 21, 2022. It will outline steps to take before Legislative Day, including making appointments with legislators and using the advocacy tools on the OLC website.

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

2022 OLC Convention and Expo. The Seagate Convention Center officially changed their name to the Glass City Center. The new ballroom at the Glass City Center will be done in August and we plan to have the General Sessions in that space.

2023-2025 OLC Convention and Expo. Staff have made site visits to the Dayton Convention Center and attached Radisson which will be undergoing extensive renovations. Staff also toured with Destination Cleveland on February 23.

Adult Service and Reference Conference. The first of the stand-alone conferences was yesterday. We had approximately 100 participants virtually.

Leadership and Management Conference. The conference will be held on May 20th at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Conference. The conference will be held on October 19th in Independence, Ohio.

COMMUNICATIONS
REPORT

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

Legislative Day. Resources and advocacy tools have been added to the OLC website. Collateral materials are being developed for the day of the event.

Convention and Expo. Information continues to be added to the Convention and Expo microsite. A save-the-date postcard will be mailed at the end of May.

Awards and Honors. Articles continue to be placed in *Access Weekly*. Staff and the Committee are looking for more creative ways to promote the program.

Social Media Stats. Jacobsen noted there has been more engagement on Twitter and Facebook in the past 30 days.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
REPORT

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

2022 Membership. There was a total of 1878 individual members as of February 28, which is ahead of the February 2021 date.

Quick Poll. The Committee placed a one-question poll in *This Week* on February 7 asking Directors their policy on paying individual dues for staff members. A second notice was sent on February 16 via email.

NEXT MEETING

The next meetings are scheduled for May 13 at the OLC Office; July 15 at the OLC Office; September 16, via Zoom; and November 18 at the OLC Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Francis recognized Seeberg and Armstrong and thanked them for agreeing to present at the Trustee Workshop which is scheduled for tomorrow.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board took a break at 12:03 and will return at 12:10 p.m. for an Executive Session.

HERRICK MOVED AND KUONEN SECONDED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:12 P.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

FIFAREK MOVED AND CLEVIDENCE SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:42 PM. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

HERRICK MOVED AND SEEBERG SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE OLC BOARD AT 12:43 PM. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.