

# 1 December 1997-31 May 1998

## From OHRAB

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board  
Interim Report  
1 December 1997- 31 May 1998

The board's activities during the reporting period included two meetings, the planning of an online imaging project that will be tied into the Ohio Bicentennial Celebration, and the continuation of work on the Historical Records Repository Survey (HRRS). These projects and others all support The Ohio 2003 Plan. The board meetings also took on a new format that seeks to actively engage local members of the archives and historical communities, providing them the opportunity to meet with the board in special sessions. Designed to encourage grant submissions, these sessions provide overviews of the various projects OHRAB is currently involved in and open the floor to questions from participants.

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This period also saw the full appointment of the board, with all vacancies filled. There were a total of 5 re-appointments and one new appointment: Keith Corman, a Hamilton County Court Bailiff, was appointed in September of 1997. He replaced outgoing member Dennis Harrison (see attached roster).

On 5 December 1997, OHRAB met at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus for the first time under the new support grant, which was awarded by the NHPRC in November. The meeting was the 5th meeting of the past fiscal year, which included two prior meetings held outside of Columbus, one at the Toledo Museum of Art and one at the Youngstown Historical Center of Labor & Industry.

The board discussed the standing of the Dayton Art Institute's proposal, which was submitted to the NHPRC for the November deadline. Also under discussion was the regrant proposal the "Bicentennial Scrapbook." As drafted by a subcommittee of three board members, the proposal centered on the creation of an on-line digital image library. This library would document the history of the state of Ohio through the use of images and photographs. The images would be submitted from libraries, historical societies, archives and museums from around the state. The board heard that Greg Byerly of Kent State University agreed to serve on the subcommittee and help draft the final proposal. Carol Roddy, Director of OPLIN (Ohio Public Library Information Network), also agreed to serve on the subcommittee.

The board also heard reports on the Local Government Records Program Initiative. The LGILS is designed to increase accessibility of local government information. It will also improve management of resources devoted to the management of local government information in both paper and computer forms. The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board introduced and has long supported the LGILS as part of the implementation process of The Ohio 2003 Plan. The Executive Board of the Ohio Historical Society Trustees endorsed the proposal on 13 March, and response to the proposal has been favorable around the state.

The first meeting of 1998 was held 20 March at the Oberlin College Archives in Oberlin. The board heard a report from J.D. Britton of the Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office on the standing of the HRRS. The board

agreed to compile and analyze the Ohio results of this survey with the aim of sharing the results with not only the survey respondents, but also all interested parties in the state.

Charlie Arp, Assistant State Archivist, reported on the Electronic Records Initiative Program. Called for in The Ohio 2003 Plan(1) and evolved through a consultant grant awarded by the NHPRC, the proposal was designed to help the Society refine its plan to develop an electronic records program and establish the Electronic Records Archives. Arp presented the final report, titled Establishing the Ohio Electronic Records Archives. In the report, Hedstrom recommended the most appropriate methods for achieving the State Archives' goals.

Arp then gave a demonstration to the board of the proposed Ohio Government Information Locator System (OGILS). The OGILS will allow for the inputting of records retention data directly from the field, and will also provide the public with access to government records information.

Arp spoke to the board on the Local Government Records plan. Again, as called for in The Ohio 2003 Plan(2), the proposal seeks to establish statewide funding of the eight Local Government Records Centers located around the state, create a re-grant program, provide for staffing, and establish guidelines and standards. It calls for funding to come from a statewide surcharge at the county level. The revenue will be divided up, with 50% staying in the county, 25% going to fund the program, and 25% for the re-grants. Arp told the board that he has presented the plan to various groups statewide, and so far, the response has been enthusiastic. Arp and the Local Government Records committee believe that this program will help fund an "unfounded mandate" of the state that called for the establishment of the Local Government Records Centers. Arp said that the money will not meet all the current needs, but will correct the glaring weak points of the State Archives program. The board adopted a resolution of support for the Local Government Records Initiative, as drafted by the statewide Local Government Records committee.

The board also agreed to the proposal that the Local History Office of the Ohio Historical Society become actively involved in assisting OHRAB in the implementation of a stronger grant program. Raising the awareness of the NHPRC grant process is a key concern of the board. J.D. Britton was named as official liaison between OHRAB and the Local History Office.

Discussion continued on the Ohio Bicentennial Scrapbook project. Under the guidance of the board, a 13-member committee(3) that reflects the wide interest shown by the archival and library communities was named to proceed with the project. Plans were discussed for submission of a grant proposal to the Institute for Museum Library Sciences (IMLS) that would fund early stages of the project. These would include digitalization demonstrations, a publicity campaign, and a web site.

The board agreed to continue working with the Dayton Art Institute on its plans to revise and re-submit their proposal to the NHPRC.

The next OHRAB meetings were scheduled for 5 June at the National African American Museum in Wilberforce, and 21 August at Campus Martius in Marietta.

Respectfully submitted,

George Parkinson  
Deputy Coordinator

(1) Level-Two Objective: "To work with interested parties to ensure the preservation of electronic records and to identify and reformat important government records." (The Ohio 2003 Plan, March 1995)

(2) Level-Four Objective: "To collaborate with the Ohio Network of American History Research Centers and other interested parties to promote archival and records management programming by and among state and local governments." (The Ohio 2003 plan, March 1995)

(3) Board members Jonathan Dembo; Michael Lucas; Gary Ness; George Parkinson; and James Oda; along with Sharon Antle and Jim Strider of the Society; Greg Byerly of Kent State University; Raimund Goerler of the Ohio State University Archives; Fran Haley, Head of the Ohio Library Council; Meribah Mansfield, Head of Worthington Public Libraries; Kent Minor of the Ohio Department of Education; and Carol Roddy, the Director of the Ohio Public Information Network.

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