

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
Final Report – NHPRC 2005-028
December 1, 2004 – April 30, 2007

An administrative support grant, NHPRC 2005-028, in the amount of \$10,000 allowed the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) to continue to plan and implement activities integral to its mission of advocating, nurturing and advising programs that identify, preserve, and provide access to Ohio's documentary heritage. The extension of this grant through April 30, 2007 permitted the remaining funds to be expended on board meetings and related activities.

This final narrative report highlights activities resulting from the board's nine meetings during this period. Eight of those meetings convened at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus, Ohio; one meeting took place at the Cincinnati Museum Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. A more complete narrative of board activities can be found in meeting minutes located on the OHRAB website (<http://www.ohiojunction.net/ohrab/index.html>).

Work to increase the number of successful NHPRC grant applicants

- In March 2005, a mailing was sent to directors of selected Ohio historical societies, public libraries, museums, and college and university libraries, encouraging those institutions to consider applying for NHPRC grants.
- OHRAB sponsored a grant-writing workshop on April 13, 2005 in conjunction with the Society of Ohio Archivists' spring meeting.
- Board member Laurie Gemmill served as a mentor for an NHPRC grant application to preserve and increase access to three historically significant Ohio Historical Society collections by using a multi-faceted workflow model that incorporates Encoded Archival Description (EAD) and digitization into its existing archival processing workflow. The board heard a presentation on the grant project and provided comments and suggestions on the application.
- The board hosted NHPRC Director Max Evans at its April 19, 2006 meeting in conjunction with the Society of Ohio Archivists meeting. Mr. Evans gave the plenary address and participated in the OHRAB sponsored session *National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) Funding in Ohio*. Also participating in the session were board member Charlie Arp and NHPRC grant recipient Christine Schmid with the American Jewish Archives. This session focused on developing competitive proposals and encouraged prospective applicants to work with OHRAB early in the process.
- OHRAB was notified that the Hebrew Union College received NHPRC funding for a second year in the amount of \$61,152.

Demonstrate Support for Ohio's Archives Week

- OHRAB obtained a gubernatorial proclamation designating October 8–14 as Ohio's Archives Week in 2006. The board invited representatives of the National Afro-American Museum, leadership of the Society of Ohio Archivists and members of its Archives Week committee to be on hand for the presentation and a photograph with Governor Taft. The proclamation and photograph are available on the OHRAB website at www.ohiojunction.net/ohrab/index.html.
- OHRAB contributed \$736.30 to cover the cost of mailing 1320 copies of Ohio's Archives Week poster. The theme was "African Americans in Ohio."

Demonstrate Support for National History Day

- OHRAB members demonstrated support for National History Day through active participation as judges at regional and statewide competitions each year. Barbara Floyd and James C. Oda served as judges at district competitions in 2005 and 2006. Laurie Gemmill served as a judge at the district level in 2005 and state competition in 2006. William Laidlaw served as judge at the state competition in 2006. Marjorie McLellan served on the National History Day advisory committees for the Dayton Public Schools and the Montgomery County Educational Services Center, judged in three local history day competitions, and helped to coordinate the Dayton History Day which has been a regional competition on its own for the past three years due to its size.
- OHRAB contributed \$1000 to National History Day in Ohio to help cover costs of photocopying and creating the program.

Electronic records training

- OHRAB co-sponsored a training workshop on sustainability in conjunction with the Society of Ohio Archivists and OCLC on October 11, 2005. The workshop, which attracted 24 participants, focused on how to continue with grant-funded projects once the funding runs out. The workshop was led by Liz Bishoff, Special Assistant to the Dean and Head of the Office of Sponsored Programs at the University of Colorado.

Records conference focused on the needs of OHRAB constituents

- OHRAB partnered with the Ohio Historical Society to host the Society of Ohio Archivists meeting in Columbus in April 19-21, 2006. NHPRC Executive Director Max Evans gave the plenary address and participated in the OHRAB sponsored session *National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) Funding in Ohio*.

Advocating for Ohio's documentary heritage and Strengthening OHRAB as a partner in Ohio's documentary heritage

- On March 1, 2006, board members Raimund Goerler and Marjorie McLellan participated in Statehood Day. As part of Statehood Day, they and a few other participants met with

Rep. Scott Oelslager to once again discuss the idea of funding, through HB 9 or other means, for local government records in Ohio.

- Board members also participated in advocacy efforts during the 2007 Statehood Day events on March 1. In meetings with legislators and key state government officials, board member Rai Goerler, state coordinator William K. Laidlaw and deputy coordinator Jelain Chubb focused their discussions on the need to increase funding for the State Archives program.
- Throughout the grant period the board monitored and discussed legal issues and proposed legislation impacting Ohio's public records.
 - In April 2006, the board, in conjunction with the Society of Ohio Archivists, drafted a resolution denouncing the Supreme Court of Ohio's decision in *Dann v. Taft*, which allows for executive privilege to be applied to records of the governor. The resolution was sent to major newspapers in Ohio and was cited in an article in the *Toledo Blade*.
 - The board offered testimony before the House Committee on Civil and Commercial Law in support of Ohio House Bill 9, which seeks to improve access to public records while increasing penalties for non-compliance. The board also made some suggestions for funding records management at the local level. As a result, the board was asked to participate in several private and interested party meetings.

The financial support received from the NHPRC makes it possible for OHRAB and the dedicated record-keepers in Ohio to preserve and improve access to the historical records that document our great state and its people.

Attachments:

Meeting Minutes - January 27, 2007

(Minutes for the April 20, 2007 meeting will be forwarded to NHPRC after approval by the board at its October meeting.)