

OHIO HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Minutes, October 25, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tina Ratcliff, Robin Heise, Helen Conger, Virginia Dressler, Meghan Hays, Tami Kelly, Lonna McKinley, Bill Modrow, Brenda Ransom, Chris Shaw, Michelle Sweetser, Linda Swanson, Fred Previts, Connie Conner

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Megan Wood, Lisa Smilnak

I. Welcome

- a. Ratcliff called the online meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Board members introduced themselves to guest speaker, America 250 Ohio Communications Director Chris Hurtubise.

II. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting were included in the meeting packet for review.
- b. Modrow moved to approve the minutes and Shaw seconded the motion.

III. Strategic Discussion

- a. OHRAB Budget: Previts reported that \$600 of the Professional Development funds are left as there were no applications for the fall scholarship cycle. At the last meeting, the remaining \$1,600 of travel funds were considered for regrants, but the Regrant Committee decided against using the funds. Ratcliff shared that Dressler had investigated creating preservation kits which would include photo enclosures, file folders, tissue paper, a USB drive and a PH pen for approximately \$2400. These would be distributed to smaller archival repositories. Shipping was also discussed, including if SearchOhio could be an option for distributing the kits. The board also discussed approaching the Ohio Local History Alliance and the Ohio Preservation Council about participating. Hays motioned to use the surplus funds to make and distribute preservation kits, pending approval of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to reallocate the funds. McKinley seconded the motion and all approved.
- b. America 250 Ohio Commission Update: Chris Hurtubise, Communications Director for the America 250 Ohio Commission, gave a presentation on the commission's activities and events. This included the America 250 community grants program, the 4th grade history pass, the Trails and Tales program and the July 2026 Ohio Homecoming and Picnic. The board discussed how it could support the activities, in particular by contributing to a possible genealogy packet for the Homecoming and Picnic and through the commission's Next Gen Citizens education initiatives.
- c. Committee and Organizational Updates: Ratcliff reported that the Awards Committee chose two recipients for the Citizen Archivist award. One is Jim Hearlihy, who has been volunteering at the Clark County Historical Society to index the Springfield Sun collection. The other will be publicly revealed in November after the award is presented at the request of the nominating repository to keep it as a surprise. Ratcliff shared that

there were several good nominations for the Achievement Award with the Union County Records Center and Archives receiving the honor for this year.

For the Regrants Committee, Ratliff shared that Dressler hopes to hold a webinar on applying for the grant and using grant recipients to share their experiences. Previts indicated that this year's interim reports are on the website and the committee will address any updates that are needed for the 2025 procedures.

Heise reported that the Advocacy Committee is publicizing any news that is shared. An updated brochure will be published next year, pending funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

IV. New Business

a. Board member terms were discussed. The following members have terms expiring in 2025 and are eligible for re-appointment:

- Smilnak (an at-large appointment) January 28, 2025
- Heise (a gubernatorial appointee) March 31, 2025
- Swanson (representative of the Ohio Genealogical Society) May 15, 2025
- Modrow (representative of the Society of Ohio Archivists) August 23, 2025

The following member's term expires in 2025 and is not eligible for reappointment due to term limits:

- Hays (an at-large appointment) March 31, 2025
- b. Board members discussed the election of the chair and vice chair which will take place at the January meeting.
- c. Discussion of supporting Ohio History Day will need to wait until the January meeting when the board will know what funding it has for the year.
- d. Ratcliff talked about attending the Ohio Underground Railroad conference and shared how a map of Underground Railroad stops coordinates with the manumission map.

V. **Closing:** Modrow moved to adjourn and Kelly seconded. All approved the motion, and the meeting concluded at 11:30 a.m.