

OHIO HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Minutes, April 25, 2025

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

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Bill Modrow, Megan Wood

I. Welcome

- a. Ratcliff called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. at the Grove City City Hall. She welcomed new member Greta Suiter, Manuscripts Archivist at Ohio University and expressed thanks and congratulations to Lonna McKinley, who has retired from the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Robin Heise has left the Greene County Records Center and Archives and now owns a consulting company, Legacy Digital Solutions.

II. Consent Agenda

- a. Ratcliff referred to the board meeting packet which included the consent agenda and reports from the Ohio Electronic Records Committee and CARMA. Ransom moved to approve the minutes and Kelly seconded. All approved.

III. Strategic Discussion

- a. OHRAB Budget: Previts reported that there is money left over from printing the brochures and that the regrant funds will soon be spent. The manumission project fellowship is postponed to next year.
- b. Committee and Organizational Updates: Ratcliff shared that she and Shaw attended Ohio History Day and presented an award in the junior category for a paper about the Kent State shooting. The senior category winner was a documentary about the Capitol Crawl protest for disability rights. Much of the research for the project was conducted at the Cleveland State Library. On May 20, Previts, Ratcliff and Shaw will talk with Ohio History Day staff about funding support.

Ratcliff reported that there were four applications for professional development scholarships. Board members discussed the applications and chose two recipients. The call for Citizen Archivist nominations will go out next and the announcement for Archival Achievement Award nominations will go out in August.

Dressler reported that the Regrant Committee received 20 applications requesting more than \$81,000 total. The committee awarded a total of \$30,410 to nine projects. Sweetser asked if a list of the recipients could be shared with her to post on social media.

For the Advocacy Committee, Sweetser asked board members to share announcements with her and Heise to share through social media. She also reported that the new brochure was printed and copies were distributed at Statehood Day.

Dressler shared that forty shoebox-sized kits of basic preservation tools have been created. The Ohio Preservation Council will provide \$200 for shipping. There will be an application process to receive the kits and a workshop on the use of the tools for the recipients. Ohio Local History Association may also provide a brochure for the kits. Members discussed if vendors could be solicited for donations.

Dressler reported that the Cultural Heritage and Ohio Symposium (CHaOS) will be held June 9, 2025 at the State Library. OHRAB is providing \$500 to pay for lunch. Registration is \$25. Heise and Kelly are interested in attending on behalf of OHRAB.

IV. New Business

- a. Ratcliff shared that attendees at the spring Ohio County Archivists and Records Managers Association (CARMA) meeting discussed the decreased production of microfilm and the need for digital preservation standards. CARMA formed a committee to look at this, as did the Ohio Electronic Records Committee. Board members discussed if OHRAB should assist with this and Kelly and Dressler volunteered to help on behalf of OHRAB.
- b. The board considered whether an America 250 committee should be formed. As it relates to advocacy, Sweetser and Heise will try to bring ideas to the July meeting.
- c. The board discussed the future of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NPRC), including if OHRAB could be funded through the state. It was suggested that Kevin Boehner, the Ohio History Connection's Director of Government Relations, be invited to the next OHRAB meeting.
- d. Dressler shared that the Ohio Preservation Council's (OPC) annual symposium will be August 1st at the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Branch. On May 8, OPC and the Ohio Digitization Interest Group (OhioDIG) will hold a meeting on disasters and disaster preparation with Western Reserve Historical Society, ICA-Art Conservation and Lyrasis at the Parsons Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Dressler also suggested that a preservation survey could foster collaboration between OPC and OHRAB.
- e. Conger mentioned that in 2026, Case Western Reserve University will be celebrating its bicentennial.
- f. Dressler and Ratcliff are doing a session on grants for the virtual day of The Society of Ohio Archivist annual meeting.
- g. Conner will inquire if the City of Gahanna can host the next meeting (otherwise it will be held virtually).

V. Closing: Kelly moved to adjourn and Dressler seconded. All approved the motion, and the meeting concluded at 11:45 a.m.