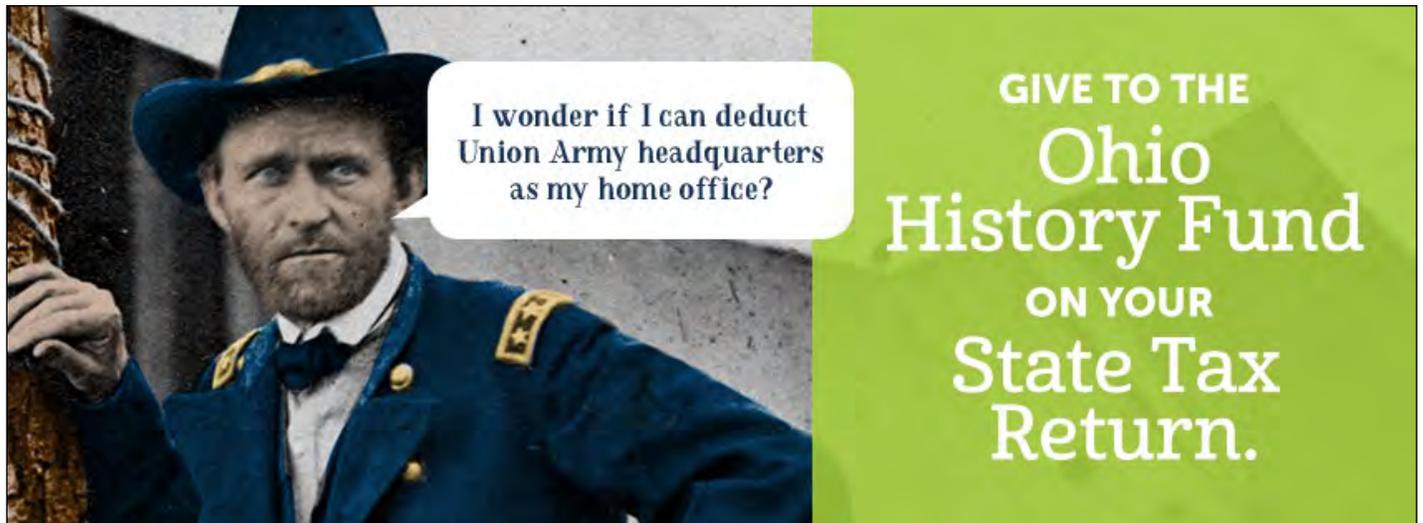


YEAR 9, 2020-2021

Ohio History Fund Grant Recipients



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By Andy Verhoff, Ohio History Fund & Outreach Manager, State Historic Preservation Office

The Ohio History Connection is proud to announce the 14 recipients of \$130,900 in grants from the Ohio History Fund for 2021. The History Fund is a competitive matching grant program now administered by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio History Connection. Money for the grants comes from you, who support the program in three ways: by contributing a portion of your [state income tax refund to the Ohio History Fund \(line 26a\)](#), by purchasing [Ohio History "mastodon" license plates](#), and by making direct [donations to the Ohio History Connection for the Ohio History Fund](#).

Your contribution of a part of your Ohio tax refund is the lifeblood of the program. Most of the money the Ohio History Fund grants comes through donations of parts of income tax refunds. Most of that is generated during tax season, ending for many with the filing deadline of April 15.

The average donation in 2020 was nearly \$10 from just over 12,000 donors. With that, as well as Ohio History "mastodon" license plate sales and direct donations to the Ohio History Connection, the History Fund supported the projects listed below. To stretch available funding of \$130,900 this year, the History Fund made partial grants of between 80-85% of the amounts requested.

Including these awards, the Ohio History Fund has made 94 grants in 38 counties totaling \$869,729 since 2013. Proving there is a strong need for the History Fund, it has received 437 grant proposals totaling \$5.3 million in requests.

To date, 46 Alliance members have received History Fund grants, totaling approximately \$450,000 (!!!). Four recipients this year are members of the Ohio Local History Alliance (indicated with **).

(continued on page 4)

President's Message:



February 18, 2021

Winter is here and as we all are shoveling ourselves out from under the snow that has finally started to fall around the state, OLHA has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming Regional Meetings and 2021 Annual Meeting with the theme, "Challenge Accepted: Overcoming Obstacles." The Regional Meeting structure this year is a prime example of the theme idea. We have all had to adapt to social distancing and changes to how programs and events are held within our organizations. OLHA has embraced the challenge by providing the new opportunity for two regions to unite virtually for this year's Regional Meetings.

We would all much rather have the opportunity to meet and network with colleagues within our region. However, as I alluded to in my last address, I try to find the silver lining in each difficult situation we have faced throughout the past year. The silver lining of virtual programming is the ability to attend a meeting that may not otherwise have been possible due to distance or weather. This year we have a double feature of regional representation at each meeting.

Our Regional Reps have done a fantastic job of selecting informative and timely programs that cover important topics including customer service, online programming, community engagement and funding. If you haven't registered for a regional meeting yet, be sure to do so soon since registration at the door isn't an option this year and all registrations must be made by the Friday before the meeting.

I'm excited to hear how our colleagues and fellow organizations have overcome obstacles over the past year to continue to serve our communities.

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2021's Ohio History Fund Grant Recipients

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY VOICES AT WYSO PUBLIC RADIO, YELLOW SPRINGS

\$12,240 for “WYSO Digital Audio Archives Strategic Plan.” Radio station WYSO has 5,000 audio recordings that document life in the Miami Valley and chronicle area responses to local and national events and movements between 1958 and 1990. While some recordings have been catalogued and digitized, the station recognizes that it needs to develop a master plan to address the bulk of the collection. Grant funds will engage an archives consultant to guide the process. The project is time-sensitive, as the station risks losing part of the collection due to physical deterioration or looming inability to playback obsolete recording formats.

CITY OF HUDSON CEMETERIES

\$17,000 for “Historic Old Hudson Township Burying Ground Restoration and Preservation.” A part of the Hudson Historic District, the cemetery was established in 1808 and holds the remains of notable citizens, such as Owen and Ruth Brown, parents of abolitionist John Brown, and David Hudson, for whom the town is named. Supported by this grant and building on an earlier condition assessment of the site, this project will result in the professional conservation of approximately 150 headstones and markers. An experienced cemetery conservator will lead the work. After it is complete, plans call for the nearby Western Reserve Academy to make more extensive use of the cemetery at an outdoor classroom and resource for teaching local history.

CITY OF NEW FRANKLIN

\$4,947 for “Tudor House Digital Floorplans and Section Blueprints.” Built in 1928 as a wedding gift, the Tudor House now is a city-owned and operated events center. To remain a responsible steward, it's imperative that the city maintain the house, preserve its historic appearance, and plan for its future. This is hampered, however, by incomplete blueprints and plans for the house. Many were lost during ownership changes and only 30 pages of the original set of approximately 126 pages have survived. To plan for house's future efficiently and accurately, the city needs to recreate complete basic floorplans and sections, on paper and in digital form, paid for by the grant.

CITY OF SHELBY

\$2,967 for “Shelby City Council Minutes Digitization Project.” The city will digitize and transcribe approximately 5,800 pages of city council minutes, incorporation records, and ordinances spanning 1863-1934. The 13 volumes containing these records are fragile and grant funds will pay a professional digitization company to complete the work. The goal of the project is to make the information in these primary sources accessible, as they record details about the beginnings of the community up to its early years as a small city in the 1920s and '30s. Little has been written about the city's history, but this project will make an effort easier by providing digital access to these records.

****DECORATIVE ARTS CENTER OF OHIO, LANCASTER**

\$7,735 for “Rising Family Digitization Project.” Acquired by the center in 2020, the Rising/Reece/Peters family papers document everyday life among Lancaster's leading families in the nineteenth century. Understanding their histories illuminates the decisions that determined the city's development. Not otherwise accessible except in person, digitizing the papers will make them widely and freely available for researchers and the general public through a partnership with the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Grant funds will pay the fee of a digitization specialist to complete the project.

DIVERSE MEDIA ZONE, COLUMBUS

\$15,398 for “A Higher Law: The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue” Documentary. In 1858, John Price, an Oberlin resident and formerly enslaved person, was captured by federal marshal, pursuant to the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. A crowd of antislavery men from Oberlin and Wellington later freed Price and helped him escape to Canada. The court trial of 37 of the rescuers in 1859 revealed how divided Ohio had become over slavery. Using grant funds to cover staff costs, hire production services, and pay some costs for supplies and equipment, the recipient will produce a half-hour documentary about this comparatively little-remembered event. The production will be screened in the Oberlin-Wellington area and elsewhere and will be broadcast on Ohio public television stations.

DUNHAM TAVERN MUSEUM, CLEVELAND

\$10,200 for the project “Dunham Tavern Museum Roof Rehabilitation.” Balancing budget constraints against the need to maintain a fully-functioning roof, this project will replace a section that it is no longer cost-effective to repair. Designated a Cleveland Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the tavern, a stagecoach stop built in 1824, is the oldest building on its original site in Cleveland. The tavern's location illustrates how much how the city has developed in nearly 200 years. A reviewer noted that “it's clear the applicant put a lot of thought and dedicated time into designing this project. Consulting CRS (Cleveland Restoration Society) and having a CAP [Conservation Assessment Program] assessment shows their commitment to ensuring the work is completed following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards (for Rehabilitation).”

GORMAN HERITAGE FARM FOUNDATION, EVENDALE

\$10,583 for the “Gorman Heritage Farm Historic Sign Project.” The project will place approximately 60 interpretive signs around the farm. The signage will situate the farm in its larger historical context, help visitors to understand food production, and identify farm buildings and equipment, as well as give directions. The signs will broaden the farm's interpretive reach, as not all visitors interact with farm staff, especially in the time of COVID. Self-guided visitors can read the signage at their leisure and the signs will be incorporated into school and other educational programs. Grant funds will be used to cover the project's staff time and pay the costs to create the signs.

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GREEN LAWN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, COLUMBUS

\$5,817 for the project “Separate But Equal? Policies and Practices of African American Burials at Green Lawn Cemetery.” The project will make possible research on burials of African Americans at the cemetery and share those findings with the public, in partnership with the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Identifying and documenting the burials will reveal not only information about the individuals interred, but also document changes in societal attitudes, practices, and policies over time as exemplified at Green Lawn. Grant funds will pay for the time and travel of the principal researcher and a subscription to software that will be used to present the findings of the project online.

****LORAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LORAIN**

\$8,415 for the “Latino Lorain History Project.” The grant will enable the society to hire a staff member to administer an oral history project. Building on already strong relationships, its goal is to collect oral histories from older members of the city’s Latino community (either in person or via conferencing software, subject to the state of the pandemic). In addition to indexed transcripts of the interviews, a result of the project will be virtual museum of the community hosted on the society’s website.

MALTZ MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE, CLEVELAND

\$3,400 for “Antiracism Training for Volunteer Docents.” The Maltz Museum “promotes an understanding of Jewish history, religion, and culture and builds bridges of tolerance and understanding with those of other religions, races, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds...” To further that mission, the museum wants to encourage its docents to examine the biases they bring to their work and in so doing begin to create an even better experience for visitors. Grant funds will bring an expert facilitator to the museum to conduct antiracism training. One reviewer wrote that “The applicant makes a compelling case for why this training is needed, especially at this time of increased awareness of the damage...implicit bias and systemic racism can do.”

****OVER-THE-RHINE MUSEUM, CINCINNATI**

\$16,286 for the project “Historic Structures Report.” A report describing in detail the history of the building and the diverse people who lived there over time is the next step in creating the Over-the-Rhine Museum. The report is necessary now because it will guide decisions on the refurbishment of the building and, later, the creation of exhibits. A reviewer goes on to add that “[t]his project not only capitalizes on the applicant’s existing momentum, it is a logical next step, and becomes even more important in the context of Cincinnati’s history, the current social justice movements, and the fast changing nature of the neighborhood as it undergoes rapid redevelopment.”

****TRUMBULL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WARREN**

\$12,045 for “Saving Warren’s Urban Renewal Archive (SWURA).” This grant will pay in part the costs of hiring the staff necessary and the equipment and supplies required to preserve and make accessible records of Urban Renewal in the City of Warren. The approximately 750 documents this project will save form a record of lost streetscapes and neighborhoods. The project is urgent because without it the continued existence of these rare materials is perilous. Once catalogued, the records will be available in an online archive available to the public.

WATERVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WATERVILLE

\$3,867 for the “Wakeman Hall HVAC System.” A relatively small grant, plus match, will have a big impact on this volunteer-run organization. The new HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) system this grant makes possible is replacing a twenty-year-old system at the end of its useful life. The money the organization will save in repairs to a failing unit will instead be budgeted for other mission-fulfilling projects. More importantly, Wakeman Hall’s new unit will provide better climate control for the preservation of the historical materials kept inside and better provide for the comfort of volunteers and patrons.

Congratulations to this year’s grant recipients!

Applications for 2022’s round of grants will be available in mid-June on the Ohio History Fund’s web site: www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund. In the meantime, contact Andy Verhoff, the Ohio History Fund’s manager, with questions: averhoff@ohiohistory.org or 614.562.4490.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Barb Piscopo, Executive Director of the Lorain Historical Society, has been named the recipient of the **Eric Nord Award for Excellence in Leadership**, presented by Leadership Lorain County. She was chosen for this award in recognition of her work to preserve, honor, and connect the rich history of the community and ensure its legacy into the future.

Barb Piscopo currently serves as the Executive Director of the Lorain Historical Society. During her tenure, she has come to learn much about the history of the City and its rich tradition as “The International City”. What she is most passionate about in her work is helping people to envision a future for the City, one that is respectful of its past but that is eager to embrace the opportunities that the future holds.

Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote:

The Legacy of Elizabeth Greer Coit

By Leslie Blankenship, OLHA
Trustee-at-Large and Local
Historian.

Originally published in the *Worthington Historical Society Intelligencer*, November 2020. Reprinted by permission.

The reporter from the *Cincinnati Enquirer* stepped into Sinton Hall in the YMCA building at the corner of Seventh and Walnut Streets in Cincinnati. His assignment to cover the 13th Annual Conference of the Ohio Woman's Suffrage Association (OWSA) began by attending their Executive Committee meeting the afternoon of October 17, 1898.

This was only the second time that OWSA met deep in Southern Ohio. Founded in 1869, the state suffrage organization's largest membership and strength lay in the progressive counties of the Connecticut Western Reserve—the birthplace of Ohio's abolition movement. The Queen City was a challenge for suffragists because of a conservative culture dominated by the patriarchal beliefs of its German immigrants and a sizable brewing industry hostile to woman suffrage's threat of temperance and prohibition. Cincinnati's Twentieth Century Woman's Suffrage Club had sponsored the event and worked diligently to make it a success.

Scanning the room, the reporter took in the suffrage-yellow drapings adorning the hall and a bowl of yellow roses on a table on the stage where a large yellow floral star was uplifted on a standard bearing the name "Ohio." Also on the stage was the American flag of Susan B. Anthony, the featured speaker of the conference. Instead of multiple stars on the blue field for the states, her flag had only four yellow stars: one for each state that had granted woman suffrage: Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, and Utah.

The reporter cast his eyes across the audience as committee members began taking their seats. At last, he found what he was looking for. He recognized it immediately in the countenance of

an elderly woman "whose venerable face bespeaks the courage and peace of a victor." It was *the woman* who could encapsulate the history of women suffrage in the story of her life. His eyes had landed on Mrs. Elizabeth Greer Coit, state Treasurer of OWSA.

This woman of deep integrity and quiet gravitas immediately impressed him. "Few women," he later wrote in his account of the conference, "have the good fortune to see as much fruition of her devoted toil as Mrs. Coit. Her personality is a strong argument and conclusion of historical characteristics of the movement in Ohio. All her instincts and aspirations are linked with the interests of the state. She was born in Worthington, Ohio in 1820, Elizabeth Greer, and married Mr. Harvey Coit of Columbus in 1844. Living at the capital, she has felt the injustices of every intense condition which has swept over the commonwealth in the last 50 years. She has been involved in this movement for woman suffrage from its inception and has woven into the web of her womanly nature the hallowed memory of some of Ohio's greatest minds—not seated with honored men around the statues at the State Capitol—but deeply ingrained with the history of freedom in this state of most honored men. ...She is the living link between the great past and the living present, greatly honored by all her associations in the work."

The next afternoon, Mrs. Coit delivered a



Elizabeth Coit Greer. Image courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

paper entitled "The Status of Women in 1848" where she compared what it was like being a suffragist then and now—fifty years later. "The attitude of communities has changed," she explained. "People formerly burlesqued the suffragists; now women who have espoused the cause receive the utmost consideration, are entertained at the loveliest homes, carriages are now at their disposal, &c." she quipped.

It had indeed been a long journey from 1820 to 1898 for Elizabeth Greer Coit. She was the fourth daughter of immigrants who came from Northern Ireland to Worthington in 1814: Joseph Greer from Belfast and Nancy Dixon Greer from Carrick Fergus. Her father, a skilled cabinet maker, came to work in James Kilbourne's Worthington Manufacturing Company. On August

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The Greer House at 48 South Street still stands today. Courtesy of the Worthington Historical Society.

4, 1829, tragedy struck the family when Joseph, an infant, and a toddler died of the *cholera morbis*, leaving Nancy Greer to provide for her seven remaining children.

Elizabeth's character was molded by her young life in Worthington and the strong women who inhabited her circle. Her mother supported the family by taking in laundry and tailoring, nursing, keeping rooms, and serving at meals for the young medical students who attended the Ohio Reformed Medical College, which began in Worthington in 1830. From 1839-1841, Elizabeth learned from role-model Miss Sereptu Marsh, the intellectual, no-nonsense Principal of the Worthington Female Seminary (the first such institution west of the Alleghenies), where she was a student and later an assistant teacher. These women made the best of their limited opportunities at a time when women were barred from owning property, keeping their wages, having custody of their children, and pursuing higher education.

Preoccupied with child-bearing and child-rearing in the 1840s and 1850s, Elizabeth must have read about the various annual Women's Rights Conventions held across Ohio in the 1850s, but she was unable to attend. These conventions ceased when the War of the Rebellion began in April 1861, and women turned their attention to sewing shirts, knitting socks, scraping

lint, and raising money for the war effort. Elizabeth helped write the Constitution for the Columbus Soldier's Aid Society and strongly advocated on behalf of sick and wounded soldiers for three years. During the early 1860s, she developed the administrative and networking skills with other women doing war work that served her well in her later suffrage activities.

On June 18, 1884, Elizabeth experienced a turning point in her life when she and her adult daughter Belle attended in Columbus the first conference of the OWSA held since 1873. The Ohio State Journal mocked the conference, tagging it with the headline "Female Frivolities." Elizabeth found herself presiding at the sessions. A week later on June 24, she founded and became President of the first woman suffrage organization in Columbus—the Columbus Equal Rights Association. This group met monthly in her home at the corner of Rich and Third Streets, two blocks south of the Statehouse. The next year, she offered her services as Treasurer of the organization. Annual dues were \$1.00.

Together with new OWSA President, Frances Jennings Casement of Painesville, Lake County, Elizabeth stabilized the organization and carried it forward. The organization met annually from 1884 until its last conference in May 1920 when it disbanded and reemerged as the Ohio League of Women

Voters. From 1884 until 1900, Elizabeth never missed an OWSA conference, presenting the Treasurer's Report and a paper or a memorial. During that time she lobbied Congress for passage of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment and the Ohio Statehouse for a state suffrage amendment, for school board suffrage, for equal educational and employment opportunities and for laws to protect women.

Her house was always open to visiting suffragists, such as Mary Livermore, Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, and Frances Willard of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. She passed away on May 29, 1901 at the age of 81. The cause of death was exhaustion. She was laid to rest in Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus at the end of a row where five of her babies had preceded her. Daughter Belle Coit Kelton continued Elizabeth's work until the 19th Amendment was finally certified by the U.S. Secretary of State on August 26, 1920—henceforward called Women's Equality Day—144 years after the founding of our nation.

At the Statehouse, a plaque, placed there in 1933 by the Ohio League of Women Voters, honors 47 notable Ohio suffragists. Elizabeth and her daughter Belle are the only mother-daughter duo so honored.

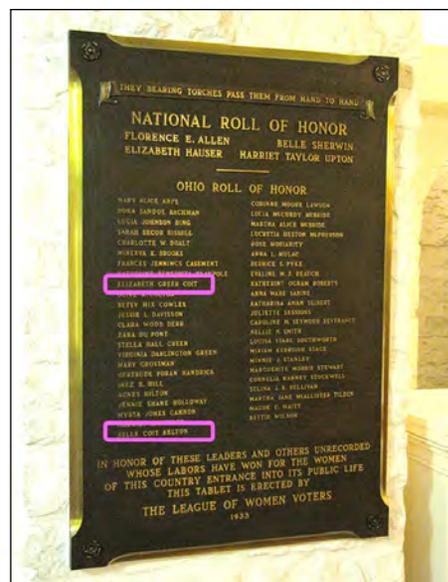
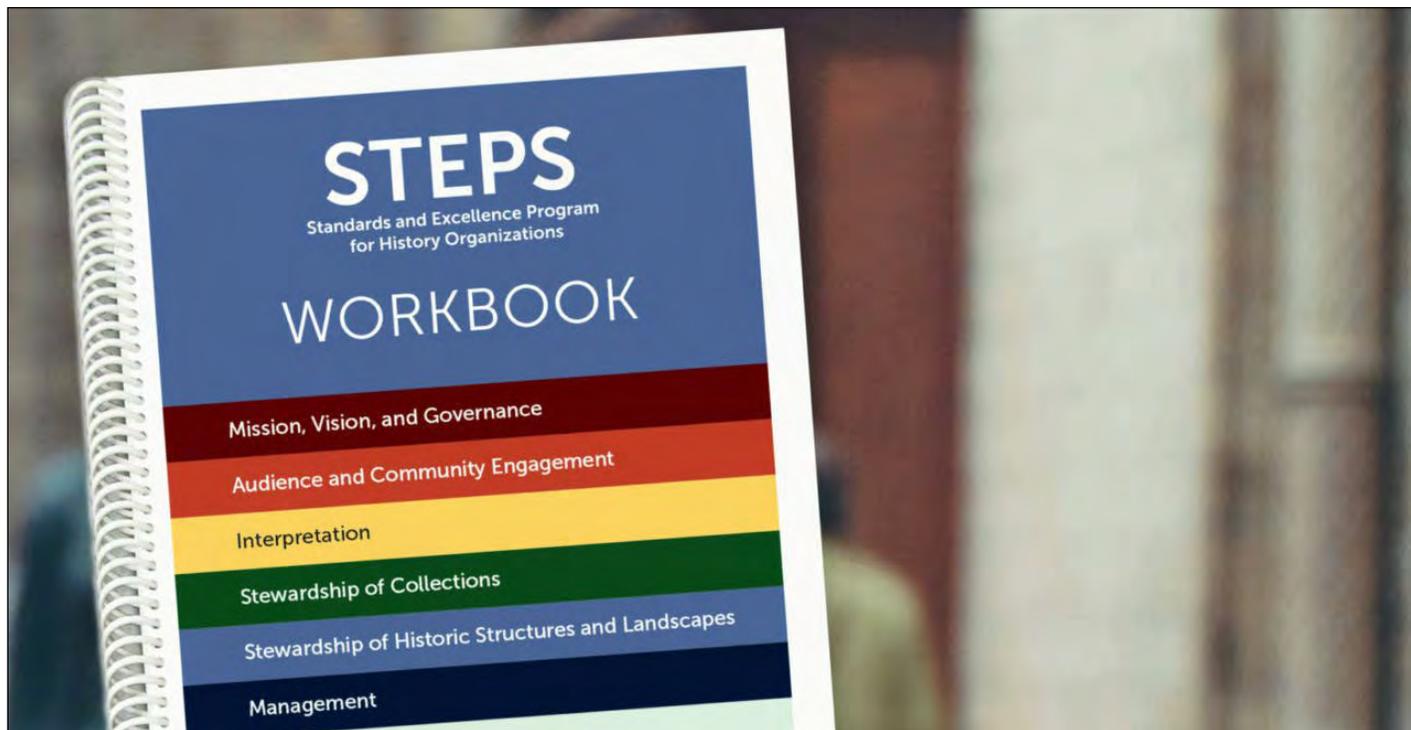


Image courtesy of Leslie Blankenship.

Reaching Excellence One Step at a Time



By John Dichtl, AASLH President and CEO.

Originally published by the American Association of State and Local History, January 25, 2021. Reprinted by permission.

After ten years of helping more than 1,100 institutions move forward through self-assessment, this month AASLH relaunches the [Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations \(STEPS\)](#). This is an exciting moment for a great program that has become even better.

If you are familiar with STEPS, you know it is a blueprint, a guide to improving the practices and policies of history institutions. STEPS helps small and mid-sized history museums and historical societies see the total picture and to function more effectively. Piece-by-piece, attending to the small things can add up to big change. Crucially, STEPS is designed to dovetail with the work you are already doing. It is not meant to add to your workload, but instead to help your organization set and attain reachable goals.

When STEPS appeared in 2009, it was the first time the field had performance indicators to help organizations figure out how close they were to national standards. With dozens of colleagues and partner institutions, we built STEPS on the standards in the museum field's [Continuum of Excellence](#). That means STEPS has always shared many of the same standards with

the American Alliance of Museums' MAP and Accreditation Programs. Advancing from STEPS to these programs is a smooth transition. And because the performance indicators were broken into "Basic" achievement, "Good" and "Better" in the STEPS Workbook, it is always clear how close you are to meeting national standards and exactly what you need to do to get there.

Step-by-step, institutions can benchmark themselves in six areas: Mission, Vision, and Governance; Audience and Community Engagement; Interpretation; Stewardship of Collections; Stewardship of Historic Structures and Landscapes; and Management.

So what's new with the program as of 2021? Well, there is a wholly refreshed online community site providing discussion space and supplying supplementary materials for those enrolled in STEPS. Some of the best advice comes from conversations with peers who are engaging with the same questions that you are.

Most importantly, the STEPS Workbook has been comprehensively revised. Beginning in 2017 with the help of an army of volunteers and contributors, we addressed changing expectations in the field, particularly in the areas of inclusion, equity, community engagement, relevance, financial management, and digital collections. Seven overarching standards—covering issues of public trust, accountability, inclusion and equity, ethics, environmental sustainability, and technology—have been integrated into each of the six

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main subject areas. In addition, the language used for the performance indicators is more clearly scaled. That is, at the “Basic” level, institutions are called on simply to be “aware,” to “describe,” or to “discuss” questions, practices, and policies related to the national standards. At the “Good” level, they are called on to take more active steps: “develop,” “create,” “collect,” “adopt,” or “consult.” And at the “Better” level, institutions are asked to “commit” to or take higher-level action on more challenging objectives, sometimes involving stakeholders or outside experts.

AASLH is not only releasing this improved version of STEPS, we are using it to strengthen and systematize all our professional development offerings. The national standards outlined in STEPS will be addressed, step-by-step with performance indicators, in AASLH’s growing curriculum of webinars, workshops, and online courses.

In other words, each AASLH learning opportunity should help STEPS participants make progress towards achieving “Basic,” “Good,” and “Better” levels.

We were fortunate to have so much assistance in enhancing this program. AASLH’s Cherie Cook, who helped to create STEPS and who single-handedly administered the program for more than a decade, distilled suggestions from many colleagues and completed months of editing in late fall before retiring from AASLH. I am enormously grateful to her for making this great program ever-better. She always saw that STEPS was an incredibly valuable tool for positive change. There are many other colleagues to thank, especially Nina Zannieri of the Paul

Revere Memorial Association, Scott Wands of Connecticut Humanities, and Max van Balgooy of Engaging Places LLC for their commitment to making STEPS stronger and more widely used. They and others have provided many hours of direction to this program, and the staff and I are grateful.

As a participant once recalled, “STEPS helped us be more forward thinking rather than getting stuck in day-to-day challenges.” I believe that sums up the value of the program. Like any good assessment or planning tool, STEPS requires an investment of time that will pay off many times over. One has to step back from the daily press of obligations to look at the bigger picture, and then make adjustments piece-by-piece, practice-by-practice, policy-by-policy. Over the years, STEPS participants have shared their successes in doing this: “Our credibility in the community has increased as people understand we are committed to this assessment process.” Another reported: “STEPS showed us we’re on the right track and, more importantly, it made our board understand there’s a reason why we have to pay attention to these things.”

With the relaunch of STEPS, we invite all history organizations to join those who are using the program to become stronger, more effective institutions. If you are interested in learning more about meeting national standards and best practices, visit our [website](#) to enroll in the updated program or watch the free informational webinar, *Is Your Organization Ready for Self-Assessment?* Already enrolled in STEPS and looking to start fresh? Email learn@aslh.org and we will help you get started with the new workbook and online STEPS Community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

2020 Local History Publication Awards

The Center for Archival Collections at Bowling Green State University is accepting submissions for the Local History Publication Awards. Works published between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 will be accepted.

The Awards Committee will recognize authors for outstanding publications in two divisions. The Academic Scholar Division will include works prepared and submitted by authors who are professional writers or academicians. The Independent Scholar Division will include works prepared and submitted by independent or local researchers,

amateurs, and other creative writers who do not claim “history” as a profession. Each Division winner will receive a \$300 cash award and plaque.

Eligible works must address an historical topic within the nineteen-county region of northwest Ohio. Works shall be judged by the Awards Committee on: literary merit, overall significance and contribution to explaining and understanding the history of the region. Consideration also will be given for style and content. Other considerations will include grammar, accuracy, illustrations, layout, indexes, and distribution.

To submit a work, authors should send two copies to the Center for Archival Collections, 5th Floor, William T. Jerome Library, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403, postmarked by March 31, 2021. All works submitted become the property of the CAC. For complete information about the award and submissions, please see www.bgsu.edu/library/cac/services/engagement/guidelines.html. For further information, please contact **Jennifer Long Morehart** at the CAC at 419-372-9614 or jmoreha@bgsu.edu.



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Open Now: the 2020 National Visitation Survey

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) is currently accepting responses to their annual "National Visitation Survey for History Organizations," the only national effort to monitor and report on in-person visitation trends at history museums, historic sites, and other history organizations. This survey will help the field assess the impact extended closures from Covid-19, climate change, social unrest, and more had on our institutions last year. In addition to asking about changes to in-person visitation from 2019 to 2020, the survey includes a special section about the impact of the pandemic on operations, capacity restrictions, and staffing.

Your response is absolutely critical to this effort. With information about budget, staffing, and visitation on-hand, the survey should only take about ten minutes. Your contribution to this survey will help the entire field better understand the impact 2020 had on the history community and help AASLH provide better resources and support for the road ahead. Please complete the survey and encourage colleagues at other institutions to do the same.

The survey closes on March 31.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/Visitation2021B

Ohio History Day Call for Judges

Calling all educators, historians, museum professionals, and anyone with a love of history and community! We need your help to ensure this year's virtual [Ohio History Day](#) is a HUGE success for Ohio's students.

[Ohio History Day](#), an affiliate of National History Day, gives students in grades 4-12 the chance to become historians. Based on their own research and aligned to the [annual theme](#), students create exhibits, documentaries, performances, websites and academic papers, and present their findings at competitions. Thousands of students take part in Ohio History Day competitions across the state each year.

To ensure the safety of our students, teachers, judges and staff, this year all ten (10) regional contest and the State Contest will be held virtually. This means you can judge from the comfort of your own home! Ohio History Day students are some of the most dedicated, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic in the state, and by volunteering as a virtual judge you are playing a vital role in helping them continue their learning journey.

Interested in learning more? Check out Ohio History Day's [Judge Page](#) for helpful videos, resources, and testimonials from previous judges. To find an Ohio History Day contest and register as a virtual judge, please visit our [Sign Up! page](#).

Got questions? We have answers—feel free to contact us at historyday@ohiohistory.org. We hope to "see" you soon at a virtual Ohio History Day Contest!



CHALLENGE ACCEPTED:
OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Regional Meetings Begin Tomorrow!

There's still time to register for the 2021 Regional Meetings!

Registration is available from our website at ohiolha.org/what-we-do/regional-meetings/. Though we would be very grateful if you're able to register at the normal Regional Meeting price of \$30, we also understand that this has been a difficult year financially, so you will be able to choose the amount that you can afford (as low as \$1). As always, we encourage you to attend not only the meeting for your region, but any others that interest you. We will be recording the content sessions and making them available after the meetings.

We will hold 5 meetings this spring, for all 10 regions. We are combining two regional meetings into one virtual meeting each weekend. Virtual meetings will continue to function similarly to in-person regional meetings with a business meeting, elections, two content presentations, sharing time, and a "tour" of the host sites. Each Region will go into a "breakout room" for the Business Meeting, including the election of Regional Representatives. All meetings will begin at 9 am and adjourn at 12:30 pm. We will leave the meeting open until 1:30 for those who may wish to chat informally with colleagues over lunch.

The schedule and content sessions for the 2021 meetings are:

MARCH 6: REGIONS 5 & 10

Building and Maintaining a Relationship with Your Downtown and Community with Judy Bratten and Paul Zuros, Historic Fort Steuben

How to Handle Angry Visitors: COVID edition with Wendy Zucal and Jacob Masters, Dennison Railroad Depot Museum

MARCH 13: REGIONS 3 & 4

Cover Your ASSETS: Be Prepared with Mary Plazo, Akron-Summit County Public Library; Leianne Neff Heppner, Summit County Historical Society; and Greg Palumbo, Lakewood Historical Society

Adapting Your Programming to an Online Audience with Rebecca Urban, Peninsula Foundation; Melissa Karman, The Sutliff Museum; and Barbara Piscopo and Jenn McManamon, Lorain Historical Society

MARCH 20: REGIONS 8 & 9

Building an Internship Program to Involve Young People in Your Organization with Brad Davis, Southeast Ohio History Center

Overcoming Obstacles to Historic Preservation in Your Community with Tom O'Grady, Southeast Ohio History Center, and Carrie Rhodus, Ohio History Service Corps

APRIL 10: REGIONS 2 & 6

Overcoming Obstacles for the Preservation of Poindexter Village with Reita Smith, James Preston Poindexter Foundation

Grants for Your Institution: Where to Find Them and How to Get Them with Ron Davidson, Sandusky Libraries

APRIL 17: REGIONS 1 & 7

Online Educational Programs for a Pandemic and Beyond with Michael McMaster, Wood County Museum; Chris Moynihan, Armstrong Air and Space Museum; and Kyle Driscoll, Ohio History Service Corps

Storytelling as Research: Reaching Underserved Communities with Jo Ann Burkhardt, Defiance College



A Special Call to Underserved Audiences

The Ohio Historical Marker program is seeking marker applications that represent underserved audiences throughout Ohio. In particular, we are asking for Ohio stories about: people of color; immigrant communities; women; LGBTQ+; under-represented faith-based communities; and, people with disabilities. Additionally, counties with fewer than 12 markers will be considered as an underserved area and given a spot to tell their stories during this application cycle.

Applications will be due May 1, 2021. Details about the program — along with applications, price lists, grant information, and sample submissions — can be found online at www.RemarkableOhio.org.

During this "Special Call," only applications addressing the requested topics will be considered. The next OPEN application deadline will likely be May 1, 2022.

Please help the Ohio Historical Marker Program get the word out about this marker special call. Rack Cards and pdf announcements will be available soon. Contact Laura Russell, Historical Markers Coordinator, at lrussell@ohiohistory.org and she will happily answer questions about the call and get promotional materials to you.



**Museums Reimagined:
Opportunities to Reflect,
Recover and Reinvent**
Ohio Museums Association's
2021 Virtual Annual Conference

April 11-13, 2021 - Virtual Conference
Visit ohiomuseums.org for complete details

2021 OMA Virtual Annual Conference

April 11-13, 2021

Moonshot – noun – “an extremely ambitious or innovative project.”

This is our moonshot moment, museums. Amidst a year of disruption, upheaval and change, museums have had to reimagine our critical role and our impact. This is our opportunity to address the needs of our community, learn to navigate in innovative ways, and leave the “this is how we’ve always done it” mindset in the past.

How can we continue to evolve and use this opportunity to reexamine our operations, internal structures and how we execute our missions? How can museums transform, connect, and lead our community when it’s needed most?

Join us April 11-13 as we explore these topics and more at the 2021 Ohio Museums Association’s Virtual Annual Conference – *Museums Reimagined: Opportunities to Reflect, Recover and Reinvent*.

Visit ohiomuseums.org for complete details.

ON THE WEB

Connecting to Collections Care Webinar Archives

www.connectingtocollections.org/archives/

Have a question about caring for or storing collections items? Chances are there’s a webinar in the Connecting to Collections Care archives that will answer it. The recorded webinars are free to view, and the archive is browseable by year or by topic.

Ohio Humanities Launches Recovery Grant Program

Ohio Humanities to award \$150,000 to nonprofit organizations to help meet continuing pandemic challenges

Ohio Humanities announced the Public Humanities Recovery Grant Program, a special one-time funding opportunity to provide support to public humanities organizations across the state seeking to serve public audiences in 2021. Eligible projects include public humanities events, digital projects, efforts to provide social distancing measures at cultural sites, and more.

“The cultural sector continues to be challenged by the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis,” said Ohio Humanities Executive Director Pat Williamsen. “Ohio Humanities is dedicated to helping mitigate the effects of the pandemic on public humanities organizations by continuing to support our partners as they bring humanities programming to Ohioans.”

Application deadlines for the Public Humanities Recovery Grant program align with Ohio Humanities’ regular quarterly grant cycle for the spring and summer of 2021. First-round applications are due on March 26, with drafts due by March 8, for projects with start dates after May 17. Second-round applications are due on June 7, with drafts due by May 10, for projects with start dates after August 15.

To learn more about Ohio Humanities grant opportunities, and for more information about Recovery Grants, please visit ohiohumanities.org/public-humanities-recovery-grant. For assistance navigating the Recovery Grant application process, please contact Ohio Humanities at ohiohumanities.formstack.com/forms/phrg_interest_contact_copy.



Historical Records Preservation Grants

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board announces the availability of grants between \$500 and \$5,000 to archival institutions to fund projects to preserve and/or provide access to Ohio's historical records. The grants are funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), an arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

Grant applications are due March 31, 2021. More information on the grants, including the application packet, is available [here](#).

Projects eligible for funding in 2021 include:

Assessment and Strategic Planning: hiring consultants to identify needs and priorities for improving the organization, description, preservation and access to collections.

Access, Arrangement and Description: identifying, organizing, and improving access to historical records.

Preservation: purchasing archival file folders, archival boxes, dehumidifiers, humidifiers, hygrothermographs, or HEPA vacuum cleaners.

Website Development: Adding collections to online catalog, developing virtual archives, or creating an on-line database. Websites designed to support access to researchers (e.g., online catalogs, finding aids, and digitized collections, rather than curated web exhibits) will receive preference in funding.

Please Note: all projects should produce some type of online content, such as a finding aid, report or digital images.

Questions? Please contact: **Stephen Badenhop, Records and Archives Coordinator, Union County Records Center (937-645-4177; sbadenhop@unioncountyohio.gov).**

OHRAB Scholarships

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) is pleased to announce a development opportunity for students, volunteers and records professionals.

OHRAB, in conjunction with the National Historical Publications and Records Commission has allocated \$1,200 annually in scholarship aid to support continuing archival education for graduate students and individuals who care for the historic record. The Board will award scholarships to assist individuals in attending a professional development opportunity of their choosing. The meeting may be in person or virtual. Applications are due on April 30, 2021.

Funding is available to support attendance at development opportunities offered by such organizations as:

- The Midwest Archives Conference,
- The Society of American Archivists,
- The Society of Ohio Archivists,
- The Ohio Local History Alliance,
- The Academic Library Association of Ohio,
- The Ohio Municipal Clerks Association,
- The International Institute of Municipal Clerk,
- The Ohio Township Association,
- The Ohio Genealogical Society, or
- Other professional development opportunities subject to approval by OHRAB.

Applicants must be individuals who are full-time (minimum of 9 credits) graduate students currently enrolled in an Ohio institution of higher education; individuals working or volunteering in an Ohio library, archive, special collection, or government repository; individuals who serve as a state, county, municipal, or township official or their designee whose main responsibilities is to maintain public records; and those who work or volunteer in other roles caring for or providing access to records within the State of Ohio.

For more information and the application form, contact Tina S. Ratcliff, OHRAB Awards Committee Chair, ratcliff@mcoho.org

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, DO YOU HAVE OUTSTANDING NEWS TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION?

Please email it to your regional representative for the next issue of The Local Historian. Contact information for the representatives in your region is on page 2 of this issue. Of course, you are welcome to forward your news directly to the editor of The Local Historian at ohiolha@ohiohistory.org. Rather than serving as a calendar of events, items for "News from the Regions" are chosen to inspire, connect, and educate the Alliance's members all over Ohio and celebrate notable and imitation-worthy accomplishments of Alliance members.

Joined or renewed between January 13 and February 18, 2021

Welcome New Members

INDIVIDUALS

Noah Ancil, *Canton* Janet Million, *Cincinnati*
Robert Kroeger, *Montgomery*

ORGANIZATIONS

Sinclair Community College Library, *Dayton* The Springfield Historical Society LLC, *Springfield*

Thank You, Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

Rosalie Frazier, *Columbus* Daniel L. Frizzi, *Bellaire*
Marsha Friend, *Columbus* Sherri L. Goudy, *Wapakoneta*

ORGANIZATIONS

Allen County Historical Society, *Lima* International Women's Air & Space Museum, *Cleveland*
Brunswick Area Historical Society, *Brunswick* James A. Garfield Civil War Round Table, *Bedford*
Chester-Shade Historical Association, *Chester* The John P Parker Historical Society, *Ripley*
Cleveland Heights Historical Society, *Cleveland Heights* John Paulding Historical Society Inc, *Paulding*
Dayton Police History Foundation, Inc., *Dayton* Lake County Historical Society, *Painesville*
Enon Community Historical Society, *Enon* Licking County Library, *Newark*
Fairport Harbor Historical Society, *Fairport Harbor* Louisville-Nimishillen Historical Society, *Louisville*
Franklin Area Historical Society, *Franklin* Loveland Museum Center, *Loveland*
Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society, *Columbus* Minerva Area Historical Society, *Minerva*
Friends of White Water Shaker Village, *Harrison* Museum Acrylics Co., LLC, *New Philadelphia*
Gates Mills Historical Society, *Gates Mills* Museum of Hispanic and Latino Cultures, *Lorain*
Guernsey County Historical Society, *Cambridge* Northampton Historical Society, *Cuyahoga Falls*
Harmony Hill Association, Inc, *Williamsburg* Oxford Museum Association, *Oxford*
Harrison County Historical Society, *Cadiz* Thomas A Edison Birthplace Association, *Milan*
Heritage Sylvania, *Sylvania* Windsor Historical Society, *Windsor*
Historic Perrysburg Inc, *Perrysburg*

MARCH 6:

OLHA Regional Meeting, Regions 5 & 10. For more information, see page 11.

Ohio History Day Regional Contests, Regions 2, 7 & 9 For more information, see page 10.

MARCH 13:

OLHA Regional Meeting, Regions 5 & 10. For more information, see page 11.

Ohio History Day Regional Contests, Regions 1, 5, 6 & 8 For more information, see page 10

MARCH 20:

OLHA Regional Meeting, Regions 3 & 4. For more information, see page 11.

Ohio History Day Regional Contests, Region 10. For more information, see page 10.

MARCH 26:

Public Humanities Recovery Grant first-round applications due. For more information, see page 12.

MARCH 27:

Ohio History Day Regional Contests, Regions 3 & 4 For more information, see page 10.

MARCH 31:

OHRAB Grants Due. For more information, see page 13.

Local History Book Awards deadline. For more information, see page 9.

APRIL 10:

OLHA Regional Meeting, Regions 2 & 6. For more information, see page 11.

APRIL 11-13:

Ohio Museums Association Conference. For more information, see page 12.

APRIL 15:

Income Tax Returns Due! Support the Ohio History Fund. For more information, see page 1 & 4.

APRIL 17:

OLHA Regional Meeting, Regions 1 & 7. For more information, see page 11.

APRIL 30:

OHRAB Scholarship Applications due. For more information, see page 13.

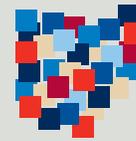
MAY 1:

Ohio Historical Marker applications due. For more information, see page 11.

JUNE 7:

Public Humanities Recovery Grant second-round applications due. For more information, see page 12.

Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...



OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

...or connect a sister organization to the Alliance and ask its leaders to join in one of the following categories:

Organizational Member

Get six issues of *The Local Historian*, save when you register for our Alliance regional and statewide local history meetings, receive periodic email updates, and save on Ohio Historical Society services for organization, including speakers and customized training workshops. **Best of all, when you join the Alliance as an Organizational Member, your membership benefits all of your organization's staff and members**—they will all qualify for discounts on registration for the Alliance's regional and statewide meetings and when buying Alliance publications.

Operating budget:

Over \$200,000 a year:	\$100	(\$190 for 2)
\$100,000-\$200,000 a year:	\$75	(\$140 for 2)
\$25,000-\$100,000 a year:	\$60	(\$110 for 2)
Under \$25,000 a year:	\$35	(\$65 for 2)

Individual Member

Get six issues of *The Local Historian*, save when you register for our Alliance regional and statewide local history meetings, receive periodic email updates.

Affiliate:	\$35	(\$65 for 2)
Individual:	\$50	(\$90 for 2)
Student:	\$20	

Business Member:

	\$100	(\$190 for 2)
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Join at:

www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx

The Ohio Local History Alliance, organized in 1960 under sponsorship of the Ohio History Connection, is composed of local historical societies, historic preservation groups, history museums, archives, libraries, and genealogical societies throughout the state involved in collecting, preserving, and interpreting Ohio's history.

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Visit The Alliance online at

www.ohiolha.org and on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/ohio-localhistoryalliance

Annual Membership Dues:

Organizations:

Annual budget over \$200,000: \$100 (\$190 for 2)

Annual budget \$100,000-\$200,000: \$75 (\$140

for 2)

Annual budget \$25,000-\$100,000: \$60 (\$110 for 2)

Annual budget below \$25,000: \$35 (\$65 for 2)

Individuals:

Affiliate:

\$35 (\$65 for 2)

Individual: \$50 (\$90 for 2)

Students: \$20

Business:

\$100 (\$190 for 2)

Individual subscriptions to *The Local Historian* only are available for \$25 annually.

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Need to Contact Us? WE AT LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES LOVE HEARING FROM YOU!

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GET SOCIAL WITH THE OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE

