



Achieve Excellence with StEPs for Ohio



A StEPs-enrolled organization receives a StEPs Certificate of Completion from the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH). Photograph courtesy of AASLH.

By Austin Poyar, Ohio History Service Corps Member, Ohio History Connection's Local History Office, Columbus

What does the achievement of excellence look like? How do you know when an historical organization has attained it?

For a long time in local history, it has been hard for organizations striving to achieve excellence in meeting the field's standards and best practices to know if they were on the right track. Not anymore... the Local History Office of the Ohio History Connection is currently developing StEPs for Ohio, a program that will give organizations the assist they've been looking for!

StEPs for Ohio will provide resources and support for Ohio organizations enrolled in the American Association for State and Local History's (AASLH) Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs). Developed by AASLH, StEPs is an easy-to-use, self-guided program that promotes best practices in the public history field. It is a program developed on behalf of the public history field, in consultation with big and small history organizations throughout the country. The StEPs program covers six sections of specific relevance to our historical community: Mission, Vision,

and Governance; Audience; Interpretation; Stewardship of Collections; Stewardship of Historic Structures and Landscapes; and Management.

The Ohio History Connection's Local History Office is developing StEPs for Ohio in order to assist Ohio organizations in their attempts to complete the StEPs program and to increase the reported rates of completion among current Ohio StEPs-enrolled organizations. "StEPs for Ohio" will provide some motivation, comradery, resources, and training to help organizations complete the program. StEPs for Ohio is being developed based specifically on the advice and feedback from Ohio's StEPs-enrolled organizations.

But we are also creating StEPs for Ohio for a larger purpose: to set a bar of sustained excellence that will resound throughout Ohio, and the country at large. At their best, historical organizations help their communities understand their collective pasts while providing a platform that enables communities to set paths towards brighter futures. They can share the hopes, dreams, and tragedies—the very stories
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President's Message:

Warm weather signals time for road trips. When I was growing up one of our family's rituals was a Saturday/Sunday afternoon drive. We did not always have a specific destination, but were just interested in exploring what was in the wider world. As an adult where ever I vacation, even if it is the beach, I always gravitate to museum and historic site visits in the area.

Several years ago, the Alliance was

fortunate to benefit from a keynote address and a workshop at the annual meeting presented by Dan Shilling, whose services were provided to us by Ohio Humanities. Shilling captivated the audience with his talk on civic tourism, declaring that it is about appreciating tourism as a public good, valuing it as a public responsibility and practicing it as a public art. Please think about those words and visit some Ohio treasures this year.

Ohio is filled with great road trip possibilities from the Ohio River to Lake Erie. Our state has house museums, iconic courthouses, and city/county history centers where Alliance

members are volunteers and staff. This spring and summer I would like to challenge all of you to visit an Ohio museum or historic site that you have not been to before. Learn some interesting history or view a new exhibit, and while you are making your visit maybe you will encounter some creative ideas to take back to your site. Happy travelling this summer!

Beth Weinhardt

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OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE

Inspire. Connect. Educate.

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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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)

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What's Happening in the State Capital?

By Todd Kleismit, Director of Community and Government Relations, Ohio History Connection, Columbus

There is plenty of activity in the state capital this year. A few highlights as we head into the summer...

State Budget

The state's two-year budget for 2016-17 was introduced by Gov. John Kasich in early February and just recently was amended and passed by the Ohio House of Representatives. The more than \$70 billion budget bill now under consideration by the Ohio Senate includes a significant boost in state support to the Ohio History Connection, which now receives just over \$10 million annually in state operating support. The Ohio House added more than \$1.7 million in state funding for the Ohio History Connection, or nearly a 15 percent increase. The Senate is likely to make numerous changes to the budget in May and June, so the final budget figures will not be known until the governor signs the budget bill on or about June 30th.

World War I Centennial

One of the many changes the Ohio House of Representatives made to the state's two-year budget in April was to include funding of \$70,000 each of the next two years to pay for a new staff position at the Ohio History Connection to oversee a new initiative to commemorate the centennial of World War I. Direct American involvement in World War I began in April of 1917. If the funding remains in the state budget bill, look for more information about this initiative this summer.

Rural Heritage

Ohio's rural heritage is being emphasized from at least two different vantage points lately. Statehouse lobbyist David Robinson, founder and principal of The Montrose Group in Columbus, published on April 1 a new white paper entitled "Addressing Economic Develop-



ment Through Historic Preservation and Civic Infrastructure." The 12-page white paper focuses on the benefits of preserving historic county courthouses, with an emphasis on the importance on the courthouses in Ohio's rural communities. Also on April 1, State Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) introduced legislation to designate the barn the official historic architectural structure of Ohio. Students at Genoa Middle School in Westerville urged Rep. Gonzales to introduce the legislation and the students plan to advocate for passage by testifying at upcoming House committee hearings. ■

The Ohio Statehouse is the scene of lots of history-related activity this year, like this picture from Statehood Day in March. Read more about what legislators are up to below. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

Todd Kleismit is the Ohio History Connection's director of community and government relations. He can be reached at tkleismit@ohiohistory.org.



Youth Camp Planning



By Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin

A “goofy” photo of excited campers at the Fire Station during Oberlin Expedition camp, one of the camps offered by the Oberlin Heritage Center. Photo courtesy of the Oberlin Heritage Center.

Many museums are gearing up for “camp” season this time of year. Camps mean different things to different organizations, but ideally they all mean hands-on learning and FUN for kids. The Oberlin Heritage Center has offered youth day camps for over 15 years. If you are considering starting, or evaluating, a camp program, here are a few notes that might help.

First, should you offer a camp?

Between preparing activities, creating flyers, handling registrations, purchasing materials, teaching camp, and following up with evaluations, camps require a considerable amount of time and resources. Clarify ahead of time what you want participants to gain, and what you want to gain (community connections, revenue, good press, new volunteers, fresh programming). Also consider the following:

- Is there actually a need in your community for new youth programs? For what age groups? Can you offer something that no one else is offering?
- Do you have the experienced staff, educators, and volunteers available to lead a camp? Keep in mind that you should have at least two adults present at all times. Teens can be great helpers, but they can't be your only helpers.
- Do you have the space and is it kid-friendly? (bathrooms, craft area, playground)
- Do you have a budget to cover expenses and staffing beyond the registration revenue?

Who are you serving?

When deciding on your target audience, consider community needs, interests,

organizational resources, and staff training. Most families seek camp experiences for when school is out, including summer, spring break, and maybe teacher training days. Many parents want full day experiences that cover their work hours, but you will have to decide what your institution can feasibly offer, including extended drop-off and pick-up times.

The Oberlin Heritage Center offers camps for children ages 8-13, along with occasional camps for teens. Our camps run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and we have tried 1-day, 2-day, and 5-day camps, each with its pros and cons. Based on our staff and space limitations, we typically accept up to 17 camp participants.

What are we going to do?!

If you don't already know what topics you want to offer, or if you are thinking about changing things up, there are several areas to look for inspiration:

- Expertise & Passion – What are your coolest stories or collections? Did someone recently travel to China? Is there a volunteer who knows how to flint knap? Use the resources and energy you already have at hand.
- Survey – Ask current program participants what topics they are interested in.
- Curriculum – What topics do clubs, such as Scouts, need to address?
- Field Trips – Behind-the-scenes exploration of community institutions is fun for people of all ages. We have arranged walking field trips to the library, newspaper, city court, bowling alley, cemetery, art museum, park, etc.
- Popularity – What are kids watching,

reading, or playing right now? When the Percy Jackson book series was popular, we offered an equally popular Ancient Greece camp. (And while it may not be Oberlin history, getting kids thinking about history and culture is always my mission, and no one else in town is offering similar programming). As for other topics, trains, animals, and historic foodways never lose their magic (although teaching children to cut apples can take years off of your life).

Attracting Participants

It's time to spread the word about your awesome new program! When designing flyers and pr, keep in mind that parents will use your words and pictures to try to convince their kids to sign up. In addition to the fun stuff, also include sections for emergency contacts, medical issues, photo permission, cost, discounts, sack lunches, minimum registration, cancellations, etc. For a sample flyer, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or email me at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org. Get your flyers and press releases out to your members, area schools, libraries, homeschool groups, churches, clubs, community events, past participants, media contacts, and online calendars.

Happy Camper

It's too difficult to summarize a day of camp in a short article, but here are some hints I've picked up over the years:

- Give brief weekly agendas to parents. They like to be able to talk with their son or daughter about what happened at camp.
- Go over rules regarding safety and respect on Day One.
- Build in snack and break times.
- Have a cell phone and first aid kit with you at all times. ■

Making a Good First Impression

By Erin Bartlett, Western Historic Sites Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, Columbus

[Editor's Note: A version of this article first appeared in the Ohio History Connection's March sites newsletter. It is reprinted here with permission.]

You drive into your site every day. You pass buildings and the grounds as you walk across the parking lot and into the building. You've done it so many times that you know every part of your site...but do you really see it? How about your staff? Full-time, part-time, volunteer – you've trained them, but do you still take time to watch or listen to what they say? What about what's being said on phone messages, web pages, and social media? What a person hears and reads can determine whether or not they will decide to visit.

The impression your site makes on a potential or actual visitor is long lasting and far reaching. Word of mouth travels much faster when a negative impression has been made. As you prepare your sites for the busy 2015 season, it's a good time to think about good impressions. The rest of this article focuses on different aspects of first impressions from electronic messaging to buildings and grounds to appearance and body language. They are tips and reminders to keep in mind as you prepare for a season of new visitors.

Impression #1: While the Visitor is Still at Home

Although many people will stop at a site they pass because it sounds interesting or it catches their eye, the majority of people plan ahead and research sites to visit. People learn about sites through word of mouth, marketing such as lure cards and brochures at area convention and visitors' bureaus or hotels, the internet, and social media like Facebook and Twitter. It is important that all information is accurate. Make sure that your hours of operation, admission fees, phone numbers, and other information is up to date. Your information needs to be brief, but informative, exciting, and inviting. Pictures showing the visitor experience are a plus.



A smiling front line staff can help make the kind of first impressions on your visitors that inspires them to return. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

Through social media, you can reach hundreds, or thousands, without spending your marketing budget. In this age of instant information, it's important to post frequently. Your site's pages will not appear high on the list of postings if the information does not change, or change frequently. If you're advertising an event, make sure the information is on social media with plenty of time to register if needed, and that you post reminders closer to the event. Upload posts during the event as well, and include pictures! Let people share in the experience. Some will see what they missed and keep it in mind for next time.

If people call your site with questions, what impression will they get from your voicemail or customer service representatives? If visitors reach your voicemail, the information must be accurate and brief. Few callers want to hear the entire list of upcoming events – just the next one. If they want directions, suggest they call back or direct them to your website. If you have a lot of information to share, perhaps you need a more sophisticated answering system with options, rather than one very long message.

If visitors reach a customer service representative, make sure they are knowledgeable about your site and can easily

answer questions about hours, admission, event details, directions, and other questions a potential guest may have about the area. They should be pleasant and happy while talking with the caller. If they don't know the answer, it's fine to say so, but take the caller's contact information and follow up with an answer.

Impression #2: The Approach – Driving In

The first on-site chance you have of making a good impression is the approach: what do your visitors see when they enter the site? Every employee should drive into your site each time as if it were their first time. What would you notice?

The following tips might seem intuitive, but can be easily overlooked because you see your site every day and it becomes invisible. It is not invisible to your visitors.

- Are the roads and driveways clear of trash, fallen branches, and leaves? In bad weather, are roads, parking lot, and sidewalks clear and salted?
- The welcome/ID sign at your entrance should be clean, easily read, and not faded. The sign posts should be painted and plumb (straight, and even). This also applies for on-site directional and wayfaring signage. They're not helpful if people can't read them.

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- Do your signs have accurate information? If hours or admission have changed, a handwritten correction taped over the sign is not the professional message we all want to convey.

- If your site has a post and rail fence, are all the rails in place? Are the posts plumb?

- Grounds should be mowed, leaves raked, and limbs and trash picked up. Line trimming (weed whacking) should be done along every sign, fence post, curb, and sidewalk. For an extra touch, edge your sidewalks and curbs once or twice a season.

- Make sure you're following proper flag protocol and treat all flags with respect. They should never be displayed faded, tattered, or torn. They should not remain wrapped around a pole after a windstorm. Visitors will even notice how you carry, raise, and lower a flag. For more information on flag protocol, visit <http://www.usflag.org/flagetiquette.html>. If you need a new flag, contact your local VFW; they will often supply United States flags.

- If you have outdoor lighting, is it all functioning properly?

- Your guests have parked and are walking to the door. Are the parking lots and sidewalks weed-free? After a long winter, people enjoy looking closely at flower beds. Have they been cleaned,

weeded, and dead-headed?

If you follow these tips, your visitors will be so impressed that they will be excited to walk inside and see what's in store for them!

Impression #3:

Face to Face

It takes just a quick glance for someone to evaluate you when you meet for the first time. In this short time, the other person forms an opinion about you based on your appearance, your body language, your demeanor, your mannerism, and how you are dressed.

Front desk or floor staff are often called your "front line staff." The definition of front line is "the most advanced, exposed, or conspicuous element in any activity or situation." They are the employees and volunteers who are in direct contact with the public. Making a great first impression is critical. Here are some tips to help you do just that:

- Be yourself. If you're calm and confident, you will put your guest at ease.

- Present yourself appropriately. You do not have to be "dressed to the nines," but your appearance should be clean and neat with well-groomed hair, neat makeup, and clean and dry clothes.

- If your site has a uniform, then there should be policies on how they are worn. Are the shirts always tucked in

or out? If you have a nametag, how is it to be worn? If you do not have uniform clothing, what are your policies? Are jeans permitted? Do you permit shirts or hats with sayings or non-site logos? Tennis shoes?

- Be careful of your body language. When greeting a visitor, be confident, stand tall, make eye contact, and smile.

- Small talk can go a long way. If time allows, get to know your visitors. Are they on vacation or just out for the day? Where are they from? How did they learn about your site? If you learn about a particular interest, guide them toward specific things at your site to look for or share information that may not be on an interpretive panel. Always be open to questions and feedback – both positive and negative.

- Be positive, courteous, and attentive. Good manners and polite behavior make for a good impression. You should not be talking on your cell phone, to another staff person, reading, or even working on that project that you know has a deadline. Be present – be there with, and for, your guest.

Creating good impressions with your visitors leads to a more successful experience for everyone, and can lead to the holy grail of museum visitors – the repeat guest. ■

Achieve Excellence with StEPs for Ohio (Continued from page 1)

that make up the fabric of life—of the people that make up their communities. StEPs for Ohio will assist each history organization to develop the ability to excel in these important roles. In short, the program will assist organizations in setting and meeting their missions while achieving excellence.

The components of StEPs for Ohio are still taking shape and are being directed by input we are receiving from Ohio organizations already enrolled in StEPs (or who are interested in enrollment). However, we consider the following to be key components of the program: the creation of an on-line and in-person community comprised of Ohio's StEPs enrolled organizations; workshops and webinars with StEPs specific content; regular check-ins with the Local History Office that provide opportunities for the organization to provide updates and the office to provide

specific support as needed; and, a recognition program at the state level that publicly commends organizations that are enrolled and making progress.

As currently conceived StEPs for Ohio will assist participating organizations in achieving at least the Bronze level certificates in all six sections of the StEPs workbook over a two-year time period. To do this, participating organizations will tackle three of the six sections a year. To help with the development of the program, the Local History Office conducted a focus group in March and received valuable contributions from representatives from the Bedford Historical Society, Delaware County Historical Society, Oberlin Heritage Center, Richland County Historical Society, and the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center. Pilot activities are planned for this summer.

As this program continues to take shape over the upcoming months, we would love to have your input. Are you enrolled in StEPs? Have you had successes? Struggles? What type of support would you find most effective? If you are interested in assisting the Local History Office and would like to provide us with some guidance as we develop this program, or if you'd just like to learn more, please contact Austin Poyar at apoyar@ohiohistory.org or 614-297-2581.

Stay tuned for more updates.

In the meantime, the Local History Office has one question for you: are you ready to achieve excellence? ■

AWARDS



The 2014 Alliance Outstanding Achievement Awards winners pose with their awards at the Annual Meeting last October. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

nominee is a teacher, he or she must demonstrate creativity in teaching methods and expertise in local and state history.

History Outreach Awards recognize outstanding local history projects. These projects must have educational content, contributed to the promotion and understanding of state or local history, and impacted the local community. Nominations will be accepted in the following categories: public programming, media and publications, and exhibits/displays. Nominations must be post-marked by August 1, 2015. Watch your mail for a nomination form or contact the Local History Office at 1.800.858.6878 or localhistory@ohiohistory.org.

2015 Alliance Outstanding Achievement Awards

Nominate the fantastic local history work being done in your community for a 2015 Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Award! The Alliance presents awards in two categories – Individual Achievement and History Outreach.

Individual Achievement Awards recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to Ohio's historical societies, history museums, or the understanding and appreciation of state and local history. Nominees must have been involved in a local history organization for at least five years and have demonstrated excellence in more than one area of that organization's operations. If the



The 2014 State Historic Preservation Office Awards winners. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

Apply Now for the State Historic Preservation Office Awards

Each year, the State Historic Preservation Office recognizes achievements in historic preservation by presenting awards in Public Education and Awareness and Preservation Merit. Nominations are due June 1, and nomination forms can be found at <http://www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/state-historic-preservation-office/hpawards>.

The Public Education and Awareness Award is for increasing interest in historic preservation. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, media, newsletters, publications, interpretation, original research, educational programs, and special events which have substantially increased public understanding and awareness of historic preservation at the local, regional, or state level.

The Preservation Merit Award is for preserving Ohio's prehistory, history, architecture, or culture. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, restoring, rehabilitating, or otherwise preserving an important building or site, longtime stewardship of a property, promoting protective legislation, funding preservation projects, offering leadership, support, or service, and furthering preservation at the local, regional, or state level.

GRANTS



History Fund Application Available in June; History Fund Help Webinars in June, July, August

Grant writers, get ready! The 2016 History Fund grant application will be available June 12. The deadline for applications will be in early September 2015. The online application will be available at the History Fund's website: www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund.

To assist History Fund applicants, the Local History Office will schedule History Fund Help Webinars in June, July, and August. Led by History Fund manager Andy Verhoff, the first hour will be a detailed review of the application. The last half hour is devoted to your questions. The webinars are free, but registration will be required. Although attending a webinar is not mandatory, and it does not guarantee you a grant, it may give you a "leg up." Two summers ago, five eventual grant recipients attended webinars.

The History Fund supports a variety of projects, 33 in the program's first three

years. For a list of grant recipients and projects, visit the History Fund's website. The Fund is limited only by an applicant's imagination and adherence to the History Fund's *Guidelines*.

Grant recipients will be announced at the annual history advocacy event, Statehood Day, on March 1, 2016. Between the application deadline in September and February 2016, the History Fund will be in contact regarding the status of applications.

Projects will commence according to the schedule developed in each recipient's application, but no sooner than May 1, 2016. For more about the History Fund, go to www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund or contact the Local History Office at 1.800.858.6878, localhistory@ohiohistory.org, or averhoff@ohiohistory.org. Good luck!

Ohio Historical Marker Grants Deadline Now July 1

To better accommodate "marker dedication season" the Ohio History Connection's Local History Office is revising the deadline for marker applications and for the marker grant program. There is now one deadline a year for applying for an Ohio Historical Marker – July 1. With this new deadline, the office will no longer accept applications on a rolling basis throughout the year.

From the receipt of an application to the delivery of the finished project, Ohio Historical Markers can take up to 6-9 months to produce. The new deadline will ensure that all applicants have their markers in time for marker dedication season the following spring.

The new deadline of July 1 will apply to applicants seeking marker grants as well as those who solely raise funds from local sources to erect markers. Beginning July 1, the markers grant program will be making ten grants at a time.

Marker applicants, however, do not have to apply for one of the Ohio History Connection's marker grants. Applicants who do apply, but who do not receive a grant may still move forward with their applications, if the program approves the historical topic for a marker.

You can find more information and an application at the newly updated www.remarkableohio.org, or contact Andy Verhoff, historical markers coordinator at 614.297.2341 or averhoff@ohiohistory.org.

Professional Development

CONGRATULATIONS!

Apply Now for the AASLH Small Museums Scholarship!

The American Association for State and Local History will hold its Annual Meeting and Online Conference in Louisville, Kentucky from September 16-20, 2015. This year's theme – *The Power of Possibility* – examines the personal, communal, and organizational journeys that lead to vibrancy, authenticity, social change, and sustainability.

Unfortunately, many working in our nation's small museums feel as if we can only dream of attending this meeting. In a perfect world, boards would grant every request to fund our professional development. Institutions of modest means, however, may not have the resources to help us become effective stewards of our community's memory.

Websites, listservs, and social media constantly offer new sources of technical and psychological support, but nothing is better than the face-to-face fellowship of sharing survival strategies. Every year, increasing numbers of Annual Meeting sessions address issues specifically affecting small museums. These sessions can be as practical and wide-ranging as training, marketing, and strategic planning. Other sessions focus on creative ways to forge and re-energize relationships with the surrounding community.

Now in its tenth year, AASLH's Small Museums Committee is offering scholarships to any AASLH members who are full-time, part-time, paid, or volunteer employees of small museums. Each \$500 scholarship will cover the cost of the conference registration and the Small Museums luncheon. Any remaining funds may be used to offset travel and/or lodging expenses.

To qualify, the applicant must work for a museum with a budget of \$250,000 or less. They also must be either an individual AASLH member or work for an institutional member. The deadline to apply is June 12. Find more information and an application at <http://blogs.aaslh.org/small-museums-scholarship-2/>.

Ohio Archives Grant Program Recipients

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board is pleased to announce this year's recipients of this year's Ohio Archives Grant Program (SNAP Re-grant Work Group) awards. The Ohio Archives Grants are funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), an arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) through their State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP) Grants program. The funded projects include organizing and preserving historical records and cataloging and digitizing records for improved access. This year's recipients are:

- **Delaware County Historical Society**, *Microfilming the Delaware Gazette Newspaper 1928-1933* - \$1,552
- **Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Congregational Archives**, *Processing the St. Mary/Providence Hospital (Cincinnati) Collection* - \$1,016
- **Huron Historical Society**, *Digitizing and Sharing Huron's Historic Images* - \$739
- **Kent State University Libraries**, *Providing Access to the Kent State Shootings Audio Archive* - \$2,000
- **Lakeside Heritage Society**, *Enhanced Preservation of Newspapers and Other Records* - \$1,339
- **Marion County Historical Society**, *Processing the Richard Carey Collection of Historic Records* - \$1,270
- **Milan-Berlin Library District**, *Preserving and Providing Access to the Library's Photograph Collection* - \$534
- **Payne Theological Seminary**, *Arrangement and Description of the Payne African Methodist Episcopal Church Archives* - \$1,960
- **Rodman Public Library**, *Preservation and Digitization of Alliance's Historical Documents* - \$1,394
- **Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens**, *Processing the Irene Seiberling Harrison Collection* - \$1,653
- **County of Summit Records Center**, *Preservation of the Edwin Shaw Tuberculosis Sanatorium Scrapbooks* - \$2,000

ON THE WEB

ExhibiTricks

<http://blog.orselli.net>

This blog is run by exhibit designer, Paul Orselli, who posts weekly on a variety of topics about museums and exhibits. The posts range from tips on best exhibit design practices, to interviews with other museum professionals, to “think pieces” on the larger issues facing museums today.

Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...

... 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 a year (\$65 for 2)

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

Student: \$20 a year

Business Member

\$100 a year (\$190 for 2)

Join at <http://www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx>

CALENDAR 2015

May 15

Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Meeting. For more information, see www.ohioarchivists.org.

June, July, August

History Fund Help Webinars. For more information, see page 8.

June 1

Application Deadline, State Historic Preservation Office Awards. For more information, see page 7.

June 12

Application Deadline, AASLH Small Museums Scholarships. For more information, see page 8.

June 12

History Fund Grant Application Available. For more information, see page 8.

July 1

Ohio Historical Marker Application Deadline. For more information, see page 8.

August 1

Ohio Local History Alliance Awards Application Deadline. For more information, see page 7.

September 16-20

American Association for State and Local History Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY. For more information, visit <http://aaslh.org>.

Calendar items are chosen on the basis of available space and applicability to the largest number of our readers, who are mainly volunteer and professional leaders of local historical societies, history museums, archives, libraries, historic preservation groups, and genealogical societies in Ohio. We cannot include events mainly of local interest; for these we suggest local newspapers, broadcast media, Ohio Magazine, 1-800-BUCKEYE, and, if arts related, www.ArtsinOhio.com.

News from the Regions

Region 1

Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood Counties

Region 2

Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties

The **Hayes Presidential Center** received funding from the **Sandusky County Communities Foundation** and the late Madolyn Key for a new website. The need for a new site became urgent when the company hosting the site announced it would cease offering that service. Furthermore, the website would have to be completely redesigned, since it would be impossible to simply migrate the current site to a new host. The new site will launch soon at <http://www.rbhayes.org>.

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

The **Unionville Tavern Preservation Society's** Save the Tavern Campaign has made progress. The exterior stabilization of the roof and front pillars of the building has been completed. Work continues on the reinforcing the interior and clearing of debris. The board has also commissioned a Historic Structures Report and Master Plan for the tavern. When complete, the report will include documentation of the building's existing conditions, a history of the property, a recommendation of treatment options, and a funding investigation. To learn more visit <http://www.savethetavern.org/>.

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The **Mahoning Valley Historical Society** received a grant from **Ronald McDonald House Charities** that funded two new suitcase museum programs: one on the Civil War and one on industrial history. Like the society's other suitcase museums, these will bring artifacts, historic images, maps, letters, games, clothing, and other material into classrooms for students to study and interact with. After creation and testing over the winter, the programs became available to area students and teachers in the spring. For more information, go to <http://mahoninghistory.org/>.

Region 5

Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne Counties

The **McCook House**, operated by the **Carroll County Historical Society**, received several new acquisitions last fall — eight original, framed McCook family portraits from a McCook descendent who lived in New York City. During the week of the society's fall festival a large, wooden crate arrived, and opening the crate was "like many, many Christmases wrapped into one." The newly acquired portraits will serve as the focal point of the society's opening for the season on Memorial Day weekend. To learn more, visit <http://carrollcountyohio.com/history/>.

Region 6

Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Perry, Pickaway, and Union Counties

The **Knox County Historical Society** recently acquired a one hundred year old Reeves Engine that was manufacture by the Reeves Engineering Company in Mount Vernon. The engine spent its working life driving an electrical generator, and most recently was part of a private industrial collection in Wayne County. When the engine was offered for sale, several generous collectors raised the funds to bring it back to Mount Vernon. The engine will find its new home as part of the society's industrial exhibit. For more information, go to <http://www.knoxhistory.org>.

Region 7

Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties

Region 8

Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, and Warren Counties

The **Oxford Museum Association** offered a series of adult education classes in pioneer skills earlier this spring. In March, participants learned how to make a broom. In April, they learned to make an oilcloth. In nineteenth century America, oilcloths were used for table cloths and floor coverings, but class members made a smaller oilcloth placemat. Finally, in April, participants learned the basics of hearth cooking. They made their own lunch of bread, stew, and dessert, while also learning about food preparation and preservation in the 1800s. For more information, visit <http://oxfordmuseumassociation.com/>.

Region 9

Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton Counties

The Jackson City Council voted to lease the Hocking Valley Railroad Depot in Jackson to the **Jackson Historical Society**. The Society will be able to possess, occupy, and maintain the depot building as well as an old caboose alongside it for ten years. As soon as the lease was signed, the society began to replace the depot's roof, making sure the building will stay dry for years to come. To learn more, go to <http://www.jacksonhistoricalsociety.org/>.

Region 10

Belmont, Coshocton, Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, and Washington Counties

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 arohmiller@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.

List as of April 10, 2015

Welcome New Member

Individuals

Carol A. Guzzo, Maumee
Jennie L. Self, Massillon

Organizations

Brethren Heritage Center, Brookville

Thank You Renewing Members

Individual

Pamela J. Rohrbacher, Sylvania

Organizations

Akron Summit County Public Library, Akron
Alpine Hills Historical Museum, Sugarcreek
Austintown Historical Society, Austintown
Baltic-Area Historical Society, Baltic
Brewster-Sugarcreek Township Historical Society, Brewster
Canal Fulton Public Library, Canal Fulton
Central Insurance Fire Museum, Van Wert
Cleveland Grays Armory Museum, Cleveland
Cuyahoga Falls Historical Society, Cuyahoga Falls
Dayton Police History Foundation, Inc., Dayton
Franklin Area Historical Society, Franklin
Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society, Grove City
Friends of Kennedy Stone House, Blue Rock
Galion Historical Society Inc., Galion
Henry County Historical Society, Napoleon
Highland County Historical Society, Hillsboro
Indian Hill Historical Society, Cincinnati
John Paulding Historical Society Inc., Paulding
Kidron Community Historical Society, Kidron
Louisville-Nimishillen Historical Society, Louisville
Magnolia Area Historical Society, Magnolia
Maritime Museum of Sandusky, Sandusky
Mayfield Township Historical Society, Mayfield Village
Memorial Museum, Defiance
Middleburg Heights Historical Society, Cleveland
Morgan Township Historical Society, Shandon
National Cambridge Collectors, Cambridge
New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society, New Albany
New Washington Historical Society, New Washington
Northwest Ohio Railroad Preservation Inc., Findlay
Perry History Club, Inc., Massillon
Piqua Public Library, Piqua
Plain Township Historical Society, North Canton
Powell Liberty Historical Society, Powell
Risingsun Area Historical Society, Risingsun
Robbins Hunter Museum/Avery Downer House, Granville
Sandusky County Historical Society, Fremont
Stryker Area Heritage Council, Stryker
Swiss Community Historical Society, Bluffton
The John P. Parker Historical Society, Ripley
Ukrainian Museum-Archives Inc., Cleveland
Vermilion Area Archival Society, Inc., Vermilion
Vermilion News Print Shop Museum, Vermilion
Westlake Historical Society, Westlake
Westwood Historical Society, Cincinnati
Whitehall Historical Society, Whitehall
Willoughby Historical Society, Willoughby

Laura L. Lott has been appointed the next president and chief executive officer of the **American Alliance of Museums**, effective June 1. Lott previously served as the Alliance's chief operating officer, where she oversaw the organization's complete rebranding, new website, and a new membership structure that yielded 50% more museum members. Prior to joining the Alliance, Lott worked at the National Geographic Society and the former MCI Foundation. She graduated from American University's Kogod School of Business.

Ruth Harmon has joined the staff of the **Shelby County Historical Society** as its volunteer coordinator. Harmon is a retired teacher from Graham Local Schools, and has a bachelor's and master's degree in education. She has taught grades K-8, served as a Girl Scout Leader, and volunteered as a trail guide at Cedar Bog Nature Preserve.

Dustin McLochlin became the new education coordinator at the **Hayes Presidential Center** in January. McLochlin earned a Ph.D. in policy history from Bowling Green State University in August 2014. While at Bowling Green he served as co-coordinator of its district Ohio History Day competition, and currently serves as an adjunct instructor.

Meghan Wonderly joined the **Hayes Presidential Center's** staff as its new Annual Giving and Membership Coordinator. Wonderly began volunteering at the Hayes Center as a sophomore in high school and is completing her master's thesis on Colonel Wbb Cook Hayes.

Sharon Weller is new executive assistant to the director at the **Hayes Presidential Center**. Previously, Weller was a high school teacher and a human resource director. She received an undergraduate degree from the University of Toledo and did post-graduate work at The Ohio State University concentrated in education and human resources.

Need to Contact Us? *We at the Local History Office love hearing from you.*

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