Get Ready for the 2024 Regional Meetings!

by Dr. Betsy Hedler, Ohio Local History Alliance Executive Secretary

We hope that you're planning to join us at one or more regional meetings for inspiration, education, and connection. We've got a great set of meetings planned for this year!

Regional meetings offer educational and networking opportunities to gain new knowledge, connect with old friends and meet new ones, find new sources of support, and share stories of successes and struggles, not to mention the chance to visit some outstanding historic sites in every corner of Ohio. It's always a great pleasure to visit our host sites while planning the meetings. We can't thank this year's host sites enough for welcoming all of you to their sites and helping us put together interesting and educational meetings. If you'd be interested in hosting a regional meeting in the future, let me know or volunteer at your regional meeting!

The Auglaize Village & Farm Museum/Defiance County Historical Society will host the Region 1 meeting at Bethel Church in Defiance on April 6. Sessions will build upon each other to focus on the preservation, maintenance, and programmatic possibilities of historic structures and historic villages. The day begins with a presentation from the State Historic Preservation Office on the National Register of Historic Places, carries on with a session on whether and how to move a historic building, and concludes with a session on events and public programming with historic structures. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the Auglaize Village & Farm Museum.

The Region 2 meeting will be hosted by the Wyandot County Historical Society at the Upper Sandusky Community Library on March 2. Meeting sessions include collections management with a focus on deaccessioning, public programming ideas (continued on page 4)
Winter months are the planning time for me, is it the same at your site? Even when I take time off to vacation, I’m still thinking about history and spotting opportunities I can “cut and paste.” Before Christmas, I went to Stan Hywet’s Deck the Halls to enjoy the lights and get in the holiday spirit. However, I spent a good amount of my time taking pictures of display techniques I found very practical and useful. For example, many of their bedrooms had antique rugs rolled up and held back with an acrylic holder to allow for more people to enter without damaging the rug. Love it!

I hope 2024 is a year for creativity, solutions and achievement for you and your site!

Leslie

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Jackie Barton has joined the Westerville Public Library as the Westerville History Museum (WHM) Manager. WHM preserves and shares Westerville’s history and has a nationally significant prohibition collection. Jackie has two decades of experience in cultural and heritage planning and nonprofit museum and historic site administration. She consulted on projects of historic preservation; strategic, interpretive, and exhibit planning; and public engagement through her own firm (Birch Wood Planning) and while with Mary Means + Associates. She also served in a variety of roles at the Ohio History Connection with the historic site system, the state museum, collections, and education and outreach during her twelve-year tenure there.
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for special events, and a brainstorming session to get everyone started thinking about their programs for America 250, the commemoration of America’s Semiquincentennial anniversary in 2026. The meeting will come to a close after a tour of the Wyandot County Museum.

The Summit County Historical Society will host the Region 3 meeting at Lock 3 Commons in Akron on March 23. The meeting begins with a session on commemorations and untold stories, which will be followed by a brief tour of the Akron History Center. After Sharing Time, lunch, and the business meeting, two additional sessions will cover community collaborations and establishing an institutional archives. The meeting concludes with tours of the John Brown House & Perkins Stone Mansion.

The Region 4 meeting will be held at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor in Youngstown on March 16. The meeting will include sessions on event/fundraiser planning and marketing, on building and maintaining a website, and on projects to highlight untold stories in your community. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the museum highlighting their recent exhibit, Uncovering Black Voices.

The Reeves Museum in Dover hosts the Region 5 meeting on March 23. The meeting begins with a session on building a youth volunteer program, and continues through Sharing Time, lunch and the business meeting, which will be followed by a mid-day tour of the Reeves Museum. The meeting concludes with two sessions, one on building momentum for America 250 and another on the basics of creating exhibits.

In Region 6 the meeting is being hosted by the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society at the Kingston Center on March 16. Sessions include a presentation on America 250 and an overview of how the Licking County Heritage Alliance has been planning for 2026. The afternoon session will provide an opportunity to learn more about local history from Janet S. Shailer, author of Trouble on Scioto’s Waters: Soldiers, Frontiersmen, & Native Americans, 1725-1815. The meeting will conclude with a choice of tours of either the Grove City Welcome Center & Museum and/or the Grant-Sawyer Home.

The Shelby County Historical Society will host the Region 7 meeting on March 9. The meeting will feature a session on youth engagement via student programs and a tour of the Wallace Family Learning and Innovation Center. The tour will be followed by a session from the creator of the Center’s exhibits focused on exhibit creation via finding a narrative and a collaborative session focused on low-cost ways to fabricate your own exhibits.

On March 2, the Friends of White Water Shaker Village will host the Region 8 meeting at the Fernald Preserve Visitor’s Center. Meeting sessions will include an overview of the partnership between the University of Cincinnati and their African-American neighbors to tell that community’s history, tips for marketing your site in collaboration with tourism organizations, and on historic building maintenance. The meeting concludes with a tour of White Water Shaker Village.

The Region 9 meeting on April 6 will be hosted by the Ross County Historical Society in Chillicothe. The meeting will begin with a session on Ohio’s first World Heritage Site, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, providing more information about the variety of earthworks that make up this site and the culture that created them. The meeting continues with a mid-day tour of the Ross County Heritage Center and/or the Knolls Log House. The meeting concludes with a session on ways that local history organizations can work together to be more efficient and effective.

On March 9, the Bellaire Public Library & The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society will welcome you to Bellaire for the Region 10 meeting (to be held at the library). During the meeting, you’ll learn about public programming partnerships between historical organizations and libraries, and hear about the specifics of the fight to preserve the Great Stone Viaduct. The meeting will conclude with a choice of tours, including the National Imperial Glass Museum, the Great Stone Viaduct Plaza, and Public History Room at the Bellaire Public Library.

We’ve got some really exciting sessions planned, and I hope to see you at one or more of them! Remember, you aren’t limited to attending the meeting of the region you live or work in. You can attend any regional meeting—maybe to see a site you’ve always been interested in, or to take in an interesting presentation. Please note that all meeting dates are Saturdays, and all meetings include the regional business meeting and Sharing Time, a chance for each organization present to share a two-minute summary of their activities and accomplishments for the year.

The brochure, with more complete descriptions of each meeting, should have already arrived in your mailbox or will do so soon. Copies can also be found online at www.ohiolha.org/what-we-do/alliance-regional-meetings. You can register by mailing in the form on the last page of the brochure with a check or by using the online registration link on the OLHA website to pay via credit card. On-site registration will be available. Have questions? Call or email Betsy Hedler, Executive Secretary, at 614-297-2538 or ohiolha@ohiohistory.org.
The Ohio History Fund is the state’s only competitive matching grant program exclusively for history projects. But there’s a hurdle: the grants are made from money donated to the Ohio History Connection annually and we start at $0 every January. To raise money to make History Fund grants, we need your help. The more donations the History Fund receives, the more and larger grants the History Fund can make.

Of the program’s four sources of money for grants, the Ohio History Fund tax check off is the largest annually. It generated just over $96,000 in grantable funds in 2023 and is followed by revenue from the Rover pipeline settlement, sales of Ohio History “mastodon” license plates, and direct donations to the Ohio History Connection.

That the tax check-off is the largest source of grant funding is because of your donations. Find the check-off on your state income tax return, line 26d. How much we’ll have to grant is up to you. The average donation in 2023 was just over $12, and contribution – whether $5 or $50 helps!

See examples your generosity at work in the next story and in Alliance’s and Ohio History Connection’s social media feeds as the tax filing deadline of April 15 nears. Since 2013, 52 Alliance members have received History Fund grants, totaling approximately $523,000 – about half of all grants made by the program (122 grants / $1.2 million). For a list of recent Ohio History Fund recipients, go to: www.ohiohistory.org/preserving-ohio/ohio-history-fund-grant/grant-recipients/.

Applications for this current grant cycle (2023-2024) are under review. Recipients will be publically announced at the Statehood Day event, February 28. For more about Statehood Day, go to: www.ohiohistory.org/statehoodday

The deadline for applications in 2024 is September 10. This year’s revision of the application, will be posted at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund on or by June 20, a window of 12 weeks to apply. To preview what 2024’s application will require, review 2023’s version on the History Fund’s website at “Apply for a Grant.” The website also includes information about eligible projects and applicants, grant amounts, and instructions for applying. Questions? - contact Ohio History Fund & Outreach Manager Andy Verhoff at 614-562-4490 or averhoff@ohiohistory.org.

The tax check-off supports the Ohio History Fund. The Ohio History Fund supports you!

(continued on page 6)
How the Tax “Check-Off” Works

• Although we call it a “check-off,” on your tax form, you won’t find a box to check.

• Toward the end of your individual State of Ohio income tax return, after you’ve calculated the amount of your refund (if you are receiving a refund), you’ll find line 26 that asks “Amount of line 24 to be donated.”

• One of the six options is “Ohio History Fund,” line 26d.

• Under “Ohio History Fund,” fill in the amount that you’d like to contribute. Last year’s average contribution was just over $12. A small donation can make a big difference – but if want to round it up to special year, please do – contributing $20.26 commemorates the United States’ upcoming 250th anniversary!

• The amount you contribute supports the Ohio History Fund grant program. Since 2012, the History Fund has made 122 grants across our state for a total of more than $1.2 million. The Fund supports local history projects in communities throughout Ohio - all because of donation from generous, history-minded Ohioans like you. Thank you!

Help the Ohio History Fund and It Can Help You!

Here’s what you can do between now and that red letter tax-filing deadline of April 15 to support Ohio History Fund grants for organizations like yours:

• Share some of your state income tax refund with the History Fund, line 26d, “Ohio History Fund” on the 2023 Ohio IT 1040 Individual Income Tax Return. Tell your history-loving family and friends about it, too!

• Reprint in your newsletters an article about the Ohio History Fund, found on the next page. (That’s one less article you’ll have to write for your newsletter! Adapt and edit as needed.)

• Forward emails and share social media posts about the Ohio History Fund tax check-off from the Ohio History Connection and the Ohio Local History Alliance.

• Besides the tax check off, there are other ways to support the History Fund: the Ohio History “History” license plate and direct, tax-deductible donations to the Ohio History Connection designated for the History Fund.

• Twenty dollars from the sale of each set of History license plates benefits the History Fund grant program: www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-geninfo.aspx#collapseB (at the site, see “Organizational Plates” and then “History”)

• You can also make a donation directly to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund, visit www.ohiohistory.org and click on “Donate” at the top of the webpage. Be sure to designate your gift “For Ohio History Fund.”

The more the Ohio History Fund receives in donations, the more grants the Ohio History Fund makes to you. Since the Ohio History Fund began in 2012, it has made 122 grants across our state for a total of more than $1.2 million. Proving that there’s a great need for the History Fund, it has received 569 grant applications totaling more than $6.9 million in requests!
SAMPLE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE
Ohio History Fund—Support History in Your Community

The Ohio History Connection’s History Fund grant program is one of the few grant programs in the state just for history, prehistory, and historic preservation projects—and it needs your help to grow. If you receive a refund on your Ohio income taxes, consider donating a portion of it to the “Ohio History Fund” on line 26d of your state income tax return.

Your donation, with those from your friends, relatives, and thousands of other history lovers, makes possible grants for local history projects throughout Ohio. Since the Ohio History Fund began in 2012, it has made 122 grants across our state for a total of more than $1.2 million. Proving that there’s a great need for the History Fund, it has received 564 grant applications totaling more than $6.9 million in requests! For a list of recent grant recipients, visit www.ohiohistory.org/preserving-ohio/ohio-history-fund-grant/grant-recipients/.

Not receiving a tax refund? You can still help: buy an Ohio History “History” license plate! Twenty dollars from the sale of each set of plates benefits the History Fund grant program. To learn more, visit www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-geninfo.aspx#collapseB (at the site, see “Organizational Plates” and then “History”).

You can also make a donation directly to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund, visit www.ohiohistory.org and click on “Donate” near the top of the webpage. Be sure to designate your gift “For Ohio History Fund.”

The more you give to the Ohio History Fund, the more grants it can make to organizations like yours that preserve history in our state.

Questions? Visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund or contact Andy Verhoff, Ohio History Fund & Outreach Manager, State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection, averhoff@ohiohistory.org or 614-562-4490. Thanks!

Feel free to cut and paste this sample newsletter article and insert it in your organization’s newsletter. For other fun promotional materials, visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund.
Ohio History Fund-funded Projects Completed by Alliance Members – Congratulations!

THE TAX CHECK-OFF SUPPORTS THE OHIO HISTORY FUND. THE OHIO HISTORY FUND SUPPORTS YOU!

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

**Lorain Historical Society – “High Density Shelving for Textile Collections”**

L to R is the project team of Kaitlyn Donaldson, Curator & Senior Collections Manager; Brandon Wysoki, Buildings & Grounds Manager and Outreach Coordinator, and Jen Neuhaus, Collections Manager of the Lorain Historical Society, with Andy Verhoff of the Ohio History Connection’s History Fund grant program.

With a modest grant of $5,000 from the Ohio History Fund and $6,255 in matching support, the Lorain Historical Society’s determined staff and a cadre of community volunteers installed new, high density shelving in its Moore House textile storage area last year. It was a big job. The collection of about 1,860 objects in 164 archival boxes and containers had to be removed to temporary storage space on a separate floor. The Society also used this time to re-inventory and re-box some of collection. After the shelves were installed, the boxes were moved back in and re-shelved. The project means that the Society can store more textiles, more accessibly and safely, in same amount of space as before. The weight of the new shelves is also distributed more evenly across the floor, relieving strain on the 117-year-old structure. A member of the Alliance since 1988, you can learn more about Lorain Historical Society and its Moore House at www.lorainhistory.org/

**Miamisburg Historical Society – “Humidity Control, Archival Storage, and Preservation of Artifact Collection”**

Photograph courtesy of the Miamisburg Historical Society

A move to its new Miamisburg History Center in 2019 quadrupled the space the Miamisburg Historical Society has for collections care. Understanding that their community trusts the all-volunteer society to save and share local history, it needed to provide better climate control in their new facility and rehouse more of its collection in archival-quality containers. Using a History Fund grant of $4,362 and a match of $4,582, the society installed a humidity monitoring system and commercial-grade dehumidifier, rehoused 80 military banners, about 40 military uniforms and 40 dresses and quilts, and approximately 1,500 photographic negatives. In addition, the mighty volunteer staff re-housed in archive-quality boxes more than 1,200 objects that had been stored in bankers boxes. (To see why you should use archival boxes instead, see: www.gaylord.com/resources/why-archival-infographic) The Miamisburg Historical Society has been a member of the Alliance since 1991. Visit them on the web at: www.historicmiamisburg.org/
What Can You Do with Unwanted Holy Cards and Grandma’s Religious Statues?
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN COLLECTIONS CARE FOR RELIGIOUS OBJECTS

by Kayla Harris, Associate Professor, Director of the Marian Library, University of Dayton; and Sarah B. Calahan, former Director of the Marian Library. Originally published March 31, 2021, by The Conversation, https://theconversation.com/us.

When a rosary was made for King Henry VIII in 1509, it was hand-carved in intricate detail by a master artisan. By contrast, many of the rosaries around today are made from the same plastic that goes into mass-produced objects such as children’s toys or water bottles.

It doesn’t matter much to the faithful; for devoted Catholics, praying with plastic is just as good as praying with a great work of art.

But it does pose a dilemma for us. As librarians at the University of Dayton’s Marian Library, we help curate a collection of religious artifacts that, depending on how you count it, numbers in the hundreds of thousands. It includes postage stamps, wine labels, books, statues and rosaries. Many of the items are Catholic and have been gifted to the library by charitable individuals looking to do the right thing with a family heirloom or the collection of a recently deceased loved one. Donations could include anything from medieval manuscripts to a car air freshener featuring Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In many cases, donations are welcome. But we struggle with what to do when donations duplicate items we already have, or if the gifted item is not of particular value. And this happens frequently, especially with mass-produced items such as rosaries or cheap plastic statues.

Right: Some holy cards are intricately designed and made with lace borders. The Marian Library, University of Dayton, CC BY-SA

(continued on page 10)
Mass-produced cards

Another example is the holy card. Holy cards or prayer cards are in many ways the religious equivalent to baseball trading cards – they even attract the same type of fanatical collecting. The front usually includes an image of a saint or a religious scene, while the back often has a particular prayer, or the biography of the saint. Early examples of holy cards might be printed on silk or colored by hand. Some can look a bit like the fanciest Valentine’s Day card, with lace borders and room for personal messages.

With advances in printing processes, mass production of holy cards accelerated in the 19th century and continues today, with millions being produced each year. Today, you can purchase 100 new holy cards for less than US$20, and they’re common to pick up at funerals, baptisms or special Masses.

With the mass production and wide distribution of items like holy cards and rosary beads, donations to our collection can multiply quickly. Most months we receive unsolicited gifts of mass-produced materials in the mail. And we are not alone – other libraries, archives and museums likewise receive such gifts.

A widely used guide for running a Catholic library by liturgical scholar G. Thomas Ryan suggests that objects no longer needed should be donated to an archive or museum. But often institutions are short on both staff to process the gifts and space to house them.

Anything can be blessed

Our first step with an unwanted donation is to try to return it to the donor. But that is not always possible when materials appear anonymously or the donor does not want them back.

Someone who has driven several hours to deposit Grandma’s statues unannounced often just wants to drive away unencumbered. So, we look for good homes for items when possible, such as local Catholic schools or parishes.

When regifting isn’t an option, we are presented with a problem. While some unwanted nonreligious donations to libraries might be able to go straight into the trash, that is not an option with many religious objects. As a result, we have needed to investigate the correct way to dispose of religious objects.

According to canon law of the Catholic Church, certain types of especially sacred material, such as holy water and holy oil, must be treated with care and disposed of in specific ways.

The law explains that “sacred objects, set aside for divine worship by dedication or blessing, are to be treated with reverence.” But the law does not explicitly define which objects count as sacred.

Catholic convention is that discarding objects such as statues, rosaries or the palms from Palm Sunday should be by means of respectful burning or burial. But this is not normal practice for most libraries, and the burning of books and artwork has worrying associations with censorship or even war crimes.

But in Catholicism, it would be more scandalous to throw certain religious objects in the trash or sell them for a profit than it would be to burn or bury them, even if no one wants them and they do not fit in our collection.

In addition to protocols around specific types of object, many other Catholic artifacts could be considered sacred depending on how they have been used. This is especially the case if they have been prayed with or blessed.

It can be impossible for us as librarians to know the history of how an object has been used by previous owners – especially if passed to us from a third party. Any holy card, statue or painting could have been blessed as an image and therefore designated as sacred.

In addition to blessings for objects designated for sacred purposes, the Catholic Church literally has a “blessing of anything,” meaning any object could have been blessed by a priest. While this does not necessarily render an object sacred, it does indicate the freedom with which blessings are distributed.

Burn after reading room?

So what are curators supposed to do, given the ongoing mass production, wide distribution and frequent donation of such objects?

The best solution we have found is to remember that intention matters. Our intentions as stewards of these items are good: We communicate up front that not all donations can be accepted, and we try to find new homes for objects that do not belong in the Marian Library – whether by offering items for free to the community or communicating with another library that might be a better fit.

Disposal would be a last resort. To date, we have yet to have a prayerful, respectful fire to destroy duplicate holy cards – but we are not ruling it out.
America 250-Ohio Partners with Ohio Humanities to Launch Grants Program

By Chris Hurtubise, Communications Director

The America 250-Ohio Commission, Ohio’s official state commission charged with creating the celebration of the country’s semiquincentennial, announced it will offer grants up to $50,000 to nonprofit, education, and local government organizations, as well as independent artists and musicians. America 250-Ohio will work in unison with Ohio Humanities, a statewide nonprofit, to distribute $1 million in grants by June 30, 2024. The grants program is designed to showcase the achievements, struggles, honors, innovations and significance of all people in Ohio since before its founding to the present day.

Grants will be offered during a fall 2023 and winter 2024 funding cycle with two funding levels available during each cycle. The Buckeye Impact Grants offer up to $50,000 for projects with a statewide, regional, or significant local impact. These projects may include significant exhibitions, regional commemorative activities, substantial digital and documentary media projects and signature public events. Additionally, the America 250-Ohio Commission will offer Trillium Local Activity Grants for up to $5,000 for projects with a local or community-wide impact. Trillium Local Activity Grant projects may include exhibitions, interpretative panels, local commemorative programs or activities, local public events, educational, public programs, and smaller digital and documentary media projects.

“Our goal is that these grants will build momentum leading up to 2026 for educational and commemorative activities at museums, libraries, historic sites, cultural centers and educational institutions and amplify the under-told stories from Ohio’s illustrious history,” said Doug Preisse, co-chair of the America 250-Ohio Commission. “By supporting projects that align with these priorities, we will elevate our state’s history and bolster our communities’ efforts to execute impactful initiatives during such a monumental celebration.”

The America 250-Ohio Commission encourages grant applicants to consider the themes surrounding Ohio’s commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and to partner with Ohio Humanities staff during the application process. Themes identified for Ohio’s 250th anniversary programming include:

• Celebrations and Signature Events: Impacting tourism and economic development
• Ohio Originals: Highlighting points of pride and unity
• Engaging Youth and Lifelong Learners: Education and scholarship
• Inclusive Statewide Engagement: Museums, arts and culture
• Telling Ohio Stories: Highlighting stories of Ohioans past and present

The winter 2024 cycle opened January 15, 2024 with applications due March 1, 2024. Eligible parties must be a nonprofit organization registered with the State of Ohio and located in Ohio.

For more information on eligibility, project guidance and information on applying for a grant, visit America250-Ohio.org/grants/.

Visual Assets: Visual assets including the America 250-Ohio Commission and Ohio Humanities logos are available for download here.
Digitization Grants Available

The Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA) will award a total of up to $7,500 to preserve local history collections through digitization. The grant is given yearly to OLHA members. The maximum award to be given to a single institution is $2,500. The collections selected for digitization should be important to the history of the area represented by the applicant and/or to the history of Ohio.

Grant recipients will receive an Ohio Memory collection to publicly display their digital content. Each collection will be branded with the grantee’s logo and organization information. For more information about the Ohio Memory Program, please visit www.ohiomemory.org.

Application

Applications are online only. Applicants must be an OLHA member and have either a Federal ID number or a State of Ohio Certification of Continued Existence number to apply. You can check on your membership status by contacting the OLHA Executive Secretary, Dr. Betsy Hedler, at 614-297-2538 or ohiolha@ohiohistory.org.

Deadline

Applications are due February 15th each year. Grantees will be notified by April 1st with projects beginning May 1st. Projects should be completed 12 months after start date.

For more information and to apply, visit www.ohiolha.org/what-we-do/grants/alliance-digitization-grants

Call For Judges!

Ohio History Day State Contest

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

We’re looking for over 100 judges, and we hope you’ll be one of them!

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.

We hope to see you soon at an Ohio History Day Contest!

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024
CAPITAL UNIVERSITY, BEXLEY, OH

REGISTER TODAY! HTTPS://OH.NHD.ORG/

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National Aviation Heritage Alliance Unveils New Grant Programs

The National Aviation Heritage Alliance (NAHA) announces the launch of two grant programs to advance the National Aviation Heritage Area, an 8-county region in West Central Ohio (Auglaize, Shelby, Miami, Champaign, Clark, Greene, Montgomery, and Warren Counties). With a commitment to preserve and promote aviation heritage, NAHA will distribute more than $250,000 in grants this year through the Large and Small Grant Funds.

The Large Grant Fund awards grants above $5,000 with a recommended maximum of $75,000. The grants are a sub-award of federal dollars and are available for a variety of activities including, but not limited to, planning, consultation, interpretation, workshops, events, collections, exhibits, aircraft maintenance/preservation, marketing & promotion, and wayfinding & signage. The deadline for the Large Grant Fund is March 1, 2024.

The Small Grant Fund awards grants up to $5,000. The grants are available for a variety of activities like the Large Grant fund but have a shorter performance period and simpler grant application and reporting process. The Small Grant Fund has rolling deadlines of January 15, March 18 and July 8. The Small Grant Fund would be ideal for an organization that has not received a grant from the Alliance in the past.

Susan Richardson, NAHA Board Chair, expressed enthusiasm for the potential impact of these new grant programs. “These initiatives represent a significant step forward in our commitment to preserving and promoting the rich aviation heritage of the region. By providing financial support through the Small and Large Grant Funds, we hope to have a greater economic impact in the National Aviation Heritage Area.”

Applications for both grant programs opened January 9, 2024 and will be accepted until their respective deadlines. The selection process will be rigorous, with a focus on projects that demonstrate a clear commitment to advancing aviation heritage goals.

For more information on eligibility criteria, application guidelines, and key dates, please visit the National Aviation Heritage Alliance website at www.VisitNAHA.com.

Find Digital Ohio Digital Collections Advocacy Toolkit

Want to promote your digital collections but aren’t sure where to start? Check out the Find Digital Ohio Digital Collections Advocacy Toolkit! This free toolkit includes step-by-step guides for creating marketing materials that promote your digital collections, as well as customizable templates and graphics for social media, public programs, and on-demand learning resources. You will also find collateral samples like bookmarks, flyers, and magnets.

Our toolkit is completely customizable to swap out with your institution's colors, logos and digital images, and can be found at www.finddigitalohio.org/. We encourage you to use the materials we’ve provided to get the word out about your collections and hope that you will share this resource with others in your community with digital collections to promote.

This project is supported by the State Library of Ohio, as part of their ILEAD Program, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Thank you in advance for your interest and support, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at finddigitalohio@gmail.com.

The Find Digital Ohio Team is comprised of Virginia Dressler, Kent State University; Grace Freeman, Columbus Metropolitan Library; Cari Hillman, MidPointe Library System; Jenni Salamon, Ohio History Connection; and Adam Wanter, MidPointe Library System.
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: 2023 Local History Publication Awards

The Center for Archival Collections is accepting submissions for its 2023 Local History Publication Awards. Works published between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023 will be accepted.

The Center for Archival Collections seeks to encourage and recognize authors for outstanding publications in the field of Local History. For this award Local History is geographically defined as the nineteen counties within the Center’s collecting scope (Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot) The Firelands, and Maumee Valley Region.

There are two categories for the awards: the Article category recognizes articles, essays, and long-form blog posts in both print and electronic formats, while the Book category recognizes books published in both print and electronic formats. Both categories award authors in Professional and Independent divisions. The Professional Division includes works prepared and submitted by authors who exclusively or primarily make their living as a scholar and/or writer. The Independent Division includes works prepared and submitted by independent or local researchers, amateurs, and others who do not claim history or writing as a profession. Each Division winner will receive a $300.00 cash award and plaque. Please see our Guidelines for Submissions for more information.

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 and 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, Wm. T. Jerome Library, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403, postmarked by February 29, 2024 and fill out our online submission form. All works submitted become the property of the CAC. For complete information about the award and submissions, please see the Guidelines for Submissions. For further information, please contact Nick Pavlik at the CAC at 419-372-7914 or npavlik@bgsu.edu.

OLHA Membership Dues Increased as of January 8, 2024

The Ohio Local History Alliance increased membership dues for most membership categories effective January 8, 2024. This is the first increase since at least 2012. Due to the rising inflation, this increase is necessary for OHLA to continue to provide high-quality programming to Ohio’s local historical societies, history museums, archives, libraries, genealogical societies, and historic preservation groups. We have kept membership rates the same for our smallest organizational category, as well as for Student memberships.

The new rates are:

Organizational memberships
• Organization with operating budget under $25,000: $35 ($10 two year renewal discount)
• Organization with operating budget of $25,000-100,000: $75 ($10 two year renewal discount)
• Organization with operating budget of $100,000-200,000: $100 ($10 two year renewal discount)
• Organization with operating budget over $200,000: $150 ($10 two year renewal discount)
• Business: $130 ($10 two year renewal discount)

Individual memberships
• Individual: $65 ($10 two year renewal discount)
• Affiliate: $45 ($10 two year renewal discount)
• Student: $20 ($10 two year renewal discount)
2024 Ohio Museums Association Annual Conference
“Sustaining Museums for Future Climates”
April 13-15, 2024

In so many areas of our regular life the climates are changing from what was usual in the past. In the museum world, sustainability and shifts in climates are happening too, and encompass a broad range of topics and impacts.

Of course, museums think about sustainability regarding their environmental impact, but also in terms of financial sustainability, the changing climate of visitor and donor behavior, sustaining and supporting the workforce, the future of grant and foundation support, shifting volunteer demographics, changing trends in tourism, and more – all while sustaining and staying true to their mission.

Museums across Ohio are tackling the many facets of sustainability so they can remain strong, vibrant, and essential community cornerstones no matter what future climates bring.

Join us in Sandusky, April 13-15 as we explore these topics and more at the 2024 Ohio Museums Association’s Annual Conference: Sustaining Museums for Future Climates.

Volunteer Engagement Fundamentals Course
ServeOhio is pleased to partner with VQ Volunteer Strategies to provide a comprehensive volunteer management training course, Volunteer Engagement Fundamentals. This virtual 6-week course will be offered twice per year in the spring and fall and is comprised of six weekly 90-minute sessions focused on key volunteer management practices. Sessions equip participants with a strong foundation to successfully engage volunteers within their organization. The course is designed for new and mid-level volunteer engagement professionals (0 – 5 years’ experience) in Ohio who work in nonprofit, community, faith-based, higher education, or government organizations. Sessions include:

- Up-to-date information on engagement trends and strategies
- Specific strategies for volunteer engagement
- Thought-provoking discussions and group exercises
- Tools and templates that participants can begin using immediately to enhance volunteer engagement
- Virtual community of practice to connect and share with peers between sessions

The Spring 2024 cohort will take place on Thursdays from 10:00am to 11:30am from March 7th through April 11th.

Applications for the course are due by 11:59pm on Thursday, February 8, 2024.

Apply Here

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:
2024 OLHA Annual Meeting

2024 Annual Meeting – Truth or Consequences
Quest Conference Center, Columbus, October 4-5, 2024

Join us for our Annual Meeting, organized around the theme Truth and Consequences. We are now seeking session proposals around the theme of Truth and Consequences that discuss how it relates to the work of our member organizations in collecting, sharing, and commemorating Ohio’s local history.

View the Session Proposal Form here!

The deadline to submit session proposals is February 15, 2024.

For questions about the conference, please contact:
Dr. Betsy Hedler
Executive Secretary, Ohio Local History Alliance
P: 614-297-2538;
C: 614-398-3491,
Email: ehedler@ohiohistory.org.
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2024 Oral History Association Meeting in Cincinnati

Oral History: Bridging Past, Present, and Future

October 30-November 2, 2024
Cincinnati Netherlands Plaza – Cincinnati, Ohio

Submission Portal for OHA 2024 is now available at oha.memberclicks.net/submitoha2024.

Deadline to submit is February 23, 2024.

Inspired by past, present and future oral historians and oral history projects, the 2024 Oral History Association Annual Meeting looks to reflect not just on oral history work throughout its nearly 70-year history, but also to explore how that work has had an impact on the work we do today and how the work we do today will influence and benefit practitioners and communities of the future. Accordingly, we invite you to consider the following questions as examples of the ideas and discussions we hope to include in the 2024 program:

Past: What projects, interviews, or practitioners inspired your professional path or your project aims? What oral history standards and practices have changed over the decades, and how has that had an impact on your work? What history or stories of the past were not recorded, and what can be done to fill in that historical gap?

Present: What’s the current technology you’re working with? What oral history-related questions are you grappling with today? What current events, individuals or communities are informing and inspiring your oral history practice; how have recent events, such as the pandemic or climate change, shaped or inspired your oral history practice? Does your work reshape, or recenter, oral history practice to better align with social justice efforts?

Future: What do you hope for the future of your collection or your project; what are the imagined or expected future uses for the interviews you’ve conducted? What advice would you give to future (and current new) oral history practitioners? How do you hope or expect the practice of oral history (or OHA) to change in the future? Is there a speculative nature to your current project or the interviews you’ve conducted; asking narrators or communities to look ahead and imagine the future they want or expect to see?

We welcome panel and presentation ideas that address the above, or any other subjects that reflect the bridge between oral history of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Contemplating bridges over time we can imagine that those bridges connect us to the past and to the future, and vice versa. Instead of a linear view, past to present to future, we consider all the different ways that time and stories can flow. As historians (either professionally or casually) we understand how powerful the past is and what it means to us today; what it can teach us and what happens if we don’t let it. In many ways, as we’ve seen all too clearly lately, the past repeats itself. We may all agree that as oral historians we can play a vital role in preserving the past for the future; but what role can, or should, we play in shaping that future? How can we build stronger bridges to connect communities, generations, and stories across time?

All of this rich discussion & debate—intended to connect all attendees, from newcomers to those returning for another year of OHA—will take place in Cincinnati, known to some as Cincy, the Queen City of the West, or Porkopolis. Whatever one calls it, this vibrant city offers much more than the fictional radio station WKRP or the very real Big Red Machine, both from the 1970s; visitors today can explore the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal, and the American Sign Museum, and check out the offerings of the Findlay Market and tours of the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood or brewery heritage tours.

Cincinnati sits along the banks of the Ohio River, across from its neighbors, Covington and Newport in Kentucky. Attendees can sit or walk along the riverfront, contemplating the thoughts and ideas presented in our workshops, panels, plenaries, receptions and collegial chats, while taking note of the many bridges that span the river, providing the inspiration for this year’s theme.

The Conference Committee welcomes broad and creative interpretations of the conference theme. We especially encourage presenters to think about innovative delivery models including interactive sessions and the use of digital media. In addition, we welcome proposals from the diverse communities that carry out oral history work outside the United States. If accepted, international presenters may apply for partial scholarships, made available by the OHA in support of international presentations. Small scholarships are also available for accepted presenters and others who attend the meeting.

Proposal format: Submit online at oha.memberclicks.net/submitoha2024

For information about this year’s conference theme or CFP, reach out to Conference Chair Ellen Brooks at ellen.b.brooks@gmail.com.

For information about submission deadlines or processes, reach out to OHA’s Program Associate at oha@oralhistory.org or (615) 624-2688.
Region 1
Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood Counties

The Allen County Museum and Historical Society received a $25,000 grant from National Endowment for the Humanities for their project, “Planning of Reorganization and Reinstallation of Permanent Collection Galleries and Development of an Interpretative Plan,” to help them develop an interpretive plan and public programming to tell a more comprehensive story of Allen County.

Region 2
Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties

Region 3
Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

Region 4
Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

Region 5
Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne Counties

Region 6
Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Perry, Pickaway, and Union Counties

The Upper Arlington Historical Society partnered with the City of UA to institute a Century Home Marker program in Fall 2023. After completing an application process, qualifying residents may purchase a permanent metal plaque customized with their home’s year-built date. In the program’s inaugural offering, over 55 markers were sold. The program will return in 2024. A team of Society volunteers designed the plaque and process, and the City of UA updated legislation to allow for the marker to be permanently affixed to residences. See uahistory.org/chm-info for more information.

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 Museums and Historic Sites of Cincinnati held a Holiday get together at the Harman Museum in Lebanon and have recently elected new officers. We welcome President Craig Niemi of the Cincinnati Observatory, Vice President Terrie Puckett from The Grail in the US, Treasurer Gary Walton of the Cincinnati Type & Print Museum, and Secretary Abigail Zhang from the Harriet Beecher Stowe House.

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House would like to welcome its new Board Members: Faith Cargile, Kim Chiodi, Phyllis Davis, Yalie Kamara, MoPoetry Phillips, and returning member, Kathryn Gibbons. They are excited to lend their voices in support of this site as we complete the 2-time period restoration and embark on a reimagined interpretation throughout 2024.

Region 9
Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton Counties

The Lillian E. Jones Museum in Jackson, Ohio, participated in the Jackson Downtown Association’s Annual Cookie Walk. Participants bought tickets and then visited various downtown locations to receive a cookie. The museum hosted extended hours for the event, and close to 200 people stopped by to get their cookies and see our latest exhibit - Everyday Art. The local elementary after-school program ran a passport program for students during the same event. The students could stop by the museum to see our exhibit, get their passports stamped, and be entered to win prizes. An overall successful night for the museum’s community engagement.

Region 10
Belmont, Coshocton, Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, and Washington Counties

The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society was honored at the 2023 Appalachia Heritage Luncheon for their Scioto Historical Project. The Scioto Historical Project, created by Dr. Andrew Feight, for Portsmouth, in Scioto County, was inspired by a collaboration between Shawnee State University and Cleveland State University’s Center for Public History + Digital Humanities. First launched in 2013, after two years of development, the Scioto Historical mobile app and website has become the go-to local history source for Portsmouth and Scioto County.

The Southeast Ohio History Center received a $25,000 grant from National Endowment for the Humanities for their project, “Expanding Invisible Ground in Southeast Ohio,” a multimedia project exploring the history of communities in southeast Ohio.

The Center for Public History at Shawnee State University was honored at the 2023 Appalachia Heritage Luncheon for their Scioto Historical Project. The Scioto Historical Project, created by Dr. Andrew Feight, for Portsmouth, in Scioto County, was inspired by a collaboration between Shawnee State University and Cleveland State University’s Center for Public History + Digital Humanities. First launched in 2013, after two years of development, the Scioto Historical mobile app and website has become the go-to local history source for Portsmouth and Scioto County.

The Southeast Ohio History Center received a $25,000 grant from National Endowment for the Humanities for their project, “Expanding Invisible Ground in Southeast Ohio,” a multimedia project exploring the history of communities in southeast Ohio.
MEMBERS

Joined or renewed between November 2, 2023 and January 12, 2024.

Welcome New Members

INDIVIDUALS
Robin Heise, Xenia  Mary McKinley, Xenia

Thank You, Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS
John Clement, Berea  Elizabeth Kruthoffer, Hamilton
Carl T. Engel, Painesville  Kelly D. Mezurek, Dover
Anna Helmig-Sampson, Troy  Walter Pechenuk, Akron

ORGANIZATIONS
Avon Lake Historical Society, Avon Lake
Blanchester Area Historical Society, Blanchester
Brecksville Historical Association Inc, Brecksville
Bremen Area Historical Society, Bremen
Brunswick Area Historical Society, Brunswick
Clark County Historical Society, Springfield
Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus
Cridersville Historical Society, Cridersville
Ellsworth Historical Society, Ellsworth
Enon Community Historical Society, Enon
Fayette County Historical Society, Washington Court House
German Culture Museum, Walnut Creek
Hinckley Historical Society Inc, Hinckley
Historic Lyme Village Association, Bellevue
Historical Society of Mount Pleasant, Mount Pleasant
Kelton House Museum and Garden, Columbus
Knox County Historical Society, Mount Vernon
Lake Township Historical Society, Urointown
Lorain Historical Society, Lorain
Marietta College, Marietta
Marlboro Township Historical Society, Hartville
Miamisburg Historical Society, Miamisburg
National First Ladies Library, Canton
Ohio Genealogical Society, Bellville
Preble County Historical Society, Eaton
Pro Football Hall of Fame, Canton
Ross County Historical Society, Chillicothe
Shaker Historical Society & Museum, Cleveland
Sinclair Community College Library, Dayton
Stemtown Historical Society, Green Springs
Walhonding Valley Historical Society, Warsaw
Washington Township Hist Soc of Stark County, Alliance
Waterville Historical Society, Waterville
Watt Center for History & the Arts, Barnesville
Western Reserve Fire Museum, Cleveland
Windsor Historical Society, Windsor
Woodville Historical Society, Woodville
Wyoming Historical Society, Wyoming

CALENDAR

JANUARY 8:
Ohio Local History Alliance Membership Dues Change. For more information, see page 14.

FEBRUARY 8:
Volunteer Engagement Fundamentals course applications due. For more information, see page 15.

FEBRUARY 15:
Proposals due for OLHA 2024 Annual Meeting. For more information, see page 15.
OLHA Digitization Grants Due. For more information, see page 12.

FEBRUARY 23:
Proposals due for Oral History Association meeting. For more information, see page 16.

FEBRUARY 29:
Local History Publication Awards Nominations Due. For more information, see page 14.

MARCH 1:
America-250 Ohio Grant Application Due. For more information, see page 11.
NAHA Large Grant Fund Applications Due. For more information, see page 13.

MARCH 2:
Region 2 & 8 Meetings. For more information, see pages 1 & 4.

MARCH 9:
Region 7 & 10 Meetings. For more information, see page 4.

MARCH 16:
Region 4 & 6 Meetings. For more information, see page 4.

MARCH 18:
NAHA Small Grant Fund Applications Due. For more information, see page 13.

MARCH 23:
Region 3 & 5 Meetings. For more information, see page 4.

APRIL 6:
Region 1 & 9 Meetings. For more information, see pages 1 & 4.

APRIL 13-15:
Ohio Museums Association Annual Conference. For more information, see page 15.
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:

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<th>Membership Fee</th>
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<td>Under $25,000 a year:</td>
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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.

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<th>Status</th>
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Join at:


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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. The Local Historian (ISSN 9893-3340) is published bimonthly by the Ohio History Connection, 800 E 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215-2497, as a benefit to Ohio Local History Alliance members. Periodicals Postage Paid at Columbus, OH.

**POSTMASTER:**

Send address changes to: The Local Historian, Local History Services, Ohio History Connection, 800 E 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215-2497.

Editor: Betsy Hedler

Graphic Design: Kim Koloski

Please direct materials or phone inquiries to: The Local Historian Ohio Local History Alliance 800 E 17th Avenue Columbus, OH 43215-2497 614-297-2538 FAX: (614) 297-2567 ohiola@ohiohistory.org

Visit The Alliance online at [www.ohiohistory.org](http://www.ohiohistory.org) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ohio-localhistoryalliance](http://www.facebook.com/ohio-localhistoryalliance)

Annual Membership Dues:

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Individuals:

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