

Statewide Consortium of Ohio County Law Library Resources Boards

Board

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Kenneth Kozlowski
John Leutz

Executive Director

Angela T. Baldree

March 14, 2012

County Law Library Resource Board
Chairperson
Courthouse
OH

Dear Chairperson,

R.C. 3375.481(D)(5) requires the Consortium to issue an annual report to each county law library resources board. At its meeting on March 9, 2012 the Consortium adopted the 2011 Year End Executive Director's Report as its annual report. A copy is attached.

I would like to add a few additional comments.

Creating a new state agency where none existed, has been to say the very least, an interesting and challenging task. I cannot thank or say enough about the excellent guidance we have received from our counsel, Jennifer Croskey. The efficient and orderly process that has been followed to create the Consortium is a result of her excellent legal advice.

Next, I would like to thank and recognize the support we have received from the staff at the Supreme Court. Steven C. Hollon, Jo Ellen Cline and Ken Kozlowski were very instrumental in providing us a home and helping to set up our financial operation.

The Board's choice of Angela Baldree as our executive director has proven to be one of our best decisions. The contract she has negotiated with the vendors was a giant first step in accomplishing one of the Consortium's primary goals. Equally as important is the trust she has built with the county resources boards. I recognize some of the question and concerns that all of the counties had during this transition. Angela has done an outstanding job addressing these concerns and building a platform of trust for the future.

I also want to thank the Lake County Resources Board. The Lake County Board was very cooperative working with the Consortium to create a contractual relationship with Angela that worked for both organizations.

I am also very pleased with the grants we were able to fund. A report regarding the same has already been distributed. The consortium will continue to fund programs to make membership a valuable asset.

A special note of thanks is due to my fellow Board members for their support – George Baker who was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Mary Jenkins, John Leutz, Ken Kozlowski and Kathy Dugan. None of what has been or will be accomplished would be possible without their knowledge and passion for law libraries in Ohio.

Finally I want to thank each of you. Your participation helped make 2011 a very successful first year. With your continued support I know that we can strengthen law libraries in Ohio for the benefit of everyone.

Very truly yours,



Hon. Charles A. Schneider
Chairman

Statewide Consortium of Ohio County Law Library Resource Boards
2011 Year End Executive Director's Report
Angela T. Baldree, MLS

After being selected as the executive director of the Statewide Consortium of Ohio County Law Library Resource Boards in August 2011, I presented the board 10 goals I wished to attain by the end of the year. One of those goals was to present a year end report to the board and members on the state of the consortium. This document serves as such. Below are the other 9 goals and the status of each.

- Four district visits – By the end of the year I will have visited 17 county law libraries (Lucas, Wood, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Cuyahoga, Summit, Ashtabula, Richland, Ashland, Wayne, Holmes, Knox, and Coshocton). These visits have been very informative and a great way to meet librarians, board members and county commissioners. The libraries are asking a lot of good questions and seem to be pleased with the efforts of the consortium. While most have asked what they are going to get for their 2% contribution, they have also acknowledged that they probably will not get an equal return on their contribution at the start. The one constant over the last two years is that there continues to be 88 different ways to running a county law library. Thanks to George Baker and Kathy Sasala for accompanying me on some of my visits.
- Consortium web site – Due to the dispute with Ohio Department of Administrative Services, the consortium web site has not been created. During my library visits I have begun a photo collection of the law libraries to be included on the web site. I have also spoken to the previously created Consortium of County Law Libraries about migrating information from their web site onto ours upon completion. Thanks to Jennifer Croskey for all her help with this issue.
- Financial reports – Again, after a slight delay, the Supreme Court of Ohio has created funds for the consortium. To date we have taken in \$310,043.47. There are still 9 counties who have not contributed their 2% contribution (Harrison, Hocking, Jackson, Licking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Putnam, and Wyandot). I made phone calls to each of their county treasurers last month to remind them of their requirement. Every treasurer I spoke to denied knowing anything about the law, but promised to look into the situation. I sent each one of them a copy of the letter originally sent to county treasurers in February 2011, a copy of an invoice, and the W9. As for expenses, the consortium has paid out \$5487.50 in grant money to the Lake County Law Library. The consortium has also paid out \$1661.68 in travel reimbursement for my library visits and the ORALL Annual Conference. There will probably be a payment to Matthew Bender by the end of the year for the first installment of the handbooks purchased for the law libraries. Is also a charge for \$298.62 for the consortium's expenses from the OALL Annual Meeting. Now that the funds have been established and are working correctly, regular financial reports will be provided to the consortium board. Thanks to Ken Kozlowski for all his help with setting these funds up and coordinating income and expenses.
- Grants – The Grant Committee created a grant proposal opportunity for the law libraries of Ohio. Four distinct categories were created (staff training and career development, programming for patrons, technology, and multi-county collaboration). The grant proposal was sent to all 88 counties and law libraries have until the end of February, 2012

to submit grant requests. I have spoken to two adjacent counties on the possibility of creating a multi-county law library commission. They are currently discussing the feasibility of this merger and whether applying for a multi-county cooperation grant might help them. Other law librarians have contacted me about possible grant ideas. No grant requests have been received yet, but I look forward to receiving those early next year. Thanks to Mary Jenkins and Susan Boland for their work on the Grant Committee.

- List serve – Discussion was had early on about creating a list serve for the 88 county law libraries since the ORALL-C list only serves members of ORALL. After discussion in August, it was decided against this idea. As executive director, I have a working email address for 84 of the 88 counties. I stay in contact with the other 4 libraries through the mail. Once the web site is created, we'll have an additional means of communicating with all 88 counties.
- Interlibrary loan – The Interlibrary Loan Committee met via teleconference this fall to discuss ways to improve the ILL system currently being used. An idea was presented to embed a link on the consortium web site in order to avoid duplication. While this idea seems to be a viable solution, the implementation of this is on hold pending the creation of the web site. Thanks to George Baker, Keith Blough, and Susan Boland for their work on the Interlibrary Loan Committee.
- Ohio practice area handbooks – The work I am most proud of this year is the successful negotiation with Matthew Bender on a package of 16 of their handbooks and manuals to be purchased by the consortium and distributed to every county law library in Ohio. The consortium has agreed to spend a little over \$89,000 for the 16 titles (all titles included free shipping) and every library is receiving \$1560 in free books. To date 6 of the titles have shipped (*Anderson's Ohio Family Law Handbook*, *Anderson's Ohio Annotated Probate Law Handbook*, *Anderson's Ohio Juvenile Law Handbook*, *Domestic Relations Practice in Ohio*, *Anderson's Ohio Insurance Law Handbook*, and *Ohio School Finance*). The part of this I am most proud of is that 25 libraries are actually getting all or more of their 2% contribution back through this deal. In addition to providing the consortium a 35% reduced rate on these 16 titles, Matthew Bender has also extended that reduction to any additional books libraries wish to purchase on their own either for the library or their other county agencies. Law libraries are to return their list of additional purchases to me by December 23. I cannot wait to see how much this offer saves statewide. Additionally both West and Matthew Bender have offered a bundle deal regarding their Ohio Revised Codes. Matthew Bender has agreed to provide a two year service agreement for the *Page's Ohio Revised Code* at a cost of \$1209. West has agreed to a reduced rate on the *Baldwin's Ohio Revised Code* based upon the number of copies ordered.
- Ohio Jurisprudence cost – Judge Schneider asked me early on to contact West about the discrepancy in the cost of *Ohio Jurisprudence* reported in the survey done by the Information Resources Committee in January 2011. After speaking with Bob Malouf from West, it was established that there was not as severe of a discrepancy as previously thought. Some of the libraries are getting *Ohio Jurisprudence* at a significant discount because it is tied in with their westpack plan. Any other discrepancies can be explained by the history of the purchase.
- ORALL Annual Meeting – I did attend the ORALL Annual Conference on behalf of the consortium. On Wednesday, a very successful two hour board meeting was held. Several libraries attended in person and over the phone. This was also a great opportunity for me

to speak to librarians one on one regarding the consortium and answer questions they and their boards might have about the consortium.

- Additional items – In addition to the goals set earlier this year, I have also secured a group price for EBSCOHost. This full text online database will be offered at a reduced rate to libraries based upon the number of libraries participating. Libraries need to let me know of their interest by early January 2012.

Overall these past 6 months have been very busy and yet very fulfilling. It has been so much fun visiting new libraries and meeting people I have only emailed or phoned in the past. I am looking forward to the next twelve month when my large project will be contract negotiations with the vendors for online databases.

Below are some pictures from my library visits. (Ashland, Cleveland, Coshocton, Holmes, Knox, Lucas, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wayne

