

## OHIOANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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**OHIO SENATE – FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Chairman – The Honorable Chris Widener**

### **OHIOANA BUDGET HEARING TESTIMONY - HB 153** **May 4, 2011**

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The Ohioana Library Association is a small agency, which, since its founding in 1929, has represented a public/private partnership between the state of Ohio and a not-for-profit organization. Ohioana, with the assistance of the citizens of Ohio and publishers from around the country, has collected, preserved, and promoted the written works of Ohio's authors, musicians, and other artists. Ohioana serves not just as the collector and caretaker of Ohio's literary treasures, but also as the primary organization that fosters and celebrates the writing and reading of Ohioans.

Our three-part program works like a tripod – each leg of the program is dependent on the others.

- **OHIOANA COLLECTION AND REFERENCE SERVICES**
- **OHIOANA EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH**
- **OHIOANA PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

Each element generates private funds and donations to help meet direct costs and general operating support. The interdependent parts, when combined, provide a comprehensive, cost effective delivery of services; however the program overall is dependent on state funds to help sustain our four staff who are responsible for the program elements and generating private funds.

We realize that everyone is facing challenging economic times and Ohioana certainly has not been exempt. Our state allocation has been consistently decreased, in fact, our allocation has decreased by 45% during the past six years. Because of the economic downturn, it has been harder for us to secure private support. To sustain operations we have had to use a portion of the principle of our endowment funds. We have altered our programs, reduced services, and cut staffing from six full-time positions to three full-time and one part-time position. Attached to this testimony is a document that we recently sent to our members along with a request for contributions.

The funding of \$120,000 for each fiscal year as recommended in the Governor's Budget is absolutely necessary for Ohioana to seek out and leverage ongoing and new independent private support.

Our programs contribute to Ohio's economy and foster its human creative resources, thereby enhancing the quality of life and education in Ohio. Our recognition of writers and other creative artists helps to attract and keep talented writers, musicians, and artists in Ohio. They contribute to the economy, as do their publishers and the bookstores that sell their work. Many teach in our schools and institutions of higher education, where they attract and inspire young people.

Research demonstrates that a thriving cultural and arts community has a positive impact on the financial health and vitality of a region. Businesses are attracted to a state not just because of lower taxes or relaxed regulations but because of the natural, human, and cultural resources that are provided. Ohioana's emphasis on preserving Ohio's cultural heritage serves not only as a legacy for future generations but also as an important source of community pride.

#### **OHIOANA COLLECTION AND REFERENCE SERVICES**

The **Ohioana collection**, started in 1929 and originally housed in the Governor's residence, is the core of our program. This irreplaceable collection contains more than 75,000 items, including 45,000 books, 10,000 pieces of sheet music, biographical material on more than 23,000 Ohioans, and the files of the more than 400 members of the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame as well as the records of the OWHF.

Last year, nearly 1,000 items were added to the collection. All were donated by publishers, authors, or friends. If these items were purchased the market value would be more than \$22,000. The willingness of publishers and authors to donate new books for the collection is dependent on our other services, namely the *Ohioana Quarterly*, the Ohioana Awards, and the Ohioana Book Festival.

The collection is used by and reference services are provided to researchers of all ages: students, teachers, other libraries, writers, readers, and the media. Last year more than 325 individuals and 23 groups used the collection in-house and we responded to more than 1,000 email exchanges or phone reference requests.

The most important reasons for maintaining and developing the Ohioana collection: it is from the collection that all of our other services grow and the collection is the literary legacy that we leave for future generations.

#### **OHIOANA EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH:**

The *Ohioana Quarterly - Ohio's Book Review Journal*, has been published for 53 years. Last year more than 7,000 *Quarterlies* were printed and distributed to more than 1,800 readers including 250 libraries and organizations, where they are shared and read by dozens more people. It is used in academic, public, and school libraries, as well as book stores and reading groups, to select appropriate and relevant reading material for their patrons and members. It is

estimated that each library subscription is read by 20 people. All book reviews are listed in the table of contents of the *Quarterly*, which is available on our website along with a searchable index of the reviews. The *Quarterly's* 100 reviewers are all volunteers – from professors and journalists whose contributions would be costly if compensated, to college, high school, and elementary school students who are seeking writing experience and sometimes academic credit. The current rate for professional reviews is approximately \$75 per review. We estimate the donated value of our reviewers work is nearly \$10,000 annually. The majority of Ohioana's private funds are generated from members/subscribers to the *Quarterly*.

**Ohioana Website** - In the FY 2010, approximately 20,000 visitors viewed more than 47,000 pages on Ohioana's website at [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org). Ninety-two percent of the visitors were from the USA, representing all 50 states. Of this number nearly 47% were Ohioans. The non-USA visitors come from 100 different countries.

Whenever possible, we add new educational resources to our website. This year we added the Ohioana Travels the Underground Railroad educational kit. It is our belief that children will enjoy learning and will be inspired by writers and illustrators that share a similar background with them; writers and artists who also have made their homes in Ohio. The Ohioana Library Travels the Underground Railroad project contains tools designed to provide resources for students, teachers, and librarians to augment and enhance the standard classroom curriculum.

It should be noted, our website is managed by a volunteer whose service, if paid, would cost at least \$15,000 a year.

**Other Resources** - In response to requests from students, teachers, and librarians, we have created nine educational resource lists which identify and provide basic vital information on Ohio authors and others of note. The lists are available on our website.

Ohioana has partnered with a number of organizations and agencies including the State Library of Ohio to create and promote the Choose to Read Ohio: Read Together...Read Ohio... Read for Life program.

The Ohio Literary Map, produced in partnership with the Ohio Center for the Book at the Cleveland Public Library and the State Library of Ohio, was distributed to all schools and public libraries. Along with the Ohio Literary Map, Ohioana continues to create and distribute brochures and other items promoting Ohio authors, artists, and musicians and their works.

#### **OHIOANA PUBLIC PROGRAMS:**

**ALL PROGRAMS IN THIS AREA PROMOTE LITERATURE AND THE JOY OF READING AND WRITING.**

The **Ohioana Awards** - Some of Ohio's and our nation's most famous writers and other artists have been honored to receive the Ohioana Career Award, and many young writers' careers have been nurtured and fostered by Ohioana. Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Toni Morrison's first book review appeared in the *Ohioana Quarterly* and her first book award was given to her by Ohioana. Our Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant for young unpublished writers has launched the career of numerous young authors. Several of the Marvin grant winners have gone on to publish books with prominent publishers, among them Robin Hemley, Samrat Upadhyay,

Shari Goldhagen, Anthony Doerr, Ellis Avery, Jennifer Hirt, and Salvatore Scibona, whose book is set in his hometown of Cleveland and was a finalist for the 2009 National Book Award.

The Ohioana Awards Presentation and Luncheon has been held in the Statehouse Atrium, which is not only a lovely venue that showcases the Statehouse, but all who participate feel a greater appreciation for our state and state government. Ohio Government TV has taped the awards presentations and the comments of those who are recognized, and has made it available to the general public through TV and podcasts. If you haven't watched the awards ceremonies from previous years, I encourage you to do so for they will make you proud of Ohio's talented writers, musicians, and artists.

Ohioana's Robert Fox Awards for Young Writers is a creative writing competition for Ohio high school students. The three awards in prose and poetry are presented at the Ohioana Book Festival and the students are given an opportunity to read their winning entries during a special session at the Festival.

**Ohioana Book Festival** - Our signature event, the Ohioana Book Festival, is modeled after the Texas Book Festival and National Book Festival, both initiated by former First Lady Laura Bush. Past festival authors have included three Pulitzer Prize winners, several nominees for the National Book Award, and more than a dozen Ohioana Book Award winners.

Last Friday, April 29, 2011, NPRs – Market Place program focused on the popularity of some of the book festivals around the country. Last September, nearly 200,000 people descended on Decatur, Ga., for a book festival. In November, half a million people went to the Miami Book Fair. This past weekend, 150,000 people were expected at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books. <http://marketplace.publicradio.org/display/web/2011/04/29/pm-can-festivals-save-the-book/?refid=0> Imagine the economic impact these events have on their communities and the potential of the Ohioana Book Festival.

The fifth annual Ohioana Book Festival: Celebrating Ohio's Authors will be held May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center near downtown Columbus. Ohio's First Lady Karen Kasich has agreed to serve as the honorary chair this year. Ten featured and more than 90 fair authors who have had books published in 2010 or early 2011 will participate. Many will take part in outreach programs at various venues prior to the main Festival event on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Some of the outreach venues include Nationwide Children's Hospital, Scioto Valley Juvenile Detention Facility, both public and private K-12 schools, public libraries, local public radio programs, and Barnes and Noble bookstores. More than 1,000 people have participated in the Festival outreach programs.

The main Festival event is free and open to the public. The activities include panel discussions, readings, and book signings. Special activities for children are organized and conducted by Kent State University School of Library and Information Science students. Author interviews are recorded for podcasting by OSU's Center for the Study and Teaching of Writing and by VoiceCorp for broadcasting for the visually impaired. Panel discussions are taped by Ohio Government TV for broadcast and podcast via The Ohio Channel. More than 80,000 people from Ohio and beyond are reached via the internet, television, and radio.

The Ohioana Book Festival's success is made possible with the support of more than thirty-five sponsors, contributors, and partners. In presenting the festivals, we had two major goals: one, to celebrate Ohio writers and literature and to bring authors, readers and the community-at-large together in a series of stimulating, fun, educational, and entertaining programs and activities. The second was to make this the next step forward in establishing the Ohioana Book Festival as one of the premier literary events in Ohio and the Midwest. We believe we achieved both of those goals.

### **Community Outreach and Partnerships:**

Ohioana is involved with many public/private partnerships; some are long-standing, others are newly forged. A few have been referred to already. A list including the more than 70 corporations, businesses, foundations, libraries, schools, and state and private agencies is attached.

At this point, I would like to acknowledge the long-time, ongoing support of the State Library of Ohio, its leadership, and staff. They have partnered with us for many years, but in particular since our move to the Jeffrey Manufacturing Center. The meeting room space they provide to Ohioana, as well as many other state agencies, would be very costly if rented at another location. We appreciate the support of their IT and building security staff, and the council and wisdom of the State Librarian, Beverly Cain, and Head of Fiscal Services, Diane Fink.

### **Summary:**

We have always run a lean operation – cutting and holding down costs as much as possible. Though our three fulltime and one part-time staff are not state employees and our pay scale is lower than that of comparable state positions, we, like the state, have not provided raises of any kind during the past four years. Our employees have progressively paid a greater percentage of their health care benefits, and family coverage is available, but employees must pay the entire difference between single and family coverage.

I believe that we at Ohioana have been good stewards of the allocations we have received. We have been successful in leveraging state dollars to secure private funds and in-kind services. We ask that you continue our funding at least at the level provided in the Governor's budget.

We make great efforts to let you know directly what we are doing year round through the *Ohioana Quarterly*, letters, and e-mail updates. We also very much appreciate the opportunity as an organization to stand before you during the budget review process.

Thank you Chairman Widener and members of the committee for your support, on behalf of our board of trustees, members, staff, and all those citizens from around the state who continue to benefit from Ohioana's programs.

## OHIOANA PARTNERSHIPS 2011

- Aldus Society**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival and other programming
- Barnes & Noble Booksellers of Ohio**, Project: support for the Ohioana Robert Fox Awards, the Ohioana Book Festival, and other projects
- Books by the Bank**, Cincinnati, Project: attendee & resource for authors
- Buckeye Book Fair**, Wooster, Project: attendee, Ohioana Book Festival & resource for authors
- Bricker & Eckler, LLP**, Columbus, Project: sponsor of the Ohioana Awards Weekend
- Central Ohio Fiction Writers**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival, Ohioana has hosted meetings & is resource for authors
- Central Ohio Society of Children's Writers and Illustrators**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival, Ohioana co-sponsored summer conference & resource for authors/illustrators
- Columbus Academy**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival community outreach site
- Columbus Alternative High School**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival outreach
- Columbus Council of the International Women's Writing Guild**, Columbus, Project: projects, Ohioana Book Festival
- Columbus Downtown High School**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival community outreach site
- Columbus Foundation**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana has endowment funds in the Foundation & they serve as resource for Ohioana and its members
- Columbus Historical Society**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana hosts meetings is resource for authors and CHS members
- Columbus Metropolitan Library & the Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival and other projects
- Columbus School for Girls**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana is student research site & *Quarterly* reviewers – students, teachers, and librarians
- Columbus State Community College**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival & outreach
- Columbus State Community College - Life Long Learning Institute**, Columbus, Project: meeting place & book club
- E.F. Wildermuth Foundation**, Columbus, Project: grant support for Ohioana's mission and programs
- Experience Columbus**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival & other events
- Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival & opportunities for students to perform at other events
- Greater Columbus Arts Council**, Columbus, Project: various grants & Ohioana Book Festival
- Harry C. Moores Foundation**, Columbus, Project: grant support for Ohioana's mission and programs
- Honda of America Mfg., Inc.**, Marysville, Project: Ohioana Day & Gala & Ohioana Book Festival
- Huntington National Bank**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Day & Gala & Ohioana Book Festival
- Kent State University Press**, Kent, Project: provides books for Ohioana
- Kent State University School of Library and Information Science**, Kent/Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival, site for student interns and student practicums, & other programming for students

**Martin de Porres Center at Ohio Dominican University**, Columbus, Project: cosponsor programs that feature former Ohioana Award recipients

**McConnell Arts Center**, Worthington, Project: projects, Ohioana Book Festival community outreach site

**National City Bank/PNC Bank**, Columbus, Project: sponsor of Ohioana Awards Weekend and Ohioana Book Festival

**National Endowment for the Arts**, Project: Poetry Out Loud

**Nationwide Children's Hospital** Columbus, Project: contributor to Ohioana Book Festival and community outreach site for Ohioana Book Festival

**North Market**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival

**Odyssey Press**, Columbus, Project: in-kind donation for Ohioana Day & Gala invitations

**Ohio Arts Council**, Columbus, Project: numerous projects including: support for Ohioana Quarterly, Marketing Survey, & Ohioana Book Festival

**Ohio Center for the Book at the Cleveland Public Library**, Cleveland, Project: Letters About Literature, Ohio Literary Map, & Ohioana Book Festival

**Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Robert Fox Awards

**Ohio Department of Development - Division of Travel & Tourism**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Gala & Ohio Tourism Month

**Ohio Department of Job & Family Services**, Columbus, Project: contractor to manage 2007 & 2008 Ohio Women's Hall of Fame

**Ohio Government TV**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Day & Gala and Ohioana Book Festival as well as other projects

**Ohio Historical Society**, Columbus, Projects: Ohio Statehouse exhibits and Choose to Read Ohio

**Ohio Humanities Council**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Authors Series & Ohioana Book Festival

**Ohio Library Council**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival

**Ohio Magazine**, Cleveland, Project: Ohioana Book Festival & a resource for information for articles

**Ohio Poetry Day Association**, Mechanicsburg, Project: Ohioana supports the Ohio Poetry Day Awards

**Ohio Resource Center for Mathematics, Science, & Reading**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival & Ohio Literacy Conference

**The Ohio State University Arts & Sciences Community Partnerships**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival

**The Ohio State University Center for the Study & Teaching of Writing**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival – podcasts of authors for later listening by students & the general public

**The Ohio State University Colleges of Arts & Sciences**, Columbus, Project: interns & volunteers and the Ohioana Book Festival

**The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business**, Columbus, Project: Student projects & Marketing Survey for Ohioana

**The Ohio State University Institute for Collaborative Research & Public Humanities**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival

**The Ohio State University Libraries**, Columbus, Project: ReadAloud, involvement with special library on campus, & Ohioana Book Festival

**Ohio Statehouse & Capitol Square Review & Advisory Board**, Columbus, Project: exhibits & Ohioana Day Awards Ceremony location

**Ohio Statehouse Museum Shop**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Day & Gala

**Ohio University Press**, Athens, Project: published "Profiles of Ohio Women: 1803-2003" & "Good Roots: Authors Reflect on Growing up in Ohio," & Ohioana Book Festival

**The Poetry Foundation**, Project: Poetry Out Loud

**Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County**, Cincinnati, Project: Hamilton County Authors Tea & Ohioana Book Festival

**Reach Out and Read Ohio**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival

**Reinberger Foundation**, Columbus, Project: grant support for the Ohioana Book Festival

**Seeley Financial, Inc.**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Day & Gala

**Short North Business Association**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival & other community projects

**Sisters in Crime of Columbus Ohio**, Columbus, Project: projects, Ohioana Book Festival

**St. Joseph's Montessori School**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana is student research site

**State Library of Ohio**, Columbus, Project: mutual support on various projects & events

**Thurber House**, Columbus, Project: Poetry Out Loud, Ohioana Book Festival, & several informal projects

**Toledo-Lucas County Public Library**, Toledo, Project: Ohioana Book Festival

**Valley Vineyard**, Morrow, Project: provide in-kind support for Ohioana Book Festival, Ohioana Awards Weekend, and other events

**Vito's Catering/Cotters Restaurant**, Columbus, Project: provide in-kind support for Ohioana Book Festival

**VoiceCorp** – Project: Ohioana Book Festival & Choose to Read Ohio

**Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease LLP**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Day & Gala

**Westminster Thurber Community Center**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival

**Whetstone High School**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival community outreach site

**Wilson Hills Elementary School**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival community outreach site

**Margaret Wong and Associates Co., LPA**, Cleveland, Project: sponsor of Ohioana Awards Weekend and Ohioana Book Festival

**Worthington High School**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival

**WCBE**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Book Festival

**WOSU Public Media**, Columbus, Project: Ohioana Authors Series, Ohioana Day & Gala, & Ohioana Book Festival

**THE STATE BUDGET, THE ECONOMY, AND OHIOANA  
HOW WE ARE MEETING THE CHALLENGES – WITH YOUR HELP**

As you know, the state budget crisis of recent years has led to decreased funding for many programs and services. At the same time, we've gone thru the worse economic downturn since the Great Depression. We've turned the corner – but there is still a long way to go. This situation has affected every individual and family in Ohio . . . and has also affected non-profit organizations like the Ohioana Library.

Here's how we have been affected . . . what we're doing about it . . . and how your support has made a critical difference:

**STATE OPERATING SUPPORT:**

2005: \$202,224

2011: \$112,500 (a decrease of nearly 45 PERCENT in six years)

**PRIVATE SUPPORT:**

2005: \$106,045

2011: \$186,365 (an increase of more than 75 PERCENT in six years)

**AND THE RESULTING EFFECT OF THESE CHANGES:**

2005: State support = 66% . . . Private support = 34%

2011: State support = 37% . . . Private support = 63%

Private support, much of which is designated for specific programs, now makes up nearly TWO-THIRDS of Ohioana's total annual income! But as you can also see, for every dollar Ohioana has generated in increased support over the past five years - \$80,320 – the state has MORE THAN TAKEN AWAY a dollar - \$89,724!

To cope with the combined effect of continued state cuts and increased costs, Ohioana has had to make some significant adjustments:

- Our staff has been reduced from six full-time positions to three full and one part-time position.
- In 2011, the *OHIOANA QUARTERLY* will be published only twice a year, with combined winter/spring and summer/fall issues. Fortunately, we will be able in part to fill the gap thanks to a new partnership with OHIO magazine and thru increased content on our website.
- In 2011, only OHIOANA' literary awards will be given: the five Ohioana Book Awards, the Ohioana Poetry Award (Helen & Laura Krout Memorial award), and Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant. The Career Award, Pegasus Award, and Citations are suspended until we can secure the needed funding to restore them.
- Ohioana has not catalogued new books added to its Collection since the fall of 2008. While this has resulted in savings at present, it will mean at some point we will need to do a catch up to have a complete electronic catalogue including these books to make our full book collection accessible to the public.

We wanted to share this important information with you. If you have any questions – or if you have ideas or suggestions – please contact us by email: [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org) or call us at (614) 466-3831.

And THANK YOU again for your continued support – as you can see, it TRULY makes a difference!