

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year: Regional Meetings



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by Betsy Hedler, Ohio Local History Alliance Executive Secretary

One of the best parts of my job is the time in the fall when I travel around the state to work with regional representatives and meeting hosts to plan the regional meetings. I have a unique opportunity to see the great work OLHA members around the state are doing at their sites, and to tour some amazing properties! We can't thank this year's 11 host sites enough for welcoming all of you to towns and helping us put together interested and educational meetings. (Side note: Yes, I know there are only 10 regions. This year, we have 11 host sites. Read through the list to see which regional meeting is being co-hosted!)

In addition to the opportunity to visit some of our great Ohio (and American) historic sites, 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 – all of which can help you have your most successful year ever! Join us at one or more regional meetings for inspiration, engagement, and get ready for another year of sharing our rich local, Ohio, and American history with the visitors who come through our doors.

The **Toledo Firefighters Museum** hosts the **Region 1** meeting on April 6. Be sure to join us at St. Clement Parish for sessions on collaborating with other organizations, requesting grants from Ohio Humanities, and a discussion on commemorating the women's suffrage centennial coming up in 2020. Don't miss the tour of the Toledo Firefighters Museum, where stories of heroism join historic fire vehicles and an interactive fire-safety play to highlight the history of firefighters in Toledo and around the world.

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President's Message:

Happy January fellow Museum Colleagues! As everyone is likely recovering from their extensive holiday events, January is usually a welcome time of year where we can all catch our breath, clear our desks, and once again re-focus and re-energize our museums and historic sites. While doing this, I encourage you to take the time to start the year out right by saving important Alliance dates in your 2019 calendar. The forecast looks great!

The first few months of the year are a perfect time to set a goal of engaging in museum advocacy. January and February are optimal times to meet new officials elected in November. I encourage you to save the date of February 27th for Statehood Day at the Statehouse in Columbus. If you have never attended, on behalf of the Alliance's Advocacy Committee, I strongly recommend joining fellow Alliance members in Columbus for the day. An important tip: schedule meetings with your legislators in advance for Statehood Day.

Spring brings Alliance Regional Meetings full of knowledgeable speakers, trending hot topics and networking with fellow museum professionals. Our Alliance regional representatives have been hard at work preparing outstanding programs circling around this year's theme "Local History is America's History." Now is the time to add your region's date to your calendar and on behalf of the Alliance's Outreach Committee, please consider reaching out into your community to invite new attendees.

Fall means it time for the Alliance's Annual Meeting the first weekend of October - one of the highlights of the year you don't want to miss. The Educational Committee still welcomes suggestions for topics and speakers as they prepare the final schedule. Another tip: pick a project to nominate for an Outstanding Achievement Award. Deciding that now will help you collect information along the way which will make the nomination process much easier at the end of summer!

And lastly, as we reflect on last year and set goals for this year - let's all remember how much we love history! So let's encourage our friends and associates to donate to the Alliance's Annual Campaign or the History Fund. Or both! Best wishes for an outstanding 2019.

Wendy Zucal

*President, Ohio Local History Alliance
Executive Director, Dennison Railroad Depot Museum
740-922-6776, director@dennisondepot.org*

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Sara Fisher

The Local History Services Department is happy to welcome Sara Fisher as the AmeriCorps Manager and Local History Services Coordinator. Sara joins the Ohio History Connection staff after serving two years as an AmeriCorps/Ohio History Service Corps Local History Member in both Region 8 and Region 3. Sara holds a B.A. in History with a Women & Gender Studies certificate from Ohio University, and an M.A. in History concentrating in Public History from Wright State University. Over the past five years, she has worked with over 36 local history organizations in Ohio, worked as Curator/Collections Manager at the Lakewood Historical Society before joining AmeriCorps, presented at the Ohio Local History Alliance Annual and Regional Meetings, developed a traveling Introduction to Collections Management Workshop, assisted in strategic planning workshops and planning, and currently serves as the Co-Team Leader for the Impact, Relevance, and Engagement Team of AASLH's StEPs Enhancement Project. We're excited to welcome Sara to the Local History Services Department in the New Year! ■

The **Region 2** meeting will be hosted by the **Richland County Museum** on April 13 at the Lexington Senior Civic Center, a repurposed 19th-century train depot. Meeting sessions will cover creating finding aids and organizing your paper collections, engaging young people, and local history research. At the conclusion of the meeting, you'll be able to tour the Richland County Museum. Don't miss the 3 kitchens from various time periods located on the second floor of the museum.

In **Region 3** the **Lakewood Historical Society** will welcome you to the Nicholson House on March 23. The meeting will feature sessions on advice for finding grants from the Foundation Center Midwest, the history of suffrage in Lakewood, and a discussion on commemorating the women's suffrage centennial. The meeting concludes with tours of the LHS Moore House Museum and their new office and collections storage facility in a 1950s medical building, highlighting how historic tax credits helped finance the refurbishment of the facility.

The **Trumbull County Historical Society** hosts the **Region 4** meeting at the Kinsman House on April 13. During the meeting, learn about social media and marketing strategies for small museums, the benefits of strategic planning, and the responsibilities of non-profit board members. The meeting concludes with a tour of the John Stark Edwards House, the oldest home in Warren, built in 1807.

The **Massillon Museum** hosts the **Region 5** meeting on April 6. The meeting will feature two tracks of sessions: one focused on collections, the other on the business of museums. Specific session topics include museum mascots, engaging the public, best business practices for museums, methods and resources for identifying unknown artifacts, increasing the accessibility of your museum, and how to borrow, lend, and collaborate on exhibitions. The meeting concludes with a tour of the museum, including the Immel Circus Gallery.

The **Region 6** meeting will be hosted by the **Worthington Historical Society** at the Griswold Senior Center on March 16. Sessions include strategies for effective donor cultivation, reader's theaters, and connecting with potential members, donors, audiences, and financial supporters through community partnerships. Don't miss the tour of the Old Rectory and Doll Museum.

The **Shelby County Historical Society** will welcome you to the Amos Memorial Public Library in Sidney for the **Region 7** meeting on March 9. Meeting attendees can learn how they can create programs such as Shelby County's award-winning Manufacturing Day, how to write a fundable grant, why it is important to know the value of your collections, and discuss efforts to commemorate the women's suffrage centennial.

The **Warren County Historical Society** will host the **Region 8** meeting on March 16. Meeting sessions will public engagement through art (for history museums), foundations and funding, creating exhibits on a shoestring, and paper conservation. Don't miss the tour of the Harmon Museum & Art Gallery for their exhibits including folk art and the work of local artists along with traditional history museum displays.

The **Region 9** meeting on March 9 will be co-hosted by the **Meigs County Historical Society** and the **Chester**



Top: John Stark Edwards House. Bottom: The Stone Academy in Zanesville.

Shade Historical Association. The meeting will begin at the Meigs County Historical Society's new building in Middleport, with sessions on preserving cemeteries and "born digital" photographs. After lunch (and the regional business meeting), attendees will travel to the Chester Shade Courthouse and Academy for a tour and to learn more about the restoration of these historic structures, including lessons learned.

On March 23, **Muskingum County History** will host the **Region 10** meeting. Join us in the historic Stone Academy for sessions on Ohio History Day for history organizations, maximizing a big anniversary or event, and the responsibilities of non-profit board members. After the sessions, make sure to tour the Stone Academy to learn more about this 1809 building originally designed to serve as the state capital building.

We've got some really exciting sessions planned, and I hope to see you at more than one 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.

The brochure, with more complete descriptions of each meeting, will be coming soon to your mailbox. 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 or by using the online registration links on the OLHA website. Have questions? Call or email Betsy Hedler, Executive Secretary, at 614-297-2538 or ohiolha@ohiohistory.org. ■

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Statehood Day 2019

Ohio's local history advocates will once again convene at the Ohio Statehouse on Wednesday, February 27 to celebrate the state's birthday and to advocate for issues important to local history groups.

The annual Statehood Day event brings together Ohio's history supporters and gives you the opportunity to meet with your state legislators and network with fellow history-related professionals and advocates. You can register for the event online at www.ohiohistory.org/statehoodday. The cost is \$40.

This year's event features Chief Glenna Wallace of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. Chief Wallace and the Eastern Shawnee have for several years been re-establishing ties with Ohio and its cultural organizations.

Attendees are encouraged to schedule a meeting that morning with their state representative and/or state senator to discuss public policy issues relating to history and historic preservation.

The Ohio History Connection will also announce its 2019 History Fund grant awards, funded through income tax donations from Ohioans. The Ohio History Leadership Award, presented annually to an elected leader who has "gone above and beyond" in promoting Ohio history, will also be awarded.

"We're very honored to host the leader of a sovereign nation – Chief Glenna from the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma with us for this year's event," said Todd Kleismit, director of community and government relations for the Ohio History Connection. "Chief Glenna has a fascinating personal story

of overcoming obstacles and effectively worked to build strong relationships in the state from which her ancestors were forcibly removed generations ago."

Statehood Day is sponsored by Ohio History Connection, Heritage Ohio, the Ohio Archaeological Council, the Ohio Local History Alliance, Ohio Humanities, the Ohio Genealogical Society, the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, Preservation Ohio, the Ohio Travel Association, the Ohio Museums Association, the Ohio Academy of History, the Ohio Council for Social Studies and the Society of Ohio Archivists.

Please register online by February 19. If you have questions, please e-mail Todd Kleismit at tkleismit@ohiohistory.org. ■



Ohio Archives: How Many, and Where are They?

by **Eira Tansey**,
Digital Archivist/Records Manager,
Archives and Rare Books Library,
University of Cincinnati Libraries

If you had to guess where most of the archives in Ohio were located, you might answer some combination of the three C's, given the presence of major universities, cultural heritage organizations, and government offices in Columbus, Cleveland, and Cincinnati. These are institutions that typically have well-staffed and resourced archives. The reality is that archives are well-represented across the state - and now there are numbers to back it up.

For the last couple years, I've been trying to answer the question "How many archives are in the United States, and where are they located?" This question arose out of my collaborative research on the effects of climate change on archives. To assess climate change impacts - the effects of which are geographically variable - you have to know where things are located. As I began working with other researchers to try to get data sets of archival locations, we quickly found that what was out there was very limited. This made it difficult not only to study the effects of climate change on archives, but to do any spatial-related research involving archival repositories. There was a need for a comprehensive data set of US archival locations - and it was not clear one would come together unless we prioritized creating one.

In 2017, my primary collaborator Ben Goldman (Penn State University) and I applied for a grant from the Society of American Archivists Foundation to create a comprehensive data set of American archives locations, which we refer to as RepoData. We hired a research assistant to help us contact dozens of local, regional, and subject-focused archival associations that possessed data on archives in their areas of concern. We then standardized and consolidated the data these associations provided, and shared our



Left: Data from before the REpoData Survey Right: Archives found through the RepoData Survey.

work through an open repository. You can read more about the project in a recent issue of *Archival Outlook*.

The largest data set prior to the RepoData project that we are aware of is the OCLC ArchiveGrid data set. This had information on over 1,200 archives. The archives represented in the OCLC data set are those institutions that make their EAD (encoded archival description) finding aids available online. As a result, the data set is limited to those institutions that participate in networked description for their holdings. It over-represents university and state government archives, and is less likely to represent smaller archives such as those associated with religious orders, community historical societies, and local government. As a result of bringing together information associated with smaller repositories not necessarily captured in the OCLC data set, we have created a much larger data set of archives across the United States. To date, our efforts to bring together information on archives of all sizes has resulted in a data set of over 19,000 addresses (we anticipate the final number will be slightly higher once we finish processing data for the final states).

Ohio provides a good case study of how much additional information RepoData has surfaced about archives that "fly under the radar." According to the OCLC ArchiveGrid data set as of 2017,

there were 46 archives in Ohio. As part of the RepoData project, we contacted the Cleveland Archival Roundtable, Ohio Local History Alliance, Tri-State Catholic Archivists, Cincinnati Area Archives Roundtable, Society of Ohio Archivists, Miami Valley Archivists Roundtable, Ohio History Connection, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. After bringing together data from these sources, we found that there were 416 archives in the state - 9 times more than those represented in the OCLC data. Of these, 218 are historical societies or museums, 66 are colleges/universities, 43 are corporations, 28 are religious archives, 27 are public libraries, 21 are local and state government archives, 11 are K-12 schools, and the remainder are other hybrid institutional categories or indeterminate institutions.

Making our data as open and accessible as possible has been a priority from the earliest stages of our project. Interested users can download individual states' spreadsheets by going to this URL: <https://github.com/tanseym/RepoData/>. We eventually hope to identify a partner that will prioritize managing this data and keeping it up to date so that it remains useful well into the future. We have already heard from colleagues in other states that have used the data for their region to assist with disaster recovery efforts, and we are excited to see what other uses come from our work. ■

Donate to the Ohio History Fund (and Tell Your Friends)

By Andy Verhoff, Ohio History Fund Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, Columbus

The Ohio History Fund is the state's only competitive matching grant program exclusively for history projects. There's only one challenge: the grants are made from money donated to the Ohio History Connection, so the money that the History Fund has to grant fluctuates from year to year. The more donations the History Fund receives, the more and larger grants the History Fund can make. Case in point: the History Fund had \$76,000 to grant in 2018. In 2019, the program will have \$90,000! That's because of you and your donations through the Ohio History Fund tax check-off. In the four fast-moving months between the start of tax season in January 2019 and ending with the filing deadline on April 15, you and thousands of others will contribute more than three-quarters of the money the History Fund will grant in 2020. Help us help you this winter. Half of the History Fund's 54 grant recipients are Alliance members.

We want you to donate and we want you to encourage others to donate (see below). Our goal is \$100,000, which is \$9 from 11,120 Ohioans. Given that upwards of three million Ohioans receive state income tax refunds and that the average refund is more than \$300, our goal is modest. Your help in any amount makes a big difference for local history.

With a grant of \$13,240, the all-volunteer [Alliance Historical Society](#) in Stark County replaced the worn asphalt-single roof on the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home. When Mabel Hartzell lived in the house at the turn of the 20th century, it had a standing-seem metal roof. It eventually deteriorated and was replaced. The roof that this History



An aerial shot of progress on the replacement of the roof of the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home of the Alliance Historical Society. Right: The Mabel Hartzell House c.1890, with a standing-seem metal roof. This photograph was evidence to the History Fund's grant review committee that the Society had "done its homework" and chose a standing-seem roof in efforts to show the house when its namesake lived there. Images courtesy the Alliance Historical Society.

Oh shoot!
My taxes
are due.

GIVE TO THE
Ohio
History
Fund
ON YOUR
State Tax
Return.

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CONNECTION

Fund grant project replaced was installed in the early 1990s and was at the end of its useful life. The house was listed on the Nation Register of Historic Places in 1987.

As with all History Fund "Bricks & Mortar" projects the new roof meets the [Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation](#), which the National Park Service defines as "the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient

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Top: Nestled among the bushes at the east side of the historical center is a unit that is a part of the society's new climate-controlling HVAC system. Photographs courtesy of the Historical Society of Mount Pleasant. Bottom: A sign about the Ohio History Fund project graces the front window of the Historical Society of Mount Pleasant.

contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural, and cultural values.” The Alliance Historical Society has been a member of the Ohio Local History Alliance since 1989.

A grant of \$6,000 enabled the [Historical Society of Mount Pleasant](#) in rural Jefferson County to install an HVAC (Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning) system in Society’s historical center. The c. 1856 building now used as the center is a contributing structure in the Mount Pleasant Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The new system keeps the volunteers in the building comfortable year ‘round, but the grant project’s main purpose was protecting the society’s collections, by stabilizing within acceptable ranges the building’s temperature and humidity levels. As with the Alliance Historical Society’s project, this one meets the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, as required by the History Fund. The Historical Society of Mount Pleasant has been a member of the Ohio Local History Alliance since 1990.

For a complete list of recipients, go to: www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-office/history-fund/recipients.

Here’s what you can do between now and that red letter tax-filing deadline of April 15 to help:

- Share some of your state income tax refund with the History Fund, line 26e, “Ohio History Fund” on the “2018 Ohio IT 1040 Individual Income Tax Return.” Tell your history-loving family and friends about it, too. Find “talking points” at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund
- Reprint in your newsletters the sample article, at: www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund (And that’s one less article you’ll have to write for your newsletter!)
- Forward emails and share upcoming social media posts about the Ohio History Fund tax check-off from the Ohio History Connection.
- Distribute promotional materials about the Ohio History Fund. In 2019, we’re again featuring the historical figures that made past tax check-off donation campaigns memorable: Annie Oakley, U.S. Grant, the Wright Brothers, and Oliver Hazard Perry. At press time, we also have two new ones in the works, inspired by the exhibit *Ohio: Champion of Sports*, which will open at the Ohio History Center in March 2019. We have a great assortment of rack cards, bookmarks, and other items.
- Find these items digitally and get them right away at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund or
- Pick up a bunch at your regional meeting, or
- Contact Kwasi Agyemang in the Ohio History Connection’s Marketing & Communications Department, kagyemang@ohiohistory.org or 614.297.2319. Just tell him what you need and where to send them.

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

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\$20 from the sale of the Ohio History "mastodon" license plate supports the History Fund grant program

- Twenty dollars from the sale of each set of Ohio History license plates benefits the History Fund grant program: <http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-organization.aspx>
- You can also make a donation directly to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund, visit www.ohiohistory.org and click on "Give." Be sure to designate your gift this way: "For Ohio History Fund."

The more the History Fund receives in donations, the more grants the History Fund makes back to us. Since the Ohio History Fund began in 2012, it has made 63 grants across our state for a total of \$598,000. Proving that there's a great need for the History Fund, however, it has received 347 grant applications totaling more than \$4.2 million in requests!

Applications for grants for the 2018-19 cycle are currently under review. Recipients will be publically announced at the Statehood Day event, February 27, at the Ohio Statehouse (see article on page 5).

The deadline for applications in 2019 will be posted in June on the History Fund's website: www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund. The site also includes information about eligible projects and applicants, grant amounts, and instructions for applying.

Or, contact History Fund Grant coordinator Andy Verhoff at 614-297-2341 or averhoff@ohiohistory.org. ■

The tax check-off supports the History Fund.

The History Fund supports you!

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 Ohio state 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 26e
- Under "Ohio History Fund," fill in the amount that you'd like to contribute. Last year's average contribution was just over \$9.00, so even a small donation can make a big difference – but if want to round it up to special year, please do – for example contribute \$20.03 for the year of Ohio's bicentennial, or for the year you were born.
- The amount you contribute to the Ohio History Fund through your Ohio state income tax return goes to support the History Fund, which, since 2013, has made 63 grants totaling \$598,000 to support local history projects in communities throughout Ohio - all because of donation from generous history-minded Ohioans like you. Thank you!

**Adapted from, *Echoes*, the bimonthly newsletter of the Ohio History Connection (January/February 2019)

SAMPLE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

Tax Time "To-Do": Support Ohio History Fund Grant Program

The Ohio History Connection's History Fund grant program is one of the few grant programs in the state just for history, pre-history, 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" tax "check-off," line 26e on your state tax return.

Your donation with those from your friends, relatives, and thousands of other history lovers makes possible grants for local history projects in places big and small throughout Ohio. Since the Ohio History Fund started in 2012, it has made 63 grants in 36 counties for a total of \$598,000. There's a huge need for the History Fund, however. It has received 347 grant applications from more than 60 counties, totaling more than \$4.2 million in requests! For a list of grant recipients, visit <https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-office/history-fund/recipients>

Not receiving a tax refund? You can still help: buy an Ohio History mastodon license plate. Twenty dollars from the sale of each set of plates benefits the History Fund grant program. To learn more, visit: <http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-organization.aspx>

You can also make a donation directly to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund, visit www.ohiohistory.org and click on "Give." 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 about the History Fund? Visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund or call Andy Verhoff in the Ohio History Connection's Local History Service department at 614-297-2341 or email averhoff@ohiohistory.org. Thanks!

(Editor's Note: Feel free to cut and paste this article and insert it in your organization's newsletter. For other fun promotional materials, visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund)

NEW OLHA Job Board Policy

Because the Ohio Local History Alliance aims to inspire, educate, and connect history organizations across the state of Ohio, we know that a cornerstone of our community is having dedicated staff members that propel our member organizations forward. We offer our job board in the hopes of connecting qualified individuals to organizations seeking skilled, enthusiastic employees.

Starting January 1, 2019, OLHA will require that all organizations posting a position on our job board include a **salary range** for the listing, as well as the **employment classification** (part-time, full-time, seasonal, hourly, salary, etc.)

Starting January 1, 2019, non-members will also be asked to pay a \$35 fee per listing. The organization will then have the option to apply that \$35 toward an appropriate level of membership so that future job postings may be free. **Posting on the Ohio Local History Alliance job board is always free to OLHA members.**

To post a job, email the job description, including the salary information and employment classification, to ohiolha@ohiohistory.org with "Job Listing" in the subject line.



In making this decision, the OLHA Board follows the lead of other local and national professional organizations advocating for equity and transparency with regard to salaries. We hope these changes offer clarity about potential positions and inspire more open conversation about compensation in our field. ■

AASLH ONLINE COURSE:

Basics of Archives

Basics of Archives is an AASLH Continuing Education online course February 4, 2019 - March 1, 2019 hosted in the online classroom. This online course is about caring for historical records. This online course is taught by Charles Arp. The recently revised Basics of Archives online course is designed to give organizations and individuals who are responsible for the care of historical records an introduction to the core aspects of managing and protecting historical records collections, using appropriate principles and best practices.

COST: \$85 AASLH members/\$160 nonmembers

OPEN REGISTRATION: December 7, 2018 - January 28, 2019

To learn more and register, go to learn.aaslh.org/products/online-course-basics-of-archives-2 ■

Call for Session Proposals

Do you have a great idea you'd like to share with the local history community? The Alliance is now accepting session proposals for the 2019 Annual Meeting. Next year's theme is Local History is American History.

From roundtable discussions to workshops, 2019 sessions should explore the ways local history is relevant in the larger contexts of state, national, and international spheres. We also welcome sessions on any aspect of public history theory and practice. Submissions are due February 11, 2019. Download the proposal form at www.ohiolha.org/what-we-do/alliance-annual-meeting/ ■



INVENTION AND INNOVATION

Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Meeting

Friday, May 17, 2019

To be held at the [Hilton Akron/Fairlawn Hotel](#) in Akron, Ohio.

Deadline to submit proposals: Monday, January 21, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

The Society of Ohio Archivists' 2019 annual meeting travels to Akron, Ohio, the "City of Invention," this May. In the spirit of Akron, the Program Committee seeks proposal topics on the theme of 'Invention and Innovation' in archives, collections, or related work. Creativity is encouraged!

Session, poster, and discussion proposal topics can address a broad array of topics, including, but not limited to:

- Longstanding institutional projects or collections in accordance with the 'Invention and Innovation' theme
- Current and forward-moving tools for archival discovery, maintenance, and/or marketing
- Outreach and instruction that employs new methods, or addresses innovative or inventive topics
- Inventive and innovative student, intern, and volunteer experiences and projects
- Unique collection development ventures
- Best practices and new methods for handling preservation, description, and access to analog, born-digital, or hybrid collections
- Diversity, access, inclusion, and community archives

The Program Committee encourages proposals of panel sessions, student and professional posters, as well as alternative formats such as a debate, fish bowl, lightning, mini-workshop, pecha kucha, world café, and other session formats that encourage interaction between presenters and attendees. Please see the [proposal form](#) for more detailed information about alternative sessions.

Proposals must include:

- Session/Poster title and type
- Abstract of 250 words describing the session/poster and how it will be of interest to SOA attendees
- Description of 150 words for the printed program
- Contact information for the primary presenter and any other participants
- A/V or technology requirements
- Any additional special needs

Proposals will be evaluated on clarity, originality, diversity of content and speaker representation, and completeness of proposal and presenters. The Program Committee also encourages proposals from students, new professionals, first-time presenters and attendees, individuals from related professions, as well as those from outside the state of Ohio.

Please complete the proposal form by January 21, 2019, at goo.gl/forms/FvVtPGednEW15rSz1

More meeting details will appear as they develop at: www.ohioarchivists.org/annual_conference/

Questions? Please contact:

Stephanie Bricking (Stephanie.Bricking@cincinnati.library.org) or Stacey Lavender (lavendes@ohio.edu)

Co-chairs, Society of Ohio Archivists Educational Programming Committee ■



Society of
OHIO ARCHIVISTS

On the Web

<http://hnn.us/>

History News Network

The History News Network (HNN)'s mission is help put current events into historical perspective. Each week HNN features up to a dozen fresh op eds by prominent historians. Their archives, extending over the past decade, include thousands of well-researched pieces. Check out their "breaking news" pieces, the book reviews under the tab "Books," answers to questions people are Googling (<http://hnn.us/article/153171>), and much more! ■

Call for Judges and Volunteers for Ohio History Day

Ohio History Day invites you to spend a Saturday in March or April learning from and being inspired by passionate and knowledgeable students! There are plenty of opportunities to participate. Be a judge at one of the 10 regional competitions across Ohio and/or the state competition. To register as a judge, use the links below or contact us at historyday@ohiohistory.org.

OHIO HISTORY DAY REGIONAL CONTEST DATES

Ohio History Day is a year-long research project designed for students in grades 4 – 12. Each year, students pick a topic based on an annual theme and develop a project to illustrate the historical significance of the topic. The program culminates in regional and state level contests that take place in March and April. All Contests are free for the public and take place from 9am – 5pm.

Saturday, February 23, 2019

Region 9
University of Rio Grande
Bob Evans Hall
Rio Grande, OH 45764
oh-rhcnprc.nhd.org

Saturday, March 16, 2019

Region 1
Bowling Green State University Bowen-Thompson Student Union
Bowling Green, OH 43403
oh-bgsurc.nhd.org

Saturday, March 2, 2019

Region 2
Terra State Community College
2830 Napoleon Rd, Fremont, OH 43420
oh-rthplm.nhd.org

Saturday, March 16, 2019

Region 3
Cleveland History Center (Check-in for Exhibits, Papers, and Websites)
10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, OH, 44106
oh-rtwrhsrc.nhd.org

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Region 4
Youngstown State University
1 University Plaza, Youngstown, OH 44505
oh-rysurc.nhd.org

Saturday, March 16, 2019

Region 5
The McKinley Museum & Presidential Library
800 McKinley Monument Dr. NW
Canton, OH 44708
oh-rksusrc.nhd.org

Saturday, March 9, 2019

Region 6
Ohio Wesleyan University
61 South Sandusky Street, Delaware, OH 43015
oh-rowrc.nhd.org

Saturday, March 2, 2019

Region 7
Piqua Junior High School
1 Tomahawk Trail, Piqua, OH 45356
oh-rjiafrc.nhd.org

Saturday, March 9, 2019

Region 8
University of Cincinnati, Tangeman University Center
2766 UC Main Street, Cincinnati, OH 45221
oh-rcmcrcc.nhd.org

Saturday, March 16, 2019

Region 10
Ohio University Zanesville
1425 Newark Road, Zanesville, OH 43701
oh-rouzrc.nhd.org

Saturday, April 27, 2019

State Contest
Ohio Wesleyan
61 S Sandusky St, Delaware, OH 43015
oh.nhd.org

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Youth Contest
Ohio Wesleyan (grades 4 & 5)
oh1.nhd.org



Seven African American Museums Selected for First NMAAHC StEPs Cohort

by Cherie Cook, Senior Program Manager, American Association of Historical Societies and Museums
Originally published September 14, 2018, by AASLH.

Over the next twelve months, seven African American history organizations will form a cohort while receiving guidance in the areas of management and governance, learning from each other, and taking part in AASLH's [StEPs assessment program](#). The seven organizations were recently selected to participate in the inaugural NMAAHC StEPs Cohort, an initiative that is a joint project of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) and AASLH.

As part of the NMAAHC StEPs Cohort, staff and volunteers from the organizations took part in an orientation meeting in Kansas City on September 26 and received access to a mentor, online webinars, and other resources for one year.

Each organization will also be enrolled in StEPs (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations), a national assessment program that offers small and medium-sized museums, historic sites, and related organizations the opportunity to assess policies and practices, benchmark themselves against national museum standards, and earn Bronze, Silver and Gold progress certificates. More than 965 organizations across the U.S. have enrolled in the program.

The seven organizations chosen for the NMAAHC StEPs Cohort are:

- African American Cultural & Historical Museum of Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor, MI
- Black Heritage Society of Washington State, Seattle, WA
- Evansville African American Museum, Evansville, IN
- Mary & Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community, Bridgeport, CT
- Northwest African American Museum, Seattle, WA
- National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce, OH
- Robert Russa Moton Museum, Farmville, VA

Since opening on September 24, 2016, the National Museum of African American History and Culture has welcomed nearly 4.5 million visitors. Occupying a prominent location next to the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the nearly 400,000-square-foot museum is the nation's largest and most comprehensive cultural destination devoted exclusively to exploring, documenting, and showcasing the African American story and its impact on American and world history. The Office of Strategic Partnerships leverages the Museum's research and programmatic initiatives to empower and advance the work of museums and related cultural heritage organizations dedicated to African American and Diaspora history by collaborating with regional, national, and global networks to connect needs to resources, promoting organizational sustainability, and cultivating and supporting museum professionals.

For more information about the project or about starting a StEPs group, contact Cherie Cook, AASLH, at cook@aaaslh.org or 615-320-3203. ■

OHRAB Grant Opportunity

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board announces the availability of grants between \$500 and \$5,000 to archival institutions to fund projects to preserve and/or provide access to Ohio's historical records. The grants are funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), an arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Projects eligible for funding in 2019 include:

- Assessment and Strategic Planning: hiring consultants to identify needs and priorities for improving the organization, description, preservation and access to collections.
- Access, Arrangement and Description: identifying, organizing, and improving access to historical records.
- Preservation: purchasing archival file folders, archival boxes, dehumidifiers, humidifiers, hygrothermographs, or HEPA vacuum cleaners.
- Website Development: Adding collections to online catalog, developing virtual archives, or creating an on-line database. Websites designed to support access to researchers (e.g., online catalogs, finding aids, and digitized collections, rather than curated web exhibits) will receive preference in funding.

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

Grant applications are due February 28, 2019. More information on the grants, including the application packet, is available [here](#).

PLEASE NOTE: OHRAB is awaiting formal notification from the NHPRC on the funding for the re-grants. While it is necessary for OHRAB to announce this grant opportunity and begin to receive your proposals, all awards are contingent on OHRAB receiving the funds from the NHPRC.

Questions? Please contact:

Ron Davidson
Special Collections Librarian
Sandusky Library
419.625.3834
rdavidson@sanduskylib.org ■

Ohio Museums Association Annual Awards Programs

The Ohio Museums Association Annual Awards Program proudly honors outstanding achievement and visual communication. The 2018 Ohio Museums Association Outstanding Achievement Award winners will be recognized at the 2019 Ohio Museums Association's Annual Conference, April 14-15, 2019 in Akron. Nominations and entries from the field are considered by a distinguished panel of judges, selected to represent the diversity of the museum community.

More information and award applications are online at https://www.ohiomuseums.org/Public/Professional_Development/Awards/Public/Awards.aspx

The OMA Awards Program is divided into two categories: the [Visual Communication Awards](#) and the [Awards of Achievement](#).

Visual Communication Awards

The Visual Communication Competition recognizes creative excellence in Ohio museums by its field professionals and organizations producing material for museums. Articles for submission can include, but are not limited to: Annual Reports, Audio-Visual/Electronic Media, Books, Brochures, Catalogs, Campaigns, Education Materials, Fundraising Materials, Institutional Identity, Invitations/Announcements, Newsletters/Magazines, Posters and Press Packs.

The 2018 entries must be published or distributed between January 1 and December 31, 2018.

Visual Communication Award winners will be recognized at the annual awards ceremony held in conjunction with the Ohio Museums Association's Annual Conference, April 14-15, 2019 in Akron.

Deadline for submitting 2018 Visual Communication Award Entries: January 28, 2018 (all entries must be postmarked by this date).



Be Recognized with OMA's Annual Awards Program!

Deadline for submissions: January 28, 2019

Awards of Achievement

The awards are divided into two groups: **Individual Achievement Awards** and **Institutional Achievement Awards**.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Professional of the Year—This award recognizes excellence in professional accomplishments and service by an employee of an Ohio Museums Association institutional member. Presented for outstanding leadership or professionalism over an extended period of time. Such leadership or professionalism shall be based on the continual growth and development of an organization or specific program.

Museum Advocate – This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exemplary support for Ohio museums. Nominees can be museum professionals, volunteer advocates, philanthropists, trustees, appointed or elected officials, journalists and media representatives, or anyone who has contributed to the vitality of life in Ohio by consistently promoting the growth and sustainability of Ohio museums.

Emerging Professional of the Year—This award recognizes exceptional promise and potential for emerging professionals in the museum field. The nominee must be currently employed by an OMA institutional member and must be working in the field for ten years or less.

The Betty Bryan Volunteer of the Year—This award recognizes the extraordinary dedication of a volunteer who has made significant contributions to the museum field. The nominee must volunteer at a museum outside of their normal work duties and must have volunteered for at least one year.

INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Institution of the Year—An award that recognizes outstanding institutional accomplishments in the field of Ohio museums. A nomination may be made for any project considered to be an outstanding model or best practice. To qualify, an institution must be a member of the Ohio Museums Association.

The following awards will be recognized in two budget categories (less than \$500,000 and more than \$500,000)

Best Exhibition—An award that recognizes an outstanding exhibition and its related programming.

Best Exhibition Catalog—An award that recognizes excellence in research, visual design, text, images, formatting and editing in an exhibition's companion catalog.

Best Community Collaboration/Partnership—An award that recognizes innovative partnerships within communities or among other museums.

Best Education/Outreach Program—An award that recognizes outstanding education and/or outreach programs.

Deadline for submitting 2018 Award of Achievement Nominations: January 28, 2019 (all entries must be postmarked by this date). ■



Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council Spring Conference

Join MOAMCC for their Spring Conference, March 7-9, 2019, hosted by the Johnston Farm and Indian Agency in Piqua.

The theme is What is the Story? Understanding our Multicultural Past, Present and Future. We'll reflect upon how people engaged with the multicultural world around them yesterday and how these views influence our world today, contemplate how we present stories of the past while connecting with our changing audiences, and consider how we can move forward into the growing diversity of the future.

The conference will be held at the Miami Valley Center Mall Comfort Inn, Piqua. More information at momcc.org/Conferences ■

Grant Writing Bootcamp

Dates: March 28 & 29, 2019

Location: Center for Community Revitalization, 332 Dayton Street, Hamilton

This two-day event invites participants to learn how to effectively write winning grant proposals while drafting a real proposal for the organization. Participants will....

- Learn how grants fit into an organization's resource development plan
- Learn the when, where and why of seeking grant funding
- Learn how to research and locate grant funders
- Develop a strong case statement for the nonprofit organization
- Learn how to create a budget to accompany the proposal

\$99 CDP Members/\$199 Non-Members

Presented by Community Development Professionals. More information and registration link at www.communitydevelopmentprofessionals.com ■

OHIO MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION WEBINAR:

Got a Grant? Great! Now what?

Receiving a grant for your museum can be a gamechanger—making programs possible and getting projects off the ground—but writing the grant and getting the grant are only the first two hurdles you need to clear in the process. For museum staff without prior development experience, or those already wearing too many hats, grant management can be a daunting task full of unanticipated deadlines, and unmet expectations.

Join Principal at Illumine Creative Solutions and OMA Past-President, Jennifer Souers Chevrax, as she shares the basics of grant management along with tips and tools for tracking the impact of the grant on your museum and the community you serve.

Participants will learn:

- The importance of the grant agreement and other grantmaker forms
- How to implement a shared grants calendar
- How to develop their own codes for tracking outcomes and audiences

This session is relevant for anyone at organizations of all budget sizes who writes grants, receives grant funding, or wants to receive grants in the future.

About the speaker: Jennifer Souers Chevrax has 25 years of experience in the museum field, during which she has served as curator, educator, exhibits director, development officer, board member, and executive director at a wide variety of cultural heritage institutions. Through her company, Illumine Creative Solutions, LLC, Jennifer helps individuals, corporations, and organizations apply museum standards and best practices to manage their collections, reduce risk, prepare for the unexpected, and plan for a sustainable, intergenerational legacy.

When: Monday, February 11, 2019, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Where: Online – complete webinar login details will be sent to participants after registering

Cost: \$10 – OMA Members; \$15 Non-members ■



Region 1

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

Region 2

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

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

Region 7

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

The **Clark County Historical Society** started a new annual event in October, a well-received and well-attended adults-only Wizard's Ball. This evening of well-mannered frivolity included hands-on experiences with the "Heritage School" wizarding courses, magical activities, themed food, drinks, and lots of dancing. That event was preceded by a family-friendly evening the night before, which included courses and activities for children 5-17. Guests were encouraged to join in the magic by dressing in their best dress robes and costumes and the "Heritage School" had many ties to real local Clark County history.



Region 8

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

Main Street Wilmington hosted a Historic Tax Credit Coffee with **Heritage Ohio** in early November. Over a dozen individuals - representing 10 different businesses, property owners, and local government agencies in Clinton and Fayetteville Counties - learned about how the tax credit program works and the benefits it can bring to a community.

Fort Ancient Site Manager Jack Blosser and Facility Maintenance Supervisor Keith Bengtson participated in a cultural Interpretative program for **Shawnee State University** in Portsmouth. Approximately 1,000 children over the two-day event learned about Prehistory and European contact, and also how American Indians planted and harvested crops. Children had a great time touching and exploring prehistoric tools and then comparing them with the historic counterparts during the late 18th/early 19th Century. "We must have done something right", says Jack Blosser. "They invited us back next year!"

Region 9

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

In 100 words or less, do you have outstanding news to share about your organization?

Please email it to your regional representative for the next issue of *The Local Historian*.

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

Region 10

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

Joined or renewed between October 25 and December 28, 2018

Welcome New Members

ORGANIZATIONS

Mount Calvary Baptist Church, *Columbus*
Local Highway History LLC, *Reynoldsburg*
The Grail In The USA, *Loveland*

Thank You Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

JoAnn Bertram, *Cincinnati*
Daniel L. Frizzi, *Bellaire*
Amy M. Yuncker, *Canton*

ORGANIZATIONS

Brunswick Area Historical Society, *Brunswick*
Chester-Shade Historical Association, *Chester*
Cleveland Masonic Library & Museum, *Cleveland*
Columbus Metropolitan Library, *Columbus*
Enon Community Historical Society, *Enon*
Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County, *Waverly*
Gates Mills Historical Society, *Gates Mills*
Highland County Historical Society, *Hillsboro*
Kelleys Island Historical Association Inc, *Kelleys Island*
Kinsman Historical Society, *Kinsman*
Lorain Historical Society, *Lorain*
Massillon Heritage Foundation Inc, *Massillon*
McGuffey House and Museum, *Oxford*
Niles Historical Society, *Niles*
Preble County Historical Society, *Eaton*
Rendville Historic Preservation Society, *Athens*
Riverside Historical Society, *Dayton*
Shanes Crossing Historical Society, *Rockford*
Spring Hill Historic Home, Inc, *Massillon*
Watt Center for History & the Arts, *Barnesville*
Western Reserve Historical Society, *Cleveland*
Whitehouse Historical Society, *Whitehouse*

JANUARY 21:

Society of Ohio Archivists session proposals due. For more information, see page 11.

JANUARY 28:

Registration Deadline, AASLH Online Course: Basics of Archives. For more information, see page 10.

OMA Award Nominations Due. For more information, see page 14.

FEBRUARY 11:

Annual Meeting session proposals dues. For more information, see page 10.

OMA Webinar: Got a Grant? Great! Now What? For more information, see page 15.

FEBRUARY 23:

Region 9 History Day contest. For more information, see page 12.

FEBRUARY 27:

Statehood Day. For more information, see page 5.

FEBRUARY 28:

OHRAB Grant Applications Due. For more information, see page 13.

MARCH 2:

Region 2 History Day contest. For more information, see page 12.

Region 7 History Day contest. For more information, see page 12.

MARCH 7-9:

Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council Spring Conference. For more information, see page 15.

MARCH 9:

Region 7 Regional Meeting. For more information, see page 3.

Region 9 Regional Meeting. For more information, see page 3.

Region 6 History Day contest. For more information, see page 12.

Region 8 History Day contest. For more information, see page 12.

MARCH 16:

Region 6 Regional Meeting. For more information, see page 3.

Region 8 Regional Meeting. For more information, see page 3.

Region 1 History Day contest. For more information, see page 12.

Region 3 History Day contest. For more information, see page 12.

Region 5 History Day contest. For more information, see page 12.

Region 10 History Day contest. For more information, see page 12.

MARCH 23:

Region 3 Regional Meeting. For more information, see page 3.

Region 10 Regional Meeting. For more information, see page 3.

MARCH 28-29:

Grant Writing Bootcamp. For more information, see page 15.

APRIL 6:

Region 1 Regional Meeting. For more information, see page 1.

Region 5 Regional Meeting. For more information, see page 3.

Region 4 History Day contest. For more information, see page 12.

APRIL 13:

Region 2 Regional Meeting. For more information, see page 3.

Region 4 Regional Meeting. For more information, see page 3.

APRIL 15:

Taxes Due! Support the Ohio History Fund. For more information, see page 7.

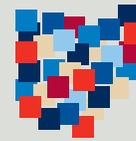
APRIL 27:

State History Day contest. For more information, see page 7-9

MAY 17:

Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Meeting. For more information, see page 11.

JOIN THE OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE...



OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

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

Organizational Member

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

Operating budget:

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

Individual Member

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

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

Business Member:

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

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

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

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FAX: (614) 297-2567

ehedler@ohiohistory.org

Visit The Alliance online at
www.ohiolha.org and on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/ohio-localhistoryalliance

Annual Membership Dues:

Organizations:

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

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

for 2)

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

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

Individuals:

Affiliate:

\$35 (\$65 for 2)

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

Students: \$20

Business:

\$100 (\$190 for 2)

Individual subscriptions to *The Local Historian*

only are available for \$25 annually.

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Need to Contact Us? We at Local History Services love hearing from you.

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and www.facebook.com/groups/OhioLHAMembers/



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