Ohioana News

September 15, 2026

Transition News
Page 01

New Executive Director
Page 03

Ohio Book Award Winners
Page 04

New Books
Page 05

Support Ohioana
Page 06



Ohioana in Transition

In late 2025 and early 2026, the Ohioana Library experienced a series of challenges that required rapid action from both the board of trustees and the staff. First, in December 2025, Executive Director Dr. Kimberly Kiehl resigned since she needed to relocate to Pennsylvania with her family. Then, in early 2026, while the board and staff were taking appropriate actions to deal with the immediate needs of the organization related to Dr. Kiehl's departure, we learned that the library needed to vacate our location at 274 E First Ave by mid-July 2026.

A relocation committee was immediately formed to explore our options, and several possible locations were visited. Given the short time frame in which this relocation needed to occur, the Trustees soon realized that we would need to move the collection into storage while we planned and searched for a permanent location.

During March and April of 2026, we accepted proposals from several moving companies and reviewed a variety of storage options and facilities. Ultimately, Planes Moving & Storage was selected to pack and move the library. During May of 2026, Ohioana staff cleaned, prepared, and organized the collection, its shelving units, our administrative files, and our furnishings for long-term storage. While the staff worked on relocation actions, the Board of Trustees initiated actions to locate and hire a new executive director.

(continued on pg. 02)







(Transition News - continued from page 01)

In June 2026, the collection was moved to a climate-controlled facility in Grove City operated by Vital Records Control; while the Library's fixtures, furnishings, and files which did not require special climate controls were moved into the Planes Moving and Storage facility in Hilliard. Both of these facilities have processes that will allow us to locate and retrieve items from storage as required.

During June, the new Executive Director was selected and the Ohioana staff moved into temporary office space at 350 E First Ave in the historic Berry Boltworks Building. This location is directly across the parking lot from our previous location in the Jeffery Mining and Manufacturing Building.

Now that the collection and staff are securely established in their temporary locations, the search has resumed for the Ohioana Library's next permanent home.

Many people and organizations have been involved in our relocation and reorganization processes, graciously providing suggestions, assistance, and information. Ohioana is truly grateful for the support we have received from all of you. We will continue to update you as this story progresses.



Meet Ohioana's New Executive Director



Dr. Amelia Adams joined the Ohioana Library Association Board of Trustees in October 2022, where she was a member of the Finance Committee, and also served as Chair of the About Ohio or an Ohioana Book Awards committee. In October 2024, she joined the Executive Committee, serving as the Ohioana Library's Treasurer. In April 2026, she was appointed Interim Executive Director, and on July 1, 2026, she was selected to serve as the Ohioana Library's eighth Executive Director.

Dr. Adams has always been a voracious reader who loves rambling though library aisles and reading from every shelf. From General Information through History and Geography, there is always something fascinating to discover.

"The Ohioana Library is unique and important because it contains such a vast and diverse array of materials, all with a unifying theme of Ohio."
- Dr. Amelia Adams

Dr. Adams holds a Doctoral degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Oklahoma, a Master's degree in Anthropology from the University of Oklahoma, and a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Sociology from Smith College.

Before joining the Ohioana Library Association, Dr. Adams previously worked for the City of Logan, Ohio; served as Assistant Dean of Graduate Education at the University of Oklahoma; and was an Assistant Professor in the College of Liberal Studies at the University of Oklahoma. Her family has extensive roots in southeastern Ohio, specifically in the intersection of Athens, Washington, and Morgan Counties; and she remains an active leader in this community, serving on the boards of the Tablertown People of Color Museum, the Nahyssan Tribal Nation, and the Multicultural Genealogical Center. Throughout her career, she has presented many public workshops and seminars in her areas of expertise, including leadership, graduate studies, public speaking, and the genealogical history of southeast Ohio.

Dr. Adams brings a deep understanding of Ohioana's mission, strong leadership experience, and a meaningful commitment to preserving and promoting Ohio's literary heritage. As Interim Director, she carefully and cost-effectively managed the complex relocation of Ohioana's priceless collection of literary treasures, due to the early termination of the State Library of Ohio's lease at Ohioana's former location. Her connection to the organization, knowledge of its programs, and passion for Ohio's authors and readers position her well to guide the Ohioana Library into its next chapter.

Her leadership will be especially important as the Ohioana Library continues to strengthen its statewide visibility, support authors, steward its collections, grow partnerships, and build long-term organizational sustainability.



The 2026 Ohio Book Awards

Join us LIVE on Zoom October 15, 2026 at 7:00pm!

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-ohio-book-awards-tickets-1999267988372

About Ohio/An Ohioan:
John U. Bacon. ***The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald***. Liveright Publishing, 2025.

Fiction:
Patrick Ryan. ***Buckeye***. Random House, 2025.

Juvenile:
Jashar Awan. ***Every Monday Mabel***. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2025.

Middle Grade:
Rosalyn Ransaw. ***Smoke & Mirrors***. Amulet Books, 2025.

Nonfiction:
John Green. ***Everything is Tuberculosis: The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection***. Crash Course Books, 2025.

Poetry:
Arah Ko. ***Brine Orchid: Poems***. YesYes Books, 2025.

Young Adult:
Mindy McGinnis. ***How Girls are Made***. HarperCollins, 2025.

Readers' Choice:
Marty Ross-Dolen. ***Always There, Always Gone: A Daughter's Search for Truth***. She Writes Press, 2025.

2026 Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant: Juliet Del Rio. **"Call it Love, Call it Invasion."**

New to Ohioana's Collection
Summer 2026

Nonfiction

Butland, Dale. ***When Ohio Was Blue: My Twenty-Year Journey with John Glenn.*** The University of Akron Press, 2026.

Crouch, Tom D. Smithson's Gamble: ***The Smithsonian Institution in American Life, 1836–1906***. Smithsonian Books, 2026.

Crytzer, Brady J. ***The National Road: George Washington and America's First Highway West***. Diversion Books, 2026.

Fleischer S. Victor., and Toivo Motter, eds. ***Lost Voices of the Great War: Summit County in the First World War***. The University of Akron Press, 2026.

Haygood, Wil. ***The War Within a War: The Black Struggle in Vietnam and at Home***. Knopf, 2026.

Hinds, Conrade C. ***Hollywood in Ohio.*** The History Press, 2026.

Zaleski, Elizabeth. ***The Trouble with Loving Poets and Other Essays on Failure***. Belt, 2026.

Fiction

Anderson, Jarod K. ***Strange Animals***. Ballantine Books, 2026.

Bobulski, Chelsea. ***A Deal with a Debutante (London's Most Eligible #1)***. Haven, 2026.

Dudar, Hasan. ***Carryout: Stories***. University of Iowa Press, 2026.

Feldman, Sonia. ***Girls' Girl***. The Dial Press, 2026.

Flower, Amanda. ***The First Ladies' Guide to Murder***. Kensington Books, 2026.

McClain, Paula. ***Skylark***. Atria Books, 2026.



Ohioana's extensive collection of over 90,000 items by Ohioans or about Ohio subjects exists because of generous donations.
We accept book donations all year round.
Please e-mail ohioana@ohioana.org for more information!

Nominate Your Book for the 2027 Ohio Book Awards

Established in 1942, the Ohio Book Awards recognize Ohio authors and illustrators for outstanding books published each calendar year in the categories of Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Young Adult Literature, Middle Grade Literature, Juvenile Literature, and Book about Ohio or an Ohioan (which may include books by non-Ohio authors or illustrators).

Visit www.ohioana.org for the nomination form and more information about eligibility. **Nomination forms must be postmarked by December 31, 2026**, to be considered for the 2027 Awards. YES, you may absolutely nominate yourself!

Support Ohioana!

Your financial contribution helps the Ohioana Library collect, preserve, and promote the written works of Ohio's talented writers, authors, and illustrators.

Visit www.ohioana.org to support Ohioana's mission to preserve Ohio's stories!

Ohioana Library Association
350 E. 1st Ave. Ste. 100
Columbus, OH 43201

Ohioana Board of Trustees

Honorary Chair
Fran DeWine

Elected
Brad Hughes, President
Helen F. Bolte, Vice-President
Amy A. McClure, Secretary
Rekha Voruganti, Treasurer

Ashley Bethard
Sam Chang
Dionne Custer Edwards
Steve George
Andrew Grace
Robert Jaquay,
Kelli Johnson
Negesti Kaudo
Todd Kleismit
Chrissy Myers
Holly Brians Ragusa
David Siders
Caroline Stevens
Emily J. Taft
Deborah Urton
Donte Woods-Spikes

Appointed By the Governor of Ohio
Judith Y. Brachman
Amy A. McClure
Kimberly A. Murnieks
Brian M. Perera

Trustees Emeritus
Rudine Sims Bishop
Ann Bowers
Christina Butlers
Cynthia Puckett
Daniel Shuey
Robert Webner

Ohioana Staff
Dr. Amelia Adams, Executive Director
Courtney Brown, Librarian

OHIOana LIBRARY

Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature