Statewide Consortium of Ohio County Law Library Resources Boards

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May 20, 2015

Ohio County Law Library Resource Boards,

When the Planning Meeting ended there was discussion regarding the financial condition of the Consortium. We did not have the best numbers so we tabled a decision regarding the purchase of West publications.

I thought that the available funds were net of our optional grant awards. Unfortunately, I was mistaken. What this means is that we have approximately $80,000.00 less than I thought. That is significant!

The Board met on May 19 to address this issue. Many of you may have been able to participate through the tele-conference. For those of you who were not able to participate I wanted to bring you up to date on where we are, what will happen the balance of this year and what will likely happen next year.

Financially, we are able to pay all of our outstanding obligations and to meet our commitments that we have made to you – including the optional grants. Adjustments will have to be made, however, to achieve this result.

The first adjustment I believe is obvious. We will not be making any new purchases from West this year. We will, however, be completing our purchase agreement, in full, for the Lexis handbooks. This was very important to the Board because if we cancelled any part of that purchase agreement the individual Resource Boards and county agencies/departments would not be able to take advantage of the negotiated discounts.

We have contacted Library World regarding their upcoming invoice. They will delay billing until January 2016 and invoice us for 14 months. Our commitment to you regarding Library World will see no change.

We have had to cancel our current contract with Mathew Bender for OJI. All is not lost. You will get one more up-date this year. It is already paid. The second update will not be provided. You can, however, purchase that update with your local funds. Please contact Angela Baldree and she will coordinate the purchase for you. Further, we have already spoken with Mathew Bender and will be able to renegotiate a new contract beginning in March 2016 and you will all get a new complete set.

Going forward the Board discussed doing a better job with our monthly/quarterly financial reports/projections. For so long we had more money than we needed. That is no longer the case.

Next year it is very doubtful that we will be able to issue the refund grants. Hopefully after we build up our reserves we can revisit that issue.

With the adjustments I have discussed I am absolutely confident we will be able to finish this year with a positive balance and fulfill the commitments we made to you.

On behalf of the entire Board, I want to thank everyone for their support and understanding. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me, any other Board member or our Executive Director.

Sincerely,

Judge Charles Schneider, Chair

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