

# NORWELD News

## Time for change...

“Change in leadership here at NORWELD is in progress”, says Toni Whitney, executive director, as she recently announced plans for retirement from public service effective July 1st.

“Leaving public service is bittersweet as working in Ohio public libraries over the past twenty-one years has been rewarding. I can’t imagine another work environment that could have provided as many avenues for engaging creativity and leadership nor the freedom to put most ideas into action”, shares Whitney.

Whitney’s library career began as a part-time children’s associate at Ashland Public Library where she presented “Lapsit” programs for babies and storytime programs for children under age three. While yet pursuing a masters in library science, Whitney was promoted to youth services librarian and head of the Children’s Department. Much freedom was extended her by former library director, Pam Jordan, giving Whitney leeway to explore various outreach ideas and develop new programs.

Later, the Board of Trustees at New London Public Library entrusted Whitney with her first directorship and provided a tremendously supportive environment for her seven years of work at the library. Whitney went on to become Assistant Director at Lorain Public Library where she served for over nine years. And most recently, Whitney has served as Executive Director of the Northwest Regional Library System (NORWELD) in Bowling Green since November 2017.

Whitney believes that a change in leadership for NORWELD will be positive and she and the staff are working behind the scenes to assure a smooth transition.



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### Congratulations to . . .

**Shannon Featheringill**  
who has been appointed  
to the directorship at  
Seneca-East Public Library.

**Celeste Baker**  
who has been appointed the  
Fiscal Officer  
at Tiffin-Seneca Public Library.

# SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 19, 2019 | 12 – 3 PM  
Ostego Park Stone Hall

Featuring Scott Frank  
Internet Safety Expert



Click here to register:  
[www.norweld.org](http://www.norweld.org)

## Membership meeting—what's the scoop?

**NORWELD Spring Membership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 19, 2019**  
**12:00 p.m.**

The 2019 NORWELD Spring Membership meeting will be held at Ostego Park Stone Hall in Bowling Green, Ohio, on Wednesday, June 19th. The membership meeting is free to NORWELD full-paying members with lunch at a cost of \$15.00 per person.

Keynote speaker will be Scott Frank who is an Internet safety expert and he will be presenting a program on Digital Empowerment. Frank will share his perspective on the risks and dangers of the digital world and his knowledge on empowering others, such as children and parents, to make safe and healthy choices in their digital lives.

Schedule for the Day:

Lunch served at 12:15 p.m. with meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m.

- Welcome & Introductions
- Remarks from Executive Director Toni R. Whitney
- Remarks from Board President Beth Leibengood
- Election of New Board Members
- Old & New Business
- Keynote Speaker: Scott Frank, Internet Safety Expert, Digital Empowerment



## WEBINARS

**Tuesday, May 14**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Efficient Librarian—From Inbox to Done: The Simple Steps to Successful Workflow

**Wednesday, May 15**  
**12:30 p.m.**

Preventing Harassment in the Library: Responding to Sexual, Racial, and Bullying Incidents Involving Staff or Patrons

**Tuesday, May 21**  
**10:00 a.m.**

How to Write Effective Survey Questions to Get Useful Data

**Thursday, May 23**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Leadership is a Verb, Not a Noun

**Tuesday, May 28**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Simple and Powerful Customer Service Tips

**Thursday, May 30**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Take Your People Management Skills to the Next Level

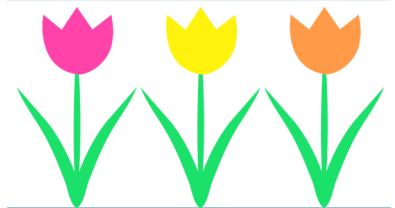
**Tuesday, June 4**  
**10:00 a.m.**

The 7 Ways Leaders Fail

**Tuesday, June 11**  
**10:00 a.m.**

The 2019 Horizon Report—Higher Education Edition

Registration @  
[www.norweld.org](http://www.norweld.org)



## Roundtables



**“Meet new people and join the conversation on trending topics “**

### Future Roundtables TBA

Visit the [NORWELD website continuing education page](#) for information on future Roundtables or telephone Kathy Munger, Continuing Education Specialist for more information.

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Roundtables are informal discussions where those with similar responsibilities come together to share ideas, glean insight on trending topics, and network.

## Update on Funding for State Library of Ohio and the Regional Library Systems

From [Budget Support Testimony FY2020– FY2021](#) given by Beverly Cain, State Librarian

State Librarian Beverly Cain recently provided budget support testimony to the House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education, and most recently, to the Ohio Senate Higher Education Committee encouraging legislators to consider a badly needed budget increase for the State Library and the four Regional Library Systems.

Per Cain’s testimony, “the State Library’s General Revenue Fund (GRF) Operating Budget was reduced by 13.57%, \$1.4 million, for the current Biennium. This reduction in funding has resulted in reductions in staffing, library materials, and services. Five State Library staff positions were eliminated and an additional ten were left unfilled at the end of FY2017. The State Library currently has a staff of just 60 positions, including 5 positions assigned to OPLIN. This represents a reduction of 19% over the past ten years and an overall reduction of 54% since FY2002.”

“The Governor’s Executive Budget for FY2020 and FY2021 recommends maintaining GRF funding for the State Library of Ohio at the FY2019 level. This will require the State Library to make additional reductions in staff, programs, and resources. Of particular concern is the issue of rent for the State Library facility at 274 E. First Avenue. At the proposed level of funding for FY2021, after meeting projected payroll costs, the State Library will be \$130,457 short of being able to meet the rental obligation.”

“Several library-related organizations are funded as line items in the State Library’s budget. These organizations include OPLIN, the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled, Ohio’s four Regional Library Systems, and the Ohioana Library. “ Cain goes on to remark that funding for some of those agencies has remained stable.

“However, the four Regional Library Systems have experienced ongoing reductions in funding including a reduction of 14% for the current Biennium, that have made it increasingly difficult to provide essential community needs, and the high turnover in library personnel occurring over the last five years due to retirements, have made ongoing training for library staff more important than ever.”

Cain requests a modest increase in the GRF funding for the State Library of 4.5% or \$204,440, and that GRF funding to the Regional Library Systems be increased by 10%, or \$50,000, for each year of the Biennium. This increase would result in \$12,500 in additional funding per year for the four Regional Library Systems.

As of the writing of this newsletter, GRF funding for the State Library remains flat at the FY 2019 level in the House Substitute version of the budget and Senate subcommittees continues to hear testimony.

If you are interested in letting the Senators on the Ohio Senate Higher Education Committee know how much the State Library and your Regional Library System means to you, please, contact the following Senators as soon as possible:


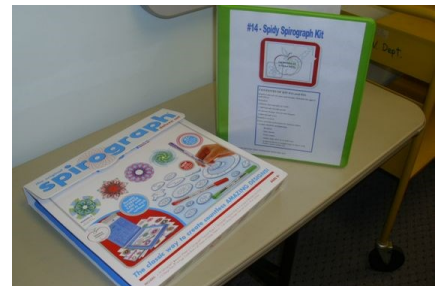
Senator Stephanie Kunze  
Senator Theresa Gavarone  
Senator Sandra R. Williams  
Senator Nathan Manning  
Senator Tina Maharath

Senator Rob McColley  
Senator Bob Peterson  
Senator Steve Wilson  
Senator Hearcel F. Craig





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NORWELD  
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Bowling Green, OH 43402  
Phone: 419-352-2903  
Fax: 419-353-8310



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