

ORALL NEWSLETTER

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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President's Column - Nancy S. Clark



AALL's New Meaning **(An Advantage for Law Librarians)**

The 94th Annual Meeting and Conference of the American Association of Law Libraries was held in Minneapolis, MN, July 14-19, 2001. This year's theme "New Realities, New Roles" allowed members to pick from a cornucopia of excellent programs from Globalization to Practitioner's Toolkit, from Reinventing Law Librarianship to the *Tango*?! (*Details to follow.*) Pre-conference workshops on Law for the Non-JD, Managing Technical Services, and Legislative Histories started the educational adventure week.

Attending the Annual Meeting is **An Advantage for Law Librarians**. AALL supports its members, Chapters and SIS's by offering extra educational opportunities. For example, new members can attend CONELL (Conference of Newer Law Librarians) to learn from the experts about AALL and tips for a successful career. Roundtable discussions and training classes are held for Chapter and SIS Leadership.

chance to network with colleagues and vendors, to meet new faces and rekindle old friendships. AALL has built-in "no-conflict" times during the busy schedule to give members a chance to meet exhibitors and visit the information marketplace in the AALL Activities Area. For those members interested in keeping in touch with the office while away, the AALL-LexisNexis™ Internet Room is always a popular place to access their e-mail, the web, or law-lib postings. Still want more networking opportunities?

The Mentoring program is another fun way to share your expertise about the profession with a newer member and advise he/she on how to get the most out of the conference.

IN THIS ISSUE...

ORALL Information	Pg. 3
Minneapolis Redux	Pg. 4
Membership News	Pg. 6
Important Dates	Pg. 6
Annual Meeting Program Notes	Pg. 7

The Annual Meeting is a great

The time spent in the exhibit hall offered valuable contacts with current and new vendor representatives. It's important to foster the vendor-librarian relationship. This face-to-face communication helps the vendor understand your library's needs and your personal preferences in handling your orders and accounts. Customer Service is not dead if you take the lead in establishing the parameters early in the relationship to make your librarian life easier. Since the meeting was in Minneapolis, I was fortunate to meet my West Inside Sale Representative after only knowing her by the friendly voice over the phone for many years. I was anxious to meet the person who, at times, jumped through hoops or pulled the necessary strings to get that late-in-the-day, attorney *RUSH* request in the overnight mail. With limited staffing needed at the West booth in the exhibit hall, not all West Group employees received an invitation to attend their Customer Appreciation evening program. A colleague, unable to attend AALL, generously donated her invitation for this Sales Rep. to join law librarians from around the country and meet many of her clients in person.

Not all law librarians get support for attendance at an AALL Annual Meeting. No matter what type of law library you work in, reasons for not attending are similar, such as budget constraints, staff shortages, too many days away from the library, and high hotel and meal costs. Some librarians must pick just one meeting a year to attend, usually the local chapter vs. national association meeting. Ways to save money at meetings include applying for a scholarship or grant, rooming with one or more colleagues, and sharing transportation costs, if the meeting is within a reasonable driving distance. Check with your local Chapter and SIS for scholarship opportunities. I've experienced both sides of management's view to support or not-support professional development. Twice,

when the employer did not want to support attendance, I actively applied for scholarship or grant assistance at the local or national level. I also found a colleague willing to split expenses of the hotel room.

Usually with such a full schedule, it's easy to be on information overload by the time Wednesday's classes roll around. This year I learned how to *Tango* on Wednesday morning without leaving the convention center! The program called, *Two to Tango: The Following Part of Leading in Library Partnerships*, combined presentations in the lead-follow dynamic of management with examples of lead-follow roles from library directors in academic and firm settings. The program was capped off by entertaining dialog and presentations in the lead-follow dynamics with two professional dancers. We learned about Zydeco and Cajun dances. Rumors of a Dance SIS might be real!

Attending the AALL Annual Meeting offers many advantages. It's a wonderful way to rejuvenate your enthusiasm for the profession and rev-up your engine to see your career in a new, positive light.

KEEP NETWORKING!

ORALL
Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries

ORALL Officers

Nancy Clark, President Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue	614-469-3996	nsclark@jonesday.com
Ellen Quinn, Vice-President Cleveland-Marshall College of Law	216-687-6913	ellen.quinn@law.csuohio.edu
Claudia Zaher, Secretary Northern Kentucky Univ.	859-572-5712	zaher@nku.edu
Thomas Hanley, Treasurer University of Dayton	937-229-2444	hanley@udayton.edu
Richard Humphrey, Exec. Board Indiana University Law Library	317-278-1793	rhumphre@iupui.edu
Billie Grey, Exec. Board Cincinnati Law Library Assn.	513-946-5263	billie.grey@cmscc05.hamilton-co.org
Michael Whiteman, Exec. Board University of Louisville	502-852-6080	mwhiteman@louisville.edu

Membership

Members: 303
Dues: \$15 per year
Non-member subscriptions: \$10 per year

Contact: Tom Hanley, Univ. of Dayton,
Zimmerman Law Library, Dayton, OH 45469, or
call 937-229-2444 or e-mail hanley@udayton.edu

Newsletter

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Editor: Ken Kozlowski, Univ. of Dayton
Zimmerman Law Library, Dayton OH 45469
937-229-4810 kozlowsk@udayton.edu

Printer: Robbie Robertson, Univ. of Akron School
of Law Library

Send address changes to: Tom Hanley, Univ. of
Dayton Zimmerman Law Library, Dayton OH
45469, (937)229-4810, hanley@udayton.edu

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Profile

ORALL is a 4-state chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries [Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan]. It was formed in 1949 "to further the development and usefulness of law libraries and to stimulate a spirit of mutual helpfulness among law libraries of this region." An annual conference is held in the Fall of each year. ORALL publishes or sponsors the following publications: *Core Legal Collection* [bibliographies for Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan], ORALL Membership Directory, ORALL Newsletter, Ohio Legal Resources Annotated Bibliography & Guide 3rd.

MINNEAPOLIS REDUX

By Kate Kennedy

Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.

Cleveland, OH

I attended the AALL Conference in Minneapolis this past July for the first time not just as a program attendee, but as a Speaker. Beth Langton (Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs) and I spoke about the "Incredible Shrinking Library." We outlined two different scenarios for private law firm library downsizings. Our presentation was a repeat performance of the program we introduced at the October 2000 ORALL Conference.

From my new perspective, AALL was a jumble of mixed impressions. My concerns were not just with the usual matters – which programs to attend, or which luncheons/events to sign up for. I was fixated on the details of the presentation: Did I bring enough handouts? Three hundred people had signed up for our program, would that many really show up? (They did.) What if the data projector broke? (It didn't, but I packed duplicate diskettes and transparencies just in case.) Was I prepared enough? In short, besides the usual anticipation I brought along a good deal of ANXIETY! But, I am happy to report that everything went very well. Beth and I received many positive comments that evening and during the next couple of days. I was really amazed how many people made it a point to say something not only at the other programs and luncheons, but even on the hotel elevator or out on the sidewalk. It was very gratifying.

Questions afterward included inquiries about the nitty gritty details of moving and removing large numbers of books – i.e. "Did you and your staff have to move things – or was it left to professional movers?" (The Library staff was fully involved and helped the movers.) "What do you think about your new compact shelving units?" (Not an ideal solution, but we have adapted.) Other questions and comments dealt with the many factors that must be weighed when switching from print to electronic subscriptions. One gentleman made a somewhat ominous prediction that although I hadn't suffered any staff reductions yet "it was coming, so be prepared!" And a county law librarian assured me that we can't count on the local county libraries for keeping everything anymore because they are under the same constraints (money & space) as the law firms.

Our presentation was on Sunday afternoon. We were then able to relax and pay attention to the rest of the Conference – which by the way, was pretty good. There were several programs that discussed intranets and portals. Others outlined knowledge management techniques and issues. Also, I learned plenty of new tricks for managing my time. As for library downsizing – it seems to be the 'elephant in the living room' that everyone is finally talking about. Rebalancing issues are becoming more and more of an issue for all Librarians – public, private, and academic. It was very rewarding to participate in this important and timely discussion.

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Around the Association...

ORALL Ping Pong Team Takes a Road Trip

Four valiant souls (the winners of the Hein Challenge Ping Pong Tournament held at the 2001 Spring Retreat) went on to compete at AALL in Minneapolis. Although none of them made it to the finals, they did an admirable job of representing our chapter. Many thanks to Beth Langton, Ellen Quinn, Marcus Hostetler & Keith Blough for taking the time out of their busy conference schedule to try and bring home the Gold for ORALL.

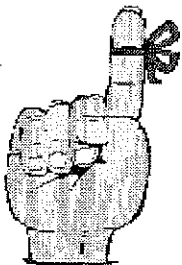
A SIG is Born

At 9:20 am on Monday, July 16, 2001 the **Kentucky SIG** was born. The Kentucky SIG will be a forum for librarians in Kentucky to meet and share ideas during the ORALL annual meeting or whenever the need arises. Look for some Kentucky-specific paraphernalia at this year's ORALL Annual Meeting.

Sandy Hyclak Takes on New Responsibilities

On July 25, 2001, the law firm of Bricker & Eckler LLP announced that Sandy Hyclak had been named the Director of Library Services. Sandy had worked as the firm's research librarian for the past six years and moved into the Director's position on June 20. Sandy will be responsible for reference, research and patron services, library management, collection care, information technology, and legal resource instruction. Congratulations Sandy!

IMPORTANT DATES



October 3-5, 2001 / **ORALL Annual Meeting** , Maumee Bay State Park, Toledo OH

March 1-2, 2002 / **ORALL Spring Retreat**, Salt Fork State Park

July 20-24, 2002 / **AALL Annual Meeting** , Orlando, FL

ORALL Newsletter deadlines : February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15

A Blast From the Past...

One of the joys of being Newsletter Editor is the privilege of holding on to archival copies. Unfortunately, my supply only goes back to 1993. The snippet below came from page nine of the June 1993 issue. As you can see, one pressing concern was with the Banks-Baldwin *Ohio Appellate Decisions Index*. How times have changed. It also is humorous to note the other item

concerning Craig Shergold. Again, this dates from a time when my computer was an IBM 286 with a 40mb hard drive, the World Wide Web was just getting hatched, and the site www.urbanlegends.com was not in existence.

I want to include more of these "Blasts From the Past" in future issues of the *ORALL Newsletter*. I really would like to get some older material. If anyone has anything in their files that they'd like to get rid of, I'll take it. If you don't want to give it up permanently, I'd like to borrow the item for scanning purposes.

Thanks for any help you can offer.

- Ken Kozlowski
Newsletter Editor

Do You Want to Get Published????

I will publish just about anything you care to write about (subject to editorial discretion, of course). This is an easy way to start building a resume of writing samples that may come in handy the next time you start looking for a job. The next deadline is November 15. Submit an article and see your name in print.

BIG CHANGES TO OHIO APPELLATE INDEX

Banks-Baldwin Publishing Company is planning a major restructuring of the *Ohio Appellate Decisions Index*. Because it is so expensive to prepare, BB will publish a quarterly small index containing ONLY a subject index with much less detail to the descriptions.

ORALL County SIG members met with Eve Greene of BB and expressed the opinion that even if the quarterly indexes do not carry all the extra tables, perhaps the year-end circulation could include the Table of Cases, Table of Statutes, and fiche references. SIG members felt that continuation of the fiche was very important and the indexing citations to it in the BB publication.

All users of the *Ohio Appellate Decisions Index* are urged to contact Eve Greene of Banks-Baldwin to express your opinion. If BB is not able to provide this, perhaps another solution could be found.

Anita Shaw
Butler County Library



Help Set A World's Record

Craig Shergold is a 7-year-old suffering from terminal cancer. He would like to be included in the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest collection of business cards held by one person. Craig would be very grateful if you could send him one of your business cards to the address below. Obviously, we need to respond promptly.

The address is:

Craig Shergold
c/o Children's Make A Wish Foundation
32 Perimeter Center East
Atlanta, GA 30346