Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries 2010-2011 Annual Report

Though first formed in 1949, the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries became a chapter of AALL in 1970, and thus celebrated its 40th anniversary as a chapter in 2010. Our 61st annual meeting (with the theme of “Teamwork”) was held in the McKinley Grand Hotel in Canton, Ohio, from October 20–22, 2010. The local arrangements committee for this meeting planned an incredible meeting, including an opening reception held at the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The speaker at the opening reception was Lynn Swann, Hall of Fame receiver for the Pittsburgh Steelers, who spoke on the importance of teamwork. In attendance representing the AALL Executive Board was Carol Bredemeyer, also an ORALL member.

Tours also were held on the first day of the meeting of the Stark County Law Library and the National First Ladies’ Library. The founder and president of the National First Ladies’ Library, Mary Regula, spoke at the luncheon on the second day of the meeting. ORALL members were so taken with Ms. Regula and her library that ORALL sponsored a seat in the library’s theater following our meeting.

The educational programming at our meeting was also outstanding, led off by a skit on teamwork by the ORALL Players. Programs included “Using Technology to Work Collaborately” (presented by Sarah Glassmeyer); “The Pros and Pitfalls of Cross-Training” (presented by Amy Beckham Osborne); “The County Law Library Consortium” (presented by Kathy Sasala and Mary Jenkins); Authentication of State Electronic Legal Materials” (presented by Emily Janoski-Haehlen and C. Andrew Plumb-Larrick); “Access to Legal Information in Taiwan” (presented by Angela Baldree); “Slow Libraries: Creating Time for Quality and Teamwork” (presented by Amy Burchfield); “Practical Exams in Legal Research Classes” (presented by Mike Bushbaum and Steven Probst); “Government Documents Update” (presented by SaraJean Petite); and “The Legal History of the Kent State Shootings” (presented by Niki Schwartz). The program on the Kent State shootings, led by the president of the Ohio ACLU in 1970, contained an incredible surprise for ORALL members present. Serendipitously in attendance at the meeting was Alan Canfora, one of the nine students shot at Kent State on May 4, 1970, who survived their injuries. Even more surprising was that Mr. Canfora recently became a reference librarian at the Akron Law Library and is a new member of ORALL.

Members of ORALL’s executive board for 2009-2010 were: Ken Kozlowski, president; Steven Probst, vice president; Angela Baldree, secretary; Rick Goheen, treasurer; Shannon Kemen, member-at-large; Paul Venard, member-at-large; and Maureen Anderson, immediate past president.

An ORALL Luncheon was also held at the AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on July 24, 2011. ORALL provided grants to two ORALL members to attend the 2011 AALL Annual Meeting. The recipients of these grants were Beth Given and Lisa Britt-Wernke.

Planning for the 2011 ORALL annual meeting is nearly complete. The meeting will be held October 19–21 at the Hyatt Regency in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the theme will be “Navigating the Rapids of Change.” The opening reception will be held at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.
Officers of ORALL for 2010-2011 are: Steven Probst, president; Steven Miller, vice president; Judy Miller, secretary; Rick Goheen, treasurer; Paul Venard, member-at-large; Lisa Britt Wernke, member-at-large; and Ken Kozlowski, immediate past president.

Thank you for your support of ORALL. We look forward to another productive year in 2011-12.

Steven R. Probst
President