ORALL held its 68th annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, on October 19-21, 2017. The theme of the meeting was Creating Winning Strategies, a theme chosen to reflect the success of professional sports in Cleveland and designed to be positive and forward-looking for libraries striving to provide exceptional service and resources to patrons, regardless of budget and staffing challenges. Fifteen sessions were presented on a variety of topics, and as usual, an emphasis was placed on ensuring programming was of interest to librarians from all library types. ORALL’s take on CONELL was repeated to great success again. This year, members of the board (past and current) sat at stations and talked with each new member individually. Then, the new members interviewed each other, and the interviews became profiles in our newsletter. Attendees were also encouraged to bring new or gently-used K-8 books for the Little Free Library at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. We received sponsorships from twelve vendors.

ORALL was very busy during this year’s AALL annual meeting in Baltimore. Our President and Vice President attended the chapter leadership training. ORALL members who presented include Ben Keele, Carol Ottolenghi, Dwight King, Emily Janoski-Haehlen, Ken Hirsh, Laura Ray, Matthew Donahue, Sara Sampson, Shannon Kemen, and Susan DeMaine among others. ORALL members also volunteered their time at our poster in the exhibition hall. Several of ORALL’s members held a get together at the Rusty Scupper on Monday evening.

ORALL continues the tradition of offering grants to our members to attend AALL. This year four members received $695 grants to use toward the cost of AALL registration and other trip-related expenses. We provided two Special Meeting grants of $350 for members to attend CALI and the Leadership Academy. Also, six members were given $350 grants to attend ORALL in Cleveland.

ORALL’s 69th annual meeting will take place in Cincinnati, Ohio, on October 17-19, 2019. Local Arrangements Co-Chairs Lisa Britt-Wernke and Carol Bredemeyer have an event-filled three days planned. Education Chair Rick Goheen has twelve programs planned. The theme of the meeting is Tall Stacks, Small Stacks, and Legal Information Navigation—a nod to Cincinnati’s riverboat history. Carol Bredemeyer gamely stepped in as co-chair after former co-chair Mike Whiteman was appointed interim dean of Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University. Speaking of proud leadership moments for ORALL, we are honored to have two extraordinary librarians running for AALL board positions: Angela Baldree and Emily Janoski-Haehlen. Both are past-Presidents of ORALL, and both are invaluable assets to and leaders in the law library community.

ORALL continues to publish a quarterly newsletter. Membership is holding steady at 236. Twelve states are represented in that membership from six different types of libraries. We currently have 19 life members and plan to add one more this year as Sue Schaefgen, Porter Wright, plans to retire in September 2018.

On June 29, 2018, Ohio joined the growing number of states enacting the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) when Governor Kasich signed SB139 into law. As stated in a supporting resolution submitted by the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries, “permanent public access to official, authentic legal information is critical to the legal system of the United States.” We sincerely appreciate the efforts of our members to get this bill passed as well as the recognition we received from AALL.
My initiatives this year included a revamping of the bylaws so the committee descriptions match the work the committees do (as a follow-on from a project initiated by past-President Angela Baldree), auditing our membership lists and listserv to ensure we’re reaching everyone who could be a member and inviting them to take advantage of the benefits of membership, and assessing the state of our archives and recommending a plan to begin more dutifully capturing born-digital board and committee communications. The Bylaws Committee is wrapping up their edits and review, and happily, we do not have many extra non-members on the listserv, nor are there scores of AALL members who are in ORALL states but not taking advantage of our membership offerings. The archives issue is a bit more complex, and I expect decisions about how to move various archives projects forward will be made in the coming months by the incoming board. Officers for ORALL for 2017-2018 are Rick Goheen, President; Beau Steenken, Vice President/President-Elect; Ingrid Mattson, Immediate Past President; Shara Parkomaki, Secretary; Susan Azyndar, Treasurer; and Tim Hennies and Shannon Kemen, Board Members.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid Mattson, President 2017-18