

October 1989

Volume 1989, No.

#### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN »

Greetings from South Bend. It's somewhat hard for me to believe, but this column is my last as ORALL President. Serving as your Vice-President and President over the last two years has been a unique educational experience. I was deeply honored when you selected me, and I remain deeply honored that I had this chance to serve. ORALL is filled with great people, that is the real joy and strength of our organization.

Reflecting back on the past two years, I wanted to share my opinions with you concerning what I believe to be our accomplishments and shortcomings. On the positive side of the ledger, I am most pleased with the high caliber of educational programs we have presented at our meetings; that our meetings have been both innovative and fun; that we became

officially incorporated; that our Constitution & Bylaws Committee has made significant progress toward compliance with AALL recommendations to eliminate minor conflicts with their Constitution & Bylaws: that we have initiated a liaison program between our Committees and the Executive Board allowing each committee chair access to an Executive Board member: and that we have had several discussions among our members about the future direction of ORALL.

On the negative side of the ledger, I was most disappointed that more of our members did not volunteer for committee work (one last plea, we can't do it without your help); and that I was unable to implement more of my ideas to improve ORALL.

(Continued on page 2)

#### Officers Michael Slinger President: Brenda Woodruff Vice-President/ President-Rlect: Janis L. Johnston Secretary: Ruth A. Long Treasurer: Paul Richert Executive Board: (Past-President) Thomas L. Hanley Mary G. Persyn Bllen M. Quinn Deborah L. Bobinets Newsletter Bllen M. Quinn Editors:

Calendar				
Oct. 26-28:	Midwest Regional Conference of Law Librarians-Chicago, IL			
Nov. 15:	Newsletter Copy Deadline-4th Issue			
Dec. 5-8:	Resource Management Institute-ARL- Washington, D.C.			
Jan. 7-9:	Business & Government Information: Matching Needs & Besources-AALL Los Angeles, CA			
Jun. 9-14:	Special Libraries Association Pittsburgh, PA			
Jun. 17-20:	AALL Annual Meeting-Minneapolis			
Jun. 23-28:	ALA Annual Meeting-Chicago, IL			

## President's Message (Continued from page 1)

In summary, I think we were able to do a lot of very fine things over the last two years. I hope that you all agree with me that ORALL has and will continue to be an important part of your professional life.

Unlike basketball legend Kareem Abdul Jabbar, I will not be able to visit every city as part of a farewell tour, which is too bad because I really could have used the gifts, however, I would be remiss if I failed to express my gratitude to the following individuals for the help and counsel they have provided to me. So, to Paul Richert, Brenda Woodruff, Janis Johnston, Ruth Long, Tom Hanley, Ted Potter, Ellen Quinn, Deborah Bobinets, Jan Novak, Al Podboy, Anita Shew, Mary Hudson, Mary Ann Roman, Jo Ann Fisher, Mary Persyn, Frank Houdek, and all my committee chairs and committee members. THANK YOU! Finally, a special thank you to my boss Roger Jacobs for his support, and to Chevelle Hillman and Carmela Kinslow of my staff for their invaluable service.

Take care everyone. I look forward to seeing many of you in Chicago.

Michael Slinger ORALL President

#### COUNTY SIG BIENNIAL SURVEY

The County SIG of ORALL conducted its first biennial comprehensive survey of county law libraries in the ORALL region in November 1988. Copies of the survey report are available for \$3.00 from Jan Ryan Novak, Cleveland Law Library Association, 404 Cuyahoga County Courthouse, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. Please make your checks payable to the Cleveland Law Library Association.

## DIALOG LEGAL APPLICATIONS SEMINAR

DIALOG will be offering a Legal Applications seminar from 9:00 a.m. until noon on Thursday, October 26, 1989 at their Chicago training center at Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive. This will be right before the start of the Midwest Regional Conference of Law Librarians. Information will appear in DIALOG's monthly Chronolog. Cost is \$55.00. The phone number for training registration is 1-800-334-2564 or 1-415-858-3792. You may call Sandy Keller, University of Iowa Law Library, (319) 335-9104 with questions.

#### ALTMAN & WEIL TO SEND OUT NEW SURVEY

A new survey will be mailed to all Private Law Libraries, Special Interest Section members in mid to late October. Participants do not have to be PLL members but must be AALL members. Everyone will have one month to return the survey which will be available for purchase in March. Its cost will be \$85.00 for participants and at least \$125.00 for non-participants. Responses will be strictly confidential. The survey has been pared down to approximately 1/3 its former size to encourage people to complete as much of it as possible. For additional information please contact chapter liaison, Molly Shemano, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, 50 E. Gay St. P.O. Box 1008 Columbus, Ohio 43216 (614) 464-6353.

#### CHAPTER MAN WANTS YOU

As told to Frank G. Houdek

[Editor's Note: At the May 1988 ORALL Meeting in Cleveland, those in attendance were treated to a surprise appearance by the AALL's CHAPTER MAN. Garbed in his special attire (including the red cap with the "C" insignia which many mistook for a Reds baseball hat), CHAPTER MAN addressed the group on "What a Regional Association Can Accomplish." Given his expertise in these matters, we thought it would be beneficial to get his thoughts on the personal and professional benefits of holding chapter office and participating on committees for this issue of the Newsletter concentrating on "Inside ORALL." The following is a transcript of our interview with the CHAPTER MAN.]

Editor Before we begin, I can't help noticing that your cap with the "C" on it is blue, not red like last year. Why is that?

CHAPTER MAN Have you looked at the National League standings lately? Or the court dockets in Ohio?

Editor

Oh, I see your point. Well, let's bypass that subject and get to the heart of the matter. What do you tell law library rookies during autograph sessions at the Malls when they ask you about getting involved in chapter activities?

CHAPTER MAN

First, let's get one thing straight. I don't get a penny for those signatures. I'm a non-profit sort of guy, you know. Second, you've got to understand that these youngsters today are much brighter than we were coming up. They've seen committee work on TV, they know how tough it is to be a vice-president these days (can't get no respect).

Editor Pretty sophisticated, huh?

Editor

CHAPTER MAN

CHAPTER MAN

That's right. You can't feed them a line, they see right through it. So I don't tell them the usual stuff--you know, like "working on a committed is a great way to make contacts with people from other libraries who may later be able to assist you in locating information for a patron;" or, "serving as a chapter officer is part of being a professional."

How about: "If you think the chapter is not doing something it ought to be doing, then stop talking, volunteer for the appropriate committee, and do something about it.

Yes, you've got the idea. Now, all those things are true but they've been said so many times, by so many people, that the younger generation pays no attention to them. Even if it's from me, the world-renowned CHAPTER MAN. Discouraging.

(Continued on page 4)

Chapter Man

(Continued from page 3)

Editor

I'll bet (oh, I'm sorry, we said we weren't going to talk about that). What do you tell them?

CHAPTER MAN

I appeal to their baser emotions. This is the "me" generation, after all. I tell them what working in the chapter can mean for them personally. You should see their ears perk up!

Editor

Oh . . . tell me more. I feel my ears twitching a bit too.

CHAPTER MAN

I like to tell them the story of CHAPTER MAN. How he started out as a mild-mannered member of a regional chapter, with no thought of ever being more. But then he was somehow chosen for a minor committee post and things began to happen. First he was a member of the Education Committee, then Nominations; before he knew it he had agreed to replace Perry White as newsletter editor. And as his resume grew, so did his self-confidence. He interviewed for a position and discovered that his description of the importance of professional commitment not only convinced the prospective employers that he was right about chapter work but also that he was right for their job as well.

Editor

But does chapter involvement really make you a better librarian? Or is it all just fluff and image?

CHAPTER MAN

Oh no, we're talking <u>real</u> development here. For example, when CHAPTER MAN became Vice-President of the chapter he was given the responsibility of directing the annual two day institute. It was a lot of work but out of it came a honing of organizational, delegatory, speaking and countless other skills which had never had the chance to grow. And they continued to grow since being a chapter officer creates situations in which people will notice what you can do and consequently they ask you to do even more.

Editor

But isn't that a reason <u>not</u> to get involved in a chapter? So many of us are overloaded to begin with.

CHAPTER MAN

Heavens, no. What an ego boost it is to be in the limelight. Meeting national leaders, being asked your opinion on important stuff, joining the "inner circle" of law librarians who participate "behind the scenes." It makes all the dreary moments (and we all have them) so much easier to take. It's the spice of life as far as CHAPTER MAN is concerned! And all it takes is the willingness to put back a little something into the profession. Killing two birds with one stone, so to speak, advancing the profession while advancing yourself. Now that's something today's generation can understand.

Editor

Thank you for those sentiments CHAPTER MAN. It's so comforting, knowing you are on the job. Given your feelings about chapter involvement, could I ask you to do a little work on next month's issue?

CHAPTER MAN

Hey, I'd love to, you know, but I've got a few gigs coming up that will keep me busy. Maybe you can get one of your readers to help. See, I'm out here now--got to make a signing session in the Mall in the Dale you know.

#### PAST PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Common themes run through the reminiscences of past Presidents of ORALL: "hard work, close personal relationships, and satisfaction with a job well done."

Speaking as one who has been on many ORALL committees, chaired numerous committees, and served as Secretary, Executive Board member, Vice-President and President, I can honestly say that both my library and I have benefited from the activities and responsibilities undertaken.

The position of Vice-President entails planning and running the two conference programs. No matter how many committee members are on the Activities Committee, this is a job involving a major time commitment and understanding what continuing education the members need. picking a current theme, knowing and contacting local speakers and other well known in their fields, and coming up with an interesting meeting that everyone will like. It also entails working with local arrangements to coordinate the physical setting and to insure enough informal networking space, comfortable meeting rooms, etc. You learn a surprising amount about the substantive programs you are planning and also about resource people who can be a value to your library in the future.

After planning two meetings, being President seems easy, but on second look, making committee assignments with reluctant volunteers, working with Committee chairmen, planning and conducting Executive Board meetings, business meetings and retreats is not such a cushy job.

What do you gain? What's in it for you? While you are getting the benefit of respect of peers, networking contacts, points with your Board/Faculty/Senior partner, you are also making a considerable contribution to an association whose purpose is to promote our professional development. Value in being part of a professional association and sharing ideas, resources, techniques, failures, etc. is intensified when you are more than a participant, when you are an officer, or working on a committee project that will benefit law librarians and the legal profession.

Being a committee member can mean only the time it takes to respond to the Committee chairman when he/she calls or writes for suggestions, for input, or for names for nominations. People who do not respond or give input at all double the work of the Chairman. Also the work load varies. For example, being chairman of the legislation committee can be a matter of following new legislation that affects law librarians in the ORALL region one year or mounting a writing and speaking campaign in the Ohio legislature the next year.

Besides, having professional contacts, friends and associates to support you is great when spouses don't understand why you are fussing over a KF call number that doesn't fit your collection of a Board that doesn't agree with your latest expansion proposal, or why you can't discuss the personal shortcomings of you Dean with your staff.

Don't take my word for it. Here is what some other Past Presidents who have written for the Newsletter have expressed about their years with ORALL:

Granville Cleveland - 1965/66 - "When I became a member of ORALL...it was the beginning of my wonderful relationship with a marvelous group of professional law librarians."

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## Past President

Matthew Dee - 1970/72 - He remembers times when "cordiality and cooperation did not always reign". But the Association persevered through name changes, changed meeting times, and differing personalities. "I am glad I spent a lot of time and energy on ORALL activities while they held my strong interest."

Dianne Witkowski - 1973/74 - She values her professional contacts during career changes within the law library field.

Cathy Gillette - 1981/82 - Her comments on the "pleasure and headache" sum it up for all ORALL Presidents. She stressed the personal value of ORALL membership and increased visibility of the law library profession gained for all of us through a strong ORALL.

Kathy Welker - 1979/80 - "The strength of ORALL as a force that propels individual members toward professional development comes from the diverse composition of the entire membership." Throughout her many various positions, Kathy has appreciated the personal relationships and education opportunities found in ORALL.

Abita K. Shew

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## MONEY MONEY MONEY MONEY

The office of Treasurer of the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries is a two-year position elected and serving in odd-numbered years. The financial base of the Association moves to the banking institution of the Treasurer for easy access and accountability. Outgoing Treasurer, Ruth Long managed to accomplish her assigned duties despite moving twice, changing jobs three times, and having a baby.

When asked to serve Ruth was hesitant due to lack of computer support and adequate staff at her Law Library. As her tenure draws to a close, Ruth said she was personally fulfilled in this position through her many contacts with ORALL members.

The most pressing responsibility for the Treasurer is the yearly billing and collecting of members' dues. A procedure has been established whereby mailing labels match the labels on the forms themselves. Ideally, if the form is not returned, the person is deleted from the membership roster. In this way the Treasurer also serves as a member of the Membership Committee, maintaining the membership list obtained from Banks-Baldwin with changes, additions and deletions. This information in turn, makes its way to the Membership section of the ORALL Newsletter and to the Membership Committee Chair for inclusion in the annual ORALL Directory. In addition to paying the bills and obligations of ORALL, the Treasurer prepares an annual budget and reports on the Association's financial status at each conference and in the Newsletter.

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#### THE ORALL SECRETARY

When I first contacted our current Secretary for some comments for this article, it seems that mailing the election ballot, the start of school, and the training of a new staff member were happening simultaneously. Janis Johnston graciously agreed to talk the next day. Being Secretary has allowed her to get to know more about ORALL and how it works. She has had the added perspective of working in the same library as our current President, Michael Slinger, and has seen his struggle to get members to accept committee assignments, etc. She feels that ORALL has great potential, but would like to see a larger percentage of the membership take an active role in the work of the organization.

The ORALL Handbook reads: "Elected for a two-year term, in even numbered years, the Secretary prepares the minutes of each meeting, and serves as a member of the Executive Board." Specific duties include sending pertinent papers to the archives, sending information about the chapter to AALL headquarters, conducting the election of officers by mail ballot (in accordance with the Bylaws), and maintaining appropriate records of the association. The ORALL Constitution also includes the favorite phrase from everyone's job description, "...and such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Board."

Former ORALL Secretary Ellen Quinn had these thoughts about the personal and professional benefits of holding office in ORALL, "Being Secretary of the association forces you to pay attention at the Business Meetings and then you really begin to understand the way the ORALL functions." She felt that holding office gave her a different and valuable perspective on our association.

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Minde Glenn Indiana University School of Law Law Library Indianapolis, IN

Frank J. Heintz University of Toledo College of Law Library Toledo, OH

John Hopkins University of Cincinnati Law Library Cincinnati, OH

Helen Horton Ohio State University College of Law Library Columbus, OH

Ruth Lenor University of Cincinnati Law Library Cincinnati, OH

Earl D. Mathews Indiana University School of Law Law Library Indianapolis, IN

Mahnaz Moshfegh Indiana University School of Law Law Library Indianapolis, IN

Cory Skurdal Ohio State University College of Law Library Columbus, OH

Sylvia Snay Dykema Gossett Detroit, MI

John T. Stahl Sandusky County Law Library Fremont, OH

### LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ORALL: AN OPPORTUNITY

Have you ever given a party for a large group of friends? You always have concerns about the whole process - do you have enough food, drinks, space, and entertainment? Some will like this but others won't. Some like to dance and others like to listen. Can the place hold all of you comfortably and yet be affordable? These are the same concerns you would have in making the local arrangements for an ORALL meeting (although on a much larger scale).

What is Involved?

The job of local arrangements involves coordination of various groups of people and events. In many ways it is your opportunity to make things happen as you would like to see them happen, given the built-in time, location and budget constraints.

Let's begin with the people. The Local Arrangements Committee can be of great assistance in getting the events planned, lists made, items ordered and all kinds of other details worked out. My committee consisted of law firm librarians Mel Scott (Fuller & Henry) and Martha Esbin (Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick), Toledo Law Association Librarian Brenda Woodruff, and University of Toledo Public Services Librarian Sally Taylor. Each person had specific tasks to fulfill, while I coordinated all of the tasks, as well as completed my specific tasks. It was to be quite an event, so we tried to come up with some fun activities to keep everyone entertained and to show off our city as well.

The process started early because the Ohio State Bar Association was meeting here and we needed to get hotel accommodations quickly. We also brainstormed about the special events we wanted to sponsor and had to make reservations for those events. Once we had settled on a program, a hotel, and on

the events, we could begin the detail planning. Martha was responsible for making up a list of downtown restaurants. with annotations (a tough job but somebody had to do it!). Mel made the arrangements for the flowers for the luncheon, Sally made up the map and the directions for people to follow to get to Toledo and Brenda helped me coordinate the entire meeting, from the hotel and meeting room accommodations to the transportation for the special events. As chair of local arrangements you may not realize how important the contributions of the committee are until the event has passed. The committee members did a great job and deserve much of the credit for jobs well done. Coordinating a group such as this is a great opportunity to get to know people better and to see a project through to its conclusion.

#### Opportunities

Coordinating local arrangements is also an opportunity to contribute to the organization and to your professional status. ORALL meetings are of vital importance to our membership. They are for sharing information through the formal sessions and they provide a place for colleagues to get together informally to discuss issues of particular concern to them. Striking the proper balance between meeting time and social activities is a large part of the planning process. By doing a good job of planning, you contribute greatly to the success of the meeting and to the benefits received by the membership.

Good planning can also enhance your professional standing with your colleagues. A well coordinated and smooth-running program will be appreciated by all who attend and the rewards may come in many forms. You may receive formal recognition at the meeting for the job you've done for the organization. You may also be asked to serve in various capacities for the organization. The increased exposure can possibly open some desirable job opportunities as well.

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Local Arrangements

This is not to say that there are no drawbacks to doing local arrangements. As I said earlier, coordinating of people, food and entertainment is not an easy task. It takes patience and time to get every detail worked out. However, if you have good people and enough support from your institution, local arrangements can be a manageable challenge.

Theodore A. Potter

Money

(Continued from page 6)

Brenda Woodruff, incoming President, named bookkeeping and budgeting as professional benefits of serving as Treasurer. During her 1985-87 term of office, Brenda said that she learned a great deal about how the association functions. During the flurry of activity that occurs between January and May, she also admitted to occasionally taking the Treasurer's job home with her.

Both Ruth and Brenda agreed that balancing a checkbook "in the black" helped to prevent the Treasurer's duties from interfering with the work flow in their positions as Law Library Directors. They also cited the support of the Executive Board as positive proof that the position of ORALL Treasurer is attainable, interesting and rewarding.

Carol Subre

#### NEW SOURCES FOR CAREER LEADS

Librarians are fortunate to have three new services available for career leads. The OhioPI system (an OCLC product) now posts notices of current library job openings in Ohio. You can retrieve the notices through the "DirOh" (Directory of Ohio database). The notices can be searched by institution, type of library, and the subject term "jobs library." The notices indicate the name of the library, title of the position, search opening date, and salary. OHIONET will also include information about the position's duties, requirements, and benefits if the information is provided by the employer. To list an opening in OhioPI, send information about the position (brief job description, salary, and application deadline) to Mary Conroy at OHIONET, 1500 W. Lane Ave., Columbus, OH 43221-3975.

A new publication to scan for job openings is Law Librarian's Bulletin Board. This publication will list current job openings available nationally as well as exchange opportunities. Law Librarian's Bulletin Board gathers its information on job openings from national and regional newsletters, national newspapers, library school placement notices, and other miscellaneous sources. Law Librarian's Bulletin Board is issued eight times a year and is published by Legal Information Services, POB 67, Newton Highlands, MA 02161-0067.

Notices about job openings will now be printed (space permitting) free of charge in the ORALL newsletter. This is a change in policy for the newsletter. Interested employers should forward notices of openings to the newsletter editors, Ellen Quinn and Deborah Bobinets, for inclusion in upcoming ORALL newsletter issues. Please also forward a copy of (Continued on page 10)

#### Career Leads

(Continued from page 9)

your notice to any member of the Placement Committee. We like to keep our files up to date, and sending us a copy of your notice will make your notice available during any lag time between distribution of the ORALL newsletters. Members of the ORALL Placement Committee are: Lynn Miller (University of Akron Law Library), Sandra Hyclak (Smith & Schnacke, Columbus, Ohio), and R. Keith Ashelman (Trumbull County Law Library).

Don't forget that AALL also has a career hotline, (312) 939-7877 for you to call! The hotline can be used to place an ad or listen to the ads available.

Lynn Miller

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The OBALL Newsletter is published four times per year: April, July, October, and December. For extra copies write to: Deborah L. Bobinets, Co-Editor, The University of Akron, School of Law Library, Akron, OH 44325-2902.

For membership information contact: Judith P. Rodgers, Baker & Hostetler, 65 Bast State Street, Suite 2200, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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#### ELIGIBILITY

Open Division - Papers may be submitted by current AALL members who have been members of AALL for 5 or more years.

New Member Division - Papers may be submitted by current AALL members who have been members of AALL for fewer than 5 years.

<u>SUBJECT MATTER</u> Papers of publishable quality may be submitted on any subject relevant to law librarianship. Papers should address matters of substantial or broad interest to the profession.

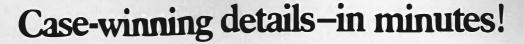
<u>FORMAT</u> We are interested in receiving: Scholarly papers which contribute to the literature of law librarianship. Practical application papers on any operational facet of law librarianship which would be of general use to the profession.

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- The winning authors will receive a Certificate of Achievement and their papers will be forwarded to the Editor of Law Library Journal to consider for publication.
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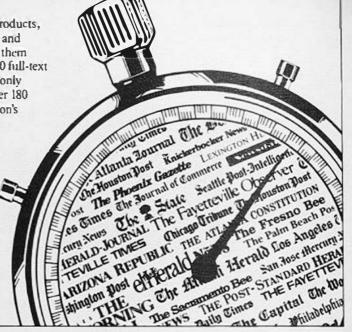


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