The Legislative Administrator - Summer 1994

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The Legislative Administrator is the official publication of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, an organization of state legislative administrators and parliamentarians affiliated with the National Conference of State Legislatures.

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WILLIS "BILL" SNOW
PRESIDENT, A.S.L.C.S.
(Secretary of the Senate, Michigan)

The '94 ASLCS Spring Meeting was a
tremendous success. Thanks to all who
made it possible.

Assembling in the chamber of the U.S.
House of Representatives on Friday
afternoon brought home the history,
tradition and honor of our profession.
Donn, Jeri and Ray were like "old"
friends. We all spoke the "same
language."

The day before a historic, dramatic
debate and vote had taken place on that
floor. Each of us have witnessed similar
scenes in our own legislative chambers. The
participants and issues may differ. But the
basic procedure is the same. We are the
custodians of that procedure.

The critical nature of that role takes on
added significance and importance when
we recognize that emerging democracies
around the world are struggling to
establish and develop the practices and

From the President's Desk....

procedures for "democratic" decision
making which are common place in our
legislative bodies.

Neither time nor purpose permit an
in-depth discussion of the history and
evolution of our "practices" and
"procedures." It may be worthwhile to
note, however, that these "practices" and
"procedures" are founded on a tradition of
democracy which is simply, but very
importantly, defined as a political method
for arriving at decisions.

Democracy defined in this way has two
basic principles: one, political freedom
and, two, political equality. Thus defined,
democracy also has two secondary, or
operating, principles: one, majority rule
and, two, minority rights.

These principles are put into practice in
legislative bodies through rules of
procedure. Paul Mason, in his Manual of
Legislative Procedure, explains: "It is
necessary that every deliberative body be
governed by rules of procedure in order
that the will of a majority of its members
may be determined and revealed in an
orderly manner." (Section 1, paragraph
1.)

He continues: "Rules of procedure
fulfill another purpose in protecting the
rights of members...Minorities often
require protection from unfair treatment
on the part of the majority, and even the
majority is entitled to protection from
obstructive tactics on the part of
minorities." (Section 1, paragraph 3.)

He concludes: "The great purpose of all
rules and forms, says Cushing, is to subserve the will of the assembly rather than to restrain it; to facilitate and not to obstruct the expression of its deliberate sense." (Section 1, paragraph 5.)

Our expertise in parliamentary procedure is central to the strengthening of the democratic nature of our legislative body. Our own Ed Burdick has provided some wise counsel on this point:

...there aren't many recent college graduates who understand parliamentary procedure or the legislative process. That's a skill that is rare indeed. My suggestion to the members of this society...is learn all there is to know about parliamentary procedure...If you specialize in procedure...legislators, staff, and lobbyists will seek you out because they'll need your expertise!*

But, even more important, our influence in preserving the integrity of the legislative process will be greatly magnified.


JAMES A. CHANDLER
July 27, 1931 - March 28, 1994

All of ASLCS was saddened to hear of the death of one of its members, James A. Chandler, Clerk of New Hampshire's House of Representatives. Jim was an active and valuable member of ASLCS. He is survived by his wife, Peta, and four children.

A memorial service was held in Representatives' Hall at the New Hampshire State House on April 4, 1994. The following description of Jim Chandler appeared in the program:

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He was a special man, an uncommon man, a warm friend to all who passed his door. He was a man blessed with compassion, with great sensitivity, with wonderful wit and an uncanny knack for using soft words in hard situations. He was a man with an innate ability to always see the best in everything and in everyone. He was a people person who always had a pocket full of jokes that he unabashedly spread around in the same way that sowers disperse their seeds. He was a man who truly understood the meaning of fun and he showed us all how easy it can be to enjoy life to its fullest and its friendliest. He was a man of conviction, of morals, of ethics and scruples. He truly loved his job and the legislative institution. He loved this hallowed meeting hall and all of those who were lucky enough to earn chamber seats. And each day he brought all of his goodness to this place and unselfishly offered it to us. He truly was the person God intended all of us to be.

-Thoughts by a Friend

Jim Chandler died on March 28, 1994, after a brief illness. He was born in Concord, New Hampshire on July 27, 1931. Following schooling at the University of New Hampshire, he pursued a career as a newspaperman. He served as Clerk of the House for a total of twelve years, from 1976 to 1982 and from 1988 to 1994. He had previously held positions as a staff aide to Governor Walter Peterson, as Administrative Assistant and as Assistant Clerk on the House Clerk's staff. He was elected to a seat in the New Hampshire House of Representatives from Portsmouth in 1971 and from Concord in 1985 and 1987.

Speaker of the House, Harold W. Burns, said of Chandler, "Jim Chandler was a dedicated public servant. Jim loved the House of Representatives, and he cared deeply about the people who belong to it. He will be sadly missed."

House Democratic Leader, Rick Trombly, stated in a news release, "... Managing the affairs of a four hundred-member House is an extremely tough job, but Jim was a master of his craft ... [His] loss will be felt beyond the House of Representatives."
ALASKA

Suzi Lowell was elected Chief Clerk for the House of Representatives in January 1994. Her previous legislative experience has been as Assistant Clerk for the past eight years and Secretary to the Senate Finance Committee. In addition, she has been staff to the Division of Elections, Reapportionment Board and Lt. Governor.

Suzi has served on several ASLCS committees and has enjoyed her participation in the Association. In her spare time, she enjoys taking long walks, downhill skiing, reading and relaxing at their cabin. Suzi is married with two children, ages 13 and 9.

COLORADO

Speaker Chuck Berry appointed Judy Rodrigue to serve as Chief Clerk of the House to succeed Lee C. Bahrych who retired January 7, 1994.

Judy, known around the capitol as "J.R." has worked at the legislature since 1979, serving as Assignable Clerk, Messenger, Historian and from 1985 as Historian and Chief Clerk's Assistant. Her responsibilities included publication of bill information and document production as well as providing computer assistance and technical training for House staff.

After earning her BA at Loretto Heights College in 1962 with a history major and education minor, she taught elementary students for Denver Public Schools and Boulder Valley Schools from 1962-1970. She also took graduate courses at the University of Colorado and has enhanced her legislative skills at professional development seminars sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries. In 1992, she attended the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs Legislative Staff Management Institute.

Judy was married to Harold F. Rodrigue (deceased 1992), an electrical engineer graduate from the University of Colorado. Together they launched three sons: Paul, Neil and Craig.
Aside from looking forward to being a grandmother, Judy enjoys camping and hiking the Rockies as well as cross-country skiing.

Patricia Mau-Shimizu has been appointed Chief Clerk of the Hawaii House of Representatives. Ms. Mau-Shimizu served as Director/Chief Researcher of the Majority Staff Office, beginning as a Legislative Researcher/Staff Attorney, from 1983 through 1994. She also served as a Legislative Analyst/Staff Attorney with the Office of Council Services, City and County of Honolulu and various other positions in and around Honolulu and San Francisco.

Ms. Mau-Shimizu graduated with honors and as class Valedictorian from the Sacred Hearts Academy in 1971. She received her undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of San Francisco in 1975 and her law degree from the Golden Gate University School of Law, San Francisco in 1979.

Carole C. Devitt, Crawfordsville, was elected Principal Clerk of the Indiana House of Representatives on November 16, 1993.

Ms. Devitt served as Deputy Clerk from 1988-1993. Prior to her service in the House of Representatives, Ms. Devitt served as Administrative Assistant to the mayor of Crawfordsville, and is a past commissioner of the Crawfordsville Housing Authority. She has also served on the Crawfordsville Education Association Board and on the Crawfordsville Commission on the Status of Women. She is currently a
...NEW CLERKS AND SECRETARIES...

A member of the Montgomery County Democratic Party, Ms. Devitt is currently Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Central Committee and has served as precinct committee person since 1976. She has served as delegate to the Indiana State Democratic Convention since 1980.

Ms. Devitt resides in Crawfordsville with her husband Bob. They are the parents of three sons.

UTAH

A new Secretary of the Senate has been appointed in Utah to replace M. Eugene Bridges who retired in April of this year.

Her name is Annette B. Moore, and she has been with the Utah State Senate since December of 1991, serving as Leadership Secretary.

Annette came to the Senate from the Utah State Office of Education where she worked as an executive secretary for 25 years. Although she loved her work there, she has thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of working in the Legislature and does not regret making the change.

Annette is a native Utahn and loves to take advantage of all that Utah has to offer. She enjoys skiing during the winter (although she hasn't had much time for that since she started working for the Legislature); and during the summer months, she and her husband head for the mountains as often as possible where they enjoy camping, fishing, and hiking.

Annette is excited about her appointment. She has heard about the many benefits associated with ASLCS membership and the camaraderie that exists among its members, and she is looking forward to meeting and getting acquainted with everyone.
Comments from New Members

ARIZONA

Thank you so much for your kind letter of welcome to the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries. My very first day in the Clerk's Office last June (one regular and five special sessions ago) Shirley Wheaton walked over from the Senate on the pretense of discussing Arizona legislative business and proceeded to "sell" me on the idea of joining ASLCS and going to the Annual Conference scheduled in Santa Fe.

A couple of weeks before we left for Santa Fe, Millie MacFarland called from Maine to introduce herself and to say she would be my "sponsor" during the conference to help me get acquainted with everyone. She called again a few days before the conference to reconfirm my arrival time, hotel arrangements, our meeting time and place, etc., etc. What a delightful lady!

In my brief association with ASLCS I've received a number of warm greetings from other Clerks and Secretaries who have taken time out of their busy schedules to personally say "welcome". Even though at this point I haven't even made a real contribution to the Society, I feel very much a part of it because of the numerous personal contacts from all over the country.

I am truly excited about being a part of this great organization and I look forward to furthering my involvement in Monterey this October.

- Donna Gagnon

SOUTH DAKOTA

My legislative life is a fairly long one beginning as a secretary in the Democratic minority office. After working there for a couple of years, I decided to run for the House of Representatives. It was very exciting to be the first woman ever to be elected in my district where very few Democrats have ever served.

After serving one term, I thought that was the end of my legislative experience, but it is hard to get rid of that political "bug" once you are afflicted. So, when Democrats gained the majority in the Senate, I quickly applied and came on board with a new and inexperienced front desk. To say we had butterflies would be a gross understatement, but the system worked as it has for these many years.

The former Secretary, Fee Jacobson, was very professional and trained me as
Comments from New Members

much as she could. Some things you just have to learn under fire on the floor for all to see! She was a tough act to follow. The staff of the House of Representatives helped with the training and are a great support during the sessions. We always feel supported 100%.

As a legislator, I certainly did not know what the staff was doing. They were just always there and had the journal ready for us to read the next day as well as the calendar and action always ran smoothly. I'll let you in on a secret. The legislators still don't have a clue. They just know if it isn't ready.....

There is always the camaraderie among the staff. You know the answer is only a phone call away. Whether it be over to the House office or a state away, the person at the other end of the line is ready and willing to help a colleague.

It is one of those activities that, sometime during the midst of it, you wonder why in the world you put yourself through such torture and you will never do it again. Then, as soon as it is over, you start thinking how it can be improved "next year." It is truly fascinating. I'm sure that is why at the ASLCS meeting there are those who have gone through this for many years. I know I'm afflicted!

-Peggy Cruse

VIRGINIA

I was glad to have the opportunity to be a part of the 50th Golden Anniversary Conference. Everyone was truly wonderful. I received a warm welcome as soon as I arrived. It was fascinating meeting people from different states and also learning how some differ in performing their legislative process. I felt very special when members would spot my green "New Member tag," introduce themselves and exchange state pins with me.

The sessions were quite rewarding. The panel members were very informative on certain topics and it was interesting to learn how other states dealt with certain issues, such as "Dealing With the Press and Ethics." I left Santa Fe with new ideas and information.

The host state was wonderful also. All of the activities I attended were really entertaining and touring the
Comments from New Members

various towns in New Mexico was absolutely great. New Mexico is indeed the "Land of Enchantment."

I must say the conference was truly knowledgeable and enjoyable. I am extremely pleased to be a member of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries. I look forward to seeing everyone again in the future.

-Dawn B. Smith
Committee Coordinator
Virginia House of Delegates

It's o.k. to ask dumb questions — they're easier to handle than dumb mistakes.

We're focusing on new members!
BUSINESS MEETING

May 7, 1994
Washington, D.C.

Presiding:
Willis (Bill) H. Snow, President
Chief Clerk, Senate, Michigan

Submitted by:
Larry Warden, Secretary-Treasurer
Chief Clerk/Administrator
Oklahoma House

CALL TO ORDER

The Business Meeting of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries was called to order at 4 p.m., Saturday, May 7, 1994, at the Washington Court Hotel, Washington, D.C., by President Willis (Bill) H. Snow.

READING OF MINUTES

Betty King moved, and Alfred "Butch" Speer seconded, the minutes of the previous business meeting as published in the Winter 1994 edition of "The Legislative Administrator" be approved, which motion was approved on a voice vote.

TREASURY REPORT

The treasury report showed the Society with a balance in the general account of $13,903.84 and a balance in the NCSL Reserve Account of $7,214.00.

Francine Misasi moved, and Susan Clarke Schaar seconded, the treasury report be accepted, which motion was approved on a voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A report was received from each of the Society's committee chairs.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Snow had all new members attending introduce themselves to the other members of the Society.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Jim Chandler.

Alfred "Butch" Speer announced he was running for the position of NCSL Staff Vice Chair.
ADJOURNMENT

John Phelps moved, and Steve Marshall seconded, the meeting be adjourned which was approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by:  
Larry Warden, Secretary-Treasurer  
Chief Clerk/Administrator  
Oklahoma House

Beginning Balance  
(as of December 31, 1993)  $ 8,691.22  
(Includes 94 Dues - 2 Principals & 1 Associate)

Receipts:  
Monies not used for mailing ASLCS Jackets (returned by John Phelps)  $  91.00

Membership Dues 1994  
(as of May 1, 1994)  7,350.00

Principals - $3,600.00  
Associates - $3,750.00

Total Receipts  $ 7,441.00

Disbursements:  
Concord Boys & Girls Club  
(Jim Chandler Memorial) $ 50.00

Farmer's Trophies  
(Innovative Award) 77.00

North Carolina General Assembly  
(Legislative Administrator -  
Winter 94 Printing)  2,098.38

Charge for Checks  3.00

Total Disbursements  $ 2,228.38

Ending Balance  
(as of May 1, 1994)  $13,903.84

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE  
May 7, 1994

Presiding:  John Phelps  
Clerk of the Florida House

Chair:  Jim Harry  
Secretary, Illinois Senate

The By-Laws Committee met during the spring meeting in Washington, DC on May 7, 1994.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, John Phelps, Clerk of the Florida House, presided.

The only new business to come before the committee was a discussion relating to former associate members retaining membership in the Society. Specifically,
should associate members be allowed to continue as members upon leaving their positions in the offices of Secretaries and Clerks. (Former principals are automatically granted associate member status.)

There was discussion over whether associates accorded such status should be required to have been a member of the Society for a minimum number of years. It was decided to discuss the matter further at a future meeting.

The committee at its next meeting will act on the two proposed by-laws changes discussed at recent meetings:

1. Authorizes the Executive Committee to establish a schedule of dues, and

2. Provides that the immediate past associate vice-president remain on the Executive Committee as a non-voting member for one year.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
May 7, 1994

Chair: Carolyn J. Tinkle,
Senate Principal Secretary
Indiana

Members present at the meeting of the Interparliamentary Relations Committee were:

Carolyn J. Tinkle, Indiana (Chair)
Steve Arias, New Mexico
Martha Butler, Ohio
Clorah Gilormini, Puerto Rico
Judy Hall, Oregon
JoAnn Hedrick, Delaware
Ramona Kenady, Oregon
Betty King, Texas
Bill Lear, New Jersey
Mouryne Landing, Nevada
George Williams, Virginia

The chair announced that Gordon Barnhart, has resigned his positions as Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments in Ontario, Canada. Mr. Barnhart has returned to Saskatchewan where he is teaching and working on his Ph.D at the University. His replacement is Paul Belisle.

The joint meeting of the Canadian Clerks and the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries is to be held in 1995. At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, Richmond, Virginia was approved as the site for that meeting.

Since that time, the delegation from Richmond has requested the decision be reconsidered. Virginia is now the site for the Southern Legislative Conference and in 1996 will be the site for the ASLCS annual meeting.
Puerto Rico very graciously offered their capitol city of San Juan as the site for the Joint Meeting of the Canadian Clerks and the Society. It was decided that the Chair of this Committee would contact the President of the Canadian Clerks to determine if San Juan, Puerto Rico would be an acceptable location for the meeting. If the Canadian Clerks are in agreement, the Chair is to proceed with the arrangements; if they are not, the Committee will discuss other alternatives at the NCSL meeting in Louisiana. The alternative would be for the Canadians and the Society to act as joint hosts in one of the border areas such as Buffalo, New York.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATOR
May 7, 1994

Chair: Denise Weeks
House Principal Clerk
North Carolina

The Legislative Administrator Committee met at the Annual ASLCS Spring meeting in Washington, DC.

Topics for features in the Summer issue were discussed. It was decided the next issue would feature new Clerks and Secretaries and comments from new members. Committee members were urged to keep in contact with their states and try to get everyone involved in the Administrator.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
May 7, 1994

Presiding: Stephen R. Arias, Chairman
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
New Mexico

The second meeting of the 1993-94 Committee on Membership and Communications was called to order by Chairman Stephen Arias at 1:07 p.m., on Saturday, May 7, 1994, at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The following members of the Committee were present:

Stephen Arias, Chairman
New Mexico
Joseph Mayo, Vice Chairman
Maine
Bernard Brady, Delaware
Millicent MacFarland, Maine
Janice Thomas, Nevada
Carolyn Tinkle, Indiana
Willis Snow
ASLCS President, Michigan

The minutes of the November 4, 1994,
meeting were accepted.

The members of the committee thanked the Chair for the notebooks he had sent to each member that contained valuable information on the committee.

A discussion followed concerning the assignment of members of the committee to new members of the Society at the annual meeting. There are currently 11 new members of the Society. It was decided that members of the committee would double up with new members, as there probably would be more committee members present than new members.

There was a general discussion of the practice of the Chair signing membership certificates. It was thought that if only the Officers signed them that it would streamline the issuance. It was also suggested that the Chair could sign several certificates in advance and solve that problem. This discussion will continue in New Orleans.

There was a discussion of the reception for new members. The following points were made:

*The reception should be early in the week.

*Committee members should contact their assigned new member prior to the annual meeting to make an introduction and welcome.

*The reception should be open to new attendees as well as new members. This suggestion was discussed at length given the possible problems associated with new attendees that the principle member may not have known were attending. It was stated that this issue cannot be avoided.

*It was decided that the Chairs of the Society's Committees, the Executive Committee, as well as the new attendees, would be invited to the reception.

*The Chairs and Officers would be introduced at the reception and would each explain their duties.

The chair will send a list of the new members of the Society to each member and will contact Brenda to make sure the new members are listed in The Administrator.

The chair will be soliciting volunteers as sponsors for these new members.

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
May 7, 1994

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SPRING MEETING '94 - Washington D.C.

Chair: Susan Clarke Schaar
       Senate Clerk, Virginia

The Program Development Committee met May 7th during the spring ASLCS meeting in Washington, D.C., to discuss the program for Monterey.

It was decided to offer a Management Training session Saturday, October 1st, opposite the Parliamentary Training session being planned by the Mason's Manual Committee. There would be a separate registration fee of $50, and the session would be all day.

Information Please would again be sponsored by the Support Staff Committee and would be Monday, October 3rd, following the plenary session. The afternoon concurrent sessions would include the areas covered by Information Please including "Engrossing and Enrolling," "Bill History, Status and Indexing," "Software Technologies," and "Journal Production."

Tuesday would be concurrent sessions with repeats in the afternoon of some of the morning sessions. This was one of the most requested items on the evaluation sheets from Santa Fe. The committee felt that this would involve more people in discussions and panels.

Another suggestion to move committee meetings to Wednesday afternoon was agreed upon with the support of President Bill Snow. Bill, members of the Executive Committee who attended the meeting, and the members of the Program Development Committee hope that this will provide an opportunity for more people to participate in committee discussion and planning instead of having to check out and catch a flight as many had to do with committees scheduled on Thursday mornings. This is a test, and we hope it will accommodate more people.

Thursday morning will be a breakfast buffet with a meeting of the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 1994-95.

Members of the Program Development Committee have suggested several topics for concurrent sessions. If anyone has ideas they would like to submit or if they would like to participate on a panel, please let me know.

The committee will meet at NCSL in New Orleans to finalize the program.

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ROSTER COMMITTEE
May 7, 1994

Members in attendance:

Donna Merrill, Vice-Chair (Oregon)
Susan Clarke Schaar (Virginia)
Denise Weeks (North Carolina)
Other attendees:

John Phelps (Florida)
Brenda Erickson (NCSL)

Brenda Erickson updated the committee on production of the 1994 ASLCS Roster:

Files have been transmitted from Oregon to NCSL via SyQuest disks.

Updates and additions to the principals and associates sections will begin soon.

Initial bid estimate received by NCSL was just about $11,000; several other states then reported that they could publish for approximately $6,000 (including scanning new photos).

The Executive Committee would consider and approve budget guidelines for the roster.

Publication is projected to coincide with the NCSL Annual Meeting in New Orleans, July 24-28, 1994. (Mailing to occur just before or after.)

John Phelps reported that he could arrange printing in Florida through his print shop for under $6,000. Discussion occurred concerning the best medium to transmit the information from NCSL-Denver to Florida.

General discussion ensued concerning ways to reorganize the document in order to make it more useful and/or to cut down the number of pages, resulting in cost-savings. Ideas were:

placing associates on the same page as the principal, limit the number of associates (10?) who could be included, possibility of a group shot of the associates; rearrange data in order to cut down on blank space; review information listed (e.g. education, previous employment) for value.

Possible cover design is to utilize the logo being developed for this year’s Annual ASLCS Professional Development Seminar in Monterey, California.

All members who have not submitted their roster update information and/or photos to Brenda Erickson are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

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SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE
May 7, 1994

Presiding:
Co-Chair: Janet Jones (Kansas)

Present:
Co-Chair: Pat Saville (Kansas)

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SPRING MEETING '94 – Washington D. C.

Associate Vice-Chair:
George Williams (Virginia)
Dave Avant (Alabama)
Martha Butler (Ohio)
Mark Corrigan (Pennsylvania)
Larry Cottingham (Oklahoma)
Judy Hall (Oregon)
JoAnn Hedrick (Delaware)
Bruce Jamerson (Virginia)
Ramona Kenady (Oregon)
Betty King (Texas)
Mouryne Landing (Nevada)
Butch Speer (Louisiana)
Larry Warden (Oklahoma)
Jeannine Wood (Idaho)

Others:
Bill Lear (New Jersey)
Francine Misasi (New York)
Ciorah Montes (Puerto Rico)

Janet Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting. Larry Warden and Larry Cottingham presented a formal bid from Oklahoma to host the 1995 ASLCS Annual meeting in Oklahoma City. Janet also informed us of the formal bid from Puerto Rico. The two letters from Puerto Rico were read to the committee.

After much discussion, the motion was adopted to accept Oklahoma's bid for 1995. In making this decision, the committee discussed the perception of traveling to Puerto Rico. The committee decided we must be realistic in that travel requests to Puerto Rico would be questioned by leadership and the press.

Along with this, the committee was looking for regional balance in scheduling our annual meetings with 1994 in Monterey, 1995 in Oklahoma, 1996 in Virginia, and an interest from Wisconsin for 1997.

Committee members extended their appreciation to Oklahoma and Puerto Rico for submitting bids for the 1995 annual meeting.

Members of the committee were reminded of their commitment to support the annual meeting in Monterey this fall.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON A PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL

Submitted by:
Millie MacFarland
Assistant Clerk
House of Representatives, Maine

The first meeting of the Special Committee on a Professional Journal was called to order by the Chair, Pat Flahaven, at 12:30 p.m. in Denver, CO on January 8, 1994. Those in attendance were Bill Snow, Joe Mayo, Butch Speer, Don Schneider, Judy Hall, Millie MacFarland, Bill Pound and Karl Kurtz.

A long discussion took place on the
feasibility of the production of a professional journal by the Society. The consensus of the Committee was that we should plan to produce a journal.

The Chair suggested a theme for the Journal: "Legislatures in the 21st Century: Traditions in Transition." The discussion focused on the need to start small, perhaps publishing semiannually or quarterly. The first publication target date to be either Fall, 1994 or Winter, 1995.

Articles to be contributed by Clerks, Secretaries, Legislators and NCSL staff, as well as faculty who do presentations at annual training seminars. There was some discussion of inviting members from other staff sections to submit articles.

It was noted that having an article published in a professional journal is a prestigious accomplishment and this should be promoted when soliciting articles for publication.

Suggested topics for articles ranged from legislative processes, management techniques, historical perspectives and changes of presiding officers.

Bill Pound offered NCSL's assistance in production of the journal (the areas of cost and printing). Karl Kurtz offered to obtain editorial guidelines from other professional journals. Don Schneider, Bill Snow, Butch Speer and Joe Mayo volunteered to write articles for the journal.

All articles offered for publication would be reviewed by an editorial board which would be composed of committee members. Butch Speer and Bill Snow both volunteered to serve as editors. The importance of establishing a reserve of material was discussed.

The members of the Professional Journal Committee should serve a two-year term to ensure continuity of production. Additional members could be added at any time.

President Snow asked that the editor of the Canadian Journal be contacted to inquire how that publication is structured.

Meeting adjourned.

One of the greatest pleasures in life is doing what people say you cannot do.
DONNALD K. ANDERSON
Clerk of the House of Representatives

Donnal K. Anderson was born in Sacramento, California, on October 17, 1942. His interest in government began when he was appointed Page in the 86th Congress, January 5, 1960, by Representative John E. Moss. Anderson operated elevators in the Capitol and in the House Office Buildings under appointments of Representative George H. Mahon and Representative James H. Morrison. He progressed to Assistant Enrolling Clerk and clerk in the Finance Office by appointments of Representative Hale Boggs. Upon appointment by Speaker John W. McCormack, Donnal became assistant manager of the Democratic Cloakroom and became Majority Floor Manager by appointment of Speaker Carl Albert in 1972. While continuing to serve as manager under appointment of Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., he was nominated for Clerk by the House Democratic Caucus and elected Clerk of the House for the 100th Congress on January 6, 1987, with the oath of office being administered by Speaker Jim Wright.

Francine Misasi with Walter "Joe" Stewart, Secretary of the Senate
This summer, the Alabama Legislature will once again move to be on the cutting edge of technology by implementing a new computer system for all legislative staffers. Currently, we are using a Digital Equipment corporation VAX and an array of dumb terminals. The new system will foster the transition to a decentralized PC based operation. Although these PCs will be tied together through the VAX, which will act as a file server and database, each terminal will be completely self sufficient and will not rely on the large central computer for processing power.

Legislative computer specialist Dennis Word says, "These new PCs will enable us to use a host of new applications; by using Microsoft Windows as the base program, we are opening the door and preparing for the next generation of technology."

Clerk of the House Greg "Give me technology or give me death" Pappas has been pouring over schematics and cost estimates for the past year. He and the Secretary of the Senate, McDowell Lee, are convinced that by investing in the new technology, the legislative support process will become even more efficient than it is today. Their only area of concern about the changeover is the actual physical transition. Removing the old video terminals and replacing them with the new PCs will be quite hectic, but they are very confident that their staff will work together to make the transition smooth and quick. Barring another Special Session, there should be plenty of time and plenty of training for everyone to be up to speed by the time the next Regular Session begins.

The days of cut and paste are long since gone, and now the days of Mass11 and ALERT are passe. The next generation of computer technology is here, and the Alabama legislative staff is greeting it with open arms.

- C. Porter Banister, Jr.
Public Information Director

Do not worry about whether or not the sun will rise; be prepared to enjoy it.
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ARIZONA

The Arizona Legislature was able to "Sine Die" on the ninety-seventh day, three days short of the deadline imposed by Rules, albeit that day lasted from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

A few statistics for this year, the Senate introduced more bills than ever before, the budget was passed in a Special Session which ran concurrently with the Regular Session and lasted only three days, and we finally got approval from the Feds on our redistricting plan after three tries. We're now waiting to be called in for a special session on education reform.

It was a tough session for members and staff alike. It seems that the computer age prompts us to have more volume. More bills, more meetings, more amendments, more calendars and all in less than one hundred days.

What's new on the horizon -- the Senate is again losing a lot of their members, 1/3 of them are either retiring or running for other offices. That is before we even have an election. The House is losing 14 of their 60 members. Who needs term limitation...

COLORADO

For the past three years the Colorado General Assembly consisting of the House, Senate, Legislative Council, Legislative Legal Services, State Auditor, and Joint Budget Committee have cooperated in a joint effort to create a local area computer network that enabled agencies to share information, publish documents, and simplify the bill production process.

Each year agencies and capabilities were added until this session saw the first fully on-line, fully automated bill production process.

We credit the success of this operation to 3 factors.

1. The Legislative Information Steering Committee. This committee consists of the agency directors.

2. The Legislative Computer Users Group. This group consists of
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designated users from each agency who had an interest in pursuing the process of sharing information plus no fear of the unknown.

3. Legislative Information Services (the computer gurus) who worked closely with both groups and experimented with hardware, software, and macros until every user got what they wanted.

Success of this network building system is attributed to the way these 3 groups interacted. The Computer Users Group formatted the possibilities, defined user needs and referred their recommendations to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee directed LIS to follow through with approved Users Group suggestions. The Steering Committee also asked the Users Group to suggest policy ideas and gave direction in the area of needs to be met. No one group felt confined to pursue only the dictates of another. Both the Steering Committee and the Computer Users Group continue to meet monthly.

We are the most proud of the fact that this was all done "in house". Our own LIS wrote the programs, installed equipment and provided all support. We also relied to a great extent on employees with expertise to train others in other agencies as well as their own.

One of the big helps along the way came directly from a 1992 ASLCS bill amending seminar taught by New Hampshire. After attending, the House Journal Clerk wrote the macros and developed the process now used by the House and Senate which enables us to electronically amend and transfer bills to another agency.

This process has been an exciting one. It has resulted in much more cooperation between agencies of the legislature as well as the expectation of future cooperation.

Skeptical employees who were afraid that they no longer would know what buttons to push were delighted to find that their work time was shortened and simplified by the electronic transfer of information and soon were offering the Computer Users Group representatives innovations of their own for consideration.

I want to thank the many ASLCS members who have helped along the
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way. I know that the many conversations and seminars at the annual meetings gave our staff the courage to pursue change and look for innovative ideas that we can apply to Colorado. I will continue to look to the future ASLCS meetings.

-Judy Rodrigue

**IDAHO**

Like many other states, Idaho is facing an alarming increase in the number and seriousness of juvenile crimes. In the last decade, the number of violent crimes committed by juveniles has risen 82 percent. Rather than react to the problem as it gets progressively worse, the Idaho Legislature, in the annual session just ended, passed legislation providing for an in-depth study of the present juvenile justice system as to its strengths and weaknesses.

The legislation also provided for the appointment of a special legislative counsel to research and advise a newly appointed interim Joint Committee on Juvenile Justice. The committee will submit a report and legislation in answer to this pressing problem to the 1995 session of the Idaho Legislature.

Towards that end, any research, suggestions, or recent legislation regarding reformation in the area of juvenile justice in other states would be appreciated. Please submit any assistance to Jeff Noland, Room 345, State Capitol, Boise, ID 83720.

-Jeannine Wood

**ILLINOIS**

In the Illinois Senate, the word "lady" has become synonymous with Betty Comstock who retired as Chief Journal Clerk in January of 1994. She was honored at a surprise Senate floor ceremony followed by a reception which was attended by several hundred people including legislators, staff, family members, and friends.

In March 1969, Betty began her 25-year career in the Journal Room as
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Journal Clerk. She became Chief Journal Clerk in the fall of 1975 and capably served four Secretaries - Ed Fernandes, Kenneth Wright, Linda Hawker and currently Jim Harry. In this capacity, she loyally performed her duties for five Presidents of the Senate. Betty modernized the Senate Journal Room, quietly solved problems and worked with related offices in such a manner that she truly became an institution.

Universally respected for her institutional memory, the words "according to Betty" ended many an argument. Betty was one of few who was often heard saying, "I truly love my job" -- and it showed.

Betty and her husband, Bill - who retired in March 1993 from the City of Springfield as Supervisor of Building Construction - have been active in civic and church activities.

They are parents of three daughters and have three grandchildren.

At Betty's retirement ceremony, after receiving glowing accolades from several of the Senate Presidents, her humble response was, "I was only doing my job." Only doing her job has left a positive mark on the Illinois General Assembly that has benefited all the people of the State of Illinois.

Betty was succeeded by Mary Lou Holsapple, a Senate employee since October 1973. A graduate of Sangamon State University, she has served as a Senate secretary and later as a member of the Senate GOP staff.

-Jim Harry

LOUISIANA

Louisiana House Tackles New Journaling System

After several months of internal analysis conducted by leadership and

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staff groups, the Louisiana House decided last fall it was time to make a major change in computer systems.

An aging mainframe system that had served the House since 1982 was scrapped for a more up-to-date PC based system. In kind terms, the transition has been tedious and intense. Staff has persevered the last six months to master new methods and procedures as well as familiarize themselves with assimilating information in vastly different forms than they were accustomed. The threat of numerous special sessions - two of which have actually materialized thus far with anywhere from one to three more on the horizon - and operating for the first time under a new constitutional mandate regarding regular session subject matter limitations has only served to intensify the angst.

One typical example in the overall system transition has been the journal. The Louisiana House has had an electronic journaling system since 1986. But it, too, had to be abandoned. If anyone noticed their Kleenex stock soar lately, you have us to thank. However, being forced to start from scratch was a blessing in disguise. It was an opportunity (painful and laborious as it was) to rethink the entire process and rebuild it code by code.

House Clerk "Butch" Speer began this new year by assembling a "colorful" team of staffers with varying backgrounds and longevity in the legislative process. Team members included Assistant Clerks Kathleen Randall and Clarence Russ, Journal Clerks Edna Buras and C. Wayne Hayes, Administrative Assistant Ruby Johnson, Publications Administrator Andre Lebeuf, and Calendar Clerk Jim Sidler.

Together Speer and his group devoted eight highly focused weeks almost exclusively to the development of the new journal. The team identified all the components used to produce a daily procedural journal, then set out to draft an efficient and comprehensive sequence of coded boilerplates needed to accomplish that goal within the parameters of a PC word processing system. The result has been remarkably successful, although development is ongoing as certain areas require minor refinement. Ideas for interim modifications and enhancements seem to bloom daily.
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And in our spare time, we are getting prepared to host N.C.S.L. '94 in New Orleans. It WILL be worth experiencing!

MINNESOTA

So Long Sandy

Over the years, many people calling or meeting with Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate, have come in contact with his longtime Executive Secretary, Sandra Burrill. Sandy has been an integral part of the Senate office since Pat's beginning in 1973.

This month, Sandy will be retiring to spend more time with her husband John and their resort business along the St. Croix River. Needless to say, Sandy will be greatly missed by those of us who have known her, but we are certainly sympathetic to the obstacles involved with juggling a career in the Senate, a growing business and a 70 mile commute, especially in regard to Minnesota's severe winter weather. With her leaving, we will wish her luck with her resort business and a much deserved new lifestyle!

TEXAS

Between 1971 and 1991, the number of sentenced federal and state prisoners in Texas increased by 156.1 prisoners per 100,000 population. Although prison population rates for all states increased over the 20 year period, the rates varied greatly.

Texas prisons are at full capacity and many sentenced state prisoners are being held in county jails waiting for available state prison space. More than 29,000 are waiting for space in state prisons, a population larger than the total prison population in more than 40 states.

The Texas Legislature took action to resolve prison overcrowding with a battery of criminal justice and prison reform legislation. Significant provisions include the creation of a state jail division for housing nonviolent offenders, the authorization of emergency funding for prison construction and a revision of the Penal...
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Code.

Five major disturbances in county jails have erupted since October 1993 and as the number of prison-ready inmates grows in county jails the potential for unrest and violence intensifies. An emergency plan to build 15,000 more prison beds within the next six months has been announced by Governor Ann Richards, Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock and Speaker Pete Laney. These beds are in addition to 4,700 already built since September 1993 and 12,000 scheduled for completion by September 1994. Cost of the emergency plan is estimated at $165 million.

Lt. Governor Bullock has stated that in the past two legislative sessions "no other criminal justice system in America has seen so many changes in so short a time." When construction is completed, Texas will have the largest prison system in the country, an honor we will gladly relinquish.

The prison issue continues to dominate political life in Texas, with the use of tents and the violation of the terms of the settlement in a federal prison-reform lawsuit being proposed by one candidate. It will be another interesting time in Texas politics as the rhetoric accelerates prior to the November election.

-Betty King

VIRGINIA

Virginia Hosts 1994 Southern Legislative Conference

On July 16th - 20th, Virginia will be hosting the 48th Southern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting in Norfolk. The conference combines a business itinerary with a social schedule of events. The business program focuses on a variety of state government topics such as education, funding, federal and state cooperation, taxes, and trade. The conference has invited Janet Reno, James Whitt, Elizabeth O'Leary, and Bettina Gregory as guest speakers.

As host state, Virginia is responsible for providing entertainment for the delegates and their families. Before the 1994 Session began, Susan and Bruce (as co-coordinators of the host committee) started meeting and planning. Committees were established
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and strategies were laid out. In the beginning, most of the staff, having never planned a conference, were a little overwhelmed by the enormity of the project. But as the committees met and planned, the vision of the conference has come into focus. An exciting (and busy) schedule has been planned.

Opening Night, Saturday, July 16th, will be "A Night at Nauticus." Nauticus is a marine center filled with interactive exhibits, displays, and shows. "Come experience the power of the sea!"

Family Night Picnic, Sunday, July 17th, will be a "Festival on the Water" at Friendship Park. Southern hospitality will shine as we enjoy stories by Jackie Torrence, juggling by Jonathan Austin, and beach music by The Embers. There will also be appearances by Peter Vidmar, two-time Olympic Gold Medalist and Izzy, the official character of 1996 Olympic Games.

State Dinner, Tuesday, July 19th, will be filled with "The Laughter and Song of Politics" featuring Mark Russell. An elegant dinner is planned with the pomp and circumstance of the Parade of Flags and distinguished speakers. After dinner, The Kings of Swing will provide music for dancing and listening.

On Monday night, July 18th, the Oklahoma Legislature, who will be hosting next year's conference, gives a peek at Tulsa '95.

Along with these events, a multitude of activities are offered to the spouses and children of the delegates. A few of these are: USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Aircraft Carrier, Chrysler Museum, shopping in Williamsburg, baseball games, Busch Gardens, the Virginia Zoo, a dolphin watch, learning to sail, and much more.

Written by Monta Wray
Submitted by Gwen Bailey
Assistant Clerk of the Senate, Virginia

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin's TEXT 2000 System Status Update

For those of you in the legislative user community who have not heard by now, the Wisconsin Legislature is in the process of converting to a new

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document management system that will replace the current IBM ATMS/STAIRS system by September 1, 1994. ATMS is an acronym that means Advanced Text Management System. STAIRS is an acronym that means STorage And Information Retrieval System.

In late 1990, legislative staff learned that IBM had made a formal announcement to drop support of the ATMS system on July 28, 1992. Since then IBM has extended its support until December 31, 1993. The decision by IBM made it necessary to find a computing solution to replace the existing legislative text processing applications, search and retrieval database applications, and workflow management functions established for the Assembly and Senate Chief Clerks, and the legislative service agencies.

Upon hearing the news about the cancellation of ATMS support by IBM, the Legislative Services Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization (JCLO) voted unanimously to conduct a study of end-user information requirements for a new system.

The contract for a study of the end-user current system environment was a joint effort between the State of Wisconsin and a consortium of three vendors interested in understanding Wisconsin's legislative process and its applications. The study was contracted with Mr. Bertram Sheingate of HyperVision, Ltd. in February of '91. Following the publication of the study report, a supplemental report was written in-house and issued to include additional information and clarification about the current system and its applications.

Following the study of the current system and issuance of reports on the end-user requirements for a new system, the Legislative Services Subcommittee of JCLO voted unanimously to issue a request for proposal (RFP). The framework for the RFP was developed in-house and written by Wisconsin Integrated Legislative Information System (WILIS) support staff. Additional information requirements for the RFP were acquired from the review of RFPs written within the State of Wisconsin and other states as well.

It required approximately six months to research, draft, edit, and review the
RFP among the staff of the Senate, Assembly, and legislative service agencies. During the entire process, there was a single contact person (project manager) responsible for the project, and involved in communication with end-users, technical staff, vendor representatives, and drafting the RFP. The RFP was completed and mailed on May 22, 1992. There were approximately 50-copies of a 250-page RFP mailed to interested requestors/vendors located in Wisconsin and other states.

There were five responses received on the deadline date of September 15, 1992. Proposals were received from Andersen Consulting, Digital Equipment Corporation/Public Systems Associates, XEROX, IBM, and Sears Business Center.

During the evaluation process of vendor proposals, many meetings were held, and numerous contacts were made with participating vendors. The Legislative Service Subcommittee voted unanimously for the intent to award the bid to Andersen Consulting. The success of the RFP process is attributed to the dedication of the users and technical support staff.

Following a lengthy period for contract negotiation in March '93, the Andersen Consulting’s project team and WILIS staff are involved in the development and implementation phases of the new TEXT 2000 System. The TEXT 2000 system will be a "state-of-the-art" document management system when finished by September 1, 1994.

Unlike ATMS, which runs on a mainframe computer, TEXT 2000 uses what is called a "client/server" architecture. Client/Server use has become extremely popular for various types of systems, including document management systems.

The TEXT 2000 system will improve efficiency, and provide an easier, faster environment for the delivery of information to end-users through a Graphical User Interface (GI) and a WYSIWYG ("What You See Is What You Get") display, user-friendly look and feel in accessing applications using menus, icons, and the mouse. The system environment will perform many of the tasks which are done today. Examples include: Legislative drafting, bill engrossing/enrolling, and editing of documents, such as the Bulletin of
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Proceedings, Daily Journals, Calendars, Weekly Schedules of Committee Hearings, and Wisconsin Statutes. In addition, the system is designed to use stored documents in the database to create other documents, databases, and reports without duplication of effort.

The system architecture consists of Sun workstations used as application and database servers, Dell 486/ME PCs used as the client's desktop computer, and commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) applications software such as Interleaf 5, Oracle, Oracle Co-Author, Documentum Workspace, Acrobat, DocuServer, Smartleaf Compare, Cloverleaf, Windows 3.1, X-Windows and PC Tools. The printer emulation standards consist of Adobe Postscript and HP PCL4 and PCL5. In addition, printers are required to print documents at a minimum of 600 dot-per-inch on output devices. Existing local area network (LAN) of computers, which include IBM RISC/6000s, System 36 and PS/2s, and Dells will access the system using TCP/IP as the communication protocol. Incorporation of specific industry software and communication standards will provide improved capabilities, sharing and exchange of files and information across different systems. Produce standards will also provide for long-term reductions in maintenance and in technical support staff which in the past with proprietary software would have required a high degree of customization.

The following examples briefly describe some of the features offered by the TEXT 2000 System.

- Interleaf 5 is a document composition and editing tool that will be used to create new and edit existing documents.

- Documentum Workspace is a graphical user interface which access the document database maintained in Oracle. Documentum Workspace organizes information similar to the way information is organized in an office. For example, office documents that are paper copies are often stored in file folders, drawers, and cabinets. Documentum Workspace is "object-oriented". That means every item that you manipulate, such as a document, folder, drawer or cabinet, is stored and managed by Documentum Workspace.
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- Smartleaf Compare is a comparison program that displays the differences between two documents on the Interleaf desktop.

- Oracle Co-Author is the application that is used for proofreading. It checks for spelling errors, wordiness, spoken and illegal usages and punctuation errors.

The new TEXT 2000 System is being developed by Andersen Consulting's team and the WILIS staff and provides its users many improvements over the current system, including increased workflow productivity, faster access to information, and improved tools for document creation, graphics, and printing.

For those of you who are interested in a copy of the RFP, please contact me by phone at (608) 266-0659 or write me at the following address:

Herman Pearson
WILIS - Suite 400
17 South Fairchild Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703-3204

A knowledge transfer process has been established through staff training, involvement in the development and implementation phases, and brown bag sessions relating to the TEXT 2000 System.

During the process, I will provide project status updates in future publications of this newsletter.

1994 Wisconsin Session Ends

The Wisconsin Legislature adjourned its 1994 Session on Friday, March 25th at 7:01 P.M.

The Wisconsin Legislature tackled major pieces of legislation this past floor period. It enacted a Three Strikes You're Out Crime Bill, made sweeping changes in the welfare system, attempted an all inclusive health care package, changed the method of funding education by eliminating the property tax (this was later modified in conference committee) and made monumental changes in the juvenile justice system.

In addition to the above major items the Legislature named the Polka as the State Dance, honored Wisconsin Olympians Dan Jansen and Bonnie

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Blair, honored the Finns with a St. Urho's Day, the Irish with St. Patrick’s Day, the Norwegians with Syttenda Mai Weekend, and the Polish with Trzeciego Maja Day.

Representative Peggy Krusick introduced Joint Resolutions proclaiming Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Week, Elder Abuse Awareness Week, Lyme Disease Awareness Week, Older Wisconsinites Week, Suicide Awareness Week, Wisconsin Physical Fitness Month, and Wisconsin Police Week. These weeks filled in around Wine Appreciation Month, Wisconsin Dairy Month, Women's History Month, Black History Month, Wisconsin Science and Technology Month, Wisconsin Forensics Month, Wisconsin Week of the Young Child, Salute Veterans of the Cold War Day, Water Quality Awareness Week, Wisconsin Tourism Week, Wisconsin Try Transit Week, Motorcycle Safety Awareness Week, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Week, Wisconsin Benefit Specialists Day, AIDS Awareness Week, October as 4-H Month, Recognition of the Wisconsin Buck and Bear Club (I must confess, this one did not pass), declared March 1, 1994 as St. David's Day, a Wisconsin Chocolate City Days, and Take our Daughters to Work Day. I was hoping a joint resolution would be introduced titled "send the Chief Clerk and Staff to Monterey Week". So far that hasn't happened. However, they did adjourn in our honor on the last day of session.

And we adjourn in honor of the Clerks & Secretaries and their hard working staffs and hope to see you all in Monterey.

-Thomas T. Melvin
Assembly Chief Clerk
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VIRGINIA

In an earlier edition of the *Legislative Administrator*, we stated that Mr. Kiyonori "Kiyô" Horiuchi would work as an intern in the Senate Clerk’s Office. We thought you might like to know "the rest of the story."

Kiyô was the thirty-eight year old Section Chief of the General Affairs, the Fire and Prevention Division of Saitama, Japan. He came to America through a Pace University International Training Program. The program consisted of eight months of study at Pace University in White Plains, New York and four months of internship with a state or local governing body. The thirteen interns in the 1993/1994 class were dispatched to various cities. Because Kiyô had been impressed by a visit to the New York State Assembly, he asked to be assigned to a legislative body.

Arrival

My assignment was to meet Kiyô at the Marriott Hotel, bring him to the State Capitol to introduce him to the Clerk and the staff. Should I bow or shake hands or both? Both worked well. During our walk to the Capitol, I learned that Kiyô had arrived in Richmond days earlier after visiting his fellow interns in 12 cities on the east coast. He had also taken a tour of the State Capitol Building and grounds. He was always a step ahead.

After meeting the Clerk and the staff, we checked rental guides and were off to find an apartment. We looked at several developments before finding one that felt good and met all the qualifications: located in the West End area of the city, pool, workout room, near the interstate and shopping. Next came telephones, utilities, and furniture leasing. All went well, however, explaining a leasing contract can be a challenge.

The Office

Kiyô was interested in the budget and procurement processes and was assigned to Senate Committee Operations as a back-up clerk to the Finance
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Committee. In addition, he observed the Senate floor proceedings each day. To obtain first-hand knowledge of the bidding process, he spent a day observing the work of the Division of Purchases and Supplies. It was during this time that we realized that slang (putting the bid on the street) did not translate well. We began to examine our use of legislative slang which was equally confusing: laid on the Clerk’s desk, at the pleasure of the Clerk, and put in the hopper.

Kiyo translated The Virginia State Capitol from English to Japanese. "When Disney builds in Virginia, you will need this material," he said as he handed the translated publication to me.

One of the requirements for completing the internship was a presentation to the staff on Saitama, Japan, Kiyo’s home. Kiyo showed a video and compared Saitama and Virginia’s government, economy, labor, natural resources, and land mass to approximately 50 members of the Clerk’s office staff, who were grateful for the break in a busy legislative session. A group photo session followed the presentation.

The Volvo

Kiyo purchased a 1987 Volvo before leaving New York. The car was in excellent condition. However, after a few weeks it had to be checked for a noise. The mechanic at the Volvo maintenance center advised us that it would take two days to get to Kiyo’s car. We went across town to the airport and obtained a rental car. Upon returning to the Capitol, we received a call from the mechanic who was excited that he had corrected the problem and the car was ready for pick-up!

During a Saturday shopping trip to a local mall, Kiyo parked his car in front of Sears. After two hours of shopping, with packages in hand, Kiyo was unable to locate the Volvo. He walked the entire length of the mall only to find his locked car with two tires in a large planter in front of J.C. Penny.

How did this happen? We still don’t know.
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Thanksgiving

Kiyo accepted my invitation to have Thanksgiving dinner with my family. He arrived thirty minutes late because he was told it was a custom in the U.S. to do so. Natsue, our daughter-in-law who is Japanese and came to this country in September, greeted Kiyo at the door in his native language.

He was surprised! It took several minutes to introduce Kiyo to the rest of the family - husband - rather be golfing; daughter - 13, wearing too much lipstick; son - 12, dressed like a street person; sister - in wheelchair; nephew - the college freshman; and grand-daughter - 7 months old, cries when Kiyo looks at her.

In addition to the traditional turkey, rice, gravy, dressing, and cranberry sauce, dinner included several Japanese dishes.

After dinner we watched slides of a recent family trip to California. Conversations in Japanese and English could be heard simultaneously. My son displayed his ability to juggle three oranges. Kiyo joined in the fun. We enjoyed the time spent with Kiyo. We will speak of him fondly at future family gatherings.

Family

Kiyo and his wife Michiyo have 2 children, Fumy (flower) age 8, Kentaro (strong) age 5. During the Christmas holidays the family was able to join Kiyo in Virginia. Despite the ice and bad weather they were able to visit New York City, Washington, D.C. and Williamsburg, Virginia. Kiyo telephoned his family in Japan every night during the year that he was away.

While in Richmond, Kiyo found time to translate the Driver's Handbook from English to Japanese for Natsue. Yes, she received a license!

Going Home

In anticipation of this article, Kiyo was asked to provide a quote. "In the past four months, I've gained a lot of experience and knowledge. The organization of
this state is not bureaucrats and hierarchy, but specialized and flat compared to Japan. It also seems that America's structure looks like an orchestra. Japan's structure looks like the military. We have to catch up with the U.S. as we did in the auto industry.”

Before we had time to do all the things we wished to do, it was time for Kiyo to return to Pace University to prepare for graduation and his return to Japan.

The Senate Majority Leader bid farewell to Kiyo during the daily session and he was honored by a standing ovation from the members of the Senate. A luncheon was held for Kiyo at the Bull and Bear Club located atop a high-rise that overlooks the city and the James River. Kiyo was presented with a Virginia state flag and a video of the Senate’s farewell. We were enriched by our association with Kiyo. We look forward to visiting him in Japan some day.

When Kiyo arrived in Japan he greeted his family and took a long Japanese bath. He slept several hours and awoke to a traditional Japanese breakfast (fish, steamed rice, myso soup, eggs, and seaweed). He spent the remainder of the day playing with his children in the park.

When Kiyo returned to work he learned that he had been given a new position as head of Economic Development for Saitama. He met with the Governor of Saitama the following day, a perfect opportunity to show the flag from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Legislature Host International Delegations

Tom Melvin, Chief Clerk of the Wisconsin State Assembly and Don Schneider, Chief Clerk of the Wisconsin State Senate served as hosts to three foreign delegations recently.

One group was local officials from Russia and the Ukraine. The group was sponsored by the American Council of Young Political Leaders. The purpose of
their visit was to gain a very broad perspective of state and local government in Wisconsin. The delegation was in Wisconsin for 5 days.

The National Conference of State Legislatures coordinated two delegations from Africa to Wisconsin. The first group was a group of members of the National Parliament of Kenya and one clerk. This visit was part of an Agency for International Development Study Tour. The delegation's major focus was legislative process, staffing and constituent relations.

The delegation was most attentive to all aspects of the program. They had questions for all presenters and extensive questions about all aspects of life in Wisconsin. The tour had them in Wisconsin for 7 days. During this time they were exposed to their first experience of "Hard Water". The frozen lakes of Wisconsin were certainly an item of conversation.

The delegation had an opportunity to meet with U.S. Senator Russ Feingold, U.S. Representatives Tom Barrett and Scott Klug, leaders of both houses of the legislature and local minority business leaders. In addition, the Senate and Assembly were in session which provided the delegation to witness a seating of both houses and committee meetings of both houses.

The members also enjoyed a University of Wisconsin Hockey Game. They became instant "Badger" fans and saw the home team win. The timing of their visit also provided an opportunity for the group to visit a live broadcast of "We the People", an effort by several organizations to bring emerging issues to the people of Wisconsin. The broadcast was a court room setting with a jury to make a decision on health care.

Members of Congress as well as state officials made arguments for various options being debated in the health care reform movement. The delegation found it to be a fascinating experience.

The second African delegation
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was part of the Anglo-phone Africa NCSL project. The project is funded by USIA with the National Conference of State Legislature contributing to the costs of the effort. The delegation was made up of staff members from Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The staff represented several areas of expertise within the legislative environment. The members were librarians, committee staff, bill drafters and clerks. All members of the delegation were interested in the uses of computers in the legislature. They also enjoyed the opportunity to attend a NBA Milwaukee Bucks vs. New Jersey Nets game in Milwaukee. This delegation, like the one from Kenya had many questions about our legislative system and culture. Namibia is in a very interesting situation. The country is developing a second house, or Senate, at this time. The delegate had numerous questions about the relationship between the two houses in the U. S. bicameral model.

Each country delegation was provided an opportunity to brief the Wisconsin staff on aspects of parliamentary development in their country. These discussions were extremely informative and interesting.

Members and staff of the Wisconsin Legislature have benefited from having the opportunity to host these international delegations. The experience provides an education for host as well as guest. Those of us in Wisconsin look forward to having the opportunity to host future delegations to this country.

-Don Schneider
Chief Clerk of the Senate

* Obstacles are things you see when you take your eyes off the goal.

*
LEGISLATORS LOVE OFFBEAT LAWS

(Including asparagus, colossal fossils, buffalo and moose)

In South Dakota, casting aspersions on asparagus and telling foul lies about chickens can get you sued. Frozen lemonade may become Rhode Island's official summer drink--not to be confused with coffee milk, the official, year-round state drink adopted last year.

West Virginia legislators have realized it might be time to drop the state constitution's ban on racially integrated schools. They're asking the voters.

For Americans who think their state lawmakers are too focused on anti-crime bills or how to squeeze more taxes from the middle class, these are among the flakir bills competing with such weighty topics as tougher sentencing, health care and welfare reform, and budget balancing.

Meaningful themes are hard to detect. But an Associated Press check among the 44 state legislatures convening this year found in many of these offbeat laws a particularly Eden-like concern for naming things.

If Rhode Island can have a summer beverage, why not Saratoga-brand spring water as the official bottled water of New York?

Colorado lawmakers heeded pleadings from piscatorial conservatives and ousted the rainbow trout, a California interloper, as the official state fish and installed the greenback cutthroat, a trout peculiar to Colorado.

The square dance lobby angled for the official state dances of Mississippi and Minnesota. Despite fast-footed do-si-dos and allemande-levies in full costume, lawmakers in both states remained unswayed.

Animals, dead and alive, kept many busy in a Noah's ark of legislation around the country. Consider:

- The buffalo almost became Iowa's state mammal until a 47-45 rejection from the House. Quipped a skeptical Rep. Michael Moreland, "Did you consider the gerbil?"

- Dinosaurs are long gone, but Wyoming's new "colossal fossil law" will let school children pick an official state dinosaur.

- A New Jersey bill would reclassify llamas as livestock, no longer "exotic" with exotic fees for the Garden state's llama farmers.

- Illinois Rep. Larry Woolard wants to protect ratites, flightless birds like ostriches and emus, from
dogs. His bill would allow ratite owners to kill dogs that harm their birds, and to bill the dogs' owners.

- And an Alaska bill would allow ranches to raise moose, which are not only majestic to look at but tasty to boot. Objections from the Department of Fish and Game got the bill amended to exclude butchering the animals. Moose may not go along with even this. As Soldotna elk rancher Bill Ward commented, the bad-tempered animals "don't herd up."

As a trend, creature protection is not doing well. But there's clearly a movement to protect agriculture from unkind, unfounded slurs.

The idea was laughed out of the Minnesota statehouse, but Mississippi just outlawed the disparagement of vegetables without solid facts. And South Dakota farmers and ranchers can now sue for damages if they're harmed by anyone who lies about farm products.

"It shouldn't have a chilling effect on good common-sense debate," said the measure's lead sponsor, Senator Mark Rogen. "They'd have to know what they're saying is false, and be doing it with the intent to harm producers."

But seriously....

It's been 40 years since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Brown vs. Board of Education that racially segregated schools are illegal. Yet the West Virginia Constitution still says, "White and colored persons shall not be taught in the same school."

After years of trying, House of Delegates member Odell Huffman persuaded colleagues to put a constitutional amendment before voters November 8 asking them to erase the antiquated sentence.

Written by Arlene Levinson
Sent by Thomas T. Melvin
Assembly Chief Clerk, Wisconsin

* When someone says they approve of something in principle, it means they haven't the slightest intention of putting it into practice. *
Editor's Note...

I had feared this issue of the Legislative Administrator was going to look like a North Carolina pamphlet. But, ya'll responded to my pleas for articles and photos and my threats to bore all ASLCS members with how tobacco is grown in North Carolina and provided lots of good material for the summer issue!

While the N.C. General Assembly was trying to meet a 4:00 p.m. deadline for adjournment sine die on July 1, we were trying to meet our own deadline on the publication of this issue. A joint resolution continuing the session added to the delay, but the gavels finally fell, and the handkerchiefs dropped at 2:00 a.m. on July 17. The House and Senate "got together" on a budget and we "pulled together" the newsletter.

Once again, I could not have assembled this issue without the assistance of the committee members who contacted their states and diligently solicited articles, nor without the hard work of the folks here in North Carolina!!! Special thanks to everyone who took the time to contribute and to those good North Carolinians who devoted many late hours to this project.