ASLCS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 15, 2021
Via Zoom

Call to Order
The meeting of the ASLCS Executive Committee was called to order by President Brad Young at 12:02 p.m. Eastern.

Attendance/Quorum
A quorum of the Executive Committee was present with the following members in attendance: President Brad Young (Ohio), President-elect Tim Sekerak (Ore.), Secretary-Treasurer Carrie Maulin (Idaho), Associate Vice President Ali Sagraves (Ohio), Paul Smith (N.H.), Jay Braxton (Va.), Robert Hunt (Maine), Ann Marie Walp (Tenn.), Joshua Babel (Ariz.), Dana Rademan Miller (Mo.), Yolanda Dixon (La.), Ron Smith (La.).

Also present were Holly South (NCSL), and Mike Linn (Minn.).

Approval of Minutes
Tim Sekerak moved the minutes of the October 3, 2021, Executive Committee meeting be approved. Ali Sagraves seconded.

Jay Braxton moved the minutes of the October 7, 2021, Executive Committee meeting be approved. Paul Smith seconded.

Treasurer Reports
Carrie Maulin presented reports for October 2021 and November 2021. She has received records and materials for the dues account and is still getting up to speed on Treasurer duties. The balance of the account as of November 30, 2021, was $58,314.37.

Old Business
Financial Account Reports. Holly South presented the report of the financial accounts:

The LLCS Account (Professional Development Revolving Account) had several expenses reported since the PDS in Maine. Two scholarship payments were made - $1500.00 to Brittany Yunker Carlson for the David A. Ward Tech & Innovation Scholarship and $1000.00 to Jennifer Storie for the Millie MacFarland Memorial Scholarship. The account also reflects a deposit for PDS plenary and concurrent session speaker Melissa Furman in the amount of $4350.00. The current balance is $14,150.34, with pending expenditures related to PDS scholarship and speakers totaling $5,050.00.

The L190 Account (ASLCS Special Meeting Fund) shows an interest adjustment of $1279.00 for a total revenue of $1396.00 for Q2-Q4 of 2020, along with an interest adjustment of $1444.00 for a total revenue of $1552.00 for Q1-Q3 of 2021. These deposits relate to the additional interest earned through NCSL investment of ASLCS funds. There should be a new agreement in place by the end of January and before the retirement of NCSL CFO Mary Wild. Deposits received for the
2021 PDS total $24,450.00 to date. Additional expenses related to the 2021 PDS were paid and currently stand at $44,312.98. Deposits for the 2022 PDS total $34,450.00 to date and Arkansas is on track to meet their 2021 fundraising goal of $50,000. The current balance of the L190 account is $187,849.89, with pending PDS contributions of $1800 and pending expenditures – related to the PDS and the NCSL Summit – totaling $18,722.25.

2021 PDS Budget Update. Holly reported that the budget is not yet final, as NCSL is currently in the process of booking the final registration numbers as well as in-house charges such as shipping, meeting materials and printing. However, with the budget current showing a profit of $1700.36, she feels the meeting will end up with at least a small profit. She expects to finalize the budget in February and will share with the Executive Committee then. President Young asked that a column indicating the amount to which each item was more or less costly than the approved budget be added in the final budget report.

New Business

2022 Associate Exchange Program. Josh Babel presented information on the Associate Exchange Program – there are three candidates approved for the program in 2020 who were unable to complete their exchange because of pandemic restrictions. Josh reached out to the three and only one has thus far responded – Misti Greene, who wanted to go to the California Senate. California is not currently able to participate in the exchange program, so Josh will provide Misti with the opportunity to choose from amongst the chambers offering an exchange program for 2022. The other two former candidates are Sarah Curry and Geneva Tulasz. Sarah is no longer able to participate, and Josh is waiting to hear from Geneva.

The current applicants are Sean Sukol (VA Senate), Daniel Lloyd (AR House), and Gretchen Overbey (LA Senate). Josh Babel made a motion to approve all applicants. Ali Sagraves seconded.

2021 Maine PDS Evaluation. The evaluation survey was sent out to the membership by Holly. A number of the comments again centered on the time allocation for staff breakouts, with the overwhelming interest in increasing the time allocated for breakouts. Other areas of comment related to the length of the PDS, and how to best maximize participation in the Legislative Expo – perhaps by moving it to an afternoon or evening slot. Another area of comment related to pandemic protocols revolving around health and safety and discussion was held on whether that should be an item considered well in advance of the next PDS to ensure the topic is well covered. One takeaway from the PDS protocols is that there was a covid response team in place for the event, tests available for use, and that the event was free from any covid outbreaks. Dana Miller suggested the idea of using color-coded lanyards to display an individual’s comfort with physical interaction similar to that used at this year’s NCSL Summit. Brad Young suggested asking some of our vendors to assist in hosting an open bar for a period of time after the State Dinner to keep attendees engaged in the entertainment portion of the evening rather than leaving for the hospitality suite.

Brad Young also furthered the discussion about the length of the PDS being up to the host states based on their fundraising capabilities. Paul Smith said the shortened length of the PDS in Maine was an experiment and it worked well in this instance but may be an item that could be best left
to the host states. Tim Sekerak also spoke to the benefits of allowing states to have a voice in the length of a PDS that they are hosting based on fundraising capabilities.

2022 PDS Update. Holly gave an update on the agenda for the event, noting, based on the PDS evaluation discussion, that there is flexibility in the schedule for the Expo to be moved to a different time of day as well as additional time for staff breakouts. Program Development Chair Susan Kannarr is currently looking at speakers for the plenary sessions. The host state’s fundraising is on track and this PDS will return to the longer format.

Winter LSCC Travel. The LSCC meeting will be held in Washington D.C. the weekend of January 15, 2022. Brad Young and Tim Sekerak have been asked to attend. Yolanda Dixon moved to approve the travel expenses, seconded by Jay Braxton.

2022 Spring Business Meeting Update. Brad Young gave an update on the upcoming Spring meeting. He and Holly are currently looking at a location in southern Florida, hopefully at the end of April.

Memorial contribution for Patrick Flahaven, former Secretary of the Minnesota Senate. Brad Young mentioned the recent passing of Patrick Flahaven, who also served as ASLCS President and NCSL Staff Chair, and stated that it is tradition to make a $500 contribution in the memory of former ASLCS presidents. Paul Smith moved to approve, seconded by Yolanda Dixon.

Adjournment. Paul Smith moved to adjourn with Jay Braxton seconding. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. Eastern.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Maulin (Idaho)
ASLCS Secretary-Treasurer