ASLCS Lunch and Business Meeting Minutes

ASLCS Spring Business Meeting
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
April 30, 2022

Call to Order
The business meeting was called to order by Brad Young (Ohio), ASLCS President, at 12:40 p.m. Eastern.

Standing Committee Reports

Bylaws and Standing Orders: Chair Susan Furlong (Nev.) reported that a subcommittee was appointed to look into succession planning language to be added to the Bylaws and Standing Orders. The subcommittee will have a full report to present to the committee at the NCSL Summit in Denver.

Inside the Legislative Process: John Holman (Ill.) reported that the committee is reviewing and some of the last surveys for ideas to formalize some of the changes in process from the past few years.

Site Selection: Chair Nanette Mitchell (Tenn.) reported that Arkansas’ fundraising for the 2022 PDS is going well and planning is proceeding on schedule. The committee had a presentation and update from the host state committee regarding the 2023 PDS in Eugene, Oregon. The committee is reaching out to other states for future sites to host. Utah, Massachusetts, Michigan and Indiana have all shown interest. Will keep reaching out to states to have a road map for the future site locations.

Technology: Chair Michael Queensland (Wis.) reported that the committee focused on two topics during its meeting: 1) a concurrent session for the upcoming PDS, and 2) engagement with the Facebook page. For the concurrent session at the PDS the focus will be on post-pandemic technology, legislative engagement, civic engagement, and in particular, technologies that the pandemic pushed us into that legislatures will keep using moving forward. The committee discussed Facebook engagement versus using the listserv. The listserv may be best for information on questions and to get feedback; Facebook would be better for sharing announcements, sharing information about what is happening in our statehouses and for more social engagement. He encouraged everyone to post pictures of events on the site more often and to create a community.

International Communication and Development: Chair Obie Rutledge (Ore.) reported that one of the main charges of the committee is to maintain the International Directory. It has been updated and is currently available on the website: https://www.ncsl.org/legislators-staff/legislative-staff/clerks-and-secretaries/aslcs-international-directory-index.aspx. The committee discussed what the topic would be for international delegates in attendance at the 2022 PDS. The committee felt it would be a good idea to combine its session with the Canadian-American Relations committee and suggested that the two committees choose topics that foreign
attendees can engage in. The committee is also focused on building relationships with new contacts in Israel, Germany, Westminster and recommended to the Executive Committee to strengthen relationships with Wales and Scotland after their representatives’ attendance at the 2019 PDS in Seattle.

Legislative Administrator: Chair Sarah Bannister (Wash.) reported that the Spring issue of the Administrator has been mailed out and should be received in most statehouses shortly. The committee will be looking for additional content for upcoming issues and would appreciate assistance from the Society to provide it. Members with ideas can contact the committee. Shout-outs are open and going well. A new item will be “What went wrong” “What’s happening in your state,” etc. The committee is building the next issue to be more robust. Please send photos to Jamie Oswalt (Ala.).

Membership and Communication: Vice Chair Barrett Dudley (Ark.) reported that the committee discussed having Executive Committee members speak at the New Attendee Mixer at the PDS about the benefits of participating in the Society as well as some of its historical aspects. There will be designated tables at the breakfast the next morning for new attendees to continue to connect. The committee would like to add a time, place and date to the agenda for the pin contest so people know where they should be to turn in their pins and cards; this will ideally cut down on any confusion on when and where to have pins and cards counted. The committee is also planning to have Executive Committee members distribute a special pin, with a prize drawing for those who receive these pins. The committee also discussed a pilot program at the PDS to allow those unable to attend in person to have a videoconference option for participation.

Support Staff: Chair Josh Babel (Ariz.) reported on a productive meeting that continued to focus on past items, including dates for the Associate Exchange Program. There were four participants, three of whom have completed their exchanges. One is still pending. There should be four different reports for the next meeting at the Summit. The committee continued to focus on having associates apply to participate. He also reported on PDS updates, including the Legislative Expo, which will be moving from a morning session to an afternoon time. The committee is continuing to recruit moderators for the staff breakout sessions. There will be multiple times for breakout sessions in Little Rock so there is a need for several moderators. Most of the discussion centered around a concurrent session pertaining to hiring and retaining new employees.

Canadian-American Relations: Chair Yolanda Dixon (La.) reported that the CATTs meeting will be held August 29th-September 2nd and a joint Canadian-American meeting will be held next year (the 2023 location is TBD by Canadians). Tennessee is interested in hosting the 2025 joint meeting in Nashville. The committee discussed the concurrent session for the upcoming PDS and topics to cover during that session.

Professional Journal: Vice Chair Sarah Curry (Ore.) reported that the 2021 Professional Journal is now posted online. Included in that are articles about how legislatures have adapted to the Covid-19 world, including an article from a legislative staff member from Ukraine. Currently in discussion about articles for the 2022 volume are the history of engrossing and enrolling in the California legislature, and an article about Alabama’s new IT system. The committee is also
looking at several different case law studies and asks for participation from members to write
review of case law studies.

Program Development: Chair Susan Kannarr (Kan.) reported that the committee reviewed the
schedule for the upcoming PDS. The Little Rock PDS is back to the longer format, Sept 18 -
23rd. Two plenaries are scheduled: One from Gary Ware of Breakthrough Play – The Art of Play
to increase confidence, creativity and communications. This is a high-energy session on Monday
to get the PDS started. Second is the Clerk of US House of Representatives – Cheryl Johnson.
Concurrent sessions are being put together with a good array of ideas. There will be two staff
breakout sessions for each group, one on Monday afternoon and then again on Wednesday
afternoon since it was requested by so many people. The Expo will be moving to the afternoon
for better attendance and participation.

President Brad Young thanked all of the chairs for their hard work and then announced that there
are still scholarships available to defray the cost of PDS attendance. Members should avail
themselves of these, with a reminder that the deadline to apply is July 1st. He gave thanks to
Holly South (NCSL) for all of her hard work on making the spring meeting a success. She’s a
rock star.

Announcements
President Brad Young made an announcement about the evening’s social event aboard the Carrie
B.

Tim Sekerak (Ore.) made a brief report about the NCSL Legislative Staff Coordinating
Committee, pointing out how many people from the Society participate in NCSL committee
work. Other staff sections would like to replicate our exchange program. There is a request for
parliamentarians from the Society to participate in the NCSL business meeting at the Summit.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Smith (N.H.) and seconded by Susan Kannarr (Kan.).
The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m. Eastern.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Maulin (Idaho)
ASLCS Secretary/Treasurer