Chair's Column

Eddie Weeks, Legislative Librarian, Tennessee General Assembly

From the Chair’s Seat…

“Life is what happens while you’re busy making other plans.” — John Lennon

But we still have to plan, or maybe life wouldn’t happen. To that end, LRL is in the process of planning a Professional Development Seminar to be held Sept. 18-20 in Boise, Idaho.

This will be our first PDS in several years; please make every effort to attend. We need to show NCSL that we are a viable, productive staff section; this meeting is our best chance.

If you have any suggestions for programming, please contact Sabah Eltareb, Chair of the Planning Committee, or Kristin Ford, Chair of the Host State Committee.

In other meeting news, the NCSL Legislative Summit will be Aug. 12-15 in Atlanta, Georgia. At this meeting, the LRL attendees will vote on a proposed rewrite of the LRL bylaws.

Sabah Eltareb of California and Mary Camp of Texas chaired separate committees to rewrite various parts of the bylaws. Those committees then came together to draft a final proposal.

Please review this draft; it’s available through the LRL web page at NCSL.org. We welcome your comments.

Also, please join me in thanking Sabah and Mary and all the members of their committees for their incredible hard work in drafting this document.

Coming up in the next issue of Newsline, my decision for LRL to take the lead role in preparing for the zombie apocalypse.

Your Fearless Leader,
Eddie
LRL officers are planning some great activities for our members at the 2013 NCSL Legislative Summit in Atlanta, August 12-15, 2013.

Plans include sessions on public access to records, partisan and nonpartisan staff roles, and a tour of the Jimmy Carter Library. We’ll also hold our Business Meeting and a Dutch Treat dinner. More details are coming soon!

Preliminary Legislative Summit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY 8/12/13</th>
<th>TUESDAY 8/13/13</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 8/14/13</th>
<th>THURSDAY 8/15/13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration: 7:30-5:00</td>
<td>Registration: 7:30-5:00</td>
<td>Registration 7:30-5:00</td>
<td>Registration: 7:30-12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit Hall: 10:00-4:00</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall: 10:00-4:00</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall: 10:00-4:00</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall: 9:00-12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSCC and Task Forces 9:00-12:00</td>
<td>Prayer Breakfast 7:45-8:30</td>
<td>Walk for Wellness 6:30-8:00</td>
<td>Bipartisan Bike Ride 6:30-8:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LRL: Public Access to Legislative Records 7:30-8:30</td>
<td>General Session 8:30-9:30</td>
<td>Issue Forums 8:30-9:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Session: Roger Ferguson 8:30-9:45</td>
<td>Issue Forums 9:45-10:45 and 11:00-12:15</td>
<td>NCSL Business Meeting 10:00-12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standing Committees 10:00-12:00</td>
<td>Legislative Staff Luncheon 12:15-1:45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Attendee Orientation 12:00-1:15</td>
<td>Standing Committee Lunches 12:00-1:30</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Luncheon 12:00-1:30</td>
<td>General Session Luncheon: David Gergen 12:00-1:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Session: Sandra Day O’Connor 1:30-2:45</td>
<td>Standing Committees 1:30-5:00</td>
<td>Issue Forums 1:45-3:00</td>
<td>LRL Jimmy Carter Library Program and Tour 1:45-5:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing Committees 3:00-5:00</td>
<td>Legislative Staff University 3:30-5:00</td>
<td>Legislators Roundtable 3:15-5:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LRL: Legislative Staff Roles 3:00-5:00</td>
<td>Statehouse Ambassadors / Young Professionals/5:00-6:00</td>
<td>LRL Business Meeting 3:15-5:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Reception Georgia on My Mind at the Georgia World Congress Center 5:30-7:00</td>
<td>States Night</td>
<td>Closing Social Event A Whale of an Evening at the Georgia Aquarium 6:30-9:00</td>
<td>LRL Dutch Treat Dinner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2013 Staff Achievement Awards

It’s time to recognize the outstanding service provided by legislative libraries and librarians. We need your help in identifying candidates for the annual Legislative Staff Achievement Awards. Nominations are due May 17, 2013, and will be considered by the 2013 Awards Committee, chaired by Shelley Day of Utah and Kristin Ford of Idaho. The award will be presented at the 2013 NCSL Legislative Summit in Atlanta.

Please send us the name of a person or library—it can be yourself or your library—using the criteria listed below, along with a description of specific accomplishments and LRL involvement.

Criteria

The librarian who has:

- Provided outstanding support to the state legislature or legislative institution
- Provided outstanding support to NCSL or the LRL Staff Section
- Enhanced the profession of special librarianship within the legislative context
- Demonstrated innovative approaches to the field of legislative librarianship
- Made a major creative contribution to enhance legislative library services in one or more of the following areas:
  - organization of information
  - integration of the library into the legislative process
  - excellent research products
  - publicity
  - excellence in reference services
  - managerial expertise
  - information technology
  - other contributions

The library that has:

- Provided outstanding support or assistance to NCSL or the LRL Staff Section
- Maintained a professional, qualified staff
- Actively participated in professional library associations
- Contributed significantly to major developments in the field of legislative librarianship
- Demonstrated creativity in several of the following areas:
  - maintaining a collection that meets legislative needs
  - orienting new patrons to library services
  - targeting services to meet legislative needs
  - integrating new technologies into legislative services
  - alerting patrons to information resources
  - other contributions

Please submit nominations to LRL liaison Jeanne Mejeur, providing the following information:

1. A description of specific NCSL involvement;
2. A description of specific LRL involvement and contributions; and
3. A summary of their legislative accomplishments.

For more information, please contact Jeanne Mejeur at 303-856-1467 or jeanne.mejeur@ncsl.org.
Copyright Issues for Legislative Audiences: Copy Rights and Copy Wrongs

Summary by Sonia Gavin, LRL Secretary

The copyright webinar was presented on December 13, 2012, and sponsored by the NCSL Legislative Research Librarians and Legal Services staff sections.

Moderator: Mary Camp, Director, Texas Legislative Reference Library
Faculty: Kristin Ford, J.D., Legislative Librarian
         Legislative Reference Library, Legislative Services Office, Idaho
         Jon Heining, J.D., General Counsel
         Texas Legislative Council

Kristin Ford opened the discussion by providing background and resources. There must be a balance between protecting owner and public use. Originally, the publisher had rights to a document but in 1710 the law gave rights to authors. In 1790, the first United States copyright law addressed maps. There needs to be an overall balance between author’s right and the free flow of information. Originally, the law provided for 28 years maximum of author’s rights but now copyright extends to the life of the author plus 70 years or 120 years for a corporate author.

Copyright belongs to employer. When an author’s work is brought to a committee, the agency should do due diligence and get permission to use on websites. Title 17 of the USCA addresses copyright. There are allowable statutory uses. Section 107 provides the Fair Use Analysis which needs to consider the following factors:

1. Purpose of character of the use
2. Nature of copyrighted use
3. Amount of work being used
4. Effect on the market

Some useful online tools include:

- ALA: http://librarycopyright.net/resources
- US Government: www.copyright.gov
- Google’s resources: Google Books
- The Universal Digital Library: www.ulib.org
- The Public Domain by James Boyle is an excellent and interesting resource.

Creativecommons.com is a website that provides a way of supplementing an author’s rights when sharing digital content. There are a number of sites regarding what is in the public domain, including art, music, and books. Dipity.com includes a timeline of major court cases and laws regarding copyright.

Jon went over in depth real-life case studies. The Texas library clipping service was discussed and their decision to only circulate articles on the capitol campus.

Continued on page 5
LRL 2013 Professional Development Seminar

Sept. 18-20, 2013
Boise, Idaho

It is with great excitement and anticipation that the LRL Executive Committee announces the 2013 LRL Professional Development Seminar to be held at the State Capitol in Boise, Idaho, Sept. 18-20. This seminar will give LRL members the opportunity to exchange information and ideas, renew our professional contacts, and share our expert knowledge and abilities.

More details will emerge as the LRL Executive Committee and the Idaho host staff agree to them. We will soon be reaching out to the LRL membership for your ideas on programs and speakers. The planning committee is chaired by Sabah Eltareb of California; members include Kristin Ford of Idaho, Mary Camp of Texas, Sonia Gavin of Montana, and Eddie Weeks, Your Fearless Leader.

Please make plans to join us, Sept. 18-20, 2013, in beautiful Boise, Idaho. We look forward to seeing you there!

Copyright, continued from page 4

Some cases of note:

- Chavez v. Arte Publico Press 139 F. 3d 504 (5th Cir., 2000)

States can own and protect their own intellectual property. Jon went over some issues to consider:

- Injunctive relief may still be available, ex parte Young
- State copyrights protection
- Supreme Court may change its mind
- Harassment suits
- Courts will not always agree and may apply case law differently

Also consider:

- contractual remedies
- refusal to contract with your state or agency
- cannot transfer license copyright
- public perception
- unethical and unfair to infringe

To access the archived webinar, visit http://www.ncsl.org/legislative-staff/rlr/copyright-webinar.aspx
Dear Legislative Librarians,

As Chair of LRL, I assigned LRL Immediate Past Chair Mary Camp and LRL Chair-Elect Sabah Eltareb to each appoint a committee of her choosing to review and re-write the LRL by-laws. Mary’s committee was charged with re-writing the current Article VI: Elections. Sabah’s committee was to review all remaining Articles to determine needed changes.

The members of the Elections Committee were Mary Camp (Texas), Chair; Elizabeth Lincoln (Minnesota) and Anne Rottmann (Missouri). The members of the Review Committee were Sabah Eltareb (California) Chair; Cathy Martin (North Carolina), Molly Otto (Colorado), and Shelley Day (Utah).

Their committees met separately, then came together to draw up the attached proposed rewrite of the LRL bylaws. This re-write has been approved by the LRL Executive Committee and will be voted on by the attending members of LRL at the 2013 Legislative Summit in Atlanta.

The proposed changes represent a complete re-write of the existing LRL by-laws. This revision will not only bring us up-to-date but prepare LRL for the coming years. Please review the draft found on page 9 of the newsletter and contact me if you have any concerns or questions about the proposed changes. Please have any suggestions or questions to me by May 31, 2013, at eddie.weeks@capitol.tn.gov or 615-741-5816.

The current by-laws are shown on page 7 of the newsletter and remain our by-laws until approval of the re-write. Please join me in thanking Mary, Sabah, and all the members of their committees for their incredible work.

Your Fearless Leader,
Eddie

---

LRL Logo Contest

From Your Fearless Leader (YFL), Eddie Weeks:

Okay, we’re having our first Professional Development Seminar in years (in Boise, Idaho, Sept. 18-20; mark your calendar and make your plans). The LRL by-laws are being re-written to prepare LRL for the coming years; and my cunning plans are coming to fruition.

So the next logical step is... the creation of a logo for LRL. Are you an aspiring but frustrated artist? Or a frustrated but aspiring artist? It really doesn’t matter if you’re frustrated or aspired, or even an artist. We need a new logo. Our current logo is at the upper right, and looks like either an open book being thrown at a computer screen or an electronic butterfly emerging from a square cocoon.

If you think you can do better, please send me your design. Designs will be submitted anonymously to the LRL Executive Committee, which will choose the final design. Use of comic sans font will automatically disqualify any entrant.

Please send your designs ASAP to Your Fearless Leader at eddie.weeks@capitol.tn.gov. Here are some other staff section logos for comparison.
BYPDAYS OF THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH LIBRARIANS STAFF SECTION

Article I: Name and Membership
The name of the organization shall be the Legislative Research Librarians (LRL) Staff Section of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). LRL is part of the legislative staff division of NCSL. The voting membership shall be composed of librarians, or those working essentially in that capacity, employed by state government, serving the state legislatures of fifty states, insular possessions, and territories of the United States of America. Associate members include all legislative librarians of the Canadian provinces, as well as persons interested in the goals and programs of the organization. Associates shall be non-voting members.

Article II: Purpose
The purposes of LRL Staff Section are:
1. To exchange information and ideas relating to legislative library operations and procedures in the states;
2. To provide an information exchange network among the states that has as its purpose efficient, effective, and rapid information retrieval;
3. To promote better working relations between members of the Staff Section and the state legislators and support staff they serve;
4. To serve on the NCSL standing committees and to maintain good relations with NCSL;
5. To enhance the professionalism of the members through its activities; and
6. To promote the deposit of legislative documents with the NCSL and the Council of State Governments.

Article III: Meetings
An annual meeting shall be held to coincide with the NCSL Annual Meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Chair provided written notice for the meeting shall be given to the membership at least 30 days in advance.
A Professional Development Seminar to provide continuing education and to enhance professionalism may be held each year. Written notice shall be provided at least 30 days in advance of the seminar.

Article IV: Officers
The officers consist of a Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, and other officers as may be needed. Each officer must be a voting member of the Staff Section.
The duties of the Chair include:
- Preside at all meetings of the Staff Section.
- Prepare agenda and schedules for the meetings.
- Represent the Staff Section on the NCSL Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee. Designate an alternate in the absence of either the Chair or Chair-Elect.
- Appoint a Staff Section Nominating Committee.
- Coordinate activities and business of the Staff Section.
- Plan annual meeting program.
- Appoint Staff Section committees, the chair of which must be a voting member.
- Appoint Regional Coordinators.
The duties of the Chair-Elect include:
- Plan Professional Development seminar program.
- Serve as second Staff Section representative on NCSL Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee.
- Preside at Staff Section meetings in the absence of the Chair.
- Other duties as assigned by Chair.
The duties of the Secretary include:
- Record minutes of Staff Section meetings.
Current LRL Bylaws, continued from page 7

- Deposit a copy of all minutes with NCSL staff contact.
- Duties as assigned by Chair.
In the absence of both the Chair and Chair-Elect, preside at Staff Section meetings.

Article V: Executive Committees

The Executive Committee is composed of Staff Section officers and the immediate past Chair. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to transact the business of the Staff Section. The Chair shall call meetings of the Executive Committee as necessary, by teleconference if outside of regularly scheduled annual meeting or professional development seminar.

Article VI: Elections

The Chair appoints a Nominating Committee composed of a past Chair and two voting members of the Staff Section with consideration to geographic representation. The Nominating Committee shall compile a slate of nominees for the positions of: Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, and such other officers deemed necessary.
A slate of nominees shall be submitted for a vote of the membership at the annual meeting. Additional nominations can be made from the floor by the voting membership. Officers are elected by a simple majority of the voting members of the Staff Section present. The terms of officers commence immediately upon close of the annual meeting at which they are elected and continue through annual meeting the following year.

Article VII: Vacancies-Officers

The Chair-Elect automatically succeeds to the office of the Chair in the event of a vacancy. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chair-Elect, the Executive Committee shall appoint a member to assume the duties of that office until the next election. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Secretary, the Executive Committee shall appoint a new Secretary to fulfill the remainder of the term.

Article VIII: Regional Coordinators

There are seven Regional Coordinators appointed by the Chair for a one-year term. The duties of the Regional Coordinators include:
- Maintain communications with the states assigned to them.
- Submit reports to the Secretary on activities within their region for inclusion in Newsl ine.
- Assist in compiling updates for staff directory.
- Assume responsibilities as assigned by the Chair.

Article IX: Publications

A directory of legislative research librarians is published annually by the Staff Section, as well as a quarterly newsletter, Newsl ine. Other publications may be issued. The NCSL staff contact has responsibility for reproduction and distribution of Staff Section publications.

Article X: Amendments

The by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the voting members present at any annual meeting or Professional Development Seminar of the Staff Section. Notice of proposed amendments to the by-laws shall be provided to the membership 30 days prior to the meeting.

History:

Amended August 1986
Amended August 1990, Nashville, Tennessee
Amended July 1994, New Orleans, Louisiana

Amended July 1998, Las Vegas, Nevada
Amended August 2007, Boston, Massachusetts
Amended July 2010, Louisville, Kentucky
PROPOSED BYLAWS
OF THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH LIBRARIANS STAFF SECTION

Article I: General Provisions

Section 1: Name

The name of the organization shall be the Legislative Research Librarians (LRL) Staff Section of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). LRL is part of the legislative staff division of NCSL.

Section 2: Membership

Membership is open to state, commonwealth and territorial legislative librarians and other staff providing similar state legislative services. Associate Membership (non-voting) is open to all other interested individuals.

Section 3: Purpose

The purpose of the LRL Staff Section is to provide an effective information exchange network and quality services for legislators, their constituents, and legislative staff. The staff section’s objectives to implement this overall purpose are:

1. Enhance the professionalism and skills of members of the staff section;
2. Contribute to the accuracy and authenticity of legislative products and other pertinent information provided to state legislatures;
3. Sponsor the annual NCSL LRL Notable Document Awards; and
4. Promote the involvement of staff section members in the activities of NCSL.

Article II: Meetings

The staff section may sponsor professional development activities to provide continuing education and enhance professionalism. An annual business meeting shall be held to coincide with the NCSL Legislative Summit. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the chair.

Article III: Governance

Section 1: Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is composed of the staff section officers. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to transact the business of the staff section, including planning and presenting staff section programs at the NCSL Legislative Summit and other NCSL meetings. Meetings may be conducted at the discretion of the chair.

Section 2: Officers

The staff section officers are the chair, vice chair, secretary, and immediate past chair. Each officer must be a voting member of the staff section.

1. The chair shall serve a one year term and shall preside at meetings of the Executive Committee and staff section, and shall have general management and control of the affairs of the staff section subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The chair may appoint special committees to assist in the performance of the Executive Committee’s responsibilities.

2. The vice chair shall serve a one year term and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the chair. In the absence of the chair, the vice chair shall preside at Executive Committee and staff section meetings. The vice chair shall succeed the following year to the office of chair.

3. The chair and vice chair, or their designees, shall represent the staff section on the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) of NCSL and shall participate in the activities and projects of such committees of the LSCC to which they are assigned.
4. The secretary shall serve a one year term and shall record minutes of all staff section meetings and perform additional duties as may be assigned by the chair. The secretary shall preside at Executive Committee and staff section meetings in the absence of the chair and vice chair. The secretary shall succeed the following year to the office of vice chair.

5. The immediate past chair shall serve a one year term, and in the absence of the chair, vice chair, and secretary, shall preside at Executive Committee and staff section meetings.

Section 3: Regional Directors

The seven regional directors of the staff section shall be appointed by the chair for a term of one year and are eligible for re-appointment. Former officers may be appointed as directors. The duties of the office include: maintain communications with the states assigned to them; submit reports to the NCSL staff liaison on activities within their region for inclusion in the staff section newsletter; assist in compiling updates for the staff section directory; and assume responsibilities as assigned by the staff section chair.

Section 4: Vacancies

1. If the office of the chair becomes vacant, the Executive Committee shall appoint a new chair to fulfill the remainder of the term. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to members with prior LRL officer experience.

2. If the office of the vice chair becomes vacant, the Executive Committee shall appoint a member to assume the duties of that office until the next election. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to members with prior LRL officer experience.

3. If the office of the secretary becomes vacant, the Executive Committee shall appoint a new secretary to fulfill the remainder of the term.

4. If a regional director position becomes vacant, the chair shall appoint a replacement to fulfill the remainder of the term.

Article IV: Elections

Section 1: Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is composed of the immediate past chair, who shall serve as chair of the Nominating Committee, the vice chair, and one other voting member appointed by the Nominating Committee chair, with consideration to geographic representation. The Nominating Committee shall solicit nominations from voting members for the office of secretary and secure a candidate. The Nominating Committee shall inform the LRL Executive Committee of their proposed slate prior to April 30 of each year.

Section 2: Voting and Elections

LRL Elections will take place during the month of May in a manner prescribed by the Executive Committee. The slate will be approved by a simple majority. Votes will be due no later than midnight in the sender’s time zone on May 15. The newly elected list of LRL officers will be announced to the full membership no later than June 1.

Section 3: Terms of Office

The current chair shall preside at the LRL business meeting held in conjunction with the NCSL Legislative Summit. The term of office of the newly elected officers will commence at the end of the Legislative Summit held in that year.
Proposed Bylaws, continued from page 9

Article V: Publications and Communications

The staff section shall publish an annual online membership directory, a periodic newsletter and other publications and reports at the discretion of the Executive Committee or chair. The chair or the chair’s designee shall provide the members with a monthly update on staff section activities.

Article VI: LRL Revenue Account

A revenue account for LRL shall be maintained by NCSL and used for professional development purposes of the staff section. Professional development activities include, but are not limited to, speaker honoraria and travel expenses; brochures, handouts and meeting materials; program-related costs such as audio-visual charges, meeting room rental and ground transportation for site visits; and other expenses approved by the staff section Executive Committee.

Article VII: Amendments

The bylaws may be amended at any staff section meeting by a majority vote of the voting members. The Executive Committee or chair shall provide notice of proposed amendments to the bylaws to the membership 30 days prior to the meeting.

History:
Amended August 1986
Amended August 1990, Nashville, Tennessee
Amended July 1994, New Orleans, Louisiana
Amended July 1998, Las Vegas, Nevada
Amended August 2007, Boston, Massachusetts
Amended July 2010, Louisville, Kentucky
Proposed Amendments, August 2013, Atlanta, Georgia

NCSL Publications

Reports
• State Tax Actions 2012– Rafool, M.; Haggerty, T.

LegisBriefs
• Broken Trust: Elder Financial Exploitation Legislation–Vol. 20, No. 45
• Newborn Health Screenings–Vol. 20, No. 47
• Private School Choice–Vol. 20, No. 48
• Mental Health Professionals’ Duty to Warn–Vol. 21, No. 01
• Individual Development Accounts–Vol. 21, No. 02
• Regulating Ownership of Exotic Animals–Vol. 21, No. 03
• Using Hotspotting to Control Health Care Costs–Vol. 21, No. 04
• Keeping Bicyclists and Pedestrians Safe–Vol. 21, No. 05
• Voter ID in the Courts–Vol. 21, No. 06
• Medicaid Program Integrity: Fighting Fraud, Waste and Abuse–Vol. 21, No. 07
• Using Land Around Military Installations: State-Federal Partnerships–Vol. 21, No. 08
• Oral Health Workforce–Vol. 21, No. 09
• Reducing Correctional Health Care Spending–Vol. 21, No. 10
• Private School Choice for Students with Disabilities–Vol. 21, No. 11
• Costs of Voter ID–Vol. 21, No. 12

NCSL • LRL - 11
2013 Notable Document Award Nominations

Deadline: May 24, 2013

Nominations are now open for the 2013 Notable Document Awards. The Notable Document Awards are sponsored by NCSL’s Legislative Research Librarians staff section (LRL). Winners will be announced at the NCSL Legislative Summit in Atlanta, Georgia, in August 2013.

The purpose of the awards is to:

- Formally recognize excellence in documents that explore topics of contemporary interest to legislators and staff by presenting substantive material in an outstanding format.
- Advertise the extensive range of information available to legislators and staff.
- Increase participation by legislative research librarians in the States Information Network.
- Encourage deposit of documents with NCSL and the Council of State Governments (CSG) by subject-appropriate publishing organizations.

Notable Document submissions will be judged on the criteria listed below. The document:

- Clearly and prominently displays title, author, publisher and date.
- Contains a title that reflects actual content.
- Appears relevant to identifiable readership.
- Significantly contributes to knowledge of concern to legislators.
- Is innovative in presentation of material.
- Contains strong bibliographic/footnote entries.
- Presents information accurately and clearly in an organized fashion.
- Offers graphics that are readily grasped.
- Was published within the last two years.
- Compares state activities in an arena of legislative interest in a comprehensible manner.
- Expands understanding of government processes, functions, or relationships.
- Attempts to provide balance and perspective from various sides in the political spectrum.

Documents will be evaluated by the 2013 Notable Document Awards Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Lincoln of Minnesota. Committee members are Carol Blackburn of Minnesota, Ingrid Hernquists of New Jersey, and Frances Thomas of Louisiana.

There is no limit to the number of titles you can nominate, but please submit a separate nomination form for each document. Documents should be submitted using the electronic form available at http://www.ncsl.org/legislative-staff/lrl/notable-documents-award-nominations.aspx and sent via email with either a link to an online version or with an attached PDF version of the document.

A "document" for purposes of this award is defined as one produced by a federal, state, or local government agency, by a foundation, consulting firm, or quasi-public or private sector non-profit organization. Format includes print, microfilm, CD-ROM, periodical/serial or URL.

For more information, contact LRL liaison Jeanne Mejeur at jeanne.mejeur@ncsl.org or call 303-856-1467.

12 - NCSL • LRL
State News – Spring 2013

The questions for this issue are:

1. What has been the biggest surprise in your legislative session?
2. What has generated the most controversy in your legislative session?
3. What would you like everyone to know about your legislative session?
4. What would you like everyone to know about your library?

ATLANTIC NORTHERN
Coordinator: Carrie Rose, Connecticut
No submissions.

ATLANTIC CENTRAL
Coordinator: Julia Covington, North Carolina

Sara Zimmerman, Delaware
1. I just passed my one-year mark here in the beginning of March so I may not be the best judge of what’s surprising but it did seem that there were more younger people (under 40) included in the Freshman legislators this year.
2. Like most states there have been a collection of bills on guns, which have brought out some crowds to Legislative Hall (both for and against). There is also a bill (SB19) that seeks to abolish the death penalty, the testimony for that was emotional and difficult to hear at times. We’re told that a bill allowing gay marriage will be coming soon, as of yet I haven’t spotted any protestors or supporters for that but I’m sure they’re coming!
3. I’ll have to think about this question!
4. I’m working on raising the profile of the Legislative Library and it seems to be working.

Annette Haldeman, Maryland
1. The biggest surprise of the legislative session was that the legislature took up a number of controversial issues. By all accounts, the 2013 session was expected to be very calm and quiet, but the legislature took up gun control legislation, the repeal of the death penalty, and the imposition of a gas tax (which hadn’t been raised in almost 20 years), all of which gained final passage.
2. Without a doubt, Maryland’s Firearms Safety Act of 2013, recently passed by the legislature, generated the most controversy in the Maryland General Assembly’s 2013 Legislative Session. Both proponents and opponents of the legislation rallied and testified in Annapolis over the course of the legislative session. The committee hearing on the legislation in the House of Delegates took 14 hours, and the bill was debated over countless hours throughout the session by both chambers, who eventually agreed to their amended version of the governor’s initial proposal. The legislation now awaits the governor’s signature.
3. The 2013 session of the Maryland General Assembly was one that covered a myriad of issues in a short amount of time. There were several high profile measures that met with various levels of success. As mentioned, the governor’s gun control legislation was among one of the most controversial, yet successful measures during the 2013 session. Measures improving access to early voting were also approved, and campaign finance laws were tweaked. Notably, a measure concerning liability for death or personal injury caused by a dog, seeking to overturn a controversial court opinion on the matter, was unable to gain final passage. The successes of this legislative session, however, were a complete reversal of events that occurred during the 2012 session, where the legislature did not pass several key budgetary measures.
before the session’s close, and had to reconvene for a special session in late spring.

4. The Maryland Legislative Library is a well-used resource by many staff members in the Department of Legislative Services and by the General Assembly members and their staff. Often, staff and members turn to and trust the library for help with detailed questions related to legislation, constituent concerns, and other important research. The librarians have a great mix of institutional knowledge, expertise with legislative and other informational resources, and a willingness to go above and beyond for staff and legislators.

Cathy Martin, North Carolina

The 2012 General Assembly changed the convening time for sessions beginning in 2013, establishing a one-day organizational session Jan. 9, after which the rank-and-file left for three weeks. This made a huge difference in how things got started. During this hiatus, the leadership organized committees and developed rules, and otherwise got things ready for business. Bill drafters were quite busy during this time, as the newly-seated members were able to get their ideas firmed up in legislation to be filed when they returned. This was a departure from previous sessions, which often took weeks to organize, during which time many members often found themselves with little business to do. When the 2013 session reconvened on Jan. 30, everyone was fully engaged in the process and legislative business boomed.

Both chambers have gone electronic this session which has led to big changes in how the Library handles bills. We still keep one set of paper bills, but will no longer retain them archivally. Technical Librarian/Indexer Brian Peck is working completely from digital files (two screens). We’re mindful of the digital traps, but we all appreciate not having so much paper to handle.

Of course, our biggest session surprise was the December decision to close one of our two Library locations with little notice and right before the Jan. 9 session. It was quite challenging (the Library staff were incredible!), and we still miss our historic location of 50 years, but have just about recovered. Having all legislative history materials consolidated in one location has actually been more convenient for us and for researchers. But we do miss having that presence in the in the Legislative Building in addition to our larger location in the Legislative Office Building.

GULF COASTAL
Coordinator: Elisa Naquin, Louisiana

Helen Hanby, Alabama

1. I would say that there haven’t been any real surprises in the session so far.
2. The Alabama Accountability Act, allowing parents with a child attending a failing school to enroll that child in a non-failing school and receive a tax credit, has generated the most controversy this session.
3. The session has gone pretty much as expected.
4. The Alabama Legislative Reference Service has had budget cuts over the last few years. Therefore, the library has had to cut back too. We cancelled subscriptions to products, such as AmJur and Corpus Juris. The library costs have been cut to the bare bone.

Nell Smith, Arkansas

1. There were two big surprises of the legislative session: 1.) Big River Steel announced plans to build a $1.1 billion steel mill in the state and the Legislature had to decide whether to approve the use of state funds to lure the project here. 2.) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services gave Arkansas the green light to use Medicaid
expansion funding to purchase private health insurance for people under 138% of poverty, and the Legislature had to decide whether to approve that appropriation.

2. The Medicaid expansion issue was probably the most controversial.
I don’t think we have answers for your third and fourth questions.

Frances Thomas, Louisiana
1. Prior to the legislative session Governor Bobby Jindal advocated a tax reform package that eliminated the state personal and corporate income taxes. Accompanying these repeals was an increase of the state sales tax, the taxation of services, and an increase of the tobacco tax. In the Governor’s address to the Legislature, he dropped nearly the entire reform package, leaving only the repeal or phase-out of the state personal income tax on the table. The second week of the legislative session, the House Ways and Means Committee indefinitely deferred all legislation repealing and/or phasing-out the state income tax.

2. The greatest controversy of the session involved the proposed tax reforms. Parties expressing opposition included the clergy and businesses over the increase in the state sales tax. The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry also opposed portions of the reform package. It brought to mind Senator Russell Long’s comment about tax reform, "Don’t tax you, don’t tax me, tax that fellow behind the tree!"

3. Odd year sessions are restricted to fiscal matters. Legislators may also introduce an unlimited number of local and special bills and five other bills that are not in fiscal or local in nature. For this reason, odd number years have much lower numbers of bills proposed than even year sessions.

4. We have purchased Inmagic Presto for DB/

Textworks and will be implementing it after session, in June. Presto will replace Inmagic Webpublisher Pro. We’d be interested in hearing from any other legislative libraries that have made this transition.

Eddie Weeks, Tennessee
1. The Governor requested his school vouchers bill be withdrawn when it was threatened with too many amendments.

2. A bill that would have tied TANF payments to a child’s success in school and parental involvement.

3. This year should be the earliest adjournment in a decade.

4. My office is decorated with magnets and gargoyles.

GREAT LAKES
Coordinator: Anne Rottmann, Missouri

Anne Rottmann, Missouri
1. That the House and Senate seem to be getting along better and legislation is moving faster. They have been of the same party for a number of years, but this year legislation does not seem to be getting bogged down. In fact, the Senate has been moving extremely fast on their bills, something that they as a body do not normally do.

2. The most controversy this session has been over the scanning of documents by our Department of Revenue with respect to driver’s license renewal. The department made a database of conceal carry endorsements and was sued by someone over privacy. This has caused the legislature to investigate, threaten to withhold funding and question the department and our Highway Patrol over what has been done with the information. This issue has dominated our state news for the past month.
3. For the first time since taking control of the Legislature, the Republicans hold a veto-proof majority in both houses.

4. We continue to provide information and answers to questions in any way we can, be it electronic or traditional methods. We created a database of former and current members about a year and a half ago and have found it to be invaluable. Thanks to LRL for showing us how useful it could be.

Debbie Tavenner, Ohio

1. We have not finished our budget yet, but the House of Representatives, which passed its version late last night, changed or did not include three of the Governor’s initiatives on Medicaid expansion, tax reform, and education funding. The Governor and both houses of the Legislature are of the same political party.

2. So far, as evidenced by crowds at the State House, the exclusion of Medicaid expansion, as proposed by the Governor in the House version of the budget, has generated the most controversy.

3. It does not have a constitutional or statutory deadline. It can go on for the full two years. But they usually take breaks.

4. We are scanning everything we can to put digital documents into our catalog. Our hardworking scanner feeder tray is held up by a tape dispenser, but we scan on!

Pat Reichert, Wisconsin

1. My favorite bill so far is AB137, which creates a hunting season for woodchucks.

2. Not including the biennial budget, one bill that is getting a lot of attention is AB85 which changes the governing structure of Milwaukee County. If you’re curious about other Wisconsin bills, I suggest using the Subject Index to Legislation at https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/related/subject_index/index.

3. It’s Wisconsin’s 101st legislative session. Sessions were annual until 1883 when the state switched to a biennial session.

4. We are switching to RDA cataloging which directs catalogers to spell out most abbreviations, like “page” instead of “p.” and “Department” instead of “Dept.” There’s a learning curve and a lot of authority record clean up in our future.

CENTRAL NORTHERN
Coordinator: Jonetta Douglas, Iowa

Clare Charlson, South Dakota

1. The biggest surprise is probably that members of the majority party (Republican party) and the minority party (Democratic party) in both houses worked together to develop an economic development package for the state that was signed into law by the Governor. That level of cooperation and coordination between the political parties has not taken place in recent years and is especially notable considering the majority party is very dominant and is often able to pass legislation without any votes from the minority party.

2. Probably the most controversy was generated by a bill signed into law by the Governor that will give school districts the option to arm certain school employees if those employees are willing to be armed and undergo the prescribed training. The bill was opposed by many educators in the state and the groups who represent them before the Legislature, but it passed nonetheless.

Elizabeth Lincoln, Minnesota

1. The biggest surprise this legislative session in Minnesota actually happened at the November election when both the House and the Senate changed from Republican to Democratic control. The switch reversed the equally surprising switch
that occurred in the election two years earlier. The House, Senate, and the Governor are all of the same party for the first time since 1990.

2. The issues that have generated the most controversy this legislative session include two issues that many legislatures are also addressing: gun control and same-sex marriage. (A constitutional amendment proposing a ban on same-sex marriage failed on last November’s ballot.) Other major contentious issues include the establishment of the state’s health exchange, home day care unionization, University of Minnesota administration issues, state funding of Mayo clinic expansion infrastructure, fracking issues, minimum wage, and bonding. Fiscal issues dominate including the means for funding the Vikings football stadium that passed last year. The state is experiencing a shortfall in e-pull tab revenue, and how to address the education accounting shift. But the February budget forecast showed a lower-than-expected deficit.

3. We are expecting the legislative session to go to the last day allowed by the constitution. And a single party in the House, Senate, and Governor’s office does not mean that there isn’t controversy!

4. The Library’s director, Robbie LaFleur, retired after 13 years as director and 27 years at the Library. The Library hosted a retirement party for her on March 1, her last day. Robbie is planning on taking some time off, spending time with her three young granddaughters, and possibly returning to the working world in another capacity in the future. (See photos on p. 19.)

Jonetta Douglas, Iowa

1. The biggest surprise of this session may be the continuing dispute between the chambers on overall and specific state spending despite Iowa’s nearly $1 billion surplus.

Another surprise may turn out to be HJR 14. It was only introduced April 16 and probably won’t be considered this late in the session due to committee consideration deadlines which have already passed. It is a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to religion and religious practices.


2. So far, what seems to have generated if not the most controversy at least a great deal of controversy is SF 296. This bill deals with expansion of Medicaid.

3. The session does seem to be progressing no matter what the issues are and things are getting done.

4. The LSA has been very involved in a project with other state agencies and the Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC) to make records dating back to 1838, eight years before Iowa became a state available online. These documents include bills, journals, Iowa acts, Iowa code and many other documents produced by LSA.

http://abetteriowa.desmoinesregister.com/2013/04/14/nonprofit-group-helps-iowa-put-old-records-online/

Sonia Gavin, Montana

1. The biggest surprise in the 2013 Montana Legislative session was that our budget bill, House Bill 2, passed the House of Representatives unanimously with no amendments. When the bill was transmitted to the Senate, there were indeed a number of amendments to the budget.

2. There was a bill to criminalize physician assisted suicide, HB 505, which caused tremendous controversy. The bill was indefinitely postponed in the Senate, which essentially killed the bill.
Medicaid Expansion and Pensions were the other issues that have garnered much debate.

3. It was a pretty cordial session overall. Both chambers have a Republican majority, and we have a Democratic governor, so there were compromises and concessions on both sides.

4. The Legislative Reference Center is the favorite quiet place for legislators and lobbyists. With a staff of two, myself and my assistant Pam Weitz, we strive to provide the best service to legislators and legislative staff. We are small but mighty!

CENTRAL SOUTHERN
Coordinator: Molly Otto, Colorado

Molly Otto, Colorado

1. A number of staff thinks that the session has seemed longer this year, but there are now less than three weeks left. Legislative Council staff may receive slight salary increases, after not having raises for the past five years.

2. The legislature has dealt with a number of difficult and contentious issues: civil unions; medical/recreational marijuana legislation; fracking and gun control.

3. Audio committee hearings and floor proceedings from 2012 to the current session are now archived on the Internet. Users can retrieve, listen to and download these proceedings. Video coverage of the House and Senate chambers from 2010 to current are available on the Internet at the Colorado Channel or can be viewed on Comcast channel 165 or http://www.coloradochannel.net/.

4. I have been working with Legislative Council staff in improving the required reports database, which retired librarian Gay Roesch previously implemented. We plan to put the database on the Web within the next few months.

Despite the availability of WiFi in the Capitol and more people using tablets, the library and its computer lab still have steady use.

Tracy Kimball, New Mexico

1. Our session’s biggest surprise was the last minute passage, literally, of a controversial omnibus tax bill that one blog described as "Dems Cave In On Tax Cuts."

2. The most controversy was, and continues to be, generated by the last minute tax bill (passed). Runners-up were education reform (mixed results) and background checks for purchases at gun shows (failed).

3. We created a health exchange and also passed a little-noticed bill to create a long-term care insurance partnership program, which allows "individuals who have purchased and exhausted the benefits of a long-term care insurance policy to protect some of their assets from the requirement that they be legally destitute before receiving Medicaid benefits."

4. We’re finally going to launch our wiki-like digital library this spring. Some of the long-term folks may remember that I’ve been campaigning for this at our office since our PDS in Santa Fe in 2007. It’s now up and ready for use by legislative staff here and we’ll do some sessions to introduce it when our post-session work slows down.

Christine Chen, Oklahoma

Our legislative session will be over soon. We are in the transition to a new library system throughout the end of June. Since we are short on staff, everyone needs to assist on the transition process. It is kind of crazy right now!! Several big topic issues are still in progress, such as workers compensation amendment, income tax cut and looking for funding to repair the “crumbling” state capitol building.
State News, continued

Our state capitol was named as one of Oklahoma’s most endangered historic places by Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. Covered scaffolding has been in place since September 2011 on the southeast entrance of the capitol to protect people from falling pieces of limestone. How sad, right?

Shelley Day, Utah
1. From my perspective: Stress was less; a delightful surprise!
2. From probably everybody’s perspective: Weapons legislation.
3. The Utah Legislature meets only 45 calendar days for its regular general session (fourth Monday in January to second Thursday in March), meaning the legislature was in session only 33 days this year (not in session on President’s Day, Saturdays or Sundays). Passed bills (including resolutions) = 524 of the 748 bills (including resolutions) introduced. The governor vetoed only one bill, HB 76, Concealed Weapon Carry Amendments.
Normal effective date for bills is 60 days after session adjourns sine die, this year the effective date for most bills is May 14.
4. It’s still in existence and I’m still the solo library staff. Come visit any time! As a bonus, you’ll get to see my “Closest to the Hole” trophies in person!

WEST COASTAL
Coordinator: Maeve Roche, CA

Brooke Daly and Mary Pagenkopf, Alaska

The Alaska Legislature gavelled out at midnight April 14 ending the first year of a 2-year session. The bill that generated the most controversy was SB 21, the Governor’s reform of Alaska’s oil and gas production tax, which passed. He maintains that the reform is fair, will encourage new production, restore balance and be durable. Critics maintain the new tax structure will simply give away billions in state revenue with no commitment from the oil companies to increase investment or production.

Library News: Our goal of making all the important Alaska legislative materials available online is progressing by leaps and bounds. Since 2011, the number of digitization projects in the works has expanded to include committee and floor audio (from the early 1970’s on), aided by the hiring of tech-savvy temporary staff by our Information Services Department. They have also made vast improvements to the legislature’s website, adding keyword searching and a user-friendly version of the unannotated Alaska Statutes. We have begun to digitize the LRL collection of reports to the legislature. Currently online is 1953-1975, and counting.

Maeve Roche, California

The big news for the California State Library is our upcoming move back to Library and Courts Building I (LCI). This building has been under historic renovation for the last few years, which means that most of the library materials housed in that building have been stored in a warehouse just outside of downtown Sacramento. Staff who work in that building were temporarily relocated to the warehouse or to our newer building, Library and Courts Building II (LCII), across the street. Our library staff, in the California Research Bureau, were not affected by this move—we are located in LCII. However, we are looking forward to having our colleagues and library materials “back home” in LCI—a wonderful historic building!
State News, continued

You can read more about this big move and see pictures of our grand Library and Courts Building I in this recent press release, http://www.library.ca.gov/pressreleases/pdf/Library_courts_move_back.pdf.

Kristin Ford, Idaho

1. The 2013 Idaho Legislature had one of the largest freshman classes ever (nearly 40 percent), partly as a result of legislative districts having been redistricted. The sizeable group of freshman really turned the status quo on its head, as they showed a spirit of independence and unpredictability. Traditional alliances and agreements were no longer foregone conclusions in many instances! Another surprise was the removal of the standing Speaker and the election of another member in his place. No Speaker had been ousted in Idaho in decades.

2. Creating a state health insurance exchange was probably the most controversial legislation of the session, followed by a personal property tax repeal.

3. no answer

4. The Idaho Legislative Library is super excited to have been selected as the location for the 2013 LRL Professional Development Seminar!

We will be holding meetings in our newly-restored Capitol here in Boise. In addition, Boise is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, and it will be fun to introduce you all to our city.

We will have lots of good educational programs and networking/sharing opportunities to learn from each other, so I’d like to invite each and every one of you to attend the LRL PDS in Boise on Sept. 18-20, 2013!

Check out the Idaho Capitol Restoration at http://www.capitolcommission.idaho.gov/.

Retirements

Robbie LaFleur
Minnesota

Robbie LaFleur, long-time director of the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library, retired in March 2013. Photos by Elizabeth Lincoln.

Nan Bowers
Nevada

Nan Bowers, long-time legislative librarian for the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau, also retired in March 2013.