Chair's Column

Eddie Weeks, Legislative Librarian, Tennessee General Assembly

To quote the title of a Grateful Dead album, “What a Long Strange Trip It’s Been.” Three years ago I accepted the office of secretary of LRL; and now I leave the office of Chair to return to anonymity.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement. I gladly turn the Tiara of Command over to Sabah Eltareb of California. I thank everyone for putting up with me; I know that I leave LRL in good hands.

As my final action as Chair, I encourage you to become involved with LRL and NCRL. Remember that it is the National Conference of State Legislatures, not Legislators. There’s always a place for staff and your contributions are welcome.

LRL needs fearless leadership. We are the ‘small but mighty’ staff section, but to hold that title we must remain mighty. We must take the lead role on topics of information literacy, authoritative sources, and access to information, and we must educate others in these topics.

And we can accomplish so much more together than separately.

Aug. 12-15 will see the NCRL Legislative Summit in Atlanta, at which the LRL attendees will vote on the proposed bylaws re-write. Sept. 18-20 will see LRL members attending a Professional Development Seminar in Boise, Idaho.

Please make plans to attend one (or both!) of these meetings. LRL is its membership, and we need all of you.

Since I became Chair, I have watched as friends and colleagues retired, but haven’t seen many new faces join LRL. We much reach out to our new compatriots and bring them into LRL and NCRL. Without them, without new blood, LRL will wither and fade away.

Let’s not let that happen without one hell of a fight.

Coming up in the next issue of Newsline... whatever Sabah wants to put in there.

Still Fearless but no longer Your Leader,
Eddie
LRL Legislative Summit Plans

LRL officers have planned several very informative sessions and networking opportunities for our members at this year’s NCSL Legislative Summit in Atlanta, Aug. 12-15, 2013. The programs are listed below.

Monday, Aug. 12, 2013

3–4:15 p.m.
Legal Writing and Thinking
LSSS, RACSS, & LRL
Drafting bills and amendments takes expertise and experience. Learn best practices and tips of the trade from a senior legislative attorney.
Speaker: Becky Lennahan, Consultant and Former Deputy Director of the Office of Legislative Legal Services, Colorado

4:15–5:15 p.m.
Common Goals: Nonpartisan and Partisan Staff Roles
RACSS, LSS, LRL, NALFO & NLPES
Both nonpartisan and partisan staff have their unique roles in legislatures but also share common goals. This session will focus on how they can each better understand the needs and challenges of the other, so that they can work together more effectively.
Moderator: Sabrina Lewellen, Deputy Director, Arkansas Senate Panelists:
Sallie Bolton, Office of the Speaker, Kentucky House of Representatives
Walker Reagan, Research Director, North Carolina General Assembly

6:30–8:30 p.m.
LRL Dutch Treat Dinner
AZIO Downtown, 229 Peachtree Street Northeast
Join legislative librarians from around the country for a fun and festive evening at our annual Dutch Treat Dinner. Spouses and guests are welcome. RSVP to Jeanne Mejeur. Meet at the restaurant, AZIO Downtown, 229 Peachtree Street Northeast.

Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2013

7:30–8:30 a.m.
Public Access to Legislative Information
RACSS, LRL and LSSS
Citizens have the right of access to any public information, unless it is specifically exempt by law. Most legislative records, reports, bills or working papers are considered public records. Learn the requirements and exemptions in this informative session.
Moderator: Bryant Howe, Deputy Director, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, Utah Panelists:
Jon Heining, Texas Legislature
Eddie Weeks, Tennessee General Assembly
Tuesday, continued

3:30–5 p.m.
Legislative Staff University: Staying Engaged and Motivated
Legislative staff work in an environment where the motives that drive individual members may not always match the values of the institution. How can staff help legislators achieve their policy goals while ensuring that the process remains open and objective? Learn from Phil Boyle—a distinguished professor and leadership consultant who works with state and local governments on ethics, problem solving and decision making—about how to stay motivated and engaged during tough legislative sessions.
Presiding: Paula Dominguez, Rhode Island General Assembly

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2013

12:15–1:45 p.m.
Salute to Legislative Staff Luncheon
Join fellow legislative staffers from around the country to celebrate the outstanding work, commitment and contributions you make each year to America’s Legislatures! Art Hamilton, former member of the Arizona House of Representatives and NCSL President and CEO of a successful public affairs firm, will talk about the critical contributions legislative staff made to him in advancing his career, and to the legislature as an institution in sustaining its values. Hear his perspective on those qualities that staff may forget about during tough legislative sessions that make the whole thing possible. Don’t miss this inspiring and humorous presentation from a man that Bill Clinton called “one of the finest speakers I have ever heard.”
Speaker: Art Hamilton, The Art Hamilton Group, LLC, Arizona

3:15–4:15 p.m.
LRL Business Meeting
Legislative librarians hold their annual Business Meeting, to elect officers, consider amendments to the by-laws, present the Legislative Staff Achievement Award, announce the 2013 Notable Documents Awards winners, and plan activities for the coming year.
Presiding: Eddie Weeks, LRL Chair 2012-2013; Legislative Librarian, Tennessee General Assembly

4:15–5:15 p.m.
StateNet Training
Join fellow librarians in learning the basics of using NCSL’s Bill Information Service, a StateNet database available exclusively to state legislators and legislative staff. Search the full text of legislation in the 50 states, D.C. and the U.S. Congress, and summaries of Puerto Rico legislation.

Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013

1:45–4:15 p.m.
Program and Tour at the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum
LRL members will tour the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum and participate in a behind-the-scenes program on the Library and Archives. The Library is part of the Presidential Library system administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, and houses President Carter’s presidential papers. Space is limited and reservations are required. First priority will be given to LRL members. RSVP to Jeanne Mejeur.
2013 Legislative Staff Achievement Award Honoree

Mary Camp
Director, Texas Legislative Reference Library

It is with great pleasure that LRL honors Mary Camp of Texas with the 2013 Legislative Staff Achievement Award. Mary is the director of the Texas Legislative Reference Library and the immediate past chair of LRL.

Mary Camp has set a standard of leadership and service to the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section, to her colleagues in the Texas Legislature, and to legislative staff throughout the nation. No stranger to honors and accolades, her abilities have been often noted and rewarded.

With over three decades of work for the State of Texas, Mary Camp is truly the person to know when it comes to questions about the Texas legislative process. In 2006, Mary’s organizational and leadership abilities were recognized as she was named Director of the Legislative Reference Library; she had previously served as Assistant Director and Administrative Services Manager.

Mary’s devotion and dedication to her work is properly acknowledged by her colleagues. Mary has been described by the Chief Clerk of the House as "the unsung hero of the Texas legislative process," the Senate Parliamentarian sees her "visionary work in developing research tools" as making Texas residents a part of the legislative process, rather than observers of the process; and the Senate Calendar Clerk simply sums up her "help and guidance" as "invaluable."

Mary Camp’s extensive contributions to librarianship and the legislative community were recognized in 2009 with her election as Secretary of the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section. The Chair of LRL, Elizabeth Lincoln, describes Mary as a "steady and wise presence" in all meetings.

In 2011 Mary Camp was named Chair of LRL. She ably performed these new duties and guided LRL forward and upward to new heights. Even after stepping down as Chair, she continued to serve LRL, as Immediate Past Chair and as Co-Chair of the LRL By-Laws Revision Committee.

Mary has also led by example as a part of NCSL. She has served as moderator for NCSL webinars and also at the NCSL Legislative Summit. She has ably served on the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee of NCSL and served on the Host State Committee of the Legislative Summit in 2011. She has repeatedly demonstrated an ability to bring together different viewpoints and personalities to mesh them into an agreed-upon singular vision.

Mary holds a Bachelor of Public Administration degree from St. Edward’s University and a Master of Science in Information Studies degree from The University of Texas at Austin. She and her husband Crockett "Bear" Camp dote on their grandchildren and their furry felines; Mary is happy to share pictures of all.

Mary Camp’s invaluable contributions and continuing service are hereby recognized as she is the 2013 Legislative Research Librarians’ Legislative Staff Achievement Award recipient.
LRL 2013 Professional Development Seminar

Sept. 18–20, 2013
Boise, Idaho

Plans are well underway for the 2013 LRL Professional Development Seminar in Boise, Idaho, Sept. 18-20, 2013. This is the first seminar LRL has held in several years and it will give LRL members the opportunity to exchange information and ideas, renew our professional contacts, and share our expert knowledge and abilities.

LRL vice-chair Sabah Eltareb and Idaho host state chair Kristin Ford have led the planning committee, assisted by Mary Camp, Sonia Gavin, and Eddie Weeks. Together they have come up with a fantastic agenda, with useful, informative programs and many opportunities to network with your fellow librarians. All the details about the seminar are available online at http://www.ncsl.org/legislative-staff/lrl/2013-lrl-professional-development-seminar.aspx. You’ll find the agenda, hotel information and registration options. The early-bird discount registration deadline is Aug. 30.

Please make plans to join us in beautiful Boise, Idaho. We look forward to seeing you there!

Preliminary Agenda

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013

Registration 3-5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013

Registration 8-5 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions 9-9:30 a.m.

Five Minutes of Fame: What’s New in Your Library 9:30-10:30 a.m.
A chance for everyone to catch up on what is hot at your legislative library in this roundtable session!

Break 10:30-10:45 a.m.

Tour of Idaho State Capitol 10:45 a.m.-Noon
Our Idaho hostess, Kristin Ford, will give us a guided tour of the newly renovated Idaho Capitol.

Luncheon at Capitol 12-1 p.m.

Invigorate Your Library’s Web Site! 1:15-2:15 p.m.
Whether you have a library staff of one or 25, we’ll go over some hints and examples of making your website a proud example of disseminating information in an interesting, user-friendly fashion.

Social Media and Libraries 2:15-3:15 p.m.
YouTube, Pinterest, MySpace, Facebook, Tumblr, RSS Feeds, Twitter, Instagram, GooglePlus! With social media technology flying fast and furious, how’s a librarian to know which technologies are worth the time investment? Explore the most effective social media for libraries to connect with people.
Wednesday, continued

Break 3:15-3:30

Finding the Statistics Your Legislator Needs with American Factfinder 3:30-5 p.m.
Information from the Census 2010 is out there, but can you find it when you need it? Learn how to formulate your searches effectively from an expert.

LRL Dutch Treat Dinner at The Bardenay Restaurant 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013

Registration 8-5 a.m.

Nonpartisan Research in a Partisan World 9-10:15 a.m.
Dr. David Adler is the Director of the Andrus Center for Public Policy at Boise State University. A recipient of teaching, civic and writing awards, Dr. Adler has published works on American constitutional law. Known for their non-partisan nature, his scholarly writings have been reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court, widely cited by political scientists, historians and law professors, and invoked by both Republicans and Democrats serving in all three branches of government. He has consulted with members of Congress from both parties on a variety of constitutional issues, including impeachment, the war power and treaty termination. He earned a B.A. from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Utah.

Break 10:15-10:30 a.m.

State Legislatures, Past and Present 10:30-11:45 a.m.
Dr. Gary Moncrief is a University Foundation Research Scholar and University Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Boise State University. Dr. Moncrief received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara and Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky. In addition to serving on the BSU faculty for over 30 years, he has been a visiting professor at the University of Washington and Rutgers University. Dr. Moncrief has published five books and more than 55 journal articles and book chapters on various aspects of state politics, especially redistricting and state legislatures.

Picnic in Capitol Park Noon-1 p.m.

Boise Trolley Tour 1-3 p.m.
Explore Boise with a 75-minute narrated tour of Boise’s historic downtown district. Enjoy the open-air experience of riding on board “Miss Molly,” the replica trolley car and visiting the mansions of the Warm Springs neighborhood, the grounds of the old territorial Penitentiary, the Basque Block, attractions of Hyde Park and the downtown section of our governmental city.

Break 3-3:15 p.m.

The Art of the Reference Interview 3:15-4:15 p.m.
To get your patron the information they need, it’s essential to ask all of the right questions at the outset. Hear from our panel of librarians on the art of the reference interview.
Thursday, continued

**Exemplary Staff, Exemplary Service** 4:15-5:30 p.m.
How can we be better at what we do? Delve into the philosophical and practical aspects of being the best we can be!

**LRL Dutch Treat Happy Hour** at The Matador 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Optional Social Event: Idaho Shakespeare Festival** 7-9:30 p.m.
The Shakespeare Festival is one of Kristin’s favorite summer activities! This is an outdoor theater and you can bring your own picnic dinner with wine, or there is a café there where you can purchase delicious box meals. Approx. 7-9:30 p.m. Prices range from $25 - $50, depending on whether you want to spread a blanket on the grass or sit in a box seat with table and chairs. The play that will be running during the PDS is “The Foreigner.” Okay, so it’s not Shakespeare, but it’s non-stop hilarity in the form of a faux foreigner! Pathologically shy Charlie Baker needs to get away, and his friend Froggy knows just the place - his favorite little fishing lodge in rural Georgia. To get Charlie some much needed peace, Froggy convinces the locals that his friend doesn’t understand English. Before long, Charlie finds himself privy to assorted secrets and scandals discussed in front of him. Nonstop hilarity ensues and builds to an outrageously funny climax in which the “foreigner” just might save the day. [www.idahoshakespeare.org](http://www.idahoshakespeare.org)

Friday, Sept. 20

**Dealing with Difficult Patrons and Workplace Safety** 9-10:45 a.m.
Does your office have a safety plan in place? Whether or not your workplace has security that the TSA would envy, there are ways we can all improve workplace safety by defusing angry patrons and keeping an eye on each other.

Break 10:45-11 a.m.

**Public Records and Public Research** 11-12:15 p.m.
State public records laws sometimes blur the distinction, for librarians, between providing access to records and actually doing research for private parties. How much work do we do FOR the requestor who is a legislator? A legislative staffer? A member of the media? A state resident vs. a non-state resident?

**Lunch Downtown/Seminar Concludes**
Boise has many fine restaurants in the downtown area where you can share a meal and linger for some last minute conversation with friends.

Notable Document Award Winners 2013

The following documents were selected as the Notable Document Award Winners for 2013. Learn more about them in the fall issue of LRL Newsline.

- 2013 Nevada Education Data Book – Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau
- Budget 101: A Guide to the Budget Process in Texas – Texas Senate Research Center
- Civil War Sesquicentennial in Virginia: Impact at the Halfway Mark – Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission
- Digging into One-Call: A Review of Montana’s Underground Facility Damage Prevention Program – Montana Legislative Services Division
- Kentucky’s Boards, Commissions, and Similar Entities – Kentucky Program Review and Investigations Committee
- Legislative Reference Library of Texas Pinterest Boards – Texas Legislative Reference Library
- Louisiana’s Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast – Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana
- Ohio Facts, 2012 Edition – Ohio Legislative Service Commission
- Options for Creating a Separate Department of Medicaid Require Transition Planning – North Carolina General Assembly, Program Evaluation Division
- Report on Silica Sand – Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
- State Employee Compensation and Turnover – Idaho Office of Performance Evaluations

NCSL Publications

LegisBriefs

- Facilitating Veterans’ Employment in Health Care–Vol. 21, No. 13
- Buckling Up in Front and Back Seats–Vol. 21, No. 14
- Voter Verification Without ID Documents–Vol. 21, No. 15
- K-12 Online Learning Options–Vol. 21, No. 16
- Legislative Webcasts: Technology Trends and Policy Issues–Vol. 21, No. 17
- Using the Internet to Assist Voting–Vol. 21, No. 18
- Community Transformation Grants–Vol. 21, No. 19
- Microenterprise Development–Vol. 21, No. 20
- A Cornucopia of Food Choice Incentives–Vol. 21, No. 21
- National Prevention Strategy to Promote Environmental Health–Vol. 21, No. 22
- State Land Use Policies and Military Facilities–Vol. 21, No. 23
- Coordinating Medicaid and Health Insurance Exchanges–Vol. 21, No. 24