Chair’s Corner

“You mean there are other librarians out there who do what I do for the legislature, and you all meet once a year?”

—Comment received during the LRL Directory Update Project.

Have no fear—no librarian is an island!

Your colleagues at LRL know exactly what you’re going through and we want to support you. LRL offers many opportunities to support and connect with fellow legislative research librarians nationwide. These include sharing information via our listserv, viewing professional development webinars, and attending the annual NCSL Summit and the LRL Professional Development Seminar. We’re a vital, well respected community of highly specialized legislative librarians. Take advantage of what we offer, reach out and become more involved!

This is an exciting, interesting time to be involved in LRL. Here’s what’s happening now and what’s on the horizon.

The LRL Member Directory Update/Outreach Project is complete! The information you find in the online directory is now current. Enormous thank yous to the regional directors: Christine McCluskey (Connecticut), Annette Haldeman (Maryland), Robin Boatright Stadler (Louisiana), Debbie Tavenner (Ohio), Elizabeth Lincoln (Minnesota), Molly Otto (Colorado) and Eric Glover (Idaho). Also thanks to the LRL Executive Committee members—Betsy Haugen (Minnesota), Teresa Wilt (Nevada), Catherine Wusterhausen (Texas)—all of whom worked very hard to personally reach out to LRL Libraries to promote our staff section and gather updated directory information. Thank you for such a fantastic, thorough job. Help us keep the LRL directory current going forward by sending any new information to our staff section liaison, Megan McClure.

Are you looking for a way to recognize and honor an outstanding LRL member? We are currently seeking candidates for the Legislative Staff Achievement Award, which is presented annually to recognize an exceptional member of LRL. The deadline for LSAA nominations is April 24, 2018. We’re also currently seeking submissions for the Notable Documents Awards that are presented annually to formally recognize excellence in state or legislative documents and publications. The deadline for NDA nominations is May 25, 2018. Read more about both of these awards at the LRL website.

Upcoming Meetings: Put these dates on your calendar! NCSL Legislative Summit in Los Angeles, July 30-Aug. 2, will offer a diverse collection of training and networking opportunities, social events, tours of local libraries, the LRL annual business meeting and more. LRL and RELACS Joint PDS in Harrisburg, Penn., Oct. 4-6, will offer a variety of sessions on topics such as maintaining nonpartisanship, research skills, ethics, civility and harassment, plus tours of local libraries and museums.
Once again, we have a jam packed issue of Newsline for you to enjoy. Highlights include a profile of Anthony Aycock, the new legislative librarian in North Carolina, a profile of the Pennsylvania Senate Library, News from the States and additional information about those upcoming meetings!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions about ways LRL can help you improve your skills and knowledge and better serve you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Julia

Nominations Open! Legislative Staff Achievement Awards, Notable Document Awards and LRL Officers

Legislative Staff Achievement Awards
Name: Anthony Aycock, new legislative librarian in North Carolina

Nomination Deadline: April 24, 2018

The annual Legislative Staff Achievement Award was created by the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee to recognize excellence in supporting the work of a state legislature and strengthening the legislative institution. Each staff section associated with NCSSL may name up to two recipients—individuals, teams or legislative offices—for recognition each year. Recipients of the awards are presented with a plaque and are recognized by the NCSSL staff chair during the legislative staff luncheon at the NCSSL Legislative Summit.

All members of LRL and legislative libraries are eligible for this award. Nominations may be submitted by the nominee or by other members of the staff section. More information such as award criteria and the nomination form can be found here.

For more information you can contact NCSSL liaison to LRL Megan McClure 303-856-1355.

Notable Document Awards

Submission Deadline: May 25, 2018

By Elizabeth Lincoln, Minnesota

The annual Notable Documents Awards are presented by the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section.

The award was established in 1998 to recognize excellence in state documents that explore contemporary topics of interest to legislators and staff and present substantive material in an outstanding format.

Many states are not represented in the nominations, as we typically receive nominations from 20 or fewer states. Be sure your state is represented in the nominations this year!

Nominations are due May 25, and there is a simple form to fill out to submit a document. The committee reviews each document and uses a scorecard to rate each one. Visit the LRL home page for more information.

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.

Visit the LRL website to see the guidelines for selection and a list of previous winners. Nominations are due Friday, May 25, 2018. Watch for reminders on the NCSSL LRL listserv soon.

Contact Elizabeth Lincoln at elincoln@lrl.leg.mn or Megan McClure at megan.mcclure@ncsl.org if you have questions.

LRL Officer Nominations

The Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section is seeking nominations for candidates to run for secretary of the LRL Staff Section. The deadline for declaring your candidacy is Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Catherine Wusterhausen of Texas serves as the chair of this year’s Nominating Committee, with committee members Betsy Haugen of Minnesota and Pete Gayatinea of Hawaii.
Under the LRL Bylaws, the role of the secretary is as follows: “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 LRL Executive Committee and staff section meetings in the absence of both the chair and vice chair. The secretary shall succeed the following year to the office of vice chair.”

The secretary serves for one year and then automatically moves up for one-year terms as vice-chair, chair and immediate past chair. As vice-chair and chair, you will serve on the Legislative Staff Coordinating committee, which meets four times a year in various locations. Attending these meetings is not mandatory, but it is worthwhile to attend if you can as you meet the officers from other staff sections and learn about how other states’ legislatures work.

For questions or more information, please contact Nominating Committee chair Catherine Wusterhausen (Catherine.Wusterhausen@lrl.texas.gov) or LRL liaison Megan McClure (303-856-1355 or Megan.McClure@ncsl.org).

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**LRL 2018 Legislative Summit Information**

The NCSL Legislative Summit will be in Los Angeles, from July 30- Aug. 2. LRL will be co-sponsoring and participating in a wide array of professional development and networking sessions throughout the Summit. For more information visit the Summit website to view the full agenda and see registration and booking information.

LRL will be holding its annual ceremony to recognize the winners of the Notable Documents Awards, followed by the LRL business meeting. More information to come on LRL sponsored tours and co-sponsored sessions.

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**2018 LRL Professional Development Seminar Information**

The LRL Professional Development Seminar will be held jointly with the Research, Legal and Committee Staff Professional Association (RELACS) in Harrisburg, Penn., Oct. 4-6, 2018.

The LRL Professional Development Seminar brings together legislative librarians and information specialists from around the country. The 2018 seminar features sessions on important legislative issues, soft skills, best practices, opportunities for networking, and tours of the capitol, local libraries, museums and archives.

Registration is open, along with the official agenda, housing and transportation information.

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**Meet Anthony Aycock**

Anthony Aycock was a writer before he was anything else. At a young age, he impressed his grandmother with the stories and comic books he created. His grandmother, like most grandmothers, was contractually obligated to be impressed by him, but never mind.

Aycock began his working life at McDonald’s, where he clawed his way to restaurant general manager. In 1998, he attended Hamburger University, a real place. After 10 years in Ronald’s service, he deserved a break and became a librarian. Working in a library is exactly like working at McDonald’s, except you don’t have to see adults in hysterics because you offer Happy Meal toy No. 3 instead of No. 4. He got his M.L.I.S. from the University of South Carolina and went to work for Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, a Columbia-based law firm, as a library assistant. Following this were stints at Duke Energy Corporation, Womble Carlyle

Through the years, Aycock has indulged his first love, writing. He is an assistant editor for Convention Scene (www.conventionscene.com), a website devoted to comic book, sci-fi, and other fan conventions, and he has written for several magazines, including the Gettysburg Review, the Missouri Review, Ploughshares, Creative Nonfiction, Information Today, the Chronicle of Higher Education and Library Journal. His first book, “The Accidental Law Librarian,” was published in 2013.

Aycock is married and has two daughters, three grandsons and nine cats. That’s 87 lives he is partially responsible for. A North Carolina native, he loves UNC basketball, “The Andy Griffith Show” and fried foods, especially Twinkies.

About the Pennsylvania Senate Library

The Senate Library is the upper chamber’s main depository of law books and government documents.

It is located in Room 157 of the Main Capitol Building. The library is primarily used by senators and Senate staff. However, it is also open to the public, on a limited basis.

Senate Rules place the Senate Library under the direction of the secretary-parliamentarian, the day-to-day responsibility for operations is handled by the librarian of the Senate.

The Senate Library is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library remains open after hours when the Senate is in session.

Collection

Emphasis: The emphasis of the Senate Library collection is Pennsylvania legislative material, including histories and journals of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, statutes, and other Pennsylvania government documents. Additionally, the library has the case law of federal and state courts, law reviews, regulations, form books, and other support materials.

Senate Library Collection

1. Complete collection of The Laws of Pennsylvania, including the Colonial Laws
2. The Legislative Journals and Histories of both the Senate and House
3. The Manuals of Pennsylvania and the precursor, Smull’s Legislative Handbook
4. Committee reports/transcripts of Senate or House hearings
5. Reports submitted to the Senate by various departments and agencies
6. A reference and directory collection, i.e., atlases, dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc.

The Senate Library cooperates with the State Library and other libraries in the Capitol Complex to borrow and lend materials.

Reference

Reference questions are answered and research assistance is provided to users in person, by telephone, fax, mail and e-mail. The staff of the Senate Library is available to aid and instruct library users and researchers in all types of research, including LDP, Internet, and use of resources at other libraries. Our online catalog is available at http://library.pasen.gov/public/web.cfm

LRL Question

LRL asked out member libraries the following question about disaster planning:
Does your library have an emergency or disaster plan in place?
- When was the last time it was updated?
- Do you feel it is adequate?
- Does your library have in place any new innovative ideas for managing disasters or emergencies or have you heard of any innovative ideas begin used elsewhere?

Here are your responses:

**Alabama**
(from Helen Hanby)

The Legislative Services Library doesn’t have any disaster or emergency plans.

**Arkansas**
(from Chrissy Heider)

- Does your library have an emergency or disaster plan in place? Yes.
- When was the last time it was updated? They are updated periodically.
- Do you feel it is adequate? Yes.
- Does your library have in place any new innovative ideas for managing disasters or emergencies or have you heard of any innovative ideas begin used elsewhere? Not at this time.

**California**

State Library  
914 Capitol Mall  
Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building, Third Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

- Does your library have an emergency or disaster plan in place? – Yes, we do.
- When was the last time it was updated? December 2017.
- Do you feel it is adequate? We believe it to be adequate.
- Does your library have in place any new innovative ideas for managing disasters or emergencies or have you heard of any innovative ideas begin used elsewhere? Not at this time.

**Connecticut**

(from Debra Pond, Connecticut State Library)

- Yes, CSL has a disaster plan, last updated in July, 2011. I’ve attached the table of contents and plan overview in case anyone is interested. We have a pandemic component, which might be out of the ordinary. As far as its adequacy, contact information is out of date due to retirements and staff turnover which might be an issue depending on the nature of the emergency.

(from Jennifer Bernier, Connecticut Legislative Library)

- The Connecticut General Assembly has a disaster plan in place, but if there have been revisions in the past 10 years or so, library staff have not been directly involved.

**Florida**

(from Marva Coward)
Does your library have an emergency or disaster plan in place? The Capitol Branch Library operates as a branch of the State Library of Florida, Division of Library and Information Services. Yes, we do have a comprehensive Division Disaster Plan in place, which the Capitol Branch would be a part of. The division plan includes recovery techniques for 19 different types of materials for small and large outbreaks. The plan also has an extensive listing of Disaster Recovery Vendors in the area.

- When was the last time it was updated?: 2015
- Do you feel it is adequate?: Yes, the plan is adequate.
- Does your library have in place any new innovative ideas for managing disasters or emergencies or have you heard of any innovative ideas being used elsewhere?: No, but we would be very interested in hearing about ideas being used elsewhere.

Idaho
Legislative Research Library
(From Eric Glover)

- Does your library have an emergency or disaster plan in place? No.
- When was the last time it was updated? N/A
- Do you feel it is adequate? N/A
- Does your library have in place any new innovative ideas for managing disasters or emergencies or have you heard of any innovative ideas begin used elsewhere? No.

Louisiana
(from Frances Thomas, House Research Library)

- Does your library have an emergency or disaster plan in place? We are a library within the House of Representatives and abide mostly by the House plans.
- When was the last time it was updated? 2009
- Do you feel it is adequate? We are on the 13th floor of a 28 story building and do not have the option of having a separate policy beyond caring for the books after a disaster, and even that would be done under the advisement of our state archives.
- Does your library have in place any new innovative ideas for managing disasters or emergencies or have you heard of any innovative ideas begin used elsewhere? Louisiana has been through disasters and disaster planning/response is streamlined, but as library we do not have any "new" ideas to share.

Huey P. Long Memorial Law Library, Senate Library

- Does your library have an emergency or disaster plan in place? Yes, the Huey P. Long Memorial Law Library is included in the emergency plans for the Louisiana Senate, the Louisiana Legislature and the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
- When was the last time it was updated? 2014
- Do you feel it is adequate? The plan is comprehensive regarding the safety and welfare of personnel; safeguarding library materials; removal, damage mitigation and temporary storage of library materials and equipment if necessary
- Does your library have in place any new innovative ideas for managing disasters or emergencies or have you heard of any innovative ideas begin used elsewhere? Several years ago the Huey P. Long Memorial Law Library worked cooperatively with the Louisiana State Archives to remove black mold from early volumes of the “Acts of the Louisiana Legislature.” The Archives lent its sophisticated equipment and expertise to the project and both agencies benefit from the preservation of the fragile, rare books.
New Mexico

- We do not have a written plan specifically for the library, but there are some elements in place:
- Our IT folks have a disaster plan in that they have multiple backups. This would include all electronic aspects of library operations.
- We send copies of most of the print publications that we publish to the State Document Program at the State Library, which should ensure access to print in a number of libraries including the Library of Congress should something happen to our print collection in this building.
- We send select documents to State Archives for the same purpose.
- There are Emergency Procedures for the Capitol Building last updated in 2016.

North Carolina

(from Jane Basnight and Julia Covington.)

- Does your library have an emergency or disaster plan in place? YES
- When was the last time it was updated? 2007-2008
- Do you feel it is adequate? It was more than adequate at the time, but our library has changed quite a bit in 10 years and the plan needs to be updated. We now have only one location, 10 years ago we had 2 library locations.
- Does your library have in place any new innovative ideas for managing disasters or emergencies or have you heard of any innovative ideas begin used elsewhere? No, we have not focused on disaster planning lately, but we are going to update the plan in 2018.

Ohio

- The entire LSC agency has a disaster plan. It has not been updated for years, but we have had walk-throughs so that the after-hours contacts get their memories refreshed. The Library is a big part of the plan and I coordinate the walk-throughs and discussions of whether new supplies should be ordered or older supplies need to be replaced (i.e. batteries for the flashlights). The plan is basically a recovery plan to control the damage to items in the office deemed critical to protect. In a high rise building like where we are housed, the most likely damage would come from water. There have been small water leaks, but nothing terrible.
- The plan consists of bins of supplies placed in storage closets at several locations in the office. The plan is posted in a plastic sleeve inside all the fire extinguishers so that when it is safe for staff to arrive in the office, they can take the plan and get to work. Rolled plastic, box cutters, flashlights, batteries, tape, etc. are inside the bins. The idea is to keep materials from further damage. Designated office staff are the after-hours key contacts for implementing the plan.
- I routinely review materials from the Northeast Document Conversation Center to remind myself of what to do with damaged materials.
- The plan relies on the Building Management to call the LSC after-hours contacts. The Building Management has responded to small leaks in the past without notifying anyone. I think on two occasions we’ve come to work and found buckets under dripping spots in the ceiling. No real damage was caused.
- While the plan mostly deals with the aftermath of an event, the library does specific things to try to prevent damage. We try not to shelve on the top shelf, so that things are under a cap. We share copies, or make sure there are copies of certain legislative reports with the State Library of Ohio. Our original microfilm is stored at the Ohio History Connection, so we should be able to make copies if that was to become ruined. The Legislative Information Systems office for the General Assembly also backs up the library’s electronic files.
- The idea for a plan came following a fire that destroyed some computers of an agency connected to the LSC. Its director was a major volunteer with the American Red Cross and frequently served that organization when disasters occurred. He strongly encouraged a plan to be in place and helped design it shortly after the agencies moved into
the building around 1988-1989.

**Vermont**

Michael Chernick, Office of Vermont Legislative Council:

- Does your library have an emergency or disaster plan in place? No - Our library is merely a few bookshelves in the Legislative Council Office hallway of essential reference materials. These consist of judicial and statutory primary reference materials, a couple of treatises (Con Law and Statutory Revision), and a set of Vermont Attorney General Opinions (no longer printed) from the 1920s to the 1970s.

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**State News and Member News**

**Colorado:** After nearly 18 years serving as the Colorado Joint Legislative Librarian, Molly Otto retired at the end of February 2018. We wish her well and lots of fun in her retirement.

**Connecticut:** Coming soon…new Connecticut Legislative Library website! (Don’t worry, we’ll announce it through the listserv!)

**Missouri:** Anne Rottmann, Missouri Legislative Library retired, but is working part-time in the Library. So glad to know she will continue to be a part of LRL.

**North Carolina:** The NC General Assembly launched a twitter account in March and the Legislative Library is managing it. Check us out! @ncleg

**Puerto Rico:** It with a heavy heart that we notify you of the passing of Juan Carlos Ortega Cruz, our peer and friend, director of the Legislative Library in Puerto Rico. His willingness to share information along with humor and wit will be sorely missed.

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**Resources for Staff Training**

Training new staff can present a myriad of challenges and logistical issues. How do you train someone when you already have your plate full with your daily duties? How do you train staff in the middle of a session? Or on a shoestring or nonexistent budget? Below is a list of NCSL resources to help you train new and old staff without over stretching your time, ability and budget!

**Archived Webinars**

- **Sexual Harrassment Prevention:** Legislatures across the country are taking a renewed look at their anti-sexual harassment policies and procedures. Hear from two legal experts on the best way to approach this difficult topic.

- **The American Court System:** Between the two court systems (federal and state), the levels of courts within each system (trial and appellate), and the odd terminology (*amicus curiae* brief) it is difficult to understand how the American court system works. This session will cover the basics of how a case proceeds through the courts.
Be the Change: Culture, Leadership and Self Reflection: Working in the legislature can be intense with long hours, looming deadlines and competing priorities. Patrick Sullivan, director of Montana's State Professional Development Center, is an expert on how to prevent this hectic environment from leading to a siloed team. Whether you are a new or veteran staffer, join us for this webinar to learn more about the context of the inward mindset as it applies to workplace culture and how you can have an impact on the effectiveness of your team.

Public Service in Difficult Times: The public sector, legislatures included, has faced intense criticism and scarce resources for many years now. There are techniques available to public employees to not only cope with these challenges but to thrive. This webinar explores various ways in which legislative staff can expand their capacity and practice self-care in challenging times. The key is to transform our mindset from one that is in “survival mode” to one that seeks ways to be helpful and solution oriented.

Speaking with Authority: This professional development webinar, co-hosted by NCSL's Young and New Professionals (YNP) group and Women's Legislative Network, aims to help participants learn to increase self-awareness and personal brand when communicating daily. Whether you are a legislator headed into session or a legislative staffer gearing up for January, we all need to be concise, clear and credible. Ditch those phrases and words that undermine your authority, replace them with words that have impact making you the expert.

Keys to Effective and Engaging Presentations: Presenting complex information to colleagues and policymakers in a concise manner is a challenge—whether you have an hour or 10 minutes. Learn from communications coach Marianna Swallow the steps to delivering an effective presentation and speaking like a pro. She shares the keys to designing an effective presentation, tips to revise and sharpen your talk, and strategies to make your delivery compelling.

Upcoming Webinars

NCSL Bill Information Service: For legislators and legislative staff only (this webinar is held on a monthly basis as an introduction to the NCSL Bill Information Service)

Data Visualization: To draw attention to work that incorporates issues and convinces others to be proactive, a message must be clearly and accurately articulated. The webinar will provide a brief synopsis on how people see and understand information from data displays. It will provide fundamentals on how to present good data visualizations and discuss the importance of using the appropriate colors and charts to engage the audience.

Podcasts

Tackling Sexual Harrassment in the Legislature: Sexual harassment, spurred primarily the #metoo movement, has been front to the forefront of every sector—including government. In this episode, we talk with three experts to get a sense of what types of changes are happening in state legislatures and to find out what types of best practices they should consider.

The Best Jobs of My Life: Legislative Staff Reflect: About 31,000 people work for state legislatures, serving in a variety of jobs. The National Conference of State Legislatures is celebrating Legislative Staff Week. So we decided to take this opportunity on “Our American States” to interview three legislative staffers and find out more about what it's like to work for a legislature in today's political environment. They tell us about their jobs, how they got there and why it's the best job they've ever had.

Doris Kearns Goodwin on Leadership and History: One of the nation's respected historians, Doris Kearns Goodwin, is now researching a book on leadership. Her subjects over the years have included Presidents Lincoln, Johnson, Kennedy, Franklin Roosevelt, Teddy Roosevelt and William Taft. She believes there are lessons to be learned from these great leaders that can apply today to not only public servants, but to professionals in other industries and young people.

Federalism: The "Hamilton" State Legislative Mix Tape: Robin Vos, a Republican and the speaker of the House of Representatives in Wisconsin, and Dan Blue, a Democratic Senator from North Carolina, share their viewpoints on
the state of federalism today, nearly 230 years after "The Federalist Papers" were published.

- **Brain Science for Legislators and Staff**: Working in the legislative arena is not always easy. There are long hours, long stretches of sitting at a desk, a need to multitask and often a lack of sleep. Stacy Householder of the National Conference of State Legislatures shares six brain rules designed to help legislators and legislative staff be more effective. Her recommendations are based on research and its relevance for those working in legislative chambers.

- **Conversations, Business Cards and Handshakes: Preparing to Engage at Summit**: With 5,000-6,000 legislators, legislative staff and those interested in public policy expected to descend on Boston for the 2017 Legislative Summit, our guest today recommends being prepared to being engaged.

**Magazine Articles**

- **Yes, No, Maybe So**: Monthly feature on ethics questions pertaining to state legislatures
- **The State of Federalism Today**: NCSL Executive Director Bill Pound offers a historical perspective on federalism

**Blogs**

- **Who’s Rules are They Anyway?** Legislatures may turn to several sources when making parliamentary interpretations—for example, their state constitutions, chamber rules and statutes. These documents do not always cover every parliamentary nuance that a chamber may face, however.

- **Sexual Harrassment Policies and Interns**: Legislatures around the country are grappling with the issue of sexual harassment – but how are interns protected by state policy? Several internship administrators were asked what guidelines and resources are available to student interns.

- **To Speak or Not to Speak? That is the Question**: Billy Fallon, a professor in the School of Communication at San Diego State University, was quick to answer this question at a session of NCSL's Young and New Professionals (YNP) group at the Capitol Forum. “There’s no question: the answer is to speak.”

- **Functional Federalism**: Our American federalism creatively unites states with unique cultural, political, and social diversity into a strong nation. The 10th Amendment is the cornerstone of constitutional federalism and reserves broad powers to the states and to the people. Federalism protects liberty, enhances accountability and fosters innovation with less risk to the nation.

**Other Resources**

- **Tips for Making Effective PowerPoint Presentations**: Slideshows are quick to produce, easy to update and effective to inject visual interest into the presentation. However, slideshows can also spell disaster even for experienced presenters. The key to success is to make certain your slideshow is a visual aid and not a visual distraction.

**NCSL Publications**

**LegisBriefs**

**March 2018**

- Learning on the Job for People with Disabilities | Vol. 26, No. 12
- Election Costs: Who Pays and with Which Funds? | Vol. 26, No. 11
- Federal Criminal Justice Reform in 2018 | Vol. 26, No. 10
- Filling Gaps in Broadband Deployment | Vol. 26, No. 09

**February 2018**

- Legislative Children's Caucuses | Vol. 26, No. 08
- Unregulated Drinking Water Systems | Vol. 26, No. 07
Hello LRL,

As Julia mentioned we have just finished a comprehensive update of the LRL Directory. If you have any staff changes, retirements or updates please email me to let me know.

I also wanted to let you all know that the LRL Portal on the NCSL website is updated regularly at least two or three times a month, with news I think you all may find interesting. Webinars and training opportunities, NCSL documents and reports, research and news along with notices for awards, and the LRL newsletter are all things that have recently been up on the portal. I encourage you to think of the LRL portal as a way to keep up with what's going on with LRL and your peers as well as happenings at NCSL that you might find useful.

Another great resource is the Legislative Staff Services portal. I also keep this page updated with information, training opportunities, newsletters from other staff sections, and other NCSL research documents and news.

And last, but not least, I am working on collecting staff profiles for NCSL's State Legislatures Magazine and blogs. The next NCSL Legislative Staff Week is coming up the week of May 14 and we are seeking to highlight legislative staff. Do you have a project you've been working on that you are proud of or that your library peers would find interesting? Do you have a colleague who you think is great and want to recognize? Do you have a great legislative story you want to tell? Let me know! NCSL wants to get the word out!

Megan McClure