



**National Legislative Program Evaluation Society (NLPES)
Executive Committee Meeting
Held at the 2016 NCSL Legislative Summit in Chicago, IL
McCormick Center, Room W193a
Tuesday, August 9, 2016**

Minutes

Members and NCSL Liaison Present:

Nathalie Molliet-Ribet, Chair (VA)
Greg Fugate, Vice Chair (CO)
Patricia Berger (PA)
Wayne Kidd (UT)
Charles Sallee (NM)
Linda Triplett, Secretary (MS)
Brenda Erickson, NCSL Liaison

Members Absent:

Dale Carlson (CA)
Marcia Lindsay (SC)
Katrín Osterhaus (KS)
Shunti Taylor (GA)

(Note: All times reported in these minutes are in Central Daylight Time.)

- 7:33 a.m.** **Call to Order.** Nathalie called the meeting to order.
- 7:34 a.m.** **Introductions.** Nathalie welcomed the following guests in attendance at the Executive Committee meeting: Joe Chrisman (WI), Dean Swenson (WI), Tim Osterstock (UT), Skylar Wilk (TX Sunset), and David Abbey (NM). NLPES Executive Committee in attendance at the meeting introduced themselves to the guests.
- 7:40 a.m.** **2016 NLPES PDS Update.** Brenda reported that as of Friday, August 5, 2016, she had received 54 pre-registrations for the 2016 PDS in Jackson, MS from 16 states and the District of Columbia. Brenda said that she will send out a notice that Labor Day is the deadline for hotel registration for the PDS. She said that we should wait until all PDS panels and sessions have been finalized before requesting AV equipment from the hotel for the PDS speakers and panelists. There was also some discussion of whether those pre-registered for the PDS should be polled to get some idea of which sessions they plan to attend. This information would help in assigning room locations for the various sessions and panels, given that there is a large variation in meeting room size at the PDS hotel. Nathalie and Pat said that they will have staff attending the Basic Skills track. Pat noted that more senior staff in search of in-house training materials could attend the track in order to bring the content back to their

offices. Wayne said that we could think about marketing this aspect of the Basic Skills track as well.

Nathalie and Greg asked whether the Jackson PDS was staying within the amount budgeted for the event by the Executive Committee. Brenda said that it was and that Pew Data Analytics, which is hosting a panel as part of the Technical Track, had contributed an additional \$6,000 towards the 2016 PDS, which will be used to offset some of the costs of planned social events.

Linda reported that on Tuesday night of the PDS, attendees will be bused to the Fondren area of Jackson where they will be on their own to go to dinner at any of the area's many and diverse restaurants and will end the evening listening to a live band at Duling Hall where a cash bar will be available. Brenda reported that no band contracts (for either Duling Hall or the Mississippi Museum of Art) have been signed yet.

Nathalie asked whether the host state needed any additional help from the Executive Committee and Linda said that they were doing fine.

Greg asked Linda if staff of the host state could send an e-mail blast to those pre-registered to attend the 2016 PDS informing them of transportation options from the airport. Linda said that she would find out. In response to Pat's question of how long it takes to drive from the airport to the PDS hotel, Linda said that unless there is a serious traffic jam, it generally takes about 20 minutes.

Wayne asked how PDS attendees will get back to the hotel from the opening session at the State Capitol. Linda said that two buses will transport those who do not want to or cannot make the approximately 15-minute walk back to the hotel.

Wayne asked if Mississippi would have a color guard, Pledge of Allegiance, etc. as part of the PDS opening session at the State Capitol. He said that other states had done this when using their State Capitols and it was very impressive.

Wayne asked if the Mississippi staff could send out an e-mail to Poster Session participants clarifying what they need to bring. He said that it would be helpful for each participating state to make a one-page handout summarizing their award winning report and to have copies of the report available for review. Greg stated that going forward we shouldn't be too prescriptive in requirements for the poster session as this could become a burden that could discourage states from participating. He did say that in Colorado, they made a table tent sign for each

participating state to make it easy for attendees to find their way around the poster session.

There was general discussion about poster sessions and different ways to approach them. Linda said that a poster session was done at a previous PDS in Jackson, MS as far back as the 1980s, but Tim Osterstock observed that Colorado made the poster session a success by making it the only programming in that time slot during the day and then following with a social event in the same space. Linda said that she would check with James Barber, PEER Executive Director, to make sure that we have contacted each state that won an Impact Award to determine the name of the person who will be representing that state at the 2016 poster session.

8:15 a.m. **2017 NLPES Update.** Brenda reported that the dates of September 16-20 for the 2017 NLPES PDS in Madison, Wisconsin have been approved, so NCSL will proceed with entering into supporting contracts.

Brenda also informed the Executive Committee that the 2017 NCSL Legislative Summit will be held August 6-9 in Boston, MA, which leaves a little over a month before the 2017 NLPES PDS in Madison. The 2018 NCSL Legislative Summit is scheduled to be held in Los Angeles, CA followed by the 2019 NCSL Legislative Summit in Nashville, TN.

8:30 a.m. **Other Business—Proposed Changes to NLPES Bylaws.** As Vice Chair of the Executive Committee prior to her resignation, Rachel Hibbard was in the process of developing proposed changes to the NLPES bylaws. Greg and Nathalie said that because there was merit to Rachel's proposals, they should be considered even though Rachel no longer serves on the Executive Committee. One topic of discussion was which staff should be eligible for membership in NLPES. For example, some legislative program evaluation and audit offices exclude clerical staff and financial audit staff from membership while others do not. Nathalie suggested that the Executive Committee take a more holistic look at the NLPES bylaws. Greg suggested that the Executive Committee form an ad hoc committee to study the bylaws. Wayne and Pat volunteered to serve on the committee. Greg said that the ad hoc committee and Executive Committee would conduct a review of the bylaws and propose any changes to the full NLPES membership for a vote in the spring or at the 2017 PDS in Madison, Wisconsin.

8:40 a.m. **Other Business—Principles of Data Access.** Greg briefed the Executive Committee on the status of the draft NLPES Principles of Data Access. He said that the ad hoc committee on data access was formed in response to discussions held at the 2015 NCSL Summit in Seattle concerning restrictions on legislative evaluation and audit staff access to educational data. Nathalie

said that it is important to identify the problem that the Executive Committee is trying to address with its data access document. She observed that because member states have different data access problems, in creating the Principles document it would be helpful to identify which states have which restrictions on data access. For example, if existing state laws present an impediment to data access, one possible solution involves educating legislators on the importance of data access to legislative oversight and state government accountability. Greg also noted that the Principles document will include a statement of the obligation of auditors and evaluators to safeguard the data that they collect, including the steps necessary to adequately protect confidential data. Greg said that he expects the Principles of Data Access to be a one-page document that helps with the conversation. Greg said that he will send a draft of the Principles document to the Executive Committee to consider prior to meeting at the Jackson PDS.

8:45 a.m. Other Business—Subpoena Power. Pat suggested that the Executive Committee conduct a survey of member states regarding their subpoena power to determine:

- which states have it;
- what process they use;
- whether they have used it; and, if so, under what circumstances.

Pat thought that the answers to the survey would be helpful to states trying to obtain subpoena power. Brenda said that most state legislatures have an inherent right to subpoena power. She said that NCSL's Legal Services Staff Section (LSSS) has made handouts on the topic.

8:45 a.m. Other Business—Miscellaneous Acknowledgements. Greg and the Executive Committee thanked Nathalie for her year of service as Chair. She said that she enjoyed serving. Nathalie thanked Charles Sallee and Dale Carlson for their years of service on the Executive Committee. Wayne announced that he will not be running for re-election on the Executive Committee. Greg and the Executive Committee also thanked Shunti for publishing another outstanding edition of the NLPES newsletter, The Working Paper.

8:45 a.m. Adjourn. Having no further business, Nathalie adjourned the meeting of the Executive Committee.