Thanks, Florida!

Thank you, Florida, for hosting an exceptional conference. Thanks to Vice President, Tim Hay, for coordinating the agenda and meeting spaces. Thanks to Florida State University. Thanks to all the Florida Capitol Complex law enforcement officers for assisting and sharing their knowledge. A special thanks to the Florida legislative leadership for all the assistance provided to make this annual training conference successful.

National Legislative Services & Security Association

Tallahassee Hospitality

The 2019 NLSSA Annual Training Conference, held in Tallahassee, Fla., provided a fresh look at topics facing state capitols in the respective services and security professions. Florida Senate Sergeant-at-Arms and NLSSA Vice President Tim Hay prepared an excellent training agenda.
Opening Ceremony

The conference kicked off in the chamber of the Florida House of Representatives with an elegant opening ceremony, where attendees were welcomed by Senator Bill Montford (D-Fla.). Montford discussed the legislator’s perspective on services and security, but also included personal stories of how he observed the importance of services and security to the bicameral body.

Bill Montford (D), minority leader pro tempore, speaks at the conference. With a district including Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hamilton, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla counties, Montford was elected to the Florida Senate in 2010 and has served continuously since.
Executive Board

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Sharing Ideas and Experiences

NLSSA offers a unique platform where service and security personnel can come together. Panels are strategically assembled by selecting participants from various states to address concerns and questions from multiple points of view. This year’s training included a security services panel on which the speakers had combined security and protection experience of more than 120 years.

Above: Moderator Charles “Chuck” Williams facilitates the discussion of expert panelists. From left: Donald Severance, Jim Melton, Earnest Sumner, Russell Hosford, Silvester Dawson, Tim Hay and Chris Connell.

The security service panel fielded questions from attendees, provided a discussion into the evolution of security and protection, and presented a look to path-breaking directions the industry is headed toward.
### NLSSA 2019 Awards

#### Award Recipients

**Tony Beard Memorial Award**
- Anthony “Steve” Pike

**Trooper Award**
- Martin Brock

**Legislative Staff Achievement Award**
- Tim Hay

**Legislative Staff Achievement Award**
- David Saucedada

**Leaving a Legacy Award**
- James “Jim” Melton

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#### New Experiences for First-Time Attendees

My first NLSSA conference was a memorable experience. The hospitality shown by the state of Florida along with myriad training sessions made the conference stand out. Coming in with little knowledge of NLSSA, I was amazed to see how legislative services and security from across the United States and world can come together to create an exceptional training environment. I believe the presentations were informative, as were the accounts of real-life situations that we could all face at some point in our careers. Having an understanding of how many have dealt with different situations and listening to things they thought they did well or could have done better makes me feel more prepared if I were to encounter similar situations. I also appreciated the opportunity to socialize and form relationships with the men and women who work in the same capacity I do. I thoroughly enjoyed the 2019 NLSSA conference and hope to be an attendee at future conferences.
- Ryan Morris, S.C.
NLSSA offers many options for learning at its annual conference. In many instances, capitol services and security work hand in hand with issues facing their respective states. However, the need for more specialized educational opportunities is recognized. Aside from a vast array of security concerns, the opportunity for continuing education on the service and support side offers the opportunity to grow professionally. The picture below shows a roundtable training exercise comprised of service professionals from around the country.

NLSSA provides educational opportunities for all attendees. Given the particular concerns within each field, classes are separated into more specialized topics in order to provide better solutions.
Steve Witmer and Mark Sykes accept the Tony Beard Memorial Award on behalf of Steve Pike.

Martin Brock accepts the Trooper Award.

Tim Hay accepts the NCSL Staff Achievement Award.

David Saucedo accepts the NCSL Staff Achievement Award.

Jim Melton accepts the Leaving a Legacy Award.

A Night to Remember
In traditional fashion, the last night of the conference concludes with a state dinner and awards ceremony. This year’s event was held at the Florida State University Champions Club. The night featured two memorable guests and speakers: Bill Galvano, president of the Florida Senate, District 21, and John Thrasher, president of Florida State University. Both speakers were very enthusiastic about the training conference.

Florida State University President John Thrasher

Florida Senate President Bill Galvano
Message from the Board

The NLSSA Executive Board acknowledges Florida’s hospitality throughout the 2019 training conference. Thanks to Tim Hay, Florida Senate sergeant-at-arms, and his staff for making the conference run smoothly. Thanks to Russell Hosford, Florida House sergeant-at-arms, Silvester Dawson, marshal, Florida Supreme Court, and the late Chris Connell, director of Capitol Police, for participating in panel discussions, and whose insights added to the professional development of the conference attendees.

Thanks to Florida State University President John Thrasher for hosting the state dinner and providing his views on the importance of our work. And special thanks to Senate President Bill Galvano for providing an outstanding environment in which service and security staff from across the nation were able to meet and share ideas and experiences. The board understands the amount of work that goes into planning a conference of this magnitude and recognizes the importance of legislative leadership in making such an event successful. Without the hard work of the members in the host state and the support of their leadership, training opportunities such as this would be nonexistent. Thanks to everyone who made this conference a huge success.

In Memoriam

Chris Connell, director of the Florida Capitol Police, passed away Oct. 4. Those who attended the 2019 NLSSA Annual Training Conference may recall meeting him or hearing him speak on a panel conversation about legislative security. Connell, who also spent 28 years with the Tallahassee Police Department, was instrumental in planning the 2019 conference.

Please keep Connell’s family, friends and colleagues in your thoughts and prayers.