



Legislative Research Librarians NEWSLINE

Volume XXX, No. 2

Summer 2005

Chair's Column

*David Harrell, Legislative Research,
Legislative Library, Oregon*

Hello friends, welcome to this issue of Newsline, the final time I get to share my random thoughts with you, my accomplished colleagues. Here in the beautiful state of Oregon, the legislature is careening towards adjournment, but things are still far too iffy for sine die predictions. Reminds me of the familiar sight of Calvin and Hobbes, flying downhill in their little red wagon, not knowing when, where or how they will stop, just knowing they will suddenly stop, occupants promptly removed.

Oregon's neighbor to the north, Seattle to be specific, is hosting the NCSL Annual Conference this year, as if you didn't know! It will be wonderful to see my staff section friends in attendance, many I hope. Yes, I know it will be the middle of sunny August, summer in spectacular Seattle. Flowers at Pike Place Market, spectacular; twilight views from the Space Needle, spectacular; interesting and informative programs, spectacular perhaps. Shoot, there will probably be train whistles, lighted yo-yos, hand held battery operated fans, and of course, fans of each and every one of you. If you have never been to Seattle, or if a return visit is at all possible, please join us.

Realities of budgeting often make

it necessary to choose between annual conferences professional development seminars. Conference locations are always a factor. LRL PDS this September will be in fabulous Chicago. The programs and central location of this great city will hopefully entice you to join us. We will be meeting jointly with our friends from RACSS and Legal Services and it should be productive time, surely enlightening and enjoyable. I highly recommend, in this sequence, The Art Institute of Chicago, Pizzeria Uno, a river stroll, the Field Museum of Natural History and Pizzeria Due.

Gratefully serving as LRL Chair has been very rewarding and it is difficult to believe a year has come and gone. I would do this again in a heartbeat. Janna and Jo have been wonderful accomplices, as have Tracey, Kristin and Arthur. I am continually in awe of the knowledge, creativity, foresight and wisdom of this amazing group. We are indeed fortunate to have such a circle of peers. I think back to when the subject of serving as an officer was mentioned to me for consideration, and I felt inadequate. I am however very glad I took advantage of such a gracious offer. I know now that we all have something to offer if we let ourselves. I

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Legislative Research Librarians
Staff Section

National Conference of State Legislatures
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Chair: David Harrell, Oregon

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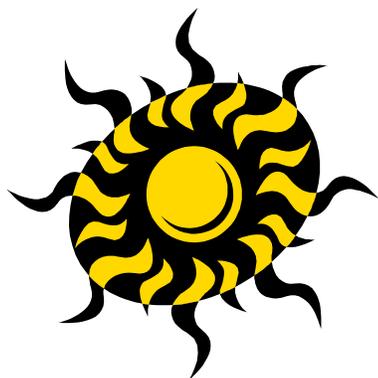
NCSL Annual Meeting

Chair's Column *continued*

have been nothing but comfortable with all of you and for that acceptance and kindness I thank you. As Arthur rides off into the bayou sunset, our staff section has been very fortunate to enlist Cathy Martin as a staff section officer. The trio of Tracey, Kristin and Cathy will mean nothing but great leadership for our staff section. I'll try to stay out of their way!

When I came into the building this morning I walked along the newly dedicated "Walk of Flags," all 50 state flags dancing in the early morning breeze. Even though the project installation meant the controversial demise of several flowering cherry trees, the result is attractive and impressive. It reminds me of our staff section, each person able to more than adequately stand on their own, but we are much stronger collectively as a group. I have nothing but good thoughts and best wishes for all of you for the years to come.

Best regards,
David



NCSL visits beautiful Seattle, Washington on August 16-20. There are many intriguing sessions planned for LRL in addition to insightful plenaries:

Bill Gates will open NCSL's 2005 Strong States Strong Nation Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington on August 17, 2005.

World renowned researcher **Leroy Hood**, M.D., Ph.D., president Institute for Systems Biology, and Nobel laureate, **Lee Hartwell**, Ph.D., president and director of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and professor of Genetics, University of Washington, will share the latest trends in biomedical research and the impact this cutting-edge field can have on economic development at the legislators lunch, Thursday, August 18.

Uwe Reinhardt, James Madison professor of Political Economy at Princeton University, is one of today's most sought after speakers on health care systems and health reform. He will give his address on Friday, August 19.

Carr Hagerman believes that the principles of the **FISH! Philosophy** can introduce fun into the workplace, change your perspective and challenge your world view. He has inspired such companies as American Express, Time-Warner and Wells Fargo. Get inspired at the legislative staff lunch, August 19.

NPR correspondent **Mara Liasson** will speak on the politics and balance of power.

LRL's Agenda

(a more detailed agenda can be found at <http://www.ncsl.org/LRL/am05.htm>)

Tuesday, August 16

- 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Registration
- 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Seattle Municipal Archives Tour
- 3:15 pm - 5:00 pm The Use and Misuse of Legislative History
- 6:00 pm Welcome Reception: Seattle Sports Scene!
Qwest Field and Event Center and Mariners' Game at Safeco Field

Wednesday, August 17

- 7:30 am - 9:00 am Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 am - 10:00 am Opening Plenary
Guest Speaker: Bill Gates, Microsoft Corporation
- 10:00 am Exhibit Hall Opens
- 10:15 am - Noon Standing Committees
- Noon - 1:00 pm Exhibit Hall Lunch
- Noon - 1:00 pm NCSL Staff Section Officer Orientation
- 1:15 pm - 5:00 pm Sharpening Top-Notch Skills
Part 1: Maintaining Your Tools for Better Legislative Construction
Part 2: Whistle While You Work

Thursday, August 18

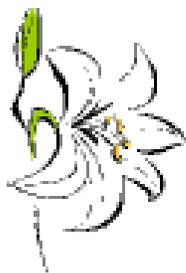
- 7:30 am - 8:30 am Coffee Service
- 11:45 am - 1:15 pm Business Meeting and Luncheon
Presiding: David Harrell, LRL Chair, Legislative Research, Oregon
- 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Internet Research
- 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Washington's Oral History Program
- 6:00 pm Washington Social Event

Friday, August 19

- 9:00 am - Noon Exhibit Hall Open
- 8:30 am - 10:00 am Plenary Session: Health Care Reform and Finance
Speaker: Uwe Reinhardt, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey
- 10:15 am - 12:15 pm NCSL Annual Business Meeting
- 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm Legislative Staff Luncheon
- 2:15 pm - 4:00 pm Digital Information Issues for Legislative Agencies

Saturday, August 20

- 8:30 am - 10:00 am Closing Plenary: The Politics of Balance and Power
Speaker: Mara Liasson, NPR



Remembering Suzy Hughes

Susan Gilley, Oklahoma:

Suzy Hughes was one of the founding members of our staff section. When I first met Suzy in 1977, she was always on the move. That never changed. She crammed more activity into her time than I thought possible. But she was not just “busy,” she accomplished her goals. I was always proud of the way she represented our LRL division within NCSL.

But what I liked best about Suzy was that she was fun! Her joyfulness and enthusiasm brought a smile to your face. She exuberantly welcomed new members. She was always willing to try new things and to participate in new activities. She never seemed to worry about what others would think; she was too busy having a good time. And she encouraged everyone around her to do the same. I have wonderful memories of an afternoon at the PDS in Austin in 1993. She gave me a tour of the University of Texas campus and surrounding area, reminiscing about her college days and taking me to several great shopping, eating, and partying locations.

When I last saw Suzy at the Professional Development Seminar in Baton Rouge in 2000, she was planning her retirement with Ken and dancing the night away. I will miss her enthusiasm and energy. She was such a vital life force. She was a friend as well as a colleague.

Susan McVey, Oklahoma

I really liked Suzy. I thought she was a crackerjack librarian. I went to the NCSL meeting in Louisiana in 1986. She was such fun and very professional. I remember her talking about learning to cook vegetables. It made you want to eat at her table.

* * * *

Lynda Davis, Maryland, Retires

LRL bids farewell to another beloved member this June. David Warner, senior legislative librarian in Maryland, reports that Lynda Davis, Coordinator of Library and Information Services, retired June 30 after thirty years of service in the Maryland legislative reference library and after twenty-five years as director of the library. She is a former LRL staff chair and a former member of NCSL's Executive Committee.

In a listserv message, Lynda wrote:

Thank you all for your assistance and encouragement over the years. Through my association with LRL, I had the good fortune to meet a great group of professional colleagues and friends. My library benefited from your ideas, advice, and experiences. It is always good to have access to experience of colleagues when starting new projects or services. Thank you for your good luck e-mails and cards. Come Friday morning, I'll be sipping my morning coffee in the backyard swing — not too early.

I look forward to sending the Maryland legislative library folk a post card from some warm vacation spot come the Jan. session just because I can after 30 years.

Lynda also announced that Johanne Greer will be replacing her as the coordinator:

Johanne Greer has been named the Coordinator of Library and Information Services of the Maryland Dept. of Legislative Services. Johanne has been a Legislative Reference Librarian since February 1986. She has been active in the LRL staff section, serving as chair a few years ago. She has also served on several NCSL committees. Before joining Legislative and Information Services, Johanne was a cataloger at Howard University and a medical librarian at D.C. General Hospital.

I am confident that Johanne will do an excellent job. I have enjoyed my career in the legislative library. As you all know I've had a great staff of dedicated and conscientious librarians.

**Good luck and
happy retirement,
Lynda!**



NCSL Honors Writers of Notable Documents at 2005 Annual Meeting

Eight research reports will be honored by a staff section of the National Conference of State Legislatures for their excellence in exploring topics of contemporary interest to legislators and staff. NCSL's Legislative Research Librarian (LRL) staff section presented its Notable Document Awards at NCSL's 31st Annual Meeting in Seattle. Eight reports from five states were selected. They are:

BODY OF WORK—LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED

- Hydrogen, Wind, Biodiesel, and Ethanol: Alternative Energy Sources to Fuel Montana's Future?
- Montana's Water—Where is it? Who can use it? Who decides?
(*Montana Legislative Environmental Quality Council*)

CITIZEN'S GUIDE

- Pocket Guides on Fiscal Matters (*various*)
(*Montana Legislative Fiscal Division*)

LEGISLATOR'S GUIDE

- Gambling in Minnesota: A Short History
- Noncitizens and Minnesota Law: A Guide for Legislators
(*Research Department, Minnesota House of Representatives*)

PUBLIC POLICY

- Medical Professional Liability Reform for the 21st Century: A Review of Policy Options
(*Pennsylvania General Assembly Joint State Government Commission*)

A "document" for purposes of this award were 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.

The Legislative Research Librarians staff section, one of NCSL's eleven professional staff organizations, was established to promote effective information retrieval techniques for legislative libraries; to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas relating to legislative information, operations, and procedures in the states; and to enhance the professionalism of the members.

Composed primarily of librarians and information specialists in legislative agencies, the section sponsors an extensive schedule of programs at the NCSL Annual Meeting and the Annual Professional Development Seminar. Each of these meetings focuses on current developments in information management, information technology and legislative research.

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Chair

LRL Notable Document Award Committee
Montana Legislative Library

On behalf of committee members:

- **Elizabeth Lincoln**, Minnesota Legislative Reference Library
- **Ingrid Hernquist**, New Jersey Office of Legislative Services Library

State News

From Marian Rogers, Wisconsin:

Earlier this year, Arden Rice polled LRL members over the listserv about their interlibrary loan policies. We appreciate all the replies and want to let you know the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau Library will soon join OCLC for resource sharing. We are looking forward to having the capability to place our own ILL requests so that we can more quickly and efficiently fill legislative requests. For those of you already using OCLC for ILL, look for our lending status to change to "supplier." You may get lending requests from us in the future, and we will be glad to reciprocate in whatever manner we can.

From Tracey Kimball, New Mexico:

2005 laws passed in New Mexico include a few that are rare or unique:

- Ignition interlock devices are now required to be installed in the vehicles of all first-time DWI offenders. Our governor's office reports that we are the first state to do this. (HB 282)

- Dangerous dogs, defined as those that have caused serious injury to a person or domestic animal, and potentially dangerous dogs that have exhibited certain threatening behaviors can be seized by local animal control officers. An owner may voluntarily, or by court order, comply with certain requirements for registration and handling or the dog must be humanely destroyed. An owner may also be subject to felony charges. (SB 432)

- Antifreeze sold after January 1, 2006, must contain a bittering agent that renders it unpalatable. Nicknamed "Scooby's Law," for a golden retriever that had to be euthanized in 2003 after ingesting antifreeze, advocates say

this was the second such state law. (SB 497)

- For anyone who missed the listserv report, we were also first state to pass a law to help buy life insurance for National Guard members. (HB 10)

Full text of the bills and chapters ("final versions") are available on the Bill Finder at <http://www.legis.state.nm.us>



David Harrell Legislative Library, Oregon Legislative Staff Achievement Award Recipient

Congratulations to **David Harrell**, Legislative Researcher in Oregon and outgoing LRL Chair, for being named the recipient of the 2005 Legislative Staff Achievement Award!

David has been the chair of NCSL's Legislative Research Librarian's Staff Section for the past year. He was a very unifying chair, inclusive and welcoming to all. His quarterly newsletter columns were personal, yet universal to all the librarians who face many of the same challenges.

He has faithfully served the research needs of the Oregon Legislature for over fourteen years, and kept them up to date with a daily news service. He has contributed research to many legislative publications and has written a few *Background Briefs* himself. And, as is the case in many small legislative bodies, he has frequently worn several hats - including Senate Sergeant-at-Arms. He will be retiring from the Oregon Legislative Library upon the Legislature's adjournment this summer.

NCSL Publications

Reports

- *Early Education in the States: A Year in Review—2004* (April 2005)
- *Financial Literacy* (April 2005)
- *Identification Security: Technology and Policy Issues*(April 2005)
- *State-Tribal Series: Homeland Security* (April 2005)
- *State/Tribal Series: Piecing Together the State-Tribal Tax Puzzle* (April 2005)
- *State Budget Actions: FY 2004 and FY 2005* (May 2005)
- *State Tax Actions 2004* (May 2005)
- *Strengthening Workers, Families and Businesses—The Vital Role of Workforce Training* (May 2005)
- *New Mexico Food Access* (June 2005)
- *State Policies for Increasing Access to Healthy Foods*(June 2005)
- *Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety – 2004 and 2005 Legislative Update (Web only)* (June 2005)
- *Healthy Community—Atlanta Brownfields Redevelopment* (June 2005)
- *Funding Crime Information Systems* (June 2005)

LegisBriefs

- *Cell Phones and Novice Drivers*
June/July 2005 Vol. 13, No. 30
- *Women's Legislative Caucuses*
June/July 2005 Vol. 13, No. 29
- *Improving the Lives of Young People with Disabilities*
June/July 2005 Vol. 13, No. 28
- *Medical Marijuana*
June/July 2005 Vol. 13, No. 27
- *Education Finance Litigation*
June/July 2005 Vol. 13, No. 26
- *Preserving the Past with Tax Incentives*
June/July 2005 Vol. 13, No. 25



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 receive publications
 free of charge!

*Join us at NCSL's Annual Meeting
August 16-20, 2005
Seattle, Washington*



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