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President's Message

Dear Friends:

The sun is shining in Kansas and we are in the middle of the wrap up session. It could be a long one. Of course, I am quickly reminded that my colleagues are experiencing the same stressful extended sessions with long nights. Oh, but how we love it!!

The Society is doing well this year. With the fall elections and changes in leadership, we welcome many new members. I invite you all to become involved in this unique organization to help ensure a brighter future for ASLCS. I thank all our committee chairs for their leadership and commitment to the Society and the legislative process. Please take time to read the Committee minutes. They will keep you informed of the progress being made by the committees. We do have one change in committee leadership. Rick Nicholson, Associate Vice Chair of Technology and Innovation Committee has taken another position. Scott Magnuson of Minnesota, has agreed to become Co-Chair of this committee with Hogan Brown.

Time has passed very quickly for me. It has been a very challenging but extremely rewarding experience. I must admit, I have enjoyed it immensely! I promised to get you updated on what is going on. Here goes!!

We had a great meeting in Memphis in December. The group was small in numbers but enthusiastic with new ideas and positive feedback. We all met together as one group for each of the committee meetings. Saturday afternoon was the highlight of my trip as I got to spend it with my teenage heart throb, Elvis! Even those not fond of Elvis, found the trip to Graceland interesting and entertaining. A special thank you to Barney Durham and Rick Nicholson of Tennessee. The Executive Committee spent almost three hours on Sunday making plans for future meetings, establishing projects and discussing new ideas.

I traveled to Savannah, Georgia in January to attend the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee. I found the sessions with the other staff section leaders productive and informative. We will again be meeting in May in Yosemite National Park.

Thanks to the wonderful Peterson and Annette in Salt Lake City in April committees met and facing for the year. The Executive Committee approved the ASLCS International Video with an official “showing” scheduled for the Fall Conference. A special thanks to the Committee which included Denise Weeks, Chair; Carmela Bills, JoAnn Hedrick and Laura Clemens. Also thanks to our Corporate Sponsors for their continued support of the Society.

At this meeting, a special treat was a tour of the 2002 Olympic Venue. From the top of the ski jump to the bobsledding and luge tracks along with the beautiful mountains and the snow, a fantastic time was had by all. We are now all ready for the 2002 Winter Olympics next February.

This summer I will be representing ASLCS in Mexico in July and at the Clerks-at-the Table in Halifax, Nova Scotia in August.

We are set for the NCSL annual meeting from August 11 to August 15 in San Antonio with ASLCS co-sponsoring the following programs:

E-Mail Management
Employee Recruitment and Retention (Staff Turnover)
MultiState Document Management
Get Real A Fresh Look at Legislator Training
Best Practices and Policies for Cyber Legislatures

ASLCS committee meetings will be held on Saturday, August 11 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the luncheon will be on Tuesday, August 14.

The plenary sessions and concurrent sessions for the Fall Seminar have been set by JoAnn Hedrick and the Program Development Committee. Hogan Brown and the Technology and Innovation Committee have been working on the Vendor Fair. The Professional Development Seminar in Minnesota this fall will offer members of ASLCS the opportunity to participate and contribute to our organization, to share with one another our professional knowledge and skills, and to renew valuable friendships and establish new ones.

I am truly amazed and appreciative of the cooperation, hard work and creativity of the members of our Society. You are indeed a special group of friends and professional associates. Thank you all so much for your advice and support, your generous contributions of time and talent and your active participation in this outstanding organization.

Warmest regards,

Pat Saville
ASLCS President
Treasurer’s Report

December 9, 2000

Records transferred from Judy Hall
Balance as of 9/3/2000 $15,600.42

Disbursements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09-22-2000</td>
<td>S &amp; H Services (tri-fold brochures)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>09-22-2000</td>
<td>Midwest Trophy (baseball caps)</td>
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<td>09-22-2000</td>
<td>Florida Senate (newsletter)</td>
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<td>09-22-2000</td>
<td>Faye Blanton (scanning expense)</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
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<td>09-22-2002</td>
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Total Disbursements $2,751.65

Less Total Disbursements - $2,751.63

Ending Balance General Account $12,848.67

Submitted by Ann Cornwell, Secretary-Treasurer

April 22, 2001

Balance transferred from Oregon $12,848.67

Deposits for Dues:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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Total Deposits +$21,900.00

Disbursements:

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<td>02-09-2001</td>
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<td>02-21-2001</td>
<td>No. Carolina (Refund of Dues, Perry)</td>
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<td>02-22-2001</td>
<td>Midwest Trophy (shipping charge from 2000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>03-14-2001</td>
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</tbody>
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Total Disbursements -$1,087.62

Total Balance $33,661.05
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

December 10, 2000 Minutes

Call to Order

President Pat Saville called the meeting of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries Executive Committee to order.

Quorum

Members present:

Pat Saville, President  Judy Hall, President Elect
Diane Bell, Associate Vice President  Steve Arias, Elected Principal
Michael Linn, Elected Associate  Norman Moore, Appointed Principal
Linda Hawker, Appointed Associate

NCSL Staff present:

Sally Kittredge

President Saville introduced the newly appointed principal members of the executive committee. A motion was made by Judy Hall and seconded by Karl Lilly to approve the appointments of Norman Moore and Faye Blanton to the 2000-2001 Executive Committee. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

President Saville introduced the newly appointed associate members of the executive committee. A motion was made by Mike Linn and seconded by Steve Arias to approve the appointments of Linda Hawker and Donna Doyle to the 2000-2001 Executive Committee. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Minutes

Minutes from the September 14, 2000 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed by the committee and approved as corrected on motion of Linda Hawker and seconded by Norman Moore. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote. The minutes will be printed in the next issue of The Legislative Administrator.

Treasurer’s Report

In the absence of Ann Cornwell, Secretary Treasurer, Judy Hall, President-elect presented the treasurer’s report to the committee. Diane Bell moved that the report be adopted. Michael Linn seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Old Business

Audit Committee

Norman Moore gave an oral report of the audit that was conducted of the 2000 dues account. Action on the report was deferred until the 2001 spring meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah where a printed report will be submitted for approval of the Executive Committee.

ASLCS Financial Reports

Sally Kittredge reported that the balance in the Shared-Profits Account is $16,619 and the balance in Special Meetings Fund is $55,321.14. She also distributed a financial breakdown of the ASLCS 34th Professional Development Seminar.

Sally gave a brief explanation of each account for the benefit of new members of the Executive Committee. She explained that $5,000 needed to be transferred from the Special Meetings Fund to NCSL for reimbursement of funds expended for the 2000 Millenium Committee. Steve Arias moved that $5,000 be transferred from the Special Meetings Fund to NCSL. Norman Moore seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.
ASLCS Website

The Executive Committee discussed making the ASLCS website public. Even though the ASLCS listserv is currently behind the firewall, other staff sections are able to access it. Hogan Brown, Chair of the Technology Committee, suggested that a notice be posted letting ASLCS members know that users outside of ASLCS can access the listserv. A discussion continued on how best to notify ALSCS users. Hogan volunteered to research methods of posting electronically. The committee decided that a hard-copy notice should be sent to the membership this coming year.

On the question of making the ASLCS website public, Norman Moore moved that it be made public. Michael Linn seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

President Saville advised Carmela Bills that since the website will soon be public, the website address could now be included in the International Directory.

Australian Alliance

The Committee discussed the adoption of a standing order developing a reciprocal relationship with the Australian Clerks-at-the-Table. Topics included in the discussion were how many registration fees would be waived and how many rooms would be provided at the ASLCS Annual Meeting. Michael Linn expressed concern for the travel obligations of future ASLCS presidents in participating in the international reciprocal agreements. Norman Moore responded that the standing orders for the other reciprocal agreements stated, “President” or “President’s designee,” so the ASLCS President is not always obligated to travel to all foreign conferences.

It was also pointed out that the Australian Clerks-at-the-Table have not formally organized and therefore do not have a formal policy in place to offer ASLCS a reciprocal agreement. Despite this, the committee agreed that ASLCS should extend the hand of friendship and adopt the standing order for inviting the Australians to the ASLCS annual meeting. Linda Hawker moved that the following standing order be adopted. Norman Moore seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Australian Attendance at the Annual Meeting. Three representatives from the Australian Clerks-at-the-Table shall be invited to the Annual Meeting and their registration fees will be waived. The cost of a room for one shall be paid by the Society.

Group Photos

Michael Linn proposed the following standing order:

Purchasing Society Group Photo. Each year that a Society group photo is taken at the annual meeting, the NCSL liaison shall purchase a copy to keep with the archives of the Society. The photo shall be paid for from the Society dues account.

Norman Moore moved that the standing order be adopted. Judy Hall seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Legislative Staff Achievement Award

The committee discussed the timing of the notification of the recipient of the Legislative Staff Achievement Award. Susan Schaar suggested that a letter be sent to the award recipient with a copy to the recipient’s leadership before the NCSL Annual Meeting. The committee agreed that a letter also should go to the person who made the nomination. Action on this proposal was deferred to the spring meeting in April.

Archives

There was a discussion held regarding the Standing Orders involving the Archives Committee. The previous recommendation that Mary Joe Mongelli, Chair of Archives, had presented was assigned to Karen Wadsworth, Chair of Bylaws, for her committee to create language for the Standing Orders.

Attendance at Joint Canadian/American Meeting

Sally Kittredge, NCSL Liaison, will research the background on the language for the standing order referring to those allowed to attend the joint meeting. Action on this subject was deferred until the spring meeting in April.
Budget Options for 2001 Annual Professional Development Seminar

Sally Kittredge reviewed the budget options for the annual meeting for 2001 in Bloomington, Minnesota. Michael Linn distributed letters from Patrick Flahaven, Minnesota Secretary of the Senate and Edward Burdick, Chief Clerk of the Minnesota House requesting a review of the registration fee for the annual meeting and recommending an increase over last year’s fee. The committee discussed the history of registration fees for ASLCS. Sally reviewed the details of the various expenses associated with an annual meeting relating to registration fees, host state obligations and private fundraising.

Linda Hawker moved that the registration fee for the 2001 Annual Professional Development Seminar in Bloomington, Minnesota be set at $235 for conference delegates and $150 for spouses. Diane Bell seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote. Sally also advised the committee that the business fee would be set at $500 for this meeting.

New Business

Roster

Suzie Lowell, Chair of the Roster Committee, requested funds in the amount of $650 for printing costs of the roster. These expenses were in lieu of purchasing Quark Express which had previously been approved. She explained that the breakdown included $500 for the binding and $150 for the cover. Judy Hall moved that $650 be disbursed from the dues account to cover printing costs associated with the ASLCS Roster. Norman Moore seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

In answer to a question regarding the cost of mailings, Sally Kittredge responded that mailings that go out from her are charged to NCSL.

Photo Montage Committee

Sally Kittredge explained that she would be putting the photos on CD and distributing it to members of the Photo Montage Committee for their review.

Pat Saville appointed a committee to review and edit the photo CD from the annual meeting in North Carolina. Members of the committee include: Susan Schaar, Chair; Linda Hawker and Michael Linn.

Other Business

2003 Annual Meeting

Norman Moore gave a report on the progress of the planning for the 2003 meeting in Arizona. The hotel would be the Doubletree in Scottsdale, and the dates would be September 7-10, 2003.

Bylaws Committee

Karen Wadsworth, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, reported that one change discussed in the committee meeting on Saturday was to propose a change in the bylaws regarding compilation of the standing orders. The recommended change was to substitute “President-elect in consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer and NCSL liaison” for “Secretary-Treasurer.” The Bylaws Committee will consider this change at the spring meeting in April.

Adjournment

Linda Hawker moved that the Executive Committee meeting be adjourned. Steve Arias seconded. Motion carried by unanimous on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,
Judy Hall (OR)
President-elect
April 22, 2001

Call to Order

President Pat Saville called the meeting of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries Executive Committee to order.

Quorum

Members present:

- Pat Saville, President
- Anne Cornwell, Secretary-Treasurer
- Steve Arias, Elected Principal
- Norman Moore, Appointed Principal
- Linda Hawker, Appointed Associate
- Judy Hall, President Elect
- Diane Bell, Associate Vice President
- Michael Linn, Elected Associate
- Faye Blanton, Appointed Principal
- Donna Doyle, Appointed Associate

NCSL Staff present:

- Sally Kittredge

Minutes

Minutes from the December 10, 2000 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed by the committee and approved as corrected on motion of Linda Hawker and seconded by Norman Moore. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote. The minutes will be printed in the next issue of The Legislative Administrator.

Treasurer’s Report

Ann Cornwell, Secretary Treasurer, presented the treasurer’s report to the committee. Diane Bell moved that the report be adopted. Michael Linn seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Old Business

ASLCS Account Summaries

Sally Kittredge reported that the balance in the Shared-Profits Account is $15,146.10 and the balance in Special Meetings Fund is $67,653.20.

Sally gave a brief explanation of the transfer of overage from the Joint Canadian/American Meeting in Austin, Texas, to the Special Meetings Fund Account.

International Video Project

Denise Weeks, Chair of the International Video Committee recommended the Executive Committee approve the International Video that has been developed by OGT. The video will be made in English, Spanish and French. Norman Moore moved the committee approve the International Video. Diane Bell seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Jeannine Wood, Co-Chair of the International Communication Committee discussed the purchase of a pewter plate to be presented to OGT in appreciation for all the work they have done in developing the Video. ASLCS would purchase the pewter plate for OGT. A special gift would be given to Jackie Shafer for her work and dedication using any money left over from the International Video Project. Judy Hall moved the committee approve the purchase of a pewter plate for OGT and gift for Jackie Shafer. Steve Arias seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Discussion continued on the possibility of inviting Jackie Shafer to the annual meeting and presenting the gifts to her then. Action on this was deferred to the NCSL summer meeting in San Antonio, Texas.
Executive Committee Meeting

April 22, 2001 (Continued)

The committee also recommended the video be shown at the ASLCS Annual Meeting and also try to show it at the staff luncheon at NCSL Annual Meeting in San Antonio. There will be no problem showing the video at the ASLCS Annual Meeting, but NCSL will have to approve it being shown at the NCSL Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Faye Blanton moved that the Executive Committee have Carol Peterson and Pat Saville make the request on behalf of ASLCS to have the video shown in San Antonio, Texas. Judy Hall seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

There was a discussion as to the location of the original copies of the International Video. The recommendation was three (3) copies in English, Spanish and French be kept with ASLCS Archives. NCSL should have one (1) copy of the video in each language. Mike Linn moved that the committee approve the recommendation as stated. Linda Hawker seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

The Executive Committee decided, after a discussion, to request 125 copies of the video in English, 10 copies in Spanish and 10 copies in French. Mike Linn moved that the committee approve the recommendation as stated. Judy Hall seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

International Communication and Development Committee

Carmela Bills and Jeannine Woods, Co-Chair of the International Communication and Development Committee requested approval for the purchase of a pewter plate being presented to ANOMAC in recognition of their 5th year anniversary. Diane Bell moved that the committee approve the purchase of the pewter plate as a gift to be presented to ANOMAC. Judy Hall seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Legislative Staff Achievement Award

Pat Saville proposed the following change to the ASLCS Standing Orders:

Section VIII: NCSL/ASLCS Relations

NCSL Legislative Staff Achievement Awards: They will be awarded annually at the NCSL Annual Meeting to designated individuals or offices that have demonstrated excellence in supporting the work of state legislature and strengthening the legislative institution. ASLCS may nominate up to two individuals from its staff section.

New Additional Language:

After the individuals are selected: The President sends a letter to the Principal winner with a copy to leadership and sends a letter to the Associate winner with a copy to leadership and to the Principal Clerk. In addition the President will send a letter thanking the persons who submitted nominations for this award and list the recipients.

Faye Blanton moved the committee approve the new language to Section VIII of the Standing Orders. Diane Bell seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

2000 Audit of ASLCS Dues Account

The Audit Committee, consisting of Ann Cornwell, Diane Bell and Norman Moore, met on Saturday morning, December 9, 2000, at 9:00 a.m. in the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. The committee examined all deposits and disbursements concerning the dues account for the previous year. The committee determined that the balance as of December 7, 2000, should be $12,856.89. A certified cashier’s check had been sent to Ann Cornwell from Judy Hall for $12,848.68. The discrepancy of $8.22 was shipping and handling charges on an invoice to Midwest Trophy that had inadvertently not been paid. The $8.22 owed to Midwest Trophy has since been paid by check number 103, dated 2/22/2001. Steve Arias moved the committee approve the Audit Committee Report as submitted to the Executive Committee. Linda Hawker seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Attendance at Joint Canadian/American Meeting

Sally Kittredge, NCSL Liaison, reported that the standing order referring to those allowed to attend the Joint Canadian/American Meeting does not match the custom and practice of ASLCS. Norman Moore will draft a standing order, referring to those allowed to attend the joint meeting. He will present recommendations to the Executive Committee on these changes at the summer meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Action on this subject was deferred until the NCSL meeting in San Antonio, Texas.
New Business

Publication Standards - website

The Executive Committee adopted making the ASLCS website public during the meeting in Memphis, Tennessee. Because of this, Section 3 in the Standing Orders needs additional language to reflect this change. Publication Standards will also need to have additional language. The committee has requested the Technology Committee to present recommendations to the Executive Committee on these changes at the summer meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Action on this subject was deferred until the NCSL meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Administrator Photographs

Discussions were held regarding guidelines for the Legislative Administrator Chairman on how to handle pictures and negatives that are taken during the year. Pat asked Bruce Jamerson, Chair of the Legislative Administrator Committee, to present recommendations to the Executive Committee at the NCSL summer meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

ASLCS Register Committee

Janet Jones submitted the following report. There have been 80 responses to the request to each legislative chamber for a list of the past legislative clerks and secretaries. She will continue to try to gather the final data. Janet suggests that there be a presentation page for each state with a graphic of some type preceding each state’s listing. The information would be presented in a column format with the oldest dates first @this is the way over 90% of the data was provided-down to present day clerks and secretaries. A preface detailing the role of clerks and secretaries would be an introduction. Faye Blanton and Diane Bell volunteered Florida to take care of the printing for the booklet.

Photo Montage Committee

Faye Blanton, Chair, of the Photo Montage Committee reported that they are in the process of preparing CD’s of all photos that have been archived from 1968-2000. The CD will be played at the Annual Meeting. The committee still needs more photos to finish the project so please send any photos you have to Donna Doyle. It was decided that members would be able to order copies. The Executive Committee will discuss how to distribute copies at the NCSL summer meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Exchange Program Committee

Pat Saville appointed the following members to the Associate Exchange Program Committee: Diane Bell, Chair; Larry Warden, J.R. Rodrigue, Judy Hall, Jeff Finch, George Bishop Judy Barrows, Scott Maddrea and Norma Lowe. The Executive Committee reviewed a draft of the Associate Exchange Program. The Exchange Program Committee will present and seek approval of the final guidelines for the Associate Exchange Program along with a standing order at the summer meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Action on this subject was deferred until the NCSL meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Other Business

Bylaws Committee

Carol Peterson, Vice-Chair of the Bylaws Committee, presented the proposed changes to the Bylaws and Standing Orders as follows:

The Bylaws and Standing Orders Committee of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries met on Saturday, April 21, 2001, Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah. The Committee unanimously approved the following Bylaws changes for recommendation to the Executive Committee:

ARTICLE III

“The President-elect shall: have responsibility for depositing copies of the current Bylaws, Standing Orders, and Index with the staff liaison of the National Conference of State Legislatures, unless otherwise ordered by the Society; perform such duties........”

“The Secretary-Treasurer shall: keep accounts of all monies of the Society received or disbursed; sign all checks for the payment of money; have responsibility for depositing copies of programs and proceedings of all meetings with the [secretariat] staff liaison....”
ARTICLE IV

“T shall be the duty of the [Secretary-Treasurer] President-elect to maintain current compilations of the Bylaws, Standing Orders and Index and [at each annual meeting to post them for the information of the membership] shall deposit copies with the staff liaison of the National Conference of State Legislatures for information and distribution to the membership at the annual meeting.”

Faye Blanton moved that the changes to the Bylaws as requested by the Bylaws Committee be adopted. Norman Moore seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Archives

The Executive Committee also discussed changing the Standing Orders concerning Archives. It was the committee’s recommendation that 3 copies of all documents and communications that are published need to be sent to Archives. The changes will also need to be reflected in the Publication Standards Article 12. The Bylaws Committee will present the Executive Committee with written changes at the summer meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Action on this subject was deferred until the NCSL summer meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Australian Alliance

Susan Schaar will make a report at the NCSL summer meeting in San Antonio, Texas, on the progress of the relationship of the Australians and ASLCS.

Membership

Request was made by Annette Moore, Chairman of the Membership Committee, for approval to give a gift to new members during the Fall Conference for the new member with the most state pins collected and the new member who interviews the most members. Norman Moore moved that ASLCS provide the winners with an ASLCS watch. Judy Hall seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Annual Meeting About Ribbons

Sally Kittredge presented to the Committee the possibility of changing the ribbons for the badges given out at the annual meeting. The change proposed would be stackable ribbons instead of long ribbons. The stackable ribbons would each have a job category listed. Pat Saville named the following committee to review the categories that need to be used for the stackable ribbons: Judy Barrows, Chair; Dave Avant, Norman Moore and Annette Moore. Judy Hall moved the approval of the stackable ribbons be used for the annual meeting. Faye Blanton seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Adjournment

Faye Blanton moved that the Executive Committee meeting be adjourned. Judy Hall seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ann Cornwell (AR)
Secretary-Treasurer
NEBRASKA CAPITOL MASONRY RESTORATION PROJECT

By Patrick J. O’Donnell (NE)

In 1999, the Nebraska Legislature approved funds for a masonry restoration project on the State Capitol. As work is progressing in the third year of this 8-year project, scaffolding surrounds the 400-foot tower and is now winding around the 19-foot tall bronze Sower statue that stands atop the dome. The Sower has endured the weather elements over the past 70 years including lightning strikes which have left craters and divots on the bronze surface of the statue. These will be repaired along with cracks in the seams. In addition, the restoration will provide for cleaning, adjustment of the color of the bronze so it is uniform, and an application of a protective acrylic lacquer and wax.

In early April, 65-mph winds blew off a 1½-ton section of copper roofing on the southeast corner of the capitol above the Supreme Court Library. The 2½ acres of copper roofing was scheduled for replacement as part of the restoration project but not for about six years. The affected roof has been replaced with a temporary roof until it they can replace the remaining copper that covers the capitol.

Due to the amount of noise created by the masonry restoration project, employees in the tower have had to be temporarily relocated. This provided an opportunity to update the office areas to meet fire and life/safety codes, and upgrade communications and electrical service including painting, carpet, and some window replacement. Re-occupancy in the tower could begin as early as late August this year. The 14th floor observation which has also been closed during the restoration, will be reopened after the scaffolding around the tower is removed sometime in the spring of 2002.

MY MEG

By John Phelps (FL)

Mothering runs deep among the women in my family. (My wife Pam owns a preschool that cares for about 130 children from infants to kindergarten.) My oldest daughter Joi decided if she reached 35 years old and was still unmarried she would adopt a baby girl. Like many professional women she deferred marriage for a career.

In 1996, after much paperwork and preparation she and my wife Pam went to China to pick up her new baby. Meg was then 6 months old.

The photograph shows Meg (on the right) and her friend Natalie, who came from the same Chinese nursery. It was on the front page of our local newspaper the day after they became citizens under a new federal adoption law. The Mayor of Tallahassee asked Meg and Natalie to give the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag in a special “citizenship” ceremony in front of City Hall. Meg had a little trouble with “invisible” but otherwise did fine. Joi made the dresses for the event.

Since Joi was single, I have filled the father role for Meg through her early years. It has been a joy beyond all my imagining. She even goes “bird watching” with me but mostly likes to watch the alligators.

Now Meg is going to have a real Dad. In June, Joi is getting married to an FSU professor who has a four-year-old daughter of his own. Meg and Sara will be sisters and I will be “papa” for another little girl.
A prominent street adjoining the Alabama State House has been named in honor of Secretary of the Senate McDowell Lee.

In keeping with Senate Joint Resolution 127 of the 2000 Regular Session, the former “Pelham Street,” which adjoins the North side of the State House, has been formally renamed “McDowell Lee Lane.” The Resolution, co-sponsored by all Members of the Senate, cited Mr. Lee’s “statesmanship and invaluable contributions to the institution of the Legislature” and noted that “it is both appropriate and desirable to honor him in a permanent and tangible manner.”

On February 20th, the Alabama Legislature recessed in order to participate in official dedication ceremonies emceed by Alabama Governor Don Siegelman. In attendance were many former Members of the Alabama Senate, whose tenures spanned four decades, as well as former Lt. Governor Jere Beasley.

“No one has ever been more dedicated or committed to public service than Charles McDowell Lee,” said Governor Siegelman. “I proudly join with the members of the Alabama Legislature and the City of Montgomery in renaming Pelham Street as McDowell Lee Lane, a permanent honor for his contributions to this state.”

In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Lee reminisced about his career with the Legislature, and noted that such a ceremony normally precedes the official ending of a career. “However,” Mr. Lee wryly stated, “for those of you who came here expecting a retirement speech, I’ve got news for you - I’m not going anywhere.”

Born in Clayton, Alabama, McDowell Lee attended Auburn University before joining the United States Navy in 1943. He served in both the European and Pacific Theaters throughout the remainder of World War II. In the postwar years, Mr. Lee served as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Mayor of Clio, Alabama. Elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1954, he served eight years in that body before being elected Secretary of the Senate on July 16, 1963, a position he has held continuously to the present.

Mr. Lee is a past President of ASLCS, and received the Joseph A. Beck Distinguished Service Award in 1989. He is a past NCSL Staff Chair and an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. He is the longest serving active Secretary of Clerk in the United States.

Mr. Lee is married to the former Hazel Johnston, of Auburn, who serves on the State of Alabama Personnel Board.

An interesting footnote is that since 1923 the Alabama Senate has had only two Secretaries and Mr. Lee will not catch his predecessor, Mr. J.E. Speight, until 2003 in years of service as Secretary.
Bruce F. Jamerson, Clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates, visits Ontario Legislature
By Bruce Jamerson (VA)

All representative democracies represent their constituencies to the best of their abilities, often taking into consideration not only the interests of their district, but also those of their city, town, county, state, province, or nation. However, these types of government often carry out their responsibilities in different ways. During the week of November 13-17, 2000, I had the privilege to experience first-hand how the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Canada represents the people of this Canadian province.

My “road to Toronto,” the provincial capital of Ontario, began in September of 2000 during the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS) Annual Professional Development Seminar. In a conversation with Deborah Deller, the Ontario Legislature’s Clerk Assistant and Executive Director of Legislature Services, I learned that an American-Canadian Clerks and Secretaries exchange program had been developed a number of years ago by ASLCS and the Association of Clerks at the Table. I expressed to Deb my interest in participating in such an exchange, knowing that it would be informative and beneficial to observe the differences between our two systems.

About a month after returning from the September meeting, I received an invitation from Claude L. DesRosiers, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, to come to Toronto. I was excited by such an opportunity, and my Speaker, the Honorable S. Vance Wilkins, Jr., agreed that participation would be beneficial. With the diligent assistance provided by Deb and her Administrative Assistant, Leslie Marino, I made plans to travel to Toronto. We had discussed my goals for the visit -- things that I wanted to see and learn -- and from this discussion Deb built an exciting and busy itinerary to guide my activities for the week. My wife, Elizabeth, was to accompany me for a portion of the trip, and we were able to schedule some time prior to the “official” beginning of my itinerary to enjoy some of the sites, sounds, and culinary delights of Toronto.

On the first day of the program, I arrived at the Legislative Building and the Clerk’s Office, where Deb welcomed me and immediately took me to the Security Office for the processing of my security credentials. All entrances to the building have security checks, and my credentials would allow me access to all areas of the building, whether accompanied or not. My credentials also provided me with access to the Chamber, which is a privilege not granted to all staff members. After having been completely outfitted with the necessary credentials, I returned with Deb to the Clerk’s Office for a meeting with the Clerk of the House, Claude DesRosiers.

Claude and I discussed the many similarities and the few differences of our positions. As dissimilar as the two institutions that we serve might appear to be at first glance, our positions in the institutions that we serve share a fundamental, primary objective -- to preserve and protect the legislative process. To achieve this objective, we both operate our offices in a professional, non-partisan manner. The differences that exist, and there are many, lie in the manner in which we carry out this shared fundamental objective. The unique traditions and histories of our legislatures have shaped our respective institutions, but the primary goal of the clerk in each body remains remarkably similar. One tradition that is observed in Ontario, and in all of the Canadian provinces, is that the Clerks, unlike most American Clerks and Secretaries, are appointed to serve in that capacity for life.

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Todd Decker visits the Virginia House of Delegates

By Todd Decker (Ontario, Canada)

In January, 2001, I was offered the opportunity to reciprocate an earlier visit to the Ontario Legislative Assembly of the Clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates, Bruce Jamerson, and made my visit in mid-February. The motivation to go was strong, and not only because I could look forward to relatively warm temperatures in Richmond (compared to Toronto) and escape, albeit briefly, an unusually long, cold, snow-filled winter.

Also contributing to my excitement was the intellectual anticipation of seeing another House in action during its Session; to learn new and different approaches to common issues and problems; to gauge the degree to which information technology had been implemented in the legislative process; and of course to renew acquaintances with Bruce and his Deputy Clerk, Jeff Finch, and the Clerk of the Virginia Senate, Susan Clark Schaar. As well, the draft itinerary showed that I would be conveyed back to the Richmond airport, at the conclusion of my visit, by the Capitol Police, which I thought was pretty cool (it was; having an ex-Marine chauffeur you at high speed in an unmarked cruiser in a heavy rainstorm is an experience).

I knew before I went on this visit that I wanted to chronicle my experiences and observations, however informally and incompletely, and send my hosts a copy. I know from experience with visitors to our legislature that the objective comments and observations they make, unencumbered as they are by the weight of blinkered experience and personal involvement, are often tellingly shrewd and insightful. Having no stake in the status quo, outsiders often question and chronicle it in the most interesting, non-threatening and perceptive ways.

The remarks in this article are written from the admitted ignorant perspective born of the following frank acknowledgement: there are a colossal number of nuances and subtleties in anything as complex as a jurisdiction’s legislative system, few of which can be discerned by a casual observer on a one-week visit. And of course, all of those subtleties and nuances represent the very justifications for the way the system is; that is, there are very good historical reasons why legislatures evolve the way they do and until those reasons no longer have any validity, the idiosyncrasies that an outsider sees aren’t about to be changed. I don’t intend to be presumptuous enough to offer any recommendations to my Virginia hosts on how they might “improve” or “change”. I wasn’t invited as an operational review consultant, and to do so would be akin to a demolitions expert offering occupational advice to a brain surgeon - or vice versa. The disciplines and premises are just too far apart and neither can know the other’s business without years and years of study and involvement.

All the ‘idiosyncrasies’ in the Virginia system that I saw from my outsider’s view certainly have excellent reasons for existing, which all of the players and stakeholders in Virginia understand perfectly well. The same is true for Ontario; many of our traditions, customs and practices are probably nearly inexplicable to a casual observer from another jurisdiction, someone like the Clerk of an American state legislature, someone like Bruce Jamerson. But to those of us who work in that system, those practices are, for the most part, thoroughly understandable and necessary components of our legislative process, which exist for valid, understandable historical and cultural reasons.

Disclaimer out of the way, back to my visit…..

How ought a Canadian feel when entering a legislative building that was conceived and designed by Thomas Jefferson, built in the 1780’s (almost 100 years before Canada was even a sovereign nation!), and having such

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After meeting with the Clerk, my day continued with a meeting with Karyn Leonard, the Director of Interparliamentary and Public Relations. Karyn provided me with information on how the Legislative Assembly educates the citizens of Ontario about their Legislature. They have produced a number of excellent publications and hands-on activities. One activity allows the youth of the province to role-play the House in session. A special room, located in the Legislative Building resembles the House Chamber. There the students conduct a floor session, led by one of their own, who serves as the Speaker. This activity closely resembles the mock sessions that we conduct in our House Chamber for students during the interim. Additionally, other special programs, targeted for other age groups, to further spark their interest in the history of the province are also offered. For example, seniors may attend a Victorian tea, so as to gain a better understanding of how the citizens of Ontario lived and socialized during this period. A nominal fee is charged for this event.

Upon completion of Karyn’s presentation, she and one of her staff members gave me a tour of the Parliament building. This beautiful structure was completed in 1893, and survived a massive fire in 1909. Of course, the influence of the British Crown is obvious. In fact, just outside the main entrance to the building stands an impressive statue of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria.

At the conclusion of the tour, Deb rejoined me and took me to the Legislative Dining Room for lunch, where I enjoyed my first of several Queens Park Burgers. During lunch, Deb briefed me on Table Duty. On this day, the House would convene at 1:30 p.m. and would not adjourn for the day until 9:30 p.m. (This is the schedule for Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Thursdays, the House convenes at 10:00 a.m.). In preparation for sitting at the Clerk’s Table, I was provided with a black robe. In addition to the robes, the other Clerks-at-the-Table wear black attire with barrister’s tabs. When the House goes in session, the Sergeant-at-Arms processes into the Chamber, mace in hand followed by the Speaker and the Clerks at the Table. The mace is later placed at the end of the Clerk’s Table, and when the House is not in session it is stored in a case under the Clerk’s Table. The Speaker of the House, also outfitted in a black robe, offers the prayer. Once this is completed, the members take their seats.

During this time, I remained stationed behind the Speaker’s chair. The area where the Speaker sits resembles a throne. This is very appropriate, because whenever a new House sits for the first time, Her Majesty’s representative sits in the Chair. At the proper time, I entered the Chamber to take my seat at the table. Before doing so, I paused and bowed to the Speaker. This is a custom that is followed whenever one enters or leaves the Chamber. The tradition traces its roots to ancient times when the British House of Commons met in a Church. The Speaker would preside over the House from the altar. Religious customs dictated that persons entering or leaving the church should bow to the altar. The need to do so did not disappear simply because the House of Commons was meeting in this hallowed hall. Therefore, anyone entering or leaving the House of Commons “Chamber” would bow to the altar. The tradition has survived to this day.

As Americans, we know that our legislative system differs greatly from that of Canadian neighbors. The Parliamentary System allows the majority party (the “government”) to be responsible for all functions of government. The Opposition Party (the Ontario Legislature has two) provides input to the process, but has little influence.

As with any legislative body, the Ontario Legislature has daily “Routine Proceedings.” They include statements by members, reports from committees, motions, and statements by the Ministry and Responses. The “statements by members” period, what we in Virginia would call the “morning hour,” allows for nine members to speak. The Speaker selects those who will speak during this period, alternating between the Government, the Opposition, and the Third party. Each member selected by the Speaker has 90 seconds in which to make a statement. During the “statements by the Ministry” period, Ministers report on the various functions of government and the opposition
party (ies) has the opportunity to question and criticize the actions of the “Government”. Of the 103 members of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, approximately 25 also serve as ministers (in the Parliamentary System, the Executive and Legislative Branches are one). This process can become rowdy, at times, with members yelling comments back and forth across the aisle, even while another member is addressing the House. During my brief exposure to the process, the Speaker regularly had to call for order, and in most instances the members complied.

One topic that caused considerable debate during my visit was the Government’s discussion of raising the members’ annual salary by approximately 42%. The Opposition Parties raised objections, and by the end of the week, this idea had gone away for the time being.

At the conclusion of this 60-minute period, other business of the House continues. This includes a period of oral questions and the presentation of petitions. Petitions are concerns of a member’s constituency that are presented by the member. Before presenting a petition, it must first be stamped by staff at the Clerk’s Table.

In the Virginia House, each day when the House convenes, attendance is taken, primarily to determine the presence of a quorum. Such is not done in the Ontario Legislature because of a long standing parliamentary practice that takes into consideration that members have other responsibilities related to their office. The Ontario Legislature provides gavel-to-gavel television coverage of its proceedings to all the citizens of the Province. Pages, ages 12-13, are competitively selected to serve for a period of 5-6 weeks. They receive a small per diem, are provided with uniforms, and receive daily tutoring. In Chamber, the pages, when not on errands, sit to the left and right of the Speaker, who, for the most part, remains seated. However, when the Speaker stands, the Pages stand and continue to stand until he sits.

There are few recorded votes on the House floor. When one does occur, the members are given a fixed amount of time (5, 10 or 30 minutes, depending upon the situation) to gather in the Chamber. At the end of the 10 minutes, all Chamber doors are locked and no one can either enter or leave until the vote has been taken. In taking the vote, all members in favor rise and the Clerk calls their name. The same is done for those opposed. The vote is then tallied and announced by the Clerk.

The Journal staff, headed by Todd Decker (see companion article), who also sits at the Table during session, has a staff of eight. The Journal is printed at the end of the session (the current House has been sitting since September 1999), and it is built as the session proceeds. This office also maintains the precedents dating back to 1867, the year of the establishment of the Province. Their primary focus is on precedents since 1970, working from the present backward and placing them in a searchable database. In compiling the Journal, the staff uses a number of templates to speed the process. The daily calendar is compiled in the same manner, preparing today for tomorrow’s calendar and modifying as needed. The Journal staff indexes the Journal. An idea of utilizing Indexers from the Legislative Library to perform this function was considered, but ultimately not enacted because they were less familiar with legislative terminology.

The committee system is quite different in Ontario from that to which I am accustomed. There are eight standing committees that meet at scheduled times during the week, often when the House is in session. The committees are perfunctory, deriving all of their power from the House. The public does not have much of an opportunity for input at the committee level, though at times citizen witnesses are called to testify on a matter. Bills are normally referred to committee after their second reading, at which time the purpose of a bill is established.

The House must grant permission for the introduction of any bill. A bill is never amended on the floor (unless the House has resolved itself

Bruce Jamerson stands with a moose outside the CN tower in Toronto.
into a Committee of the Whole). When it is amended in committee, Lisa Freedman, the Clerk of Committees, reviews all amendments.

Lisa is in charge of the overall operations of the Committee Clerks Office. Her deputy handles the day-to-day operations. A staff of six clerks handles the needs of the eight committees and is responsible for taking the minutes of each meeting. When the House is not in session and committees schedule meetings around the Province, the committee staff handles all arrangements for the meeting. So as to determine the best places for meetings and accommodations, they have developed a very thorough database that includes hotels, motels, meeting places, and contact information at each of these locations. The Committee Clerks Office also trains all of the committee chairs so that they will be properly prepared to conduct a meeting.

The citizens of Ontario have easy access to the legislature. Gavel-to-gavel coverage of all floor sessions is broadcast live on television, and the same coverage is also available for certain committees. All floor and committee meetings are covered verbatim. The “Official Report of Debates (Hansard)” is printed for distribution the day after the House sits. My presence on the House floor, so noted by the Speaker, is found in this publication. This information is also posted on their website.

In addition to being able to observe the activities on the floor and in committee, I also had the opportunity to sit in on the Presiding Officers meeting. In attendance were the Speaker, leaders from the Opposition Parties, the Clerk, Deb Deller, and Todd Decker. During this meeting, staff had the opportunity to review with the leadership activities for the day and answer any questions. One item of discussion was the schedule of who would preside. The House has Deputy Speakers, and the responsibility for presiding over the House rotates among them on a regular schedule, usually for a period of about two hours. The Speaker may also use the time during the Presiding Officer’s meeting to discuss any pending rulings. It is customary for the Clerk and his staff to research any pending rulings for the Speaker and provide him with a draft for his review and approval. The Speaker made one ruling during my visit, and another was being researched and completed at the time of my departure.

At the conclusion of this meeting, I attended the Senior Managers meeting. This group, headed by the Clerk, includes the Clerk Assistant, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the Executive Director of Administrative Services. The primary discussion of this meeting was the review of guidelines for areas of the Clerk’s Office to use in making their budget requests for 2001/2002. In addition to being responsible for all building security, the Sergeant-at-Arms also manages all building operations. He reported on the status of several projects under his supervision. The Clerk ran an efficient and effective meeting. Claude is ultimately responsible for all operations of the Ontario Legislature. These professional staff members ably assist him to ensure that his goals and objectives for the operation of the Legislature are met.

One other area of interest to me that I had wanted to learn about was salary and expenses for the members. Members are paid a base salary of CAN$78,006. Additional salary is given for serving as Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Minister, Whip, and a wide range of additional positions. In fact, only a very few members do not draw additional salary for holding one position or another in the House. They are given an allowance for housing, provided that they live more than 50km from Queen’s Park. Funds are provided for travel to and from the Legislative Building, travel on behalf of the Assembly, and travel within “riding” (a member’s district).

They are also given a budget to hire staff, pay rent for a constituency (district) office, and operate that office. Funds are also provided for communications and long distance costs. The amount each member receives varies, depending on the area of the province that the member represents and whether the member is newly elected. The range for 1999-2000 was CAN$195,400-$246,557.
Before my visit came to a close, I had the opportunity to meet with the Sergeant-at-Arms, Dennis Clark. Dennis, before joining the Legislature, served for 30 years in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Under the direction of the Clerk, Dennis manages the building and its security. Building management includes all interior and exterior maintenance, from major renovation to making sure that a burned out light bulb is quickly replaced.

As with any legislative environment, security has been and continues to be important. The Sergeant, through the Legislative Security Service, is responsible for the safety and security of all the members, legislative staff and the approximately 250,000 persons who visit each year. This is accomplished with a well-trained staff, who relies upon on state of the art technology to assist them in their duties. Besides staffing seven entrances to the building, they use an extensive number of surveillance cameras (32), that are monitored by staff at all times. All staff receive identification badges, which must be worn constantly. Many of these badges allow electronic access to areas in the building. Security personnel are also able to electronically lock and unlock most interior and exterior doors throughout the complex.

My week with the Ontario Legislature proved to be a valuable learning experience thanks to the gracious hospitality of the staff in Toronto. A special thanks to Deb Deller, who guided me through the “Ontario Process,” and who got my week off to an enjoyable beginning when she and her husband, Gary, took Elizabeth and me to a fabulous restaurant for dinner. I left their beautiful city with a better appreciation and understanding of the legislative process that takes place “North of the Border.” It is indeed valuable to learn that, given the real differences that exist in our two states, the role of the Clerk and the Clerk’s staff remains fundamentally the same in both of our legislative environments - to preserve and protect the legislative process.

DECKER  

(Continued from page 13)

immense historical significance? This is the building that served as the Capitol of the Confederacy during the American Civil War and in whose halls have trod some of the most important figures in United States history - Jefferson, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, Benjamin Harrison, Stonewall Jackson and an endless list of others. In the rotunda stands a simply outstanding marble sculpture of George Washington, priceless today, carved in France and completed in 1788 by Jean Antoine Houdon; its detail is breathtaking. It was brought to life for me by one of the Capitol's delightful docents, Mrs. Troxell, an institution herself within the institution, by my observation, who recounted elements of Virginia's history with such flair, pride and wonderment that they too were brought to life. I could almost imagine Robert E. Lee's horse, Traveller, tied up out front! Compact and cozy, to this Canadian the Virginia State Legislature is for the above reasons imposing and impressive, in all senses of those words; an icon; a living symbol.

I was in The South, all right. As a northerner (but not a Yankee!) from a country with still-strong British influences (including the English spelling of various words in this article), I harboured some residual trepidation that I would be looked upon with suspicion, mistrust and, possibly, pity. Nothing could have been further from the reality (with the exception, perhaps, of the pity: when my hosts realized I would be returning home to several more weeks of snow and freezing temperatures, I believe their reaction could be described as horrified compassion). Nevertheless, my welcome was complete and comprehensive. My own family couldn't have treated me better.

I had some reason to expect this, of course. After all, I grew up on a tobacco farm in the tobacco belt of southwestern Ontario, so I was going into my visit with some assumed affinity with my Virginia hosts. My Dad had regularly hired a Virginian named Chancey to be our summer tobacco cureman, so I had a good historical base to
draw on at least as far as understanding the southern accent went. As it turned out, I was right. I had no difficulty understanding anyone I met (with one exception - I’m still not sure of anything the affable President of the Senate, John Hager, uttered on the day I attended its Session). A good bonus was that a lot of folks told me my accent wasn’t very strong either - not as much as they had expected from a Canadian, anyway (I hadn’t really thought of myself as having an accent before).

It’s a good thing oral communication wasn’t a problem because just observing the House of Delegates in action was not much help to an outsider trying to figure out what was going on.

I was repeatedly asked what I thought about the level of rowdiness of the House of Delegates compared to the Ontario Legislative Assembly. Well, comparing the two is like comparing a ballet performance to a NASCAR race and the Ontario Assembly is the NASCAR race! The Virginia House was well mannered and quiet during my visit, a contrast to the generally predominant casual mayhem that typifies the Ontario Legislative Assembly. Virginia has noth-Ontario when it decorum. In the it’s against the rules make the kinds of another Member imum, uncivil and antisocial (like calling someone a liar). While the Virginia House has Rule 57 which prohibits the use of “any language or gesture calculated to wound, offend, or insult another member”, it scarcely seems to need it because in four full days observing their sessions from the Clerk’s Desk, not a single utterance was made by any member that even came close to approaching the most routine out-of-order remark to which the Ontario Assembly has become inured.

On the decorum front, though, to be fair to my Assembly, I must note that the only form of sustenance allowed to Members or Clerks in the Chamber is ice water, period. Virginia’s Members on the other hand eat burgers, sandwiches, soup, chips, candy -- you name it. Prominently positioned on their desks are movie-theatre-sized Coca Cola containers (not at all discreet, though the proceedings are not publicly televised. Note to the commercially-minded in Virginia: if you ever decide to go for live television coverage of your House, be sure to hit Coke up for product-placement fees for such prominent display of their logo!).

I wrote earlier that simple observation of the House of Delegates gave no evident clues to what was transpiring. This is not because of any general feeling of chaos or disorganization in the Chamber (on the contrary, to my eye, the Virginia House of Delegates is a paragon of order, courtesy, civility and good manners) but rather because the business agenda is conducted in a manner different to that with which I am familiar.

The Ontario Legislature tolerates the stubborn supremacy of a particular (but not-at-all-unique-to-Ontario) habit: heckling one’s fellow legislators during their speeches; this never occurred in Virginia.

The Ontario Legislature tolerates the stubborn supremacy of a particular (but not-at-all-unique-to-Ontario) habit: heckling one’s fellow legislators during their speeches; this never occurred in Virginia. It seems simply not to be part of the culture. The recognized Member simply says his or her piece and is politely, quietly, listened to by the rest of the House. No Member declined to yield the floor to another Member. Debate on only one Bill exceeded 30 minutes (relating to election law, I believe) and a couple others took up perhaps 15 minutes each. Most bills were dealt with in one-tenth of that time.

Astonishingly, despite a split in the House of 52 Republicans and 47 Democrats (1 Independent), most Bills were decided on near-unanimous votes. Only a few saw significant splits in the vote. The biggest I saw was a Senate Bill relating to the State’s unemployment compensation fund (Senate Bill 833), which was defeated on a vote of 31-69. The closest vote was a tie, 49-49, on an amendment to Senate Bill 1277 (relating to campaign finance disclosure). In a tie, the vote automatically fails; in Ontario the Speaker casts the deciding vote. Mostly though, there was remarkable consensus across Party lines on the vast majority of votes. This is essentially unheard of in Ontario, where the vast majority of votes are decided on strict Party lines, with the Parties in opposition to the Government almost always voting against its proposals (and vice-versa). There are numerous exceptions of course (especially during “Private Members’ Public Business”, somewhat the theoretical equivalent to Virgin-
ia’s “Uncontested Calendar”), but the general rule in Ontario is distinct division on Party lines, not distinct consensus. Virginia appears to have “free votes” on virtually every question; Ontario has “free votes” virtually never. The omnipresence in the Ontario Legislature of robust and aggressive party politics (which similarly exists in all but 2 Canadian jurisdictions) pretty much foretells legislative outcomes. Therefore, at voting time, a split from party discipline is relatively rare and generally received as the act of a brave renegade.

This observation leads to another about the relative independence of individual Members. What I saw was the consistent exercise by each Member in Virginia of his or her own judgement. If the routinely unanimous votes, for or against Bills, across Party lines, indicate something to me it is the essentially complete absence of the influence of the political Parties’ apparatus. Undoubtedly it is there; I just didn’t see evidence of it.

No contrast was more starkly drawn for me that the absence of any Party caucus presence at the Capitol. The Parties receive no funding for a partisan caucus support staff at the legislature. No accommodations are provided. No facilities exist or are extended to the Parties. From the perspective of a legislative administrator, Parties do not formally, visibly exist within the legislative milieu in Virginia. In Ontario, largely, Members do not formally, visibly exists within the legislative milieu unless affiliated with a political Party. This is an exaggeration (we have Independent Members who receive a full range of entitlements), but from a workday perspective, everything, including the rules of the House and the enabling statute of the Assembly, revolves largely around political Parties.

Speaking of partisanship, the week after my visit was expected to be a pivotal one, since it was the last week of the regular session. All of the budget measures would be debated and decided and a key point of contention was a proposal by the Republican Governor, Jim Gilmore, to accelerate a tax reduction on automobiles. There was certainly a partisan split on this issue, but more interesting to me was that the true split seemed to be less between the Republicans and the Democrats than between the House and the Senate. While the House had proposed that the tax relief be increased to 70% (as the Governor wished and had promised), the Senate wanted only 50%. Now, both the House and the Senate have Republican majorities, so I was surprised that the Republican Leadership in both Houses wasn’t united with the Governor. But they weren’t, and each House opposed the other on this question, despite common partisan majorities.

This House-versus-Senate rivalry seemed to be entrenched and ongoing, and sometimes manifested itself in a humorous way. On several occasions, the House had before it one of its own Bills that was being returned from the Senate after the Senate’s review, with amendments placed on it by the Senate. Frequently, the patron (we use the term “sponsor”) recommended that the senate amendment be rejected and when the Speaker asked Members to prepare to vote, a muted but definitely audible Tim Allen-like grunting could be heard, as the Delegates readied themselves to exercise their muscle, press their red “No” vote buttons and vanquish that rascally varmint, the Senate.

Being from a unicameral Legislature in Ontario, this interplay between two Houses was alien to me, but highly interesting. Canada’s national parliament is bicameral and a similar rivalry between the two Houses is not altogether unknown. At various times and with varying degrees of success in seizing the popular imagination, the question of the role of Canada’s Upper Chamber, the Senate, and how it is composed, has been the topic of very rigorous debate in Canada. Despite the obvious duplication of effort inherent in a two-House legislature, and the dispute as to which body has the ultimate moral authority to legislate over the wishes of the other, there are as I recognize numerous reasons for the systems to exist as they do today. For Ontario’s part, though, it has gotten along just fine since 1867 with only one House. I suspect that the folks in each Virginia House might agree with some Canadians, if only jokingly and good-naturedly, on the perceived wisdom and desirability of abolishing the other House!
Though there are obvious and profound differences between an American bicameral legislature and a British-model unicameral parliament, there are also numerous and surprising similarities, most notably on the administrative side of the ledger. The basic organizational structure of the Virginia legislature is strikingly similar to Ontario’s, as for the most part is the range of services and facilities made available to its Members.

A dramatic exception is the extent to which Virginia has embraced information technology as a legislator’s tool. This is in stark contrast to Ontario where electronic devices of any type (pagers, cell phones, Palm Pilots and, most certainly, laptops) are strictly forbidden from the Chamber on the repeated authority of the Speaker. The rationale lies in the assumption that, in a debating Chamber, the Members are there to debate, or to listen to debate; they have need of nothing more than their voices and their ears. This is probably not destined to be a long-lived deficiency on Ontario’s part. Recently the government announced its intention to request a committee of the Assembly to look at the question of augmenting the legislative use of electronic technologies. Even if the Members ultimately decide they don’t want electronic devices in the Chamber for themselves, I hope they will exempt the Clerks and at least allow us to peek our heads from the antediluvian ground cover. I can only hope we Ontarians achieve as successful a system as Virginia already has.

In contrast to Ontario at the moment, however, in Virginia all Senators and all Members of the House have and use laptop computers in their Chambers, which have been wired into the internal online Legislative Information System, an impressively robust, standardized database of business before each House. Each House seamlessly integrates into the database and it is up to date within minutes. Computers are everywhere and they seem to be enthusiastically and proficiently used by all Members (except one, who declined to attend the mandated LIS training and so was disqualified from receiving his new laptop!). A Session in either House transpires amid a sea of opened, identical laptop computers. Members diligently following the daily business calendar online. One wonders what a random photo of the Virginia Assembly in session 200 years ago, Members assembled, might look like when contrasted with one taken today? Look at a random photo of the Ontario Assembly today (exclude microphones and modern apparel) and you would know! This however would be somewhat attributable to the fact that the Clerks and the Speaker wear traditional British black silk barrister’s robes, with white tabs and collars (no wigs or gloves, though). Such sweltering apparel in Virginia would likely cause a mutiny, not to mention raised eyebrows; it nearly does the former and definitely does the latter in Ontario……

Getting back to information technology - its’ enthusiastic adoption in Virginia permits the Houses to speedily conduct all of their business - and what a volume of business there is when contrasted with Ontario; the Virginia General Assembly meets for 60 days in the winter in even-numbered years and 30 days in odd-numbered years. During this concentrated period of time each House considered, in the General Assembly I observed, some 3,300 pieces of business (legislation and resolutions). In a 60-day period, the Ontario Assembly might consider 20 or 30 pieces of business (our Bills being gargantuan by comparison to Virginia’s). On the other hand, the Ontario Assembly sits 5 to 8 hours a day, 100 days per year.

Also speeding the process in Virginia is electronic voting, which permits a tally within seconds. This is important because every vote is recorded, whereas in Ontario most votes are carried on voice votes. Formally recorded votes in Ontario are conducted by roll call, with a Clerk calling out each Member’s name in turn as they declare their vote. This takes a bit longer than electronic voting does but it’s also virtually impossible to vote the “wrong” way; Virginia’s legislators can change their votes by declaring in writing to the Clerk of the House, before the day is out, that the wrong button was pressed on a certain vote. The record will accordingly be amended. This happens routinely.

Speaking of the record, Ontario (and all Canadian jurisdictions and most if not all Commonwealth jurisdictions) record all the proceedings and transcribe them, word-for-word, into a transcript called “Hansard”, so named after the British gentleman who pioneered the process long before the United States even gained its independence as a country. Hansard is a thoroughly useful (and problematic, honoured and reviled) document because it is possible to go back one day or 50 years and read, verbatim, what any Member had to say about any subject ever
debated in the legislature. I think any reader of this article with even passing familiarity with a legislature can understand how Hansard both augments accountability and draws out the legislative process. This is a fact of Ontario’s system, one of those historical realities, a non-negotiable human product of our political evolution, which I mentioned earlier. A written verbatim record is an artifact of a decision made by previous generations that was justified and reasonable at the time, and still is. A visitor from Virginia might wonder why we have this, why we tolerate its expense; I try to imagine a functioning legislative world without it.

I also marvel at the apparent fact that Virginia’s Speakers are rarely, if ever, called upon to make procedural rulings. In a parliamentary system, it routinely falls to the Speaker to interpret the rules of the Assembly and to make sometimes-complex decisions (which are not subject to appeal). In the normal course, Speakers rely upon the advice, institutional knowledge and writing skills of their Clerks when interpreting the rules and precedents of their predecessors in deciding how to resolve the procedural issue at hand. This role lends gravitas to the Speaker’s position and vicariously lends a similar weight to the Clerks’ roles, which helps to justify our barrister’s garb. I think we earn both the garb and the gravitas (I’d gladly trade the garb for a business suit like they wear in Virginia).

I observed the way Americans celebrate, commemorate and honour their culture and their history. It is completely un-self-conscious. The following are legitimate adjuncts to and motivators of legislative activity in Virginia; they are intrusions upon legislative time in Ontario and would never happen: the legislature is called to order and the first hour of the session (the first hour!!) is consumed by Members introducing winning baseball, basketball and other sports teams from throughout the state (all of whom are proudly present in their entirety to accept the recognition); by Members introducing their staff of whom they are genuinely proud; by Members recognizing the recent accomplishments of every group from the little league baseball team in Whereville to the Cancer Society; from the bravery of a member of the military service to the bravery of a fellow Member battling ill health. All of these were touching to me: some brought tears to my eyes. On one of the days of my visit, one of the individuals introduced to the House of Delegates was the 6th great-grandson of Thomas Jefferson, Shannon Lanier, a black descendent of Jefferson from Jefferson’s relationship with his slave, Sally Hemings, at Monticello.

No similarly expansive proceedings exist in the Ontario Legislature during which Members simply rejoice and celebrate the everyday lives of themselves and their fellow citizens (though there is a daily period when up to 9 Members can make statements up to 90 seconds each similarly commemorating and recognizing accomplishments great and small).

Where a robust public discussion of the issues of the day and the state of life in Ontario does take place, though, is in the daily Question Period. During this 60-minute time, all of the members of the Cabinet (who are all elected Members of the House) are subject to rigorous questioning from the other Members of the House. Here accountability is forced upon and accepted by each member of Cabinet individually, for their department, and collectively, as the Executive Branch of government. No equally harsh accountability exercise plays out in the House of Senate in Virginia. The daily Question Period is usually dramatic and often exciting. It adds flamboyance to the proceedings of the House and contrasts with the more businesslike daily agenda in Virginia.

In the end, the overriding realization I had was how similar legislative administration is, how similar the needs and habits of elected representatives, and how similarly professional and dedicated legislative staff are, wherever they happen to work. I discovered that the same problems and challenges, and the same broad political issues, are the same currency of the day in each of our legislatures, and anywhere else in North America, I imagine. We have a lot to learn from each other. That is what legislative exchanges are all about.

I wish to acknowledge the outstanding generosity extended to me by Bruce Jamerson, Clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates. He, his family and his staff treated me in a way that permitted me to benefit to the fullest extent possible, professionally and personally, from my all-too-brief visit. Every person I met holds Bruce in justifiably high regard.

Susan Clark Schaar, Clerk of the Virginia Senate, also extended exceptional courtesies to me, for which I am grateful.
There have been 81 responses to the request to each legislative chamber for a list of the past legislative clerks and secretaries. Millie McFarland was to check on twelve. I heard from seven more chambers since the Winter Meeting report. I have made repeated telephone calls, written letters or faxes and sent e-mails (to those for whom I have addresses).

The question now is: In what format shall the information gathered be presented? And to whom?

I would suggest that there be a presentation page for each state with a graphic of some type preceding each state’s listing. The information would be presented in a column format with the oldest dates first--this is the way over 90% of the data was provided-down to present day clerks and secretaries. A preface detailing the role of clerks and secretaries would be an introduction (perhaps drawing on Sandy Peterson’s materials?).

**Still lacking:**

- Alabama House
- Connecticut House
- Delaware Senate
- Hawaii Senate
- Illinois House
- Mississippi Senate and House
- New Jersey Senate and House
- North Carolina Senate
- North Dakota Senate and House
- Oregon House
- Rhode Island Senate and House
- Tennessee Senate and House
- West Virginia House

I will continue to try to gather the final data and will await your decision on final presentation of the materials. This has been a fun project and I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the coordinator.
WINTER ASLCS MEETING: CHRISTMAS IN MEMPHIS

By Denise Weeks (NC)

.....Sounds like a good title for a country music song....

As you stepped into the Grand Lobby of the famed Peabody Hotel all decked out with holiday decorations, it took a moment to remember that we had actually gathered for the winter meeting of ASLCS. Pat, what a great place to meet!

The lobby was a magnificent gathering place anytime of the day, but especially at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for the famous “duck march” when the red carpet was rolled out and the “Duckmaster” escorted the ducks to and from their Duck Palace to the fountain in the lobby.

With only 3 days in Memphis it was hard to get to all the rib joints, but most of us tried. The “Rendezvous” won the price for the best waiter..... he knew what you needed to order before you had an opportunity to even think about it. You either got a half slab or a whole slab... depending on the size of your torso.

After the rib rendezvous, a visit to Beale Street seemed like a good way to burn a few calories. Rum Boogie Café and B.B. King’s provided good Memphis Blues music for dancing and networking!

The Saturday committee meetings took a new twist - we met somewhat as “committees of the whole”. It was an interesting exercise and eliminated the need for committees to report later. The efficient use of time allowed for a visit to Graceland - courtesy of Burney Durham. There were no sightings of Elvis!

Sally Kittredge is to be commended for the outstanding job with the hotel selection, the folks from Tennessee - Burney and Rich - for being such gracious hosts, and Pat Saville for selecting Memphis. It was a great winter meeting.
The ASLCS received a warm welcome in Salt Lake City, Utah, the site of our 2001 Spring Meeting.

All were struck by Beehive State’s extravagant landscapes…its red rock canyons, soaring mountains, lush emerald forests, and pristine lakes.

The committees were at their productive best, accomplishing much in a very short period of time. While the business of the society consumed most of the time in Salt Lake City, our hosts, Annette Moore and Carole Peterson, arranged for the group to visit the venue for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

As we headed up the mountain, the snow started coming down. We saw signs that said Utah: The Greatest Snow on Earth. This writer found out first hand just how great the snow in Utah was as a snowball came bulleted over my head. One of our esteemed members from the south discovered how easily the freshly fallen snow packed. With a proper motion and a second, the first ASLCS snowball fight commenced.

A good time was had by all.
**THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT TO THE CAPITOL**

By Judy Hall (OR)

It was a crisp and cool, but sunny day on the steps of the Oregon State Capitol. A crowd had gathered to witness the kissing of a pig. Yes, a real pig. This “swine” ceremony was the result of a competition between the House Chief Clerk, Ramona “The Chief” Kenady and Secretary of the Senate, Judy “The Queen” Hall, as a fundraising event for the Governor’s food drive to benefit a local food bank. Ramona Kenady won the honor of this day because more people contributed money to see “The Chief” kiss a pig than “The Queen!”

Representative Lane Shetterly, Speaker Pro Tem, called the “ceremony” to order. House Bill 4554, relating to pig-kissing in public, was introduced and read. Representative Tootie Smith gave a “hammy” speech in support of the bill and the spectators passed it unanimously with “whole-hogged” support.

The pig was called to the Capitol steps in preparation for this special moment. “Porky, the Piglet” (only one-month old) was brought forward and in accordance with the provisions of HB 4554, was examined and certified for kissability by Representative Kurt Schrader, DVM. The Chief boldly took Porky into her arms and laid a smooch right on his snout. The crowd showed their approval by wildly squealing and grunting.

“The Queen,” adorned in her crown and carrying her “It’s Good to be Queen” bag, was called upon to present a special pig award to “The Chief.” She explained that in order to keep “The Chief” from being “piggy” about this award, she would only be able to hold it for one year.

In a surprise move, Speaker Pro Tem Shetterly accepted an amendment from the “steps” to double the money raised so far if “The Queen” would also kiss the piglet. The Queen graciously consented and after all was tallied, the Governor’s food drive was much richer because of the sportsmanship demonstrated by The Chief and The Queen.

**MINNESOTA SEMINAR WILL FEATURE VENDOR'S FAIR**

By Ed Burdick (MN)

The Technology Committee in cooperation with the Program Development Committee is promoting a vendor’s fair as part of the ASLCS Professional Development Training Seminar scheduled for September 14 - 19, 2001, at Bloomington, Minnesota.

Pat Saville, Society president, has indicated that considerable interest is being shown by participants because it has been several years since a similar activity was held in connection with the annual seminar.

Pat Flahaven, Secretary of the Minnesota Senate, and Ed Burdick, Chief Clerk of the Minnesota House, have announced that plans call for the fair to be held Sunday afternoon, September 16, as part of the program at the state capitol in St. Paul.

If you have ideas for potential vendors, please contact Hogan Brown, Assistant Clerk of the South Carolina Senate, who is serving as chair of the Technology Committee, or Sally Kittredge, senior staff assistant at the NCSL office in Denver.
This is the second of three articles for the Legislative Administrator relating to behind the scenes administrative issues of ASLCS. It is the intent that each article will provide greater understanding of the mechanics and processes of ASLCS, and thus maximize the participation of each Society member.

For the New Member: What is ASLCS and How can I get involved?

What is ASLCS?
The American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS) was founded in 1943. The primary purpose of the organization is to improve legislative administration and to establish better communication between clerks and secretaries and their staffs throughout the United States and its territories. In 1974, ASLCS joined with several state legislative groups to form the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). The Society’s membership has grown to include active participation of over 350 principal clerks and secretaries and legislative support staff. Today, the Society is the most active of NCSL’s ten staff sections. ASLCS serves to provide an effective forum for discussing common legislative administrative issues, parliamentary procedures, technological developments, and networking among legislative clerical officers and their staffs.

Who can be a member?
The Society’s membership is made up of the elected or appointed legislative clerks and secretaries (Principle members) in the 50 states and the possessions and territories of the U.S.A. Associate members are legislative employees designated by the principal clerks and secretaries from the personnel in their offices. Any former member, even upon retirement, may maintain an associate level membership. Associates make up the largest segment of the Society’s membership. Both principles and associates makeup the Society’s leadership including serving as chairs and vice chairs of committees. The Society’s operations are governed by its bylaws and standing orders under the guidance of the Executive Committee.

Once you become a member you may wish to find out other members that work in similar job functions from other states. The Society has a searchable database of the principal Clerks and Secretaries and the Associate members that is provided online. To access this website go to http://www.ncsl.org and click on Legislative Staff. This will open a page that will have four links including the online directory of staff section members ( searchable database). Click on the online directory and you will then be accessing the searchable database and then select the state(s) and other variable criteria you wish to search. Please note that the database only shows the dues paying principal and associate members.

In addition, ASLCS has available the ASLCS Position Description Database. This database is designed to provide a synopsis and beneficial comparison of the varied job descriptions encountered within the ASLCS membership. Initially compiled by the ASLCS Support Staff Committee in 1998, this database is a living document and will be updated as new text is submitted.

Who serves on the Executive Committee?
The officers for the Society include a President, President-elect, Secretary-Treasurer and elected principal member of the Executive Committee, all of whom must be Clerks or Secretaries and an Associate Vice-President and elected associate member of the Executive Committee, who must be associate members from the office of a Clerk or Secretary. The Executive Committee is composed of the elected officers of the Society; the immediate past president; the immediate past associate vice president; plus four additional members, two of whom must be
associate members, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Executive Committee. The President of the Society chairs the Executive Committee.

**How do I get appointed to an ASLCS Committee and what do they do?**

Annually, usually in the summer, each member is provided with a committee preference survey which they are directed to complete and turn in to the incoming President. The President then reviews the preference surveys and assigns the committee membership. In addition to selecting the overall committee membership, the President also chooses the chair, vice-chair and associate vice-chair for each committee. If you wish to serve in any of these leadership roles you are requested to advise the President on the survey.

The Society has twelve standing committees. The standing committees that are currently active are Bylaws, Membership and Communications, Canadian-American Relations, International Communication and Development, Legislative Administrator (the Society’s newsletter), Professional Journal, Roster, Program Development, Site Selection, Support Staff, Technology and Innovation, and Inside the Legislative Process. The committees are divided into three categories A, B, and C for scheduling purposes. Below is a summary of the primary purpose of each committee.

**Bylaws Committee (A)**

Consider all suggestions for changes in the Society’s bylaws.

**Canadian-American Relations Committee (C)**

Encourage and maintain a good working relationship with our Canadian colleagues and to work with the Canadian Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in coordinating the biennial Joint Canadian-American Clerks’ Conference. [Note: This conference is held in odd-numbered years and is hosted alternately between Canada and the United States. Unlike other Society meetings, the participation in this conference is limited to principal clerks and secretaries or their designated assistant if unable to attend.]

**Inside the Legislative Process (A)**

Charged with reviewing and producing the publication, Inside the Legislative Process. This informational reference document is periodically updated based on a comprehensive survey of clerks and secretaries. The committee works closely with NCSL to develop the survey questions and record the responses in a format that is easily usable by all legislative units and reflects current legislative process.

**International Communication and Development Committee (B)**

Reviews ASLCS’s relationship with countries other than Canada and its role with NCSL in dealing with those countries. The committee receives reports from the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee and works with other NCSL staff sections involved in international relations. In addition to Canada, ASLCS has supportive working relations with its counterparts in Central America, the Association of Central American Legislative Clerks (ATELCA); Mexico, the Association of Chief Clerks of Me African Legislative Secretaries Association (SALSA)

**Legislative Administrator Committee (B)**

The Legislative Administrator is the official newsletter of ASLCS. This publication is the means by which all ASLCS members have an opportunity to share the news of the Society. It contains the minutes from all Executive Committee, standing committee and business meetings as well as other articles about members and state news.

**Membership and Communication Committee (B)**

Strengthen the membership of ASLCS and to improve the Society’s ability to share information with its members.
**Professional Journal Committee (C)**
Publish a journal that will be of interest to legislative staff and provide an opportunity for further professional development of Society members by having their work published in a professional journal. Articles on parliamentary procedure, management, technology, and other topics of interest to legislative staff are solicited for inclusion.

**Program Development Committee (C)**
Plan the agenda for the ASLCS portion of the NCSL Annual Meeting and to develop the program for the Society’s annual Professional Development Seminar.

**Roster Committee (C)**
Provide a current listing of ASLCS members that includes information pertinent to the Society’s elected officers, past presidents, honorary members, special award recipients, committees and committee assignments, bylaws, and standing orders.

**Site Selection Committee (A)**
Investigate a location for the Professional Development Seminar, held each fall. It gives a committee recommendation to the ASLCS Executive Committee, which must vote to approve the committee’s choice.

**Support Staff Committee (B)**
Represent the associate members of ASLCS, to strengthen the contribution and participation of associate members, and to ensure programs that address their needs and interests are included in the agendas of ASLCS meetings.

**Technology and Innovation Committee (A)**
Explores new technology and examines the adaptation of that technology to the operations of the state legislatures. The committee shares information with Society members through reports and programs at the NCSL Annual Meeting and at the ASLCS Professional Development Seminar. The committee, in accordance with the publication standards for the website and subject to executive committee approval, provides guidance to the web master regarding design, content, and maintenance of the Society’s web site.

In addition to the standing committees each year’s President may appoint special committees to work on projects that are to be achieved during that President’s tenure. Examples of special committees have been International Video Committee, Host State Manual Committee, Code of Ethics Committee, and Past Principles Committee.

So when you receive your committee preference form, send them in to the President so you can be appointed to committees. If you wish to serve in a leadership role, advise the President and other members. Remember that you don’t have to be able to attend all the meetings to be a contributor. In this high tech environment each of us have the capabilities to offer input via email, listserv Q&A, fax, and telephone. Many committees have adopted regional approaches to accomplish their varied projects and have divided the country assigning members of a committee certain states to be responsible for and to solicit information from other members. We need each of our members and their respective talents.

**When does ASLCS meet?**
The Society meets three to four times a year (winter, spring, summer, and fall).

**Winter and Spring Meetings**
The winter and spring meetings are working weekend meetings for the Society’s standing committees and Executive Committee. The committees work on their projects and programs for the year. The winter meeting is usually held in December or early January and the spring meeting is scheduled in March or April. The ASLCS President chooses the locations for both meetings.
**Summer Meeting**
The Society’s summer meeting is held in association with the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). This meeting presents an opportunity for ASLCS to interact with other NCSL committees and staff sections. It is a four-day meeting, in late July or early August.

**Fall Professional Development Seminar**
Each fall, ASLCS holds its Professional Development Seminar and Annual Meeting. It consists of five days of intensive training and information exchange, designed specifically for legislative clerks and secretaries and their offices’ staff. This meeting usually is held in September or October. The ASLCS Site Selection Committee determines the location.

**As a member of ASLCS, what’s the fastest way to obtain information on how other states or chambers may handle a legislative issue?**
Join and participate in the ASLCS List Serv. It’s called a “listserv” in e-mail parlance, and here’s how it works. First, you subscribe to the ASLCS e-mail list.

How Do I Subscribe?
1) Send an e-mail to: ASLCS-L-REQUEST@NCSL.ORG
2) Write only the following in the body of the message: SUBSCRIBE
3) You don’t have to write anything in the subject line, but if your e-mail program requires a subject entry then you can add that information.

You are now subscribed. A welcome email message will be sent that provides instructions on how to send e-mail to the list serv. It’s a good idea to save those instructions. Then, every e-mail you or any other subscriber sends to the list’s address is automatically distributed to all subscribers. So, if you post a question, it will automatically be sent to every subscriber, and each subscriber’s response will automatically be sent to every subscriber.

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<td>Important, please be advised that the National Conference of State Legislatures staff sections’ List Servs are open to all registered legislative members and staff. The American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries List Serv is available to any registered legislative member or staff and is used primarily for answering parliamentary and legislative issue questions that have been encountered in other states. Please remember that when sending and/or responding to a question on the ASLCS List Serv, any person registered to use the ASLCS List Serv will be able to view your inquiry and/or message.</td>
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Remember, participation in the activities of ASLCS will not only help the Society meet its objectives but will provide you with opportunities for professional development. Through your involvement you will develop professional contacts, exchange ideas, make new friends and lasting friendships. The Society provides an excellent forum for those of us that have chosen this unique professional environment. Get involved and take advantage of the wealth of knowledge and experience that our membership has to offer!
LIZ ISAACSON
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, Iowa

By Margaret Thomson (IA)

The Iowa House of Representatives honored its Chief Clerk, Elizabeth A. Isaacson, on the opening day of the 2001 legislative session, commemorating her retirement after more than 33 years of service to the General Assembly.

A lifelong resident of Iowa, Isaacson began her career in 1967 as a secretary for a member of the Iowa House. Two years later, she moved up to become secretary to the Majority Leader. Her stint there was followed by service as Assistant Journal Clerk, Chief Journal Editor, and Assistant Chief Clerk. Isaacson was twice appointed as Chief Clerk, first in 1982 and continuously serving in that capacity since 1993.

Well regarded by members on both sides of the political aisle for her fairness, savvy of parliamentary procedures, and institutional memory of the processes and actions of the Iowa Legislature, Isaacson’s career was punctuated in 1999 when she received the ASLCS’ national Legislative Staff Achievement Award for her demonstrated excellence in her work. She has also served on several committees within the ASLCS.

Isaacson is active within the Des Moines-area community and her church. She also was selected as one of Iowa’s at-large delegates to the Republican National Convention last year. She and her husband, Max Isaacson, are looking forward to traveling during their golden years and spending more time with the couple’s four children and seven grandchildren.

Dear Friends:

It is with mixed feelings that I send this message. I have been putting this off for some time but time is running out. I have given my notice as Chief Clerk and January 5 will be my last day on the job. This has been a very difficult decision but now that I have, I am looking forward to being home, traveling more with Max, as well as spending more time with the grandchildren. With the Iowa weather we are having, Max can’t wait to head to warmer climates.

It has been an unbelievable honor to have been Chief Clerk for the Iowa House and to be a part of the ASLCS family. I will treasure the many friends I have made and remember fondly all the good times we have had together.

Thanks much to all of you and God Bless.

With love,
Liz Isaacson
Iowa House
BETTY KING HONORED BY TEXAS SENATE ON RETIREMENT

By Patsy Spaw (TX)

Betty King Day at the Capitol was a fitting tribute to the woman who had served as Secretary of the Senate longer than any other person in Texas history. On April 26, 2001, no one was more surprised than Betty when Former Members Day at the Capitol became, instead, Betty King Day. Her first clue that something was up came when her husband, Bill, daughter and son-in-law, Kevin Ann and Richard Marcyes, and grandsons, Griffin and Max Marcyes, were escorted on the Senate floor at the start of the session. In a tear-and-laughter-filled session, the 31 Texas senators told Betty just how much she had meant to them throughout the past 24 years. Mentor, friend, confidante were a few of the words used to describe Betty. Joining the senators in the tribute to Betty were the governor, two former governors, four former lieutenant governors, and the largest group of former members ever assembled for Former Members Day. Also, the gallery was filled with current and former Senate staffers who gasped appreciatively when a resolution was read which announced that the Lieutenant Governor’s Committee Room would be renamed the Betty King Committee Room—a signal honor never before bestowed on an employee.

Elected the 37th secretary of the senate on the opening day of the 65th Legislative Session in 1977, Betty was to become known as the “gracious lady of the capitol” to generations of lawmakers. The daughter of a longtime capitol employee, Bess Dunlavey, Betty began her legislative career at the age of 14, when she served as a legislative page. After attending the University of Texas, Betty became clerk of the House Appropriations Committee. She went on to serve as secretary for President Pro Tempore Culp Krueger and as a staff member of the Bay Study Committee and Water Pollution Committee before becoming assistant journal clerk in February, 1967 and journal clerk in 1973. After her selection as secretary of the senate in 1977, Betty became noted for her diplomatic management of the senate and for the loyalty and dedication she consistently showed the members of the senate.

The American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries has also benefitted from her hard work. A former president of the society, Betty has served as staff chair for the National Conference of State Legislatures, has served on the Board of the Foundation for State Legislatures, and has provided valuable leadership on the Mason’s Manual Review Commission. In recognition of all that she has given to the society, Betty received the Joseph Beek Distinguished Service Award.

Recognized as a leader in Texas, the Governor’s Commission for Women named Betty one of the Outstanding Women in Texas Government in 1988.

Equally active in the Austin community, Betty was one of the original docents of the Friends of the Governor’s Mansion. She has also served as president of the board of the Austin Lyric Opera, president of the Girl Scouts-Lone Star Council, treasurer of the Greater Austin Crime Commission, vice president of the Symphony League, chairman of the Austin-Travis County Chapter of the American Heart Association, and member of the board of the Settlement Home.

While Betty will be sorely missed, the entire Senate staff wishes her the best on her much deserved and well earned retirement.
ALABAMA

The Alabama Legislature convened on February 6th for its three and one-half month Regular Session that will end on May 21, 2001. Two weeks after the beginning of the Regular Session, the Governor asked the Legislature to recess and let him call a Special Session due to the shortfall in revenue for education. The Legislature recessed and the Governor called the Special Session but failed to pass a single bill proposed by the Governor. With the failure of the Special Session, the Legislature has continued to wrestle with the revenue problem in the Regular Session but, as of May 1, they have not resolved anything and have a lot of work to do before adjournment on May 21, 2001.

It was only the second time in a quarter of a century that the Alabama Governor called a Special Session within a Regular Session of the Legislature.

They are faced with at least two (2) Special Sessions this summer; one for Legislative Reapportionment and another for Congressional Redistricting.

ALASKA

In March Alaska legislators extended a telephonic hand of friendship and cooperation to their counterparts in the Russian city of Khabarovsk. Ten members of the House and Senate spoke by teleconference (through an interpreter) with participants in a conference of government officials in Khabarovsk seeking ways to encourage private business. Assembled on the Russian side were members of the Khabarovsk krai Duma, roughly equivalent to the state legislature, municipal authorities from the Khabarovsk krai and its two largest cities, and other officials representing nearby regions and groups.

Khabarovsk lies west of Alaska across the Bering Sea, and resembles Alaska in its cold climate, sparse population, mineral wealth and distance from its federal government. The Russians extended the invitation as part of a continuing effort by the Alaska and Russian governments to exchange information and experience for their mutual benefit.

Amid the numerous exchanges of good wishes and personal greetings, many between officials who have become personally acquainted during past diplomatic exchanges, the participants shared insights as to how government encourages private businesses in Alaska and how it might do so in Russia. Both sides pledged to maintain similar contacts in the future.

ARIZONA

The 45th Legislature convened on January 8, 2001 with many new members and a 15-15 split in the Senate. This was in large part due to term limits that went into effect for the first time with the general election last November. In the House of Representatives, 27 of the 60 members are new to the House and six of the seven members occupying leadership positions are new to leadership. In the Senate, a 15-15 split resulted in a Republican President and a Democratic Floor Leader. The committee chairs and the committee membership of each Standing Committee are evenly divided between the two parties.

The House and the Senate are hoping to secure new voting systems and display boards during the interim for use next regular session. Projection systems, plasma boards and LED have all been examined.

The Old Capitol building is in the process of restoration phases. The building is a museum and includes many items from the USS Arizona. The restoration project will take a number of years and the hope is that it will be completed by February 14, 2012 (Arizona’s centennial).

ARKANSAS

The Arkansas General Assembly recessed on April 13, closing a 96-day session during which lawmakers approved laws affecting pre-school children, nursing homes and the elderly, education, and the state’s tobacco settlement.

Lawmakers until formal adjournment, now set for May 14. They could return to Little Rock on or before that day to clean up any errors, override any vetoes, and to take care of other matters, such as legislation that could be needed in a pending lawsuit over the state’s school-funding formula. A trial on the lawsuit has been held, and the judge’s decision on the issue is imminent.
One of the most dramatic votes of the Session occurred the evening of April 12th when the House voted 65-22 to raise the tax on beer by 3 percent, thus restoring money to two early-childhood education programs that had been slated by the governor for $9.6 million in budget cuts.

The tax equals about 18 cents on a six-pack of beer bought for off-premise consumption, and does not apply to beer bought and consumed in restaurants and bars. The 3-percent tax would raise about $10 million a year, with 80 percent of the money to go to the Arkansas Better Chance program for pre-kindergarten education and child care. The remaining money goes to the Home Instruction Program for Pre-School Youngsters to subsidize day care for the working poor.

CALIFORNIA

Finding a solution to the energy crisis continues to dominate this session of the California Legislature, which convened in December. Pressure from the public is mounting, and rolling blackouts continue. Meanwhile, restoration of the damage done to the Capitol building when a runaway truck plowed into it continues. Some offices used by the Legislature had to be moved.

COLORADO

Two proposed constitutional amendments affecting Colorado Assembly were both defeated during the 2001 Session. The House of Representatives killed a proposed constitutional amendment that would have allowed legislators and other elected state officials like the governor to serve 12 years instead of eight. The eight-year term limits were put on the ballot by initiative in 1990 in the interest of ensuring a citizen legislature.

Earlier this year the Senate rejected submitting to the voters a proposed constitutional amendment that would have lowered the age to run for the State House of Representatives from 25 to 21. The measure, which would only have applied to the House and not the Senate, was introduced as a means of getting more young people involved. Colorado is one of a small handful of states that require state representatives to be at least 25.

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut is mourning the loss of State Rep. Howard Scipio. Scipio died at the end of April from complications from leukemia.

Scipio was known as a strong advocate for aid to New Haven, for everything from public schools and the failed New Haven mall project to playgrounds and affordable housing. “Howard’s was a life that really ought to be celebrated,” said New Haven Mayor John DeStefano. “He left a mark in his community.”

“Howard took care of the people he loved and dedicated his legislative service to promoting justice and fairness. He was kind, thoughtful, generous and hardworking,” said Speaker of the House Moira Lyons, D-Stamford.

Few colleagues in the Legislature knew Scipio was ill and colleagues were expecting him to attend committee meetings when they were told he had died.

Scipio was a retired executive with the Southern New England Telephone Co. He was born in Bridgeport, but grew up in Hamden and earned a degree from the University of Bridgeport. Scipio lived in New Haven for more than 40 years.

DELAWARE

The 141st General Assembly was dealt a blow before the First Session was even convened when a House Member passed away in December, just after being re-elected to his eleventh term. Opening day gave rise to some interesting protocol questions as our lame duck Governor issued a Proclamation calling the House into extraordinary session on that day for the purpose of declaring the vacancy. The Member’s widow won the special election and was sworn in on her birthday.

It was an interesting way to begin what’s turning out to be a very interesting session. For the first time in many years, our revenue forecasts are down. In addition, redistricting looms. There’s a rather firm commitment from Leadership to get it completed before we recess on June 30 for the year. It will continue to be interesting.
FLORIDA

There are several bills being considered by the Florida Legislature concerning election results. One bill would clarify the standard for counting votes on spoiled ballots, while another would create a statewide voter registration database and revise deadlines for certification of election results.

GEORGIA

The first session of the 146th General Assembly of Georgia convened at 10 a.m., January 8, 2001, and adjourned Sine Die just before midnight on March 21, 2001. Among the most contentious issues was a proposal to change the state’s flag. HB 16 changed one of the last state flag to contain the controversial confederate battle emblem, also known as the St. Andrews Cross. The new design has the state seal resting on a field of blue with five flags centered underneath. Among the five are three former state flags including the most recent, the 13 starred American flag, and the current U.S flag. The words “Georgia History” are right above the banners and right below, are the words “In God We Trust.” Governor Barnes spoke to representatives in the House Chamber before the measure was taken up to voice his support and encourage the bill’s passage.

HAWAII

On April 16th the Hawaii House celebrated “House Veterans’ Day” with a formal ceremony on the floor. The “House Veterans’ Day” festivities were undertaken at the direction of Speaker Calvin Say, who learned of a similar celebration in a sister jurisdiction while attending a recent conference for state speakers.

I must be truthful that when I got the assignment to assist the Vice Speaker assembly a mailing list of all prior House members; script a chamber ceremony; and plan for a luncheon, I grimaced and silently questioned: “Why now, during a contentious session?”

After some thought, we contacted the State retirement system to assist in assembling a list of former House members from the Territorial Legislature and since statehood in 1959, and who were still alive as of February 1, 2001. We were lucky on one hand, since the retirement system had just 3 weeks before the request fully automated its records. However, we ran into some privacy issues and I had to make a formal request to the retirement system board and the attorney general for the release of mailing addresses.

After a couple of weeks we got the needed information, and the invitations were printed and mailed. We fully expected about 30-40 people to respond. After all we thought that once people leave elective office, especially after a heated or losing election, they never really want to return. To our amazement, within a span of three weeks over 100 “vets” responded in the affirmative.

Over 100 leis were purchased, special certificates of service recognition were prepared and a luncheon for 175+ people was organized.

The morning of April 16th was especially hectic, as in addition to our regular business, public school teachers and University professors and lecturers were in the Capitol en masse lobbying the Governor and the legislators for significant salaries and a benefits package that would end the statewide lower and higher public education strike. But in-between, all the usual “busy work” familiar faces came by to say “hello” and to give us “old-time” staff updates on children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren, and on other “after the legislature” news.

Some who serve before me 20+ years ago came by to examine their former chamber desk and identify the current seat’s occupant for possible luncheon partnering. Some came into the chamber in wheelchairs and on canes and with breathing equipment. However, when the Speaker made his recognition comments and when their individual names were called, each stood proud and tall.

At the luncheon, it was heartening to see the former Consumer Protection Chair who served over 15 years ago sitting with the current chair exchanging thoughts. I saw our 94 year old former House member, who served in Congress as Hawaii’s Territorial representative to Capitol Hill, sitting with a second term member inquiring into current House procedures. And I saw former member, who is a 442nd World War II veteran, discussing politics with a sitting legislator who happens to be the daughter of a 442nd veteran.

It was one of those rare days when my staff and I went home with a “good feeling” … feeling proud to be serving in this Institution called the Legislature.

IDAHO

Before adjourning March 30th, the Idaho Legislature passed legislation extending minimum wage benefits to farm workers who were formerly exempt. Idaho is only the 10th State in the Nation to include farm workers under the minimum wage law.
ILLINOIS

Among the legislation being considered this year in Illinois is an effort to expand the state’s “Senior Circuit Breaker” program that helps seniors pay for prescription drugs. The legislation, developed with the assistance of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) would:

- Expand the list of eligible prescription drugs to include antibiotics, drugs used in the treatment of osteoporosis, and medicine to help cancer victims cope with the physically debilitating side effects of treatment.

- Increase the income eligibility cap by about $7,000 for each of the three levels of eligibility. For example, the eligibility cap for a married couple would increase from the current $28,480 to $35,000. It is estimated that between 50,000 and 75,000 Illinois seniors will benefit from this increase.

- Streamline the program by aligning the eligibility and accumulated drug benefit cycles, as consistent with Medicare.

Seniors participating in the Circuit Breaker program receive the first $2,000 in prescription drugs free of cost after a $3 per prescription fee. After that threshold amount, the state pays 80 percent of subsequent prescription costs. In addition, participants may purchase their annual auto license plates for $24, and are eligible for reductions in their property taxes.

INDIANA

Until the early nineties, the only practical way that Hoosiers had of keeping up-to-date on legislative issues was by reading the newspaper. With the advent of the internet, all citizens can now keep an eye on the progress of legislation by themselves. However, technology keeps evolving, and so must the General Assembly.

Earlier this session, a bill was approved by the Indiana House of Representatives which would provide video and audio coverage of General Assembly and other legislative activities over the Internet or by television. If this bill is signed into law by the governor, Indiana will become one of the 46 state legislatures in the nation to broadcast coverage, either by audio or video, of floor proceedings. If approved and signed by the Governor, broadcasts may be available for viewing by the next legislative session (January 2002).

IOWA

In Iowa, the nonpartisan Legislative Service Bureau draws new district maps after the decennial census without regard to incumbents’ districts or any partisan concerns. The first plan has been released and has been given the three required public hearings. It has thrown two incumbent Republican congressmen in together, has caused 50 of 100 House members to be thrown together, and has 20 of 50 Senators thrown into new districts together. If this first plan is rejected, Legislative Service Bureau will offer a second plan, which also cannot be amended, and if that one goes down, a third plan will be filed which may be amended; after that, absent agreement, the matter goes to the courts.

Revenues have come in considerably lower than the Revenue Estimating Conference had predicted in December, which has caused the Republican-controlled legislature to propose a budget which will require belt-tightening in many state agencies and institutions, while the Democratic governor suggests that we dip into the “rainy day fund”. Thus, they are currently having a debate over what really constitutes a rainy day. Between the budget battles and the redistricting uncertainties, it appears likely that at least one Extraordinary Session will be required to resolve everything for the 2001 Session.

KANSAS

At a recent Council of State Governments (CSG) meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the agenda called for reports from the leaders of various member organizations. It was quickly apparent that the State of Kansas has produced its share of outstanding leaders.

- Carla Stovall, President of the National Association of Attorneys General and currently Attorney General in Kansas.
- Ron Thornburgh, President of the National Association of Secretaries of State, and currently Secretary of State in Kansas.
- Kathleen Sebelius, President of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and currently Insurance Commissioner of Kansas.
- Gary Sherron, President-elect of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors and currently Lieutenant Governor of the State of Kansas.
- Pat Sivilie, President of American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, and currently Secretary of the Kansas Senate.
LOUISIANA

The Louisiana Legislature is considering a bill to sell the naming rights of the Louisiana Superdome. If the proposed legislation passes in its current form, all royalty and payments for naming the Superdome would go to the Saints as an incentive for them to remain in New Orleans.

MAINE

On March 24, 2001, the State of Maine and National Association of the Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (NACCCA) dedicated the newest addition to the Capitol Complex - the Civilian Conservation Corps statute. The statute honors the 17,000 “young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps who, from 1933 to 1942, changed the face of Maine by building parks, roads, trails, forests and citizenship, leaving a lasting legacy to the conservation of natural resources for which all citizens of Maine owe a debt of gratitude.”

The Civilian Conservation Corps carried out many notable projects in Maine, including building and expanding many of the roads, parks and other facilities that are still in use.

MARYLAND

The Maryland Senate ended session at 11:45 p.m. on April 9th. The Senate adjourned 15 minutes early which was highly unusual. At that time, we were involved in a filibuster on a death penalty moratorium, and the House had adjourned so there was little incentive for us to continue. The session in general had few major issues although there were three very short filibusters. Also on two occasions a motion was made to withdraw a bill from committee. Although the motions were defeated by roll call, it has presented a dilemma to the leadership in that it seems to undermine a very strong committee system here in Maryland.

Maryland has a new Senate Office building that is open for business, and the old building is closed for renovation. All of the Senators are squeezed temporarily into the new building until the old one is finished.

Well anyway, on to redistricting. There may be a special session this fall to attempt to resolve it.

MASSACHUSETTS

The chief parliamentarian of the Massachusetts House on Thursday filed a report outlining two new ways members could vote both in the chamber and from remote locations in the State House. House Clerk Steven James was directed in January to research the options and report to the full House within three months. His research indicates there are two available methods for secure remote voting: a so-called smart card with a magnetic strip that would be slid through a voting unit on the member’s desk or at a remote location, or fingerprint recognition technology. The latter technology is in use in Oregon, although only in the legislative chamber and not at remote sites. No states currently use smart card technology. In his report to the House, James does not make a specific recommendation but does point out that the potential for abuse is less with the fingerprint method, especially if remote voting units were to be located in hearing rooms. Their presence there would eliminate the need for members to leave public hearings and travel to the House Chamber to cast their votes. There are only two companies in this country that provide roll call systems for state legislatures and Massachusetts has been doing business with International Roll Call Corporation since 1965. James has recommended creating a special House committee to further investigate available system. The study was authorized after reports of widespread “phantom voting” during last year’s House budget debate”.

MICHIGAN

From her desk on the House floor, state Rep. Cora Anderson could look out the window and watch the activity on the corner of Capitol Avenue and Ottawa Street.

Almost 75 years after Anderson left office, members of the Michigan House gathered at that site on a cold winter’s day to dedicate a building in her honor. On December 19th, state lawmakers officially renamed the House Office Building as the Anderson House Office Building.
The structure, completed in 1999, put Republicans and Democrats and their staffs in the same location for the first time in decades.

Born April 10, 1882, Anderson was the first woman to serve in the House and remains the only woman to be elected to the Michigan Legislature from the Upper Peninsula. On Nov. 4, 1924, she ran unopposed as the Republican candidate for a seat in the Michigan House. Anderson represented the Iron District for a single two-year term, 1925-26. She chaired the Industrial Home for Girls Committee and also was assigned to the agriculture, insurance and Northern State Normal School committees. Although she ran for re-election in 1926, Anderson was defeated in the Republican primary by William Birk and never returned to the Legislature.

“As we embark on a new century, it’s fitting we honor a trailblazer of the 20th century,” said House Speaker Chuck Perricone. “Cora Anderson paved the way for many others to follow. I am thrilled that we can perpetuate the memory of this dedicated public servant.”

“It is important that we continue to recognize pioneers like Cora Anderson,” Perricone said. “Our state’s heritage is filled with hard-working individuals who spent their lives making this state a better place. Modern historians are finally documenting and sharing the important contributions of women, Native Americans, African-Americans and others. For too long, we’ve forgotten the unheralded sacrifices of these individuals. While naming buildings is a worthy first step, it’s equally important to etch their names into our collective memory and pass their stories on to future generations. Their example will educate and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.”

MINNESOTA

The Dalai Lama, one of the world’s most famous religious leaders, addressed a joint convention of the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives at the state capitol in St. Paul on May 7th. It is believed the exiled leader chose Minnesota because the state has a large population of Tibetan Buddhists, second to New York.

The Dalai Lama has been in exile since 1959 when China invaded Tibet. He won the Nobel Peace Laureate in 1989 and has addressed only one other state legislature, Wisconsin in 1998. He will make six stops in the United States before returning to his government-in-exile in India on May 28.

MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Legislature passed a bill to create the Commission on the Status of Women. The thirteen-member Commission will identify and study needs, problems and opportunities available and publish periodic reports documenting the legal, economic, social and political status of women in Mississippi.

MISSOURI

In January, Republicans won a majority in the Missouri Senate for the first time since 1948.

NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Legislature will be hosting the 56th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments, in Lincoln, Nebraska, July 29 - August 1, 2001. The Clerk of the Legislature’s Office has been intimately involved in planning for this event. The featured faculty includes political commentator Mark Shields and noted historian Stephen Ambrose. A variety of social events are also scheduled including kicking-off with an opening night reception at the Capitol, Sunday, July 29th. A casual family evening event will be held at the Strategic Air Command Museum, Monday, July 30th followed by the traditional State Dinner at the Cornhusker Hotel on Tuesday, July 31st. Approximately 500-600 delegates from the twelve Midwestern states are expected to attend. This will be the first time in recent history that this event will take place in the capitol city of Nebraska. Prior to this, when Nebraska was host to MLC, it was held in Omaha.

NEVADA

A bill to make Nevada the first state with legal Internet gaming has been approved by the State Assembly and is currently pending before the Senate. Final action is expected before the Legislature adjourns June 4th. Under the bill, casinos must pay a $500,000 licensing fee every two years for an Internet license. The total is half the amount that the bill originally sought to exact from casinos, however casinos must also pay a $100,000 nonrefundable application fee.
“The goal is to keep gaming in Nevada where it belongs. A vote against the bill is a vote in favor of unregulated offshore Internet gaming,” Judiciary Chairman Bernie Anderson said.

The bill also requires the Gaming Control Board to study Internet wagering systems and issue regulations on how the games would be conducted.

During hearings, state regulators said about 18 months would pass before regulations are completed and licensing of Internet casinos begins. Internet casinos would pay a 6.25 percent tax on their winnings. The same tax rate is assessed in actual casinos.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Speaker of the House Gene Chandler recently announced that beginning March 22, 2001 sessions of the state House would be aired in “streaming audio” on the General Court website.

“By airing the House sessions on the web, I believe we are providing a valuable service to our constituents by making state government even more accessible and accountable. There are many people who cannot make the trek to the State House, but who now can listen to sessions from either their homes or offices. Also, I feel strongly that airing the House sessions can prove to be a valuable educational tool in many of our schools,” Chandler said.

The Speaker credited Representatives Mert Dyer and Leon Calawa, as well as former Representative Marion Copenhaver, with helping to make the new project possible. With Dyer and Calawa’s interest in ensuring technological improvements in the House, additional advancements may be possible in the near future, Chandler said.

The General Court web address is: www.gencourt.state.nh.us. A link will be provided on the site’s main page to the “streaming audio.”

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey has several highly unusual governmental situations taking place at this time. When New Jersey’s Governor Christie Whitman resigned office to take a cabinet position in Washington earlier this year it created a unique vacancy. New Jersey’s constitution mandates that the Senate President serve the remainder of the Governor’s term, while still serving as the Senate President. I believe New Jersey is the only state that allows for this dual office holding.

In a related matter, the Republican and Democratic parties of New Jersey are in federal court arguing over the redistricting map. On Monday, April 23, 2001, Speaker Jack Collins called the Assembly in for an unscheduled meeting to consider one bill. The bill extends the date for the primary election to the end of June, instead of the first Tuesday in June. It naturally affected all related filing dates and deadlines.

The bill was passed to give the court time to determine the legislative districts. Although, the first race effected by this new legislation was the gubernatorial. On Wednesday, April 25, 2001, Senate President, Acting Governor Don DiFrancesco, who was also a candidate for Governor, withdrew from the race. The committee on vacancy then appointed former Congressman Bob Franks to run in the Acting Governor’s place. Without the change in the date of the election the deadline would have passed for appointing a replacement. Bret Schundler, DiFrancesco’s only opponent, has gone to court challenging the appointment of Franks.

The decisions in each of these two cases will impact New Jersey’s politics and government for years to come.

NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico Legislature wrapped up our sixty day session on March 17th at 12:00 P.M., although we really finish April 6th when the Governor either signs, vetoes or pocket vetoes all the bills we have sent him.

The Governor wanted a $72 million tax reduction for everybody to last forever. The Legislature sent him his $72 million to last two years. He then proceeded to veto $275 million in projects for members districts. Now he wants us back but will not call us back into special session. The Legislature responded “See You in September,” when we come back for redistricting.

NEW YORK

The New York State Assembly has introduced an expanded web site that provides easier access to news and information from the Assembly and its 150 members. The updated site can be found at the same address as the former site: http://assembly.state.ny.us
“The internet is no longer a novelty - it has become a basic communications tool for millions of Americans,” said Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver. “Our new web site recognizes the fact that more and more New Yorkers will use the web to get information about their state government and the elected officials they send to Albany.”

The new site allows visitors to enter their zip code to find out the name of their Assembly member and to view a map of their Assembly district. The site also includes new home pages for each member that allow users to access member publications and to learn about legislators’ committee assignments and the bills they are sponsoring.

Other features of the new web site include:
- Bill Search and Legislative Information, where users can track legislation and get details on a bill’s progress, background, sponsorship, how members voted on the bill, and where the bill will go after it leaves the Assembly.
- This Month in History, providing interesting facts about New York’s past.
- Information Request page, where visitors can sign up to receive issue updates and Assembly publications on a wide variety of subjects.
- Kids’ Page, offering trivia on state issues, puzzles and games to make it fun for young people to learn about their state government.
- Assembly Career Opportunity and Assembly Internship pages.

NORTH CAROLINA

The House and Senate of North Carolina have just finished an exciting two week round of long hours, extra committee meetings, lots of floor debate, and late nights.

What’s that, you say? You’ve finally adjourned the session?!!!!!

Wrong!

We have finished with our “crossover deadline”. This self-imposed deadline is placed in the House and Senate Rules requiring that, “In order to be eligible for consideration by the House during the first Regular Session, all Senate bills other than finance or appropriations bills which would be required to be re-referred to the Appropriations or Finance Committees under Rule 38 or adjournment resolutions, must be received and read on the floor of the House as a message from the Senate no later than April 26; provided that a message from the Senate received by the next legislative day stating that a bill has passed its third reading and is being engrossed shall comply with the requirements of this subsection and provided that the Senate has a similar rule”. (House Rule 31.1(d))

Crossover bill deadline. - In order to be eligible for consideration by the Senate during the 2001 or 2002 Regular Sessions of the 2001 General Assembly, all House bills other than those required to be referred to the Committee on Finance or the Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget by Rule 42, or adjournment resolutions must be received and read on the floor of the Senate as a message from the House no later than April 26, 2001, provided that a message from the House received by the next legislative day stating that a bill has passed its third reading and is being engrossed shall comply with the requirements of this rule and provided that the House accepts Senate bills ordered engrossed on the next legislative day. (Senate Rule 41)

Each day’s Calendar was longer than the previous one - and the only day that we finished the Calendar was Thursday - THE DAY. Every day also had some Unfinished Business on it from the previous day.

To top it off, Coach Mike Krzyzewski and the Duke University “Blue Devils” were honored during both the House and Senate sessions on Thursday for their outstanding play during the 2000-2001 basketball season and their winning the 2001 NCAA National Championship. What a nice break during such a rushed time!

And last but not least, a columnist with the News and Observer came to the Legislature to do an article about an ordinary citizen trying to find his way around the building in two days of leisure time. It was quite an interesting article. He asked the question, “Can an ordinary person walk into the General Assembly and make sense of what’s going on?” His answer, “Sort of!”

NORTH DAKOTA

At 11:46 p.m. Saturday, April 28th, the 2001 North Dakota Legislature became the longest session in modern history, however it would take another 41/2 hours to wrap things up. Not until 4:23 a.m. Sunday did the final
The Senate Education Committee.

The first North Dakota constitution allowed the first legislative session 120 days, from Nov. 19, 1889, to March 18, 1890, to do its work, apparently acknowledging that it would take extra effort to get the new state off the ground. After that, the constitution gave legislators just 60 days every two years to do their work. In 1976, state voters extended that to 80 days and, since then, legislators have typically worked hard to keep sessions well short of that deadline. The longest previous session, in 1993, also went 77 days, but that session adjourned at 11:45 p.m., meaning that the 2001 session is the new record-holder.

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma is currently trying to wrap up its 2001 legislative session. Lawmakers must complete the final state budget, finish redistricting work, and pass other substantive legislation before the mandated adjournment deadline of 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 25th.

In an effort to reform Oklahoma’s state tax system, Senate President Pro Tempore Stratton Taylor has launched an initiative designed to determine how Oklahoma could eliminate its state income tax and the sales tax on groceries, and still adequately fund state services. Taylor believes elimination of the income tax in particular will be a great boost to economic development. Researchers at the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University have been asked to draft such a tax reform program.

Initial construction has begun on Oklahoma’s State Capitol dome. Originally designed to have a dome, a lack of funds prevented its completion when the building was first constructed in the early 1900’s. The dome is scheduled to be completed in 2003.

OREGON

Senate President Gene Derfler on Tuesday shut down a committee headed by a fellow Republican who a day earlier circulated a letter criticizing Derfler’s performance and suggesting he should be replaced.

The Salem Republican acknowledged he was punishing Sen. Gary George of Newberg, whose letter said having a new Senate president might be “constructive and productive.”

“This is in reaction to an unacceptable letter,” Derfler said Tuesday. “This is what the president does.”

Derfler closed the Senate General Government and Transportation Committee, where more than 100 bills were pending. He said he would review them and decide which might be sent to other committees. To do so, he said he could reauthorize the panel and name himself chairman.

The flap involves dissension in the majority GOP caucus over Derfler’s backing of Democratic Gov. John Kitzhaber’s plan to spend a large share of so-called “kicker” tax refund money to balance the budget. The refund, estimated at $337 million, is otherwise due to be returned to taxpayers later this year. State law requires that when revenue in any two-year budget period exceeds forecasts by 2 percent or more, the refund law “kicks in” and all the excess is sent back to taxpayers unless legislators decide otherwise.

George said he didn’t know his committee was being closed until shortly before legislative workers showed up Tuesday morning to “escort” the panel’s staff out of the Capitol.

Derfler also removed George from the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission, a five-state panel that works to resolve fisheries issues.

The second part to this story is that in order to save the bills that were in the committee that was closed, the Senate withdrew 43 of the remaining bills in that committee to the floor on Monday this week. The Senate has not been successful in withdrawing any bills from committee to the floor since I’ve been here, so it was quite an interesting process.

Pennsylvania

In early April, a delegation of 12 German lawmakers visited Pennsylvania to gain knowledge and insight into the state’s e-government technology. During their three-day program, the members of the delegation, comprised of men and women from eight states throughout Germany, studied the role of technology in both state and local government.
The delegation enjoyed several presentations of how Pennsylvania made the best use of technology in the House of Representatives, governor’s office, and various state agencies. One item of particular interest to the delegation was the use of laptop computers on the House floor when we are in session. Although German government does use technology extensively throughout government, they have not used computers in this way. House members find the computers helpful in researching legislation and answering messages without having to leave the floor during voting session.

RHODE ISLAND

With thousands of onlookers viewing the festivities, hundreds of fragrant flowers and a band ushering in the state’s newest leaders, the Rhode Island General Assembly moved into its posh new home, the Marble Palace, on January 1, 1901. One hundred years and thirty days later, members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives revisited its past and celebrated the 100th anniversary of legislating at the State House on Smith Street.

On January 31, 2001 inside the House Chamber, representatives listened to their colleagues and additional speakers retell the history of the General Assembly meeting inside the marbled dome of the State House. During the legislative session, House Majority Whip Suzanne M. Henseler introduced a House Resolution commemorating the anniversary and Albert Klyberg, the former director of the Rhode Island Historical Society and current director of the Heritage Harbor Museum delivered a speech on the role the General Assembly has played in the history of Rhode Island.

“In the new State House, there was more space than in any of the previous meeting places-combined,” said Mr. Klyberg.

“This anniversary is very important, one that should be treasured, enjoyed and remembered,” said Representative Henseler. “The first day in the Marble Palace was such a special day for the entire state, full of pomp and circumstance. Bouquets of flowers decorated the chamber and added fragrance to the air all the while a band played as the legislators took their new seats.”

The decision to commemorate the anniversary originated from Representative Henseler. Last year the House Majority Whip organized a commission to study the anniversary and plan a subsequent celebration. Although the actual anniversary occurred on January 1, 2001 (New Year’s Day), the House of Representatives decided to mark the date on the last day of January.

Much has changed and much has remained the same in the century that the General Assembly began occupying seats in the new capitol building. For instance, in the 1901 session, there were 72 men in the Rhode Island House and 37 men in the Senate. In a few years, as mandated by a referendum that passed in 1994, the House will shrink in membership from 100 to 75 and the Senate will drop from 50 to 38. In 1901 doorkeepers were stationed outside the chamber doors with strict instructions to monitor people entering the new chambers, only to allow legislators and reporters. Today, the tradition continues. Even though the building was not completely finished, the General Assembly began holding legislative sessions in State House on Smith Street in 1901. The international firm of McKim, Mead & White designed the State House and groundbreaking occurred on September 16, 1895. Nine years, 15 million bricks, 327,000 cubic feet of white Georgia marble and $3 million later, the historic building was completed.

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota has experienced its first Session with new leadership in place and with many new faces in familiar places. The 2001 Session of the Legislature marked our inaugural run feeling the effects of term limits. Thirty-five veteran legislators left the work of the Legislature to bright, energetic new faces. We welcomed 28 Representative and 2 Senators who had never had the opportunity to serve previously. The remaining five seats were filled by people who had previously served as legislators but who had been out of the body for one or two terms. To thicken the plot, fifteen sitting legislators switched Houses, most committee chairs were new and so were nearly all the leaders. The Session moved forward in much the same way and at much the same pace as was the case in previous years. This good fortune was due in no small part to the fact that the new leaders, who each had some experience with the process, grew into their new roles quickly and lead effectively and to the fact that there were fewer proposed bills than in previous Sessions. The members of the freshman class proved to be adept committee members and the committee process of weeding out bad legislation and improving on worthy proposals worked effectively. While the veteran legislators were certainly missed, the current versions of the South Dakota House and Senate are an able and earnest group which speaks well of the citizenry from which they come and bodes well for future Sessions.

During the recently completed Session of the South Dakota Legislature, our members had under consideration, the Governor’s proposal to securitize the payments due to South Dakota from the Master Tobacco Tax Settlement. Generally, arguments centered around whether the State was giving up too much future cash flow in order shift the risk of default away from the taxpayers. Of course, discussions about the eventual use of the funds complicated the issue. In the end, the Governor’s proposal to securitize the payments was adopted by the legislature together with the creation of two trust funds. A health care care trust fund would be established
and the money dedicated to health care related programs. An education enhancement trust fund is also established to receive payments from the tobacco settlement. Money in this trust fund is dedicated to education enhancement programs. Beginning in fiscal year 2003, the Legislature is required to distribute money from the trust funds. A three-fourths vote of the Legislature is required to appropriate the principal of the trust funds, or to use the trust funds for other purposes.

Public votes on the creation of the trusts are required and referral petitions relating to securitization may be circulated, thus, we do not yet have the final word on how this issue will play out.

TEXAS

A bill being considered by the Texas Legislature would create the Texas OnLine Authority to implement a common electronic system using the Internet through which state agencies and local governments may electronically provide and receive services to and from the agencies or the public.

VERMONT

Utah lost its initial lawsuit to persuade a federal court to order Census counters to tally missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints the same as overseas military personnel and federal employees. Not counting missionaries lost Utah the chance at a fourth U.S. House district which was given to the State of North Carolina.

A second lawsuit has been filed challenging the census count for the use of statistical sampling in determining Utah’s population. This suit alleges that “imputation” was used by the Census Bureau to count about 1.2 million people nationwide. The Constitution states in the 14th Amendment an “actual enumeration in each state every ten years.” The federal Census Act goes one step further; sampling cannot be used for apportionment. The lawsuit requests a ruling that sampling is unconstitutional and an injunction stopping the use of sampled data for reapportionment.

The members of the Legislature are confident the courts will rule in our favor. We must wait and see!

The Reapportionment Committee has been appointed by the Speaker and the President. The Reapportionment Committee is planning to hold ten public hearings at various locations throughout the state to give the citizenry the opportunity for input. The Reapportionment Special Session will more than likely be held in September. Lots of work ahead in such a short period of time.

We were so pleased that President Pat Saville chose Salt Lake City as the “right place” to hold the spring meeting. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed having you here with us. The meetings were most productive and well attended. For those of you who were unable to attend, the highlights of the conference were a visit to the Olympic venues in Park City and the Sunday morning broadcast of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. We hope we gave you just a “pinch of Salt Lake City” and you will all return to visit our state.

VIRGINIA

Thirty-two years ago, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a prefiling statute to allow members to file bills and resolutions in advance of the annual session. Sponsors of the legislation hoped that it would facilitate the work of the legislature by allowing legislation to be printed, circulated, and assigned to committee prior to the convening of the session, thus enabling members to begin their work as soon as possible after arriving in Richmond. Until this year, the response has fallen well short of expectations. The first year after passage of the prefiling statute just 79 of 1,624 measures (4.9 percent) were prefilled. Over the next 10 years, prefiling gained gradual acceptance reaching a peak in 1981 when 15.8 percent of all measures were prefilled. However, after the peak in 1981, prefiling suddenly fell out of favor with members, and by 1994 just 1.7 percent of all measures were prefilled. A survey of members in 1996 revealed 96 percent favored prefiling, yet despite repeated attempts to encourage greater prefiling, by the 2000 Session just 5.2 percent of measures were being prefilled annually - 108 of 2,067. Moreover, 42 percent of all measures were not filed until the last day for introduction.

During the summer of 2000, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and a citizen’s advisory committee conducted separate, independent studies of Virginia’s legislative process with a goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the part-time body. Both studies concluded that greater use of prefiling was one tool, which would promote “greater efficiency in the process without sacrificing the institution of the part-time legislature.” The citizen’s advisory committee’s first recommendation was the adoption of rules permitting unlimited prefiling and placing restrictions on the number of measures which could be filed after the session convened.
Likewise, the NCSL study made five specific recommendations related to the expanded use of prefiling.

In December, after reviewing both reports, the Joint Rules Committee adopted a procedural resolution permitting unlimited prefiling, but limiting the number of measures a member could introduce after the first day of the session. Senators were limited to 10 measures, while House members were limited to just six. By all accounts, the new procedures were a success. During the 2001 Session, 1,254 of 1,773 measures originating in the House were prefiled - 70.7 percent!

Supporters of the change say the new procedure has effectively added a week to 10 days to the length of the session by allowing the bulk of legislation to be printed, available to the public, and distributed among the various standing committees prior to the first day of the session. The change allowed members to get a jump on the workload, increasing efficiency without changing the number of calendar days during which the legislature convenes.

WASHINGTON

We knew this was going to be a tough session here in Olympia but we weren’t expecting the building to crumble! The 6.8 magnitude earthquake shook us around 10:55 AM on, Wednesday, February 28, the 52nd legislative day (the midpoint of our session and the Senate’s cutoff for bills passing out of committee). When the quake hit, the Senate was in session and at ease for caucus. I was in an office (under the nearest desk) just behind the Senate chamber watching the floor move, walls crack, pictures fall, and people panic.

According to news reports, the epicenter was 11 miles NE of Olympia and a number of buildings on campus, including the legislative building and Governor’s mansion, suffered significant damage. Even though the buildings were filled with legislators, staff, lobbyists and visitors, everyone was safely evacuated. And, miraculously, we’ve had no reports of injuries. An interesting historical tidbit...I believe this was the first time, the Lt. Governor and Senate leaders convened a sidewalk session just outside the SE corner of the legislative building in order to adjourn until Friday morning. On Friday, we anticipate adjourning again until Monday (our State Constitution doesn’t allow the Legislature to adjourn for more than 3 days while in session).

WEST VIRGINIA

Unable to complete either matter during its annual sixty-day regular session, the 2001 West Virginia Legislature was forced into a nine-day special session to finish passage of a controversial gambling bill and a $7.2 million state budget.

A bill proposed by new Democrat Governor Bob Wise to restrict so-called “gray machine” gambling devices became the focal point of the regular session since it included funding for a scholarship program for new college students and pay raises for school personnel, state employees, correctional officers and state police troopers. The legislation, strongly opposed by church groups and others who saw it as an expansion of legalized gambling, died in conference committee on the final night of the regular session April 14 when time ran out to produce enough copies of the report for the full membership of each house.

Wise, a 53-year-old former state senator and nine-term congressman who unseated incumbent Republican Cecil Underwood in the 2000 gubernatorial election, included in his call for an immediate extraordinary session the gambling legislation, final action on the state budget, supplemental appropriations to three state agencies and corrective language to a handful of technically flawed items contained in bills passed late in the regular session. Each of those items ultimately passed.

Work on the budget was completed April 23, one day after the bill limiting video lottery devices to 9,000 machines in adult-only settings and making all others contraband by the end of the year passed by a vote of 60-36 in the House of Delegates and a narrow 17-15 vote in the Senate. Four delegates and two senators were absent. Anticipated revenue from the bill is $112 million. Unless his bill passed, Wise had threatened to have state police confiscate all of the estimated 25,000 “gray machines” now operating in stores, bars and clubs around the state. Video poker, keno and slot machines were legalized at the state’s four major horse and dog racing tracks in 1994.

In all, the Governor succeeded in getting enacted all but eight of the thirty items he proposed in his inaugural session. That batting average likely was enhanced by the fact his party enjoys a majority of 28-6 in the Senate and 75-25 in the House.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin’s Governor Tommy G. Thompson headed for Washington earlier this year. Thompson, our governor for 14 years and the longest serving Governor in the country, accepted President Bush’s cabinet appointment to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Thompson’s departure set in motion a process placed in the Wisconsin Constitution more than 20 years ago.
As provided by our Constitution, Lieutenant Governor Scott McCallum became Governor and was sworn in on February 1st. The Constitution also provides that Governor McCallum nominate a successor to serve as Lieutenant Governor. Governor McCallum appointed State Senator Margaret Farrow as his second in command. While this may sound routine, the appointment and the confirmation process has an interesting history.

Until 1979, there was no provision in the Wisconsin Constitution for the appointment of a new lieutenant governor to fill a vacancy. In 1977, Governor Patrick Lacey resigned in the midst of his term to become Ambassador to Mexico. Lieutenant Governor Martin Schreiber then became Acting Governor. Constitutionally, Acting Governor Schreiber did not have authority to appoint a new Lieutenant Governor for the balance of the unexpired term. Therefore, a constitutional amendment was introduced, passed by two consecutive Sessions of the Legislature and approved by voters in 1979. This amendment provided that in the event of death, resignation or removal from office, the Lieutenant Governor would become Governor (rather than Acting Governor) for the balance of the unexpired term. The amendment also provided a mechanism for filling the Lieutenant Governor vacancy - appointment by the Governor and confirmation by both Houses of the Legislature.

Since ratification of the Constitutional amendment in 1979, Tommy Thompson is the first Governor to leave in mid-term. Anticipating the long-rumored appointment of Governor Thompson to a cabinet post, the Houses examined their Rules to determine whether changes were needed. As the Senate had confirmation rules in place because it confirms hundreds of gubernatorial appointments each Session, no change was needed. However, the Assembly had no such confirmation authority and new rules were adopted in February to implement the confirmation process. 2001 Assembly Resolution 24, relating to the confirmation of Margaret Farrow as Wisconsin's Lieutenant Governor, was introduced and adopted by the Assembly in March.

Interestingly, unless a Lieutenant Governor is confirmed, the next constitutional officer in line to succeed the Governor is Secretary of State Doug La Follette. La Follette was in this same position more than 20 years ago. He was also Secretary of State in 1977 when Lieutenant Governor Martin Schreiber took over for Governor Patrick Lacey. With no Constitutional provision to replace the Lieutenant Governor at that time, La Follette served as second in command for a year and a half.

The Senate held two public hearings on Senator Farrow's nomination and confirmed her on May 8th. Senator Farrow was sworn in as Wisconsin's first woman Lieutenant Governor on Wednesday, May 9th.

Another change from Wisconsin - John A. Scocos is the new Assembly Chief Clerk. John, a native of Madison, is the former Executive Assistant for the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and served as the Assembly Sergeant at Arms for two terms. He is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the Wisconsin National Guard.

**WYOMING**

The Wyoming House of Representatives passed three constitutional amendments during the 2001 Session aimed at giving the Legislature more power over legislation. The first of the proposed amendments would limit the governor’s line-item veto power to the budget bill alone. Lawmakers defeated an amendment to that would have given the governor the power to veto any appropriation in any bill. The constitutional amendment arose from the fact that language in school finance bills a few years back was vetoed by Gov. Jim Geringer after the Legislature went home and could not override the veto. The proposed amendment would prevent governors from doing that in the future.

The second resolution would cut the governor out of the constitutional amendment process. Currently, proposed constitutional amendments must be signed by the governor before they go onto the ballot. Geringer recently sued the 55th Wyoming Legislature because it asked Secretary of State Joe Meyer to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the 2000 ballot without Geringer’s signature. The Wyoming Supreme Court sided with Geringer and the measure was taken off the ballot.

The third constitutional amendment would allow lawmakers to call themselves into special session. Now, only the governor can do that.

According to House Majority Whip Randall Luthi the three measures were intended to increase the influence of the Legislature. “The Legislature has been seen in the past few years as losing more ground with the other two branches.”

*Thanks to our Special Contributing Correspondents: Dave Avant (AL), Ed Burdick (MN), Jim Fry (SD), Virginia Habansky (VA), Linda Hanson (WI), Judy Hall (OR), JoAnn Hedrick (DE), Brad Hendrickson (WA), Steve James (MA), Karl Lilly (WV), Dallas Mehling (NE), Jeanine Layell (VA), Pat Mau-Shimizu (HI), Norman Moore (AZ), Carole Peterson (UT), Patrick O'Donnell (NE), Eleanor Ringel (WV), Gail Romanowski (MN), Matt Schuler (OH), Diane Tyner (MS), Tricia Vaughan (VA), Mary Beth Weil (VA)*
December 9, 2000 Minutes

The Bylaws and Standing Orders Committee met on Saturday, December 9, 2000 at The Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. Committee members in attendance were: Karen Wadsworth - NH, Chair; Carole Peterson - UT, Vice-Chair; Carmela Bills - VA; Judy Hall - OR; Susan Schaar - VA; Denise Weeks - NC

The committee is interested in determining which of various printed versions of Society bylaws is correct. The standing orders need to be updated. Former chairs of this committee will be contacted to see if they have material on file which would help with this task. Executive Committee minutes will also be reviewed.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of recommending a change in the responsibility for maintaining the standing orders from the ASLCS Secretary-Treasurer to the President-Elect in cooperation with the Secretary-Treasurer and the NCSL staff liaison.

The committee also discussed “archiving” those standing orders of an historical nature.
April 21, 2001 Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE: Carole Peterson, UT, Vice Chair; Dowe Littleton, AL, Associate Vice Chair; Carmela Bills, VA; Judy Hall, OR; Norm Moore; J.R. Rodrigue, CO; Susan Schaar VA; Denise Weeks, NC; Jeannine Wood, ID

The Bylaws and Standing Orders Committee of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries met on Saturday, April 21, 2001, at the Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah. Carole Peterson chaired the meeting, since legislative business prevented Chair Karen Wadsworth from attending.

President Pat Saville met with the committee and requested the committee to consider amending the Bylaws to transfer the responsibility of keeping a current compilation of the Bylaws, Standing Orders from the Secretary-Treasurer to the President-elect. The committee discussed the request.

Judy Hall moved and Carmela Bills seconded the motion that the Bylaws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE III

“The President-elect shall: have responsibility for depositing copies of the current Bylaws, Standing Orders, and Index with the staff liaison of the National Conference of State Legislatures, unless otherwise ordered by the Society; perform such duties........”

“The Secretary-Treasurer shall: keep accounts of all monies of the Society received or disbursed; sign all checks for the payment of money; have responsibility for depositing copies of programs and proceedings of all meetings with the [secretariat] staff liaison........”

ARTICLE IV

“It shall be the duty of the [Secretary-Treasurer] President-elect to maintain current compilations of the Bylaws, Standing Orders and Index and [at each annual meeting to post them for the information of the membership] shall deposit copies with the staff liaison of the National Conference of State Legislature for information and distribution to the membership at the annual meeting.”

The motion carried unanimously.

A memo from the former Archivist, Jan Thomas, NV, dated October 13, 1999, and a formal request from the current Archivist, Mary Jo Mongelli, pertaining to providing three copies of all Society Publications to be filed with Archives was discussed. The Committee determined amendments were required in two sections of the Standing Orders.

Susan Schaar moved and Dowe Littleton seconded the motion that the Standing Orders be amended as follows:

SECTION VIII: NCSL/ASLCS Relations

Archives:

New language to be added as follows:

“Three copies of all Society publications shall be filed with Archives and one with the staff liaison of the National Conference of State Legislatures.”

SECTION XII: Publication Standards

New language to be added as follows:

“Section 1. Three copies of all Society publications shall be filed with Archives and one with the staff liaison of the National Conference of State Legislatures.”

Renumber Sections accordingly within Publication Standards, Section XII.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jeannine Wood moved and Norm Moore seconded the motion that the committee’s proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Standing Orders be presented to the Executive Committee for its consideration.

On a motion duly made and seconded the meeting adjourned.
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Georgette Aberle, CO  Steve Arias, NM  Dave Avant, AL  Diane Bell, FL
Kristin Canterbury, WV  Sharon Carter, TX  Tony Cook, WA  Ann Cornwall, AR
Londi Ensr, AK  Judy Hall, OR  Vita Hardy, CT  Anne Howard, VA
Pete Isaacs, MN  Liz Isaacson, IA  Pamn Juker, ID  Timothy Kehoe, CT
Sven Lindquist, MN  Steve Marshall, VT  Al Mathiowetz, MN  Lisa McKenny, ME
Annette Moore, UT  Carole Peterson, UT  Susan Schaar, VA  Henry Sheperd, AL
Jacqueline Shettle, CT  Ann-Marie Sweeney, PA  Denise Weeks, NC

December 9, 2000 Minutes

The Canadian-American Relations Committee met on Saturday, December 9, 2000, in Memphis, Tennessee, and was called to order by Norman Moore, Chairman, AZ.

The Chair welcomed all members of the committee and the other members of the Society in attendance at the meeting. The Chair reported that he has communicating with Craig James, President of the Canadian Clerks-at-the Table, and as soon as a roster of the Canadian Clerks-at-the Table was received, the Chair would assign members of the committee to contact Canadian colleagues for the purpose of fostering communication and relations.

The Chair announced the dates of October 11 - 15, 2001, for the Joint Canadian/American Meeting to be held in Ottawa, Canada. The Senate and House of Commons will be responsible for the conference logistics and the Clerks-at-the-Table will be responsible for the content, agenda and subject matters to be discussed at the sessions. The schedule for the joint meeting is as follows:

October 11 - arrival, registration and reception in Ottawa.
October 12 - first working session in the morning and early afternoon, possibly in the Senate Chamber. Later in the afternoon, everyone will be transferred by bus to Mt. Tremblant, Quebec for more meetings for the next two days.
October 13 - sessions at Mt. Tremblant, Quebec.
October 14 - morning session then return to Ottawa.
October 15 - depart from Ottawa.

Jeff Finch reported that Bruce Jamerson, Clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates, was invited by Claude L. DesRosiers, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, to participate in an exchange with the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Bruce was able to attend and he was in Toronto from November 11 - 17, 2000. Bruce will write an article about his experiences in the exchange and it will be published in the Administrator. An invitation has been extended by Bruce and the Virginia House of Delegates to have someone from the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to visit Virginia this year.

The Chair reported that the next Joint Canadian/American Meeting to be hosted in the U.S. would be in 2003 and that Steve Arias had previously indicated that New Mexico might be interested in hosting the meeting. Laura Clemens indicated that Ohio was interested and Susan Clarke Schaar indicated that Virginia was also interested. Discussions will take place at future meetings so that a recommendation can be forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman L. Moore (AZ) Chair
April 21, 2001 Minutes

The Canadian-American Relations Committee met on Saturday, April 21, 200, in Salt Lake City, Utah at 11:00 a.m. at Little America, and was called to order by Norman Moore, Chairman.

The chair reported that information packets had been sent to all Principals of the Society by our Canadian hosts for this year’s Joint Canadian/American meeting to be held in Ottawa, Canada, October 11 - 14. Everyone in attendance indicated that they had received the packets and eight members reported that they planned to attend. The membership was reminded that attendance at the joint meeting is limited to each Principal or the each Principal’s designee. Everyone was encouraged to send in their registration and hotel forms as soon as possible.

The committee was informed by the chair that Bill Corbett, Clerk of the Canadian House of Commons, had called on Thursday, April 12, to inquire what our position would be relating to the Canadian’s inviting the Parliamentarian and a Deputy Parliamentarian of the United States House of Representatives to the Joint Canadian/American meeting in October in Canada. Following brief comments and discussion, the committee unanimously agreed that the host of a joint meeting should be able to invite guests of their choice and that we would welcome the opportunity to have guests from the federal level. It was also suggested that guidelines be developed for future joint meetings relating to inviting guests and representatives from the federal level and from other organizations.

Chairman Moore reported that the United States will be the host of the Joint Canadian/American in 2003 and that three states, New Mexico, Ohio and Virginia have expressed an interest in hosting the meeting. Packets of information from the past two joint meetings were sent to Principals in those states. Following discussion, the committee recommended that Principals from those states make an official presentation at the next meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas during NCCL in August and that after the presentations are made, the committee should make a decision on a site to recommend to the Executive Committee for approval.

Copies of the Canadian Clerks-at-the-Table Roster were handed out to the members. Each member was asked to select two or three Canadian colleagues from the Roster for the purpose of contacting our Canadian colleagues to encourage and foster relations with one another and to promote the Exchange program. Each member reported to the chair the colleagues they had selected. Almost one-third of the assignments were completed and the remainder will be assigned to other committee members in the next few weeks. Once the assignments are complete, committee members will be contacted regarding their assignments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Moore, (AZ) Chair
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Georgette Aberle, CO
Eelyn Castaldi, TX
Molly Durham, IL
JoAnn Hedrick, DE
Scott Maddrea, VA
Gary Randall, MI
Heidi Vogel, AK
Jane Atkinson, VA
Carmen Cauthen, NC
Inga Emerson, DE
Sonja Herd, OH
Annette Moore, UT
Sheila Ryan, IL
Kristen Waid, AK
Karen Brown, UT
Claire Clift, NV
John Garrett, VA
Cheryl Laube, AZ
Patrick Murphy, MN
Jackie Sneddon, NV
Mary Beth Weil, VA
Kristin Canterbury, WV
Patty Dicks, CO
Harle Glover, NV
Suzi Lowell, AK
Tara Perkinson, VA
Ann-Marie Sweeney, PA

December 11, 2000 Minutes

The Inside the Legislative Process Committee met on Saturday, December 11, 2000 in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Chair gave a brief overview of the status of the 2000 survey. Approximately eight chambers have not yet returned their surveys and the decision was made to email those chambers one more time before we begin compiling the results. The committee will then divide the subject areas and begin drafting the survey results. It is the goal of the committee to have the draft completed by the Spring meeting and the final survey approved at the Summer meeting.

Discussion then proceeded to the subject of a single subject survey for 2001. The decision was made to survey chambers on the process by which legislatures propose Constitutional amendments. The results of this survey would then be compiled in an article, which could be published in the Professional Journal.

There was no new business and the committee adjourned.
April 21, 2001 Minutes

Members in attendance: Laura Clemens (OH), Chair, Connie Peltier (MN), Associate Vice Chair, Sonja Herd (OH), Tara Perkinson (VA), Scott Maddrea (VA), JoAnn Hedrick (DE), Cheryl Laube (AZ), Brenda Erickson (NCSL).

The Chair provided an update to the committee on the 2000 survey. Each lead writer will receive a copy of the survey results for their subject. This will be provided on a disk and on paper. Each member of the committee will receive a paper copy of the survey results as well. The following deadlines were established:

- May 1 - packet mailed to committee members by Brenda Erickson
- June 1 - first draft due
- July - revisions/editing
- August NCSL meeting - final draft
- September - mailing of 2000 survey to states.

The Spring 2002 Professional Journal will include an article based on the single subject survey on the constitutional amendment process. The committee reviewed the first draft of this survey and made some revisions. The following deadlines were established:

- May 1 - send survey to principals via e-mail and postage
- June 15 - responses due (follow up by July 1)
- August - outline due for review in San Antonio
- December 1 - submit article for Journal

There being no further business, the committee adjourned.
The International Communication & Development Committee was called to order in a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting by Co-Chair Carmela Bills on Saturday, December 9, 2000 in Memphis, Tennessee. The following members were in attendance: Bills, Carmela, Co-Chair (VA); Hedrick, JoAnn (DE); Herd, Sonja, Associate Vice-Chair (OH); Littleton, Dowe (AL); Arias, Stephen (NM); Moore, Norman (AZ); Bell, Diane (FL); Peterson, Carole (UT); Cornwell, Ann (AR); Schaar, Susan (VA); Hall, Judy (OR); Weeks, Denise (NC)

Co-Chair Bills introduced Sonja Herd (OH), Associate Vice-Chair of the committee. Folders containing the agenda of the meeting, Wilmington, North Carolina Meeting minutes, and a copy of the revised International Directory were distributed to the members.

The committee reviewed and approved the final draft of the International Directory. At this time, Carmela recommended that the ASLCS website be added to the back page of the directory. This recommendation was approved by the committee. It was also agreed to have 300 copies of the directory printed and distributed by January 31, 2001. Copies will be mailed with a cover letter from President Pat Saville to each Principal member of ASLCS and to the Executive Committee members of each Association listed in the directory. Copies will also be sent to members of the International Communication & Development Committee and the Canadian-American Relations Committee. Two copies will be sent to the Archives.

A brief discussion was held on the ANOMAC conference to be held in Cancun, Mexico in July, 2001. Members of ASLCS accompanying President Pat Saville (KS) will be Associate Vice-President, Diane Bell (FL) and Chairman of the International Communication & Development Committee, Carmela Bills (VA)

Judy Hall (OR) gave a progress report regarding the inscription on the plaque to be presented to ANOMAC at their fifth annual conference in Cancun, Mexico. Another update will be forthcoming at the Spring Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah in April, 2001.

Denise Weeks, Chairman of the International Video Committee, gave an update regarding their work. A first draft has been completed and reviewed, edits were discussed and agreed to by the committee. It was decided to show the video to the International Communication & Development Committee at the Spring meeting.

There was no further business discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmela C. Bills, Co-Chair (VA)
Jeannine Wood, Co-Chair (ID)
April 21, 2001 Minutes

The International Communication and Development Committee was called to order at 10 a.m. by Co-chair Jeannine Wood. The following members and guests were in attendance: Carmela Bills, Co-Chair (VA); Jeannine Wood, Co-Chair (ID); Sonja Herd, Associate Vice-Chair (OH); Stephen Arias (NM); Dave Avant (AL); Diane Bell (FL); Ann Cornwall (AR); Judy Hall (OR); Pat Harris (AL); JoAnn Hedrick (DE); Pam Juker (ID); Dow Littleton (AL); Norman Moore (AZ); Carole Peterson (UT); J. R. Rodrigue (CO); Pat Saville (KS); Susan Schaar (VA); Denise Weeks (NC)

On motion by Susan Schaar, seconded by Judy Hall, the minutes of the committee meeting held December 9, 2000, in Memphis Tennessee, were approved by voice vote.

Co-Chair Jeannine Wood reported that the revised 2000-2001 International Directory had been distributed to each Principle member of ASLCS and to the members of this committee. Co-Chair Carmela Bills reported that the Directory had also been distributed to the Executive Committee members of each International Association listed in the directory, and to the Canadian-American Relations Committee. Carmela also reported that she was working with Sally Kittredge and the International Directory will be placed on the Society’s web site. Three copies will be sent to the Archives.

Members of the committee offered congratulations to Carmela for her work on the International Directory. Carmela has dedicated a great deal of time and effort to the publication of this document and the committee extended their sincere thanks and appreciation to her.

A brief discussion was held to remind members that the original, plus two copies, of all agreements, documents, and pertinent correspondence generated between this committee, the Mexican and American Clerks, the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table of Canada, the Australian Clerks, and other international organizations, must be sent to Archives.

Susan Schaar reported that upon request of the Executive Committee, President Pat Saville had written a letter to Mr. Russell Grove, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Sydney, Australia, requesting that the Australian Clerks share a relationship with ASLCS similar to the relationship we enjoy with the Canadian and Mexican clerks. Susan updated the committee on communications with Mr. Grove. The Australian Clerks were to meet in January to discuss a proposed association and pertinent bylaws, and at this point in time President Saville has not received the results of this January meeting. Susan Schaar moved, seconded by Carmela Bills, that we continue to pursue an affiliation agreement with the Australian clerks. The motion carried by voice vote.

Carmela Bills reported that she had purchased an inscribed pewter plate to be presented as a gift to ANOMAC at their fifth annual conference to be held this summer in Mexico. Plans for the conference, previously scheduled for Cancun in July, will be announced as soon as the date and place have been finalized. A bill for the plate will be presented to the Executive Committee for payment. A picture of the plate, along with an article regarding the summer meeting with ANOMAC, will be placed in a future edition of the Legislative Administrator. Carol Peterson recommended that the name and address of the company that made the pewter plate be kept in Archives should ASLCS wish to present a similar gift in the future.

Denise Weeks, Chairman of the International Video Committee, reviewed the history of the video project, and reported that the video was completed. The video was shown and was enthusiastically received by the members of the committee. Steve Arias moved, seconded by Susan Schaar, that the committee recommend to the Executive Committee that the video be approved as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

The committee recommended that the Executive Committee determine how many copies of the video should be produced in Spanish and French, where the master copy of the video should be deposited, and how many, and to whom, the video will be distributed. Two options suggested were: (1) to offer the video for sale to the Society’s membership; or (2) to present one copy of the video to each legislative chamber.

The committee also recommended that the video be shown at the ASLCS annual meeting in Minnesota, and that it be shown at the NCSL staff luncheon in San Antonio. A copy of the video will be presented to ANOMAC by President Pat Saville when she attends their meeting this summer.

The committee congratulated the members of the International Video Committee for their outstanding work in producing the video. In addition to Chairman Denise Weeks, other members included Laura Clemens (OH), Carmela Bills (VA), and JoAnn Hedrick (DE). It was recommended that a formal thank you, an inscribed pewter plate, and a monetary gift, if allowed, be presented to Jackie Shafer, Ohio Governmental Telecommunications. The committee also recommended that ASLCS write a letter to Ohio’s legislative leadership commending Laura Clemens and her staff for their contributions to this project.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannine Wood, Co-Chair (ID) Carmela C. Bills, Co-Chair (VA)

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December 9, 2000 Minutes

The ASLCS Legislative Administrator Committee met on Saturday, December 9, 2000 in Memphis, Tennessee. The following committee members were in attendance: Jeff Finch, Co-Vice Chair, VA; George Bishop, Co-Vice Chair, VA; Scott Maddrea, VA; Laura Clemens, OH; Matt Schuler, OH.

In addition, Pat Saville, ASLCS President, additional members of ASLCS, and Sally Kittredge, ASLCS’s NCSL liaison were present.

Jeff Finch, Co-Vice Chair, opened the meeting by providing an update on the status of the printing of the fall edition of the Legislative Administrator and a review of its contents. A sample copy was available for review by the membership. The Florida House of Representatives would be printing the publication and the goal was to have the issue printed and distributed before Christmas.

George Bishop, Co-Vice Chair, noted that the committee and ASLCS should express much appreciation and thanks to John Phelps, Clerk of the Florida House and his staff, in particular Diane Bell, C. J. Beaty and Gay Parramore, for their assistance in printing the fall edition during a tense period of national attention.

A publication timetable for the remainder of the year that will include both the spring and summer editions of the Legislative Administrator was presented and discussed. A copy of the timetable follows:

**LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATOR TIMETABLE**

**Proposed Publication Schedule**

**SPRING 2001 Legislative Administrator**

December 8-10, 2000  ASLCS Winter Meeting, Memphis, TN
January 12, 2001  Winter Meeting Committee Minutes Due
April 20-22, 2001  ASLCS Spring Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT
May 1, 2001  Feature Articles, States-at-a-Glance Text, and Spring Meeting Committee Minutes Due
May 4, 2001  First Draft Completed
May 8, 2001  Edits to First Draft Due
May 10, 2001  Final Draft Due
May 11, 2001  Final Draft to Florida for Printing
May 31, 2001  Spring Issue Mailout

**SUMMER 2001 Legislative Administrator**

August 1, 2001  Feature Articles and States-at-a-Glance Text Due
August 11-16, 2001  NCSL, San Antonio, TX
August 22, 2001  Summer Meeting Committee Minutes Due
August 24, 2001  First Draft Completed
August 27, 2001  Edits to First Draft Due
August 29, 2001  Final Draft Due
Ideas for future articles were discussed including a winter, spring, and summer meeting report. Denise Weeks, NC, volunteered to generate the winter meeting report. In addition, other potential articles that were discussed included an article on the Florida election recount from a legislative perspective (excellent Journal material as well), session reports, technology updates, parts II and III in the ASCLS “Behind the Scenes” reports, and a continuation of the “States-at-a-Glance” section.

Committee members were reminded of the deadlines for submitting feature articles and their respective States-at-a-Glance reports.

Having no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Finch
Co-Vice Chair

April 21, 2001 Minutes

The Legislative Administrator Committee was called to order by Bruce Jamerson, Chair at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, April 21, 2001 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Members present were: Bruce Jamerson, Chair, VA; George Bishop, Vice Chair, VA; Jeff Finch, Vice Chair, VA; Pat Saville, KS; Scott Maddrea, VA; Diane Tyner, MS, Matt Schuler, OH; and Laura Clemens, OH.

Approval of Minutes

Following a brief review of the minutes taken at the last committee meeting, which was held in Memphis, Tennessee, the committee approved the minutes without objection.

Discussion

Bruce Jamerson, Chair, began the meeting by reviewing the deadlines for the submission of articles and the timetable for production of the Spring edition and the Summer edition.

The Chair then led a discussion of the Spring edition, updating the committee on those articles that had been received, and listing for the committee those articles that were expected to be published.

A discussion ensued regarding proposed content in the Summer edition of the Administrator. Committee members proposed the following ideas for possible articles:

- Redistricting 2001;
- Rhode Island’s mandate to reduce the size of their legislature;
- Report on the ANOMAC meeting;
- Details regarding the upcoming Joint Canadian/American Clerks Meeting;
- Reports and pictures from the NCSL Annual Meeting in San Antonio;
- Agenda for the Fall Professional Development Seminar in Minnesota;
- “Behind the Scenes” -- last article in this three-part series ;
- Form for Society members to request committee assignments from in-coming President;
- Continuation of State-at-a-Glance section; and
- Brief biographical information on each of the new Society members for the year.

Adjournment

Having no other business to come before the committee, George Bishop moved that the committee adjourn. Laura Clemens seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The committee adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
George W. Bishop IV, Vice-Chair
December 9, 2000 Minutes

The Membership and Communication Committee met on Saturday, December 9, 2000, in Memphis, Tennessee. The meeting was called to order by Annette Moore, Chair, Utah, who presided. The following members were present: Dave Avant, AL; Linda Hawker, IL; Cheryl Laube, AZ; Suzi Lowell, AK; Annette Moore, UT; Heidi Vogel, AK; Gwen Bailey, VA; Sharon Carter, TX; Barbara Ferguson, KY; Linda Hawker, IL; Joe Koval, WV; Pat Mau-Shimizu, HI; Janet Pruitt, NC; Dawn Smith, VA; Karen Wadsworth, NH; C. J. Beaty, FL; Mark Corrigan, PA; Frank Forzano, CT; Pete Isaacs, MN; Karl Lilly, WV; Jeannette Moore, VA; Gary Randall, MI; Terry Spieler, MO; Shirley Wallace, NC.

Due to the smaller group of members attending the winter meeting, all committees met together. Chairman Annette Moore, UT, gave a brief review of the decisions made at the annual meeting.

1. The regional organizational plan will be kept in place.

2. The new attendee reception be incorporated with the welcoming reception.

3. A sign-in sheet will be added at the registration desk for the new attendees and their sponsors to sign in when they arrive. This should better facilitate the process of sponsors and new attendees connecting with each other.

Chairman Moore enumerated the evaluation summary responses, noting those that were pertinent to the Membership and Communication Committee.

1. What aspects of the conference did you consider the most valuable?
   - Dutch treat lunch with new members was great.
   - New member orientation - Sunday a.m.
   - The new member orientation birthday theme was very beneficial and exciting! It really made me feel comfortable.

2. What aspects of the conference did you consider the least valuable?
   - Too much attendee stuff.

3. What topics would you like covered at the next training conference?
   - I would like to see some tips on being a sponsor - even a sheet sent to sponsors on what to do and what not to do.
   - Explain on agenda the benefit of new members attending “awards breakfast,” “business meeting,” etc.
   - Explain that committee meetings are open to everyone but that you have to be a dues-paying member in order to vote. Explain what a new attendee can participate in.
   - Assign someone to the registration desk to assist new attendees.
Due to the need for further consideration of previously discussed items, the Membership and Communication Committee moved to a different location to continue the meeting.

Without objection, the minutes of the September 12, 2000, meeting were approved.

In light of the decision to combine the new attendee reception and the welcoming reception, Michael Linn (a member of the 2001 Minnesota Host Committee) asked how the new attendees should be introduced at the welcoming reception. After some discussion, it was decided that the new attendees will be introduced as a group about an hour or so after the reception begins, before the band commences playing. Everyone will be encouraged to introduce themselves to the individuals with the teal ribbon which denotes “new attendee.” (A suggestion was made to change the badges to “new attendee” instead of “new member.” Sally will look into that.)

The suggestion to give a prize to the new attendee who collects the most state pins was discussed. With the 2001 meeting program still in a draft form, the welcoming reception is scheduled for the evening of Friday, September 14. The New Attendee Orientation is scheduled to be held on either Friday afternoon (prior to the welcoming reception) or Saturday, late morning. It was agreed by those present that instead of having the new attendees collect pins only during the welcoming reception and orientation, they should be collected throughout the entire conference and the award for the most pins collected given at either the business meeting or the awards lunch. It was recommended that a notice be given to members of the society@possibly with the initial mailing@to announce the contest so everyone will bring plenty of pins.

The registration desk sign-in sheet for sponsors and new attendees was discussed. Sally Kittredge, NCSL Staff Assistant, stated that if Chairman Moore will provide her with the sponsor-to-new-attendee assignments, she will have a list of new attendees and their sponsors available at the registration desk so they can just check off their name as they arrive. This will let the new attendees know when their sponsor arrives and vice versa. Sponsors will be encouraged to find their new attendee as soon as possible and invite that person to sit with them at the luncheon on Saturday, September 15, and then to keep in touch throughout the conference as much as possible.

Chairman Moore handed out a list of ideas for developing a theme around the game that was selected for the orientation activity. Because the game requires solving a series of “mysteries,” (which “unique fact” printed on the game card belongs to which individual?) the committee members present favored the Sherlock Holmes theme. Chairman Moore will send copies of the ideas discussed to the other members of the committee who were unable to attend this meeting for their information and input. The theme and the “title” of the activity can then be finalized at the spring meeting in April, 2001.

It was suggested that a “unique fact” be obtained from each of the officers and printed on the game card (possibly with a different-colored background to identify them as officers) so the new attendees will have an opportunity to learn who they are and get to know them better.

Heidi Vogel, AK, suggested that a clue to the “unique fact” could be printed on a piece of paper and pinned to the new attendee or officer. This clue will only be revealed as a last resort if, during the course of the game, the person doing the questioning is totally stumped.

It was noted that in the event a new attendee cancels at the last minute, we will need to announce that this will be a “free space” on the game card.

It was determined that Sponsors will be encouraged to do the following:

1. Provide their new attendee with a gift, preferably something unique to their home state not to exceed $15. These will be given at the orientation activity.

2. Contact their new attendee as soon as possible to introduce themselves and get a “unique fact” (along with a clue). These should be forwarded to Annette so the game cards can be created. (Example of a unique fact previously used for this game: “I saw the Pope nude.” A man and his wife were visiting Rome when she looked out the window and exclaimed, “Look! It’s the Pope!” The man was just getting out of the shower and was nude when he went to look out the window.)

Chairman Moore handed out a sample letter that can be used by the sponsor to contact his or her new attendee. This letter can be adapted to fit the style and preference of the sponsor but should include information about the society; an explanation that only dues-paying members are entitled to vote, but everyone is welcome to attend all meetings; information about other conference activities and appropriate attire; and anything else that may be helpful for the new attendee. It was also suggested that information about the society could be given to new attendees at the registration desk. The need for ample prior communication was emphasized.

Chairman Moore explained the regional organization plan. There are six regions, each with a “regional coordinator” who is responsible for contacting the members of that region who are also assigned to the Membership and Communication Committee.
MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

December 9, 2000 Minutes (Continued)

(MAC). These individuals will serve as “state ambassadors” and will be responsible for contacting all ASLCS members from their home state and/or non-represented states in their region, depending upon their specific assignment. In some instances, the “regional coordinator” will also be asked to contact ASLCS members from his or her home state. All these variables are dependent upon the number of people from the same state assigned to MAC. For example, in Region 2 there are 12 committee members, 5 of whom are from Virginia; and in Region 6 there are only 3 members @ 2 from Alaska and 1 from Washington.

This plan was developed a couple of years ago to get information out quickly to the entire society. Due to the sparse attendance at the winter meeting, Chairman Moore stated she would send the regional organization plan letters to the regional coordinators and state ambassadors. It was suggested that they set up an e-mail “group” consisting of the members in their region whom they are responsible for contacting so that whenever information needs to be disseminated, it can be done quickly and easily.

It was suggested that we implement this plan as soon as possible and use it regularly (e.g., monthly, quarterly, semi-annually) rather than wait until we “need” it. This would be a good way to determine whether or not it accomplishes what it was designed to do and provide an opportunity for the society to get information out to its members on a regular basis. Chairman Moore will contact Pat to see if there is a need for this type of communication on a regular basis and, if so, how often.

It was also suggested that this regional breakout of members could be coordinated with the “Legislative Administrator Committee” to acquire “states-at-a-glance” text.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Annette Moore, UT, Chair - Cheryl Laube, AZ Co-Vice Chair
April 21, 2001 Minutes

The Membership and Communication Committee met on Saturday, April 21, 2001, in Salt Lake City, Utah. At 10:00 a.m., the meeting was called to order with Annette Moore, Chair, Utah, presiding. The following members were present: Mary Andrus, UT; Faye Blanton, FL; Burney Durham, TN; Linda Hawker, IL; Cheryl Laube, AZ; Sandy Tenney, UT; Annette Moore, Chair, UT

In addition, our President, Pat Saville and the NCSL liaison, Sally Kittredge were present.

Minutes

A motion by Linda Hawker, IL, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2000, Winter Meeting carried.

Previous Decision Highlights

Annette Moore gave a summary of the previous decisions made by this committee:

1. Keep the Regional Organization Plan in place. With some members declining to participate it will be necessary for others to pitch in and help if this plan is ever needed.

2. New Member/Attendee Reception will be incorporated into the Welcoming Reception. The new members/attendees will be introduced as a group approximately an hour after the welcoming reception begins.

3. A sign-in sheet will be provided at the registration desk to facilitate new members/attendees and sponsors connecting.

4. Pin contest. New attendees will collect pins throughout the entire conference and a prize for the most pins collected will be given at the Awards Lunch or the Business Meeting. After some discussion, it was decided that the award should be given out at the Awards Lunch. It was suggested that information be included in the initial brochure to remind everyone to bring pins and explain that the new members/attendees will be collecting pins for this contest. Annette Moore, Chair, UT, stated she will get this wording to Sally Kittredge, to place on the official brochure. It was also suggested that this information be placed on the ASLCS website and on list-serve.

After some discussion, it was suggested that with permission of the Executive Committee the prize for the most pins should be an ASLCS wrist watch.

5. Sponsors responsibilities. Annette Moore, Chair, UT, reitered that sponsors responsibilities include bringing a gift for their new member/new attendee. This gift should be something from the sponsor’s home state with a $15 limit. It was suggested that several additional items be available for last minute new attendees.

A discussion on the number of new members/attendees and the registration process ensued. Sally Kittredge, NSCL, stated registration for the Annual Meeting will begin in May. The registration deadline is August 17, 2001, yet due to the possibility of late registration new members/attendees and sponsors will need to be linked together up until the first day of the conference. It was noted that over the last few years the average number of new members/attendees has been around 50 each year.

Annette Moore, Chair, UT, stated when new members/attendees register for the conference, Sally Kittredge will notify her and she will send them a letter explaining that a sponsor will be assigned to them and that the sponsor will be contacting them as soon as possible. At the time Annette sends out this letter to the new member/attendee, she will also contact the sponsor, who will then contact the new member/attendee. The sponsors should introduce themselves, give conference information, explain activities and clothing recommendations, along with what to expect.

Decisions to be Made

Finalization of the New Member/Attendee Orientation Theme; a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the (unique fact-clue) game to be played. Ideas considered were: splitting the group by region; having the ASLCS Officers’ unique facts printed with a different colored background on the grid, and the possibility of playing a separate game with a “what’s my line” theme for introducing the ASLCS Officers.

Without objection the Sherlock Holmes theme for the New Member Orientation was approved.

The details of the game to be played were discussed further. Ideas included: having the new member/attendee wear a clue pinned to them, in case those guessing get stumped, and or having them wear an item or type of clothing that might give a clue to those guessing.

In response to the question of how much time was scheduled for this activity, it was determined depending on the number of new members/attendees the time allotted for the game/activity should be about 45 minutes. It was suggested that the group may have to be
split by region including the officers from those regions to make it more manageable. Another suggestion was to have 3 groups made up of sponsors, officers and new members/attendees. It was determined that this last suggestion would defeat the purpose of the new members/attendees getting to know as many new people as possible.

Faye Blanton, FL, made a suggestion that the new members/attendees be sent on a type of scavenger hunt, by assigning them to meet particular people, such as a past president, committee chairman, member from the East coast, or someone with a similar job title, etc. A discussion of this idea continued. It was suggested that a form be created listing the various people the new members/attendees will need to seek out and acquire the requested information and have those persons sign the form. For example, seek out a past president and find out what year they served as President. It was also suggested that another award be given to the new member/attendee who has contacted the largest number of people on the list and acquired the necessary information. This activity and award could be culminated that the end of the conference at the New Member/New Attendee Wrap-up meeting. This would allow for good dialogue about the conference and would be an excellent way to get new member’s/attendee’s opinions and comments on the conference. It was also suggested that the existing members of the society be informed of the new members/attendees scavenger hunt activity and encourage them to greet and interact with the new members/attendees, and welcome them to the society.

President, Pat Seville, had to leave the meeting but requested Chairman Moore to look over the “Orientation 2000” information booklet which is given to new members/attendees and asked that this committee make any changes it deems necessary. It was recommended that this booklet be mailed to each new member/attendee with the acknowledgement letter explaining the sponsor program. This will allow the new member/attendee more time to read over the material, considering they receive quite a lot of information when checking in at the registration desk at the annual meeting.

The dialogue returned to the “clue” game, and after more discussion, Cheryl Laube, AZ, moved that the unique facts should be about the sponsors and ASLCS Officers allowing the new attendees be the ones guessing. The motion carried.

Suggestions made for a theme title for the game/activity were:
I’ve got a Secret
Are you Clueless
Do you have a Clue
Clueless in Minnesota
I Spy

Those in attendance favored the title “Do you have a Clue.” Annette Moore, Chair, UT suggested the committee members e-mail her with any other ideas regarding the activity name.

Annette Moore, Chair, UT, asked if anyone had suggestions for table decorations, items to indicate table assignments, room decorations, etc. Some of the items suggested were:

1. Magnifying glasses, possibly wearing them around their necks or attached to their name badges.
2. Sherlock Holmes pencils.
3. Print clue grids in colors to indicate which ones are Officers.
4. Possibly match the color on the grid to match the color of their magnifying glass, to help with matching the correct person to their unique fact.
5. Note pads handed out to the new members/attendees upon entering the room noting their name and table assignments.

It was also suggested when pairing up sponsors with new members/attendees, it would be helpful for them to be paired up with sponsors with like responsibilities, whenever possible.

An inquiry was made as to the budget for this New Member Orientation activity. Sally Kittredge, NSCL liaison, explained the budget for last year was $750, and stated it would probably be the same for this year.

Without objection the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Annette Moore, UT, Chair - Cheryl Laube, AZ, Co-Vice Chair


**December 9, 2000 Minutes**

The Professional Journal Committee met on Saturday, December 9, 2000, in Memphis, TN.

The Chair expressed thanks to Tony Rossi, Clerk of the Illinois House, for printing and distributing the Fall issue of the Journal, which was distributed in November. The Fall issue is now on the ASLCS section of the NCSL website.

The Chair informed the committee that articles for the 2001 Spring issue were to be submitted by December 1. Topics include personnel policies in the legislative environment, generational trends in the workplace, and staff issues.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tara H. Perkinson, Chair  
Professional Journal Committee*

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**April 21, 2001 Minutes**

The Professional Journal Committee met on Saturday, April 21, 2001, in Salt Lake City, UT.

The following members of the committee were in attendance:

Tara Perkinson, VA -- Chair; George Bishop, VA; Scott Maddrea, VA; Laura Clemens, OH  
Matt Schuler, OH; Brenda Erickson, NCSL

The Chair expressed thanks to Tony Rossi, Clerk of the Illinois House, for printing and distributing the Spring issue of the Journal, which will be distributed in late April. The Spring issue is now on the ASLCS section of the NCSL website.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tara H. Perkinson, Chair  
Professional Journal Committee*
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mary Andrus, UT
Debbie Brown, FL
Mark Corrigan, PA
Burney Durham, TN
Debra Fastner, MN
John Garrett, VA
Jim Harry, IL
Mary Lou Holsapple, IL
Cheryl Laube, AZ
Norma Lowe, AZ
Janet Muller, OK
Lois Pulliam, KY
Tina Scott, AZ
Terry Spieler, MO
Shirley Wallace, NC

Judy Barrows, ME
Hogan Brown, SC
Larry Cottingham, OK
Patrice Dworak, MN
Jeff Finch, VA
Harle Glover, NV
Virginia Harvey, VA
Bruce Jamerson, VA
Karl Lilly, WV
Patty Luang, VA
Patrick Murphy, MN
Gary Randall, MI
Alice Shaver, WV
Brian Taylor, VA
Bev Wessing, IL

Carmela Bills, VA
Karen Brown, UT
Judi Delfranco, ME
Joan Eilers, IL
Pat Flahaven, MN
Virginia Habansky, VA
Linda Hawker, IL
Alice Ann Joseph, CT
Michael Linn, MN
Scott Magnuson, MN
Connie Peltier, MN
Gail Schenck, VA
Jackie Sneddon, NV
Sandy Tenney, UT
Faye Blanton, FL
Claire Clift, NV
Marguerite Duda, WV
Inga Emerson, DE
Janice Gadd, UT
Patrick Harris, AL
Sonja Herd, OH
Greg Kenworth, IL
Dowe Littleton, AL
Pat Mau-Shimizu, HI
Lora Phillips, WV
Judith Schultz, WV
Patsy Spaw, TX
Karen Wadsworth, NH

December 9, 2000 Minutes

The ASLCS Program Development Committee met on Saturday, December 9, 2000 in Memphis, Tennessee. The following committee members were in attendance: JoAnn Hedrick, Chair, DE; Dowe Littleton, AL; Cheryl Laube, AZ; Linda Hawker, IL; Judy Barrows, ME; Mike Linn, MN; Connie Peltier, MN; Karen Wadsworth, NH; Sonja Herd, OH; Hogan Brown, SC; Burney Durham, TN; Carmela Bills, VA; Jeff Finch, VA

In addition, our President, Pat Saville, the NCSL liaison, Sally Kittredge and many other members of ASLCS were present.

The Chair opened the meeting with a request for ideas regarding a theme for our 2001 Professional Development Seminar. After some discussion, there was general agreement that our theme will be “The Millennium - A New Beginning”.

The discussion then moved on to plenary session topics. The Chair suggested that the Society should attempt to take advantage of our location in Minnesota by utilizing the Humphrey Institute staff if possible. Jeff Finch, an LSMI attendee, suggested a professor who makes a presentation on “oval mapping”. Apparently it’s a brainstorming, free-thinking technique and the session would be an interactive one. JoAnn will follow-up.

There was significant interest in having a plenary session addressing the impact of the different generations in the workplace. Several suggestions were made for speakers on this topic and they will be pursued.

There was general agreement that our third plenary session would be a lighter topic and Fung Shei was confirmed as the subject.

Mike Linn from the Host State Committee reviewed a new draft of the schedule and reported that Minnesota is working hard and is anxious to host the meeting.

Discussion turned to topics for concurrent sessions and several suggestions were made. Judy Barrows, Chair of the Support Staff Committee, graciously offered to recruit facilitators for the staff group break-out sessions. The offer was accepted with enthusiasm.
December 9, 2000 Minutes (Continued)

Because there was a significant amount of interest in the real-time amendment process at the Wilmington meeting, we discussed repeating it during the 2001 meeting. Connie Peltier mentioned that staff and/or programmers will be available on Sunday at the Capitol to demonstrate their process. In addition, the Minnesota Senate has an in-house media system which will be available for viewing. The Host State Committee will provide a hand-out as well as staff guides for the events at the Capitol.

Other topics suggested for concurrent sessions were, in no particular order:
Page and internship programs
A review of our listserv questions
Security systems - which may be covered during the vendor fair to be hosted by the Technology Committee.

There was considerable discussion centered on the viability of the volleyball game. It was concluded that it should remain in the program. There was also a suggestion that a golf tournament might be scheduled for Thursday before the conference begins on Friday. We also discussed starting the program a little later on Sunday morning to allow members to attend an early church service.

Having no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

April 21, 2001 Minutes

Report of the 2000-2001 Committee from the ASLCS spring meeting, Salt Lake City, UT

In attendance: JoAnn Hedrick, Chair - DE; JR Rodrigue, Vice-chair - CO; Marilyn Eddins, Associate Vice-chair - CO; Mary Andrus- UT; Judy Barrows - ME; Carmela Bills - VA; Faye Blanton - FL; Hogan Brown - SC; Burney Durham - TN; Jeff Finch - VA; Janice Gadd - UT; Patrick Harris - AL; Linda Hawker - IL; Sonja Herd - OH; Bruce Jamerson - VA; Cheryl Laube - AZ; Michael Linn - MN; Dowe Littleton - AL; Connie Peltier - MN; Sandy Tenney - UT; Pat Saville - KS

On a motion from Judy Barrows and a second from Jeff Finch, the minutes from the 12-9-00 meeting held in Memphis, TN were approved unanimously.

The chair announced that the theme for the 2001 professional development seminar, as suggested by President Pat Saville, would be “A Capitol Experience”. Appreciation was expressed to Sally Kittredge for her work in securing the speakers for the plenary sessions.

A draft of the agenda for the fall professional development seminar was distributed and the members present were asked to rate the proposed topics for concurrent sessions and make suggestions as to additional topics they would like to explore. Joan announced that the three levels of parliamentary training would be kept on the agenda because of the level of continued interest.

Judy Barrows, chairman of the Support Staff committee, suggested two topics that were discussed in that committee: Proofreading skills and a round table discussion concerning employees with attitudes. She also reiterated the position that her committee would supply the facilitators for the staff breakout sessions. It was decided that the second staff breakout would take place during the on site visits at the Minnesota capitol.

Hogan Brown, chairman of the Technology committee, suggested concurrent sessions on the advantages of developing technology in-house. Participants from Arkansas, Virginia, and Florida volunteered to share their knowledge and expertise on this subject. It was also suggested that Nevada may have something to add.

Mike Linn stated that they are still looking at venues for the volleyball game. The possibility of a golf outing on Thursday, September 13, was discussed. Jeff Finch will work with Sally on any possible arrangements.

NCSL annual meeting topics were discussed and it was decided that ASLCS would jointly sponsor the following three topics:
With Legislative Effectiveness Committee - Legislator Training
With NLSSA - Employee Recruitment and Retention
With NLSSA - Term Limits: Structuring a Good New Member Orientation Program

On motion of Linda Hawker, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnn Hedrick, Chair
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jane Atkinson, VA  
Donna Doyle, WI  
Joe Koval, WV  
Jeanette Moore, VA  
Rose Ramsey, VA  
Jeannine Wood, ID  
Gwen Bailey, VA  
Barbara Ferguson, KY  
Millie MacFarland, ME  
Rick Nicholson, TN  
Dawn Smith, VA  
Elena Castaldi, TX  
Linda Hanson, WI  
Mary Jo Mongelli, NV  
Pat O’Donnell, NE  
Lori Summers, WV  
Patty Dicks, CO  
Cyndy Johnston, OR  
Sam Moody, OR  
Ed Perry, MS  
Mary Beth Weil, VA

December 9, 2000 Minutes

The meeting of the Roster Committee was called to order by Co-Chair Suzi Lowell on December 9, 2000 at 11:30 a.m. in Memphis, Tennessee.

Members of the Roster Committee present: Suzi Lowell, AK, Co-Chair; Heidi Vogel, AK, Co-Chair; Rick Nicholson, TN. Also present were members from the Executive Committee, Sally Kittredge, NCSL, and various members attending the Memphis meeting. As a quorum was not present the roster committee proceeded with a work session.

Suzi Lowell reviewed the status of the Roster:
- A copy of the computer program, Quark, was donated by the Wisconsin State Legislature for the ASLCS future use.
- The Alaska Legislative Branch has volunteered to print the Roster at no cost, except for the cover and binding. Approximate cost for cover and binding: $650.
- A first draft of the letter requesting Roster information was distributed.
- As the deadline for the Fall 2000 Administrator was already past, and the Spring 2001 Administrator will be published after the required time for obtaining Roster information, no ad will appear in the Administrator.

A question was raised about the possibility of including contact phone number on our web site.

The Executive Committee requested information on the costs for mailing the Roster directly from Alaska as opposed to shipping the Rosters to NCSL for mailing from Denver. The Co-Chairs will research these options to determine which is more cost effective.

A request was also made for larger fonts, if it was possible to do so without increasing the number of pages in the Roster.

There being no further business the work session was adjourned.

April 21, 2001 Minutes

The Roster Committee did not officially meet in Salt Lake City. President Saville reported on the progress of the Roster Committee. The Roster Committee would like to urge all those members who have not submitted their information to do so by June 15 at the latest. We will be contacting those members that we have not heard from by e-mail or telephone prior to June 15.
December 9, 2000 Minutes

The Site Selection Committee met on Saturday, December 9, 2000 in Memphis, Tennessee for the ASLCS Winter Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matthew T. Schuler, Clerk of the Ohio Senate. The following members were present: Burney Durham, Tennessee - Vice Chair; Dave Avant, Alabama - Associate Vice Chair; Diane Bell, Florida; Linda Hawker, Illinois; Michael Linn, Minnesota; and the attendees at the ASLCS Winter Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the committee on September 12th in Wilmington, North Carolina were approved. Chairman Schuler reported that after the 2001 Annual Meeting in Bloomington, MN, and 2002 meeting in Portland, OR, the bid for the 2003 Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona has been accepted by the Executive Committee.

Chairman Schuler also reported that discussions for the 2004 Annual Meeting were ongoing with representatives from Maryland.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

April 21, 2001 Minutes

The Site Selection committee met on Saturday, April 21, 2001 in Salt Lake City, Utah at the ASLCS Spring Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matthew T. Schuler, Clerk of the Ohio Senate promptly at 9:00 a.m.

The following members were present: Mat Schuler, Ohio - Chairman; Burney Durham, Tennessee - Vice Chair; Dave Avant, Alabama - Associate Vice Chair; Diane Bell, Florida; Faye Blanton, Florida; Ann Cornwell, Arizona; Linda Hawker, Illinois; Michael Linn, Minnesota; Pam N. Juker, Idaho; Sandy D. Tenney, Utah; Along with guest George Bishop, Virginia.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the committee in Memphis were presented. A motion and second to approve the minutes were duly made and unanimously approved. Chairman Schuler commended the committee for its outstanding work for the society in accomplishing its mission for the 2000-2001 calendar year.

After the Annual Meeting this year in Bloomington, Minnesota, the 2002 meeting will be in Portland, Oregon. The 2003 annual meeting will be in Scottsdale, Arizona and discussions for the 2004 annual meeting are on going with representatives from Maryland.
December 9, 2000 Minutes

The meeting of the Support Staff Committee was called to order by the Chair, Judy Barrows, on Saturday, December 9, 2000, at 10:00 a.m. in Memphis, Tennessee.

Present: Judy Barrows, ME, Chair; Brian Taylor, VA, Vice Chair; Michael Linn, MN; Rick Nicholson, TN; Connie Peltier, MN; Tara Perkinson, VA.

Also in attendance were Pat Savile, KS, President, ASLCS, Sally Kittredge, NCSL, and most of the other attendees at the Winter Meeting.

The minutes from the September 12, 2000, meeting held in Wilmington, North Carolina, were approved on motion of Tara Perkinson from Virginia and seconded by Connie Peltier of Minnesota.

The group discussed the Committee’s plan to solicit staff position descriptions from those states that have not submitted them and to send copies for review and updating to those states that have submitted them. There was general support from the Principals present for the Committee’s plan to include a description of the Principal’s duties for each chamber. A subcommittee consisting of Dot Waugaman of North Carolina, Connie Peltier of Minnesota, Donna Doyle of Wisconsin and the Committee officers will begin work on that project shortly after the first of the year, when those states with November elections are organized.

The Committee also discussed providing facilitators for the breakout sessions. The Chair said she would begin the process by e-mailing the members of the Committee to see who was interested. Once we’ve filled as many slots as possible from the Committee membership, the Chair will work with Sally Kittredge to get a list of Society members in those staff areas where facilitators are still needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Barrows, ME, Chair
April 21, 2001 Minutes

The meeting of the Support Staff Committee was called to order by the Chair, Judy Barrows, on Saturday, April 21, at 10:00 a.m. in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Present: Judy Barrows, ME, Chair; Connie Peltier, MN; Tara Perkinson, VA; Donna Doyle, WI; Mike Linn, MN; Janice Gadd, UT; Marilyn Eddins, CO.

Also in attendance were Pat Saville, KS, President, ASLCS, and Sally Kittredge, NCSL.

The minutes from the December 9, 2000, meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, were approved on motion of Mike Linn of Minnesota and seconded by Connie Peltier of Minnesota.

The group discussed the Program Development Committee’s generous offer of two slots on the program for topics of special interest to Associate Members. Possible topics discussed include Automatic Engrossing (which Mike Linn reported would be demonstrated by the Minnesota Engrossing staff during the tour of the Capitol); Page and Intern Programs (which is already tentatively on the program); Proofreading; Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behavior/Handling People with Diplomacy and Tact; Recruitment of Part-Time Staff; and Dress Codes/Policy Manual/Codes of Conduct.

After discussion, the committee decided to recommend Proofreading as its first proposed topic. The group envisioned the Proofreading session as a fairly technical discussion of proofreading methods, tips, shortcuts, etc., along the lines of the workshop we had in Oklahoma in 1995. We will be looking for members who do proofreading - especially those who have had special training or been to a seminar on the subject - to propose as panel members.

As a second topic, the committee decided to propose a discussion session on Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behavior/Handling People with Diplomacy and Tact. The group felt this could build on the topics of the three plenary sessions, and be a forum for people to discuss methods that have been effective for them. We will be looking for panel members who have successfully dealt with “challenging” employees and/or who deal well with employees, legislators or the public in high-stress situations.

In addition, the committee will suggest to the Program Development Committee that they consider a concurrent session on Dress Codes/Policy Manual/Codes of Conduct when they are planning the annual meeting in 2002.

The committee also discussed facilitators for the breakout session at the annual meeting. We currently have facilitators for the Journal Staff session, and some leads to pursue for the Engrossing/Enrolling Staff and Bill Index/Status/History Staff sessions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion of Janice Gadd of Utah, seconded by Connie Peltier of Minnesota.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Barrows, ME, Chair
## Committee Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steve Arias</td>
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<td>Penny Cabaniss</td>
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<td>Mary Jo Mongelli</td>
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<td>Patsy Spaw</td>
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<td>Tricia Vaughan</td>
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<td>Tony Cook</td>
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<td>Marilyn, Eddins</td>
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<td>Susan Whitford</td>
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### December 9, 2000 Minutes

The meeting of the Technology and Innovation Committee was called to order by the chairman, Hogan Brown, on Saturday, December 9, 2000, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The minutes of the Wilmington meeting were approved.

There was a brief discussion of what had occurred regarding moving the ASLCS homepage to the “public” area of the NCSL website that was first suggested by this committee in Santa Fe. Jeff Finch indicated that he thought that the Executive Committee had addressed and approved all of the matters necessary to go forward. He volunteered to follow up and report back if any further action was required.

The committee discussed the access to our ListServ and all other ListServs hosted by NCSL. Hogan will develop a handout on how to access the ASLCS ListServ and others from the NCSL website. This access is not available to the public. Only those with a password issued by NCSL for legislative staff and legislators may view any ListServ.

The technology survey was also discussed. Hogan will appoint a subcommittee to draft a survey for the full committee’s consideration in April.

The committee discussed the Technology Fair to be held at the 2001 Professional Development Seminar in Minnesota. Hogan asked if a bus could be arranged for people to go to the capitol early so that someone would not have to choose between a tour of the building or taking full advantage of the technology fair sessions. The committee discussed the benefits of short repeated presentations versus a more casual one-on-one approach where groups float from presentation to presentation. Any specific decision was delayed until April. Hogan said that it may be beneficial to the vendors and our membership to consider setting aside time on Monday for people to set up private follow-up appointments with the vendors.

Hogan passed along concerns expressed by Dave Larson about consultants. He shares Dave’s concern about consultants who are tied to particular vendors, but added that consultants who truly act as agents of a clerk can help to insure that a job is done in a cost-effective manner without creating a situation where you are tied to one vendor. Pat Saville mentioned using consultants as project managers can prove to be very helpful. The committee also discussed the concern that many consultants or vendors are often regional rather than national. The committee will address these issues in April as most, if not all, of the decisions must be in place before the Austin meeting.
Technology and Innovation Committee

December 9, 2000 Minutes (Continued)

Steve Arias raised the issue of members who are being bombarded with mass e-mailings. They want to read their constituents’ e-mail but not deal with massive numbers of e-mail from every lobbying organization. Hogan suggested that members use alias mailboxes on their business cards, etc. which would be different from their public e-mail address on the state’s web page. Pat Saville suggested sending out this question on ListServ. Linda Hawker said that they don’t publish their state house e-mail addresses because of this problem.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Hogan Brown, Chair

April 21, 2001 Minutes

The meeting of the Technology and Innovation Committee was called to order by the chairman, Hogan Brown, on Saturday, April 21, 2001, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The minutes of the Memphis meeting were approved.

Discussion of the technology survey was deferred until the summer meeting.

The committee discussed the Technology Fair to be held at the 2001 Professional Development Seminar in Minnesota. The time set aside for the Fair is from 2 p.m. until 5:45 p.m. on Sunday, September 16, 2001, in committee rooms in the State Capitol. The committee decided to have the vendors make five presentations with each session lasting approximately twenty-five minutes. The formal presentation should be approximately fifteen minutes with ten minutes for questions and five minutes for participants to move from one vendor to another. Mike Linn indicated that staff would be available to assist participants in locating committee rooms and to ensure the sessions end and begin as provided in the schedule. Sally will work with the hotel to set aside rooms and times on Monday for participants to schedule private follow-up appointments with the vendors.

The committee agreed upon the five following categories of vendors: Recording and Archiving of Chamber and Committee Proceedings
Audio Visual Systems
Chamber Operations / Network Integration
Security Systems
Intra/Internet Applications and Solutions

The consensus of the committee was to ensure that at least two vendors make presentations in each category. There are fifteen to sixteen committee rooms available in the Capitol. Hogan explained that Sally had begun making an initial contacts with ten to fifteen vendors and had received positive feedback from nine. The committee suggested other vendors to add to the contact list. After completing the initial contacts, a packet will be put together and sent to interested parties in late May or the first of June. Vendors will be expected to pay a $500 registration fee, with consideration being given to those vendors who have provided substantial support to the Society. While the committee appreciates any and all input from members of the Society, the expectation is to finalize vendor commitments in early to mid-summer, prior to the annual NCSTL meeting in San Antonio.

The committee also discussed developing a panel discussion for a concurrent session at our annual meeting in Minnesota. The topic discussed included both the policy and resource considerations as well as the day-to-day operation necessary for in-house production of daily journals, amendment and bill tracking and processing. The focus of this panel discussion would be establishing or building the technology infrastructure and a staff who utilize off-the-shelf products with a minimal reliance upon specialty vendors. Jeff Finch, J. R. Rodrigue, Ann Cornwell, and Faye Blanton volunteered to work with Hogan to develop discussion points and a structure for the panel. Subsequent to our meeting, the topic for the concurrent session was presented to the program committee and it was suggested that this topic be divided between planning and development and day-to-day operation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Hogan Brown, Chair
**The American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries**

**Logo Items Order Form and Price List**

All Prices include Shipping

*Ash Gray Sweatshirt with ASLCS Logo embroidered on the left chest*

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*White Brushed Twill Adjustable Golf Cap with embroidered ASLCS logo* .......................................................... $10.00

*Cobalt Blue Coffee Mug with Gold ASLCS logo* ................................................................................................. $5.00

*Men’s and Women’s Eagle Series Watches with black wristband and ASLCS logo on face* .......................... $36.00

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**Order Total**  
*Check should be made payable to ASLCS*  

**Ship to:**

Name  

Address  

City  State  Zip Code

Send Order to: Sally Kittredge, NCSL, 1560 Broadway, Suite 700, Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 830 - 2200 ext. 139  FAX (303) 863 - 8003
2001 NEW ASLCS MEMBERS

As of May 21, 2001

Arkansas Senate
Jim Schratz
Director, Information Service

Ann Scott
Administrative Assistant

Colorado Senate
Karen Goldman
Secretary of the Senate

Heidi Horvath
Assistant Secretary of the Senate

Florida Senate
Jhannie Gillispie
Assistant Secretary of the Senate

Indiana Senate
Becky Gomez

John Singleton
Deputy Secretary of the Senate

Diane Marshall
Assistant Secretary of the Senate

Iowa House
Margaret Thomson
Chief Clerk of the House

Kentucky House
Sandi Morris
Assistant Clerk of the House

Louisiana Senate
Heidi Mayeux
Coordinator Admin Services

Maine Senate
Pam Cahill
Assistant Secretary of the Senate

Maine House
David Shia
Assistant Clerk of the House

Massachusetts House
Robert DeCarlo
Second Assistant Clerk
Timothy Carroll
Special Assistant to Clerk

Minnesota House
David Surdez
Index Clerk

Missouri House
Ted Wedel
Chief Clerk of the House

Mississippi House
Lisa Davis
Deputy Assistant Clerk

Elizabeth Hawthorne
Deputy Assistant Clerk

Gloria Purnell
Journal Clerk

Diane Tyner
Docket Clerk

Nevada Assembly
Patty Williams
Assistant Chief Clerk

Oklahoma House
Joe Blough
Administrative Assistant

South Carolina Senate
Jeffrey Gossett
Clerk of the Senate

South Carolina House
Debra Brooks
Information Services Clerk

Karen LaRoche
Information Resources Manager

Texas Senate
Mardi Alexander
Engrossing & Enrolling Clerk

Polly Emerson
Assistant Journal Clerk

Utah House
Mary Andrus
Journal Clerk

Virginia Senate
Jonathan Palmore
Director, Senate Information Systems

Virginia House
Jay Braxton
Procurement & Logistics Manager

Elizabeth Dingus
Payroll Manager

Anna Hanback
Human Resource Manager

Maryann Horch
Enrolling Clerk

Barbara Lecarpentier
Assistant Records Clerk

Barbara Regen
Committee Coordinator

Jacqueline Scott
Indexing Clerk

Jeannine Layell
Associate Journal Clerk

West Virginia Senate
Michael Burchart
Supervisor/Materials & Supplies

Tarey Jarett
Communications Processor

Wisconsin Assembly
Patrick Fuller
Assistant Chief Clerk

John Scocos
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Federated States of Micronesia
Liwiana Ramon
Chief Clerk

Look for brief bios of ASLCS new members in the summer issue of the Legislative Administrator. If you are a new member and have not submitted your bio to Bruce Jamerson, chair of the Legislative Administrator, please do so ASAP. You may send your bio to Bruce via email at: BJamerson@house.state.va.us
NCSL PRELIMINARY AGENDA

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
AUGUST 11-15

Saturday, August 11

8:00 am - Noon  
LSCC

Noon - 5:00 pm  
Attendee Registration

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
ASLCS Committee Meetings - A Group
   Bylaws
   Inside the Legislative Process
   Site Selection
   Technology and Innovation

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
ASCLS Committee Meetings - B Group
   International Communication and Development
   Legislative Administrator
   Membership and Communication
   Support Staff

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Committee Meetings - C Group
   Canadian-American Relations
   Professional Journal
   Program Development
   Roster

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
ASLCS Committee Reports

Sunday, August 12

8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Attendee Registration

8:00 am - Noon  
NCSL Executive Committee

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Opening Plenary Session
   Lila Cockrell Theatre

3:15 pm - 5:15 pm  
E-Mail Management
   Sponsored by ASLCS and the ASI Legislative Effectiveness Committee

4:15 pm - 5:30 pm  
Employee Recruitment and Retention (Staff Turnover)
   Sponsored by ASLCS, LSS, LSSS, & NLSSA

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm  
Welcome Reception
   Convention Center

As of May 21, 2001
Monday, August

8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Attendee Registration

8:00 am - 10:00 am  
MultiState Document Management  
Sponsored by the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries and the  
ASI Legislative Effectiveness Committee

10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Exhibits

10:15 am - 11:45 am  
Get Real A Fresh Look at Legislator Training  
Sponsored by the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries and the  
Legislative Effectiveness Committee

Noon - 2:00 pm  
Legislative Staff Luncheon  
Ballroom  
The 2000 election was one for the history books, and noted political expert Kathleen  
Hall Jamieson will offer her insights into the longest presidential election in memory.

2:15 pm - 4:15 pm  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Sponsored by ASLCS

2:15 pm - 4:15 pm  
Concurrent Sessions  
States Tackle Election Reform  
Bully Proofing Programs in Schools  
Fostering Independence: Helping Foster Youth Make It on Their Own  
Practical Guide to Ethical Decision Making  
Developing Digital Government to Meet the Needs of the 21st Century  
Electronic Commerce: Whither the Middleman?  
Giving Dynamic Speeches: The Art of Persuasion  
Racial Justice  
Are High Schools Obsolete  
Electric Restructuring and the Energy Crisis-Lessons Learned from California  
Economic Outlook: Have the Good Times Ended  
Pharmaceutical Access and Affordability: The Role of the States  
Redistricting 2000 Mid-Course Review  
Welfare Reform Reauthorization: Minor Repairs of Major Overhaul?  
Personalizing NCSLnet: Creating Your Personal Homepage  
NCSLnet: Your Gateway to Online Collaborating

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Texas Social Event  
AlamoDome
Tuesday, August 14

8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Registration

8:30 am - 9:30 am  
ASI/AFI Breakfast

10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Exhibit Hall

9:45 am - 11:45 am  
Concurrent Session: Best Practices and Policies for Cyber Legislatures
Sponsored by ASLCS, NALIT, LINCS, and NLSSA
This session will look at best practices and policies for managing legislative and legislator websites, including a look at web design to meet constituent needs, ways of managing content, and security issues. In this session legislators, legislative staff and industry experts will outline proven practices and provide examples of best policies.

9:45 am - 11:45 am  
Concurrent Sessions
Connecting Rural Areas to New Opportunities
Restoring Public Trust and Confidence in America’s Legislatures
The Sunset Process—Still Effective After all these Years
Abraham Lincoln: From State Legislator to President
Education Adequacy: What Is it and How Much Does It Cost?
New Way to Manage Growth
Designer Babies: Genetic Reproduction in The Genetic Age
Medicaid: Understanding New Economic and Demographic Challenges
The NAFTA Experiment
Food Fight in the New Economy - “The Taxation of Food”
Mobilizing the Armies of Compassion: Working with Faith-Based & Community Organizations
Personalizing NCSL.net: Creating Your Personal Homepage
Searching NCSL.net for Legislative Information

10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Exhibits

Noon - 1:15 pm  
ASLCS Luncheon

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm  
Plenary Session
Lila Cockrell Theatre
Frank Luntz, one of the nation's best known pollsters, regularly takes that pulse of America. At this meeting, he will probe the views of legislators about their politics, society, and the job of holding public office. It promises to be a unique and lively discussion.

3:45 pm - 5:15 pm  
Concurrent Sessions
The Telecommunications Act of 1996: Five Years of Stagnant Competition
Should Public Records Be So Public?
Project Citizen
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
AUGUST 11-15

As of May 21, 2001 (Continued)

Tuesday, August 14 (continued)

3:45 pm - 5:15 pm  Concurrent Sessions
Reforming the Initiative Process: Issues and Answers
Abraham Lincoln: From State Legislator to President
Can All Students Excel? A Closer Look at the Consequences of High Stakes Testing
Brownfields: A way to Create New Jobs, New Tax Revenues and the Opportunity to
Manage Growth
What Exactly Is Abstinence?
Locking up JuvenilesThe Gramm-Leach Bliley Act: A Sleeping Giant?
1040 Lite: A Review of Recent Tax Changes
Making the Most of Your Child Care Dollars
Demographically Diverse: Maximizing Immigrant Assets
What Works for Children and Families: A Comprehensive Approach
Searching NCSLnet for Legislative Information
NCSLnet: Your Gateway to Online Collaborating

Wednesday, August 15

8:00 am - 10:00 am  Registration

8:00 am - 9:30 am  Concurrent Sessions
Ethics Roundtable
Headlines & Deadlines: The Relationship Between the Press and Legislatures
Sports Agents on Campus
Aviation in the 21st Century
DNA: Power to Convict, Exonerate
National Calcium InitiativeTelecommunications Taxes: A Barrier to the New
Economy
Is the Medicaid Monster Back?
Measuring Performance
Should States Promote Marriage in Welfare Reform?
Asset Development for the Working Poor
Optimizing Your Use of NCSLnet

9:00 am - Noon  Exhibits

9:45 am - 10:45 am  Plenary Session
Lila Cockrell Theatre

11:00 am - 12:30 pm  NCSL Business Meeting

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm  2002 Colorado KickOff Luncheon
Future ASLCS Meetings

NCSL Annual Meeting
August 11-16, 2001
San Antonio, Texas

ASLCS Annual Professional Development Seminar
September 14-19
Bloomington, Minnesota
Conference Hotel: Minneapolis Airport Marriott Bloomington
www.marriott.com/marriott/mspmn/

Change of Address Form

Please change my official addresses and phone numbers as follows:

Name:_________________________ Chamber:_________________________
Title:_________________________ Official Telephone:_________________
FAX:_________________________ Internet Email Address:______________
Official Mailing Address:_____________________________________________

Please E-mail or send to:
Sally Kittredge, NCSL
1560 Broadway, Suite 700
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: (303) 830-2200 ext. 139 FAX: (303) 863-80032
E-mail: sally.kittredge@ncsl.org