Mark your Calendar

ASLCS Spring Meeting
April 17-19, 2009
Washington Court Hotel
525 New Jersey Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Further info to follow
http://washingtoncourthotel.com
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Dear Friends,

It is an honor to be entrusted with the top leadership role in our organization and I look forward to serving as your 43rd President. My approach to the job is to take a “look back” at our past, while living in the present and always looking toward the future. Having been a member of ASLCS since 1989, I have benefited by learning from those who served before me, and I thank you all for your thoughtful guidance.

Thank you to our hosts Claire Clift and Susan Furlong Reil and their staffs for their diligent work which shined brighter than the colorful lights of our exciting Nevada location. The program development committee under Chair Susan Schaar carefully planned sessions that were well attended and educational as well as entertaining.

I also want to thank all Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs for agreeing to serve in those productive roles. The work that is executed in our standing committees keeps us responsive to the ever evolving changes in our Legislatures. I encourage all committee members to become more involved and to share your knowledge and legislative experiences for the benefit of all members.

As our state legislatures convene their new sessions, following this past election cycle we have seen some turnover in the offices of Clerks and Secretaries. We wish our departing friends future success and good health, and welcome our new friends.

I am pleased to welcome Angela Andrews as our staff liaison. Angela, like us, knows what daily life in the Legislature is like, having worked for both a State Representative as Chief Legislative Aide and as Legislative Director to a State Senator. Angela also has experience on the national level where she served as a legislative correspondent for a United States Senator. Angela graduated from the University of Colorado with a B.A. in International Affairs and holds a Masters in Public Administration from Suffolk University. Angela is friendly, well organized and has already begun the multitude of tasks that are necessary to support us.

And congratulations to Patsy Spaw who led us well and was always patient and kind. I am honored to follow in your footsteps and hope that I will be as gracious and respectful of the many proposals that we will encounter over the coming year.

Due to the current economic climate and in recognition of the stress on legislative budgets, particularly travel budgets, your Executive Committee is considering proposals to lower the cost of attendance to our annual Professional Development Seminar. I welcome your suggestions.

I wish you all well in your legislative sessions and look forward to our spring meeting which will be held April 17 - 19, 2009 in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely

Millicent M. MacFarland
Clerk, Maine House of Representatives
And ASLCS President
2007-2008 Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes

Professional Development Seminar
Reno, Nevada
October 1, 2008

The Executive Committee of ASLCS met on October 1, 2008, at the Silver Legacy in Reno, NV, and was called to order by ASLCS President, the Honorable Patsy Spaw, Secretary of the Senate of Texas.

A call of the roll disclosed the following in attendance:
Millicent MacFarland (Maine), Rob Marchant (Wisconsin), Claire Clift (Nevada), George Bishop (Virginia), Mary Monahan (Maryland), Laura Clemens (Ohio), Brad Hendrickson (Washington), Cheryl Laube (Arizona), Norma Chastain (Arizona), Carmen Cauthen (North Carolina), Tara Perkinson (Virginia), Greg Gray (West Virginia) and Natalie O’Donnell (NCSL Liaison).

The President declared the presence of a quorum.

The minutes of the last Executive Committee meeting held in New Orleans, being the first order of business, were, on motion of Laura Clemens, seconded by Millie MacFarland, approved.

Greg Gray, Secretary-Treasurer, then presented the following report, which was received:

**Treasurer’s Report**
October 1, 2008 - Reno, NV

To: President Patsy Spaw and
ASLCS Executive Committee

Beginning Balance 07/24/08 .................. $71,007.95
Deposit Dues 09/22/08 ............................ $ 195.00
Subtotal .......................................... $71,202.95

Less Disbursement
Utah House of Representatives
(Sandy Tenney-ANOMAC airfare) ............... $(872.51)

BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008 ............ $70,330.44

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory M. Gray
Secretary-Treasurer

On motion of Laura Clemens (Ohio), seconded by Carmen Cauthen (North Carolina), the foregoing Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved.

Immediately following consideration of the above report, Millie MacFarland moved, which motion was seconded by Laura Clemens, that the amount of $30,000 be transferred from the Dues Paying Account to Account L190.

The motion to transfer such amount as stated was then adopted unanimously.

**Old Business**

Natalie O’Donnell next presented an overview and explanation of ASLCS financial reports, viz. the Special Meetings Fund, the Professional Development Revolving Account, and the 2008 PDS Budget.

**New Business**

President Spaw next presented a report on the LSCC Seattle meeting, and discussed technology and updates concerning staff input regarding the NCSL website.

A report by Rob Marchant concerning the hotel selection in Milwaukee was also received.

Following discussion, Rob Marchant moved that the Hilton be approved as the ASLCS Conference Hotel for 2010, which motion was seconded by Laura Clemens and Claire Clift.

The question being on the motion offered, the same was put and unanimously adopted.

Jeannine Wood (Idaho), presented a summary of suggested revisions and organizational changes to the Standing Orders.

George Bishop (Virginia) moved the adoption of the suggested revisions and organizational changes, which motion was seconded by Cheryl Laube.

Carmen Cauthen was then recognized and discussed a proposed Bylaws amendment concerning Associate members and their attendance at meetings.
Whereupon,

On motion of Greg Gray (West Virginia), the foregoing proposals were referred to the 2008-2009 Bylaws Committee for discussion and their recommendation to the next Executive Committee.

On the unanimously adopted motion of Cheryl Laube, seconded by Brad Hendrickson, the Associate Exchange Program stipend was increased from $1,000 to $2,000 for 2008-2009.

The Secretary-Treasurer presented a request from Sandy Tenney (Utah), for reimbursement - ANOMAC airfare - in the amount of $872.51.

On motion of Brad Hendrickson, seconded by Cheryl Laube, the foregoing reimbursement request was approved.

Other Business

The Secretary-Treasurer also presented a request for reimbursement to the West Virginia House of Delegates, in the aggregate amount of $3,800, for publication of the Fall issue of the Legislative Administrator, which was unanimously approved.

On motion of Laura Clemens (Ohio), seconded by Brad Hendrickson, the following change to the Section X of the Standing Orders was unanimously approved:

SECTION X. INTERPARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS
A. Joint Canadian/American Meeting
1. The Joint Canadian/American Meeting (Joint Meeting) shall be held in odd-numbered years. Attendance at Joint Meetings shall be limited to each Principal or, in the event the Principal is unable to attend, and an Associate member may be designated by the Principal to attend the Joint Meeting. (September 11, 1983; Portland, ME) (July 28, 1999; Indianapolis, IN) (August 13, 2001; San Antonio, TX) (October 1, 2008; Reno, NV)

President Spaw thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their diligent work, and noted that we had been unanimous in not only our goals, but also in our votes during the past year. (Applause, the members rising)

The business on the Agenda having been completed, the Executive Committee then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Gray
Secretary-Treasurer
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Professional Development Seminar
Reno, Nevada
Saturday, October 4, 2008

The members of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries assembled in the Silver Legacy, Reno, Nevada, for the Annual Business Meeting and were called to order by their President, the Honorable Patsy Spaw, Secretary of the Senate of Texas.

A call of the roll of the states was, on motion of JoAnn Hedrick (DE), seconded by Robert Altmann (WV), dispensed with.

The reading of the minutes of the last Annual Business Meeting, September 15, 2007, being the first order of business, was, on motion of Judy Hall (OR), seconded by Ann Cornwell (AR), dispensed with and the same were approved.

The next order of business being receipt of the Treasurer’s Report, Gregory Gray (WV) submitted the following:

Treasurer’s Report
October 1, 2008 - Reno, NV

To: President Patsy Spaw and ASLCS Executive Committee

Beginning Balance 07/24/08 .................. $71,007.95
Deposit Dues 09/22/08 ............................ $ 195.00
Subtotal .......................................... $71,202.95

Less Disbursement*  
Utah House of Representatives  
(Sandy Tenney-ANOMAC airfare) ............... $ (872.51)
BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008 ............ $70,330.44

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory M. Gray
Secretary-Treasurer

On motion of Denise Weeks, seconded by Ann Cornwell, the Treasurer’s Report was unanimously adopted.

Thanks to Host State & Sponsors

President Spaw took a brief moment to thank the Nevada staff for the outstanding work they had done to put together the Annual Professional Development Seminar. (Applause, the members rising)

Claire Clift was next recognized and also thanked the Nevada staff for their work, as well as all who had helped make the Conference a success. (Applause, the members rising)

President Spaw then thanked the sponsors for their continued support, and particularly mentioned David Ward, Sr., President of International Roll-Call, who has been an ardent, steadfast and longtime sponsor of ASLCS, and was absent due to illness. [Secretary’s Note: Sadly, we have learned of the passing of David Ward, Sr., subsequent to the meeting in Reno, and prior to the finalizing of these minutes.]

Recognition of International and Other Guests

The President recognized guests from Canada and Australia, namely Beverley Isles, Neil Ferguson, George MacMinn and Tom Duncan.

Neil Ferguson expressed greetings on behalf of the Canadian Clerks-at-the-Table and thanked the President and members for the courtesies and welcome embodied in the ongoing relationship.
Annual Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

Tom Duncan, ANZACATT, also expressed thanks on behalf of the Australian Clerks-at-the-Table for the warm welcome and inclusion always afforded them.

JoAnn Hedrick (DE) noted that George MacMinn had received a special award as the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia for 50 years of service to the Parliament there.

President Spaw presented a Lifetime Membership award to Jane Richards, retired Clerk of the House and Past ALSCS President (1985-86) from the State of Arizona. (Applause, the members rising)

Committee Reports

Reports from Standing Committees were next received, as follows:

“A” Committees
Bylaws and Standing Orders - Jeannine Wood (ID)
Inside the Legislative Process - Melissa Bybee-Fields (KY)
Site Selection - Denise Weeks (NC) [Milwaukee, 2010]
Technology - Judy Barrows (ME)

“B” Committees
International Communication and Development - Steve Arias (NM)
Legislative Administrator - Eleanor Ringel, Mick Bailey, Bo Hoover (WV)
Membership and Communication - Janice Gadd (UT)
Support Staff - Carmen Cauthen (NC)

“C” Committees
Canadian-American Relations - Ann Cornwell (AR)
Professional Journal - Maryann Horch (VA)
Roster - Mardi Alexander (TX)
Program Development - Susan Schaar (VA)
Laura Clemens (OH) and Chair of the Nominating Committee, submitted the following slate of Officers for 2008-2009:

PRESIDENT - Millicent MacFarland (ME)
PRESIDENT-ELECT - Gregory M. Gray (WV)
SECRETARY-TREASURER - Rob Marchant (WI)
ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT - Carmen Cauthen (NC)
ELECTED PRINCIPAL MEMBER, Executive Committee - Claire Clift (NV)
ELECTED ASSOCIATE MEMBER, Executive Committee - Norma Chastain (AZ)

Ann-Marie Sweeney (PA) moved the adoption of the Nomination Committee report, which was seconded by JoAnn Hedrick (DE).

The question being on the adoption of the report, the same was put and unanimously prevailed. (Applause, the members rising)

Special Presentation

President Spaw next called Natalie O’Donnell to the rostrum, and presented her with a Proclamation by the Executive Committee, commending her for her tireless work with the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, presented on the occasion of her relinquishing her duties as NCSL Liaison to ASLCS. (Applause, the members rising)

There being no further business to come before the members, on motion of Steve Marshall (VT), seconded by Scott Kaiser (IL), at 1:35 PM the Business Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Gray
Secretary-Treasurer
Bylaws and Standing Orders
Committee Meeting Minutes

Professional Development Seminar
Reno, Nevada
October 5, 2008

In attendance:
Ramona Kenady (OR), Chair
Judy Barrows (ME), Vice-Chair
Karen Wadsworth (NH), Pat O’Donnell (NE)
Karen Goldman (CO), Al Mathiowetz (MN)
Jeff Finch (VA), Diane Bell (FL)
George Bishop (VA), Paul Campos (WA)
Bo Hoover (WV), Patsy Spaw (TX)
Jeannine Wood (ID), Rusti Horton (ID)
JoAnn Hedrick (DE)
Millie MacFarland (ME), President-Elect, ASLCS
John Phelps (FL), Former Member

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ramona Kenady.

Chair Ramona Kenady reported that the previous committee prepared a revision of the Standing Orders which was presented to the Executive Committee by former Chair Jeannine Wood in summary form earlier this week, and was adopted. She suggested that the Committee prepare an edited copy of the Standing Orders showing the changes, so the Executive Committee could have that on file, and the Committee agreed. Judy Barrows agreed to prepare the marked-up version. The Chair will e-mail copies of the most recent version, and the marked-up version when ready, to all committee members.

Chair Kenady pointed out that there is currently no procedure in place to explain how changes to the Standing Orders should be drafted and presented to the Executive Committee, and no style manual to ensure a level of consistency. She suggested that committees with a proposed change could bring their proposal to the Bylaws Committee to have it drafted in proper format before submitting it to the Executive Committee. She also suggested that we propose that an order of business be added to the Executive Committee's standard agenda for the consideration of any changes to the Bylaws or Standing Orders, making it easier to find changes that were made throughout the year. David Gibson agreed to chair a subcommittee to look at the process and report to the Committee at Spring Meeting. George Bishop and Karen Goldman agreed to serve on the subcommittee, and Bo Hoover will invite President-Elect Greg Gray to join the subcommittee as the President-Elect is charged with keeping the Standing Orders updated.

The Committee discussed the issues involved in developing an index to the Standing Orders, including the likelihood that a complete index with good cross-references would probably be longer than the Orders themselves. As recent changes to the Standing Orders have made the
current index at least slightly out of date, and the deadline for putting the Standing Orders into the next Roster is near, the Committee agreed to have a simple table of contents listing the 20 sections instead of an index in the Roster; John Phelps volunteered to put together the table of contents. The Committee will assess the reaction to having just a table of contents, and may develop an index based on the work of the previous committee if there seems to be interest.

The Executive Committee has asked the Committee to review a proposal from the Support Staff Committee for changes to the Associate Exchange Program, along with revisions to the proposal suggested by the Executive Committee. (The proposed changes would affect the Standing Orders.) Chair Kenady asked George Bishop and Diane Bell to work with the Support Staff Committee to develop draft language that the Committee can review for form and style at the Spring Meeting, and then submit to the Executive Committee for action.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned on motion of Pat O’Donnell, seconded by Diane Bell.

Respectfully submitted,
Ramona Kenady, Chair
Judy Barrows, Vice Chair/Recorder
The Meeting of the Canadian-American Relations Committee was called to order by Chairman Pat Harris, AL.

The following members of the committee were present:

Pat Harris (AL), Chair
Ann Cornwell (AR), Vice Chair
Denise Weeks (NC), Vice Chair
Crystalline Jones (AK)       Diane Keetch (NV)
Ann Krekelberg (AK)         Steve Arias (NM)
Lydia Lee (NV)              Dave Avant (AL)
Dowe Littleton (AL)         Ben Balding (NV)
Suzi Lowell (AK)           Johnye Bennett (VA)
William MaGill (VT)         Ann Carmichael (AL)
Steve Marshall (VT)          Bernard Dean (WA)
Al Mathiowetz (MN)        Molly Dondoro (NV)
Bernadette McNulty (CA)      Lodi Ensor (AK)
Lori Mullens (WV)            Melanie Reekes (VA)
John Garrett (VA)           Eleanor Ringel, WV
Greg Gray (WV)              Obie Rutledge (OR)
JoAnn Hedrick (DE)          Patsy Spaw (TX)
Brad Hendrickson (WA)       Karen Wadsworth (NH)
Bo Hoover (WV)              Kirsten Waid (AK)
Emily Howard (VA)            Jeannine Wood (ID)
Joyce Wright (AL)            Steven James (MA)

Neil Ferguson, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Beverly Isles, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Joyce Wright moved, seconded by Ann Carmichael, that the minutes of the July 2008 - Meeting at NCSL in New Orleans, LA be approved. The Committee passed the motion unanimously.

Chairman Harris recognized Neil Ferguson to address the committee. Mr. Ferguson thanked the Virginia staff for hosting the Joint Canadian/American Meeting in Richmond in October of 2007. Furthermore, he extended an invitation to and encouraged members of ASLCS to attend the 2009 Joint Canadian/American meeting on Toronto, Ontario, which is being organized by Debbie Deller.

Chairman Harris recognized Patsy Spaw to give a report of the Subcommittee regarding allowing ASLCS Associate Members to attend Joint Canadian/American Meetings. The Subcommittee’s recommendation was to allow a Principal and an Associate to attend future Joint Canadian/American Meetings. The recommendation was approved by the Canadians and was adopted by a unanimous vote by the Executive Committee.

The next time that the U.S. will host a Joint Meeting will be in 2011. The Host State is yet to be determined. The Host State is responsible for raising the funds for the meeting.
Steve Arias inquired about the existence of written guidelines and parameters that states are required to follow when hosting a meeting. Furthermore, Mr. Arias asked about the existence of data from previous meetings giving information about funds spent and member attendance. Chairman Harris indicated that the data does exist and can be compiled and made available to any state interested in possibly hosting a Joint Meeting.

President Millie MacFarland stopped in and briefly addressed the committee.

On a motion of Steve Marshall, seconded by JoAnn Hedrick, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Wright, Recorder
Melissa Bybee-Fields, Chair called the meeting to order.  

The following members were present:  

Melissa Bybee-Fields (KY), Chair  
William MaGill (VT), Vice-Chair  
Nellie B. Humphries (AL), Steven T. James (MA)  
Mardi Alexander (TX), Emma Lopez (NM)  
Socorro V. Aragon (NM), Brenadette McNulty (CA)  
Ben Balding (WV), Lori Mullens (WV)  
Cindy Benjamin (NV), Neva Parker (CA)  
Mark Brandsgard (IA), Susan Furlong Reil (NV)  
Scott C. Caffey (TX), Eleanor Ringel (WV)  
Carmen Cauthen (NC), Mary J. Rivera (NM)  
Marilyn Eddins (CO), David Surdez (MN)  
Inga Emerson (DE), Linda Tubbs (TX)  
Margaret J. Hink (NM), Tricia Vaughan (VA)  
Adanna Hydes (KY), Patience Worrel (TX)  

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last committee meeting held during NCSL's annual meeting July 23, 2008 in New Orleans, LA. Inga Emerson made the motion, which was seconded by Adanna Hydes. The minutes were approved. Melissa thanked Kirstin Waid for chairing the meeting in her absence.  

Brenda Erickson provided the committee with a status report on the survey responses that have been received. Brenda noted that she is still receiving responses; however, there are several states which have not responded. Survey responses will be accepted into December and January. Submission in February starts to affect the statistical analysis, so it is preferable to receive them before that time. Last year’s survey had 96 or 97 chambers responding; this year’s response rate is lower to date. She asked everyone to remind states to respond. Steve James, MA, suggested including a note with the surveys stating that if the recipient isn’t able to respond promptly...
Inside the Legislative Process Committee Meeting Minutes (continued)

to put a reminder on their calendar so that the survey isn’t just overlooked. Brenda stated that draft reports of the survey will be e-mailed and the final version will be available at the NCSL annual meeting in 2009.

Under New Business, there was a discussion on ways to promote Inside the Legislative Process as a resource. Brenda noted that to access the ILP site on the NCSL site, staff have to be registered as members. She also noted that it is posted on the ASLCS staff section website. When new edition is ready, it will be posted on the ASLCS site. Eleanor suggested giving information to the Administrator staff regarding access to Inside the Legislative Process so that it could be “advertised” in the Administrator.

Also under new business, it was suggested to gently remind staff who have responded to the surveys to get that information sent in.

A motion was made by Eleanor Ringel to adjourn; the motion was seconded by David Surdez. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Bybee-Fields, Chair
International Communications and Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Steve Arias reported on the recent ANOMAC meeting in Toluca, Mexico, attended by Patsy Spaw, George Bishop and Sandy Tenney representing ASLCS, as well as representatives from CATTS and ANZACATT. President Spaw was able to take the opportunity in Mexico to encourage ATELCA to revitalize their organization and become involved again in the international community.

Chair Hedrick affirmed the charge of the committee is to publish the International Directory, published in English, Spanish and French. She will establish an e-mail list and solicit help for contacting the international societies for their new leadership rosters.

There being no further business before the committee, Denise Weeks moved to adjourn, seconded by Steve Arias.

After adjournment, Bernard Dean suggested to Chair Hedrick that ASLCS explore establishing formal relationships with other parliamentary associations, particularly European nations. The Chair brought this discussion to the Executive Committee on October 6 and it was decided that President MacFarland will send a letter to the leaders of the parliamentary associations in Great Britain, Scotland and Ireland as a starting point.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Clemens, Recorder
Professional Development Seminar
Reno, Nevada
October 5, 2008

Chair Scott Kaiser (IL) called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Scott Kaiser (IL), Chair
Karen Goldman (CO), Vice-Chair
Lori Mullens (WV) Neva Parker (CA)
Peg Amandes (WA) Steve Parten (WA)
Marilyn Eddins (CO) Susan Furlong Reil (NV)
Bo Hoover (WV) Eleanor Ringel (WV)
Ramona Kenady (OR) Obie Rutledge (OR)
Bernadette McNulty (CA) Meggan Stephenson (WI)

Committee discussion revolved around ideas to enhance the content and readability of The Legislative Administrator: including articles about the activities in states and their chambers; using color photographs in place of black-and-white photographs, if feasible; focusing on one capitol per issue; increasing the number of technology-related articles; including as many “man-on-the-street” type photographs as possible; continuing the popular “landmarks” section, featuring new principals, retirees, and significant anniversaries.

The committee also discussed ways to solicit articles for “States at a Glance” and to involve states that have not or don’t typically contribute. One idea was to divide the country into regions and ask committee members to contact principals from states within the region. The committee also wanted to make certain copies of The Legislative Administrator went to each principal. A list of potential articles for inclusion was created.

President MacFarland informed the committee that the ASLCS Executive Committee would be considering an increase in the budget for publication of The Legislative Administrator. She noted that, in the past, some states had been able to absorb the cost of publication in their legislative budgets and expressed concern that states which could not afford to do that might feel precluded from volunteering to work on and/or publish the newsletter. President MacFarland also noted that the Executive Committee would also be considering an allocation increase to the committee for the purpose of purchasing a digital camera. She asked to be included on the committee e-mail list in order to be kept informed.

The committee also discussed the deadlines needed in order to timely publish The Legislative Administrator three times per year.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Goldman (CO), Vice-Chair
Chair Judy Hall called the Membership and Communication Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The following members were in attendance:

Judy Hall (OR), Chair
Suzi Lowell (AK), Vice-Chair
Bonnie Trivette (NC), Vice-Chair
Mary Andrus (UT) Julie Medina (OR)
Judy Barrows (ME) Dana Miller (MO)
Melissa Bybee-Fields KY Angi Murphy (VA)
Scott Caffey (TX) Paula Rossetto (CA)
Janice Gadd (UT) Dianne Russell (NC)
Linda Hopkins (TX) Jim Schratz (AR)
Nellie Humphries (AL) Jackie Scott (VA)
Cyndy Johnston (OR) Terry Spieler (MO)
Crystalline Jones (AK) Karen Wadsworth (NH)
Ann Krekelberg (AK) Kirsten Waid (AK)
Jeannine Layell (VA) Kathy White (MO)
Barbara Lecarpentier (VA)

New attendees reported back that the program was great and they enjoyed it very much. They suggested a couple of minutes be spent clarifying the organizational chart of ASLCS during the meeting for a better understanding of the Executive Committee when they are introduced.

It was also suggested that the relationship of ASLCS to NCSL and its structure be explained. Chair Hall opened the floor for discussion of a theme for next years PDS in Seattle, Washington. A “Fishing for Members” theme was suggested as the fish market is a big tourist attraction in Seattle. Melissa Bybee-Fields, KY, Julie Medina, OR and Terri Spieler, MO volunteered to explore and create the ice breaker game possibly using the game “Go Fish.” Another idea that would help “break the ice” with new attendees was to assign them a night working in the hospitality room.

The committee discussed the wrap-up meetings for new attendees. Everyone agreed that the ideas for building new relationships went well, but perhaps a better table labeling system may help new attendees find each other. It was also suggested that different colored lanyards would help other members in identifying the new members.

Another helpful hint suggested for new attendees was a separate flyer/agenda that would be included in the large agenda book to help new attendees find the meetings they should attend. Some new members don’t understand what types of meetings are open to them.

Continuation of the pin contest was agreed on. It would be helpful for sponsors to explain the contest to their assigned new member so he/she can prepare by bringing their home state pins for the exchange. When registration
materials are sent out a couple months in advance of the meeting, a flyer should be included giving everyone advance notice to bring their state pins along.

The committee from last year used a database of contacts that had volunteered to be sponsors. It was suggested that to open up the process this year all Principals and Associates be contacted to become sponsors a few months ahead of time.

Paula Rossetto, CA, showed us a laminated map of the U.S. she had prepared ahead to collect her pins. She volunteered to check into making them for the new attendees for the 2009 PDS in Seattle. The sponsor should bring a gift for their new attendee and the limit should be $10.00.

Janice Gadd gave information on New Attendee Booklets. She prepared and printed 50 for this year and used most of them. The booklet includes a letter from the incoming President as well as a brief summary of the committee functions.

The committee discussed how to capture the interest of states not regularly attending. Chair Hall will assign members of the committee geographic regions for personal contact. Chair Hall suggested that a packet of ASLCS information be sent to committee members for talking points when they contact their regional clerks and secretaries.

The meeting was adjourned on motion of Karen Wads-worth, seconded by Terry Spieler.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndy Johnston, Recorder
Professional Journal
Committee Meeting Minutes

Professional Development Seminar
Reno, Nevada
October 5, 2008

Members in attendance:
Maryann Horch (VA), Co-Chair
Inga Emerson (DE) Laura Clemens (OH)
Polly Emerson (TX) Gayle Goble (IA)
Neva Parker (CA) Karen Goldman (CO)
Ron Smith (LA)

The meeting of the Professional Journal was called to order by Co-Chair Maryann Horch.

Inga Emerson moved, seconded by Laura Clemens, that the minutes during the NCSL annual meeting in New Orleans, July 2008 be approved. The Committee passed the motion unanimously.

In an effort to promote an interest in the articles and reading of the publication, Laura Clemens volunteered to e-mail the next teaser to the membership. Maryann said that normally the deadline for submitting articles is the month before printing.

The discussion continued from the previous meeting about possible ways to solicit requests for articles for the publication. Karen Goldman suggested dividing the list of states and have committee members contact each one. It was also suggested that members from California, New Hampshire and Illinois be contacted to ask if they have any interesting articles pertaining to their budget issues. Maryann informed the group that President Millie MacFarland had mentioned to her that the LS CG members are on the Professional Journal committee by standing orders and may be tapped as a resource for obtaining articles. Laura Clemens said the legislative effectiveness group could also be a good resource.

On a motion of Polly Emerson, seconded by Inga Emerson, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Emerson, Recorder
The meeting was called to order by Diane Bell, chair, at 11:10 a.m.

Committee members present:
Diane Bell (FL), Chair
Patrick O’Donnell (NE), Vice-Chair
Jay Braxton (VA), Vice-Chair
Anna Hanback (VA) Tom Hoemann (WA)
Michelle Adams (NC) Chawetta Johnson (MS)
Robert Altmann (WV) Scott Kaiser (IL)
Peg Amandes (WA) Todd Kenady (OR)
Mary Andrus (UT) Cheryl Laube (AZ)
Matthew Baker (NV) Jeannine Layell (VA)
Judy Barrows (ME) Jim McElroy (NC)
Cindy Benjamin (NV) Angi Murphy (VA)
George Bishop (VA) Mary Phillips (NV)
Paul Campos (WA) Jeffrey Renk (WI)
Norma Chastain (AZ) Dianne Russell (NC)
Kristin Canterbury (WV) Susan Schaar (VA)
Michael Cote (ME) Meggan Stephenson (WI)
Barbara Daniel (WV) Lori Summers (WV)
Beth Dingus (VA) David Surdez (MN)
Marilyn Eddins (CO) Lora Thompson (WV)
Jeff Finch (VA) Bonnie Trivette (NC)
Eric Fowler (NH) Tricia Vaughan (VA)

The meeting started with the introduction of the new Chair, Diane Bell, and the new Vice-Chairs, Patrick O’Donnell and Jay Braxton. The Chair announced to the committee that she was looking to appoint a Recorder and asked if there were any volunteers for the position. There were no volunteers at the time of the meeting.

The committee then discussed ideas for plenaries and concurrent sessions for the 2009 ASLCS Fall Meeting in Seattle, Washington.

There was discussion on whether or not staff breakout sessions should be held next year due to a shortened
conference and the challenge of finding new topics to discuss. Committee members stressed the importance of these sessions to associates. Some committee members felt that these sessions were the only time associates were able to get together with other society members who have similar responsibilities and were a great way to share ideas and network. Committee members offered suggestions to enhance the staff breakout sessions by breaking them down by process instead of by department. Judy Hall suggested that the Associate Exchange Program be included as a possible staff breakout session.

Jeff Finch expressed the importance of continuing the Job Fair/Job Share session and the possibility of that being worked into the staff breakout sessions. It was also noted that the Job Fair/Job Share session was a great opportunity for our sponsors to participate and show new and existing products and services.

ASLCS President Millie MacFarland spoke to the committee about increasing the plenary speaker’s fund to $10,000.00. President MacFarland also requested that the committee schedule the plenary session at next year’s fall meeting to earlier in the week instead of later.

The committee discussed past plenary sessions and what worked. It was noted that a past speaker had been hired to speak on one topic, but chose to speak on a different topic once on stage. A committee member mentioned that plenary sessions with group exercises were only valuable if everyone in the group was prepared to fully participate. Committee members mentioned a past plenary with Dr. Bissell as an example of a plenary speaker who connected with the audience.

Committee members discussed interactive versus non-interactive plenary sessions and were in favor of non-interactive plenary sessions with engaging speakers. Scott Kaiser suggested that the committee focus on one plenary session with a “knockout” speaker instead of doing multiple plenaries.

Some suggestions for plenary sessions included the following:

- Multigenerational Conflict (Dealing with Different Generations)
- Grammar
- Gender Differences in Management Styles
- Succession Planning
- Parliamentary Training
- Wellness Clinic
- How to Pack for Traveling
- Repeat of the Fish Exercise
- Myers-Briggs Testing
- What are your colors?
- Family Birth Order

Judy Barrows offered to share her list of breakout and plenary topics from past meetings with the committee.

The committee discussed Vice-Chair Patrick O’Donnell’s suggestion of bringing in legislators as possible faculty for the conference in areas such as parliamentary procedure. Some committee members thought it was something the committee could look into depending on the topic.

The Chair asked the committee to make sure that everyone completed the evaluation survey and to e-mail the Chair and Vice-Chairs with any ideas for plenaries and breakout sessions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Braxton, Vice-Chair
The meeting of the Roster Committee was held October 5, 2008 at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, Nevada. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mardi Alexander-TX, at 11:00 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Mardi Alexander (TX), Chair
Patience Worrel (TX), Vice-Chair
Linda Tubbs (TX), Vice-Chair
Linda Hopkins (TX), Recorder
LeeAnn McGarity (WA), Julie Medina (OR)
Barbara Lecarpentier (VA), Carol Newton (MO)
Dianne Arrington (TX), Steve Parten (WA)
Joan Branson (MO), Jim Schratz (AR)
Scott Caffey (TX), Jackie Scott (VA)
Sarah Culley (MO), Marilyn Seaton (MO)
Sandra Daly (CA), Terry Spieler (MO)
Stephanie Hall (AK), Sandy Tenney (UT)
Cyndy Johnston (OR), Kathy White (MO)
Jamie Kruse (NE), Susan Whitford (NV)
Sue Kumpulainien (CA)

Chair Mardi Alexander-TX explained that the Roster Committee was a two-year commitment for the chair and Vice-Chairs and that the 2008-2009 Roster would be published after information, including current committee assignments and the updated Standing Orders, was received following the Professional Development Seminar. The current Roster Committee members will focus on the publication of the 2009-2010 Roster. Progress on the 2009-2010 Roster will be discussed at the spring meeting and any necessary work assignments for committee members will be made then.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion of Sandy Tenney-UT and seconded by Terry Spieler-MO.

Respectfully submitted,
Mardi Alexander, Chair
Professional Development Seminar

Reno, Nevada
October 5, 2009

Chair Suzi Lowell, AK, called the Site Selection Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on October 5, 2008, in Reno, Nevada. The following members of the Committee were in attendance:

Suzi Lowell (AK), Chair
Janice Gadd (UT), Vice-Chair
Emily Howard (VA), Vice-Chair

Cynthia Johnston (OR)  Crystalline Jones (AK)
Diane Keetch (NV)      Michelle Adams (NC)
Jamie Kruse (NE)       Robert Altmann (NV)
Sue Kumpulainen (CA)   Mary Andrus (UT)
Cheryl Laube (AZ)      Dianne Arrington (TX)
Jeannine Layell (VA)   Dave Avant (AL)
Barbara Lecarpentier (VA)  Anita Bavis (MD)
Lydia Lee (NV)         Joan Branson (MO)
Dowe Littleton (AL)    Jay Braxton (VA)
Jim McElroy (NC)       Kristin Canterbury (WV)
Julie Medina (OR)      Ann Carmichael (AL)
Mary Monahan (MD)      Colleen Cassidy (MD)
Carol Newton (MO)      Ann Cornell (AR)
Cooper Roberts (LA)   Norma Chastain (AZ)
Sherry Rodriguez (NV)  Michael Cote (ME)
Paula Rossetto (CA)    Sarah Culley (MO)
Dianne Russell (NC)   Sandra Daly (CA)
Obie Rutledge (OR)    Barbara Daniel (WV)
Pat Saville (KS)       Beth Dingus (VA)
Jackie Scott (VA)     Molly Dondero (NV)
Sylvia Siegert (MD)   Polly Emerson (TX)
Terry Spieler (MO)    Lendi Ensor (AK)
Lori Summers (WV)    Pat Geddis (CO)
Sandy Tenney (UT)     Jane Gill (NV)
Lora Thompson (WV)    Gregory Gray (WV)
Bonnie Trivette (NC)  Judy Hall (OR)
Kirsten Waid (AK)     Stephanie Hall (AK)
Denise Weeks (NC)     Anna Hanback (VA)
Kathy White (MO)      Linda Hopkins (TX)
Jeanine Wittenberg (NV)  Martha Hopson (AK)
Joyce Wright (AL)

Chair Lowell welcomed everyone and reminded the committee that the 2009 ASLCS Professional Development Seminar (PDS) will be held in Seattle, Washington.

Brad Hendrickson, WA, came forward and said that Washington is looking forward to hosting the 2009 ASLCS Professional Development Seminar. The dates of the seminar are September 16-20, 2009, and accommodations will be at the Seattle Renaissance Hotel. He mentioned the possibility of a day trip to Olympia and encouraged members to relay any other locations of interest. He also mentioned that Washington will work with Alaska and British Columbia regarding pre- and post-conference trips to those areas.
Tom Hoemann, WA, informed the committee that to date Washington has raised $17,000, but will need a total of $80-$90,000 depending upon the venues selected. For instance, there has been discussion of the possibility of side trips to major companies in the Seattle area.

Mr. Hendrickson then informed the committee that the budget for the Washington PDS was developed after review of the budgets for the last few professional development seminars. The Washington legislative leadership was then approached. After passing a statutory exemption to solicit funds for a “nationally recognized seminar,” the fundraising began.

Chair Lowell explained that there are three types of conferences: host, hybrid, and no-host. The Seattle PDS is a hosted conference, and thus will be paid for by the host state. A hybrid conference would be one in which the funds are obtained from the host state as well as ASLCS. A no-host conference is one in which ASLCS provides all the funds. Chair Lowell then informed the committee that California and Massachusetts have expressed interest in possibly hosting a future PDS.

The presence of President MacFarland was noted. President MacFarland thanked the committee for the work it has done and will do as it seeks sites for the 2011 PDS.

Obie Rutledge inquired as to whether any consideration has been given to the geographical location of proposed sites in an effort to rotate the regions in which the PDS is held.

Chair Lowell said that has been a consideration in the past, and noted that the Southern states haven’t hosted a PDS in some time. President MacFarland mentioned that the site selection is also partially driven by the hotel accommodations that are available. There was a discussion regarding the typical dates of the seminar, during which it was related that the seminars have been held from mid-September to mid-November. Paula Rossetto, CA, then advised that if California were to host the 2011 PDS, it would likely be late September or into October due to its later sessions.

Chair Lowell then inquired as to possible no-host locations for 2011, in case California or Massachusetts can’t host. The following locations were mentioned: Atlanta, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; Jackson, Mississippi; New York City, New York; Branson, Missouri; Memphis, Tennessee; Paris, Idaho; and Rome, Georgia. Kirsten Waid, AK, commented that holding a PDS in a no-host state would be a way to encourage involvement in the society.

There was a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Pat Saville. The committee adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Sincerely submitted,

Crys Jones, Recorder
The Support Staff Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Ron Smith, LA, Vice-Chair Jamie Kruse, NE, was asked to be the recorder of the minutes.

A motion was made to accept and dispense with the reading of the minutes for the committee meeting held on July 23, 2008, in New Orleans. The motion prevailed without objection.

Chair Smith opened the meeting with discussion of the success of the Job Share and the possibility of replicating it again next year at the Professional Development Seminar in Seattle. In addition to the current participants participating again in 2009, new participants were encouraged to contribute as well. Chair Smith also mentioned that we may want to consider a portion of the Job Share focus on concepts and electronic equipment/programs that were utilized by the legislatures and legislative staff that did not work out in their states, and share examples and explain why they did not succeed.

The Associate Exchange Program was discussed and Chair Smith noted that he will be sending letters to Principals within the next few weeks to seek out possible host states that would be willing to participate in the program. Chair Smith will announce the other deadlines associated with the other aspects of the Associate Exchange Program in the near future. It was noted that the amount allocated for participants in the program will be increased for this year only to $2,000 which allot $500.00 per participant.
versus the standard $1,000 allotment or $250.00 per participant. Members were reminded of the criteria to participate in the program which includes being an associate for two years and having their application/desire to participate approved by their principal. Past participants of the Exchange Program were encouraged to “spread the word” of the program and of their experiences. Chair Smith also noted that he would be visiting with the Executive Committee about the guidelines for alternative dates that associates may participate in the Exchange Program, should there be a conflict with the original dates that they chose.

The Committee was also encouraged to be thinking of ideas for the breakout session/programs for the Professional Development Seminar in Seattle. Norma Chastain, AZ, volunteered to help the committee out by serving as a facilitator/moderator at the sessions next year if needed.

ASLCS President-elect Millicent MacFarland visited the committee and addressed the group. She visited with the committee regarding the amount of money allotted to the Associate Exchange Program for this year and stated that participants would most likely be chosen in December during the Executive Committee conference call. She thanked the committee members, the chair, and the vice-chairs for their work and willingness to serve.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Smith, Chair
Professional Development Seminar
Reno, Nevada
October 5, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Steve Marshall, Committee Chair.

The following members were in attendance:

Steve Marshall, Chair VT
John Garrett, Vice-Chair VA
Laura Clemens, Vice-Chair OH
Jim Schratz AR
Maryann Horch VA
Burney T. Durham TN
Ronda Tentarelli WA
Eric Fowler NH
Wallace Austin NC
Dana Miller MO
Ron Smith LA
Chawetta Johnson MS
Todd Kenady OR
Bonnie Alexander ID
Matthew Baker NV
Susan Whitford NV
Mary Phillips NV
Ann Krekelberg AK
Angi Murphy VA
Johnye Bennett VA
Melanie Reekes VA
Rachel Veum WI
Jeffrey Renk WI
Scott Kaiser IL
Steve Parten WA
Steve Arias NM
Brad Hendrickson WA
Bernard Dean WA
Brad Young OH
Peg Amandes WA

Burney Durham (TN) moved the approval of the committee minutes.

Jim Schratz (AR) seconded the motion.

Maryann Horch (VA) accepted position as Recorder.

**IT Survey**

Eric Fowler (NH), a member of the IT Survey subcommittee, updated the committee. The committee is moving away from a simple survey to set up an informational database. We wanted to refocus on the purpose/goal. NCSL is updating the website and this change will allow us to have a WIKI on the website. The WIKI will take time to build and will take time to get people used to using it. Hope to have something by next year.

(WIKI is like an encyclopedia. Ronda Tentarelli (WA) further explained - visitors (that have access) are able to add content and edit the content. It is like a series of articles.)

Will this replace the listserv? Listserv is long and cumbersome and info gets lost. Hopefully this will be easier and more useful.

Steve Arias asked the question if anyone was updating their Committee Rooms. (Audio and Video capabilities in Committee Rooms) He would like to have a list of resources, who uses what technology, and service contract information. The WIKI (once up and running) would supply that information.
Jim Schratz (AR) suggested in the meantime for Steve to use the listserv to get that information. Also recommended he contact Pam Greenberg (NCSL liaison).

Laura Clemens (OH), a member of the Technology Subcommittee of NCSL, updated us on NCSL’s redesign. All of the information is there but it will be easier to get to - more intuitive. Updates to the web will be quicker because we are updating it ourselves. Website will be rolled out in stages. We will have the ability to post and share documents. The future roll outs will include blogs and wikis. Executive committee will appoint liaison to update and maintain the committees’ websites.

Call for ideas for next year’s PDS:
1. Wiki intro: How to use and How to post. Wallace Austin (NC) recommended possibly having this as a kiosk/booth at the Job Fair/Job Share.
2. NCSL eLearning opportunities: Laura mentioned they are working on tutorials. If there are any ideas/recommendations on topics we would like to see – please pass them on. Eric Fowler (NH) had a question about videotaping 1 or 2 meetings per session – then post it. Steve mentioned they had discussed it and there could be copyright issues.

3. John Garrett (VA) suggested “Clerk’s Recent Renovations and Technology”
4. Wallace Austin (NC) recommended 3 or 4 Technology changes and how it may impact the future. Mobile devices and how they work.
6. Scott Kaiser (IL) recommended showing what members are doing to work/inform constituents. Tele-town hall meeting (Wisconsin does them) all via phone

Steve Arias recommended having kiosk set up for people to fill out surveys and polls.

Brad Hendrickson (WA) promoted the Fall 2009 meeting.
- Day in Olympia to show off their technology
- New in-house Rostrum software
- 82” LCD projector
- There may be a Microsoft Tour
- Boeing Flight Simulator (connects to Google Earth)

There being no further business, Burney Durham made the motion to adjourn. Scott Kaiser seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryann Horch, Recorder
2008-2009 Executive Committee

Millie MacFarland - ME
President

Greg Gray - WV
President-Elect

Robert Marchant - WI
Secretary-Treasurer

Carmen Cauthen - NC
Associate Vice President

Claire Clift - NV
Elected Principal Member

Norma Chastain - AZ
Elected Associate

Terry Spieler - MO
Appointed Principal

Karen Wadsworth - NH
Appointed Principal

Londi Ensor - AK
Appointed Associate

Obie Rutledge - OR
Appointed Associate

Patsy Spaw - TX
Immediate Past President

Brad Hendrickson - WA
Immediate Past Associate
Vice President
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Professional Development Seminar
Reno, Nevada
October 6, 2008

Please note: amendments to Standing Orders are block indented and listed in bold.

The Executive Committee of ASLCS met at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino on October 6, 2008, and at 9:30 a.m. was called to order by Millie MacFarland, Clerk of the Maine House of Representatives and President of ASLCS.

The following members, constituting a quorum, were present: Carmen Cauthen (NC), Patsy Spaw (TX), Brad Hendrickson (WA), Greg Gray (WV), Norma Chastain (AZ), Karen Wadsworth (NH), Londi Ensor (AK), Claire Clift (NV), Obie Rutledge (OR), Rob Marchant (WI). Also present was Natalie O’Donnell, NCSL Staff Liaison.

Rob Marchant, Secretary-Treasurer, submitted the following report, detailing deposits and disbursements from the ASLCS dues account:

Treasurer’s Report
October 6, 2008

Beginning balance ....................... $71,007.95
Deposits ...................................... $1,685.00
Subtotal ....................................... $72,692.95

Disbursements
(Utah House—Sandy Tenney) ................ (872.51)
(WVA—Summer Administrator) .......... (3,800.00)
(Transfer to L190 SMA) ................. (30,000.00)
Total........................................... $38,020.44

On motion of Patsy Spaw, seconded by Carmen Cauthen, the Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved.

President MacFarland requested that the Executive Committee approve her appointments to the Executive Committee, Terry Spieler, Karen Wadsworth, Londi Ensor, and Obie Rutledge. On motion of Claire Clift, seconded by Rob Marchant, the appointments were unanimously approved.

Old Business

The Executive Committee discussed the concept of purchasing a digital camera for use by the Society. Patsy Spaw moved, seconded by Greg Gray, that the Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to reimburse the Chairperson of the Legislative Administrator Committee up to $1,000 for purchase of a digital camera for use by ASLCS. The Executive Committee discussed the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

New Business

Natalie O’Donnell presented a review of the Special Meetings Fund, the Professional Development Revolving Account, and the professional development seminar budget.

The Executive Committee reviewed the professional development seminar budget for the Reno meeting. Patsy Spaw discussed the overhead allocation fee and recent changes to the formula used to calculate the fee. It was noted that the revised formula resulted in the ASLCS fee being decreased by greater than $10,000 for the 2008 professional development seminar. Natalie O’Donnell indicated that final budget figures for the meeting would not be available until approximately March, 2009, but that another update would likely be provided to the Executive Committee in December, 2008. Karen Wadsworth noted that the budget did not include a line item for expenses related to attendance by Canadian guests. Natalie O’Donnell indicated that she would investigate why that line item was not listed in the budget. Claire Clift discussed the host state’s state dinner expenses. The Executive Committee discussed the conference registration fee and its relation to hotel food and beverage expenses. President MacFarland invited Susan Schaar (Virginia) and Diane Bell (Florida) to make a presentation to the Executive Committee. Ms. Schaar and Ms. Bell reviewed the Speaker’s Fund that is established under Section I. F. of the Standing Orders and requested that the committee consider increasing the amount of the fund to $10,000 or $15,000 in order to provide more flexibility in obtaining national speakers for the professional development
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (continued)

President MacFarland next reviewed the manner in which the ASLCS budgets and pays for the publishing costs of the Roster, Professional Journal, Legislative Administrator, and International Directory. President MacFarland noted that the actual publication costs appeared to be greater than the amounts budgeted for reimbursement. She also noted the willingness of ASLCS members, such as Brad Hendrickson and Mary Monahan (Maryland), to facilitate the use of their office budgets to fund ASLCS publications. Brad Hendrickson agreed to fund the publication of the International Directory and the first issue of the Legislative Administrator out of his office budget.

Patsy Spaw noted that the Society has benefited greatly from the generosity of members like Mr. Hendrickson and Ms. Monahan. She noted further that relying upon the generosity of members to pay for these expenses may have the effect of excluding those states that are not able to fund the publication costs, even though those states are willing to devote staff time to preparing the publication. Greg Gray reviewed the costs for publishing the recent editions of the Legislative Administrator and noted that the costs exceeded the amount the Executive Committee budgeted.

Obie Rutledge moved, seconded by Claire Clift, that the Legislative Administrator budget be set at $15,000 pursuant to Section XVI. D. 6. of the Standing Orders. The motion was unanimously adopted.

The Executive Committee discussed further the budgets of the Professional Journal and Roster. The chairpersons of the respective committees will be consulted to determine actual publication costs and, if a budgetary adjustment appears to be necessary, President MacFarland will hold a conference call in December.

President MacFarland thanked the Executive Committee and other members in attendance for their work and input and solicited comments or concerns.

Patsy Spaw moved, seconded by Norma Chastain, that the meeting adjourn. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Marchant,
Secretary-Treasurer
Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Professional Development Seminar
Reno, Nevada
October 6, 2008

The American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS) met at the Silver Legacy Resort on October 6, 2008, and at 8:30 a.m. was called to order by Millie MacFarland, Clerk of the Maine House of Representatives and President of ASLCS.

The following committee reports were delivered to the Society:

Bylaws and Standing Orders. Ramona Kenady (Oregon) reported that the committee was developing a process for the Society to follow to ensure that the Standing Orders conform to a uniform style and consistent use of terminology. Ms. Kenady noted the work that the committee had previously done to make the Standing Orders uniform and discussed the desire of the committee to maintain the Standing Orders in this way as future changes are made.

Inside the Legislative Process. Brenda Erickson (NCSL) discussed the status of the survey and the rate at which states have responded to the survey and reminders.

Site Selection. Suzi Lowell (Alaska) reviewed the meeting locations for the 2009 and 2010 professional development seminars and noted that California had expressed interest in hosting a future meeting.

Technology. Eric Fowler (New Hampshire) discussed the goals of the committee, which include exploring the use of wiki technology for Society communications.

International Communication and Development. JoAnn Hedrick (Delaware) discussed the committee’s active membership and desire to continue developing strong international relationships on behalf of the Society.

Legislative Administrator. Scott Kaiser (Illinois) indicated that one of the primary goals of the committee was to reach out to states and encourage them to participate in the States At a Glance portion of the publication.

Membership and Communication. Judy Hall (Oregon) reviewed the new member orientation from the Reno meeting and discussed the committee’s ideas for the 2009 new member orientation.

Support Staff. Ron Smith (Louisiana) discussed the committee’s evaluation of the job fair/job share and noted that the Executive Committee had increased funding for participation in the associate exchange program.

Canadian-American Relations. Denise Weeks (North Carolina) noted that the 2009 meeting will be held in Toronto and reviewed the Executive Committee’s recent changes to the eligibility criteria, which now generally allow one principal and one associate from each chamber to attend the meeting.

Professional Journal. Inga Emerson (Delaware) reported that the committee is actively soliciting articles for publication.

Program Development. Diane Bell (Florida) noted that the committee has begun discussing ideas for the 2009 professional development seminar and encouraged members of the Society to turn in evaluation forms for the 2008 meeting.

Roster. Mardi Alexander (Texas) provided an update on the status of the roster and noted that the committee expects to publish the revised roster in the fall.

President MacFarland thanked the committee chairs and other representatives for their hard work. She encouraged committee chairs to turn in their committee reports, notify the President of who the committee recorders are, and contact the President if they are in need of a committee chair manual.

Susan Schaar (Virginia) moved, seconded by Denise Weeks (North Carolina), that the meeting adjourn. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Marchant (WI),
Secretary-Treasurer
The End of an Era in the Kansas House of Representatives

by Susan Kannarr

On December 15, 2008 Janet E. Jones retired as Chief Clerk of the Kansas House of Representatives after 34 years of service to the Chamber. Janet began her service in the House in 1975 as a Reading Clerk and served as Chief Journal Clerk from 1977 through 1988. In 1988, Janet was appointed as Chief Clerk of the House. During her tenure as Chief Clerk, Janet worked with eight Speakers of House and since starting her career in 1975 she has worked with nearly 600 different representatives.

At the end of the 2008 Session in May, the House honored Janet by adopting HR 6030 “A RESOLUTION honoring Janet E. Jones for her 34 dedicated years of public service to the Kansas House of Representatives.” In December 2008, the Speaker of the House hosted a retirement reception. Remarks were presented by the Speaker Melvin Neufeld, Minority Leader Dennis McKinney and past Speakers Kent Glasscock, Doug Mays and Mike Hayden, who also served as Governor of Kansas from 1987-1991. Janet was presented a custom seal from the House of Representatives (pictured). A common thread in all remarks was Janet’s commitment to the Chamber and its processes.

Janet has been an active member of ASLCS, serving in many capacities including: Bylaws Committee Vice-Chair, 1991; Chair, 1999: Membership and Communication Committee Vice-chair, 1992; Chair 1993: Site Selection Committee Chair, 1994: Program Development Committee Chair, 1995: Executive Committee Member, 1996: Inside the Legislative Process Committee, Chair, 1997. In addition, Janet served on the Mason’s Manual Commission for the 2000 edition. In 2000, Janet was honored with a Legislative Staff Achievement Award by ASLCS. In Kansas, Janet has constantly worked to improve the legislative process. As a part of these efforts, she has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the Legislature’s strategic plan for information technology.

In retirement, Janet looks forward to spending time with her husband Buck, her two daughters and two grandchildren.

Susan W. Kannarr has been appointed Chief Clerk to succeed Janet after serving as Deputy Chief Clerk since September 2007.
Minnesota’s Longtime Secretary of the Senate Retires

Submitted by Mike Linn (MN), Senate 2nd Assistant Secretary

Minnesota’s Secretary of the Senate, Patrick E. Flahaven, announced his retirement, effective January 5, 2009, at a meeting with his staff in late October. He has served as Secretary since 1973 and has been with the Minnesota Senate since 1971.

Pat was born in Willmar, Minnesota, and grew up in Sauk Centre, Minnesota. He received a B.A. degree from the College of St. Thomas, an M.M.A. and an M.B.A. from Metropolitan State University.

Pat has been a member of the American Society of Legislative Clerks & Secretaries (ASLCS) since 1973, serving as its President in 1977-1978. He was also the Staff Chair of NCSL in 1980-1981. He chaired the Mason’s Manual Revision Commission that produced the 1989 revised edition of Mason’s Manual of Legislative Procedure, and received the Joseph A. Beek Distinguished Service Award in 1987, as well as the NCSL/ASLCS Legislative Staff Achievement Award in 2001.

“Pat Flahaven was the consummate legislative professional,” said Pat O’Donnell, Clerk of the Nebraska Legislature. “His intellect, wit and humor coupled with his gentle way personified qualities we should all emulate. He was a strong and forceful advocate for the legislative institution not only within ASLCS but NCSL as well. As such, he paved the way for many of us to assume leadership roles within those organizations. His presence at our meetings will be missed but his contributions will endure for many years to come. Take care my friend.”

In addition to his work with the ASLCS and NCSL, Pat has been involved in the Atlantic-Pacific Exchange Program, the International Institute for Democracy, the African Parliamentary Staff Training Workshop, US AID/DAI Assistance to the Romanian Parliament, Friends of the African Child Foundation, the American Society for Public Administration, the Society of Minnesota Futurists and the Metropolitan State University Foundation Board of Trustees and College of Management Advisory Board.

MN Senate Majority Leader Lawrence Pogemiller said, “Pat has personified the Senate; for some, he is the Senate.” He said, “Flahaven was Minnesota’s legislative ambassador to other states and nations.”

It is a testament to Flahaven’s management that many nonpartisan staff members have been with the Senate for more than 25 years, making the Minnesota Senate unique among other state legislatures.

Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the MN House of Representatives reflected, “The Chief Clerk’s Office in Minnesota has enjoyed a wonderful working relationship with our Senate colleagues in large part due to the talents and personality of Pat Flahaven. We will greatly miss Pat’s institutional knowledge and his appreciation toward the critical role each office plays in making the Minnesota Legislature function.”
Mathiowetz went on to say, “I have benefited both professionally and personally from the opportunity to have worked with Pat these past many years. This being Pat’s last ‘Message from the House,’ it is my pleasure, on behalf of the House of Representatives, to wish our dear friend Pat Flahaven all the best in the coming years.”

After Flahaven’s announcement, longtime Minneapolis Star-Tribune columnist Lori Sturdevant wrote, “Secretary Flahaven kept order, with kindness and competence.” In addition, Sturdevant wrote, “As Secretary of the Senate, he was the behind-the-scenes administrator, and, during floor sessions, the keeper of parliamentary order who gave proceedings a distinctive Irish baritone brogue.”

Pat and his wife Maureen have one son, Sean, who is married to Allison, and a grandson, William.

Outside the workplace, Flahaven has maintained an interest in the trombone, playing with several bands including an 18-piece big band. In addition, he and Maureen served many years as a lector and Eucharistic minister at the Cathedral of St. Paul, where they also served as co-chairs of the Cathedral’s Restoration Campaign.

“On behalf of Pat Flahaven’s many friends in ASLCS we wish him well in his retirement,” said Millie MacFarland, ASLCS President. “Pat always welcomed new members with warmth and kindness, and mentored so many of us over the years. His thoughtful and calm approach to our work was always appreciated and led to better outcomes in our group decision making. We all wish Pat and Maureen good health and a happy retirement.”

Secretary of the Florida Senate Faye W. Blanton Retires
Ending a 38 Year Senate Career

Submitted by Ken Pruitt, President of the Senate

On the last day of the 2008 Regular Session, the Florida Senate interrupted its proceedings to honor Secretary Faye Blanton who had announced her retirement effective November 18, 2008, at the end of the 2006-2008 term. Senate Resolution 3024, honoring the Secretary for an outstanding career in government service, recognizing her as the first woman to be elected to this office for a full 2-year term in 1996 and unanimous reelection since, was introduced and adopted. Remarks were made by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader Pro Tempore and the President Pro Tempore; the President then presented a framed copy of the resolution to Faye at the President’s rostrum. At the request of the President the Secretary addressed the Senate. She thanked President Toni Jennings for the opportunity to serve as Secretary of this Senate, her family, and her “Dream Team” staff. She apologized to the members for her annoying “Quorum calls” which they would no longer have to listen to, explaining that the President made her do it!

At the conclusion of the recognition, Faye received a standing ovation from the Senate, employees, the press, and guests in the gallery.

Senate President Ken Pruitt and the Staff of the Secretary of the Senate subsequently formally dedicated the official bound 2008 Journal of the Florida Senate to Faye.
National News from Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC)

By Gary VanLandingham, NCSL Staff Chair

The Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) is working on several major projects to strengthen NCSL’s services to legislative staff. As you may know, the LSCC is comprised of two representatives of each of the ten staff sections, plus staff who are serving on the NCSL Executive Committee. The LSCC recently met in September for its first meeting of the year; it will meet in January, May, and July as well.

Rest assured that LSCC meetings aren’t a junket. The meetings are pretty grueling—the first meeting of the day begins at 7:30 AM and various subcommittee and working group meetings last until 6:30 PM that evening and then again the next morning, followed by Executive Committee meetings throughout this second day. So, folks don’t go to LSCC meetings to hang out, but instead often look forward to getting back to their day jobs where the pace is somewhat saner (at least on a good day).

Currently, the LSCC is working on several major initiatives:

- **The Legislative Institutions subcommittee** is assessing major trends that are affecting legislative staff nationwide, including the pending retirement of Baby Boomers, technology changes, economic stresses, and increasing partisanship and term limits. The subcommittee will develop strategies to help legislatures address these challenges and guide NCSL activities in future years.

- **The Marketing and Outreach subcommittee** is developing better ways to market NCSL’s services so that legislative staff and legislators understand what NCSL can do for them and how they can best get involved with the organization.

- **The Professional Development subcommittee** is working to strengthen NCSL’s training programs for legislative staff, including options for expanding programs for staff entering management positions as well as those beginning their legislative careers.

- **The Technology subcommittee** is working to develop a capacity to deliver high quality professional development programs via the Internet to staff that cannot travel to NCSL meetings.

- **The Staff Section Officers subcommittee** is working to ensure that staff sections receive needed support from NCSL in hosting professional development seminars. The committee is also working with the Technology committee to identify ways that the staff sections can use e-learning technology to deliver skills development programs for staff who perform specific functions in their legislatures such as committee research and program evaluation.

- **The Standing Committees workgroup** is working to strengthen the role of legislative staff in NCSL’s Standing Committees, which meet three times a year to develop NCSL’s lobbying position on federal issues.

- **The Member and District Staff Training workgroup** is developing a prototype seminar that will be held next spring for member and district staff.

- **The Strategic Planning workgroup** is establishing plans to accomplish the goals of Nancy Cyr, who will serve as Staff Chair next year.

It is truly an honor to serve as your staff chair this year. NCSL is the premier organization for legislative staff, and it provides a wealth of opportunities to learn, share information, and meet colleagues and make friends who share our role in supporting representative democracy. This fall, I and the other national officers (Nancy Cyr, Staff Vice Chair, and Sharon Crouch Steidel, Immediate Past Staff Chair) have had the pleasure of visiting each of the ten staff section’s professional development conferences. Each of the meetings was superb, and showed the talent and dedication of legislative staff.

If you have any questions or suggestions for LSCC programs, feel free to contact me at vanlandingham.gary@oppaga.fl.gov, or the other national officers. You can get more information on all of NCSL’s programs for legislative staff at its website at www.ncsl.org.
Beyond the Call — Ready to Serve

Submitted by Scott Kaiser (IL), Assistant Senate Secretary

Joel Kintsel didn’t know what might lay ahead when he enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 2000. He was finishing his undergraduate degree at Oklahoma State University and preparing to start law school at the University of Oklahoma when he made the decision to enlist. (For the record, he’s a loyal OSU Cowboy.)

In May of 2001, after he survived the much dreaded first year of law school, basic training was there waiting for him. Since he finished basic training just days before the terrorist attacks of September 11th, Joel was eligible to be called to fight in Afghanistan. The call never came.

Continuing to fulfill his Guard duties while working on his law degree, Joel became interested in government and politics. During his final semester of law school, Joel took a position with the Oklahoma House of Representatives as assistant to the Minority Leader. He witnessed the legislative process up close and liked what he saw.

Once he graduated from law school in May of 2003, he was commissioned a year later as a Judge Advocate. Later in 2004, the fall elections provided Joel’s boss the opportunity to become Speaker of the House. This was the first time Republicans won a majority of seats in Oklahoma since the days of Babe Ruth and Warren G. Harding.

The new Speaker asked Joel to help draft new rules and offered Joel the position of Special Counsel to the Speaker, no small achievement for a freshly minted attorney just a year or so beyond his successful bar exams.

Just a couple months into his first session in his new job, the Clerk of the Oklahoma House decided it was time to move on. Once again, the Speaker turned to Joel Kintsel and asked him to take on a new assignment. Joel became Chief Clerk in the middle of session without the benefit of having ever gone through one from start to finish. He did have the advantage of knowing the rules, having played a role in their drafting.

But as Joel says, “it was definitely on the job training.” He gives credit to Susan Hill, a Clerk’s office employee in Oklahoma for some 35 years, for helping him learn on the fly.

Then in the summer of 2007, Joel accepted a routine lunch invitation from his Lt. Colonel. They often got together and discussed Guard business. What was not routine was the presence at the lunch of two other high-ranking Oklahoma National Guard members, one a Brigadier General. Together they told Captain Kintsel he was being called to active duty in Iraq.

The timing could have been better. Joel and his wife had just learned they were expecting their first child on January 10, 2008. This turned out to be just five days prior to his departure for Iraq in January 2008. His commanding officer took pity and gave Joel a few extra days to help bring his son, Gavin Michael Kintsel, into the world.

Once deployed, Joel spent three weeks in Kuwait in preparation for his assignment in Iraq. Joel’s unit was assigned to run the Green Zone in downtown Baghdad. The unit provided police, fire and other services to what amounted to a small city of some 15,000 regular Iraqi civilians. Joel’s job was to provide legal support to the local commander, the Army’s equivalent of a city mayor whose job it was to make sure things ran smoothly in the Green Zone.

Joel says, “It was very inspiring to observe the Iraqis learning to govern themselves after decades of living under a brutal dictator.”

In addition to the first 9 months of his son’s life, Joel missed the entire 2008 session of the Oklahoma...
House of Representatives. He did receive a few phone calls asking his advice on various matters of House business, but Joel is quick to point to Assistant Chief Clerk, Jan Harrison, who served as Acting Chief Clerk in his absence.

“Jan did a fabulous job in my absence,” he says. “She is a very capable person.”

Jan needed those skills too, as she had to deal with the unexpected resignation of the Speaker and an election of a new Speaker in the middle of Joel’s absence. “Jan handled it all very well,” Joel adds.

Captain Kintsel returned to Oklahoma City on October 19, 2008, to a warm reception from family, friends and colleagues. Joel says he’s happy to return to part-time Captain and full-time Chief Clerk. Asked if he would go again if needed, Kintsel didn’t hesitate.

“If I’m called, I’ll serve.”
New Chief Clerk in the Hawkeye State

Submitted by Scott Kaiser,
Assistant Secretary, Illinois Senate

Mark Brandsgard may be new to the Chief Clerk’s position in Iowa, but he’s no stranger to Iowa government and politics. Born and raised in the North-Central Iowa town of Humboldt, Mark has worked for the Iowa House of Representatives since 1977. Mark came to the Iowa House fresh out of Drake University in Des Moines over 30 years ago to fill a position as a legal research assistant for the House Democratic Caucus. He came to the legislative staff, as many do, planning on a short stint and ended up falling in love with the legislative process and making it a career. For nearly all of his years in the House prior to becoming Chief Clerk, Mark served as the top advisor to the Democratic Leader. Sometimes that meant assistant to the speaker and sometimes the minority leader, but through numerous different leaders Mark stayed the course. Now in the Clerk’s office, Mark says the biggest change has been dealing with personnel issues and being responsible for a sizeable budget. He says he occasionally misses the daily discussions about public policy, but still has an opportunity to give advice on occasion. In the Clerk’s office, Mark has a full-time staff of ten people, which grows significantly with session-only staff each winter and spring. Mark also acts as the House Parliamentarian, which he enjoys and for which he has many years of experience to back him up.

The 2008 ASLCS Professional Development Seminar in Reno was Mark’s first meeting. He brought three staff with him and found the candid discussions with fellow Clerks and Secretaries to be very beneficial. “That was the most enjoyable and informing part of the meeting,” says Mark. “Getting to be with colleagues from around the country who are facing some of the same challenges as I am was very helpful to me.” Mark says he hopes to bring even more of his staff to the 2009 PDS in Seattle.

Mark and his wife Rose, a marketing consultant for an insurance firm, have been married for 19 years and have a daughter, Gracie, who is a high school junior and a son, Jack, in seventh grade.

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Submitted by Bernadette McNulty, Assistant Secretary, California Senate

There is no argument. We are experiencing some very dire and uncertain times. The State of California is on the verge of going broke and is faced with a projected 42 billion dollar deficit in the next 18 months. Local governments are scrambling to stay alive, and the constituency is seeking solutions from their elected officials. The strategy often used in a crisis situation in an attempt to forge a solution is the extraordinary session, but, is it effective?

California’s State Constitution states “On extraordinary occasions the Governor by proclamation may cause the Legislature to assemble in special session. When so assembled it has power to legislate only on subjects specified in the proclamation but may provide for expenses and other matters incidental to the session.”

The first time this executive authority was used was in 1881. Then Governor, George C. Perkins, outlined in his proclamation the subjects to be addressed: general appropriations, deficiency appropriations, taxation, legislative and congressional districts, appointments and road law. He concluded that an extraordinary session was needed because the legislature did not, in his opinion, deal thoroughly enough with these issues during the Regular session.

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This first extraordinary session was convened on Monday, April 4, 1881 and adjourned on May 13, 1881. During the session, 37 bills were introduced and 22 were enacted. The bills that were enacted made appropriations for the fiscal deficiencies that were identified for the 31st and 32nd fiscal years. Senate Bill 4 which addressed roads and highways was vetoed and did not receive the two-thirds vote requirement for an override. But, Senate Bill 34, which would have provided funding for the extraordinary session, was vetoed and made a special order of business several days later. On May 11, 1881 at 2:00 p.m., the Senate voted to override the veto.

Did the extraordinary session take care of business? Was Governor Perkins’ strategy successful? Well, he did receive and approve legislation that addressed the appropriation deficiencies, and he did get his appointees confirmed. Some would ask, “Isn’t something better than nothing?” Isn’t it the nature of our business to take incremental steps when addressing matters that are difficult to solve, when we want an outcome that is workable for both branches of government?

Does history repeat itself? It certainly has that tendency.

To date, California’s legislature has convened 96 extraordinary sessions, 17 of those 96 sessions have been convened in the last eight years. During those 17 sessions, the subject matter of the Governor’s proclamations varied: energy cost and supply, spending reductions, general fund expenditures, Coastal Commission membership terms, Workers Compensation reform, budget deficit recovery, spending limits, state budget process reform, prison reform, health care reform, water quality and supply, fiscal emergencies, an economic stimulus plan, mortgage crisis and solvency of the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

The total number of bills introduced by both houses during these sessions was 659. 186 bills were passed and 57 were signed and chaptered. Out of the 57 chaptered, 54 were completed during the eight sessions convened between 2001 and 2004. These bills addressed the State’s energy crisis, its budget woes of 2001 and 2002, terms of office for the members appointed to the California Coastal Commission, workers compensation reform and economic recovery bonds. The next nine sessions, convened between 2005 and now, have proven to be a bit more difficult in finding solutions with three bills chaptered in 2008, and none thus far for 2009.

So, once again, the extraordinary session or the “call to action” is upon us. California’s budgetary difficulties, which are not new news, demand attention. We are in the midst of two extraordinary sessions along with our regular session. Our elected officials are working 24/7 to forge an agreement that will end our fiscal emergency and put California back on the road to recovery. There is no doubt that the job will get done during our 3rd extraordinary session of 2009.
States at a Glance

California

Dotson Wilson, Assembly Chief Clerk

Larry Murman, the Assistant Chief Clerk, retired at the end of the 2007-2008 Session on November 30th after a distinguished career spanning over four decades. Brian Ebbert, the Chief Assistant Clerk, and Sue Parker, the Minute Clerk, will be assuming restructured roles as Assistant Chief Clerks.

Sue Parker’s responsibilities will include managing the staff and personnel at the Assembly Desk on a daily basis and overseeing related responsibilities, including the processing of legislation, committee reports, amendments and other business related to the committee and floor process.

Brian Ebbert will continue to perform his current duties, including assisting with personnel-related matters, serving as the liaison with the Fair Political Practices Commission, overseeing the production of the Legislative Handbook and other legislative publications. In addition, he will serve as the Assistant Parliamentarian.

Delaware

JoAnn Hedrick, House Chief Clerk Emeritus

For the first time in 24 years, control of the Delaware House of Representatives changed as a result of the November election. Subsequently, our longest-serving Member, with 36 years of service, was elected Speaker of the House. The previous Minority Deputy Chief of Staff, Rich Puffer, has been elected Chief Clerk of the House and JoAnn Hedrick has been named Chief Clerk Emeritus. JoAnn will stay onboard to assist the new Majority Party and Rich with the transition for at least a year.

Florida

Bob Ward, House Clerk

The Florida House held its Organization Session on November 18, electing a new Speaker, Ray Sansom of Destin, Florida, and appointing a new Clerk, Bob Ward. Sansom has served as a member for six years but was also formerly a legislative staffer. Ward has nineteen years in government of which eleven have been with the House including two stints as chief of staff. Politically, the November elections provided little change to the make-up of the chamber with a 76/44 Republican to Democratic split.

The big issue on the horizon for Florida is how to deal with its increasing budget deficit and if or when the Legislature will go into special session to deal with the shortfall. Florida has already held two regular sessions and one special session to trim the budget. Forecasters believe the downward slide in collections will end in 2009, but only after three consecutive years of declining General Revenue. From the peak in FY 2005-06 collections through the current year will have fallen by $5.1 billion, almost 19%. For the upcoming budget year, estimated collections of $22.3 billion reflect cumulative downward adjustments of more than $7.6 billion (25%) as the economic situation has deteriorated over the past 18 months. It is anticipated that the 2009 Legislative Session which begins March 3, will prove complicated with no money to spend and competing ideas for making up the shortfall that range from cutting public works projects and further trimming school budgets to approving tax increases.

Term limits continue to have an impact on Florida. This year alone, seven House members ran and replaced all seven retiring Senators. Now, thirty-four of the forty Senate seats are filled with former House members.
Kentucky

Donna Robinson Holiday, Chief Clerk of the Senate

The Kentucky General Assembly has completed its 2009 Organizational Session, held January 6-9 at the State Capitol in Frankfort. The Legislature will convene again on February 3rd to complete the 30 day session. During the Organizational Session, the following were elected to leadership positions in each chamber:

Senate

- Senate President, Senator David L. Williams (R)
- Senate President Pro Tempore, Senator Katie Kratz Stine (R)
- Senate Majority Floor Leader, Senator Dan Kelly (R)
- Senate Majority Caucus Chairman, Senator Dan Seum (R)
- Senate Majority Whip, Senator Carroll Gibson (R)
- Senate Minority Floor Leader, Senator Ed Worley (D)
- Senate Minority Caucus Chairman, Senator Johnny Ray Turner (D)
- Senate Minority Whip, Senator Jerry Rhoads

House

- House Speaker, Representative Greg Stumbo (D)
- House Speaker Pro Tempore, Representative Larry Clark (D)
- House Majority Floor Leader, Representative Rocky Adkins (D)
- House Majority Caucus Chairman, Representative Robert Damron (D)
- House Majority Whip, Representative John Will Stacy (D)
- House Minority Floor Leader, Representative Jeff Hoover (R)
- House Minority Caucus Chairman, Representative Bob DeWeese (R)
- House Minority Whip, Representative David Floyd (R)

Mississippi

Diane Tyner Ashley, House Deputy Clerk

The 2009 session will open at noon on Tuesday, January 6 under the dome of the OLD CAPITOL in Jackson. The Old Capitol also was damaged by Katrina and our opening the 2009 session in that venerable facility will signal that it is ready to continue its mission as an educational and historical center for the state.

Each year, there are about 3,000 bills introduced for possible discussion in the Mississippi Legislature. Here are a few issues among the hundreds that are expected to come up for debate:

- Budgetary shortfalls and budget cuts caused by declining state revenues. The Legislative Budget Office reports that through the first four months of FY 2009, revenues are far below previous estimates, and the state fiscal officer has predicted the nation and state will not begin rebounding from the current recession until calendar year 2010.

- A long-range funding plan for Medicaid will be a major issue this year, as some House members favor using 50 percent of the revenue gained from a proposed increase in the tax on tobacco products, along with a portion of the per-bed tax paid by hospitals, to stabilize Medicaid funding.

- With the nation’s banking system reeling from a housing crisis and the country’s overall economy in peril due to wild fluctuations in the stock market, we realize that all funding decisions made during the session must reflect caution. Our state revenues for the first three months of the 2009 fiscal year were almost $30 million
below projections. Retailers are reporting that sales are off substantially, although our sales tax receipts for July through September were up more than 6 percent, compared to the same period a year ago. Individual income and corporate taxes were down, as were gaming revenues, but oil and gas severance taxes are up.

- Public education will continue to be one of our prime areas of attention. The Mississippi House will again push for full funding of the adequate education program for all of the 152 public school districts, and our teachers are seeking a 3-percent, across-the-board pay increase. Also, our State Superintendent of Education will continue to push for his “high school re-design” project aimed at making our graduates more competitive for both the workforce and higher education.

- A proposal has arisen in the Mississippi Senate to restructure the entire university system, whereby the State College Board would become a Board of Governors to deal only with budgeting matters and liaison with the Legislature, while a separate Board of Trustees would be in charge of the day-to-day operations of each university.

- Our continuing effort to make insurance more affordable and available to residents and businesses along the Coast still trying to recover from Hurricane Katrina. A strengthening of the Windpool and mitigation programs will be on the table, too.

- A special House panel has been studying price gouging in times of emergency, and several proposals will emerge. The state attorney general wants authority to be able to more quickly investigate complaints of price gouging.

- We will have talks with leaders of the Public Employees’ Retirement System to ensure that funds will be available to current and future retirees. The system lost several billion dollars during the recent troubles on Wall Street.

- Fine-tuning of the so-called “Castle Doctrine” passed several years to protect citizens who feel their life is in danger from an intruder. An incident at a local store earlier this year that led to one death has spurred an interest in reviewing the law.

- How to reduce poverty in this state. A special House panel is reviewing such things as the lack of jobs, lack of childcare and reducing grocery taxes.

- How to get a handle on the myriad health-related problems that have traditionally plagued Mississippians. A special House committee held three days of hearings during the 2008 interim and is expected to present its findings.

- In light of a massive federal raid on a large state business earlier this year, the issue of illegal immigration is likely to be on the table for debate.

- Continued focus on how to help the State Port at Gulfport return to its former status as a major economic development player. The port was severely damaged by Katrina.

Nebraska

Pat O’Donnell, Clerk

When the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature reconvenes on January 7, 2009, Nebraska State Senators will not only be greeted by a newly renovated legislative chamber, they will also be greeted with new technology on their desks. Senators will begin using Apple MacBook Air laptops this session, being the first legislature as a whole in the country to utilize Apple technology. The MacBook Air laptops were chosen specifically for their light and portable capabilities, which will allow senators to conveniently transfer their laptops from the legislative chamber to their Capitol offices or homes in an effortless manner. The deployment of the Apple MacBook Air laptops came about in
response to numerous legislators expressing the desire to have a more portable and smaller laptop to work with both in and out of the Chamber. The Legislative Technology Center is able to utilize existing software on the laptops, which is helping the transition a great deal. The MacBook Air will be the fourth generation of laptops used in the legislative chamber.

Nebraska was the host state to the 2008 Council of State Governments Annual Meeting. Over 500 government leaders and staff gathered in Omaha December 3rd - 8th for the conference. In addition to the sessions held, which included a keynote address by Mr. Mark Shields, participants were able to partake in various points of interest tours throughout Omaha, which included the session Gallup University Leadership Development Program at Gallup headquarters, as well as a trip to Lincoln to tour the State Capitol. Nebraska enjoyed hosting the conference and feel the participants agree that it was a successful and pleasurable meeting.

New Hampshire

Tammy Wright, Senate Clerk

The New Hampshire Senate made news in 2008 by becoming the first state legislative body in the nation with a majority of women. The makeup of the 24-member Senate now consists of 13 women and 11 men. It came as no big surprise to those who live in the Granite State as New Hampshire women have long been involved in state and local politics. But the election drew the attention of the national media, with NBC’s Nightly News, ABC’s Good Morning, America and NPR’s All Things Considered all featuring stories on the female Senate members.

Senate President Sylvia Larsen, who was recently re-elected to serve a second term leading the Senate body, said she is hopeful that this first-in-the-nation occurrence will assist in further reducing the barriers of discrimination based on race, creed, color, sex or national origin and will encourage more diversity in people entering the public arena. “In the end,” she said, “it will be our ‘agenda,’ not our ‘gender,’ that will make the difference for the good people of this state.”

Tennessee

M. Scott Sloan, Chief Senate Engrossing Clerk

The November 2008 elections brought significant organizational change to the Tennessee legislature. Contrasting national trends, Republicans picked up seats to attain the majority in both the state House of Representatives and the Senate, marking the first time the GOP has controlled both chambers since 1869.

Republicans increased their existing majority in the Senate to 19-14 and reached a one-seat majority in the House, 50-49. Elected by members of their respective chambers, Republican Kent Williams was chosen Speaker of the House and Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey was selected to again preside over the Senate. Ramsey was first elected as Senate Speaker and Lieutenant Governor by the Tennessee Senate in 2007.

Tennessee’s Comptroller, Treasurer, and Secretary of State are elected by a joint convention of Representatives and Senators, and the party shift brought new constitutional officers. Mr. Justin Wilson was elected Comptroller; Mr. David Lillard, Jr., was elected Treasurer; and Mr. Tré Hargett was elected Secretary of State.

Additionally, as part of a new initiative for open government, the legislature’s public website portal was upgraded to allow enhanced access to information, including legislative sessions, bill status information, and streaming video of committee meetings. Since all proceedings are video-streamed and archived on the website, new search
technologies have been employed to encourage public access to information. By referencing a specific bill number, website visitors can search the video archives to efficiently locate and review floor discussions. The agenda of a particular legislative day accompanies the video stream.

Visitors can also search by keyword to find legislation of interest, which can be saved into a personalized list, regularly updated with real-time status changes.

Should constituents be unsure who their elected representatives are, each legislature’s voting record and contact information is provided when a home address is submitted in the “Find My Legislator” fields. The adoption of these new technologies greatly enhances research options and capabilities.
