President’s Message

My Dear Friends,

The NCSL Annual Meeting is behind us and our own Professional Development Seminar is right around the corner. Patsy Spaw, Robert Haney and their staff members have been working extremely hard on their plans for us. They’ve almost completed crossing all the t’s and dotting all the i’s in an effort to provide a bang-up meeting from start to finish. In addition, George Bishop and the members of our Program Development Committee aided by Inga Emerson and Rob Marchant and the members of our Support Staff and Technology Committees have been laboring over the program to provide business sessions that are beyond compare.

For those of you who are unable to travel, coming soon to a computer near you, one of the sessions sponsored by our Technology Committee! The session will be recorded and put on our website so that you’ll be able to experience a part of our Professional Development Seminar.

I’d also like to encourage those of you who are unable to travel to participate in the Buddy Program. After a start-up glitch, the program is off to a fine start and would welcome you as a new Buddy.

The fast approaching meeting in Austin will be the culmination of a year that has been personally rewarding and very busy. I will be the first to admit that there have been a few headaches and a few heartaches. However, overall it’s been a wonderful year.

I write with a heart that is brimming over with gratitude for having had the opportunity to serve as your President. It is so comforting to have such a large network of support and to know that a member of the ASLCS family is never more than a phone call away.

Nobody in a position of leadership accomplishes anything alone and I’d like to thank the members of our Executive Committee for their advice and counsel over the past year. It’s also time to thank my ASLCS mentors – you know who you are. In addition, heartfelt thanks go out to all of our members who have served in a position of leadership on our committees as well as every ASLCS member who has participated in a committee’s work this year. Your work is so important to the overall success of the Society. I hope that each of you realize that your voice has been heard.

Lastly, we are so, so fortunate to have Natalie as our liaison. The amount of work she does for the Society is phenomenal. Much of it is behind the scenes and goes unnoticed by most of us. Thank you, Natalie, for always being there for us.

Passing the gavel to your President-Elect, Laura Clemens, in Austin will be a bittersweet moment for me. Rest assured that the ASLCS will be in good hands next year. I shall carry many, many fond memories in my heart as I move on to join the other ASLCS fossils.

Warm regards,

JoAnn M. Hedrick
Chief Clerk of the Delaware House
and ASLCS President
Linda Hawker, Secretary of the Illinois Senate, and Mary Jo Mongelli, Assistant Secretary of the Nevada Senate, were selected as the ASLCS recipients for the 2006 Legislative Staff Achievement Award. The awards were presented to Linda and Mary Jo at the annual meeting of NCSL in Nashville, Tennessee.

Congratulations to these women for their many achievements and for being selected as this year’s recipients of the prestigious Legislative Staff Achievement Award! Their dedication to ASLCS and to the legislative institution is evident in their many contributions to the Society and to their states.
Farewell to our friend - John B. Phelps

John B. Phelps Retires After 20 Years As Clerk of the Florida House of Representatives

By Diane Bell, Assistant Clerk of the Florida House of Representatives

John B. Phelps began his dedicated service to the Florida House of Representatives in 1974 as a Legislative Fellow in the House Intern Program. He has since served in a multitude of capacities since that time, including Legislative Analyst, Executive Assistant to the Speaker, Staff Director of the Rules Committee, Deputy Clerk and in 1986 he was elected Clerk.

John has brought great credit and respect to the Florida House of Representatives by holding national offices, such as President of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, Staff Chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures and Chair of the Mason’s Manual Commission and in 2005 received the distinguished Joe Beek Award given by the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries.

He has further distinguished himself on an international level as a consultant for the Center for International Development, a consultant for AMIDEAST, Chair of the International Task Force of the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee for the National Conference of State Legislatures, working with legislative Institutions in Iraq, Palestine, Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

John has served ten speakers, five Democrat and five Republican and has set an example of personal dignity, meticulous attention to detail and respect for the integrity of proper legislative procedures that has inspired staff and legislators for more than 30 years.

John B. Phelps Farewell Remarks to the House:

“If I may, Mr. Speaker, I will speak from this rostrum, which has been my home in this place for 76 sessions as Clerk. Recalling the Speaker’s early extension upon the beatitudes to include, “Blessed are the short-winded,” I will be as brief as possible—not Gettysburg Address brief—but brief.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, the records of the House indicate that 546 Representatives have passed through these halls since I joined the staff in 1974. There is no way at this point that I can thank them all. But, of even the earliest of this pantheon of members, I have clear and affectionate memories, having witnessed their many acts of courage and compassion on this floor.

To these members, and to you, I owe my thanks for granting me two of life’s greatest gifts: a long and rich professional life of service to my country and my state and the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of the great men and women who have served in this place. No one could ask for more. And for these gifts, I am deeply grateful.

I know you are familiar with the Clerk’s staff that works at the desk during sessions, but that represents only a fraction of the people and the responsibilities of this office. As has been alluded to earlier, behind the scenes and over many late nights, they and their colleagues work as a tight-knit team doing the meticulous labor of recording the acts and decisions of this Chamber. Errors are not an option. That you can take the quality of their work for granted is the highest praise they can receive. They are vigilant not because someone is looking over their shoulder. They are vigilant because they know their work gives you the tools that you need to perform your legislative duties and because the record they create is the legal evidence of this body’s actions. These are special people with exceptional skills, and they take their responsibilities very seriously. I have to tell you that I once tried to verify Journal copy and they threw me out of the room because I wasn’t very good at it. Not once over the past 20 years has the accuracy of this staff’s work been successfully challenged in court. They and I are justly proud of that achievement.

continued
Farewell to our friend - John B. Phelps continued

Diane Bell, my Assistant Clerk, has stood faithfully at my side for 17 years. She has devoted her heart and soul to this institution, and I cannot thank her enough for her contributions to the office and for her loyal support of me, personally. There are many others in my office deserving of recognition, some of whom have been with the House for over 15 years. They work in the Calendar, Journal, Messages, Engrossing and Enrolling, Print Shop, Documents Distribution, Records Retention, Photography, and Verification sections of our office. After working with them all these years, they have become a part of my extended family and I care about them as family.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, if I may, a few words about you. At the Organization Session in 2004, which seems like only yesterday, you said your legacy would be to have no legacy. Well, I am afraid you fell short on this one. I have held this office as long as any Clerk in Florida history and served on the staff for 32 years. From this long-term perspective, I believe I can say you have fulfilled the maxim of Heraclitus that, “A man’s character is his destiny.” You will live long in memory among the greatest of the men who have led this Chamber. In spite of your stated intentions to the contrary, your legacy will be one of enormous influence. It will be remembered as one of fairness, respect for all members and staff, adherence to the rules, a reverence for the traditions of this Chamber and perhaps, above all, for your profound humanity. You have shown beyond question that a democratic assembly works best when led with transparency and trust. It is a message that I will proudly carry to countries struggling to become democracies.

Mr. Speaker, members, and, by extension, your predecessors, please accept my gratitude for your support, your friendship, and your kindness over many years. Heraclitus also said, “No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and he is not the same man.” And so, the time has come for me to recede into this Chamber’s history, a place in which I am very comfortable, and to make way for a new generation of leadership. At the end of a term that did so much to affirm my faith in democratic values, I do so proudly and with a very full heart. Thank you.”

As I sit here compiling this for The Legislative Administrator, upon Judy and Ramona’s request, I find it difficult once again to put into words what it has meant to me to work as Assistant Clerk with John for seventeen of his twenty years as Clerk. We have experienced highs and lows, been through thick and thin together, have had some wonderful times and some “not so wonderful” times, but with certainty, we have shared an incredible bond of friendship and respect for each other and shoulder to shoulder, we made a great team!

To say that he will be missed tremendously and his absence will create a chasm in our office is an understatement. We all live in our world as if these changes will not come, and when they do, even when we know that it is inevitable, we still grieve over the loss of the familiar. He has assured us that he will still be available and will provide his guidance and knowledge when asked. He has been our mentor, set the bar high, established a high standard and given us the tools we need in the Clerk’s Office. We will endeavor to do our best to carry on our duties, whatever they might be, but he will always be missed!
Farewell Thoughts - John B. Phelps

It has been my pleasure to know John Phelps for the past 16 years. He has been one of the pillars of ASLCS and NCSL. His knowledge of legislative history and parliamentary procedure is well-known, and he is widely recognized among his peers for his prowess in this area. His leadership as Chairman of Mason’s Manual Revision Commission has been an inspiration to all of us, and has no doubt had a profound impact upon enhancing Mason’s Manual as a highly valuable parliamentary source. John, while we earnestly wish you well in retirement, we likewise hope you will continue to be a resource for our parliamentary inquiries.

Submitted by Dave Avant,
Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Senate, Alabama

John is the society’s rock, the authority, the one to go to for answers.
Thank you.

Submitted by Gwen Bailey,
Assistant Clerk of the Senate, Virginia

Dear “His Excellency,”
Whoa now boss......I know that you are going on to “bigger and better” things in life (ha!) like your new British Honorary Consul title and more, but you know better than to get the big head with me! I wish I could wish your retirement away, but I know that whatever you choose to do after life as Clerk will be rewarding. Know that you will always be missed and I will cherish all the memories of our time together in the Florida House of Representatives. I won’t forget all of the things that you have taught me and don’t you forget about us in the Clerk’s Office!
Love, Diane

Submitted by Diane Bell,
Assistant Clerk, House of Representatives, Florida

John Phelps has served the Florida Legislature for more than 20 years and he is the ultimate professional. John is a scholar of legislative process and has lent his knowledge and experience to numerous countries around the world while serving as Clerk of the Florida House of Representatives.

On a personal note, over the past ten years while John and I have served the House and the Senate, we have developed our own “what is happening and what is coming communication code” which has enabled us to better serve our respective houses. I will miss John not being on the other end of the magic button line when the Senate needs information from the House!

Thank you John for all you have done.

Submitted by Faye W. Blanton,
Secretary of the Senate, Florida

John Phelps is one of those steadfast ASLCS members who has always been very active in the Society and in NCSL, having risen to the position of ASLCS President and NCSL Staff Chair. Most recently, he’s chaired the Mason’s Manual Commission and his leadership there will be sorely missed as he moves on to the next phase of his life. Thanks for always being there for all of us, John. Keep in touch.

Submitted by JoAnn M. Hedrick,
Clerk of the House, Delaware

I was somewhat alarmed to hear of John Phelps’ retirement after a distinguished but relatively brief period of service. These early retirements by my American colleagues put inordinate pressure on me, in spite of the fact I have only been a Table Officer in British Columbia for 50 years.

During the time I have had the privilege to be an honorary member of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, I have enjoyed my exchanges with John and have admired not only his intellect, but his broad view of the world.

On each occasion I meet with John, either in Canada or the United States, he greets me with warmth and I view him as a friend.

I know this will continue.

Submitted by E. George MacMinn, QC
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, British Columbia, Canada

John has been my friend, mentor and “date” throughout my years in ASLCS, NCSL, and while traveling abroad. What a blessing to have him proceed me as President of the Society, Staff Chair of NCCL and as a partner in Palestine. John, your time, energy and commitment to democracy cannot be measured and the effect of your contribution will remain long after your retirement. My hero, our hero. Thanks for everything.

Submitted by Ramona Kenady,
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, Oregon

I know that John has been a mentor for many of us in ASLCS and I want to add my name to that list. John appointed me to the ALSCLCS Executive Committee as an associate in 1992.

continued
This was at the time when there were only 7 members on the committee and the only people that attended were the executive committee members. I was so impressed with John’s knowledge, experience and commitment to the society. This was the same year that John, as ASLCS president, introduced standing orders to the society and we keep building on them which is a great legacy for John. Thanks so much for all your contributions to the society. Good luck in your retirement—you deserve it, even though you’ll probably be busier than ever! Maybe I should say “good luck” to Pam! All my best, Judy

Submitted by Judy Hall,
Secretary of the Senate, Oregon

John is the consummate of a legislative staff professional. He demonstrates all of the virtues and qualities that one should strive for while in pursuit of professional excellence. John has made friends all over the world because of who he is and how he conducts himself. We have all benefited professionally and personally from having worked with John.

Submitted by Patrick J. O’Donnell,
Clerk, Unicameral, Nebraska

John Phelps has truly been a friend and mentor over the years. His knowledge of the legislative process and his professionalism are role models for all of us as we strive to continue to be “keepers of the flame of democracy and the legislative process.” His friendship is one of the most valuable rewards of membership in ASLCS and I wish him and Pam the very best in this next phase of their lives.

Submitted by Susan Clark Schaar,
Clerk of the Senate, Virginia

We will all certainly miss John Phelps. What a steady leader he has been for ASLCS. John has been a wonderful mentor to me and many others. When the going gets tough we always contact John to help us. You have been a great leader and friend. Thanks!

Submitted by Pat Saville,
Secretary of the Senate, Kansas

My Dear Friend:
After a score of years it is hard to digest that you are going over to the other side; over to retirement, quietude, relaxation, no-stress, life as Papa. When friends become separated, we always pledge to stay in touch, to not lose track, to remain friends; for that is our fondest hope, to forestall the impending change in our life caused by the separation. So we reminisce, laughing about foibles and faux pas’, about quiet times, successes, disappointments, triumphs and defeats.

John, we have shared so much over these years; podia, arguments, agreements, travels, and travails; we have become friends and brothers. I will miss you and our sharing; I will hope for a continuation; but remain realistic, willing to accept whatever time we can borrow, sharing over the electrons, watching to see if you live through another temptation of the fates. Friends remain so no matter the separation or the time or the frequency; and you are truly my friend. Keep your heart at peace and relish your grandchildren and your slower life. Remember we who continue to toil for truth, justice, and the American way and call occasionally to laugh with us and at us. Butch

“Birds in Costa Rica, 24 hours in El Salvador, and no Snow in Honduras”

Submitted by Alfred W. “Butch” Speer,
Clerk of the House of Representatives, Louisiana

When I first became a member of ASLCS, it was quickly apparent that John Phelps was a man who was highly respected among his peers. I also learned that he was patient and approachable and very willing to share his knowledge and experience with one of the “new” kids in the Society. John was soon one of a handful of individuals that I often refer to as my personal “go to” guys (and gals).

Back in 2002, the New Hampshire House was dealing with a complicated and unusual parliamentary situation. The Speaker decided that no rules would apply, it would not be included on the agenda, and that I was not to mention anything about it to the Minority Leader. I had researched the issue and corresponded with three colleagues, including John. We were creating what I considered to be dangerous precedent and my personal credibility with the members was on the line. I was feeling pretty low.

John told me something that day which let me know it was OK to feel as I did. He said, “We have all been in the same position. One can only hope some Member will try to bring reason to the process. Sometimes they do, sometimes you just have to look at the floor.”

You were right, John, and it helped. Thank you. It was good to know I wasn’t alone. That phrase is in my head whenever things are looking bad during Session.

Submitted by Karen Wadsworth,
Clerk of the House, New Hampshire
Farewell to our friend - Karl Lilly

Karl Lilly, Assistant Clerk of the West Virginia Senate, is retiring after thirty years of service to the State of West Virginia.

By Gregory M. Gray, Clerk of the House, West Virginia

Karl started his association with the Legislature in 1969, when he went to work as a rookie newspaper reporter for UPI. Assigned to cover the Legislature, he wasted no time in acquainting himself with the visible institution. When a vacancy on the Senate staff came about, Karl was hired as Assistant Clerk in 1976 to superintend the daily printing requirements of the Senate and to serve as reader during the sessions. He adeptly learned the daily workings of the Senate and attended his first ASLCS Annual Meeting in San Diego, California, in 1978. It was there that his exposure to matters parliamentary was intertwined with seemingly endless discussions with seasoned ASLCS members such as Ed Burdick, McDowell Lee, Gene McMahon, Marion Delaney and Hamilton McWhorter. It was from his association with long-time Clerks and Secretaries that he became interested in parliamentary rules and the invisible institution called the Legislature.

From those early days, Karl has consistently applied himself to the process and language of lawmaking in West Virginia particularly, and the parliamentary concepts embodied therein. He has ably served the Senate of West Virginia as its parliamentary advisor for a number of years, and has steadfastly held to the traditions and past practices of the Senate while advising on questions. As a confrere, I personally value his judgment and love of his chosen work.

ASLCS provided a venue for Karl to network and to develop his own skills to the benefit of his home State. He has served ASLCS in various capacities and was Associate Vice President in 1999-2000, and received the Distinguished Service Award for Associates in 1998 and the Legislative Staff Achievement Award in 1999.

Karl will retire on November 1, 2006, from his active role as Assistant Clerk of the Senate but will continue to serve as Senate Parliamentarian during sessions.

Karl Lilly has made his mark in the history of the West Virginia Senate and remains a great friend and a respected and valued colleague.

Since 1990, I have had the honor of being one of Karl Lilly’s personal friends. His love for his family and ASLCS has been an inspiration to all who know him. One of my cherished memories was presenting Karl with the Distinguished Service Award for Associates, a tribute which he truly deserved. His wise counsel and advice has been of great benefit to me personally, and I suspect to many, many others as well. Karl, we wish you the best of luck in retirement. We are going to miss you as an associate, but friendships endure forever.

Submitted by Dave Avant, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Senate, Alabama

Karl is the ambassador, the welcome wagon, the one who makes us feel like an important part of the society.

Thank you.
Submitted by Gwen Bailey, Assistant Clerk of the Senate, Virginia

Dear “Buddy Karl,”

I can’t believe that you are going to retire! You have been so “rock solid” in ASLCS and it won’t seem the same without you. We have shared some great times together in the Society and you will be enormously missed, my friend!

Love, Diane

Submitted by Diane Bell, Assistant Clerk, House of Representatives, Florida

I have many favorite memories of my friendship with Karl Lilly that go back a long, long way. It’s always so nice when Janet is able to accompany Karl to a meeting and she also has quite a network of ASLCS friends. Karl, I wish you Godspeed.

Submitted by JoAnn M. Hedrick, Clerk of the House, Delaware

Aloha Karl,

Though we haven’t seen one another in quite a while, I
wanted you to know that your kindness to me over the years will not be forgotten. After having served my first legislative session as Assistant Chief Clerk, I was the sole attendee sent from the House to attend the 1995 ASLCS Annual Meeting being held in Oklahoma City. I was feeling shy and a bit intimidated, but Hawaii Senate Chief Clerk David Woo and other members welcomed me warmly. I remember you especially, because you always stopped to greet me and exchange a few words. And this is how it has been throughout the years – our brief encounters made meaningful by your friendly smile, warmth and sincerity.

Enjoy your well deserved retirement and should you travel out this way – Hawaiian hospitality awaits you! Mahalo nui loa.

Aloha, CJ Leong

Submitted by CJ Leong, Assistant Chief Clerk, House of Representatives, Hawaii

It’s so hard to say “so long” to someone who is so much a part of the society, so I won’t. You’ll need vacations from your retirement so, Karl, please keep coming to our annual meetings and bring Janet along. It won’t be the same without you. Karl always describes himself as an “ole hillbilly,” but in my book he’s one of the classiest gentlemen that I’ll ever know and our society is much richer because of him. Best wishes, buddy, for a very wonderful retirement and keep in touch.

Love Judy

Submitted by Judy Hall, Secretary of the Senate, Oregon

Karl Lilly -- What a teddy bear! We will miss that big hug. You have been such a trusted friend over the years. I will certainly miss seeing you and Janet at our meetings. Enjoy your retirement but keep in touch.

Submitted by Pat Saville, Secretary of the Senate, Kansas

Karl: I will miss you ol’ Buddy! You and Janet are two people I always enjoy visiting with at ASLCS meetings. I hope that you two will continue to come to annual meetings and that you will stop by to visit when you are in Virginia. You have been a great friend and supporter and I treasure you both!

Submitted by Susan Clarke Schaar, Clerk of the Senate, Virginia

About two years ago, our Senate Chaplain, Pastor Don Hardenbrook, was in West Virginia. Before he left Idaho, he asked me for names of people he might contact while visiting West Virginia’s capitol. Karl Lilly’s name immediately came to my mind. Pastor Hardenbrook did indeed contact Karl at the capitol and he was so impressed. Karl gave him the grand tour -- way above and beyond the normal call of duty!! Our chaplain said he was made to feel like visiting royalty. He told me that Karl was so gracious and a true Southern gentleman.

Of course, we already knew that. I can’t imagine a Society meeting without him. Congratulations, Karl, on your retirement. The very best to you in the years to come!

Jeannine Wood, Secretary of the Senate, Idaho

Following is an excerpt from “I Was Always Lucky” Interview with Karl Lilly

March 21, 2005

“I came to the Senate in 1976. They hired me to do the Blue Book and make sure bills and journals got printed. About two weeks after I got here, Senator Dillon had a stroke and they needed someone at the front desk. So I’ve been reading clerk and parliamentarian, plus other duties.

“I’m basically an introvert, an old country boy from Wyoming County, so reading bills was a big thing for me. I was terrified. I still am occasionally, when I get a word I don’t know how to pronounce.

“That picture on the wall over there is the Senate Rules Committee when they had the first woman member, Judy Herndon, a lawyer from Wheeling. I walked by one day and she said, ‘Are you the guy who every morning goes out on the floor, reads the bills, calls the roll, helps get the bills and journals ready, gets them downtown to the print shop, stays down there all night and then comes back up here the next morning?’ I said I was. She said, ‘Well, you stupid SOB!’ I had been put in my place. I knew then I could make it in this career.”

Submitted by Sandy Wells

The Charleston Gazette, Charleston, West Virginia

At one of the conferences Karl knew I loved Elvis songs, etc. So, he talked to the band that was there and had them play “Love me Tender,” (I think it was that song). Anyway, he announced that he was going to sing for his Minnesota buddy -- me. He really has a good voice. I am sure not many people know that Karl Lilly can sing. We will all miss him. I have a soft spot for all the West Virginia folks. Take care ….
Farewell to our friend - Mary Jo Mongelli

Mary Jo Mongelli, Assistant Secretary of the Senate for the State of Nevada is retiring after over 20 years of service.

By Claire Clift, Secretary of Nevada Senate

Mary Jo Mongelli began her legislative career with the Nevada Senate in 1981 as a Bill Services Clerk. During the next legislative session in 1983, she moved from an entry-level position to serve the Senate as one of its highly regarded Chamber staff, the History Clerk, on the Front Desk. The Secretary of the Senate at the time, Jan Thomas, saw the commitment and leadership qualities in Mary Jo during that session and asked her to return to the next session as the Assistant Secretary of the Senate. She has served for over 20 years as the Assistant Secretary of the Senate for the State of Nevada and will be retiring in September 2006, much to the chagrin of the Senate’s members, all who respect and trust her.

In her capacity as Assistant Secretary of the Senate, Mary Jo worked closely with the Nevada Girls’ State and Boys’ State programs in conducting their mock legislative sessions each year—advising them on legislative and Chamber process and assisting them in an orderly enactment of a legislative day. She was an integral participant in the development of the Senate’s in-house legislative computer applications which have streamlined detailed and difficult amendment and unfinished business processes. Each session, she trained a variety of Senate administrative and Front Desk staff in the generation of accurate committee reports, the submission of bills for introduction and the myriad responsibilities that encompass the operation of the Front Desk. Mary Jo worked closely with the Majority Leader and Assistant Majority Leader in assigning committee referrals of bills and resolutions and developed, in cooperation with the Senate’s Legal Counsel, the Titles and Chapters Table each session which controls the referral jurisdiction of bills and resolutions to Senate standing committees. Through her historical perspective of the legislative process, she assisted the Nevada Legislature in successfully conducting a record number of special sessions since 2000 (six) including Nevada’s first-ever impeachment special session.

Like so many dedicated legislative staff, she spent many nights and continuous days, without any appreciable breaks for personal time, diligently organizing, processing and reviewing the legislative business of the Senate. In 1997, after working the last 40 days of the legislative session without a day off, she spent the final, grueling 72 hours of that session in the Chamber working to help the Senate conclude the business of the State during the 69th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

As an active member of ASLCS since 1989, Mary Jo served on such committees as Bylaws/Standing Orders, Canadian/American Relations, Inside the Legislative Process (Vice Chair), International Communications and Development (Vice Chair), Membership and Communications, Professional Journal, Roster, Site Selection, and Support Staff. Recently, she chaired the Special Committee on Archives/Records Retention and served as the Society’s archivist for the past several years gathering, reviewing, organizing, cataloging and maintaining ASLCS documents and historical records—a position she thoroughly enjoyed.

When Mary Jo finally retires from her duties as the Assistant Secretary of the Nevada Senate this fall, there will be someone very special missing from Nevada’s legislative process, its Chamber and State government, someone who dedicated her professional life to the betterment of a government by the people.

Best wishes on a retirement well earned and deserved.
**Farewell Thoughts - Mary Jo Mongelli**

I have known Mary Jo Mongelli for over ten years and every time that I see her at an ASLCS meeting, she is always smiling and willing to pitch in and help in whatever capacity needed. She has done an incredible job with the ASLCS Archives. I served with her on the Archives Committee and WOW, what a committee to have been the chairman of for all those years. Mary Jo, the Society (especially the Chocolate party gang) is going to miss you and your smiling face. Best Wishes for all that is to come.

*Submitted by Norma Chastain,
Bill Status/History Clerk, House of Representatives, Arizona*

Mary Jo Mongelli has been the guardian of our ASLCS history for a long time and has done it so conscientiously. We have been very fortunate to have her caring for our Archives. I wish you all the best, Mary Jo!

*Submitted by JoAnn M. Hedrick,
Chief Clerk of the House, Delaware*

A big thank you to Mary Jo for all of her contributions to ASLCS. She has served the Society well, especially taking on the Archivist role -- not an easy task.

I value our friendship, Mary Jo, and wish you all the best. Thanks for including me in the Chocolate Party tradition. You will be missed!!!

*Submitted by Cheryl Laube,
Assistant Chief Clerk, House of Representatives, Arizona*

Mary Jo
Thanks so much for all of your hard work for the society. We are really going to miss you! I keep thinking about the trip we took to the Clerks-at-the-Table meeting in Canada. What a great time we had with J.R. and I felt like I got to know you both so much better. Have a great retirement and don’t forget us!

Love Judy

*Submitted by Judy Hall
Secretary of the Senate, Oregon*

Mary Jo -- You have quietly done a terrific job organizing and tracking the archives for ASLCS. We all thank you very much. You have been such a wonderful colleague and friend. I have always enjoyed the “chocolate group” and you are the ultimate assistant always taking care of everyone. Enjoy your retirement. We will miss you.

*Submitted by Pat Saville,
Secretary of the Senate, Kansas*

Mary Jo’s dedication and commitment to the legislative process and the Nevada Senate have been evident since I first met her. Her careful and thorough documentation of the ASLCS Archives will be beneficial to all members of the Society for years to come. I hope that you and Michael have many years of health, happiness and fun -- as well as some ASLCS meetings -- in the future. Thank you for your friendship!

*Submitted by Susan Clarke Schaar,
Clerk of the Senate, Virginia*
Whitehorse, the capital city of the Yukon Territory, was the setting for the Professional Development Seminar of CATTS this year. Your Associate Vice-President, Tara Perkinson, the Vice-Chair of our Canadian-American Relations Committee, Pat Harris and I represented the Society at the meeting which was held from July 31 to August 4, 2006. Other international attendees at the meeting represented Australia, the House of Lords and the House of Commons in London as well as the Scottish Parliament from the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

The official opening was conducted by the Commissioner of Yukon which is a position comparable to the Governor of one of our States. She was very gracious in her remarks and it was obvious that she was pleased and proud that the meeting was being held in Whitehorse. The first business session allowed us a bird’s eye view of the history and present day procedural challenges of the Yukon Legislative Assembly. The second business session was an unprecedented presentation by two of the three female members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly entitled: “Taking Action to Make the Rules Fit in an Inclusive Age – the Experience of the Yukon Women’s Caucus”. I won’t detail the entire agenda but suffice it to say that the topics addressed are very similar to what interests us, i.e., technology, staff recruitment and succession planning, separation of powers, etc.

The social program was a taste of the Yukon culture. We attended the “Frantic Follies Vaudeville Revue” which was a spoof on the gold rush days after a wonderful dinner at a downtown hotel. We also toured the Whitehorse fish ladder which is a safe passage for thousands of salmon on the way to their spawning grounds further north. We saw the spectacular Miles Canyon and toured the Yukon Wilderness Preserve on the way to Takhini Hot Springs for a barbecue which featured bison burgers, grilled salmon and Arctic char as well as beef burgers for the less adventurous appetites.

You may have figured out by now that the meeting was a wonderful experience. However, I have yet to mention the best part and that is the opportunity to network with our friends to the north. There was plenty of time to renew acquaintances and form new friendships. The warmth and hospitality displayed by our Canadian friends is exceptional. When I said plenty of time, I really meant it. There were seventeen hours of daylight while we were there. In addition, there was no need for air conditioning. The temperatures were very pleasant, even a little on the cool side at night. Overall, a good time was had by all!
On behalf of the Society, we would like to thank the members of the 2005-2006 Executive Committee for their many hours of service and leadership throughout the past year. Minutes of the August 14, 2006 Executive Committee meeting in Nashville, Tennessee will be distributed at the upcoming ASLCS Professional Development Seminar in Austin, Texas.
Committee Meeting Minutes

Bylaws and Standing Orders

August 14, 2006
Nashville, Tennessee

Chair Jeannine Wood (ID) called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Recorder John Garrett (VA) was unable to be in attendance and Vice Chair Annette Moore (UT) agreed to serve as temporary recorder. In addition to President JoAnn Hedrick, the following members were present:

Carmela Bills (VA)  George Bishop (VA)
Laura Clemons (OH)  Jeff Finch (VA)
Ramona Kenady (OR)  Cheryl Laube (AZ)
Tara Perkinson (VA)  Pat Saville (KS)
Patsy Spaw (TX)  Karen Wadsworth (NH)

Jeannine reported the following changes to the Standing Orders were approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting in Little Rock, April 1, 2006:

1. Representatives from ASLCS who attend the LSCC meetings will be changed from the President and Immediate Past President to the President and President-elect.

2. Upon the death of a member, the memorial contribution from ASLCS has been increased from $50 to $100.

Additionally, ASLCS Financial Accounts have been changed substantially. Old language in the Standing Orders pertaining to NCSL/ASLCS Sharing of Annual Meeting Remainder and a Memorandum of Understanding will be stricken, and, upon approval by the Executive Committee, new language will be inserted into the newly recodified version of the Standing Orders as follows:

“D. ASLCS FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

1. Special Meeting Fund

a. The Special Meeting Fund is the general account for most private contributions to the Society. This includes contributions to the ASLCS fall meeting, as well as the winter or spring meeting, and for activities at the NCSL Annual Meeting.

b. NCSL maintains the account, which is to be invested by NCSL as part of its general fund investment activity. The account is to be credited with interest payments during the fiscal year. Balance sheets and fund detail are to be reported to the Executive Committee at each of its meetings, and to the President at his or her request.

2. Professional Development Revolving Account

a. The Professional Development Revolving Account is a non-interest bearing account that receives any profit from the Professional Development Seminar. This account shall be used for professional development of the members of ASLCS. Included are:

i. Legislative Staff Management Institute - Betty King Scholarship.

ii. The Speaker’s Fund of $5,000 for the Professional Development Seminar, and any other profes-
sional development opportunities as approved by the ASLCS Executive Committee.

b. The account is maintained by NCSL. Balance sheets and fund detail are to be reported to the Executive Committee at each of its meetings, and to the President at his or her request.

3. Professional Development Seminar (PDS) Account

a. The Professional Development Seminar Account is the budget for the ASLCS Fall Professional Development Seminar. It is created each year to set out the projected revenue and expenditures for the PDS. The budget shall be developed by working with the NCSL Meeting and Seminar Department. Revenue for the budget is derived from seminar registration fees. Expenses for the Professional Development Seminar shall be paid from this account.

b. The Professional Development Seminar Account is maintained by NCSL. Balance sheets and fund detail are to be reported to the Executive Committee at each of its meetings, and to the President at his or her request.

4. Dues Account

a. The Dues Account contains all funds received from membership dues for the Society. The account is maintained by the ASLCS Secretary/Treasurer in a non-interest bearing account established in his or her home state. The Secretary/Treasurer also maintains an up-to-date list of currently paid members. NCSL has no role in the maintenance of this account. The ASLCS Executive Committee, pursuant to Section I (Standing Orders Recodification), may approve a transfer of money from the Dues Account to NCSL to be invested in an interest bearing account.

b. Expenditures from this account must be approved by the Executive Committee and may include:

i. Reimbursement for travel for the President and President-elect to attend meetings of the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee of NCSL.

ii. Reimbursement for travel for the President, Associate Vice President, and Chair of the International Communication and Development Committee to represent the Society at the Annual Meeting of ANOMAC.

iii. Society Group Photo, if one is taken at the PDS.

iv. Associate Exchange Program travel reimbursement.

v. Reimbursement for travel for the President, Associate Vice President and Chair of the Canadian/American Relations Committee to represent the Society at the Annual Meeting of Canadian Clerks-at-the-Table.

vi. Logo items.

vii. Membership certificates, pins, and code of ethics.

viii. Retirement certificates.

ix. Memorial contributions up to $100 upon the death of a member.

x. Awards and plaques.
Committee Meeting Minutes

Bylaws and Standing Orders continued

xi. Publications of the Society, including the Roster, Legislative Administrator, Professional Journal, and International Directory, as well as mailing expenses.

xii. Other expenses as determined by the Executive Committee.”

The Committee briefly reviewed a proposed index to the recodified standing orders. Following a discussion, it was the consensus of those present that one index encompassing the ASLCS Bylaws and Standing Orders be created.

References to sections of the Bylaws will be added to the proposed index, and the index and recodified standing orders will be presented to the Executive Committee at its meeting in Austin.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannine Wood, Chairman
August 14, 2006
Nashville, Tennessee

Chair Karen Wadsworth (NH) called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The following members were in attendance:

- Mardi Alexander TX
- Rob Marchant WI
- Carmella Bills VA
- Norm Moore AZ (Vice-Chair)
- Laura Clemons OH
- Patsy Spaw TX
- Claire Clift NV
- Sandy Tenney UT
- Ann Cornwell AR
- Denise Weeks NC
- Suzi Lowell AK
- Patience Worrel TX
- Steve Marshall VT
- Denise Weeks reported on the committee meeting in Little Rock in April. Chair Wadsworth and Vice-Chair Moore were unable to attend that meeting due to illness.

ASLCS President JoAnn Hedrick and Associate Vice-Chair Tara Perkins told the committee about the recent Canadian Clerks-at-the-Table (CATTs) meeting which they attended on behalf of the Society in Whitehorse, Yukon. As is always the case at these meetings, they had a wonderful time!

Discussion then centered on the need to select a site for the Joint Canadian-American meeting to be held in the fall of 2007. It is our turn to host this meeting. Earlier suggested sites proved to be unworkable for a variety of reasons.
Canadian-American Relations continued

Rob Marchant expressed interest in hosting the meeting in Madison, but needs more information. Other venues were also suggested by committee members. This decision must be made at our meeting in Austin, Texas in September.

With no other business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 pm.
Monday, August 14, 2006
NCSL 2006 Annual Conference
Nashville, Tennessee

The Inside the Legislative Process Committee meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Suzi Lowell (AK).

Members in attendance:

Suzi Lowell (AK), Co-Chair
Allison Andraza (TN)
Carmen Cauthen (NC)
Inga Emerson (DE)
Tammy Letzler (TN)
Also in attendance:
Brenda Erickson, NCSL

Polly Emerson made a motion to approve the minutes from the spring meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. Inga Emerson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

The survey response report showed 48 chambers had not responded to the survey to date. The committee members were given the opportunity to select several of the non-responsive chambers to contact. Brenda Erickson volunteered to contact the chambers that were more difficult to reach, such as the territories. She will also be sending out a “first reminder” survey notice next week to all of the non-responsive cham-

bers to allow them time to send in their surveys before being contacted individually by the committee members. In September, an updated response report will be sent out to all committee members. At that time, chambers that have not yet responded will be contacted again. The goal set for survey response is 100%.

Brenda Erickson is currently working to have PDF versions of all survey documents (past and present) available online to give a more historic view of when and how surveys were done over the years.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Polly Emerson (TX), Vice-Chair
Nashville, TN  
Monday, August 14, 2006  
2:00 - 3:00 PM  

Members attending the meeting were:

Co-Chair Carmela Bills (VA)  
Laura Clemens (ID)  
Jeff Finch (VA)  
Brad Hendrickson (WA)  
Suzi Lowell (AK)  
Pat Saville (KS)  
Sandy Tenney (UT)  
Jeannine Wood (ID)  

Dave Avant (AL)  
Polly Emerson (TX)  
JoAnn Hedrick (DE)  
Scott Kaiser (IL)  
Rob Marchant (WI)  
Patsy Spaw (TX)  
Denise Weeks (NC)  
Patience Worrel (TX)  

Carmela Bills, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the Spring Meeting in Arkansas were approved. Jeff Finch gave a report on the International Program at NCSL on Monday, August 14. There were presenters from Virginia, Washington, Arizona, the Trust for Democracy and a computer company from Ireland, Propylon. Members of the Society felt the location should be changed. The room was entirely too big. It was also pointed out that we should look at our relationship with the International Section of NCSL. LSCC has requested that we inform NCSL of any contact we have with international guests. There was a suggestion to give the International guests information ahead of the meeting and that ASLCS would be glad to help.

Dave Avant, Chair of the Subcommittee for the 10 year reunion with ANOMAC, reported that the meeting would be August 24 to 26 in Cancun with 13 members and 5 spouses attending. ASLCS will be holding a reception for ANOMAC on Saturday evening. Plates will be presented to the Past Presidents of ANOMAC. The business meeting will be held on Saturday with 40 minutes designated for ASLCS members. A panel discussion on the role of the clerk will be presented by Denise Weeks, Judy Hall and Dowe Littleton. Carmela handed out packets regarding the agenda and vouchers for the hotel rooms along with phone numbers.

There was no old or new business. Laura Clemens moved the committee adjourn. Scott Kaiser seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.
Committee Meeting Minutes

Legislative Administrator

August 14, 2006
Nashville, Tennessee

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., with Ramona Kenady, OR, Co-Chair, presiding.

The following committee members were present:
Claire Clift, (NV)  David Gibson, (VT)
Cathy Ferguson, (OR)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2006 Spring Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. Motion carried and the minutes were approved as submitted.

The committee reviewed the spring issue of The Legislative Administrator and shared feedback, discussed content and timelines for the upcoming summer issue. The committee decided that the summer issue would be completed and mailed out prior to the upcoming ASLCS Professional Development Seminar in Austin, TX. With the tight timeline, Ramona Kenady suggested that the minutes of the current standing committees must be submitted to the Legislative Administrator Committee as soon as possible following the Nashville, TN, NCSL conference completion. It was agreed that it also would be a good idea to fit in as many extra pictures as possible.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Ferguson
Recorder
Committee Meeting Minutes

Membership and Communication

The Membership and Communication Committee met at the NCSL Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on August 14, 2006. Carmen Cauthen, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order. A sign-up sheet was passed around and the following members were present: Nathan Hatfield, Vice Chair; Judy Barrows, Vice Chair; Linda Hopkins, Recorder (TX); Mardi Alexander (TX); Faye Blanton (FL); Annette Moore (UT); Trish OBrion (VA); and Linda Hawker (IL). Natalie O’Donnell, NCSL Liaison for ASLCS and ASLCS President JoAnn Hedrick were also present.

Annette Moore moved to approve the minutes of the spring meeting. The motion was seconded by Linda Hopkins. The minutes were approved.

The new attendee orientation function being held in Austin was our next order of business. The function will be held on Sept. 20 from 5 until 6 pm. The vice chairs polled the members of the committee for suggestions for the theme of the new member orientation. The Lone Star theme was decided to be used for decorations and for the ice breaker game. The decision was made to decorate the room with the stars and put new members names on them.

Nathan Hatfield, Vice Chair, was put in charge of coming up with the rules of the ice breaker game. Nathan will work on creation of a card game to play around the Texas theme. He will create a card with famous and infamous Texans, Texas songs, etc., using pictures. The teams will have to decipher the picture to come up with the correct information. The game will be played in teams at each table. When time is up, the team with the most correct choices will win a prize.

Judy Barrows, Vice Chair, discussed the possibility of having to go outside the committee to get enough sponsors for new members. It may happen that one committee member may have to sponsor two new members. There was no one against this idea. It was discussed that the sponsors will have to contact their new members to make arrangements to
meet for the orientation. We discussed the price for gifts the sponsors are to give the new members. It was decided that no more than $10.00 should be spent. Carmen suggested that non-breakable items would be better for the gifts. State items were suggested as good mementos.

The subject of what kind of food to serve was discussed. Since we must use food prepared by the hotel, a breakout menu was passed around and the decision was made just to have lemonade, pretzels and popcorn. We will plan for approximately 100 people.

One hour before the meeting there will be a table set up outside the meeting room to help answer questions. The sponsors will introduce all new members. Carmen suggested we keep the pin game going for new members and everyone agreed. The game will end at the Business Meeting/Lunch on Saturday, September 23. The survey for new attendees will be distributed and collected at the Wrap-up meeting that afternoon from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Jo Ann Hedrick, President, was introduced and she welcomed everyone and thanked them for their work on this committee. The Buddy System was the next topic of discussion. It was suggested everyone be paired with members who could not travel as much as possible. It was also decided that not only job-related interests be the main focus of pairing for buddies but also other interests (i.e. hobbies, etc.).

Carmen Cauthen then asked if there was any further business. With no further business, the committee adjourned.

Tara Perkinson, acting chair, called The Professional Journal Committee to order on Monday, August 21, 2006 in Nashville, Tennessee. The following members were present: Tara Perkinson, VA and Mardi Alexander, TX.

Tara Perkinson announced that the Spring Professional Journal had been published and distributed to the members of the Society. She also announced that Hobie has been in touch with several authors who may be interested in submitting articles for the Fall Professional Journal.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Committee Meeting Minutes

Program Development

Nashville, Tennessee
August 14, 2006

The members of the Program Development Committee met in Nashville, Tennessee at the 2006 NCSL Annual Meeting. George Bishop, Chair, led the meeting. The following members were also present: Scott Kaiser (IL) and Pat Saville (KS), Vice Chairs; Carmen Cauthen (NC), Recorder; Annette Moore (UT), Cheryl Laube (AZ), Norma Chastain (AZ), Dianne Arrington (TX), Judy Barrows (ME), Inga Emerson (DE), Nathan Hatfield (VA), Jeff Finch (VA), David Battocletti (OH), Linda Hawker (IL), Scott Maddrea (VA), and David Gibson (VT). Natalie O’Donnell, NCSL Liaison for ASLCS, was also present.

Inga Emerson moved that the minutes from the Spring Meeting in Little Rock be approved. The motion was seconded by Nathan Hatfield and the minutes were approved.

Program Overview
The Chair made the following comments about the program schedule as passed out to committee members.

Wednesday – Transportation arrangements for the Opening Reception is to have 5 buses ready to leave the hotel at 6:30 p.m., not 7:00 p.m. as shown on schedule.
Thursday – Concurrent sessions are scheduled for 1 hour, 15 minutes, not 1 hour, 30 minutes as shaded. The Plenary Session II will be a parliamentary session.

Staff Group Breakout Sessions
Staff group breakout sessions will be held at the Capitol on Friday and will be moderated by a member of the Support Staff committee and a person who works in that area from the host state. This will allow the host state to showcase their process. The moderators will facilitate discussions for each group.

Report from the Host State Committee
Patsy Spaw, Secretary of the Texas Senate, gave an overview of the events for the Professional Development Seminar.

1) Welcoming Reception at Esther’s Follies
The reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. It is a comedy club approximately 1 block’s walk from the hotel off of 6th Street. The evening will boast a mariachi theme.

2) Friday Activities
The lunch at the State Capitol will feature King Ranch casserole. The tour of the capitol is still being planned. That will take place from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Everyone will begin in the same chamber, and then there will be recurring tours of different sections. The Preservation Board will conduct the tours before the breakout sessions begin.

Texas Night, sponsored by Texas Disposal System, will be casual dress and held on an exotic game ranch. There will be tours of the ranch, skeet shooting, wine tasting, re-enactors, BBQ – Texas style beef and trick ropers. The exotic game includes African antelopes, zebras, birds, etc. The band will be Alvin Crow and the Pleasant Valley Boys. There will also be a movie on
movies made featuring Texas.

3) Hospitality Suite
Wednesday and Thursday nights will be free time in the hospitality suite. There is some entertainment planned and there will be door prizes given away. It will be housed in a former bar at the front of the hotel and not hard to find.

4) State Dinner
The band scheduled to play for the State Dinner played at President Bush’s inauguration. They play easy listening, swing, and jazz music.

5) The printed packet will state what happens each day.

6) Patsy said that she would look into getting tickets for the University of Texas vs. Iowa State game.

It was noted at this point that the Omni Hotel has been sold out.

Plenary Sessions
Plenary Session #1 will be with Dr. Bissell as requested by questionnaires from last year’s conference and the President. There will be a conference call with him in about 1 week.

Plenary Session #3 will be with Craig Zablocki and will be on stress reduction and how not to burnout. The question that he asked the Society was “what should he do to be a good presenter to our group?” Discussion veered from his specific session as the answers came about presentations in general. They included sharing internship letters and documents to give more help; keep it light and not a heavy discussion; walk the room and be interactive with the audience.

Plenary Session #2 will be the Parliamentary session given by Mason’s Manual Commission. John Phelps will be in contact with George to coordinate. Brenda Erickson is in the process of tracking down Sanford Peterson to see if he can talk on the development of parliamentary procedure from Colonial Parliament origins to now, as this was the subject of his doctoral dissertation. There is also the possibility of having George McMinn to discuss the difference between the Westminster and American systems of procedure. That could include a review of current court cases that would impact our legislatures. This could be followed by discussion. Since either of these could have a cost attached, several members of Mason’s who are also on the Executive Committee will make the request for funds if necessary.

Concurrent Sessions
George and the moderators will work on the text describing the concurrent sessions for the printed program. Several sessions with no moderator or participants were filled in during the meeting with volunteers from the committee.

Other
The Chair will make reservations for 8 people at approximately 5 downtown restaurants for Thursday and Saturday nights and they can be signed up for upon registration in Austin.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Committee Meeting Minutes

Roster

Jane Atkinson, VA
Co-Chair

Rose Ramsey, VA
Co-Chair

Virginia Habansky, VA
Vice-Chair

NCSL Annual Meeting
Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee

Minutes:
The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Co-chair Jane Atkinson. The following members were in attendance:

Rose Ramsey, VA, Co-Chair
Trish OBrion, VA
Linda Hopkins, TX
Allison Andraza, TN
Linda Tubbs, TX
Amber Moore, TN

Polly Emerson, TX
Virginia Habansky, VA, Vice-Chair
Jennifer Parker, VA
Tammy Letzler, TN
Johnye Bennett, VA
Jeannine Wood, ID

The minutes of the April 1, 2006, committee meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, were read and approved.

Co-Chair Rose Ramsey stated that 28 chambers and the territories have not responded to requests for updated information. Various committee members volunteered to contact these chambers to get updates. The deadline is mid-September.

Jeannine Wood discussed the method she devised to record changes. Jeannine also informed the committee that the Bylaws and Standing Orders are being revised and may be presented to the Executive Committee in Austin.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Tubbs, Recorder
Committee Meeting Minutes

Site Selection

Claire Clift, NV
Co-Chair

Norma Chastain, AZ
Co-Chair

Liz Clark, AK
Vice-Chair

Summer Meeting
Nashville, TN
Monday, August 14, 2006

The Site Selection Committee met on Monday, August 14, 2006, in Nashville, TN. The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m., with Norma Chastain, AZ, Co-Chair, presiding. The following members were present:

Claire Clift, Co-Chair
Dianne Arrington, TX
Johnye Bennett, VA
Nathan Hatfield, VA
Karl Lilly, WV
Jennifer Parker, VA
Sandy Tenney, UT
Patience Worrel, TX
Others Present:
Natalie O’Donnell, NCSL

Minutes:
Denise Weeks, NC, moved, seconded by Rose Ramsey, VA, that the minutes of the April 1, 2006, ASLCS Annual Meeting held in Little Rock, AR, be adopted. The motion carried.

Old Business:
Co-Chair Clift informed the committee that the Executive Committee had approved the Site Selection Committee’s recommendation that the 2008 Professional Development Seminar (PDS) be held in Reno, NV, October 1-6, at the Silver Legacy Resort.

New Business:
Co-Chair Clift related that she has been contacted by former ASLCS member, Mike Fina, currently working for the Oklahoma Department of Tourism, as to the possibility of Oklahoma hosting the PDS in 2009. Co-Chair Chastain mentioned that if any committee members knew of another state interested in hosting the PDS in 2009 or beyond that they contact either Co-Chair with the name of the interested states.

Next Meeting:
Co-Chair Chastain stated the next meeting will be held at the ASLCS PDS in Austin, TX, September 20-25, 2006.

There being no further business, Judy Barrows, ME, moved, seconded by Nathan Hatfield, VA, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Clift, NV, Co-Chair
The Support Staff Committee met on Monday, August 14, 2006 in Nashville, Tennessee. The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m., with Inga Emerson, Delaware, Chair, presiding. The following members were present:

Allison Andraza, TN
Cheryl Laube, AZ
George Bishop, VA
Jennifer Parker, VA
Karl Lilly, WV
Linda Tubbs, TX
Rose Ramsey, VA
Tara Perkinson, VA
Others Present:
JoAnn Hedrick, DE, President
Natalie O’Donnell, NCSL

Minutes:
Jane Atkinson, VA, moved, seconded by Cheryl Laube, AZ, that the minutes of the April 1, 2006 ASLCS Spring Meeting held in Little Rock, Arkansas, be adopted. The motion carried.

Updates and Old Business:

Inga Emerson, Chair, informed the committee that the Associate Exchange Program Article for the Legislative Administrator has been submitted and received by the Legislative Administrator Committee.

New Business:

The Committee discussed the Concurrent Sessions and Staff Breakout Sessions to be held at the Annual Professional Development Seminar in Austin, Texas to be held September 20 – 25, 2006 and the need for panelists and moderators for both. A discussion also ensued on the practice of the Facilitator/Moderator being well prepared for the session and being able to carry the session if necessary with possible questions and ideas. Several committee members volunteered for the Breakout Sessions and there were several other possibilities for Moderators. However, anyone wishing to be a Facilitator/Moderator should contact Chairman Emerson, DE or George Bishop, VA, Program Development Committee Chairman.

Inga Emerson, Chair, mentioned an article entitled “Custodians of American Democracy” published in the State Legislatures Magazine (July/August 2006) that she had handed out to the Committee and encouraged all members to read it. The author of the Article will be conducting
Committee Meeting Minutes

Support Staff continued

one of the Concurrent sessions in Austin.

President, JoAnn Hedrick, DE, thanked the members for serving on the Site Selection Committee.

Next Meeting:

Inga Emerson, Chair, stated the next meeting will be held at the Annual Professional Development Seminar in Austin, Texas, September 19-25, 2006.

There being no further business, Virginia Habansky, VA, moved, seconded by Cheryl Laube, AZ, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Chastain, AZ
Committee Meeting Minutes

Technology

Steve Marshall, VT
Vice-Chair

Rob Marchant, WI
Chair

Alan Whittington, TN
Vice-Chair

August, 2006
Nashville, TN

In attendance:
Scott Kaiser, IL
Dowe Littleton, AL
David Gibson, VT
Brenda Ward, MD
Brad Hendrickson, WA
George Bishop, VA
Linda Hawker, IL

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by the chair.

Minutes:
The minutes of the previous technology committee meeting were approved as written.

New Business:
Sponsoring Concurrent Sessions. George Bishop addressed the committee and provided an overview of the program for the Austin meeting. The committee discussed the two concurrent sessions it will sponsor at the Austin meeting. Brad Hendrickson reported that he was nearly complete with organizing a session on the impact of technology on parliamentary procedure, to include a discussion of civility and technology, use of technology to improve debate and decorum, avoiding technology-enhanced scandals, and general best practices. Scott Kaiser reported that he had assembled a panel to discuss technological solutions for processing legislation, focusing on the use of technology.

Technology Survey. The committee discussed the status of the technology survey. The chair distributed the draft survey prepared by Eric Fowler. The committee approved the survey as written.
Committee Meeting Minutes

Technology continued

by the clerk’s staff to track and move legislation through the legislative process (“Technology at the Front Desk and in the Back Office”).

Outreach through Technology. The committee authorized the chair to seek executive committee approval to use Mediasite technology to record up to two concurrent sessions at the Austin meeting. The goal would be to then post the videos on the ASLCS website for on-demand viewing and email a link to the video to each principal member.

Adjournment:
The committee adjourned by unanimous consent.
The Associate Exchange Program was a success this year with ten chambers willing to participate and five participant applications received. Four participants were chosen and one was designated as an alternate. The participants and chambers visited were:

Diane Bell (FL)  
*Virginia Senate (February 13-17)*

Liz Clark (AK)  
*Washington Senate (February 6-10)*

Diane Keetch (NV)  
*Washington Senate (February 6-10)*

Carmen Cauthen (NC)  
*Delaware House of Representatives (March 20-23)*

Sean Kochaniewicz (WA)  
*Alternate*

Each participant produced a report after her visit. Diane Keetch will not be returning to the Nevada Senate until September; therefore, she will submit her report at that time. The two reoccurring thoughts throughout the reports were (1) the Associate Exchange Program is a rewarding and valuable experience and (2) there are many contrasts between legislatures doing the same work. Diane Bell wrote, “….we all get to the same result, but in very different ways!” Liz Clark stated it this way: “In the long run, I determined the purpose and outcome of the process in Washington and Alaska are largely the same, but the manner of navigating the labyrinth that is the legislative procedure and precedent is completely different.” Carmen Cauthen provided a chart comparing and contrasting Delaware and North Carolina General Assemblies.

The participants also were in agreement as to enjoying their tours of the Capitol building (although the Virginia Capitol was being restored at the time of Diane's visit) and observing staff “at work”. Diane observed, “On a professional level, I observed Susan (Schaar) and her staff and saw the genuine mutual admiration and respect that they have for one another.” Liz writes, “The staff at the Legislative Information Center exceeded my expectations and graciously answered even my stupidest questions!” Carmen relates, “I was extremely fortunate to have such kind hosts in the Delaware House.”

A special event for Liz was her tour of the TVW studio which was similar to the public television station in Juneau, AK which “provides coverage of House and Senate floor sessions and other legislative, administration and court system events.” She had the opportunity to have a guided tour with the President and CEO of the station who is also an ASLCS member! Carmen reported on a special event she enjoyed in the Delaware House. She attended a committee meeting that was dealing with permits to carry a deadly concealed weapon. She writes, “Jim Brady, former presidential press secretary under President Reagan, who with his wife, Sarah, is now a gun control activist attended the meeting and spoke out against it as did several police chiefs and clergy members.”

Liz Clark made a point that was discussed at the Support Staff Committee Spring Meeting in Little Rock, AR. Liz stated, “The old adage 'two heads are better than one' really rang true to me during this trip when Diane and I were able to coordinate, collaborate, compare, contrast and even carpool. I think our hosts were very thoughtful in hosting two associates at once. It gave me the ability to learn about the legislative process in Washington as well as how things work in Nevada. It was wonderful to have a built-in companion and Diane and I were able to help one another locate and reach our destinations on time even in the face of our tight schedule. Personally, having another legislative employee as a sounding board really helped me process and integrate the avalanche of new information I received.” The discussion regarding this aspect of the program resulted in everyone agreeing that encouraging host states to host two participants would be a good idea but would not be a mandated one.

Each participant felt that the experience provided new information on the legislative process and were looking forward to utilizing that knowledge to improve their performance at home. Diane explained it this way: “It (AEP) is a one-on-one training session for both host and ‘student’, but even more than that, it is a chance to experience how other legislatures operate and it gives some great insight into how we can make some changes in our own operation to make it better.” Carmen reported on sitting beside the Speaker on the dias during session and citizens being allowed to testify during session. She
wrote, “It was amazing to see democracy at work in The First State.” Liz ended her report with the following: “Aside from the material things I brought home from the Evergreen State, I also brought back a wealth of ideas and a fresh perspective to share with my colleagues. I very much appreciate and admire the ideals that have been ingrained into the legislative culture in Olympia. The open, clear communication with the administrative staff and the value placed on professional non-partisan support staff in order to benefit the institutional legitimacy of the legislature were both highly appealing to me. I plan to do my best to promote these ideals in my state of Alaska. I saw some strong principles in action during my exchange as well as some superior technology. With the support of the Senate Secretary and our Senate leadership, I hope to institute some specific changes that will make our legislative process more efficient.”

The Support Staff Committee was very pleased with the exchanges this year and would like to thank the enthusiastic participation on the part of the host states and the visiting associates. Our President, JoAnn Hedrick, wrote in her host report the following: “I strongly recommend to all of our ASLCS Principals that they apply to be a host Chamber for the Associate Exchange Program. It’s a wonderful opportunity to network on a one-on-one basis and is very rewarding.” To conclude, it’s a great program!

New Clerks in ASLCS

Rhode Island has a new Clerk of the Assembly. Frank McCabe, after many years in different clerk positions in the Federal Court system, was appointed Clerk of the Assembly in January.

While attending college he was the Court Crier in his spare time. He moved to Rhode Island in 1995. He is the proud father of two daughters, Brenna 19 and Mahgan 15.

His first session was very interesting and he was pleased to pass over 500 bills in the last few weeks. He had wonderful comments about his staff which has many years of experience.

The start of the last day of session was exciting as it was interrupted by a bomb threat. Starting three hours late, at 5 p.m., they worked through the night until 5 a.m. to finish sine die.

Frank is a member of ASLCS and hopes to attend a meeting soon.
How ya gonna lead when nobody will follow?

My reflections on NCSL’s Legislative Staff Management Institute 2006

By Denise Liu, Hawaii House of Representatives, Chief Clerk’s Office

We met on a Saturday afternoon – 34 individuals from across the country. “You look like you’re with the Legislature. Are you here for LSMI?” Do legislative staff have a ‘look’? We quickly introduced ourselves and asked how each other’s Sessions went. “Did you pass a budget? Did you adjourn on time? Are you going into Special Session?” Thirty-four individuals all ready to work on a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon -- must be legislative staffers.

From day one they introduced the idea that management was about leadership, and to think of our organizations as groups of highly effective teams. We began to learn about and experience being a leader and a follower, and bringing people together to develop highly effective teams. You can’t be a good leader if no one wants to follow you.

The curriculum was a mix of presentation and participation, and chocked full of thought-provoking ideas. At the end of each day my brain was just saturated. Each day a new presenter would spend most of the day with us. They introduced concepts to get us to look at our world in so many different ways. And it was clear that the faculty and the presenters understood the unique world of state legislatures.

Our seating was moved each morning so we would sit with new people. We worked in big groups and small groups. We participated in exercises and observed each other. We learned that everyone has a personal style and that we all work and learn in different ways. And then we all laughed at, and with each other, and all the crazy things we (and those back home like us) do that drive other people nuts. It will still probably drive us nuts, but maybe we’ll understand them a little better.

Our days weren’t only spent in the classroom. They also sent us down the river – with a paddle. We put what we learned about ‘follow-ship’ and teamwork to use as we paddled hard (hopefully in sync) and shot the Category III rapids of the American River. And we celebrated and cheered as we came through each rapid intact because we learned that celebrating is an important part of the process.

And reflection. After you celebrate your accomplishments, you reflect. Each day started with a discussion reflecting on the day before. That’s how you get better. And isn’t that what it’s all about?

Thirty-four individuals from many different states. Some were Directors and Deputies. Some were not. Some were attorneys, auditors, analysts, researchers, Ph.D.s, MBAs, MPAs. And some were not. But it really didn’t matter. What we were learning was leadership – working with people and making things work. We grew as a group and as a team. In Hawaii, we say ohana, which means family. And as Lilo taught Stitch, ‘Ohana means nobody gets left behind.’ If a member of your highly effective, striker team gets left behind, and their tasks are not accomplished, the mission is compromised. That may not be the most important thing I learned that week, but as a leader, and a follower, and the member of a team, it will be one of the most useful.
Arizona

Lawmakers of Arizona at a Standstill over Border Issues

Though illegal immigration is atop the public’s concerns the past two sessions have put no new reforms in place to secure the borders. In the final night of the session, which by the way was the fifth longest session in the state’s legislative history, Republican lawmakers backed away from placing several immigration measures on the November ballot.

Attempts by Republicans to do everything from sanction employers for knowingly hiring illegal workers to putting the National Guard on the border failed as Governor Napolitano vetoed a trio of bills that would have done just that, citing the legislation’s “weak and ineffective” employer sanction language as the primary reason for its rejection.

English Language Learner’s Lawsuit Prompt Special Session

In response to a federal judge’s order that a solution happen promptly dealing with the Flores v. State of Arizona lawsuit relating to English language learners spurred a special session called less than a month into session. Nothing meaningful came of it; two bills were vetoed this year, and the state was fined $21 million for violating the court order before Governor Napolitano allowed a Republican-backed plan to pass into law without her signature only to find the judge ruled it did not meet the terms of the lawsuit. The case is currently on appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK - The legislature completed a five-day special session after funding a cost-of-living increase for public schools, approving a new minimum wage and enacting a ban on workplace smoking.

Legislators also passed laws to allow electronic monitoring of sex offenders, to prohibit protests at military funerals and to enhance tax incentives for the production of biodiesel fuels.

The main purpose of the special session was to adopt an inflation adjustment for public schools. Legislative leaders hope the additional $132.5 million will comply with a state Supreme Court order that the state provide adequate funding of education.

Also during the special session, the legislature provided $38.2 million, for this school year and next year, to compensate school districts for teacher retirement contributions.

Districts with steadily declining enrollment will benefit from a change in the funding formula that allows them to base their state aid on the average enrollment of the past two years, rather than just the past year’s enrollment. The provision will add $10 million to $12 million a year to the school funding formula.

About 25 districts in extremely isolated rural areas will receive an additional $3 million a year to help them meet education standards.

The new minimum wage act will take effect October 1, and will raise the salaries of an estimated 127,000 workers in Arkansas. It raises the minimum wage from $5.15 an hour to $6.25 an hour. The last time it was raised was in 1997.

The ban on workplace smoking exempts businesses with fewer than three employees, as well as bars that do not admit people under the age of 21. It also exempts the horse racing track in Hot Springs and the dog track in West Memphis.

The legislature enacted a law that requires sex offenders to wear electronic monitoring devices, such as ankle bracelets, for 10 years after they are released from prison. The devices allow authorities to track their movements with global positioning systems technology.

continued
The new law also requires sex offenders to register every year with local law enforcement authorities and provide a current photo of themselves. The penalties for failure to re-register were enhanced.

Another law passed during the special session strengthens the penalties against sex offenders who target children. If a person is convicted twice of sexual assault or rape, and the victims are less than 14 years of age, the sentence will be life in prison without parole.

The restriction on protests at military funerals arose because an extremist group from Kansas has been traveling the country protesting at the funerals of soldiers killed in Iraq. The group says the war in Iraq is God’s punishment against the United States for being tolerant of homosexuals. Under the new law, protests must be at least 150 feet from the funeral. The protests cannot begin until 30 minutes after the funeral, or they must finish at least 30 minutes before the funeral begins.

The tax incentive for biodiesel was adopted to encourage production of renewable energy resources. Petroleum is a non-renewable energy source.

**Colorado**

Always putting the work of the people above politics, Colorado Speaker of the House Andrew Romanoff has won a national award for his role as House Speaker. The 39-year-old Speaker is the youngest recipient of the William M. Bulger Excellence in State Legislative Leadership Award. The award is given by the State Legislative Leaders Foundation and the National Conference of State Legislatures, and goes to the “legislative leader who has worked to preserve and build public trust in the institution of the state legislature and whose career embodies the highest principles of leadership - integrity, compassion, vision and courage.”

Because the Colorado Supreme Court ruled an initiative concerning immigration that was slated to go on the November ballot as unconstitutional, the Governor called the General Assembly back into session on July 6 to take a look at the immigration issue. Subsequently, the Colorado Legislature has adopted what has been reported to be some of the strongest immigration laws in the country. During that special session the legislature also passed two measures that will be referred to the voters in the November general election.

**Connecticut**

Connecticut was designated the Constitution State by the General Assembly in 1959. As early as the 19th Century, John Fiske, a popular historian from Connecticut, made the claim that the Fundamental Orders of 1638/39 were the first written constitution in history. Some contemporary historians dispute Fiske’s analysis. However, Simeon E. Baldwin, a former Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, defended Fiske’s view of the Fundamental Orders in Osborn’s History of Connecticut in Monographic Form by stating that “never had a company of men deliberately met to frame a social compact for immediate use, constituting a new and independent commonwealth, with definite officers, executive and legislative, and prescribed rules and modes of government, until the first planters of Connecticut came together for their great work on January 14th, 1638-9.”

The text of the Fundamental Orders is reproduced in Section I of this volume and the original is on permanent display at the Museum of Connecticut History at the State Library. Connecticut has also been known as the Nutmeg State, the Provisions State, and the Land of Steady Habits.
States At A Glance

Delaware

This year Delaware is celebrating the 375th Anniversary of the Dutch landing at the Zwaanendael site in Lewes. The commemoration was kicked off by a full day of festivities on April 21 with a ceremonial joint session of the General Assembly followed by lunch, a Blessing of the Cross at St. Peter’s Cemetery and a Monument Rededication. Of course, no day of celebration can end without food so a reception was held in the evening at the Lewes Yacht Club. A special flag was designed for the event and one of them was flown over Legislative Hall the weekend of the kick-off events.

Illinois

It has been a busy time around the Illinois General Assembly. Both the House and Senate Chambers are currently undergoing a major renovation set to be completed in early 2007. In addition to renovated physical surroundings, both Chambers have implemented significant technology upgrades. In 2005 the Illinois Senate implemented new software developed by the Illinois Legislative Information System to drive their electronic voting system and integrate it into other functions such as bill status, daily calendars, and journals. That provided a solid foundation on which to build and expand, and by 2006 that software was enhanced and new hardware was installed; major components were touchscreen consoles for the President, the Secretary, and the floor leaders, and new displays in the chamber, the side corridors, and the rotunda. For 2007, as part of chamber renovation, the project will be completed with new voting consoles at the members’ desks and a new controller to tie it all together. This will result in the entire system being under in-house control and establish a new baseline from which the Senate can further integrate and enhance its operations.

In the meantime, the House voting system is getting an extreme makeover of its own. It will have all of the features of the Senate system (with the exception of retaining the current chamber and rotunda displays) while adding a new electronic calendar for the Clerk. This dynamic calendar will be on a tablet PC and will allow the Clerk to mark it up and edit it as the day’s session progresses, putting all the information needed at his fingertips. As in the Senate, the new House system will be fully integrated into all the journal room applications (bill status, calendar and journal creation and maintenance, etc.) and provide the groundwork to further develop the use of technology to support their operations.

Massachusetts

Although “Formal Sessions” of the House and Senate ended at midnight on July 31 in accordance with joint rules, the House and Senate continue to meet every third day in “Informal Sessions”. The 184th Session will dissolve at midnight on January 2, 2007, just in time for the convening of the 185th Session at 11 A.M. the next day.

A Joint Constitutional Convention Session is scheduled to reconvene on November 9 to consider various legislative and initiative amendments to the Constitution. Included on the agenda are two proposals which would define marriage under the Constitution as that being between one man and one woman. Currently, Massachusetts is the only state that legally recognizes same sex marriages. Of the two issues on the Joint Session agenda, one is a Legislative Amendment to the Constitution which would require a majority vote of the members elected (101) in order to advance to the next Legislature for a final vote. The other proposal is an Initiative Amendment which will advance to the next Legislature for a final vote if it obtains the affirmation of only one-fourth (50) of the members. If advanced this year and also during the next session, the measures require approval of the voters at a biennial state election before officially amending the Constitution.

The Initiative Amendment is the penultimate item on the Joint Session Calendar, being tenth in the queue. The continued
States At A Glance

Legislative amendment immediately precedes the Initiative Amendment in its position on the Calendar. Although it may be difficult for opponents of same sex marriage to garner the necessary 101 votes to approve the Legislative Amendment, it is almost certain that they will be able to obtain more than the 50 votes required to approve the Initiative Amendment.

Speculation abounds that members in favor of same sex couples having the right to marry will attempt to delay the proceedings and force an adjournment prior to getting to the two items pertaining to marriage. It is also expected that members desiring to change the Constitution to define marriage as being between a man and a woman will use parliamentary tactics to take up those items in as expeditious a fashion as possible.

Nevada

The 74th Legislative Session, which will convene on February 5, 2007, will have its hands full before the first bill draft is even assigned a bill number. On November 7, 2006, when Nevada voters go to the polls to vote on local, constitutional, and federal offices, they will also be voting on numerous ballot initiatives.

Also, the voters have an opportunity to determine the Assembly membership for the upcoming session. Of 42 Assembly seats, there are nine unopposed members and six members who have either retired from office or are running for other state, federal, or local offices. Two of those members who are not seeking re-election are the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the Assembly. The caucus of each respective party will be voting on new leadership immediately after the general election.

The Nevada Assembly is in transition as it endeavors to move to a more streamlined system for session applicants and for the centralization of Human Resource files that rely less on paper and more on technology. Part of this process has been the introduction of a new in-house online applicant recruiting system developed by the Legislative Counsel Bureau’s Web development group that allows session employees to apply online. The “Web Recruiter” receives and stores applications, cover letters, and other relevant information in a central database that is readily accessed by the Human Resources Department and Chief Clerk. It is much easier to keep track of hundreds of applicants this way.

Assembly session applicants are also tested using an online testing interface, which was also developed in-house by the Legislative Counsel Bureau’s Web development group and is linked to the Web Recruiter applicant tracking system. Through online testing applicants have different modules assigned to specific positions; each test is timed and the applicant is locked out of the system once the time expires. All scores are tallied and saved in the database. This process allows for skills and aptitude evaluation. From the assessment scores training needs are readily identifiable and training needs defined for session staff.

Finally, the Assembly recently purchased and is beta testing several modules of the Human Resource software developed by Sage Abra. This software provides an in-depth administrative/management system that encompasses all human resources aspects to include time sheets, payroll, and crystal reports. The flexibility of the program allows for integration of all information into SQL and MSDE, and provides for centralization of employee information, thus eliminating the need for numerous databases to track and maintain information. This system greatly helps in keeping track of session employees and maintains an ongoing employment record of our returnees.
North Carolina

June 21 was truly a RED letter day in the N.C. House Chamber! The 2006 Stanley Cup Champion Carolina Hurricanes were honored by the General Assembly. Indeed a first for North Carolina.

Oregon

During the 2005 Regular Session, the Legislative Assembly approved Senate Bill 1084 establishing the 30-member Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature. By doing so, the legislature was acknowledging the need for study and evaluation of legislative branch administration, procedures, facilities, staffing and overall capacity, and the need for study and evaluation of ways to improve those functions.

Previous comprehensive reviews of the legislative branch took place in 1968 and 1974. This new commission, with the support of legislative leadership and the authority to introduce legislation, has a unique opportunity to suggest changes to strengthen the authority, credibility and effectiveness of future legislative assemblies.

To date, the commission has made several major recommendations including: transitioning from biennial to annual sessions; retiming the start and limiting the length of session; establishing a program evaluation office; increasing staffing in legislative offices; establishing wireless access in the Capitol; renovation of portions of the Capitol and developing a long-term plan for additional renovations; and establishing a state commission to set salaries for legislators and other elected officials.

The commission plans to present their final report and recommendations to legislators at the end of November. Recommendations approved by the commission will be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly for their consideration and action. Leaders are already making plans to implement some recommendations during the 2007 Regular Session, but legislators may reject other recommendations.

continued
Tennessee

The Tennessee General Assembly adjourned sine die on May 27, 2006.

The year began with a Special Session focusing on ethics. During the Special Session, a comprehensive ethics reform bill was enacted that created an ethics commission, increased reporting requirements for lobbyists, limited cash contributions to campaigns and created an aggregate campaign contribution limit. The Special Session was called after four legislators, one former legislator and several others were arrested last year in a bribery sting by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Health care was again an important issue in Tennessee. In the closing days of the session, the legislature passed the Governor Phil Bredesen’s (D) “Cover Tennessee” program to provide health insurance premium assistance to low income workers, re-establish the Tennessee Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool (TCHIP) program for uninsurables and establish a Statewide Children’s Health Insurance Pool (SCHIP) program for uninsured children.

Other noteworthy legislation passed this year included bills: restricting the use of eminent domain in Tennessee; requiring carding of all individuals purchasing alcohol; combating predatory lending; and streamlining the process for felons to regain their voting rights.
### 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION CALENDAR

(August 2, 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Regular Session</th>
<th>Special Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Convene</td>
<td>Adjourn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>Jun 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>May 16</td>
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<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Apr 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>March 8</td>
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<td>California</td>
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<td>Sept 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>May 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Jan 3</td>
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<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>June 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>May 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>late March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>May 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>late March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
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<td>Iowa</td>
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<td>Kansas</td>
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<td>late April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
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<td>June 28</td>
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<td>Maine</td>
<td>Dec 6, 2006</td>
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<td>Maryland</td>
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<td>Massachusetts</td>
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<td>Michigan</td>
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<td>Minnesota</td>
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<td>Mississippi</td>
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<td>Montana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
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<td>June 4</td>
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<td>New Hampshire</td>
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<td>July 1</td>
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<td>New Jersey</td>
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<td>New Mexico</td>
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<td>New York</td>
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<td>North Carolina</td>
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<td>North Dakota</td>
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<td>Mar 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Jan 2</td>
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<td>Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
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<td>early July</td>
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### Session Dates for all the States

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Key</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Jan 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Jan 2</td>
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<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>June 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>Jan 9</td>
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<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>late May</td>
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<td>Utah</td>
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<td>Vermont</td>
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<td>mid May</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
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<td>Feb 24</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>Jan 8</td>
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<td>West Virginia</td>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Wyoming</td>
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<td>American Samoa</td>
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<td>District of Columbia</td>
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<td>Guam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Meets again August 20 to adjourn on November 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virgin Islands</td>
<td>Jan 9</td>
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</table>

**Key:**
* = Legislature meets throughout the year

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**Contact for More Information**

Legislative Management Program  
NCSL—Denver  
(303) 364-7700
Agenda for Austin

ASLCS Fall Professional Development Seminar
Omni Austin Downtown • Austin, Texas • September 20-25, 2006
Preliminary Agenda
(as of June 30, 2006)

Wednesday, September 20, 2006
Noon-6:00 pm ............................................ Registration
1:00 pm-3:00 pm ....................................... Nominating Committee
Omni Austin
3:00 pm-5:00 pm ....................................... 2005-2006 ASLCS Executive Committee
Omni Austin
Presiding: JoAnn Hedrick, Chief Clerk, Delaware House of Representatives and President, ASLCS
5:00 pm-6:00 pm ....................................... New Attendee Orientation
Omni Austin
7:00 pm .................................................. Welcome Reception and Esther’s Follies
TBA

Thursday, September 21, 2006
7:30 am-4:00 pm ....................................... Registration/Info Desk
Omni Austin
9:30 am-Noon .......................................... Plenary Session
Omni Austin
Dealing With Difficult Supervisors
Presenter: Dr. Ben Bissell, President, LuBen Associates
Noon-1:30 pm .......................................... Lunch on Your Own
1:30 pm-2:00 pm ....................................... Committee Chair Transition Meeting
Omni Austin
2:00 pm-3:30 pm ....................................... Concurrent Sessions
Omni Austin
3:30 pm-5:00 pm ....................................... Concurrent Sessions
Omni Austin
Evening .................................................. On Your Own

Friday, September 22, 2006
7:00 am-8:00 am ....................................... Registration/Info Desk
Omni Austin
8:00 am-8:30 am ....................................... Transportation to Capitol/Bagels and Coffee to go
Omni Austin
8:30 am-Noon ........................................... Capitol Day Events
Texas Capitol Building
Noon -1:30 pm ......................................... Host State Luncheon
Texas Capitol Building
1:30 pm-5:00 pm ....................................... Capitol Day Events
Texas Capitol Building
5:00 pm-5:30 pm ....................................... Transportation to Omni
7:00 pm ................................................. Texas Night

continued
Agenda for Austin

Saturday, September 23, 2006

8:30 am-4:00 pm ........................................ Registration/Info Desk
Omni Austin

9:00 am-Noon .......................................... Plenary Session
Speaker: Craig Zablocki, Positively Humor
Omni Austin

Noon - 1:45 pm ....................................... ASLCS Luncheon and Business Meeting
Presiding: JoAnn Hedrick, Chief Clerk, Delaware House of Representatives and
ASLCS President
Omni Austin

2:00 pm-3:45 pm .................................... Concurrent Sessions
Omni Austin

3:45 pm-5:00 pm ..................................... Concurrent Sessions
Omni Austin

5:00 pm-5:30 pm .................................... New Attendee Wrap-Up
Omni Austin

Evening .................................................. On Your Own

Sunday, September 24, 2006

8:00 am-4:00 pm .................................... Info Desk
Omni Austin

8:00 am-1:00 pm .................................... Mason’s Manual Commission Meeting
Omni Austin

8:00 am-9:00 am .................................... Breakfast
Omni Austin

9:00 am-10:30 am ...................................... Plenary Session
Omni Austin

10:30 am-Noon ......................................... Concurrent Sessions
Omni Austin

Noon-1:30 pm ........................................... Lunch on Your Own

1:30 pm-4:30 pm ..................................... Standing Committee Meetings
Omni Austin

4:30 pm-5:30 pm ..................................... Special Committee Meetings, Standing Committee Chairs Meeting
Omni Austin

7:00 pm-10:30 pm .................................... State Dinner
Monday, September 25, 2006
Omni Austin

8:00 am-Noon ......................................... Info Desk
Omni Austin

8:30 am-10:00 am .................................... Breakfast and Business Meeting
Omni Austin

10:00 am-Noon ....................................... 2006-2007 ALSCS Executive Committee Meeting
Omni Austin

Noon ...................................................... Meeting Adjourned
Future ASLCS Meetings Information

ASLCS
Spring Meeting
will be held in Chicago, IL
March 30-April 1, 2007

NCSL 2007
Annual Meeting
Boston, Massachusetts
August 5-9, 2007
When our President, JoAnn Hedrick, asked for volunteers to serve as the staff to The Legislative Administrator, we accepted. The year has passed quickly and we are here to tell you it was a wonderful experience and opportunity, and with the help of many of you, we were able to deliver.

We want to thank the newsletter committee and other members who so willingly accepted assignments ... time and time again ... and especially those who contributed articles. To our good friend, Bill Sweeney, although not a member of our Society, we want to pay special tribute to his efforts in making these publications memorable, by providing publishing and design expertise. Also, of course, special thanks to those who continually shared words of encouragement.

Obviously, this is not an assignment that can be performed by just one individual or by just one state, and so as not to forget anyone, we thank you all. We had a great time!

Shown in photo above from left to right:
Suellen Scott, Judy Hall, Cyndy Johnston, Cathy Ferguson, Todd Kenady, Bill Sweeney, Ramona Kenady, Julie Medina, Britton Taylor, Obie Rutledge