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The Legislative Administrator is the official newsletter of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, an organization of the state legislative administrators and parliamentarians affiliated with the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Norma Chastain, AZ      Sharon Soliere, AZ           George Bishop, VA
Chair                             Vice Chair        Associate Co Vice Chair

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A special "Thank You" to all whom submitted photographs, article and background material for inclusion in this edition. Your support is greatly appreciated.
Dear Friends,

As I write to you, the holiday season has suddenly come upon us, and many of us are busily preparing for the legislative sessions that will convene in January. It is an opportune time for me to express my sincere appreciation to the Society for electing me to serve as its President for 2004-2005. Having been bestowed such an honor by the members of this Society is both humbling and energizing. I look forward to an exciting and productive year as we work together to strengthen ASLCS, exchange ideas and experiences with one another, and continue to preserve and protect the legislative process.

Before we look forward to the year ahead, let us take a moment to reflect on the year that has passed. First, I would like to offer to Norm Moore the sincere appreciation of ASLCS for his leadership over the past year. Our Society continued to flourish and strengthen under his watch and through the vitality of the leadership team that he put together. His will be big shoes to fill, and I am grateful for his support and counsel.

And how can we even begin to thank Maryland? Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend the 38th ASLCS Professional Development Seminar were treated to a most memorable and highly successful event. On behalf of the Society, let me extend to Mary Monahan and her staff, as well as Billy Addison and his staff, heartfelt thanks for their genuine and gracious hospitality. From the sights and sounds of Baltimore to the historic beauty of America’s oldest State Capitol in Annapolis, each of us who had the opportunity to attend this meeting sincerely appreciated all of the hard work that the Maryland folks did to ensure that our visit was enjoyable and unforgettable. Also, to the Program Committee and its Chair, Judy Barrows, I want to extend my compliments and the appreciation of the entire Society on preparing such an outstanding program. The plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, and breakouts were informative, engaging, and rewarding. Three cheers for a job well done!

Finally, I would like to send Ed Burdick our wishes for a glorious and fulfilling retirement. Serving as Clerk of the Minnesota House of Representatives since 1966, Ed Burdick is a beloved and highly respected parliamentarian, and a great friend to many of us in the Society. In addition to serving the Society as President in 1971-72, Ed was the 1983 recipient of the Joseph A. Beek Distinguished service Award, and the 2002 ASLCS Legislative Staff Achievement Award recipient. This Society owes much to Ed Burdick, and we wish him well.

I am very excited about the year ahead. We have so many talented members of this Society, many of whom have offered their time and their skills to serve in leadership positions over the course of the year. To the 2004-05 committee leadership, I send my sincere thanks to you for your volunteer spirit and for the work that you will perform in the next several months.

In addition to the work that will be done by the standing committees, I have established several Special Committees. The Special Committee to Study the Committee Structure of ASLCS will review the current committee structure of ASLCS and make recommendations for revisions to the Executive Committee. The Special Committee on Publication Standards will continue to the work it started last year in reviewing and revising the various Publication Standards. Similarly, I have continued the work of the Archives/Records Retention Committee.
You can find the names of your committee leadership, as well as those persons serving on Special Committees in the recently mailed supplement to the Roster. Thanks to Jeannine Wood, Pamm Juker, and Rusti Horton and the other members of the Roster Committee for their work in compiling and producing this useful publication.

I am pleased to announce that your Executive Committee for 2004-2005 is as follows: Bruce Jamerson, President; JoAnn Hedrick, President-Elect; Laura Clemens, Secretary-Treasurer; Dowe Littleton, Associate Vice-President; Patsy Spaw, Elected Principal; Tara Perkinson, Elected Associate; Steve James and Millicent MacFarland, Appointed Principal Members; Cheryl Laube and Steve Marshall, Appointed Associate Members; Norm Moore, Immediate Past President and Carmela Bills, Immediate Past Associate Vice-President. Please contact any of us with ideas or suggestions that you believe will make your Society better.

The Society is proud to offer its congratulations to Susan Clarke Schaar, one of our own, on her election as NCSL Staff Vice-Chair. Susan, we know that you will do the Society proud, and NCSL will be an even better organization for legislative staff because of your involvement this year and as Staff Chair in 2005. Best of luck to you as you undertake these new challenges.

I am looking forward to a successful and productive year as your President. Please contact me with your thoughts and ideas about how to make your Society better. By working together and keeping the lines of communication buzzing, ASLCS will continue to be a professional organization “where everybody knows your name.”

Best wishes to you and yours for a memorable and enjoyable holiday season.

Sincerely,
Bruce Jamerson, Virginia
President, ASLCS
2004-2005 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bruce Jamerson, VA
President

JoAnn Hedrick, DE
President Elect

Laura Clemens, OH
Secretary/Treasurer

Dowe Littleton, AL
Associate Vice President

Patsy Spaw, TX
Elected Principal

Tara Perkinson, VA
Elected Associate

Steve James, MA
Appointed Principal

Millie McFarland, ME
Appointed Principal

Cheryl Laube, AZ
Appointed Associate

Steve Marshall, VT
Appointed Associate

Norm Moore, AZ
Past President

Carmela Bills, VA
Past Associate Vice President
Call to Order

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

Quorum

Members present:

Bruce Jamerson, President
Norman Moore, Immediate Past President
JoAnn Hedrick, President-elect
Laura Clemens, Secretary-Treasurer
Dowe Littleton, Associate Vice President
Carmela Bills, Immediate Past Associate Vice-President
Steve James, Appointed Principal
Millie MacFarland, Appointed Principal
Tara Perkinson, Elected Associate
Cheryl Laube, Appointed Associate
Steve Marshall, Appointed Associate

NCSL Staff present: Natalie O’Donnell, Brian Weberg

Member absent: Patsy Spaw, Elected Principal

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 22, 2004 Executive Committee will be approved at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Approval of Treasurers Report

The approval of the Treasurer’s report was deferred to the next meeting of the Executive Committee without objection.

Approval of President’s Executive Committee Appointments

Tara Perkinson moved the approval of Steve James, Appointed Principal, Millie MacFarland, Appointed Principal, Steve Marshall, Appointed Associate, and Cheryl Laube, Appointed Associate as members of the Executive Committee. Carmela Bills seconded the motion and was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Old Business
There was no old business to bring before the committee.

New Business

**ASLCS Account Summaries**

Natalie O’Donnell presented a brief description of the three different accounts held by ASLCS. The L177 (Shared Profits Account) is funded from the profits of our meetings and is used to pay such costs as the Betty King Scholarship, the publication of the *Legislative Administrator*, and the publication of the Roster. Anything over $2000 is shared between NCSL and ASLCS and is managed by NCSL.

The L190 account (special meetings fund) consists mostly of private contributions and is an interest bearing investment account managed by NCSL. The final account is the Dues Account managed by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Bruce Jamerson and Norman Moore explained the assessment/allocation newly imposed by NCSL on the various staff sections and the impact it has on the ASLCS budget. Based on a formula, ASLCS was assessed roughly $14,000 dollars to cover the costs of staff professional development meetings. $8,000 was recently given to NCSL to cover the attrition penalty incurred by the Portland meeting, which NCSL has credited to the ASLCS share of the allotment. Approximately $6000 still remains to be sent to NCSL.

**Special Committees**

Bruce Jamerson asked for reports from the Special Committees.

**Special Audit Committee** will give its report at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

**Archives Committee** Dowe Littleton moved that the Executive Committee post the inventory of all archives to the website and reduce the number of paper copies held from three to two copies. Steve James seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by voice vote. Steve James questioned whether we should implement a system of an electronic back-up system for the archives. Dowe Littleton will investigate the costs of such a system.

**Budget and Revenue Committee** will continue to look at ways of soliciting funds for the Society.

**Publications Standards Committee** George Bishop recommends that the Executive Committee approve in concept the proposal that the Roster be printed after the annual meeting so that it can include the current membership of the executive committee and the standing committees, and that a supplement be provided for the current roster. For archival purposes, the 2005 roster will include both the roster and the supplement information, which will sunset after the 2005 edition. Carmela Bills moved the Executive Committee approve the recommendations of the Publication Standards Committee. JoAnn Hedrick seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Other Business**

**Bylaws and Standing Orders Committee** Pat Saville brought before the committee a recommendation that the following change be made to the Standing Orders:
Delete paragraph H of section 3. Delete the last sentence of paragraph 4.

This change in the standing orders would remove the sunset provisions of the Associate Exchange program. Tara Perkinson moved to approve the recommendations of the Bylaws and Standing Orders Committee. Dowe seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Announcements**

Bruce Jamerson announced that the Spring meeting will be held in Boston, MA on March 18-20, 2005. A conference call prior to the end of the year will be held to discuss the applicants to the Associate Exchange Program, to adopt the minutes of the previous meetings, and to adopt the Treasurer’s report.

Bruce Jamerson asked Dowe Littleton and Tara Perkinson to work with him on drafting a letter encouraging participation in the Associate Exchange Program, which will be sent to all members shortly after the application has been mailed.

A discussion regarding the role and importance of the associates was held.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, Carmela Bills moved that the committee stand adjourned. Norman Moore seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned without objection.
Mr. Ed Burdick announced his retirement as Chief Clerk of the Minnesota House. The Minnesota Legislature will be honoring Mr. Burdick on January 10, 2005 for his 64 years of state service.

The following text is from the Society’s 60th Diamond Jubilee program:

EDWARD A. BURDICK

Born in Vernon Center, Minnesota, Edward A. Burdick worked for a period of time as a printer and country newspaperman in his hometown. His highly successful career with the Minnesota House of Representatives began in 1941 when he was hired as a page. He has worked every session since with the exception of one session when he was in the military service. He was selected as head page in 1943 and began his legendary tenure at the House Desk in 1947. Legislators unanimously elected Ed Burdick as Chief Clerk in 1967 and every biennium since.

During his 62 years with the Minnesota House of Representatives, he has worked for 16 different Speakers--Democrats and Republicans--and a tied House in 1979. His distinguished service has been characterized by his devotion and respect for the legislature as an institution. His professionalism and non-partisan attitude along with his "good humor" have enhanced his legendary reputation. Ed Burdick’s knowledge and understanding of the legislative process, parliamentary procedure and historical precedent is unparalleled. He has been an active and enthusiastic member of ASLCS and the national conference since 1967. In the early 1970's he served on the Executive Committee of the National Legislative Conference (NLC) determined to retain and enhance staff participation in the newly merged National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

While serving as President of ASLCS in 1971, Ed Burdick appointed a special committee to study the feasibility of expanding membership to include associates, assessing dues to cover Society expenses, establishing bylaws, adopting a logo,
and publishing a code of ethics, which was instrumental in revitalizing the society in the early 1970's. In addition, he has edited the Society newsletter, compiled and published the history of ASLCS, and served many years on the Mason's Manual Revision Commission. His national recognitions include being selected the first recipient of the prestigious ASLCS "Joseph A. Beek Award" for distinguished service in 1983, and the NCSL “2002 Legislative Staff Achievement Award”.

Below are well wishes and special memories from society members.

I will miss Ed Burdick because he and I have had a good working relationship since 1973 when I became Secretary of the Senate. We get together often for coffee and conversation. Ed tells me this is a first for the Chief Clerk and Secretary in MN! Historically they communicated by letter, if at all. Ed always encouraged me to be active in ASLC&S and NCSL. In fact, he took me to meetings he was attending in 1973 and 1974 that led to the merger of three organizations which created NCSL.

All the best Ed,

Pat Flahaven

Dear "Mr. Ed",

I want to express my sincere appreciation for all of the encouragement you have given me over the past 15 years that I have been a member of the Society. You have been a true advocate and strong backbone of the Society and with such enthusiasm! I wish you everything special and wonderful in your retirement. Know that you will be thought of often and missed tremendously!

Love and best wishes to you,
Diane Bell
Assistant Clerk, Florida House of Representatives

Ed, you were always such an inspiration to me. You set high standards for others to follow. Now that you are joining the retired set, I will be happy to share the self-imposed title of Poster Child for Retirement. I sincerely hope you enjoy it as much as I have. Be happy, my friend.

Fondly,

Carolyn Tinkle
Former Principal Secretary of the Indiana State Senate
Past President of ASLCS
I would like to thank Mr. Ed Burdick for being the keeper of the Archives from almost the beginning of ASLCS until they were turned over to Nevada for storage. He has always been there to answer questions and look over the Archives booklet. But, most of all I have always enjoyed his Parliamentary Procedure seminars - I look over the old "hand-outs" from time to time and learn something new. I consider him a friend, a mentor and as we all know a very special person.

Mary Jo Mongelli  
Assistant Secretary Nevada Senate

***********************************

I will always remember Ed's advice. "Never take away the prerogative of the Speaker". Thanks for the advice Ed!

Stephen R. Arias  
Chief Clerk  
New Mexico House of Representatives

***********************************

Edward A. Burdick is my role model, but I know down deep that no one can keep pace with or measure up to this venerable person. I only pray that plagiarism is a pardonable sin. I quote him and cite him often in my parliamentary training manual for the West Virginia Senate. It is my hope that the strict ethics statute in Minnesota precludes me from having to compensate him monetarily for sharing his wisdom.

Karl Lilly  
Assistant Clerk, West Virginia Senate

***********************************

While Honest Ed may be somewhat of a legend in the United States, to many of the Clerks in the rest of the world (including myself) he is a just a good friend. I have tried on many occasions to attend his talks on parliamentary matters, but on each occasion he has directed me to the wrong location and I can only conclude he is unhappy with questions from the floor. He is probably the only Clerk in the free world who has declined on three occasions an invitation to meet the Queen of England. Because of my great affection for this gentleman, I will not disclose the brand of scotch he has been drinking.

I only hope his impending retirement in January, 2005, will not in any way adversely affect his ability to attend the meetings of the American Society because I must say in all candor, the intellectual stimulation provided by “Honest Ed” has always been a significant incentive for me to attend the Society’s meetings.

George MacMinn, Q.C.  
Chief Clerk  
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Canada

***********************************
One of my first memories of ASLCS is the orientation that Ed Burdick presented. He was so professional and serious--and in my perception, somewhat unapproachable. Little did I know that we would become much better acquainted in the hospitality room! Ed was so supportive of me as I made my way through the society. When I was elected Secretary of the Senate, I turned to several of my colleagues for their support. He was always available to dispense his wisdom. He served on the newsletter committee when I was the editor. Not only did he give me invaluable advice, but he did it in such a humble manner that he made me think it was my idea! Ed, I love ya, don't be a stranger!

Judy Hall
Secretary of the Senate
Oregon Legislative Assembly

There are many humorous stories one could tell about Ed Burdick. Anyone who has ever attended an NCSL Clerks and Secretaries Conference would have an Ed Burdick story to tell, particularly those who attended conferences in the 70’s and 80’s.

However, what one remembers most about Ed is his expertise on parliamentary procedures as well as his skill and acumen in teaching the legislative process to others. As a 26 year employee of the Minnesota Senate I have been privileged to have had the direct benefit of this expertise.

In my early years with the Senate no one other than my boss Patrick Flahaven was a greater influence on my accumulation of legislative knowledge than Ed. For that I will be forever grateful.

Scott Magnuson,
Director of the Senate Information Office

It may be too late for this on Ed but I will never forget the President's dinner in Williamsburg. I sat at the table with Ed and George MacMinn. We laughed so hard at stories those two told that my ribs ached the next day and Sally Kittredge never got to eat her dinner. Every time she went to take a bite Ed or George would tell a story that had us roaring with laughter. We were almost asked to leave the dinner and definitely qualified for the "rowdy table." What a great friendship Ed and George have. It underscores the relationship ASLCS has with the Canadian Clerks-at-the-Table and the friendships formed during our association.

On another note, I have never failed to gain additional knowledge from Ed Burdick's parliamentary procedure sessions. His ability to explain the process to the newest person is amazing. I feel very fortunate to have gotten to know Ed over the years. His many contributions to ASLCS will continue in those of us who have benefited from his parliamentary procedure classes.

Susan Clarke Schaar
Clerk of the Virginia Senate
Dear Ed,

Because of the vast knowledge of legislative rules and procedure you acquired over the many years of dedicated service to the Minnesota House and to the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, you’ve truly been a model for other Clerks to emulate. Thanks for your wise counsel.

I wish you the very best in your retirement.

Your Vermont Friend,

Bob Picher (retired June 30, 1993)

***********************************************************

The following pictures were submitted by staff in Mr. Burdick’s office.

1. Mr. Burdick and Mr. Paul Mason. Mr. Mason is autographing a copy of “Mason’s Manual”, 1975.

2. Mr. Burdick and Lee Slater. Mr. Burdick was being awarded the first Joseph A. Beek Distinguished Service Award, 1983.

3. Mr. Burdick and “Frosty” the brahma bull in Arizona, 1986.
4. Mr. Burdick, Chief Clerk, Minnesota House of Representatives, early 1960’s.

5. Mr. Burdick and Paul Granlund. Mr. Granlund created the bust of Mr. Burdick in 1990. The bust has a permanent home in an alcove just outside the entrance to the House Chamber in the Minnesota Capitol.
DAY IN ANNAPOLIS
In the Box a weekly feature about people whose work touches our lives

Carmela Bills - Claim to fame: Information and public relations manager for the Virginia House of Delegates


Q: You are considered the face of the Capitol, for you're often the first person visitors see when they come into the building. What are your responsibilities?

A: The job has changed. It used to be more of providing legislative information, such as status of bills and copies of votes - anything that had to do with the legislative process came from our office. But with the change in technology, our focus is more on public relations, which includes civic education.

Q: What do you mean by civic education?

A: Government was my least-favorite subject in high school and in college. Because of my lack of interest in the subject in school, I wanted to make government fun and interesting for students. So we came up with publications geared toward the different grade levels, with the highlight of our civic education program being the chamber presentations.

Q: And what do you do in those?

A: We have teachers bring students to the House chamber, where we give an hour presentation. This involves how our state government got started, what it is today and how a bill becomes a law, and then ends with a mock session where students assume the roles of members and debate and vote on a bill. It's been a tremendous success. Last year, we had 15,000 students. Throughout the year, we have two or three groups visiting a day. They learn so much and have fun at the same time.

Q: You have the perfect last name for this job. Do you get many comments about having the last name of Bills?

A: Oh, I do. A funny story is about a new employee who knew what House Bills were and what Senate Bills were. When she heard about CBills, which is how I sign my name at work, she wanted to know what those were. And then one time a lady came by the desk and wanted to know if this is where she paid her bills.

Q: What was your career path?

A: After college, I was a stewardess for American Airlines for 1 years. I was based in Chicago. I was on American's first jet service to Mexico City from Chicago in 1961. Then I got married. Edward,
husband, was plant manager for Reynolds Metals International in Mexico City, where we lived for 1 year. Then we were transferred to Venezuela, and we were there for about 16 years. Then we came to Richmond in 1978.

Q: When did you start working at the General Assembly?

A: I started working during the session as a receptionist in 1982. I worked for two years in the General Assembly Building on the eighth floor and then two years at the Capitol for Tom Moss, the majority leader at the time. I started in the information office in 1985 after the session, and I've been here ever since.

Q: How did you find out about the job?

A: Through a friend who worked here during session. She asked me to apply, and I had nothing to do, so I thought it would be fun.

Q: How did being an airline stewardess prepare you for this job?

A: I guess the interaction with people. I love people. I love being around people. And we were known for the fabulous service we provided, and I guess it's stayed with me - providing the same service to members, the public and staff.

Q: What's it like working at one of the most historic state Capitols?

A: I love my job! When I'm walking to the Capitol, I really do get goosebumps. I can't think of another place I would want to work. There's always something going on here. I meet so many people, and I try to help so many people.

Q: You've been very involved in national and international legislative organizations. Tell me about those.

A: I've been very lucky that Bruce Jamerson, the House clerk, has afforded me the opportunity to participate in the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries. I was recently associate vice president of the organization, the highest position someone who's not a clerk can attain. This association gives us a tremendous network among all the states. I can call any state for any information. The friendships we've developed in the association are phenomenal.

Q: You're fluent in Spanish. That must be a tremendous asset to your job and professional activities.

A: It has been, especially with this association. I was chairman of the International Communication and Development Committee for the association. We've been able to interact with our counterparts in Mexico. Because of my language capability, I have represented the association in Mexico at their conferences.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I love to read and I belong to a wonderful book club. I love to work out. I like to cook. I enjoy working in the yard. And of course, I have some wonderful friends, and I love spending time with my friends.

- Pamela Stallsmith
Bylaws and Standing Orders Committee

Greg Gray
West Virginia
Chair

Pat Saville
Kansas
Vice Chair

Inga Emerson
Delaware
Associate Vice Chair

Committee Members

Robert Altmann, WV
Carmela Bills, VA
George Bishop, VA
Joe Blough, OK
Norma Chastain, AZ
Laura Clemens, OH
Marilyn Eddins, CO
Jeff Finch, VA
John Garrett, VA
JoAnn Hedrick, DE

Bo Hoover, WV
Rusti Horton, ID
Pamm Juker, ID
Cheryl Laube, AZ
Sven Lindquist, MN
Mike Linn, MN
Millie MacFarland, ME
Patrick Merkel, TN
Norm Moore, AZ
Pat O'Donnell, NE

Carole Peterson, UT
Tara Perkinson, VA
Susan Clarke Schaer, VA
Matthew Schuler, OH
Butch Speer, LA
Karen Wadsworth, NH
Larry Warden, OK
Steve Winter, NH
Jeannine Wood, ID
Canadian-American Relations Committee

Robert Altmann, WV
Steve Arias, NM
Jane Atkinson, VA
Dave Avant, AL
Diane Bell, FL
Carmela Bills, VA
Tracy Campbell, FL
Sylvia Carr, VA
Lynne Collins, AK
Ann Cornwell, AR
Mark Corrigan, PA
Polly Emerson, TX
Londi Ensor, AK

Jeff Finch, VA
John Garrett, VA
Virginia Habansky, VA
Elizabeth Hawthorne, MS
Bo Hoover, WV
Judy Hall, OR
Robert Haney, TX
JoAnn Hedrick, DE
Brad Hendrickson, WA
Crystaline Jones, AK
Tim Kehoe, CT
Suzi Lowell, AK
Karl Lilly, WV

Sven Lindquist, MN
Charlotte Mary, VA
Al Mathiowetz, MN
Annette Moore, UT
Norm Moore, AZ
Carole Peterson, UT
Eleanor Ringel, WV
Patsy Spaw, TX
Butch Speer, LA
Ann-Marie Sweeney, PA
Karen Wadsworth, NH
Kirsten Waid, AK
Denise Weeks, NC
Committees at Work

Inside the Legislative Process Committee

Claire Clift
Nevada
Chair

Mary Jo Mongelli
Nevada
Vice Chair

Carmen Cauthen
North Carolina
Associate Vice Chair

Committee Members

Mardi Alexander, TX
Jane Atkinson, VA
Bradley Bolin, IL
Tracy Campbell, FL
Paul Campos, WA
Sylvia Carr, VA
Liz Clark, AK
Jhonnie Gillespie, FL
Virginia Habansky, VA
Mona Heustis, CO
Gregory Hoyer, WV
Karen Kuhlmann, CO
Barbara Lecarpentier, VA
Suzi Lowell, AK
Scott Maddrea, VA
Diane Marshall, IN
Al Mathiowitz, MN
William McGill, VT
Annette Moore, UT
Barbara Regen, VA
Don Richardson, MS
Gail Romanowski, MN
Judith M. Schultz, WV
Jackie Scott, VA
Tina Scott, AZ
Ann-Marie Sweeney, PA
Mary Beth Weil, VA
Dianne Whitaker, VA
Patience Worrell, TX
Tammy Wright, NH
International Communication and Development Committee

Committee Members

Robert Altmann, WV
Steve Arias, NM
Dave Avant, AL
Carmela Bills, VA
Sylvia Carr, VA
Laura Clemens, OH
Claire Clift, NV
Lynne Collins, AK
Ann Cornwell, AR
Mark Corrigan, PA
Polly Emerson, TX
Londi Ensor, AK
Jeff Finch, VA
Eric Fowler, NH
Jhonnie Gillespie, FL
Judy Hall, OR
Robert Haney, TX
JoAnn Hedrick, DE
Rusti Horton, ID
Gregory Hoyer, WV
Steven James, MA
Crystaline Jones, AK
Margaret Larragoite, NM
Scott Maddrea, VA
Rob Marchant, WI
Steve Marshall, VT
Jim McElroy, NC
Norm Moore, AZ
Trish Obrion, VA
Jonathan Palmore, VA
Carole Peterson, UT
John Phelps, FL
Barbara Regen, VA
Pat Saville, KS
Susan Clarke Schaar, VA
Patsy Spaw, TX
Butch Speer, LA
Ann-Marie Sweeney, PA
Denise Weeks, NC
Jeannine Wood, ID
Patience Worrell, TX
COMMITTEES AT WORK

Legislative Administrator Committee

Norma Chastain
Arizona
Chair

Sharon Soliere
Arizona
Vice Chair

George Bishop
Virginia
Associate Vice Chair

Committee Members

Bradley Bolin, IL
Carmen Cauthen, NC
Stephen Davis, MO
Inga Emerson, DE
Mike Fina, OK

David Gibson, VT
Cheryl Laube, AZ
Mary Jo Mongelli, NV
Pat O’Donnell, NE
Don Richardson, MS

Eleanor Ringel, WV
Matthew Schuler, OH
Larry Warden, OK
Susan Whitford, NV
COMMITTEES AT WORK

Membership and Communication Committee

Diane Bell  
Florida  
Chair

Judy Barrows  
Maine  
Vice Chair

Nathan Hatfield  
Virginia Senate  
Associate Vice Chair

Committee Members

Gwen Bailey, VA  
Faye Blanton, FL  
Johnye Bennett, VA  
Karen Brown, UT  
Tracy Campbell, FL  
Marilyn Eddins, CO  
Jane Gill, NV  
Elizabeth Hawthorne, MS  
Janet Jones, KS  

Ruby Johnson, LA  
Cindy Johnston, OR  
Pamm Juker, ID  
Tim Kehoe, CT  
Ramona Kenady, OR  
Jeannine Layell, VA  
Millie MacFarland, ME  
Diane Marshall, IN  
Evelyn Martinez, AZ  

Patricia Mau-Shimizu, HI  
Michelle Perry, NC  
Jackie Scott, VA  
Tina Scott, AZ  
Terry Spieler, MO  
Sandy Tenney, UT  
Kirsten Waid, AK  
Maureen Wilson, UT  
Tammy Wright, NH
COMMITTEES AT WORK

Professional Journal Committee

Scott Maddrea
Virginia
Chair

Linda Hawker
Illinois
Vice Chair

Linda Tubbs
Texas
Associate Vice Chair

Committee Members

Mardi Alexander, TX
Joe Blough, OK
Bradley Bolin, IL
Liz Clark, AK
Stephen Davis, MO

Cindy Johnston, OR
Millie MacFarland, ME
John Phelps, FL
Barbara Regen, VA
Gail Romanowski, MN

Pat Saville, KS
Julianna Singh, AK
Matthew Schuler, OH
Steve Winter, NH
COMMITTEES AT WORK

Program Development Committee

Marilyn Eddins  
Colorado  
Chair

David Gibson  
Vermont  
Vice Chair

Penny Cabaniss  
Virginia  
Associate Vice Chair

Committee Members

Dianne Arrington, TX  
Gwen Bailey, VA  
Matthew Baker, NV  
Judy Barrows, ME  
George Bishop, VA  
Faye Blanton, FL  
Jay Braxton, VA  
Karen Brown, UT  
Carmen Cauthen, NC  
Laura Clemens, OH  
Claire Clift, NV  
Betty Kay Francis, TN  
Jane Gill, NV  
Harle Glover, NV  
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Pat O’Donnell, NE  
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A DAY IN WASHINGTON D.C.
A DAY IN WASHINGTON D.C.
The largest geographic district in the State of Alaska and the largest Senate district in the United States was up for new representation this year when Senator Georgianna Lincoln from Rampart retired. The district includes House District 6, known as the “horseshoe district” and House District 5. Representative Morgan from District 6 and Representative Kookesh from District 5 vied for the Senate District C seat. Representative Kookesh from Angoon, in Southeast Alaska, won the election.

Senate District C, which the new Senator represents, is 250,000 square miles and almost as big as the state of Texas. If it were a state it would be the third largest state in the country. Sixteen Native languages are spoken in the district and it is predominately roadless, running from southeast Alaska to the Arctic Circle and nearly to the Bering Sea. The district includes 27 communities, 25 school districts, seven different Alaska Native groups and encompasses nine wildlife refuges and national parks.

Proposition 200 on Arizona’s November ballot in Court

Despite the popular vote in favor of the Proposition to require an applicant for voter registration to prove U.S. Citizenship and every voter to present identification, it has been temporarily blocked by a restraining order to hear evidence for and against the anti-illegal immigration measure. Questions on constitutionality and its potential conflicts with federal law are the issues being brought to suit by a prominent Hispanic organization challenging the popular initiative. This order, in effect through December 22nd will stop the scheduled implementation of the measure.

December 22, a hearing is scheduled before Judge David Bury to consider a preliminary injunction against Prop. 200. If he rules the measure is constitutional, it will go into effect. If he rules it violates the U.S. Constitution, it will remain ineffective pending likely appeals.

“On the one hand, a majority of Arizona voters cast their ballots in favor of Proposition 200, and this court is loath to disregard their decision. On the other hand, this court is obligated to uphold the Constitution of the United States, even when to do so stands in the opposition to popular opinion.”
—U.S. District Judge David C. Bury

Controlled flood at the Grand Canyon

An effort to return natural sediment along the Colorado River to the Grand Canyon is being done through a controlled flooding. An estimated 800,000 metric tons of sediment should be stirred up by doing this. Environmentalists have said for years that the unnatural flows of the Colorado river below the Glen Canyon dam were washing away sediment and that beaches were disappearing, along with fish and plants.

Before Glen Canyon Dam’s construction, a natural flooding built up eddies and sandbars with silt distributed from the Colorado’s tributaries. The 90 hour flood consisted of opening four giant steel tubes at the base of the dam, sending a torrent down the Colorado and into the canyon. By doing this, Director of the Southwest
Biological Science Center, under the U.S. Interior Department, Dennis Fenn says “We’re trying to mimic the role of all that sediment that used to be there before the dam.” “Water that goes through the dam is clear, and sediment-free. The sediment is trapped behind the dam and doesn’t come down like it used to.”

At this time, the Bureau of Reclamation – the government’s dam-managing agency – plans to release a surge of water for a much shorter period of time, hoping to avoid the erosion of redeposited sediment.

**California**

Californians voted on 16 ballot measures on November 2, 2004. Nine were approved, and seven were defeated. A few of the notable measures are listed below:

**Approved propositions** (vote percentages in parentheses):

Proposition 1A. Local Government Revenues. (83.7% to 16.3%) Protects local funding for public safety, health, libraries, parks, and other locally delivered services. Prohibits the state from reducing local governments’ property tax proceeds. Allows provisions to be suspended only if Governor declares a fiscal necessity and two-thirds of the Legislature approve the suspension.

Proposition 59. Public Records. (83.4% to 16.6%) Amends Constitution to provide right of public access to meetings of government bodies and writings of government officials.

Proposition 69. DNA Samples. (62% to 38%) Requires collection of DNA samples from all felons, and from adults and juveniles arrested for or charged with specified crimes, and submission to state DNA database; and, in five years, from adults arrested or charged with a felony.

Proposition 71. Stem Cell Research. (59.1% to 40.9%) Establishes “California Institute for Regenerative Medicine” to regulate stem cell research and provide funding, through grants and loans, for such research and research facilities. Establishes constitutional right to conduct stem cell research; prohibits Institute’s funding of human reproductive cloning research. Authorizes issuance of general obligation bonds to finance Institute activities up to $3 billion subject to annual limit of $350 million.

**Defeated propositions:**

Proposition 62. Open Primary. (45.8% to 54.2%) Required primary elections where all voters may vote for any state or federal candidate regardless of how a voter or candidate is registered. Exempted presidential nominees and elections of party central committees. Only the two primary-election candidates receiving most votes for an office, whether they are candidates with “no party” or members of same or different party, would be listed on general election ballot.

Proposition 68. Non-tribal Commercial Gambling Expansion. (16.1% to 83.9%) Authorized the Governor to negotiate tribal compacts requiring that Indian tribes pay 25% of slot machine/gaming device revenues to government fund. If compacted tribes don’t unanimously accept required amendments within 90 days, or if determined unlawful, authorizes sixteen specified non-tribal racetracks and gambling establishments to operate 30,000 slot machines/gaming devices, paying 33% of net revenues to government.

Proposition 72. Health Care Coverage Requirements. (48.9% to 51.1%). Required employers to pay for health coverage. Law applied to employers with 200 or more employees beginning in 2006; 50 to 199 employees
beginning in 2007; and 20 to 49 employees if tax credit enacted. Required employers pay at least 80% of coverage cost.

General Voting Statistics, November 2004

Since the 2000 Election, total registration increased from 15.7 million to 16.5 million registered voters.

From 2000 to 2004:
Democratic Party registration declined from 45.5% to 43.0%
Republican Party registration declined from 34.9% to 34.7%
Decline to State registrations increased from 14.4% to 17.7%

First Father and Son Serving in Louisiana Legislature

Donald Cravins, Sr., and his son, Donald Cravins, Jr., recently distinguished themselves by becoming Louisiana’s first father and son to serve in the state legislature at the same time. Donald senior was first elected to Louisiana Senate District 24 in 1992. Donald junior was elected in his first bid for political office on November 2, 2004, to serve the remainder of the current unexpired term in House District No. 40 left vacant by the death of Rep. Charles I. “Doc” Hudson. Cravins and Cravins will begin serving three years together when the 2005 Regular Session begins next April.

Clerk of the House Butch Speer swore in Representative-elect Cravins on November 16, 2004 in the state capitol. Speer said he was not aware of another instance where a father and son had served simultaneously in the Louisiana legislature. “He believes a father-in-law and son-in-law served together,” Sen. Cravins said, “but not a father and son.” Speer’s reference was to Rep. John Smith, who was elected to the House in 1988 and is still serving, and to Congressman Chris John, who was elected to the state House in 1988 and served until 1996, when he was elected to represent the 7th Congressional District. Chris John married John Smith’s daughter, Peyton, in 1995.

Sen. Cravins lost his bid for Louisiana’s 7th U.S. Congressional District seat in the November 2 election and is completing his elected term as state senator. He is prohibited from seeking his state Senate seat again because of Louisiana’s three-term limit law added to the state’s constitution in 1992.

It’s plain to see politics runs in the Cravins family. Donald junior is the third member of his family to serve as an elected official in the parish (county) of St. Landry. His uncle, Charles Cravins, currently serves as the Chief Administrative Officer for the district attorney of St. Landry Parish.

While committee appointments for Rep. Cravins are still pending, he has expressed interest in the areas of health and hospitals and finance. And how will father and son work together from opposite sides of the aisle? Sen. Cravins said he will provide whatever assistance his son needs in learning the nuts and bolts of legislative work. Rep. Cravins said he will take whatever advice his father offers, but insists he is his own man. “I will tackle my term issue by issue. I am an independent. I am in no one’s camp. We like independent thinking in St. Landry Parish,” Cravins said.
Mississippi

The Mississippi Legislature is currently in the midst of a Special Session. The Governor issued a call for Legislators to return to the Capitol on November 11 to address a general obligation bond package. Conferees have been assigned to discuss differences between the House and Senate positions.

The Legislative Budget Office delivered a report to the Legislature stating that Mississippi's financial condition has improved in recent months. Fiscal year 2004 collections grew more than 4 percent over the previous year. Fiscal year 2005 collections to date are also up over the previous year, and a fiscal expert said the state "has probably come on through the slow period. Our revenue collections have leveled out and we may be starting to grow again."

Nevada

Greetings from the Silver State! The interim period is quickly evaporating here in Nevada as the 73rd Legislative Session suddenly begins to loom large on the horizon. After the contentious tax debates, medical malpractice issues, and education funding worries of the last session, we were all looking forward to a relatively calm interim. However, there have been some developments that have made things, if not hectic, at least interesting.

Foremost of these, is that we have a new Chief Clerk. Nancy Tribble took over for Jacqueline Sneddon in January, 2004. I can safely say Nancy is adeptly learning the ropes and adjusting to the intricacies of the job with no problems. When session starts in February, 2005, she is sure to hit the ground running and have no problem handling our 42 legislators. Already there are many innovative changes afoot and we’re all looking forward to surviving session with her.

Like many states, myriad ballot measures have our county clerks and the Secretary of State’s Office in a whirlwind of recounts, grass roots wrangling, and legal maneuvering—all occurring right before the start of early voting. As of right now, there are six ballot measures qualified for the ballot.

Three measures are still held up in court, even after verification of signatures revealed all three had come up short by several thousand signatures:

One of these measures is the REGULATION OF MARIJUANA AMENDMENT. It seeks to amend the Constitution to establish a comprehensive system of regulation for Marijuana while permitting adults aged 21 and older to use Marijuana in private and purchase it from a regulated market, generating tax revenues that will be dedicated primarily to alcohol and drug treatment and education programs.

Another measure is an Initiative Petition to amend the Constitution to prohibit public employees from holding elective office.
STATES AT A GLANCE

The third measure is a referendum petition that proposes to put to a vote of the people, for approval or disapproval, legislation enacted by Senate Bill 8 of the 20th Special Session of the 2003 Legislature. This would undo all the taxes passed as a result of the two special sessions and regular session that occurred in 2003. A horrible thought to have all those long nights on the Front Desk be for naught!

As I write this, the Republican convention is heating up, with Nevada earmarked as a battleground state for its 5 electoral votes. November will no doubt bring some big changes!

New Jersey

New Jersey has had an interesting fall. Today is the first day of our Acting Governor's new term. Richard J. Codey assumed the title at midnight. He's a great guy and will do very well.

North Carolina

The North Carolina House of Representatives has changed hands once again. After the November 2004 election, there were 63 Democrats and 57 Republicans elected to serve during the 2005-2006 biennium.

In the November 2002 election, there were 61 Republicans and 59 Democrats elected. Before the General Assembly convened in January 2003, one Republican switched parties and we had a 60-60 split, eventually resulting in the historic election of 2 Speakers for the 2003-2004 biennium.

Since the mid-1980's, the distance between the numbers of Democrats and Republicans has been shortened from 82 D – 38 R in 1985 to 78 D – 42 R in 1993. In 1994, for the first time in one hundred years, the Republicans were elected to a majority in the House and they carried the House through the 1997-1998 biennium.

From 1999 through 2002, the Democrats were again in the majority, although the spread (while a difference of thirteen in 1999-2000) was never enough for the Republican Party to ever be taken for granted again.

The 2003-2004 Session and its subsequent primary and general election were indicative of this interesting twist of numbers. In September of 2003, the Republican who had originally changed parties before the General Assembly convened switched his registration back to the Republican party and was subsequently defeated in the primary election. This switch changed the numbers back to 61 R – 59 D. In a race where 2 sitting Democrat members where running against each other, the candidate who lost then switched to the Republican party, changing the numbers to 62 R – 58 D. Between the primary and general elections, 13 incumbent Republicans lost their seats.

Even with the seemingly solid majority that the Democrat party has in the House, this will be an interesting session, as the political game is played once again on both sides of the aisle. We look forward to whatever happens!
Tennessee

The state’s health care program for the poor, uninsured and uninsurable, TennCare, is dominating post election news. Despite the enactment of significant reforms to the program during the 2003 session, Governor Phil Bredesen (D) is considering eliminating the program and replacing it with a traditional Medicaid program. The Governor believes several court orders will prevent the implementation of newly enacted reforms that would help contain costs of the program.

With the defeat of two incumbent Democratic Senators, Republicans now have a 17-16 majority in the Tennessee Senate. However, Senator John Wilder (D) is expected to be re-elected Senate Speaker in January as two Republican Senators have publicly stated they intend to vote to re-elect Wilder instead of voting for a Republican. Wilder was first elected Senate Speaker in 1971, and in 1986 he began the practice of appointing Republican and Democratic committee chairs after a failed attempt by Democrats to replace him as Speaker.

Republicans were able to pick up one seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives, but the Democrats still control the chamber 53-46. Representative Jimmy Naifeh (D) is expected to be re-elected House Speaker in January. If re-elected, Naifeh, who was first elected Speaker in 1991, will become the longest serving House Speaker in Tennessee history.

Texas

There were few election surprises in Texas. None of the statewide officeholders were up for election, so interest focused on congressional elections. Following a spirited redistricting battle in the spring and summer of 2003, the Republicans emerged victorious on election night, winning 21 of 32 congressional seats for the GOP, with a net gain of five seats over the previous 16-16 split going into the election. When Congress convenes in January, Texas will have the largest Republican delegation in the country. With this sweep, the Republicans now hold both of the United States Senate seats, the congressional delegation, all statewide elected executive and judicial positions, and both the state senate and state house of representatives.

On November 12, United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia visited the Capitol Building to administer the oath of office to Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson. The ceremonial investiture took place in the House Chamber and followed a private swearing-in ceremony in September. The first African American chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court, Justice Jefferson was first appointed to the court in March of 2001. Governor Rick Perry appointed him in September as chief justice to replace Thomas R. Phillips, who retired after more than 16 years of service.

The University of Texas at Austin was recently named the 15th best university in the world by The Times of London newspaper. The top 200 universities were ranked on the amount of cited research produced by faculty members, the ratio of faculty to students, and a university’s success in attracting foreign students and internationally renowned academics. Among United States public universities only the University of California at Berkeley ranked higher than UT Austin.
This recent election has changed the political landscape in the State of Vermont. In the presidential election Vermont voted for John Kerry. For the United States Senate, incumbent Democrat Senator Patrick Leahy was re-elected to his post as well as incumbent Independent Representative Bernie Sanders. To the rest of the nation this seemed as if it was the typical Vermont vote. The State constitutional officers had some challengers in their races. Republican Governor James Douglas faced his challenge from former mayor of Burlington Peter Clavelle. This was a race that included debates on issues, personal attacks and everything else you might expect from a political race. In the end Vermont re-elected Governor Douglas. The surprise in this race was that Peter Clavelle, from Chittenden county, did not carry Chittenden County. Lieutenant Governor Brian Dubie faced challengers in Democratic former Senator Cheryl Rivers and Progressive Representative Steve Hingtgen. Neither challenger gathered enough votes to defeat the incumbent Republican who received over 50 percent of the vote. The race that garnered the attention of the public was for State Auditor of Accounts. Incumbent Elizabeth Ready faced a strong challenge from Randy Brock, a former accountant. Brock researched the State published biography for Elizabeth Ready and found some glaring misstatements. Ready’s biography stated she received a degree from one college she never attended. Other problems in the biography came out as well. Ready’s defense was that she did not know the biography was incorrect. This was publicized throughout the state and on election day, Vermont had a new Auditor of Accounts.

The striking change to the political landscape in Vermont was to the General Assembly itself. In the House, there was no clear majority in the last session. Out of 150 seats the Republicans held 74 seats, Democrats held 69 seats, Progressives held 4 seats and Independents held 3 seats. After the dust settled on this election, the State of Vermont declared the House of Representatives to have a clear Democratic majority. Democrats now hold 83 seats, Republicans hold 60, Progressives hold 6 and the Independents have one seat.

The change seems to stem from the fact that this was a presidential election year. New voters emerged and stories of confusion with the ballots appeared. Representatives heard constituents saying “I could not decide between you and your opponent.” Representatives then had to tell the constituents they did not have to decide since they are electing two Representatives in that district. In some campaigns personal attacks were all around and the campaigns were relentless, but in one town in particular there was civility. A Representative who had just finished serving his first term in the Vermont House was starting his campaign. He received a phone call from his opponent asking him to meet for breakfast. He said yes, but wondered what was going to happen. Nervously he met his opponent to find a great foe. As they sat at the table, his opponent says to him that he wants to run a race free of the dirty politics and the personal attacks. They both agree and talk a little more. At the end of the breakfast and the meeting they agree, winner buys breakfast on November 3. They both leave on good terms and with the excitement that the race will be clean and run on the issues Vermonters are concerned about. Both campaigned hard. The Governor comes to the area to campaign for the challenger. Many weeks pass by and finally the election day has arrived. The voters of the district re-elect the incumbent Representative. True to their agreement they made the first day of the campaign season, they meet for breakfast and congratulate each other on a race well run and talk about the challenges Vermont will face in the next biennium. At the end of the breakfast, the incumbent Representative pulls out his wallet and pays for the breakfast that he has shared with his recent foe and new friend. There are many more stories of elections such as this where the opponents are cordial. In the past when a district was reduced from two members to one member, the two incumbent members walked with each other to the doors of the constituents and said we are running for one seat and just thought you might want to know who we are. Stories of elections being contentious and fights over
how to solve the problems are everywhere, but stories of well run cordial opponents are rarely heard and I hope I can hear more of them.

**Virginia**

Unlike many states, Election Day 2004 did little to reshape the face of the Virginia General Assembly. November 2 ended much as it began: Republicans firmly in control of both the House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia, and Democrats safely ensconced in the Governor's Mansion. Unlike the presidential race, where early exit polls indicated a closer than expect result, control of the General Assembly was never an issue. Of course, this stood to reason since Virginia did not have legislative or statewide elections this year. With no legislative elections, no statewide races, and no U.S. Senate races on the ballot in Virginia, all eyes were focused exclusively on the presidential race and the state's eleven congressional seats. Even so, the elections really had more bark than bite. Virginia had not voted for a Democrat presidential candidate since LBJ in 1964, and notwithstanding the early network exit polls, President Bush easily carried the statewide popular vote. The state's congressional elections were also notable only for the absence of any real suspense. All ten incumbents were handily re-elected and Republicans succeeded in maintaining the one open seat.

In fact, more excitement was generated by a handful of local elections than by the races higher on the ballot. In the great capital city, former Governor Doug Wilder made a triumphant return to public office with his election as the Mayor of Richmond. The 2004 election was the first time in more than 50 years in which the Richmond mayor was elected city-wide. Previously, City Council elected one of its members to serve in the largely honorary post.

Despite the relative peace and quiet of Election Day 2004, not all Virginia voters have completed their work. A December 14 special election has been called by the Governor to fill a newly created vacancy in the House of Delegates. Delegate Thelma Drake was elected on November 2 as a member of Congress after Congressman Ed Schrock of Virginia Beach surprisingly withdrew from his re-election effort.

**West Virginia**

Although West Virginia, with a two-to-one Democratic registration, voted for a Republican presidential candidate and elected a Republican supreme court justice and a Republican secretary of state, the voters didn't change the Party makeup of the Legislature that much.

The House of Delegates has 68 Democrats and 32 Republicans, a gain of one seat for the Republicans. The State Senate has 21 Democrats and 13 Republicans, a gain of three seats for the Republicans.

The House and Senate will caucus on December 5, 2004, to nominate officers for the 77th Legislature. The members will vote to elect their officers when the two Houses convene on January 12, 2005. The Legislature will then recess until February 9th to allow the new Governor time to be sworn in and to prepare his State of the State address.

The Legislature is scheduled to end its 60 day session on April 9, 2005.
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FUTURE ASLCS MEETINGS/CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ASLCS Spring Meeting – Boston, Massachusetts – March 18 – 20, 2005

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Name________________________________   Telephone ____________________________
Title_________________________________   Fax Number___________________________
State_________________________________   Email ________________________________
Chamber _____________________________

Please Email or Mail to:
Natalie O'Donnell, NCSL
7700 East First Place
Denver, CO  80230

Phone:  (303) 856-1485
Fax: (303) 364-7800
Email: natalie.odonnell@ncsl.org

NCSL Annual Meeting – Seattle, Washington - August  16 - 20, 2005