



# Legislative Research Librarians NEWSLINE

Volume XXIX, No. 1

Winter 2004

## Vice - Chair's Column

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

### WHO WE ARE

A recent posting on "Good Morning from Dr. Weill," a daily e-mail alert I subscribe to, spoke to "The Beauty of Service." It made me think positively about who we are as information specialists and the service we provide, even though it can often be without thanks or recognition. He mentions "... giving of yourself to help others with no thought of return." In a nutshell, that is us, that is who we are.

It is too easy to lose sight of the fact that we are sought out because people usually hold the belief that we can help them when no one else can. It should not really matter to us that the request is on short notice, or the requestor is rude, or unclear. It is our job to somehow navigate our way through those inconveniences. After all is said and done, there is no better feeling than knowing you delivered your patron the information desired.

The quotes that follow reinforce my belief that this indeed is a noble profession. In some aspect they are really about us or our libraries and the environment we should encourage. The last quote is to remind us to stop and smile and laugh whenever we can. Please accept a "pat on the back" for all the ex-

emplary work each and every one of you performs.

"The first duty of a human being is to assume the right functional relationship to society — more briefly, to find your real job, and do it." - Charlotte Perkins Gilman

"Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves." - James M. Barrie

"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it." - Margaret Fuller

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." - Albert Schweitzer

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee." - Marian Wright Edelman

"There is no greater calling than to

*- continued on page 2*



legislative  
research  
librarians

Legislative Research Librarians  
Staff Section

National Conference of State Legislatures  
7700 East First Place  
Denver, Colorado 80230

Chair: Arthur McEnany, Louisiana

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serve your fellow men. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well.” - Walter Reuther

“Genuine politics — even politics worthy of the name — the only politics I am willing to devote myself to — is simply a matter of serving those around us: serving the community and serving those who will come after us. Its deepest roots are moral because it is a responsibility expressed through action, to and for the whole.” - Vaclav Havel

“The American city should be a collection of communities where every member has a right to belong. It should be a place where every man feels safe on his streets and in the house of his friends. It should be a place where each individual’s dignity and self-respect is strengthened by the respect and affection of his neighbors. It should be a place where each of us can find the satisfaction and warmth which comes from being a member of the community of man. This is what man sought at the dawn of civilization. It is what we seek today.” - Lyndon B. Johnson

“One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.” - Chinese Proverb

“I would never belong to a group that would accept someone like me as a member.” - Groucho Marx

## Notable Document Award Nominations Sought!

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Research Librarians  
FROM: LRL Notable Document Awards Committee  
RE: The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)  
LRL Notable Document Awards

The NCSL’s Legislative Research Librarians Section Notable Document Award will be presented at the NCSL Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. The purpose of the award is to:

- Formally recognize excellence in documents that explore topics of contemporary interest to legislators and staff by presenting substantive material in an outstanding format.
- Advertise the extensive range of information available to legislators and staff.
- Increase participation by legislative research librarians in the States Information Network.
- Encourage deposit of documents with NCSL and the Council of State Governments (CSG) by subject-appropriate publishing organizations.

The winning documents will be highlighted at the NCSL annual meeting and will be announced in the LRL Newslines, State Government Research Checklist, State Legislatures, and State Government News.

Legislative research librarians should submit titles for consideration based on the criteria on the following page, using the nomination form accompanying this newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson  
Legislative Library of Montana  
State Capitol Rm. 10  
PO Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706  
phone: (406) 444-2957  
e-mail: ljackson@state.mt.us

The document criteria:

- Clearly and prominently displays title, author, publisher and date.
- Contains a title that reflects actual content.
- Appears relevant to identifiable readership.
- Significantly contributes to knowledge of concern to legislators.
- Is innovative in presentation of material.
- Contains strong bibliographic/footnote entries.
- Presents information accurately and clearly in an organized fashion.
- Offers graphics that are readily grasped.
- Was published within the last two years.
- Compares state activities in an arena of contemporary legislative interest in a comprehensible manner.
- Expands understanding of government processes, functions, or relationships.
- Attempts to provide balance and perspective from various sides in the political spectrum.

There is no limit to the number of titles you can nominate; 6 copies of each document should be submitted with a nomination form. (If this is a problem and deters you from nominating an item, send 1 copy, and we will contact the issuing agency for the rest)

Please be aware that documents produced by or under the auspices of NCSL's Legislative Research Librarian Section are not eligible for the award.

A "document" for purposes of this award is defined as one produced by a federal, state, or local government agency, by a foundation, consulting firm, or quasi-public or private sector non-profit organization. Format includes print, microfilm, CD-ROM, periodical/serial, or URL.



## Profile of a Member Library: The Texas Legislative Reference Library

*by Jeanine Finn, Texas*

Heading into the 78th biennial meeting of the Texas Legislature last year, the staff of the Texas Legislative Reference Library all knew that this legislative session was going to be extraordinary. With new leadership in both chambers, the first Republican majority since Reconstruction, and an exceptionally large number of freshman members and their new staffs, change (and perhaps a little anxiety) was clearly in the air.

Meanwhile, inside our library, we had just completed the launch of our re-designed website (<http://www.lrl.state.tx.us>), offering internet and intranet access to many new database systems that had been under development for many months, and had installed our very own integrated library system. Despite conditions being ripe for the perfect storm, with 7,533 filed bills and 2 state-line-crossing quorum busts later, the Texas Legislative Reference Library had risen to the occasion, learning even more about the needs of our patrons and proving our own abilities to provide Texas-sized research within Delaware-sized deadlines.

Whether during a session or an interim, our research requests tend to be evenly divided between questions from the public and questions from legisla-

tors' offices. We are frequently called to help answer constituent queries and to provide research support for legislative issues. Our research is supported by holdings that include a small Dewey collection of political and social science titles and a legal research collection that includes all other state statutes, federal and state court reporters, major law reviews, and legal encyclopedias. We also hold a substantial collection of state agency publications. The library's hard copy holdings are supplemented by access to several subscription databases including Lexis/Nexis, Westlaw and Ebsco products made available through a statewide consortium.

Our library is also the repository for original bill files for all the legislative sessions since 1973. While bill file materials since 1995 are available through the Texas Legislature Online Web site (<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>), we are the primary source for researchers looking for older documents. As is typically the case once an online service appears, the availability of recent documents on the web has spurred increased demand for internet access to the older documents (What do you mean bill files from 1979 aren't online!?), and we are at work developing a database system and workflow to gradually provide access to the older bill files.

In addition to responding to research queries, the library produces several publications. We distribute a daily clipping service, a weekly current articles/current awareness bibliography, and bi-monthly report of new and noteworthy monographs received by the library.

While traditional reference and research is the backbone of our work, we find that each year or month (sometimes each day) can bring to our atten-



*Texas Capitol*

tion a new area of interest for our patrons. Using our database tools and dynamic web page building abilities we are able to capitalize on the research work of our staff and our hard-copy resources, storing frequently-requested (and hard to get at) collections of data in a flexible way.

Ongoing database projects increase the accessibility and visibility of some of the strongest areas of our collections. Our century-old clipping service was recently enhanced with the addition of intranet-accessible subjectsearching, a very popular feature. Capitol staff can search for and view clippings back to 1998 from their desktops. Another added value to this service was the addition of links to cited bills and reports. Librarians review the clips daily and add hyperlinks to any cited legislation or web-published research report. Being able to search for clippings on a particular piece of legislation is an enormous help to both librarians and patrons.

The library also launched the public interface to our interim committee reports project in the fall of 2002. With our legislature only meeting biennially for 140 days, a significant amount of preparation and research happens in the interim. Researchers looking for intent behind large legislative initiatives can often find answers by looking

through these reports. Current committees often present their reports online, but earlier reports could be hard to locate. We have taken advantage of our extensive collection of these reports and begun a process of scanning to PDF and indexing the reports to provide browseable and searchable access over the web (<http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/research/interim/lrlhome.cfm>). Currently, we have scanned and indexed all reports going back to 1971.

Like most legislative support agencies, our workloads and activities change dramatically once the legislative session gets underway. Several of our staff members are involved with monitoring floor activities in the House and Senate and entering in bill data into the capitol-wide legislative information system. The library also maintains a toll-free bill status hotline, which, while not as vital as it was in the years before internet access, still remains a very popular tool for Texans wanting up-to-the-minute information about pending legislation. The hotline also provides a bit of fresh air (and occasionally a good bit comic relief) as we become a primary link for Texans all over the state to connect with the legislature and ask questions and sometimes vent a little steam.

The reference librarians maintain

the Index to Sections Affected database during the legislative session, indexing every version of every bill for its proposed statutory effect. The library also assists with the identification of companion bills, which requires a careful examination of each and every piece of legislation filed. With a record 5,592 bills introduced during the regular session of the 78th Legislature, we had our work cut out for us last year. The Index to Sections Affected system remains the most popular area of our public Web site, regularly getting between ten and twenty thousand hits per month towards the end of the of the session.

The Texas Legislative Reference library is fortunate to be housed in one of the most beautiful areas of the restored Capitol building in downtown Austin. Our convenient location and great collections make us a frequent physical destination for researchers, as well as an online one. Library staff regularly offer tours and training to legislative staffers and other interested researchers.

While the year ahead promises many more Texas-sized challenges as we continue to develop our resources and prepare for the next session, we count ourselves lucky to be working in an area that continually brings us new challenges and opportunities to learn new skills.



## NCSL Launches New Web Site

In February, NCSL launches a redesign of its Web site, [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org). The site brings significant improvements that will help state legislative staff quickly get the information they need.

A task force made up of members of NCSL Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee, working with a workgroup of the NCSL Executive Committee, set four goals for the new site. The following explains the goals and how they were implemented.

**Simplified navigation and improved organization** is achieved through a streamlined navigation bar available on every page and home page tabs that take you directly to issues or key NCSL pages. The search box is more convenient and accessible on every page. A new feature, Grasscatcher — a collection of news clippings on key policy issues — is updated daily, ensuring fresh content on the home page every day.

**Greater emphasis on public policy issues** comes through a more focused “Content” section on each main level menu page. NCSL staff worked over the last few months to streamline their content to make links more intuitive. In addition, each issue area now has an “Issue Overview” that provides context and focus on material available on NCSL’s substantive site.

A **clean design** actually provides more direct links from the home page to the information you need. The site allows for a better use of photos and graphics, and menu pages show the dates of news items, demonstrating

that the information on the page is fresh.

**More personalized services** are available to state legislative staff through a new MyNCSL design. The service allows members to sign up to receive an email every time a key item in areas they’ve selected is updated on the Web site.

State legislative staff will notice several new features designed specifically for them. They include:

- The navigation bar has a separate dropdown menu for “Legislative Staff” to highlight NCSL services and programs for staff.
- Staff section menu pages were modified to allow for better use of logos and more flexibility in listing items of interest.
- An improved search function and page design that provides direct access to several searchable databases, including state documents, directories, legislative audits, state statutes and constitutions.

For comments or questions about the Web site, contact the project’s team leaders, Doug Sacarto ([doug.sacarto@ncsl.org](mailto:doug.sacarto@ncsl.org)) or Gene Rose ([gene.rose@ncsl.org](mailto:gene.rose@ncsl.org)).



## Coordinator's Corner

This month, three questions were posed to librarians:

1. Has your legislature held special sessions this 2003?
2. If so, what was the reason?
3. And what is expected for your 2004 session?

Responses are in alphabetical order by state:

### *From Linda Heatherly, California*

California has had five extraordinary sessions during the current two-year session, 2003-04. The two that have not yet adjourned are the 4th, called by Governor Schwarzenegger for reform of the workers' compensation system, and the 5th, to place a general obligation bond and a Constitutional amendment on the March ballot, and consider how to fund an offset of the now-reduced motor vehicle license fee.

The sessions that have adjourned are: the first, called by then-Governor Gray Davis in December, 2002, to address the budget shortfall, reorganize and consolidate state operations and protect access to health care; the second, to address issues raised by a court decision relative to legislative appointment of members of the Coastal Commission; and the third called by Governor Schwarzenegger, to repeal Senate Bill 60 regarding undocumented aliens and drivers' licenses.

### *From Karen Mau, Hawaii:*

Has your legislature held special sessions this 2003? One special session in 2003.

If so, what was the reason? To override Governor's vetoes.

And what is expected for your 2004 session? Hot topics include: Education and Drug Abuse (crystal meth). Hawaii has a 14 member elected school board that oversees our statewide public education system, the big debate is whether to create local school boards with smaller districts or leave the current board & make changes within the board and our Education Department.

### *From Kristin Ford, Idaho*

No special sessions were held in 2003. Hot topics in the 2004 session include a power struggle between the Republican-held Board of Education and the Democrat-held Department of Education; smoking prohibitions in public places; requiring a higher (2/3) majority vote in the legislature in order to increase taxes or reduce tax credits/exemptions; deregulating local telephone exchanges; and a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

### *From Pam Landwer, Indiana*

Has your legislature held special sessions in 2003? The Indiana General Assembly did not hold a special session in 2003.

What is expected for your 2004 session? In the 2004 Session, Indiana General Assembly introduced 503 senate bills and twenty senate joint resolutions and 469 house bills and seven house joint resolutions. Of these introduced bills, 139 S.B.s passed the first house and 114 H.B.s passed the first house.

### *From Jonetta Douglas, Iowa*

As for 2003, according to the Governor's proclamation calling the General Assembly back in to session the General Assembly is convened, namely for the matter of approving the Iowa Value Fund, and a FY 2004 state budget that will protect Iowan's health,

safety and welfare, and matters properly related thereto.

So basically they came back for economic development and budget completion. As for anticipation of a special session in 2004, I will only say that I according to what I've been told our budget problems are not over, and an increase in state revenue is not anticipated. (Now is that of a bureaucratic answer, or what)

Anyway that all from the Hawkeye State, now that the caucuses are over we are no longer the center of anyone's universe but our own.

### *From Lynda Davis, Maryland*

The Maryland legislature did not have a special session in 2003; in fact the last special session was in 1992. The legislature convened in mid January for its 90-day session. Changes in Senate rules concerning the number of votes necessary to limit debate, prayers, and a proposed rule to establish a parliamentarian were debated in the Senate during the first week or so. For the first time since 1989, the legislature voted to override a gubernatorial veto of legislation and did so five times this session.

Several bills vetoed last year have yet to be voted on. Again this year, legalizing video lottery terminals (slots) as a means to help reduce revenue shortfalls will be the number one issue. Other issues are fully funding public education formulas, funding of and tuition increases at state colleges and universities, medical malpractice insurance, cost of prescription drugs, workers' compensation law, and driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants, and judges' ability to alter sentences. Generating interest throughout the region

was the Department's and its consultant's report on security issues with electronic voting. Three documents are available on the Maryland General Assembly Web site under "Everything Else."

([http://mlis.state.md.us/Other/voting\\_system/final\\_diebold.pdf](http://mlis.state.md.us/Other/voting_system/final_diebold.pdf))

*From Arnold Weinfeld, Michigan*

Has your legislature held special sessions in 2003? As a "full-time" legislature we have no "special sessions."

What is expected for your 2004 session? For 2004 we expect debate on a wide range of issues including prescription drugs, lead abatement, early education, importation of out-of-state trash, economic development and jobs, credit scoring and insurance redlining. Also, we expect a legislative effort to place a state constitutional amendment on the November 2004 ballot to define marriage. Michigan already has a state law to this effect as well.

*From Anne Rottman, Missouri*

Has your legislature held special sessions in 2003? If so what was the reason? Missouri had two special sessions, one in June and the other in September. Both special sessions dealt with the state's budget. Our governor had vetoed four appropriation bills in their entirety, something that had not happened in Missouri since the 1800s.

What is expected for your 2004 session? Some top issues this session are really continuations from the 2003 session. Funding continues to be a big issue. The governor wants to raise revenue through a variety of methods including some tax increases, but the Republican controlled general assembly continues to be firm on no tax increases. Tort reform, workers compen-

sation, and education funding are also high on the list and they are all issues that were not resolved during the last session.

*From Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Montana:*

In Montana, the answer is no special sessions in 2003. There is also little anticipation of having a special session in 2004 (I am keeping my fingers crossed). So, no and no—pretty succinct answer from the Big Sky state.

It's been melting here in Helena for a week. I can't believe winter would be over already (and I hope it's not—got some snowboarding time left!).

*From Nan Bowers in Nevada:*

Nevada held two special sessions in 2003. Both special sessions were immediately after the 2003 regular session, and both focused on funding the state budget, particularly education funding. It got very messy, with the governor bringing suit against the legislature for not passing a bill to fund government operations, education funding being held "hostage," and now 2004 elections to include initiatives and candidates lining up against the special session outcome. Nevada's legislature does not convene in 2004.

*From Cathy Martin, North Carolina*

The North Carolina General Assembly held two special sessions in 2003. The first was a Thanksgiving week redistricting session (Nov. 24-25) in which new House and Senate districts were drawn and various changes were made to the election laws. Following these changes, proper venue in any apportionment or redistricting case is now the Superior Court of Wake County (Raleigh), and a three-judge

panel must be appointed in any action challenging the districts. These provisions are themselves now the subject of litigation.

The second special session resulted in major economic development changes, including appropriating \$24 million for industrial site infrastructure for major projects, providing incentives for major pharmaceutical and bioprocessing facilities, and extending and enhancing corporate tax credits for cigarette exportation.

North Carolina also had a single chamber "reconvened session" in September 2003 by the Senate alone, which took up the issue of "Civil Justice and Insurance Reform" (a.k/a. medical malpractice) legislation. The Senate had been interested in special sessions on economic development incentives and medical malpractice, but the House would not agree, so the first regular session adjournment resolution authorized the Senate to come back on its own. It passed legislation on its own, which presumably will be sent to the House upon convening of the second regular session in May.

We also had a reconvened veto session following adjournment, though no attempt was made to override the veto.

The regular session adjourned amid some discord between the House and Senate, and the regular interim studies bill was left on the table. Hence, we've seen a plethora of single chamber select study committees this interim.

*Debbie Tavenner, Ohio Legislative*

Has your legislature held special sessions in 2003? No special sessions in Ohio.

What is expected for your 2004 session? The Ohio Legislature has been active since January. The Legislature finalized action on the concealed carry bill (HB 12) and HB 272 which the title states is: “to specifically declare that same-sex marriages are against the strong public policy of the state, to declare that the recognition or extension by the state of the specific statutory benefits of legal marriage to nonmarital relationships is against the public policy of the state, and to make other declarations regarding same-sex marriages.”

*From Susan Zavacky, Pennsylvania*

We held no special session in 2003 (the regular was exhausting enough; we had the dubious distinction of completing the state budget in time for Christmas!). 2004 will be a continuation of unfinished 2003 business (we have a 2 year session). Two of the big issues will be property tax reform and medical malpractice reform.

*From Clare Cholik, South Dakota*

We had a special session this past summer to create a health insurance risk pool to provide coverage to people who lost their health insurance coverage through no fault of their own. It was on June 26-27, 2003. No, I don't anticipate any special sessions this year.

*Patricia Helgerson, Wisconsin*

Has your legislature held special sessions this 2003? If so, what was the reason? In January 2003, Governor Doyle issued Executive Order No. 2 calling for a special session to consider legislation relating to appropriation and funding revisions. Jr3 SB-1 became the first act of the 2003/2004 session. Since then, the legislature has called itself into extraordinary session six times to consider legislation such as Indian gaming compact approval,

open enrollment program for schools, local levy limits, lowering the prohibited blood alcohol concentration level, amount of MTBE in gasoline, single sales factor apportionment of corporate income, and a few others. In all, 19 bills were considered, 10 were enacted (one partially vetoed), and one was vetoed.

What is expected for your 2004 session? One topic that might be addressed in the 2004 session is a reintroduction of legislation to permit weapon conceal-carry. (In 2003, such legislation was vetoed by the Governor. In early 2004, the veto was overridden by the Senate and sustained—with a one vote majority—by the Assembly.) Other possible topics include “Mad-Cow Disease”, school choice, same-sex/gender neutral marriage, economic development, and budget crisis management for local and state governments.

\* \* \* \*

## State News

*From Jennifer Bernier, Connecticut*

In February, as our regular session began, the Connecticut House of Representatives took the historic step of voting to authorize the Speaker of the House to create a Committee of Inquiry (2003 HR No. 702) to investigate alleged misconduct by our sitting governor, John G Rowland, and to determine whether “sufficient grounds exist for the house to exercise its power to impeach.” The Connecticut constitution does not provide a clear standard for impeachment (2004-R-0134) and to our knowledge this is only the second time that a Committee of Inquiry has been established since the adoption of our Fundamental Orders in 1639. The Speaker has directed the committee to conclude its business by

April 14, 2004 with an option to request one-week extensions beyond that time if necessary.

In our quest to gather information on impeachment proceedings, many of you have already been very helpful regarding your state's procedures and resources. If any other state has additional information to augment our burgeoning library on impeachment, please feel free to contact us directly.

And, please forgive us if it takes us a little longer than usual to respond to your questions. We've been running a little ragged around the edges over here.

Good luck to you all this session!

*From Anne Rottman, Missouri*

For the first time since I became librarian (and you all know that was awhile back), we had our budget reduced. Consequently Thomson-West caught the brunt of our cutbacks. We cancelled several of our subscriptions with them.

Other than that news, we continue to serve the general assembly members, support staff, and the general public to the best of our abilities.



*From Debbie Tavenner, Ohio*

Great news! The House of Representatives just put the Journals online going back to the beginning of the 2003, which is the current 125th Ohio General Assembly. According to a news article in Gongwer's Ohio Report, there are no immediate plans for the Senate Journals to be online." The Journals can be found as a "quick access link" on the General Assembly's web site, <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/search.cfm>.

*From Patricia Helgerson, Wisconsin*

The challenge and burden of moving the LRB to new quarters last October was rewarded by a huge attendance at our open house on January 20. Everyone who attended commented on the beauty of our new space and on the convenience of having all our staff on one floor. The Bureau's placement in the same building with two other legislative service agencies is also very much appreciated.

Abbigail Swanton, our Fall 2003 practicum library student from UW-Madison, is now working with us as a temporary, part-time library services assistant.

The Wisconsin Legislature's Web page (<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>) now features a "New Notification Service" which allows interested users to "Track legislative activities on proposals, committees, authors and subjects by receiving notification emails". It has been nominated for the American Association of Law Libraries' "AALL Public Access to Government Information Award". (Winner to be announced April 2004.) The Notification Service was created and is supported by the Wisconsin Legislative Technology Services Bureau.

## Your Opinion Needed!

Help us help you plan future annual meeting and professional development seminars sessions . Answer the following questions and submit to Janna Goodwin, 7700 East First Place, Denver Colorado, 80230, fax 303-364-7800 or [janna.goodwin@ncsl.org](mailto:janna.goodwin@ncsl.org)

1. What topics would you like to see discussed in future roundtables at annual meeting or professional development seminars?
2. What topics would you be willing to present at future roundtables?
3. Other suggestions or comments?

*Thanks!*



## Mark Your Calendars!

*The 2004 Professional Development Seminar will be in Tallahassee, Florida. The tentative date is October 27-30.*

*More details to come!*

## NCSL Publications

### Books/Articles

- *Transportation Series: Traffic Safety Update 200*
- *Transportation Review: State Legislatures Examine Intelligent Transportation Solutions—Sundeen*
- *Protecting Water System Security Information—Morandi*
- *Cell Phones and Driving—2003 State Legislative Update*
- *Children, Youth and Family 2003 State Legislative Summary*

### State Legislative Rereports

- Liability Protections to Promote Brownfields Redevelopment
- State Crime Legislation in 2003
- Can Merit Scholarships Survive?

### LegisBriefs:

- Faith-Based Initiatives in Social Services, January 2004, Vol. 12, No. 6
- The Life Insurance Regulation Compact, January 2004, Vol. 12, No. 3
- New Approaches to Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation, January 2004, Vol. 12, No. 4
- The Methamphetamine Menace, January 2004, Vol. 12, No. 1
- State Experiences With Crowd-Out Under SCHIP, January 2004, Vol. 12, No. 2
- Tax and Landowner Revenue from Wind Projects, January 2004, Vol. 12, No. 5
- Mold, Nov./Dec. 2003, Vol. 11, No. 45
- Identity Security, Nov./Dec. 2003, Vol. 11, No. 43
- Gasoline Prices Funding Before- and After-School Programs, Nov./Dec. 2003, Vol. 11, No. 48
- Financing Child Support—Why You Can't Afford Not To, Nov./Dec. 2003, Vol. 11, No. 47
- Birth Defects Registries: A Resource for Research, Nov./Dec. 2003, Vol. 11, No. 46

## Deb Priest Retires

*by Marilyn Johnson, North Dakota*

At the end of 2003, Deborah S. Priest, Director of the Assembly Information Center in Albany retired from nearly 20 years service to the New York House. Most of us know Deb from her work on the initial development and following implementation of the LRL Notable Documents Awards program.

Because of Deb's vision and years of commitment, LRL now annually expresses its formal, professional appreciation to government and other public and private nonprofit organizations for extraordinarily fine work available to legislative research staffs and legislators. Thanks to Deb for making that recognition a reality. Deb has a wonderful way of catching up folks in her enthusiasm for the moment. She even convinced legislative librarians to sample lutefisk (cod soaked in lye) at Minot's Hostfest during the PDS in North Dakota. Now that's some serious talent.

Moving into her next adventure, Deb (who is also a world traveler) will be enjoying the home she and husband Ron built in Maine. On her travels, we hope Deb looks her LRL friends up and sometimes drops into annual and fall conferences to share news of life in the real world.

*Read the resolution passed in New York commending Deb's dedication to service on the following page of Newsline!*



\* \* \* \*

## New York Resolution Commending Deorah S. Priest

COMMENDING Deborah S. Priest upon the occasion of her retirement after more than 16 years of distinguished service to the New York State Assembly, to be celebrated on January 15, 2004, at the Victory Cafe

WHEREAS, This Assembled Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize such notable New York State employees as Deborah S. Priest, for her outstanding service and her significant contribution to the modernization and efficient functioning of the New York State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Priest was born in Rome, New York; the birthplace of the Erie Canal and Oneida County home of Schultz and Dooley; and

WHEREAS, In 1969 Deborah completed her B. A. degree, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa at Elmira College, in German and American Literature; and

WHEREAS, She was a German Language Teacher at Rome Free Academy from 1969-1971; she continued her Slavic studies from 1971-1976 as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Department of Germanic Studies at the State University of New York at Albany; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, she earned her M. A. degree in Germanic Languages and Literature and continued studying from 1973-1976,

completing 48 credit hours toward a Ph.D. in the same field at the State University of New York at Albany; and

WHEREAS, For the next decade, Deb would climb the academic library ladder at Russell Sage College, starting as a Technical Processing and Serials Clerk from 1976-1977, a Serials and Interlibrary Loan Paraprofessional from 1977-1984, then Interlibrary Loan Librarian from 1984-1987; and

WHEREAS, In 1984 Deborah completed her Master of in Library Science degree at the State University of New York at Albany; and

WHEREAS, On November 2, 1987, Deb was hired by then Secretary to the New York State Assembly Ways & Means Committee, Carl P. Carlucci, to improve the quality of information being used by the Ways & Means Committee and to raise it from the expedient to the replicable and authoritative; and

WHEREAS, In the Fall of 1992, the Ways & Means Library moved to its present home in Agency Building #4, 14th floor; at that time the libraries of the Commissions, Program and Counsel, and Ways & Means offices were combined to form the New York State Assembly Information Center with Deborah Priest as its able Director; a position she held until she retired in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Deb was involved in the planning and organization of the National Conference of State Legislature's Legislative Research Librarians Professional Development Seminar in the fall of 1995 in

Albany; and

WHEREAS, Deb was also instrumental in creating and organizing the Notable Documents Award presented by the National Conference of State Legislature's Legislative Research Librarians staff section each year to states that publish outstanding documents through print or other media; in 1998, the first Notable Document Award was presented; Deb served as chair of the Notable Documents Award Committee for the organization from 1998 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Deb was recognized by the National Conference of State Legislature's Legislative Research Librarians with the prized Legislative Staff Achievement Award; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Deborah S. Priest upon the occasion of her retirement after more than 16 years of distinguished service, and to wish her well in all her future endeavors, and be it further



Salt Palace • Salt Lake City, Utah



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