



# Legislative Research Librarians NEWSLINE

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Summer 2006

## Chair's Column

*Tracey Kimball  
Librarian, New Mexico*

In my corner of the world there are a number of current things to celebrate, such as the first rain in months that lasted more than a few minutes, getting to the end of the budget year without having to cut back, and smooth planning for our upcoming Legislative Research Librarian events. The work of our state hosts – Eddie Weeks for the Annual Meeting in Tennessee, and the gang of five headed by Marian Rogers for the Professional Development Seminar in Wisconsin – have made the LRL officers' jobs easy.

So I'm using my final column to contribute some additional reasons for getting together and celebrating at these events, and searched to see what else will be special about our meeting days. In the words of columnist Dave Barry, I am not making this up.

### Nashville Annual Meeting

Aug. 15 is National Relaxation Day

Aug. 16 is Harmonic Convergence Day

Aug. 17 is Self-Starting Day

Aug. 18 is Moot Point Day

Don't forget that August 8-16 is Elvis International Tribute Week.

### Madison PDS

Oct. 18 is Time Out Day

Oct. 19 is New Friends Day

Oct. 20 is National Off the Grid Day

Oct. 21 is Reptile Awareness Day

And we'll be right in sync with

Getting the World to Beat a Path to Your Door Week,

October 15-21.

My almost-complete year as chair has been fun and fulfilling. Thanks to all of you who participated in a rich variety of ways, from coming to meetings, being on a committee, responding to listserv appeals to sitting back and reading Newsline or checking in with our staff section web page at NCSL

The 50-state survey project is moving along so look for an announcement later this summer that NCSL's in-house surveys will be posted and easy to find. Keep going in this issue to see profiles of our meetings hosts, Robbie LaFleur's adventures in Algeria and more news.

Happy celebrating,

Tracey



### Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section

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

Chair: Tracey Kimball, New Mexico

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## Profile of a Member Library: Tennessee



by Eddie Weeks, Tennessee

### Tennessee:

Tennessee was the 16th state to join the Union, we joined in 1796. (We waited to make sure the first 13 knew what they were doing before we decided to join them.)

We changed our minds and seceded from the Union on June 8, 1861, the last of the 11 to leave.

We changed our minds again and re-joined the Union on July 24, 1866, the first of the 11 to re-join, and we have remained a part of the country ever since.

Tennessee currently has 95 counties, divided into the three Grand Divisions of the State: Eastern, Middle, and Western. These Grand Divisions are represented by the three stars on the Tennessee state flag.

### Nashville:

Nashville became the capitol of the state under the Constitution of 1835. (Knoxville was the prior capitol).

Work began on the state capitol building in 1845, and ended in 1859, just in time for secession.

Two people are buried on the

grounds of the state capitol, James K. and Sara Polk.

Two people are buried inside the capitol building, William Strickland and Samuel Morgan (architect and building commissioner).

### Legislative Library:

The current incarnation of the Legislative Library was begun in 1977 with the creation of the Office of Legal Services. Prior to then, the Legislative Council Committee staffed the Legislative Library.

The Legislative Library maintains copies of all Acts and Resolutions passed by the General Assembly, and serves as a selective state depository library. The Library also keeps copies of materials sent to the Legislature by NCSL, CSG, ALEC, and other agencies.

The Tennessee Legislative Library is a small library, with a staff of one librarian and one assistant.



Statue of President Andrew Jackson



## 2006 Annual Meeting Nashville, Tennessee

August 14-18

### LRL Agenda Highlights

#### Monday, August 14

- \* Exemplary Staff Services
- \* The Effect of Direct Democracy on State Constitutions

#### Tuesday, August 15

- \* LRL Luncheon & Business Meeting

*(Sponsored by WestGroup)*

- \* Tours

Tennessee State Capitol  
Tennessee State Library & Archives

#### Wednesday, August 16

- \* Ethical Decision Making for Legislative Staff
- \* Legislative Staff Diversity
- \* LRL Reception  
*(Sponsored by LexisNexis)*

#### Thursday, August 17

- \* Crafting a Successful Diversity Strategy
- \* Legislative Staff Luncheon

#### Friday, August 18

- \* Closing Plenary with Peter Hart & Frank Luntz
- \* Annual Meeting Adjourns

See full agenda at  
[www.ncsl.org/LRL/am06.htm](http://www.ncsl.org/LRL/am06.htm)

## An Adventure in Algeria

by *Robbie LaFleur, Minnesota*

In January, 2006, I had the unexpected opportunity and pleasure to participate in an NCSL-sponsored trip to Algiers. There were six members on our very congenial team, charged with assessing the research capacity of the Algerian Parliament. There were acquaintances among us, but no one had worked closely together, so it was amazing how well we fit together: Joy Kolin, Program Specialist with NCSL's International Programs Division; Tim Storey, an NCSL Senior Fellow with the Legislative Management program; Hannah Shostack, a researcher from New Jersey; Mike Adams, the IT Director for the Colorado Legislature; and Senator Jeff Wentworth, with the Texas Legislature.

Every minute of the five-day trip seemed filled, morning to night. We met with staff and members in both the legislative bodies, drank endless small glasses of mint tea or lovely espresso, and socialized over many meals. I felt quite sure that I ate the equivalent of a whole lamb, all by myself, during our stay. We were treated with unflinching graciousness, and our hosts were as interested in us as we were in their jobs. And I feel quite sure this is one of the few times I will travel to and from my hotel with police escorts pulling over all cars en route. That was quite an adventure. Each time, with the number of looming trucks and seeming close calls, it seemed impossible our cars would get through all the narrow gaps unscathed.

Our lovely hotel, the El-Djazair, was originally built in 1889. The tile work in Mediterranean cobalt and turquoise was stunning. My room was large and comfortable, with windows

that actually opened out to a garden and hillside of homes. A basket of fruit included fresh dates still on the branch. (Hmmm, dates grow on branches? I'd never even thought about it.) They were fabulous. Algerians feel they have the best dates and olives in the world. A two-kilo box of dates was included in a parting gift from the Conseil de la Nation. I lugged four kilos home.



Half our days were packed with meetings with various staff groups and deputies from the People's National Assembly, the lower body, often referred to by its initials, APN. ([www.apn.dz/](http://www.apn.dz/)) The other half were with the upper body, the Conseil de la Nation.

Our first full day began with a reception with the Speaker of the People's National Assembly. Speaker Saadani talked about Algeria being an important partner with the United States in the fight against terrorism, how Algeria has been a victim of this scourge and has paid highly for it. The Speaker also talked about how the joint workshops with NCSL in the past were very successful. Many people we spoke with during our visit expressed appreciation for all of the opportunities they have had to work

with NCSL and other governments. The opportunity to work with foreign colleagues has "created other methods, other ways of thinking, other perspectives," one staff person noted. "Even if you don't see immediate results, the seeds are diffused and the crop will be further."

The Algerian Parliament has separate libraries for the APN and the Conseil de la Nation. The descriptions given in the APN Library, about the size of the collection and about the clientele they serve, paralleled our own Minnesota Legislative Reference Library. In other ways, in terms of outreach services and the use of technology, the Library was behind us by a few years. I was quite surprised by the answer to a question Joy asked at the end of the tour. "Are you satisfied with the level of use you receive?" "Oui," was the response. None of my colleagues, who are always working to deliver more and better service, would give that answer! However, the Library staff members are very interested in developing their library and creating a useful virtual library.

After the trip I compiled many impressions and photos for my staff. It's not a polished document, but one I would certainly share with anyone. If you have any questions, or would like me to send you the pdf of my impressions, please drop me a line at: [rlafleur@lrl.leg.mn](mailto:rlafleur@lrl.leg.mn).



## Profile of a Member Library: Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau



*Capitol Badger*

The Wisconsin Legislative Reference Library was established in 1901 by Charles McCarthy, who envisioned an informed and efficient Wisconsin government resulting from information gathered and distributed through his library. Chapter 149, Laws of 1963, changed the agency's name to the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to better reflect its broad spectrum of services: bill drafting, library, and research services. The library is named for Dr. H. Rupert Theobald who retired in 1994 after serving as LRB chief for 30 years.

The library contains approximately 85,000 titles and is the single most comprehensive source of information on Wisconsin legislation. Unlike legislative libraries in many other states, it is open to the public. In addition to housing reference and circulating collections, the library is also a state-level Wisconsin documents depository. The library gives priority to acquiring reports and studies mandated by the Legislature and is often the only source for these publications. One of the most unique, valuable, and heavily used resources in the Theobald Legislative Library is the newspaper clippings collection (which was started in the early 1900s.) Over time, the format of the

clippings has changed and now offers the oldest clippings on microfiche, later decades on paper, and newest clippings are digital.

The library is managed by five professional librarians and one library services assistant. In addition to acquisitions and cataloging, the staff also publishes the Selective List of Recent Acquisitions, Tap the Power: An Annotated Bibliography, and the Index to the Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature. Legislative analysts in the LRB's research section staff the reference desk and write most of the Bureau publications.

As one of the oldest legislative libraries in the country, the LRB served as the model for establishment of the Congressional Research Service. We hope that you can see and learn more about our library by attending the LRL Professional Development Seminar, October 18-21, here in Madison.

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/Conference>

The Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, is located at One East Main, Suite 200, Madison.

LRB home page <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/>

Library Services page <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/Library/index.htm>

LRBCAT: library catalog <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/lrbcat.htm>



*The Capitol*

## 2006 Professional Development Seminar

October 18-21, 2006

Madison, Wisconsin

### “Cutting Edge Librarianship”

Pack your bags! Madison, Wisconsin--the seat of Wisconsin government, the home of the University of Wisconsin Badgers, and a favorite Midwest travel destination--and the Legislative Reference Bureau library staff invites you to attend the 2006 LRL Professional Development Seminar (October 18-21). Be sure to visit the PDS Web site, which will be updated regularly [www.legis.state.wi.us/Conference/](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/Conference/)

At the PDS you'll be immersed in programs about "Cutting Edge Librarianship", have a chance to relax and network with your colleagues, and (yes) you'll have a chance to eat cheese and drink beer. Speakers and resources unique to the Madison area have been selected, so you'll have a taste of new ideas with a Midwest flavor. You'll tour the State Capitol, Legislative Reference Bureau, and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center. The Saturday morning LRL business meeting session will be held in a Capitol hearing room and is BYOB: Bring Your Own Breakfast. You can shop the Farmer's Market around capitol square where you'll find bakeries, apple/vegetable, and even some beef jerky vendors to choose from. On this trip, plan to arrive early and stay late... the Madison/Dane County area has lots to see and do.

### Seminar Information

#### Seminar registration fees:

- \$ 275 Legislative staff
- \$ 125 Spouse or guest
- \$ 325 Private sector
- \$ 95 Day Students

NCSL must receive your seminar registration by **October 9, 2006**. The registration fee is payable in advance to NCSL or at registration. On-site registration is available if you are unable to register by the pre-registration deadline.

**Spouse/Guest Registrations:** The \$125 spouse/guest fee includes admission to all meal functions and social events. The fee must be paid in full at registration. NCSL cannot bill for spouse/guest registration fees.

**Cancellation/Refunds:** All cancellations must be made in writing and may be faxed to 303.364.7811. Cancellations must be in writing and received in the NCSL Denver office postmarked or faxed by **October 17** to be refunded, minus a \$50 processing fee. Fees cannot be refunded for registrations canceled after the conference begins.

**Substitutions:** Substitutions are available on prepaid registrations only until October 9. Sorry, no on-site substitutions.

**Register online, by mail or by fax:** Online registration is available at , or registrations can be faxed to 303.364.7811. Mail your completed registration form with payment to NCSL Registration, 7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80217. Mailed and faxed forms will not be confirmed by phone.

**Hotel Reservations** A block of rooms has been reserved at The Madison Concourse Hotel, 1 West Dayton Street, Madison, WI 53703. Make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel at 608.294.3010 and indicate that you are attending the NCSL conference to receive a room rate of \$119, plus tax. The hotel reservation deadline is **September 25**. After that date, the hotel will accept reservations at the seminar rate based on availability.

**General Information** The fall season is a wonderful time to visit Madison. Your tolerance of cool temperatures and sometimes breezy conditions will dictate your wardrobe choices. Snow is possible but not likely. Average high temperatures are around 60 degrees; average low around 38 degrees. Normal October precipitation is a little over 2 inches and sometimes it can get quite warm in October. Check the Madison weather forecast link on the PDS site as the conference approaches.

**NCSL Discount Airfare** Please book your flight through Andavo Travel, NCSL's official travel headquarters, by calling 1.800.825.3283, or in Colorado, 303.694.4344, ext. 2. Andavo Travel maintains a 24-hour, toll-free line for changes and emergencies.

**Airport and Ground Transportation** The hotel offers complimentary airport shuttles; call upon arrival (courtesy phone in baggage claim area). Cab fare one way is about \$10.00.

#### Need more information?

Call 303.856.1410 or email [janna.goodwin@ncsl.org](mailto:janna.goodwin@ncsl.org)

#### Conference website:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/Conference/>



## 2006 Professional Development Seminar Preliminary Agenda

Visit the conference website:  
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/Conference/>

### Wednesday, October 18

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Reception (*Sponsored by West Group*)

### Thursday, October 19

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast/Registration

9:00 a.m. - 10:30a.m. Government Web Site Evaluation and Management of Web Content—Prof. Kristin R. Eschenfelder, UW Madison School of Information & Library Studies

10:45a.m. - 11:45a.m. WisconsinEye and broadcasting the legislative process—Ambassador Tom Loftus: WisconsinEye Board of Directors, author of *The Art of Legislative Politics*, and former Wisconsin legislator

11:45 am - 1:00 pm Luncheon

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Podcasting/Oral history how-tos: LRB Legislative Editor Staff;  
Legislative Reference Bureau Library tour: LRB Library Staff

2:45 pm - 4:00 pm Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center/Oral History Project

5:00 p.m. Dinner on your own

### Friday, October 20

8:00 a.m. - 8:30a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. - 10:30a.m. Blogging in Libraries: Bonnie Shucha, Reference & Electronic Services Librarian, U.W. Madison Law Library

10:45 a.m. - 11:45a.m. Animal Disease and Human Health—the Web-Based Project: Christine Marsh, Content Manager, Wildlife Disease Information Node

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own

1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Succession Management: Donna Scheeder, Director, Law Library Services, Library of Congress

3:00p.m. - 4:00 p.m. State Capitol tour

5:00 p.m. Dutch Treat Dinner

### Saturday, October 21

6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Farmer's Market (around Capitol Square)

8:30 a.m. - 10:00a.m. Breakfast: BYOB (Bring Your Own Breakfast) from farmer's market;  
LRL Business Meeting (Capitol Hearing Room)

## NCSL Publications

### Reports

- State Tax Actions 2005
- State Budget Actions FY 2004 and FY 2005
- Traffic Safety and Public Health: State Legislative Actions 2005
- Surface Transportation Funding
- Victims' Rights CD
- Cancer Survivorship: State Policy Issues

### LegisBriefs

#### April/May

- *Predictive Genetic Testing of Minors*  
Vol. 14, No. 19
- *The Professional Science Master's Degree*  
Vol. 14, No. 20
- *Medicaid and Community Services for Developmental Disabilities*  
Vol. 14, No. 21
- *Day Laborers*  
Vol. 14, No. 22
- *State Ethics Commissions*  
Vol. 14, No. 23
- *Nursing Home Transition*  
Vol. 14, No. 24

#### June/July

- *Biomass: A Many Splendored Thing*  
Vol. 14, No. 25
- *Health Epidemics on Tribal Lands*  
Vol. 14, No. 26
- *Cybercrime: Adapting to New Attacks*  
Vol. 14, No. 27
- *Safety Belts*  
Vol. 14, No. 28
- *Radio Frequency Identification*  
Vol. 14, No. 29
- *Exemptions for Childhood Immunizations*  
Vol. 14, No. 30

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**Save These Dates!**

NCSL Annual Meeting  
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Nashville, Tennessee



LRL Professional Development Seminar  
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Madison, Wisconsin



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