



# Legislative Research Librarians NEWSLINE

Volume XXXII, No. 1

Spring/Summer 2007

## Chair's Column

*Kristin Ford, Idaho*



The Idaho Capitol, our former residence.

Greetings from Frankenstein's Dungeon! That's the name that Idaho legislative staffers use to refer to our "new" digs. In April 2007, we all moved out of the Capitol so that it can be renovated. They plan to dig underground wings on each end, as was done to the Texas Capitol.



Library Assistant Mark Robertson gets us packed up and moved out!

For the next few years, we will work in, and the Legislature will convene in, the old abandoned county courthouse building across the street from the Capitol. This building, despite its ugliness, is the darling of a handful of historic preservation-

ists, and so it has so far escaped being renovated or razed to the ground. On the other hand, it is so cumbersome a building that no agency has wanted to occupy it, so it has been sitting empty for years. Until now! Me, I'm not complaining. My library has moved from a window-less basement area of the Capitol, to occupying the entire fifth floor of Frankenstein's Dungeon, with windows around on all sides. My assistant and I are on a sunshine high!

Mind you, we've noticed that the windows seem paper thin, and it seems likely that we will be roasting in July and freezing in December, but we'll worry about that in July and December. Did I mention that the two floors above me are full of jail cells? (I have lots of ideas for those come session.) Oh, and the elevators operate only to the third floor, so it seems likely that we will have fewer drop-in's and more requests via phone and email. Maybe I'll even get to drop a few pounds off my waistline. We are mostly unpacked, although there is still a wall of boxes around my fort, er, desk area. All in all, it's been interesting and will probably only continue to get more interesting!

Hard as it will be to tear myself away from my Tower, I am really looking forward to our LRL meetings this year! Our annual meeting in Boston in August is providing us with lots of opportunities for tours and historical tangents, and our joint meeting with the researchers and drafters in Santa Fe this fall will be packed

*continued on page 2*



legislative  
research  
librarians

Legislative Research Librarians  
Staff Section

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

Kristin Ford, Idaho  
LRL Chair

### In This Issue:

Chair's Column	1
Kentucky/North Carolina Exchange	2
Online Publications Notices	2
E-Learning Guide	3
Annual Meeting	3
2007 PDS	4
State News	5
NCSL Publications	7
LRLers in Germany	insert

Chair's Column *continued*

with information and networking. It's not too early to start thinking about registering and attending one or two of these meetings! Start practicing your Boston twang now!

My best to all of you! — Kristin



Frankenstein's Dungeon

### NCSL Online Publications

Oftentimes NCSL produces publications that are only available online at our website and not available in print. These pubs are also unavailable from our bookstore. However, we are aware that many librarians would like notification when these articles are published, so we are designing an email group that will receive notices when these are posted online. Please note these are bona fide online articles and newsletters, and *not* our regular NCSL webpage updates.

If you would like to receive these notifications, please email [janna.goodwin@ncsl.org](mailto:janna.goodwin@ncsl.org) and provide your name, office and email.

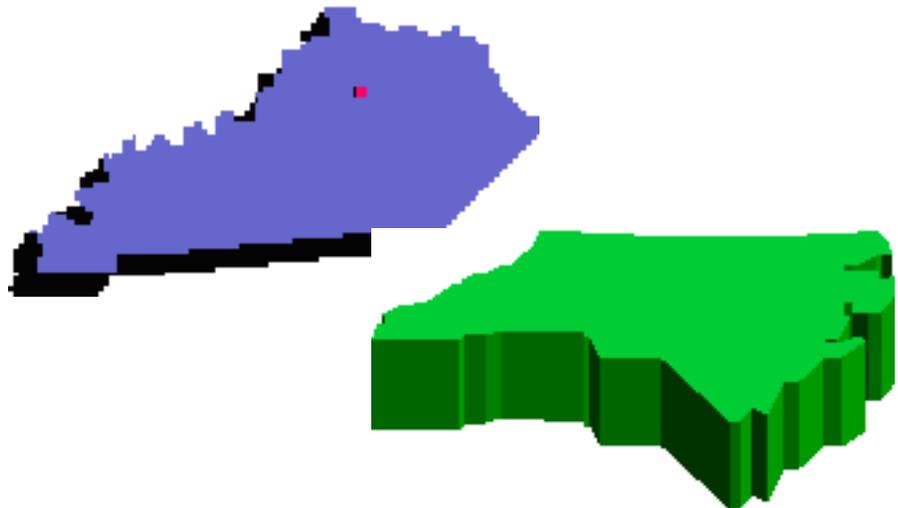
## Kentucky – North Carolina Legislative Staff Exchange May 8-9, 2007

by Cathy L. Martin, North Carolina

The Kentucky – North Carolina Legislative Staff Exchange kicked off in early May when 9 Kentucky staff members spent 2 days with North Carolina staff exploring the similarities and differences in their operations. The Kentucky group represented a cross section of staff areas and were matched up with their NC counterparts or with staff members representing areas in which an interest had been expressed. Though the KY Library was not personally represented, the KY Committee Staff Administrator and Assistant Director for Staff Development shadowed the NC Legislative Librarian and engaged in a lively exchange of ideas. Other KY staff members making the trip were the Director of Public Information, Revisor of Statutes, Chief Information Officer (IT), Application Development Manager, Administrative Officer for Legislative Process, Chief Economist, Record Compiler and Intern Coordinator, and the Network Services and Support Manager.

Taking place during the legislative session to get the flavor of the work - but short enough and scheduled in such a way as not to be onerous - the staff arrived between bill drafting deadlines and were introduced, talked to, toured around, fed (often and well!) and generally worn out by the May 8-9 trip. The North Carolina staff look forward to its visit to Kentucky, which is expected to take place during the 2008 session.

This exchange grew out of a program initiated by the Virginia Division of Legislative Services several years ago, which was designed as an annual staff exchange program with its counterparts in other states. The Virginia staff visited North Carolina in 2004, with the reverse exchange taking place in 2005. Virginia has engaged in other exchanges as well. Though not officially under the auspices of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC), the SLC has actively considered sponsorship of the proposal and may indeed have announced its decision by the publication date of this article.



## E-Learning Guide: Coming Soon

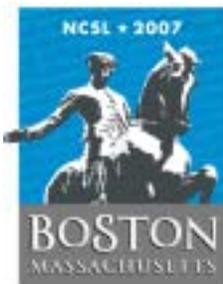


What on earth is a Podcast? What's the difference between a webinar and a webcast? I can find YouTube and MySpace, but how do I find training opportunities on the web?

The Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) will soon complete a guide to e-learning for legislative staff, which will be available in a CD-ROM version and on NCSL's website. LSCC, and its E-Learning and Technology Review Subcommittee, know that a significant challenge for legislative managers is providing professional development opportunities. While NCSL staff sections offer excellent opportunities through annual meeting training sessions and professional development conferences, most staff are not able to attend these activities. We need to use technology to provide quality professional development opportunities to meet these needs.

The interactive online guide will show you currently available technology and provide examples of how e-learning can work in our legislative environment. You'll be able to click on links to blogs, webcasts, wikis and other offerings as you read the guide. These links will show real world examples of the various types of products. The guide will also simplify and demystify the terminology so you can feel more comfortable with the technology.

The guide is undergoing final review and editing now and will become available later this summer. NCSL will send notices and links to all staff sections, so watch your mailbox for the opportunity to access this exciting new tool.



## 2007 Annual Meeting

Come to Boston and MAKE HISTORY

This summer, thousands of state legislators and legislative staff will come to Boston—the cradle of the American Revolution—to revolutionize ideas for America's future.

NCSL's **Strong States Strong Nation 2007** State Legislative Summit is the largest, most prestigious and balanced meeting state lawmakers and staff can attend anywhere in the nation, and it is hosted by America's premier legislative organization, the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Honor the past in one of America's oldest cities, celebrate today's innovations addressing the states' most pressing problems, and make history by shaping a new future.

Whether you are Republican or Democrat, moderate, conservative or liberal, partisan or non-partisan, plan to come to **Boston, August 5-9** and **MAKE HISTORY!**

### Preliminary LRL Agenda

#### *Sunday, August 5*

- Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee
- New Officers Training
- Librarian Meet & Greet – Starbucks, Westin Hotel

#### *Monday, August 6*

- Boston Social Law Library Tour
- Tour of Statehouse
- Massachusetts State Library Tour
- Tour of the Atheneum
- Night at Fenway Park

#### *Tuesday, August 7*

- Historical Legislator Databases
- LRL Business Meeting & Luncheon
- Managing Change
- Dealing with Conflict

#### *Wednesday, August 8*

- Mardi Gras Brunch
- Demographic Trends
- Separation of Powers
- LRL Roundtable & Reception

#### *Thursday, August 9*

- Legislative Ethics
- Legislative Staff Luncheon with Jimmy Orr
- Executive Session: Conversations with Leaders
- Boston Pops Concert

Please consult the LRL website for updates to the agenda.

<http://www.ncsl.org/lrl/>



## 2006 Professional Development Seminar September 10-12, 2007 Santa Fe, New Mexico

*Joint with the Legal Services Staff Section and  
Research and Committee Staff Section*

**Vamos Todos a Santa Fe**  
*by Tracey Kimball, New Mexico*

Let's all go to Santa Fe... for our professional development seminar September 10-12, 2007. Any PDS is a great time for networking and attending programs tailored to our special responsibilities and interests. But Santa Fe also offers plenty to see and do outside of the conference hours. Opportunities for visitors are one of the reasons for Santa Fe's nickname, "The City Different."

We have world-class museums of art, Native American culture and southwestern archaeology, New Mexico history and one just for kids.

We have adobe architecture and the country's oldest state capitol building, now the Palace of the Governors history museum. The 17<sup>th</sup> century central plaza is steps away from the conference hotel, and a great place to sit and enjoy people-watching with your Frito pie from the Five and Dime or ice cream from the Plaza Bakery. Take a look at the Soldiers Monument, erected there in 1868, where the word "savage" was chiseled from the phrase "savage Indians" on a sunny day in 1974 by a mysterious stonemason who was never apprehended.

We have a full spectrum of national and international cuisines, including New Mexican food. You can try chile once, or have it at every meal. Remember not to spell it "chili" while you're here, and that our official state question, Red or Green?, is what you'll hear in restaurants when ordering almost any chile dish. There's no foolproof guideline for which is hotter, so consult with the waiter or try Christmas, a combination of both.

Shopping in the plaza area runs the gamut from chain clothing stores to art of all kinds, especially Indian jewelry, pottery and weaving. You can get background for buying Indian art at [www.ciaccouncil.org](http://www.ciaccouncil.org), and more from the Indian vendor program at the portal of the Palace of the Governors at [www.newmexicoindianart.org](http://www.newmexicoindianart.org).

The web site of the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce can guide you in the direction of any personal interest: [www.santafechamber.org](http://www.santafechamber.org). The Santa Fe Arts and Culture organization has a great list of Free Things to Do at [www.santafeartsandculture.org/free-discounts/free-things-to-do](http://www.santafeartsandculture.org/free-discounts/free-things-to-do).

If you have extra time and want to see other points of interest in the state, the Department of Tourism's site at [newmexico.org](http://newmexico.org) can help you plan. Or to see if you want to come early for the Santa Fe Fiesta, September 6-9, look at the Fiesta Council's calendar at [www.santafefiesta.org](http://www.santafefiesta.org). Fiesta begins for most of us on Thursday night with the burning of Zozobra, a 49' tall effigy of "Old Man Gloom," a tradition started in the 1920s by the city's active artist community. His web site is [www.zozobra.com](http://www.zozobra.com). The many parades are fun but keep in mind that they will also disrupt traffic if you plan to be driving then.

Host staff members will be glad to answer questions while you're here, or contact me before you come, [tracey.kimball@nmlegis.gov](mailto:tracey.kimball@nmlegis.gov), 505-986-4667.

In the meantime, here are some thoughts for visitors:

- Plan for layers of clothing to accommodate 70 degree days and 40 degree nights.
- Remember that Santa Fe's altitude is 7,000' and you might tire more easily on a walk or hike or be more quickly affected by alcohol.
- In addition to a thinner atmosphere than at sea level, we have an annual average of 300 days of sunshine. Think about sunscreen.
- We also have a less than 40% average humidity and 15 inches of precipitation per year. Consider taking a water bottle when you walk out, and be forewarned that you have to ask for a glass of water when eating out. A city water conservation ordinance prohibits restaurants from providing one automatically.

See you in September!

## 2007 PDS Highlights

### Plenary Programs

- Opening Plenary: Conveying Your Message Effectively
- Luncheon: The History of Law in New Mexico
- Sources for Native American/ Tribal Information Law

### Concurrent Sessions

- Archival Preservation
- Developing Underperformers
- Help for New Managers
- Indian Law Primer: Current Changes and Directions
- Introduction to Drafting Legislation (separate track)
- Legal Services Distinguished Scholar 2007
- Legal Writing
- Legislative Ethics
- Legislative Intent
- Legislative Staff Services in New Mexico/Capitol Tour
- Oversight of Administrative Rules by Legislatures
- Overview of U.S. Supreme Court Action
- Political Bloggers
- Preparing Balanced Research and Avoiding Biases
- Statutory Construction and Managing Big Drafting Projects
- The ABCs of Free Trade Agreements
- Unintended Consequences of Drafting

### Social Events

- Reception at the Palace of the Governors (*Propylon*)
- Traditional Pueblo Catered Luncheon (*Thomson/West*)

Visit LRL's website to for agenda updates and registration information

<http://www.ncsl.org/lrl/>

## State News

*From Nan Bowers, Nevada:*

“Who are the legislators for XXX school?” Each session library staff receives dozens of requests to match schools with legislative districts and individual legislators. When school children write to legislators or classes visit the Legislature, we now can look in our new, searchable database for the answer. We can search by the name of the school, legislator, legislative district, street, city, and type of school. The database is on the intranet and accessible to anyone in the agency. The database is built on DB/Text, WebPublisher (InMagic).

*From Marilyn Johnson, North Dakota:*

North Dakota's 60th legislative session (and I feel like I've been here for all of them) set a record by continuing its deliberations for 78 of the 80 days allowed by the State's constitution. Major issues this session included—because the state had a huge surplus—property tax reform. Those of us North Dakotans living in married bliss are excited because the extra tax we pay for our legal relationship has been eliminated. So come April 15 2008 we'll see a little bonus, unless our husbands don't share the wealth.

Education finance received boo co attention. Nine school districts agreed to drop their potential lawsuit if the state would add significant dollars to elementary and secondary education and work on fund-

ing equity issues. Done.

During the 2005-2006 interim our Workforce Safety and Insurance agency was the subject of two audits that found problems with unauthorized spending on meals, gifts, flowers, motivational speakers etc. Findings of poor management practices and low employee morale added fuel to the smoldering fire. In 1997 the Legislative Assembly overrode a veto of the bill that gave a newly created Workers Compensation Bureau Board of Director authority to appoint an agency director. Prior to 1997, the governor made the appointment. Attempts to return appointment power to the governor, this session, failed. Just before session ended in mid-April the Burleigh County State's Attorney filed criminal charges against the director of the agency and one of his staff both of whom are now on administrative leave. In addition to the questionable spending practices, the charges include possible illegal use of driver's license photos. This is sort of a big deal in squeaky clean North Dakota. The 2007 legislators changed the way the Workforce Safety and Insurance Board of Directors are named, giving the governor more control and reducing the number of terms Board members can serve.

To the more localized news, we've been eating asparagus and rhubarb from Eldo's garden. Spring has sprung, the ground unfroze, where there was snow roses now grows.

*From Debbie Tavenner, Ohio:*

The Ohio House of Representatives passed the budget bill by a unanimous vote, for the first time in nearly 50 years. This was a very unusual event for the Ohio House. The



bill is proceeding through the Senate and must go back to the House for concurrence on Senate amendments and most likely a conference committee. Both the House and Senate have Republican majorities, but Ohio's new Governor Ted Strickland is a Democrat.

*From Marian Rogers, Wisconsin:*

In May 2006, Senator Fred Risser was honored by 2005 SJR-85 (Enrolled Joint Resolution 57) upon becoming the longest-serving state legislator in the country. He was first elected to the Wisconsin Legislature in 1956 and is the fourth generation of his family to serve in the Legislature. He served three terms in the Wisconsin State Assembly before being elected to the Senate during a special election in 1962. Within the State Senate he has served as its president, president pro tempore, minority leader, assistant minority leader, and on numerous committees. In the 2007-2008 session, he continues to serve as Senate President, is chair of a standing committee, serves on several other standing and joint committees, and is a member of three Legislative Council study committees.

This past April, Library Staff completed the last of three training sessions for our new OPAC, Innovative Interfaces' Millennium. The migration of our data will occur in late May; we anticipate going live with the new system in mid-June.

In early May, we enjoyed a visit from Cathy Martin who was in Madison for an NCSL Executive and LSCC meeting. At the October PDS, weather was not conducive to enjoying a coffee break on the roof garden. But this time—although a bit breezy—the weather was sunny and pleasant, so we enjoyed a coffee break and a nice visit sitting at one of the patio tables outside the library's reference room.



Baby news! Eileen Snyder's daughter, Eleanor Marion, was born on November 21, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 5 oz. Ellie's middle name comes from a favorite aunt ... (She is not the namesake of the LRB's managing librarian!)

Wedding news! Bells will be ringing on July 14: Pat Helgerson and Mike Reichert will tie the knot that day. Anyone have suggestions for a great wedding prank? ;>)



*From Tracey Kimball, New Mexico:*

So far this year New Mexico has weathered our regular 60-day session and a (sort-of) 11-day special session that closely followed our first sine die.

Some major bills were passed after years - even decades - of trying: legislators banned cockfighting, prohibited smoking in most places indoors, raised the minimum wage, allowed the use of marijuana by people who are gravely ill, tightened payday loan laws and extended casino gam-

bling on Indian lands until 2037.

We became the first state to provide limited immunity from prosecution for those who seek medical help for drug overdoses. This is aimed at encouraging someone who has overdosed, and their friends, family or fellow partygoers, to call 911.

Some ethics proposals were approved, including a ban on large gifts to elected officials and state workers, an overhaul of regional housing authorities and new prohibitions on mixing politics and state business in the Governmental Conduct Act.

The governor, however, was disappointed that other major ethics bills did not pass after recent scandals in the state treasurer's office and a regional housing authority, and then-pending federal indictments in a courthouse construction project that included a former Senate pro tem. So Governor Richardson called a special session that convened just 72 hours after the regular session ended.

The special session was short, but not sweet. The governor was out of state most days raising money for his presidential bid. The Senate voted twice to adjourn without voting on any bills, but was forced to return by the House both times. The House alternated between often contentious floor sessions and committee meetings that once stretched from afternoon to dawn.

In the end, bills approving public financing in some judicial campaigns and a road and highway construction package were approved, and all the exhausted legislators and staff got to go home. An ethics task force has been reconvened by the governor and we'll see what happens when it finishes work in the fall.

From Robbie LaFleur, Minnesota:

Many things are cyclical at legislative libraries; right now the librarians are dealing with the annual session-just-ended questions from the public about “What happened?” Soon we’ll move into summer project mode, including interesting new projects and housekeeping tasks that can’t be completed during the crush of the legislative session. (It’s hard to build up a lot of excitement over staff reviews, server migration, and weeding.)

In addition to the new state documents that we archive electronically, we are creating online access to important older documents too. As we get requests for older documents, we scan them and link them to our catalog records. A list of over 500 pre-2003 documents can be found at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/mndocs/edocspre2003.asp> We are also working on a project to digitize the Governor’s Executive Orders back to 1969.

Although the week after session ends is often quiet, the librarian assigned to keeping up with the maintenance of our governors veto pages has been especially busy! (<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/Vetooes/Vetooes.asp>)



## NCSL Publications

### Reports:

- Connecting the Grid: A Review of Regional Transmission Practices
- Regional Reliance: Why Transmission Is Key *Brown*
- Victim Rights Legislation in the States
- The Changing Landscape of Federal Child Welfare Financing

### LegisBriefs:

- Avian Flu’s Effect on Agriculture - Jan. 2007, Vol. 15, no. 1
- Tough Calls: States Tailor Ethics Oversight - January 2007, Vol. 15, no. 2
- Big Future for Tiny Technology - Jan. 2007, Vol. 15, no. 3
- State Lodging Taxes - Jan. 2007, Vol. 15, no. 4
- Money Can Follow the Person in Long-Term - Jan. 2007, Vol. 15, no. 5
- Motorcycle Safety - Jan. 2007, Vol. 15, no. 6
- Medicaid Services Across a Woman’s Lifespan - Feb. 2007, Vol. 15, No. 7
- Immigration Reform in 2006 - Feb. 2007, Vol. 15, No. 8
- Extreme Drunk Driving - Feb. 2007, Vol. 15, No. 9
- State Funding for Community Health Centers - Feb. 2007, Vol. 15, No. 10
- Teen Pregnancy - Feb. 2007, Vol. 15, No. 11
- Adapting to Term Limit - Feb. 2007, Vol. 15, No. 12
- Minimum Wage - Mar. 2007, Vol. 15, No. 13
- Investing in Higher Education - Mar. 2007, Vol. 15, No. 14
- State Year-End Balances - Mar. 2007, Vol. 15, No. 15
- Keeping Teen Drivers Safe - Mar. 2007, Vol. 15, No. 16
- State Funding for Education

- The Changing World of Higher Education—*Bell*
- Promoting Cardiovascular Health in Indian Country: Policy Recommendations
- Guide to Leaders and Legislatures 2007
- Strengthening Military-Community Partnerships

Technology - Mar. 2007, Vol. 15, No. 17

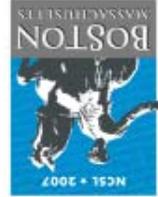
- Property Tax Relief for Veterans - Mar. 2007, Vol. 15, No. 18
- States Tackle Climate Change - Apr./May 2007, Vol. 15, No. 19
- Organized Retail Crime - Apr./May 2007, Vol. 15, No. 20
- Universal Health Care - Apr. / May 2007, Vol. 15, No. 21
- The Real ID - Apr./May 2007, Vol. 15, No. 22
- Evolution and Regulation of Cable Television - Apr./May 2007, Vol. 15, No. 23
- Postpartum Depression: Worse Than the Baby Blues - Apr./May 2007, Vol. 15, No. 24
- A Coal Future - June/July 2007, Vol. 15, no. 25
- State Workplace Wellness Initiatives - June/July 2007, Vol. 15, no. 26
- Helping Grandparent Caregivers: Kinship Navigator Programs - June/July 2007, Vol. 15, no. 27
- Preparing High School Students for College and Work - June/July 2007, Vol. 15, no. 28
- Security Freezes - June/July 2007, Vol. 15, no. 29
- The Special Transportation Needs Crisis: Is Coordination the Solution? - June/July 2007, Vol. 15, no. 30

**Join us in Boston or Santa Fe - or both!**

Professional Development Seminar  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
September 10-12



Annual Meeting  
Boston, Massachusetts  
August 5-9



Legislative Research Librarians  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
7700 East First Place  
Denver, CO 80230