

LEADERSHIP STAFF CONNECTIONS

National Conference of State Legislatures

SPRING 2011

Rockin' In Raleigh ...

**Professional Development Seminar
Raleigh, North Carolina
September 9-11, 2010**



Contact LSS at NCSL.ORG

A Review of Raleigh

Highlights from Speech by Erskine Bowles, Keynote Speaker

In interview style, **Laura DeVivo**, our resident host in Raleigh and LSS Executive Committee Member, engaged Erskine Bowles in an informative and entertaining discussion in the opening session of our 2010 Professional Development Seminar (PDS). At the time of our PDS, Mr. Bowles was president of the multi-campus University of North Carolina. His professional background is finance and investment banking, and in 1993, he was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as director of the Small Business Administration. Later he was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as Deputy White House Chief of Staff and then as White House Chief of Staff.

When Mr. Bowles took the reins at the SBA, he felt that going from the private sector to government was like going to Guam! Its organizational structure was seriously out of date, and one thing Mr. Bowles learned from the business world is that you cannot be productive unless you are proud of where you work. So he set goals, implemented new policies, set standards to improve morale, and emphasized accountability. He focused on new markets, modified the SBA products, and instigated loans to women and minorities. Under his leadership, the SBA significantly increased productivity.

"When I became White House Deputy Chief of Staff," remarked Mr. Bowles, "my first reaction was to throw up!" He bonded with President Clinton easily, though, as they had much in common. They liked the same things (golf), they were both Southerners, they both married career women, and above all, Mr. Bowles knew his client — President Clinton.

"It's an unbelievably fast-paced life in the White House," said Mr. Bowles. Every 15 minutes of every day is scheduled. It's a 24/7 job, and the motto of public life — No deed or sin goes unpunished or unpublished — is not an exaggeration. Clinton is a visionary, a man of a thousand visions. He is amazingly smart. During his presidency, he sought commonsense solutions for difficult problems. They were loyal to each other. "The president always backed me up," said Mr. Bowles.

The demands of the job eventually take their toll on every White House



Chief of Staff. Turnover is typical and understandable. Always with Secret Service agents, there is no privacy—ever. The job is not conducive to family life. Inherent with the job is emotional toil resulting from the "gotcha" environment. Mr. Bowles left the White House before the end of President Clinton's second term because he was worn out from the 24/7 job, he wanted to spend more time with his wife and three children, and he yearned for the private sector.

Mark your Calendar!

LSS/LINCS Professional Development Seminar
October 12-15, 2011, Richmond, VA



NCSL
Legislative Summit
August 8-11, 2011
San Antonio, TX

Mark your calendar for **Monday evening, August 8**, in **San Antonio!**
Join other leadership staff at an LSS reception at the NCSL Legislative Summit.
Time and place to be determined

Leadership Staff Section Web Page
www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabID=788&tabs=857,40,511#857

A Review of Raleigh

The Perfect Workday Presenter: Mike Collins

What's your idea of the perfect workday? It's all about the triangle—time, people, stuff—and our finite resources to devote to each of these areas. So ask yourself, "How are my habits working for me?"

Managing Your Resources

1. Time—Use the 2% rule. You need only 2% of your 40-hour work week (that's 45 minutes) to plan and focus. Use the time to review/update/create your "To Do" lists.
2. Energy—Start with your body clock. Are you a lark or an owl? Examine yourself, determine your own "prime time," and do your planning then. Energy is the fundamental currency for getting things done.
3. Ego—differentiate what you "can" do versus what you "will" do.
4. Money—consider investing in time and/or stress management education.
5. Luck (Laboring Under Correct Knowledge)—Know yourself and your skills to generate your own luck.

What keeps you from having a perfect workday?

The Dirty Dozen—Top Time Thieves

1. No clear goals
2. No priorities
3. No daily plan
4. Trying to do too much
5. Perfectionism
6. Disorganization
7. Snap decisions
8. Interruptions
9. Meetings
10. Problems with technology
11. Low Energy
12. Procrastination

Are you trying to do too much?

Create a Master "To Do" List. Then prioritize your tasks by assigning a priority to each task; use A/B/C or 1/2/3, etc. Then decide what to do with each task. Delay it? Delegate it? Do it? Downsize it? Don't do it?

Remember: If you put an item on a "To Do" list, it's 37% more likely to get done.

Questions, Not Answers: The 15% Horror Story

Fifteen percent of work time is lost to miscommunication. Your success hinges on the questions you ask—not the ones you answer. Ask the following: What are we doing? Why are we doing it? Who are we working with? When does it need to be done? Where are we in the process? How much time and energy do we want to spend on it?

Organization: Is a clean desk really a sign of a sick mind?

Here are a few tips.

1. File as you go; if you take it out, put it back (where you can find it again).
2. Take 30 seconds to clean up every time you leave your desk.
3. Schedule two clean-up days a year.



Can you have the perfect workday and still have a life?

Health ♦ Work ♦ Family/Social ♦ Mental/Spiritual. How content are you with these areas of your life? During your day, you have to stop every now and then to get your balance. If you're out of balance, evaluate and make some changes.

Mike Collins is president of The Perfect Workday Company, an information company based in North Carolina. Mike presents over 100 programs a year and is one of the most frequently featured presenters in the United States. He focuses on workday effectiveness issues. Mike is the author of The Perfect Workday Book.

A Review of Raleigh

Along with summaries in this newsletter of the Erskine Bowles interview and The Perfect Workday, you may also click on the NCSL link below for PowerPoint slides and/or audio recordings of additional presentations in Raleigh.

<http://www.ncsl.org/LegislativeStaff/InformationOfficers/Multimediafromthe2010PDSinRaleigh/tabid/21275/Default.aspx>

Among many presentations featured at this NCSL link are:

Millennials — Keep your Message Short and your Tattoos Unique

Speakers:

Andrew Krzmarzick, Community Manager, GovLoop

Natalie O'Donnell Wood, Senior Policy Specialist, NCSL

The Millennials are the largest generation since the Baby Boomers, and their ideals, civic engagement, work ethic and news consumption are unique. Get an inside look into this demographic, examine the impact it has on legislative staffing, explore ways to keep millennials engaged in the workplace, and learn how to best communicate with them.



Public Policy Polling

Dean Debnam, founder and president of North Carolina's Public Policy Polling, "best known for putting out highly accurate polling in key political races across the country," discusses the latest in polling techniques and technology, how to interpret data, and how to develop a message based on polling information.

Five Great Programs to Help Your Career

Meagan Dorsch, Director of Public Affairs for NCSL, highlights five programs to help your career. From file sharing to converting PDFs to e-books, she tells about the hottest new websites and applications that will help you do your job more efficiently and effectively.



"Never look back
unless you are planning to go that way."
-- Henry David Thoreau

A Review of Raleigh



The LSS Executive Committee enjoyed a Friday night dinner at the home of **Laura DeVivo** (Senior Policy Advisor, North Carolina Speaker's Office)

Down Home Barbecue, North Carolina Style (also known as Pig Pick'n). A party where the cooked meat is pulled from the pig by hand and served to the guests.



Jeff Johnson and Tom Bennett -- "Yeah, there's a WVU football game tonight, but we sacrificed to be at the LSS Pig Pick'n. Gotta eat, right?"



Nancy Butcher and Rhoda Struhs catching up...

Michael White and Tom Wright kickin' back...

WEBINAR REPORT

Effective Legislative Presentations

Last fall, the Leadership Staff Section was approached by Nancy Cyr, 2010 NCSL Staff Chair, to co-sponsor a second webinar entitled “Effective Legislative Presentations.” The LSS Executive Committee voted to co-sponsor this webinar and contribute \$100 of LSS funds toward the cost of the webinar.

“Effective Legislative Presentations” took place September 16, 2010. John Turcotte was the presenter for the webinar. He is Director of the Program Evaluation Division in the North Carolina Legislature. He was NCSL Staff Chair in 1994.

Since legislators do not have time to read the voluminous materials they need to read, they sometimes ask their reliable and trusted staffers to research various topics and present the results in either formal or informal settings. This 60-minute webinar provides a set of principles for understanding legislative life and guidelines for preparing and delivering effective presentations.

When a presentation begins, legislators may have many questions such as:

1. Who is the presenter?
2. How much time will it take?
3. When will I be able to leave?
4. When can I ask questions?
5. Will I have handouts? When will I get them?
6. Will I be able to hear the presenter?
7. Will the presentation be overly detailed?

At the onset of the presentation, you will want to allay their worries, so answer these questions at the beginning. Here’s an example of a good beginning:

“Good morning. I am John Turcotte, Director of the General Assembly’s Program Evaluation Division. My presentation will take about 20 minutes. As directed by the chair, I will take questions at the end. You have my full report, copies of my slides, and a flow chart. My report concludes that....”

A well-designed presentation has three parts: (1) Preview—to allay worries, (2) Middle—to sustain message, and (3) Question and Answer—to clarify and augment.

In summary, remember to:

1. Accommodate and adapt presentations to suit busy legislators.
2. Begin with a strong preview of the whole presentation.
3. Include in the preview the presentation message.
4. Sustain the message with supporting points.
5. When answering questions, respect protocol and listen skillfully.

There are four handouts used in the webinar. Handout D is an excellent template you can use next time you are asked to prepare a presentation.

If you would like to view this webinar, or refresh your memory by viewing it again, an archived copy of the webinar and copies of the handouts are available on the NCSL website at: <http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=20976>

Nominations Open for Leadership Staff Section 2011 Awards

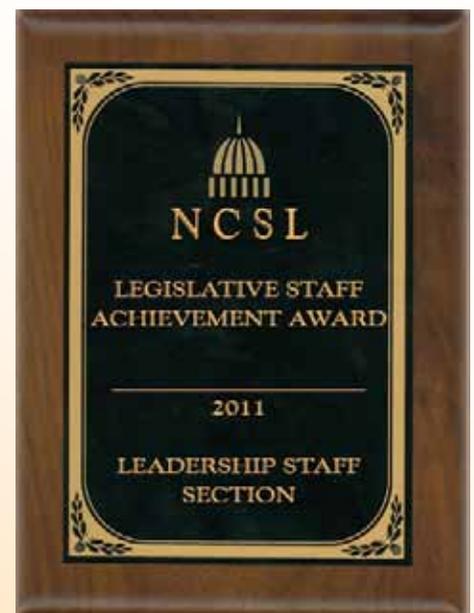
The NCSL Leadership Staff Section invites your nominations for the 2011 Leadership Staff Section Achievement Awards. Outstanding legislative leadership staff members are recognized each year for the important contributions they make to the legislative process. These awards present a unique opportunity to acknowledge exceptional staff. Nominations can be made by state legislators or other legislative staff. Winners will be announced at the NCSL Legislative Summit and awards will be presented at the NCSL Leadership Staff Section annual seminar.

A Legislative Staff Achievement Award nominee may be an individual, office, group or team whose contributions benefit the roles of leadership staff and should meet a significant number of the awards criteria. At least one of the awards is presented to an individual who has been an active participant in Leadership Staff Section activities, as evidenced by attendance at the Section’s annual training seminars and by other significant involvement with the Section. View the Award Criteria and additional information at <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabID=788&tabs=857,40,521#521>

Nominations for the 2011 Leadership Staff Section Achievement Awards will be accepted through **June 3, 2011**. Please send nominations to either Mary Sue Jones or Barbara Oakes, Co-Chairs of the Awards Committee (mailing addresses listed below).

MARY SUE JONES
Chief of Staff to the President Pro Tempore
Idaho State Senate
PO Box 83702
Boise ID 83720-0081

BARBARA OAKES
House Administrator
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Ste. 350
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More information about the NCSL Leadership Staff Section can be found on the NCSL website at <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabID=788&tabs=857,40,511#857>

LSS Chair's Comments

By **MICHAEL WHITE, Chair**
NCSL Leadership Staff Section
Executive Committee 2010-2011



Dear Fellow Leadership Staffer:

I assume everyone is busy trying to balance state budgets and complete the very intense work all leadership staff is required to do. I write this report at a time when, it appears to me, our jobs are more difficult because of the recession and the increased contentious nature of the political discourse in our legislatures. It is very easy to get caught up in the Republican v. Democrat or conservative v. liberal debate these days, particularly, when we are under pressure to deliver results.

I can tell you, it is also easy to set aside politics and work with all people in our leadership staff section to elevate the professionalism of our careers. After all, that is what our staff section is dedicated to do.

This is just one of the many reasons why I have enjoyed my time in the leadership staff section. It has afforded me the opportunity, through networking with other leadership professionals, to improve the skills I believe are important to all of us. Our professional development conferences are focused on what we do and how we do it. I believe everyone who attends a conference leaves with a better understanding of how to perform their jobs.

If you have made it this far in my comments, I hope you will take a serious look at attending our professional development conference in Richmond, Virginia and Washington, D.C., October 12-15. We will spend an entire day talking to leadership staff and others in Washington D.C. about how to be a successful staff member. Our time in Richmond, Virginia will include sessions with the Legislative Information and Communications staff (LINCS) section, which I always find valuable because so much of our job includes interaction with the press.

In conclusion, I really think anyone who attends our conference enjoys the networking and social interaction with fellow leadership staff from around the country. The Leadership Staff Section and the professional development conferences have given me the opportunity to meet and network with leadership staff from Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin, Florida, Indiana, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Louisiana, Alaska and Utah, to mention a few. This is a great opportunity that I hope you will take full advantage.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My email is michael.white@senate.ks.gov. Hope to see everyone in Richmond/Washington D.C. this fall.

Michael White

Meet your new 2010-2011 LSS Officers & Members

During the Professional Development Seminar in Raleigh, the Nominating Committee selected new LSS officers and members for the upcoming year. By unanimous vote at the LSS Business Meeting, your new leaders were elected.



Also at the LSS Business Meeting....

A long-standing tradition and symbol of presidential proportions is the purple amulet LSS necklace. Like a jeweled crown, the coveted amulet is passed from the outgoing chair to the incoming chair in ceremonial fashion. Although the amulet's origin is unclear, its value and significance are undisputed. In the photo at right, incoming chair **Michael White** proudly accepts the LSS amulet from outgoing chair **Janeen Halverson** and vows to spend the next year making his mark on the LSS legacy.



Leadership Staff Executive Committee Members

Michael White serves as the Chief of Staff to Kansas Senate President Stephen R. Morris. Michael joined the Senator's leadership team in 2007 as Legislative Director and was promoted to Chief of Staff in 2009.



As chief, Michael often serves as a surrogate for the President in meetings. He attends critical legislative meetings with the President, offering advice and acting as a lieutenant in rallying the caucus when necessary. His policy and political instincts are invaluable to his boss and to the entire caucus.

For six years before joining the Senate staff, Michael was the Government

Affairs Director for a major lobbying firm in the capital city of Topeka, Kansas. In that capacity, he worked in the statehouse on behalf of a number of association and corporate clients, monitoring legislation and lobbying legislators. When the legislature was not in session, Michael worked with clients on membership building and special events. Prior to that, he coordinated the Partners-in-Excellence program for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company for seven years.

A graduate of Topeka's Highland Park High School, White earned his undergraduate degree from Kansas State University. As Chief of Staff, he continues his professional education by taking an active role in the National Conference of State Legislatures. White is Chair of the Leadership Staff Section, and Vice Chair of NCSL's Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee Staff Section Officer Group.

Married to Kim, with two sons, Brayden and Jordan, Michael actively participates in their sports, school and church activities. He currently is on the Board for the Prodigy Soccer Club and the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and Preschool. Most evenings and weekends, you will find Michael on the road, attending and sometimes coaching multiple sporting events in which his sons are playing.

Naomi Miller is the District Director for Texas Speaker Joe Straus. Naomi oversees district office operations and is responsible for communication between the Speaker's House district and the Capitol office. Naomi assists in developing objectives, policies, strategies and operating plans for the district. She serves as liaison for Speaker Straus in House District 121 and in the San Antonio/Bexar County area.

Prior to joining Speaker Straus' team, Naomi worked in the Government Relations Department of USAA, a Fortune 500 financial services company offering banking, investing and insurance to people and families that serve, or have served, in the United States Military. Naomi monitored legislation in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas as it pertained to USAA's lines of business.



Rhoda Struhs has served as leadership staff for the Utah House Minority Caucus since 1999. She has been involved with NCSL Leadership Staff Section since first attending the 2003 Professional Development Seminar in West Virginia. She found that seminar, as well as the ones in Harrisburg, Indianapolis and Raleigh, very beneficial. Rhoda recently served on the LSS Bylaws Committee.

Outside of her legislative work, Rhoda is involved with Altrusa International, Inc., a service organization. Last year, she finished her term as District Ten Governor and currently serves as the International Communications Committee Chair. She will serve as the International Leadership Development and Training Committee Chair for the organization during the next biennium.

In addition to volunteering, Rhoda enjoys reading and traveling. She and her husband, Parry, have two married children, two grandpuppies and one grandkitty.



Mechelle Miller ... Louisiana House of Representatives, since December 1980 and currently employed (30-year anniversary December 8, 2010). I am the Director for the Louisiana Rural Caucus and work for 81 legislators, which include House and Senate members. I have held this position for the past 23 years.



I first attended NCSL Leadership Staff Section in 1990, which was hosted in Reno, Nevada. I have had the opportunity to host two Leadership Staff Executive Meetings and one Leadership Staff Section Seminar in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1998 I became second vice chair and moved up to the chair position in 2000. During the past 20 years of involvement with Leadership Staff, I have held positions with the Bylaws Committee, Finance Committee, Program Development, Outreach Committee, Achievement Award Committee, Nominating Committee

and have served as a cocktail waitress in the hospitality suite.

1998 served on LSCC Task Force on Promoting and Developing Professionalism for Legislative Staff.

1999 served on LSCC Task Force on Promoting the Legislative Institution.

2000 served on LSCC Task Force on developing a CD Rom for states.

2000 served on LSCC Civic Education Awards Committee.

2000 served as Project Citizen Judge for NCSL

2000 served as Louisiana Coordinator for America Back to School Day.

2001 received the Legislative Staff Achievement Award

After the year 2001, I stopped keeping track of my opportunities with the Leadership Staff Section.

On a final note, I have met people across the United States which I now consider my brothers and sisters and would not trade it for a moment.

Leadership Staff Executive Committee Members



Raylene DeSanto ... Director of Democratic Support Services for the Pennsylvania Legislature in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Raylene DeSanto has dedicated most of her professional life serving the Pennsylvania Legislature in a career that spans thirty plus years. Raylene began her career with the PA House of Representatives in June 1980. She worked as a Revenue Specialist, Finance Committee Secretary, and Office Manager for the Communications office before accepting her current position as Director of the Democratic Support Services Office, in January 2001.

Raylene is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day duties of her office, implementing restructure for the Caucus staff; interviewing and assessing Legislative Assistant candidates; overseeing 3 divisions of staff (the float staff, caucus messengers and constituent services) plus the Legislative Assistants who work for the caucus members.

Raylene attended the Legislative Staff Management Institute (LSMI) in 2002, and became part of the Leadership Staff Section in 2003. She has twice chaired and been a participant on the LSS Awards, Outreach and Program Development Committees and joined the LSS Executive Committee in 2008. Raylene has also attended the Senior Management Leadership Institute (SMLI) as well as 2 NCSL Human Resource Management/Legislative Workplace National Forum seminars.

Raylene has been married to her husband, John, since 1979. They have one married daughter, Marisa, and 3 Yorkshire Terriers. Raylene's personal interests include cooking, baking, and stained glass. She is a licensed Cosmetologist and is considering finishing her hours to teach when she retires from the PA House of Representatives unless she follows her heart and volunteers in a local neo-natal unit.



Aurora Hauke ... Chief of Staff to Representative Beth Kerttula, House Minority Leader in Juneau, Alaska

Aurora has worked with the Alaska State Legislature for 11 years, four years of which have been as Chief of Staff for the House Minority Leader. In addition, she worked for the same legislator when she held the House Minority Whip position for two years. During her 11 years, she has worked for both bodies of the legislature and with legislators serving from both political parties. Aurora has been involved with the NCSL Leadership Staff Section since the 2007 Professional Development Seminar in Anchorage and looks forward to many more years with LSS.



Barbara C. Oakes ... Maryland House of Delegates Administrator

Barbara has worked for the Maryland House of Delegates for 30 years and has been the House Administrator since 1991. She has worked through the administrations of four successive Speakers and is known for her dedication to the legislative institution and her fairness to all members of the House.

Barbara has been involved in NCSL and the Leadership Staff Section since 1983 and has participated in many staff seminars and annual meetings. She is currently serving on the LSS Executive Committee and has chaired its Awards and Bylaws Committees.

She is an asset to the Maryland Legislature and an outstanding example of professionalism in legislative staff.



Lisa L. Davis ... Assistant Clerk, Mississippi House of Representatives

Lisa Davis received her BA degree in Business Administration from Jackson State University, Jackson, MS.

In 1987, Lisa started working as Assistant Scheduler for Governor Ray Mabus, remaining with him until the end of his term.

She has been employed with the House of Representatives for 19 years as the Assistant Clerk. She is a member of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries; Leadership Staff Section, National Conference of State Legislators; National Black Caucus of State Legislators-Executive Committee Member; National Black Caucus Foundation – Executive Committee Member, and for four years, she has chaired the African American Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee.

Her mission in life is to reach out to youth by teaching the importance of education and healthcare.

Lisa is married to Ted Davis of Lumberton, Mississippi, and is the mother of three boys, Montrel, Branson and Bradley.

She is a member of Priestley Chapel M. B. Church, Canton, MS and a faithful Sunday school teacher.

“Beware lest you lose the substance by grasping at the shadow.”

– Aesop

Leadership Staff Executive Committee Members



Thomas R. Bennett, II ... Assistant to the Majority Leader, West Virginia House of Delegates

Since graduating in 1999 from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, Tom has been employed by the West Virginia House of Delegates. He is currently Assistant to the Majority Leader performing administrative and personnel functions, overseeing purchasing with an annual budget of \$10 million, obtaining grant funding for county and local governments, and tracking and researching passed Senate bills that have been introduced in the House. He is a nonvoting member of the Capitol Building Commission.

Prior to his current position, Tom was a Research Analyst in the House of Delegates Clerk's Office overseeing the proofing and indexing of the Journal of the House of Delegates, processing bills, updating and maintaining the bill status system, and researching West Virginia laws.

Tom has been active in the Leadership Staff Section and is currently the First Vice Chair. Tom has also served as a member of the LSS Executive Committee. For the past two years, he has chaired the E-learning task force, overseeing the production of an e-learning project, "The Rise and Fall of the Town Meeting," for posting on the NCSL website.

Outside of Tom's legislative work, he is an avid fan of West Virginia University sports.



Janeen Halverson ... Minority Executive Assistant, Utah State Senate, LSS Immediate Past Chair

Janeen has been employed at the Utah State Senate for the past 12 years as the Minority Executive Assistant. During that time, she has worked for four minority leaders. In addition to the minority leader, Janeen assists other members of the minority caucus, provides constituent services, drafts correspondence, and maintains the Utah Senate Minority blog.

Prior to joining the Senate staff, Janeen taught business subjects at college and middle school levels. Janeen graduated Magna Cum Laude from Brigham Young University with a BS degree in Business Education.

Janeen has been involved in the Leadership Staff Section since 2004, having served three years as a member of the Executive Committee, as First Vice Chair, Chair, and currently as Immediate Past Chair.

Janeen enjoys tennis, mountain biking, swimming and boating. Combined, she and her husband Don have 8 children and 12 grandchildren.



Sallie C. Bolton ... Office of the Speaker, Commonwealth of Kentucky, LSS Second Vice Chair

Sallie Bolton first came to work for the Kentucky General Assembly in 1998, where she served as secretary for multiple legislators from across the Commonwealth. Over the years, she worked for numerous Committee Chairs before moving to leadership five years ago where she worked for the House Majority Whip.

Currently she works for Gregory D. Stumbo, Speaker of the House, where she has a variety of responsibilities including the preparation of correspondence, citations and working with other state and federal organization and agencies. She works with current members of the House performing a wide range of duties, including publications, constituent services and correspondence. Having served in the US Army, she handles all military issues for the House of Representatives, including the distinguished Memorial Ceremony for Kentucky's fallen military servicemen and women held each year on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Prior to joining the Kentucky General Assembly, she spent twenty plus years in the U.S. Army. Entering the military in 1987, she rose to the rank of Major before joining the Individual Ready Reserves. She held a number of positions throughout her military career, including Logistics' Officer for an Armor Cavalry Division, Aide de Camp for the Division Commander and Division Public Affairs Officer. She has served two one-year tours in the Middle East.

She joined the Leadership Staff Section of the National Conference of State Legislators in 2007, and served on several committees before being elected to the Executive Committee in 2010.

She was born and raised in Western Kentucky and graduated from Madisonville North Hopkins High School. She attended the University of Kentucky where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Communication.

She is married to Steve Bolton, and has one child, Will.

*"In the middle of difficulty
lies opportunity."*

– Albert Einstein

Leadership Staff Executive Committee Members



Jeff Johnson ... Counsel, West Virginia Senate Committee on Finance.

Jeff Johnson, LSS Executive Committee member, has been employed by the West Virginia Senate since 2002. Prior to his legislative employment, Jeff worked for two state agencies, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services and the West Virginia Child Support Enforcement Bureau.

In Jeff's current capacity, counsel to the WV Senate Committee on Finance, he drafts legislation that impacts the state budget for review, consideration and passage by the Senate Committee. He consults with lobbyists and interested citizens to gather information to present before the full committee for consideration in the legislative process. Jeff also researches and opines on federal law and the laws of sister states to gain an understanding of the impact of legislation.

Jeff has been involved in the NCSL Leadership Staff Section for several years and is currently serving his second year as a member of the LSS Executive Committee. Last year, Jeff served on the LSS Bylaws Committee and utilized his talents by drafting various changes in the LSS Bylaws.

Jeff graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Charleston with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1983. He continued his education at West Virginia University and graduated in 1986 with dual degrees, a Master's of Public Administration and Juris Doctor.

In his spare time, Jeff loves to cook and is an avid fan of the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey team and the WVU Mountaineers.

Richmond PDS Preview

This year's Professional Development Seminar (PDS) will be held in Richmond, Virginia, October 12-15, 2011. The Leadership Staff Section (LSS) and the Legislative Information and Communications Staff Section (LINCS) will once again meet together for a joint seminar designed to help attendees increase the effectiveness of legislative staff, share solutions, and forge important connections with peers from around the country. Plans are underway to address state budget challenges, redistricting, health care reform, etc.

Special Bonus for LSS: Day Trip to Washington D.C.

Visit to NCSL's headquarters, sightseeing, lunch, and meetings you won't want to miss!

LSS/LINCS Professional Development Seminar Richmond, Virginia October 12-15, 2011



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NCSL LEADERSHIP STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Mary Sue Jones is this year's recipient of our annual LSS Legislative Staff Achievement Award. She received her award last September at our Professional Development Seminar in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Mary Sue Jones began her legislative career as Sergeant-at-Arms in 1992. She quickly advanced in leadership offices, and in 1995, she became fiscal assistant to the president pro tem. By 2006, she added administrative duties to her responsibilities. She is known and respected by all 35 senators for her responsiveness, professionalism, and exemplary service.

When Mary Sue was nominated for this award, there was an outpouring of support from members of LSS, including the following accolades: dedicated, loyal, insightful, personable, focused, diplomatic, never rattled, a solid person.

Mary Sue is a former chair of LSS and has served on almost every committee at one time or another. She is an amazing woman and most deserving of the NCSL Leadership Staff Achievement Award.

Congratulations Natalie and Matt!

Congratulations to our NCSL Leadership Staff Liaison Natalie Wood and her husband Matt on the arrival of their first child, Emmett Michael Wood, November 26, 2010.

Emmett surprised everybody, especially mom, by arriving early (only 3.5 pounds, but tough as nails!). He spent six weeks in neonatal intensive care, quickly made fantastic progress, and joined mom and dad at home January 7.

"Thumbs Up" from your LSS family.



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

Comments about this issue, suggestions, or articles for the next newsletter will be gladly received by the Communications Committee. We encourage you to contact the committee chair with your ideas.

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