



NALIT

National Association of Legislative Information Technology

Summer 2009

National Conference of State Legislatures ♦ 7700 E. First Place ♦ Denver, CO 80230 ♦ 303-364-7700

Well, reality occasionally intrudes.

In my last letter, I spoke of our plans for the 2009 Professional Development Seminar, to be held in Honolulu. We had a great program planned, but the reality was that very few members of NALIT would be able to attend, and, as a result, we were forced to cancel.

Having to make this kind of decision is something you never think about when you contemplate running for the NALIT chair's position. I am extremely fortunate in this most difficult year to have had the counsel and support of vice-chair Linda Pittsford, secretary Dave Larson, the NALIT directors, and past chair Gary Schaefer, all of whom have been very helpful.

CHAIR'S CORNER by Duncan Goss

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The good news is that our plans for the 2009 Professional Development Seminar (PDS) in Austin, Texas (September 9-12) are moving forward. While we know that many of you will be unable to attend due to continuing travel restrictions in your states, we hope that we will have enough people there to have a great PDS.

Host state representative Linda Pittsford and her planning group have developed a schedule of events which includes old favorites such as Five Minutes of Fame and a visit to the State Capitol building, as well as new topics ranging from open source security tools to web streaming and transcription services. The PDS program can be seen inside on page 12.

NALIT will also be at the 2009 NCSL Legislative Summit in Philadelphia (July 20-24). We will have a session on generational change in the legislative industry and a session on social networking policies and pitfalls, presented as part of a three-session arc on social networking, with LINCS and the Standing Committee on Legislative Effectiveness hosting the other two sessions. There will also be mega-sessions on leadership, innovation, and ethics. The Legislative Summit program can be seen inside on page 8.

I would like to once again thank the NALIT officers, past and present, and the NALIT directors for their help and support this past year. I would also like to thank you, the members of NALIT, for giving me the opportunity to serve as your chair. This has not been an easy year, but it has been, as they say, a learning experience that I would not have missed.

Finally, one more bit of good news: When we canceled the seminar in Hawaii, we were faced with a large cancellation fee. NCSL managed to get some of it back for us, leaving us in a better financial position as we go forward.

I hope to see many of you in Philadelphia and Austin!

Duncan Goss, Vermont
Chair
NALIT Executive Committee

Nebraska Senators Equipped With New Apple MacBook Airs

By Gary Wieman, Network Manager, Legislative Technology Center, Nebraska

Last summer, the Legislature was looking to replace the Fujitsu laptops that our senators had used for the previous four years. The Legislative Technology Center (LTC) had been testing several models from other companies and was interested in having the replacements be smaller and lighter, yet still retain good screen readability. LTC had evaluated laptops from several vendors and still had not settled on any one model. One on-going issue we had was that Senators wanted a computer both in their office and at their desk on the floor. Our office was reluctant to do so because of both the cost and the additional support required for two separate systems. Overall, the costs associated with two systems for each legislator, often used for only half a year, did not seem like a prudent use of our resources.

During this time, our Information Office had just acquired MacBook Pros for doing their office work. They had been interested in them for a while for producing their weekly publication and for the work they do with graphics and art. Our office had earlier purchased two MacBooks for initial testing and loaned one to them so they could determine the benefits. So while testing the Windows-based systems, the Apple sales representative offered to send a MacBook Air for us to evaluate.

Our Assistant Clerk, Dick Brown, did substantial testing of the Air. During this time, Dick demonstrated the unit to the legislative leadership as well as a number of other members, and received positive feedback. The overall decision to purchase MacBook Airs was not based on technical considerations, but rather the new, thin form-factor. Other considerations were a highly favorable quote that brought the price in line with Windows based systems, and the portability of the systems that helped us to alleviate the pressure to have a second computer in Senators' offices.

There were a few issues to overcome to implement these systems. Since we are primarily Microsoft Office-based and did not want to purchase Microsoft Office 2008 for the Mac at this time, we needed to

determine the best method of providing the desktop applications they needed. We have done some testing of Open Office, and the newer versions now have the ability to open all versions of Microsoft Office files. However, we still needed an Outlook-like interface for Exchange. We found that Outlook Web Access was an option to view email, but that the Safari and Firefox browsers do not present Outlook Web Access as nicely as Internet Explorer.

Our solution was to install Remote Desktop Connection for the Mac and have the Senators log into terminal server for their applications. This provided several benefits: their My Documents folder, which is redirected to a server location, was available to them, district and committee shares were available, and they could still run the familiar MS Office Applications. This greatly reduced the amount of training necessary for an otherwise new desktop interface, yet any Senator who was versed in operating a Mac could do tasks on the Mac desktop as they wished. A few did so, running our ChamberViewer application from the Firefox browser as well as logging into other email services. Remote access was also possible with the Macs, since the VPN connection can be configured to communicate with the Cisco 3020 concentrator the State CIO employs. Modifications to allow for only 128 bit encryption and to tunnel all traffic through the tunnel need to be in the advanced settings, then users can log in with their standard Windows user account and password.

The primary advantage of the MacBook Air is its sleek design which makes it easy to carry. The footprint of this replacement laptop takes up less space on the desks in the chamber. Even though the screen is smaller, it is exceptionally clear and readable and our office has received few complaints about viewing documents. Many Senators liked the Apple touch pad for its ease of use for scrolling through documents. We had positive feedback on the keyboard and how easy it was to use.

There are limitations in the design of the MacBook Air. These include the limitation to a single USB port, no standard Ethernet connection and no internal CD/DVD. In our current configuration in the chamber, the USB port was used for a USB-to-Ethernet connection to the network due to reluctance to rely on a less-than-dependable wireless system.

This eliminated the use of other USB devices without the addition of a USB expansion hub. It had been reported that most USB devices will work through a hub, but there have been reports that the Mac Superdrive did not work through the hub. We did not buy a Superdrive one for every MacBook, but instead bought 25 drives and established a checkout system. Of course, while there was a generally positive reaction to the MacBook trackpad, there were some who did not like it. We purchased a Logitech bluetooth mouse for every Senator and deployed where needed. We initially installed the mice without the accompanying software, but after trying to resolve issues with bluetooth connectivity, we ultimately installed the Logitech software, which significantly reduced the problems.

One point that may be of interest is the lighted Apple logo on the top of the case. Our leadership preferred to cover the logos so as not to promote the systems. We searched for instances where other companies or government entities covered the logo or if there would be issues if we were to cover them. We found there were kits available to assist and sites that discussed several ways to cover the logo. Our solution was to cover the logo with the state seal. I have also noticed that several television programs have modified or hidden the Apple logo on systems that are obviously MacBooks.

In all, it was a good experience with our MacBook implementation. We found that Apple Remote Desktop was a good tool for updating the MacBooks not only for Apple updates, but for Firefox and OpenOffice as well. Our experience using terminal server was good overall, and we are considering using terminal server for Senators' office staff. OS X 10.6.0 (Snow Leopard) has some interesting updates that promise more compatibility with Exchange 2007, if we choose to go that route. As LTC converts more of our applications to web-based formats and as we remove much of our dependence on proprietary server systems, we believe the Mac and other UNIX based systems can be viable client alternatives. 

Infrastructure Drives Applications: Kansas State Legislature Updates Infrastructure

By Terry Clark, Document Management System Manager, Division of Computer Services, Kansas

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, the State Kansas Legislature (KSL) embarked on a journey to integrate disparate and stovepiped applications. Unbeknownst to the dedicated requirements gatherers, dark forces were swirling in the enterprise infrastructure.

The future strategies declared by the State Technical Architect did not include Novell Netware or GroupWise, moving instead to either Microsoft or open source technologies. Following the theory that infrastructure drives applications, KSL needed to update its infrastructure and fast.

Fourth Quarter, 2007

The first step was creating a secure, reliable data center in the inherently hostile environment of the Capitol's mechanical vault. With no space for a raised floor or plenum, we were creative in searching for a cooling solution. APC's hot aisle containment system was chosen to overcome this environment and also met requirements for green computing. www.youtube.com/watch?v=DX97g1mhlsg

Second and Third Quarters, 2008

Realizing they needed help, KSL staff looked for allies. DISC, the executive branch agency responsible for backbone networking, was ready to upgrade the current network from Nortel switching to Cisco layer 3 network switching. Following months of planning, Cisco 3750 switches were installed. Implementing a Virtual Routing and Forwarding (VRF) design segmented the network and improved security. Multicast Virtual Route Forwarding (MVRF) positioned us to broadcast video across the network without impacting performance and with no latency to the desktop.

During this same period, the plan to migrate from Novell Netware to Microsoft Active Directory was taking place. As administrators attempted to control

the server creep brought on by the need for redundant domain controllers, a team of subject matter experts developed test scripts and prepared users for the transition.

Improved security also meant a full review of the current firewall rules. Unnecessary rules were discarded, rules were reordered for better performance and all were thoroughly documented.

On the third floor of the Capitol, restoration of the House Chamber was taking place, including new voting display boards. Hydraulics move the display boards out from the wall and tilt them so they'll be visible around chandeliers. Members' desks were outfitted with updated button panels for electronic voting. The IRC vote system was also upgraded during this period.

Fourth Quarter, 2008

Having conquered the infrastructure frontline, the team was ready to tackle a new email system. With a small staff we began to rely on vendors for technical expertise. An Exchange Server 2007 system was built and put into testing, but errors were common and reliability was shaky. We chose to look for an alternative consulting vendor, ripped out the system and started over. The second install was stable and user migrations began as the legislative session opened. Surprisingly, many legislators volunteered to migrate during the session for better services to their mobile devices. An IronPort device was implemented to prevent spam from entering the email system. (Notable quote: "I don't think your new spam filter is working because I haven't been getting any spam.") OpenFire was chosen for instant messaging using Spark as the desktop client. OpenFire is a free, open source IM solution. It took about a day to install and configure it for the enterprise.

We're fully positioned to implement Unified Communications in early 2010. We'll work closely with DISC on that project.

First Quarter, 2009

Vendor negotiations begin on servers and a SAN for the Kansas Legislative Integrated Services System (KLISS) enterprise application. A Model Office test environment is established. Sun Servers are installed for testing in the data center. A rigorous

Request For Quote process shakes up the vendor community. The final award goes to Alexander Open Systems – Hewlett Packard ProLiant 785 servers with an EMC Clariion SAN are purchased. Cisco 9222i fiber to IP switches provide fiber connections between the servers and SAN, and real time data transfer via IP to the disaster recovery hot site two hours away.

Second Quarter, 2009

The physical environment for KLISS application development is in place, but issues arise with Red Hat Enterprise Linux virtualization. The team turns to VMWare, and once again partners with vendors to find a solution within their limited budget. High availability, vMotion, manageability, cost effectiveness and security features fuel the decision.

After years of working with the State Archivist on preservation of digital material and administering a document management system to archive legislative material, the need for a statewide digital archive managed by the State Archivist becomes a funded project. The Kansas Historical Society launches the Kansas Enterprise Electronic Preservation (KEEP) Archives project. Our executive director offered our staff project management and technical staff services to the project. In an unprecedented move, the Chief Information Technical Officers from all three branches united to sponsor the project. Our team will provide project management and technical expertise. During the build phase and first year of implementation the system will be housed and administered in the legislative data center.

Third Quarter, 2009

Implementing advanced monitoring and troubleshooting of the virtual environment, applications and network are critical. We're evaluating egInnovations for this.

The Capitol Restoration project continues, moving into the South Wing. At this point we begin to implement technology in the renovated committee hearing rooms. Video services in the committee rooms include both real-time streaming video and archived video with all data fully linked. The fully automated design doesn't include staff managing technology in the room, so we're implementing Biamp audio system logic boards to allow the camera to move to the active microphone (video

follows voice). All connections will be fiber or IP, including camera connectors. We are eliminating dedicated audio broadcast devices (Orators, CobraNet). With the new multicast network capabilities we're able to deliver quality video services to user desktops. Other technologies in this area include integrated message boards and wayfinding kiosks with committee agendas and bill history system. At this time Cisco and Four Winds have emerged as the likely vendors for these technologies.

For increased network security we'll also be implementing a Cisco Network Access Control Device to protect data jacks in public areas and further protect the network from viruses on personal devices attached to the network. Our firewalls will be upgraded to Cisco ASA firewalls.

Plotting the timelines of these projects has been critical. Attempting too many things at once is confusing and overwhelming, and troubleshooting issues becomes more complicated. Carefully staging the work allowed time for shakedown between each phase.

Our infrastructure upgrades have been a step ahead of the application development team, who are on track to begin producing legislative documents later this year. The infrastructure changes have determined the direction of application development. For example, implementing Exchange Server and planning for unified communications expanded KLISS application notification services. Using multicast as a network service completely altered how we would deliver video services. This has been an incredible 18 months. When things got a little hairy, we simply followed the advice of the inimitable Hans Solo -- "Fly casual." 🍊

KLISS Software Application Update

By Alan Weis, Kansas

The Kansas Legislative Integrated Services System (KLISS) software application development is proceeding as planned. The Detailed Design Project was completed in November 2008. The Software Construction Project (the Build Project as it sometimes referred to) was started in January 2009.

The project plan was filed with the Kansas Information Technology Office (KITO) and the contract was signed with our vendor, Propylon, Inc.

The initial phase of the project through May 2009 was to define project controls, deliverable acceptance criteria, document the construction strategy and document the data conversion plan. During this time Propylon was also in the early stages of development on the system. Also the four server environments were established for development, user test, backup and fail-over, and production.

The KLISS Development Office has been established with office space for the Propylon and Kansas developers, business analysts, and managers. The office was designed to facilitate an integrated Kansas and Propylon development team. In the office we will conduct agile development by bringing our users into a Model Office environment. In Model Office the users will test the system with actual legislative data and test scripts and provide feedback to the development team. Users will be trained and certified on the system in Model Office. After Model Office, a smaller group of users will conduct acceptance testing on the delivered application.

The next steps will test the Core system in Model Office during the summer of 2009. The Core system is to be delivered in August 2009. The Law Making system will be delivered in November 2009. Then in 2010, the Chamber Automation and the Decision Support systems will be completed.

Implementation of the system is schedule for the start of the Kansas Legislative session in January 2011. There is a lot of development and testing work that needs to be completed in the next year and a half. After implementation, Propylon is contracted to be on-site through the 2011 session to maintain the system. The KLISS Software Application Build Project is schedule to conclude in July of 2011. 🍊

**Hear more about Kansas' Enterprise
Architecture project at the
[NALIT Professional Development Seminar](#)
September 9-12, 2009
Austin Texas**

NCSL Survey: Effects of State Fiscal Crisis on Legislative Operating Budgets and IT Spending

By Luke Martel, NCSL Intern

In March 2009, NCSL sent two separate surveys designed to collect data on how legislatures have revised their operating budgets to align with declining state revenues. The first survey was sent to the leadership offices of each legislative chamber, and the second was sent to non-partisan legislative agencies. NCSL received responses from 38 (or about 38 percent) of the leadership offices, of which 14 had either yet to take action on their budgets or were not subject to budget cuts. Thirty of the 41 (or 73 percent) non-partisan legislative agencies responded. The surveys asked specific questions about budget actions affecting legislative staff, budget actions affecting legislators and non-personnel related legislative actions.

Legislatures Face Travel Restrictions

According to the chamber responses, the most reported budget action taken was placing restrictions or bans on legislators and/or their staff from traveling out-of-state using chamber funds. For fiscal year 2009, 11 states reported restricting out-of-state travel for legislative staff, and 12 states reported restricting out-of-state travel for legislators. Further, for fiscal year 2009, five states reported bans on out-of-state travel for legislative staff and six states reported bans on out-of-state travel for legislators. The responses received from non-partisan legislative agencies were very similar: out-of-state travel for legislative agency staff was restricted in 13 states, and banned in five states, for fiscal year 2009.

Information Technology Spending Affected

Information technology (IT) expenditures were delayed or reduced in some states. The chamber survey indicated that five states reduced information technology expenditures and five states delayed information technology expenditures. The chambers that reported reducing IT expenditures for fiscal year 2009 are the Hawaii House, the Iowa House, the Virginia Senate, and both chambers in Washington. The chambers that reported delaying IT expenditures for fiscal year 2009 are the Idaho Senate, the Iowa

House, the Virginia Senate, and both chambers in Washington.

The non-partisan legislative agency survey also indicated reduced IT spending. The agency survey data shows that five agencies reduced IT expenditures and six states delayed IT expenditures for fiscal year 2009. The agencies that reported reducing IT expenditures are in Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Iowa, and Oregon. Agencies in Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Iowa, Oregon and Washington reported delaying IT expenditures.

A smaller number of states reported plans to enact the same type of expenditure reductions in fiscal year 2010. However, the data for the upcoming fiscal year is not as representative because this survey was conducted in March 2009, and at that time many legislatures were just beginning to evaluate their FY2010 budget situation.

The [report](#) and full survey results can be found on the NCSL website. 

NCSL Launches New Website

The URL stays the same, but www.ncsl.org looks a lot different today. The re-designed website allows state legislators, legislative staff, the media and the public to more easily navigate and find valuable information that NCSL produces.

Displayed prominently on the homepage, visitors will have access to timely state policy news, reports and links to popular areas of NCSL's site. The website divides its vast research into groups including policy areas, legislative operations, legislative staff and state-federal affairs on "portal pages." This allows easy navigation to information.

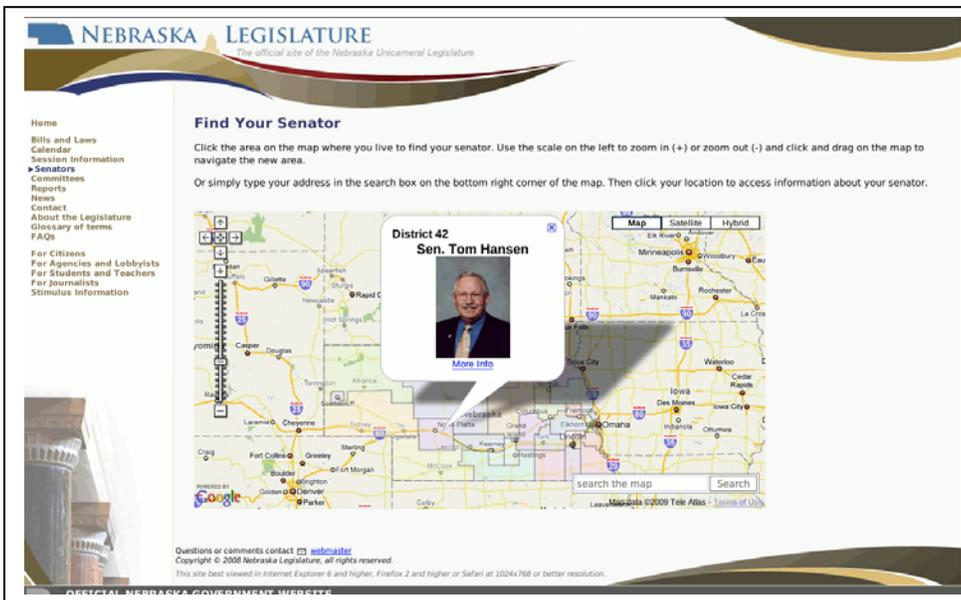
The creation of the site was a joint effort involving Mad Development of New York, 10 Pound Gorilla of Golden, Colorado, Anabliss Design of Denver, working with NCSL's IT and Communications divisions.

NALIT's Website Redesign Committee members—Duncan Goss, Gary Schaefer and Scott Darnall—provided direction and guidance for NALIT's portal on the new site: www.ncsl.org/nalit

Making Life Easier with Google Maps

By Steven Carlson, Nebraska
(Steven Carlson is attending Doane College in Information Science and is an intern with the Legislative Technology Center.)

A number of new geospatial viewing tools from major players in the Internet industry have recently appeared on the scene and are taking the geospatial world by storm. Google was one among several entities who have released web-based mapping tools in the past few years, which has collectively raised the bar for Internet mapping. Although Google's functional capabilities does have a few flaws, their emergence has been significant in that they have managed to capture a wider audience.



Google has emerged as the leader of the pack of web map development with its recently released Google Maps product. It provides a slick, highly responsive visual interface built using AJAX technologies along with detailed street and aerial imagery data, and an open API allowing customization of the map output including the ability to add application-specific data to the map. To make it even better, Google currently provides access to this service for FREE!

Google Maps provides a highly responsive, intuitive mapping interface, has a high degree of customization, and can use aerial imagery data. With regard to the Nebraska Legislature, it provides the interface, background and housing for Nebraska legislative

districts. The district boundaries are laid out by exact longitudes and latitudes, along with a little color to show the shape. When a district is clicked upon, you will receive a district number, name, picture, and link to that senator. In addition, a user can enter his home address and city, and the map interface will focus on the address in the map. Clicking the surrounding area will then reveal the Senator's information window.

The legislative district boundaries are made up of shapefiles which were created using ESRI's ArcGIS software. Shapefiles were then converted into Keyhole Markup Language (KML) files in order to be in a format that is supported by Google Maps. Some minor geographic errors may occur when zoomed into large-scale; this would likely be the result of Google Maps' and ESRI's boundary files not being 100% compatible.

The KML file was modified and encoded with information about the senators, which consisted of name, district number, name, picture and their URL at NebraskaLegislature.gov. Once the file was complete, it was stored on our web server along with our new legislative website for the 2009 session. To view the KML generated boundaries, an HTML was created that contains a Google Map API Key. The key, which is registered to our site,

is what gives us the privilege to use Google Maps and mesh the shapes files to the map.

The "Find Your Senator" webpage has been well received. One invested use has been for the Sergeant at Arms who registers visitors to the chamber. The Sergeant has employed this webpage to find the Senator for visitors who do not recall, and then can include the district and Senator as part of the information sent to the presiding officer which he or she will use to introduce the visitors to the chamber.

This project was produced by a collaboration between Gary Wieman, Jack Dohrman, Kevin Lyons, and Pam Huckins. 

NALIT at the NCSL Legislative Summit Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

July 20-24, 2009

The NCSL [Legislative Summit](#) in Philadelphia is the only place where state lawmakers, legislative staff and national policy experts from across the country converge to share ideas, best practices and strategies. Join NALIT members at the Legislative Summit in Philadelphia!

Preliminary NALIT Agenda

(As of June 16, 2009)

Monday, July 20, 2009

1:00 pm - 2:45 pm

Stepping Up to the Plate: Confronting Ethical Problems Head On

There's nothing as powerful as an idea whose time has come. To impact the ethical climate positively, Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Illinois are actively reforming their ethics laws. This session examines laws and policies in these and other states.

Moderator:

- Paula Franzese, Rodino Professor of Law, Seton Hall School of Law, Newark, New Jersey

Speakers:

- Representative Richard Gallot, Jr., House of Representatives, Louisiana

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Exhibit Hall Open

8:30 pm - 10:15 am

General Session: Bill Gates: A Bold New Vision for Education

America's most famous technology entrepreneur has turned his energy and genius to improving education in our country. Mr. Gates believes that economic stimulus money for education provides a unique opportunity to create bold innovations that will redefine education excellence.

Presiding:

- Speaker Joe Hackney, Speaker of the House, North Carolina

Speaker:

- Bill Gates, Co-Chair and Trustee, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Opening Up Legislatures Through Social Media

(Co-sponsored by the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries)

Citizens expect information to be available on the Internet and on social networks they use most, such as Twitter, Facebook or the next new site. Learn how legislatures can use social media to enhance the institution, improve the public's perception about legislative transparency and accessibility, and increase public participation.

Moderator:

- Sharon Crouch Steidel, Director of Information Systems, House of Delegates, Virginia

Speakers:

- Ric Cantrell, Chief Deputy of the Senate, Senate, Utah
- Andrew Hoppin, CIO, State Senate, New York

12:15 pm - 2:30 pm

Standing Committee Sessions (All attendees welcome.)

2:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Legislative Staff Mega Session: Doing More with Less: Become a Creative Innovator

Hear ideas and learn the tools to do more with less—less money and less staff while still being responsive to the legislature and the public from an expert in planning better for the future.

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Taste of Kentucky

The mystique of Churchill Downs, the excitement of the Kentucky Derby—you'll be transported to this land of wonder and beauty, with more than a dollop of Southern charm, hospitality and great cuisine that will have you looking forward to the 2010 Kentucky Legislative Summit.

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Exhibit Hall Open
- 8:30 am - 10:00 am **General Session: The Economy: What's In Store?**
Renowned economists will share their ideas on how to get out of the recession. They will discuss whether the stimulus money is enough to stabilize the American economy, whether or not the United States will lead the recovery, and what roles the EU and China will play.
Presiding:
▪ Senator Don Balfour , State Senator, Georgia
- Panelists:**
▪ David Cohen, Executive Vice President, Comcast Corporation
▪ Simon Johnson, Dr., MIT's Sloan School of Management
▪ David Wyss, Chief Economist, Standard & Poor's
- 10:30 am - 12:00 noon **Valuing Differences, Creating Success**
Differences in generational and cultural perspectives, institutional knowledge and technical expertise can create challenges in developing legislative information systems. Explore ways to build relationships among all kinds of staff and legislators, plan for retirements, train new staff, and discover new programming and project management methods.
Moderator:
▪ Duncan Goss, Information Systems Director, Vermont
- Speakers:**
▪ Susan Clarke Schaar, Clerk of the Senate, Virginia
▪ James Tamburro, Training & Staff Development Coordinator, Connecticut
- 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm Issue Forums
- 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Issue Forums
- 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm **Social Event: Philadelphia Freedom**
"The Most Historic Square Mile in America" will play host to our opening extravaganza of history, culture, food and festivity on Independence Mall, the place America was born.

Thursday, July 23, 2009

- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Exhibit Hall Open
- 9:00 am - 11:30 am **General Session: The Word from Washington and Annual NCSL Business Meeting**
Hear from a member of the Obama administration on White House initiatives and their impact on the states. Attend the Business Meeting to vote on policy positions that guide NCSL's advocacy efforts before Congress and the administration.
Presiding:
▪ Senator Richard T. Moore , State Senator, Massachusetts
- Speaker:**
▪ Gary Locke, Secretary of Commerce, United States
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm **NALIT Lunch and Business Meeting**
NALIT members will consider By-Laws changes, hear committee reports, present the NALIT Legislative Staff Achievement Awards, and elect new officers.
▪ Presiding: Duncan Goss, Information Systems Director, Vermont, NALIT Chair
- 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Issue Forums

Thursday, July 23, 2009 (cont.)

- 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm **Connecting Through Social Media**
Social media such as Facebook, blogs and Twitter are revolutionizing the way news and information is delivered and received. Learn how to use this media to shape the public's perception about legislative transparency and accessibility and to increase public participation.
Trainers:
- Representative Rosie Berger , State Representative, Wyoming
 - Brad Blake, Director, New Media & Online Strategy, Office of the Governor
 - Ric Cantrell, Chief Deputy of the Senate, Senate, Utah
 - Tim Rice, Executive Director, Legislative Information System, Illinois
 - Senator Bruce Starr, State Senator, Oregon
- 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm **NALIT Dutch Treat Dinner**
Join IT colleagues from around the country for a great evening at a local restaurant. Spouses and guests are welcome. Advance registration required. Contact [Pam Greenberg](#) no later than July 10 to RSVP and for more information.

Friday, July 24, 2009

- 8:00 am - 10:00 am **General Session and Breakfast: Peggy Noonan, An Election: A New Direction and the Politics of Change**
Peggy Noonan is a columnist for "The Wall Street Journal," a frequent guest on political talk shows and the best selling author of seven books on American politics, history and culture. Her most recent book is "Patriotic Grace: What It Is and Why We Need It Now." She was a producer at CBS News before becoming a special assistant to President Ronald Reagan and chief speech writer for George Bush in 1988 when he ran for the presidency.
Speaker:
- Peggy Noonan, Columnist, The Wall Street Journal
- 10:15 am - 11:45 am Issue Forums
- 12:00 pm - 1:45 pm **Legislative Staff Lunch: Elemental Leadership in Crisis Times**
Bill Purcell, the former majority leader of the Tennessee House of Representatives and former mayor of Nashville, is director of Harvard's Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. Named Public Official of the Year by "Governing" magazine in 2006, Purcell has spent more than 30 years in public service, law and higher education. He served as founding dean of the College of Public Service and Urban Affairs at Tennessee State University since January 2008 and was founder and director of the Child and Family Policy Center at Vanderbilt University.
- 2:00 pm - 3:45 pm **Legislative Staff Mega Session: Building a Thriving Organization**
Join legislative staff for an interactive session on the book "Tribal Leadership," by Dave Logan, John King and Halee Fischer-Wright. Based on an eight-year study of organizational behavior, the authors discuss organizations as "tribes" and teach how to strengthen and elevate a tribe to a level that maximizes teamwork and productivity in challenging economic environments.
- 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm **Social Event: Philadelphia Finale**
One of the most famous art museums in the world serves as backdrop to one of the world's most heroic movie moments—the ascension of Rocky to the top of the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art overlooking the skyline of the City of Brotherly Love. Enjoy an evening of food and entertainment with pictures by the Rocky statue and a grand outdoor concert at dusk with the skyline as the ultimate backdrop.

NALIT Annual Business Meeting

NALIT's Annual Business Meeting will be held at the NCSL Legislative Summit in Philadelphia on Thursday, July 23, 2009, from 11:30 am-12:00 pm. NALIT members will elect new officers, hear from NALIT committee chairs, congratulate winners of the NALIT Achievement and Online Democracy Awards, and consider other business of the association.

NALIT 2009 Professional Development Seminar

September 9-12, 2009

Austin, Texas

The **NALIT Professional Development Seminar** brings together state legislative information technology professionals who are interested in advancing the effectiveness and efficiency of state legislatures through technology. NALIT members attend the seminar to share solutions and discuss innovative uses of technology. Seminar sessions are designed for technical specialists, managers and others interested in policy and management issues related to legislative information technology. Speakers for the seminar combine the knowledge of industry experts and the experience and expertise of legislative information technology staff. Integral to the seminar is the opportunity to compare experiences with other legislative information technology staff in roundtable sessions and small group discussions.

Austin, the capital of Texas and one of the most popular cities, is down-home, yet sophisticated. Laid-back and bustling with energy. Traditional and avant-garde at the same time. Austinites and visitors alike embrace the city's unique identity and appreciate the traditions it was founded upon. As the Live Music Capital of the World®, Austin echoes with the sounds of country, rock, blues and Tejano. Fans discover live music in nearly 200 venues throughout the city. This small university town has become a big city with a glittering skyline and 1.4 million people in the metropolitan area. Experience Austin at www.austintexas.org.

Please join us for a unique learning experience and opportunity to meet with colleagues from other states.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

As of June 4, 2009

Tuesday, Sept. 8	Wednesday, Sept. 9	Thursday, Sept. 10	Friday, Sept. 11	Saturday, Sept. 12
	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
Morning	Pre-Conference Training Seminar: GIS for Legislatures	Security: Data Recovery/Hard Drives	Web Streaming and Transcription Services	AGILE Software Development
Morning		Open Source Security Tools for Windows	Washington State Web Services (Webinar)	Enterprise Architecture in the Legislature
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Afternoon	Pre-Conference Training Seminar: GIS for Legislatures	Security: Viruses and Malware	State Capitol Tours and Briefings	Virtualization
Afternoon Registration	Five Minutes of Fame/Roundtables	Disaster Recovery	How to Tweet without Being a Twit (Joint with LINCS)	
Evening			Exhibitors Reception 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	

NALIT Newsletter Moves to Electronic Distribution

The NALIT Newsletter, which is published twice annually, will for the first time move to an electronic-only version with this edition.

The electronic version of the NALIT Newsletter will be emailed to all NALIT members and, as always, will be posted on the [NALIT website](#). Keep in mind that the PDF version of the newsletter can always be printed and read in hard copy.

If you have any questions about the NALIT Newsletter, please contact Pam Greenberg, NCSL Liaison to NALIT, at (303) 364-7700 ext. 1413 or pam.greenberg@ncsl.org.

Call for Newsletter Articles

Publishing this newsletter would be impossible **without your participation.**

What kind of articles do we need?

- Descriptions of IT-related projects undertaken by your office.
- Reviews or studies that your office has done on IT-related issues.
- IT-related policies or systems implemented in your state (not just by your office) that affect legislative IT operations.
- Anything at all that you think would be interesting to your peers in other states.

No word limit (or minimum). A typical article is two or three single-spaced pages, but longer or shorter articles are fine. The more articles we have, the better the publication!

Editor's Corner

Wow, the year has flown by! Being your newsletter editor this year has been a privilege but it isn't a one person effort. My thanks to everyone who wrote an article. Special thanks to Pam Greenberg and others at NCSL for doing the page layouts and publishing. The NALIT newsletter is definitely a community project.

Speaking about community, do you consider NALIT to be a community? A group of folks with a shared purpose, shared experiences, and shared problems. I hope so. That is why it is important to support our "community" by participating in the Summit and Professional Development Seminar or writing an article for the newsletter. (By the way, the next newsletter editor will also appreciate that.)

Many of us continue to work for the Legislature out of a sense of service. Many of us could make more money, have more free time, and endure less stress doing other jobs or working in another sector. But we continue to do this work because we believe in public service. It is pretty neat to look around NALIT and see the interesting and innovative things people are doing with the objective of serving the public good. Open government and e-democracy are becoming realities. Facebook, twitter and their ilk make government officials accessible in a manner never before experienced by the populous. Yet these evolutions do not come about without energy. It takes the energy of leadership to define, promote and bring to fruition new concepts. It takes servant oriented leadership. People who get out front and lead, motivated by a service orientation. The will to do good. I see a lot of this kind of leadership in NALIT. Let's keep it rolling. Get involved in NALIT. Be a panelist, serve on a committee, be a committee chair, a director, or executive committee member. There is a place for everyone to fit in. As I pass the editorial privilege to the next editor, just let me say once more how thankful I am to have been granted this favor. See ya soon I hope.

Dave Larson, Kansas, Editor

2008-2009 NALIT Committees

2009 NALIT Staff Achievement Awards Committee

Chair: Gary Wieman, Nebraska

The annual Legislative Staff Achievement Award was created by the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee to recognize excellence in supporting the work of a state legislature and strengthening the legislative institution. Each staff section associated with NCSL may name up to two recipients—individuals, teams or legislative offices—for recognition each year. The NALIT Staff Achievement Award Committee solicits nominations and recommends award recipients for the 2008 NALIT Legislative Staff Achievement Award, based on criteria outlined on the NALIT website.

2009 Nominating Committee

Chair: Gary Schaefer, Louisiana

The NALIT Nominating Committee consists of three members who compile a slate of nominees for the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. This slate is submitted by the Chair of the Nominating Committee for a vote of the general members of the Association at the NCSL Annual Meeting. Nominees are elected by a simple majority of the general members of the Association present and voting.

IT Survey Committee

Chair: Ann McLaughlin, Delaware

Committee activities include evaluating the information presently in the survey, and updating the types of information in the survey. The committee issues reminders to members to update their information within pre-determined time frames (e.g., quarterly, annually), and decides the best means for presentation on the NALIT website. The committee will also develop additional methods and activities to enhance the value of the survey information.

Web Site Redesign Group

Chair: Scott Darnell, South Dakota

The Web Site Redesign Committee provides guidance on the organization and design of the NALIT website as it undergoes changes as part of a larger redesign effort for the NCSL Website.

Marketing and Outreach Committee

Chair: Becky King, Kentucky

Committee activities primarily include the continuation of outreach efforts to members of other staff sections and inactive NALIT members. Efforts are made to encourage inactive NALIT members to become involved again by issuing invitations to the NCSL Annual Meeting and the PDS, and for newcomers by developing an information packet explaining the benefits of our organization. Development of mentoring programs and other new activities enhance the purpose of this committee.

LINCS/NALIT Online Democracy Award Committee

NALIT Co-Chairs: James Fasoli and Lynda Cenneno, New Jersey

The Online Democracy Award is sponsored by NCSL's Legislative Information and Communications Staff Section (LINCS) and the National Association of Legislative Information Technology (NALIT). Each year, the committee considers nominations from official legislative sites developed and maintained by or under the authority of (a) a state legislature, (b) a legislative chamber, or (c) an officially-recognized legislative partisan caucus.

IT Standards Committee

Virtualization Subcommittee

Chair: Alan Osborne, Tennessee

Green IT Subcommittee

Chair: Lorie Johnson, Arkansas

Voting Systems Subcommittee

Chair: Jason Montgomery, Illinois

Members of the committee are the Executive Committee Officers and Directors. The committee monitors other states' technology activities. It utilizes experts in those states to form issue/technology-specific subcommittees, which provide information and personal experiences on technology. Subcommittee activities include: evaluating new and existing technologies and processes, providing positive and negative aspects involved with implementing a new technology, providing estimates for implementation and offering an unbiased opinion that NALIT and other NCSL staff sections can use as a source of information.

Executive Committee – 2008-09 Officers and Directors



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