

National Legislative Services and Security Association



2010 Fall Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

NLSSA Fall Training
Conference
Baton Rouge, La
October 3-8, 2010



Message from the President:

This has been a great year for NLSSA. Last September, NLSSA Members from around the country met at in Charleston, South Carolina for a broad mix of professional development and networking opportunities that were second to none. In July, our staff section met at the NCSL Legislative Summit in Louisville, KY where we toured the capitol in Frankfurt and met with their security personnel. Region 2 and Region 4 also held meetings over the past summer that focused on staff section business and professional development.

In October, NLSSA Members will again travel from across the country to meet in the capitol city of Baton Rouge, LA for our Annual Training Conference that I will be hosting. With the help of my staff, colleagues and generous sponsors from across the state I am confident that NLSSA will again hold a fabulous conference that all of our members will find beneficial.

The conference will take place at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center Hotel where we will hold a number of important training sessions including a presentation on Leadership from former Navy Seal Commander, Mark McGinnis. A few weeks ago, we also received confirmation that Terrance Gainer, Sergeant at Arms for the United States Senate will be our keynote speaker.

We have also scheduled a variety of training opportunities outside the hotel as well. On Wednesday, October 6th, NLSSA Members will be traveling to New Orleans to receive professional ethics training and meet with local and state police for security briefings. We will also be meeting in capitol building one day for professional development and to hold our annual business meeting.

Unfortunately, since many NLSSA members will be unable to attend the conference due to travel restrictions, we have also secured NCSL e-learning funds to have two sessions filmed. The videos will be uploaded to our webpage and available to all members immediately following the seminar. I understand that this is not as beneficial as attending our conference but it will help to provide additional professional development to our staff section during these tough economic times.

I have fully enjoyed the past two years serving as your president. It has been an honor getting to know all of the wonderful people who work diligently every day to provide security and services to our nation's legislatures. Without the hard work and dedication of legislative staff, our democratic institutions could not fulfill its' responsibility to conduct the people's business. Thank you for serving alongside me.

As I finish my two year term as NLSSA President, I would also like to encourage all NLSSA Members to get and stay involved in our association. It is your day to day involvement that makes our organization the valuable network that it is. It has been an honor to serve as NLSSA president from 2008-2010 and I am looking forward remaining an active NLSSA member for many years to come.

Sincerely,
Clarence Russ
House Sergeant at Arms, LA
NLSSA President

Churchill Downs

Home of the Kentucky Derby

I have always been a horse “fanatic.” As a child of 12 years old I got to take a partial tour of Churchill Downs on a family vacation. Being a horse enthusiast, I was excited to be there but felt I really didn’t get to see enough of this great facility. I wanted to “feel” the atmosphere of this Sport of Kings. While attending the National Conference of State Legislatures summit in Louisville, KY I was thrilled to be included in the National Legislative Services Security Association tour of Churchill Downs.

As we pulled into the lot and entered the gate, I could feel the excitement building within me. Here I was at one of the destinations I had always dreamed of visiting again. Mr. Rod King, chief of security, met us inside the gate and served as our host. You could immediately sense his enjoyment in his position and the great pride he took in his employment. Mr. King has a staff of over 100 security personnel. In addition to staffing the control room, they use strategically located security cameras to identify crime. His staff also is responsible for patrolling the entire facility, and when horses are present for a race, a guard is placed with each animal.

Mr. King pointed out a statue of Barbaro at the gate entrance. Barbaro is interred beneath this statue. There is also an area in which several past Derby winners are interred.

We were escorted to Millionaires Row. When I visited here before I didn’t know there was a Millionaires Row. This area is where VIPs, film stars, famous athletes, and the rich and famous “hang out.” It contains betting areas, dining areas, kitchens and private suites. Wow, did I feel special sitting in Millionaires Row!

Of course, I would be just as happy hanging out in the stables.

Our group ventured into the paddock, an area where the race horses are often stabled for viewing before the races. A life-size statue of Aristides, the first Derby winner, is located in this area. Here also is a life-size statue of jockey Pat Day. As I looked upon this statue, I wondered how Mr. Day had felt mounted upon an athlete with such beauty, talent, strength and pride. What rides he must have enjoyed as horse and rider became one. What thrills he must have experienced with victory. Around the top of the buildings in this area, the name of each Derby winner and the year of their winning were posted. Just to stand and read those famous names was quite humbling.

We accompanied Mr. King to the twin spires and to the bleachers in front of the suites. We looked down upon the track and the infield. We saw the Winner’s Circle, and I could just imagine the horse and jockey standing there awaiting placement of the roses—after all, the Kentucky Derby is “the run for the roses.” We looked across the track and could see the barns in which some of the most famous steeds have been housed. Amazing to think of some of the animals that have passed through here—War Admiral, Secretariat, Affirmed, Funny Cide, Smarty Jones, Big Brown, Mine that Bird, Super Saver and, of course, Barbaro and Eight Bells.

On the other side of the track, there is a restaurant, the Bluegrass Trackside Kitchen, which is managed by Mr. Rob Way. Jockeys, trainers, owners and other personnel often visit the kitchen. Also on the barn side of the track is a chapel with a full time chaplain, a school where children are taught English, and a food and

clothing bank for use by barn area employees and their families. I never knew Churchill Downs provided these resources to their employees.

We were allowed to go through the tunnel, the one I have seen so many times on television, through which these magnificent animals and jockeys travel to the track. Suddenly I found myself at the track gate—one step from being on the track. I stooped down and went under the gate. I was standing on the Churchill Downs race track! I felt “goose bumps”, or should I say “horse bumps,” all over my body. What a “high.” I turned toward the starting gate, stood very still and closed my eyes. I could visualize the horses in the gates anticipating release, the look of exhilaration on the jockey’s faces, and the smell of horses and leather. I could hear the thundering of hooves as I visualized the horses being released, and I could hear those famous words, “and they’re off. . . . In the background, I heard someone say it was time to go. Wishing this was not true; I was brought back to the present—time to leave. What an exciting day, and one I shall never forget!

What a responsibility to provide security for such a large facility with such large crowds and valuable animals. Along with learning about the nice things Churchill does for barn area personnel, we also learned there has never been a robbery at Churchill Downs. What a great experience I had. I have only one regret...I forgot to take my camera! My wish now is to be able to attend the Kentucky Derby.

Thank you NLSSA and Mr. Rod King for such a fantastic experience.

Bonnie Shanholtzer, Staff Director
Alabama Legislative Reapportionment Office

Kentucky State Capitol

On Monday, July 26th NLSSA members joined internationals to visit the state capitol building in Frankfort, Ky. The trip gave everyone the opportunity to travel outside Louisville for an afternoon and learn more about Kentucky's history and government.

Construction on Kentucky's current state capitol began in 1904, funded from reparations appropriated by the federal government for damages sustained during the Civil War by Union Army troops. Since Kentucky never seceded from the Union, it remained eligible to receive up to \$1 million for its new building. The capitol was designed by Frank Mills Andrews, who incorporated a broad mixture of classic French interior designs throughout the building. The capitol, built with three main floors, is the seat of all three branches (executive, legislative, judicial) of state government.

During the next century, a series of renovations took place to help modernize and maintain the existing structure. In 1955, plumbing, heating, air conditioning and electronic wiring were installed throughout the building, providing contemporary amenities. In 1996, the capitol building exterior was repaired after water damaged the dome.

Recent building's improvements also were made to the building's security. The capitol used to be completely open during normal business hours, but today anyone without a state ID must pass through a metal detector. The Kentucky State Police are responsible for providing security throughout the capitol grounds. NLSSA members were fortunate to meet directly with A.D., Long who oversees capitol security. The entire trip was well-organized and extremely informative. Everyone is looking forward to touring the Texas state capitol in Austin at next year's 2011 Legislative Summit.

Morgan Cullen
NLSSA Liaison
NCSL, Legislative Management



Texas Capitol Security Update

Security at the Capitol has been a topic of discussion since a gunman fired several pistol shots outside the south entrance in January 2010. The situation ended positively, no one was hurt. Department of Public Safety Troopers quickly apprehended the lone gunman.

A program to enhance capitol security soon followed the incident. Some enhancements included an expanded bike patrol, deployment of bomb-sniffing dogs, metal detectors, a mass notification system for capitol employees, and new training programs for troopers who provide security at the statehouse.

George K. Scheer,
Lieutenant
Capitol District
Texas Department of Public Safety

NCSL-2010, Kentucky

The NCSL Legislative Summit is now behind us. The Kentucky conference was a great success and kudos go to NCSL and the host state for a truly wonderful experience. Although the conference was well attended, it is evident that the economic crunch affected travel in many states. Attendees at the conference were entertained with a truly special concert featuring Patty Lovelace, Wynonna Judd and the Legendary Queen of Country Music, Ms. Loretta Lynn. Loretta Lynn's twin daughters opened the show for their mother, and their opening performances proved that the fruit doesn't fall far from the tree.

A special luncheon was held on Tuesday to promote the 2011 conference to be held in San Antonio, Texas. Conference guests were treated to a true Texas-style luncheon that featured fajitas with all the trimmings and desserts to match. While guests enjoyed their lunch, music was provided by Ray Benson and his band, Asleep At The Wheel.

Conference attendees also experienced a unique privilege while in Kentucky, Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. Please see Bonnie's entry in this newsletter.

NLSSA's business meeting was held and highlights follow:

- Welcome to new member Mickey Scheffler, Texas Department of Public Safety.
- Ken Scheer, Region 2 Chair, highlighted some of the training to be held in Bentonville, Ark.
- Incentives to members to pay dues in a more timely manner
- New incentives for committee and regional training

NLSSA's president and Executive board will provide additional information at the Fall Training Conference in Baton Rouge, La.

Rick DeLeon
Sergeant-At-Arms
Texas Senate



NCSL IN LOUISVILLE, KY

Let me first say that the NCSL staff and the Kentucky delegation put together a great Legislative Summit in Louisville, KY.

You would think that finding someone you know in a city the size of Louisville, at a conference with 4 thousand attendees would be a hard to do. It's not at NCSL. My wife and I arrived late on Sunday afternoon and wanted to get registered before they closed for the day. We ran over to the convention center and ran into Sissy DeLeon the wife of Rick DeLeon, TX. On returning back to check in the hotel we ran into John Keller, LA and his wife Renee. We had only been in town 45 minutes.

Needing food we walked a couple of blocks to a restaurant and ran into Jimmetta Peoples, AL who needed food also. Tired from a long drive we went back to the hotel to get ready for a long day on Monday. Walking into the lobby we ran into Clarence Russ, LA and his wife Tracy. It is amazing how big all of this is and yet so small.

Monday morning started with a bus ride through a beautiful Kentucky countryside to Frankfort to visit the Capitol. The Capitol was beautiful, with carefully manicured lawns and flower beds. It sits in a residential neighborhood with no businesses around it at all. After having lunch in the office building behind the Capitol, it was time for the tour. NLSSA members met with Capitol Police to talk about their duties and studied the security system that they have in place. I'm always impressed with every Capitol that I've been in. This one was no exception. Most impressive were the marble columns, each 26 feet tall and weighing 10 tons each, and the marble steps that lead to the House and Senate chambers. There is a lot of history on display there.

Back in Louisville late Monday evening it was time for the welcome to Kentucky event on the bank of the Ohio River. Barbeque served under the biggest tent I've ever seen. Entertainment provided by three ladies from Kentucky...Patty Loveless, Loretta Lynn, and Wynona Judd. It was a great way to end a remarkable day.

On Tuesday there are training classes going on covering almost any topic you could think of. NCSL staff invited world class faculty from across the country and all you had to do was walk in and sit down.

NLSSA members were treated to a special tour of behind the scenes at Churchill Downs. I won't cover too much of that because it's covered in another

article in the newsletter. I will say that it was pretty amazing. Did anyone get some dirt from the track?

Tuesday at lunch we got a preview of what Texas is going to put on in San Antonio in August 2011. They offered a delicious Tex Mex lunch...Oh my God it was fat boy heaven. To top all this off they brought Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel who played about an hour of the best western swing you ever heard. Good food and my favorite music. It can't get any better. See you in San Antonio!

Tuesday night a group of NLSSA members got together and went out to eat.

Wednesday morning while my wife went on her favorite trip to the Louisville Slugger plant to see how the famous baseball bats are made, I hit the exhibit hall. Hundreds of booths with information on any topic you can imagine. Plus they have goodies. Tee shirts, pens, tote bags, you name it they have it. Some people have to ship all the goodies home, so they have a UPS station set up there just for that.

NLSSA members gathered for lunch at an executive board meeting. We talked about the upcoming training conference in Baton Rouge, LA. Just by looking at the training and events offered I know this is going to be another great conference. (I've never been to a bad one). This was a conference call and many members called in. The meeting lasted about three hours with 10 members present and 5 members on conference call.

Wednesday night was the big grand finale at Churchill Downs. They had food set up on four levels, with a band playing on each level. Each person was given 5000.00 in mock money to bet on the three races that would be running that night. Great horse names like Sine Die, Legis Later, Capitol Connection. The person winning the most money won a free box seat for the Kentucky Derby. At the end of the races there were 16 people tied, and one person's number was drawn from a hat. Derby Hats, that's something else entirely.

All of the ladies were invited to wear the traditional Kentucky Derby hats. They were some sight to see! One lady looked like she stole someone's carport and put feathers on it and wore it for a hat. The best part of the night was the bourbon tasting. All of Kentucky's best in one room.

This was a great Summit that everyone enjoyed. Hope to see you in Baton Rouge in October.

Sam Smith
Alabama Senate Security, Montgomery, AL

