Hello LINCS-ters!

My name is K’Lynn Sloan Harris, and I am thrilled to serve as your chair for the 2016-2017 year! It is my hope you will find a community of colleagues in LINCS who experience the same challenges, provide similar services and make some meaningful professional and personal contacts in the world of legislative communications. I believe strongly that much can be gained from participating in this organization, and that’s why I have been on the Executive Committee of LINCS and now have the honor of serving as your chair.

It all began in the NCSL office in Washington, D.C., in 2013... my first LINCS professional development seminar. We had some amazing sessions that challenged me to be more creative in my work, we met and networked with wonderful colleagues I still rely on to this day, and we witnessed... the government shutdown. And this fall in 2017, I’m thrilled we’re going back to D.C. for what we hope will be another amazing PDS. Do you have ideas for topics to cover? Now is the time to let us know your ideas!

As a member of LINCS, there are many ways to be involved during the year. Aside from attending the NCSL Legislative Summit, or our fall PDS, you can contribute to this newsletter, direct questions to your colleagues and ask for advice through our listserv, and participate in our social media (find us on Twitter @NCSLLINCS)! I hope we can have an interactive relationship and that we can help meet your professional needs and provide support to our fellow hard-working legislative staff.

As we begin the year, I just want to thank my predecessor, Dennis Yoder of the Texas Senate Media Services, for setting the bar so high. I just look at it and sigh. He is incredible, and put on an amazing seminar in Austin. Also I can’t thank enough Jane Andrade from NCSL and Rob Stoddard from the National Cable and Television Association (NCTA) for all they do for us.

Legislative service is difficult work, and we have unique needs and issues as legislative communicators. For those of you knee deep in the bustle of session activity--you are not alone! Keep your head up, work hard, and know you have colleagues all over the country that are going through the same thing. We’re all in this together, please let me know how we can help support you and your work! Please reach out anytime this year, and I’ll look forward to seeing everyone in D.C. this fall!

K’Lynn Sloan Harris
Audio/Video Coordinator
Montana Legislative Services Division and LINCS Chair, (406) 444-3267
Meet Your 2017 LINCS Executive Committee

Chair—K’Lynn Sloan Harris, Montana, ksharris@mt.gov
K’Lynn serves as the audio video coordinator for the Montana Legislative Branch, overseeing the broadcasting and live streaming program, proudly making all legislative proceedings available to the public. She has been with the Montana Legislature since 2010, was a member of NALIT, and joined LINCS in 2012. A journalism and political science graduate of the University of Montana, K’Lynn was previously an election reporter for MTV, news director at 89.9 FM KBGA, worked for the United States Senate, and completed a White House Internship. She also serves on the state board of directors in Montana for Kiwanis International.

Vice Chair—Jeff Fossett, Kentucky, jeff.fossett@lrc.ky.gov
Jeff is video communications specialist for the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission, where he has worked since 1993. He has extensive experience in television news, working as a reporter, videographer and assistant news director for visual content. He received his bachelor’s degree in telecommunications from the University of Kentucky, where he was a cheerleader and cheerleading coach. Jeff is a husband, father and grandfather, and serves as a high school and college volleyball referee in his spare time.

Secretary—Anne Marie Moy, Missouri, AnneMarie.Moy@senate.mo.gov
Anne Marie is communication director for the Missouri Senate, where she leads a staff that supports the communications needs of all 34 Missouri senators. A veteran public relations professional with more than 20 years of combined corporate, agency and consulting communications experience, Anne Marie joined the Missouri Senate in August 2015. Previously, she served as spokesperson on the front lines of some of the most high-profile campaigns and issues in Missouri, building a solid reputation as a well-known, widely respected communications and media relations expert. Anne Marie is a 1994 graduate of the University of Mississippi.

Immediate Past Chair—Dennis Yoder, Texas, dennis.yoder@senate.texas.gov
Dennis, audio manager for 20 years, has boldly taken the Texas Senate on the journey from the analog to the digital age. From his early experiences with flipping and splicing tapes to today’s digital file acquisition and editing, he has helped the Senate keep pace with the rapid change of technology. He oversees archiving of all Senate events and coordinates logistics for remote hearings from Texarkana to Muleshoe. As someone who makes order out of chaos, he has helped the Senate evolve with his initiation and implementation of renovations and major upgrades to its audio and video systems. Dennis, an active member of LINCS, enjoys the camaraderie and collaboration of his fellow LINCSters. He is the recipient of NCSL’s 2016 Legislative Staff Achievement Award.

Director—Tim Bommel, Missouri, tim.bommel@house.mo.gov
Tim has been serving as the staff photojournalist for the Missouri House of Representatives for nearly 20 years. His goal is to inform the public through journalistic, group, portrait and constituent photography. Prior to that he was employed for 15 years as a studio, wedding and commercial photographer. During that time he was also a member of the Missouri Army National Guard as a photojournalist.
Hello LINCSters!

I hope 2017 is off to a great start for you! Believe it or not, plans are well underway here at NCSL for our annual Legislative Summit, Aug. 6-8 in Boston. Did you know that legislatures around the country employ about 30,000 legislative staff to do the great work in the laboratories of democracy? With that in mind, we’re planning an even more robust agenda designed for legislative staff at Summit. Be sure to check NCSL’s Summit webpage occasionally to see how things are shaping up.

We’re also beginning to plan LINCS’ 18th annual professional development seminar, Oct. 3-5 in Washington, D.C. We need your ideas! You will soon receive a link to a survey asking for your input. Please take a few minutes to tell us what kinds of sessions would benefit you most. Details coming soon to the LINCS webpage.

NCSL offers all kinds of support to legislative staff beyond these meetings. Post a question on our listserv, follow us on Twitter, and don’t hesitate to contact me if you need anything.

Jane Carroll Andrade (303) 856-1464
Legislative communicators from across the country converged on Austin, Texas last fall for LINCS’ 17th annual professional development seminar. In addition to the great camaraderie and networking, attendees learned a lot in sessions on news consumption, media and politics, archiving, coping in a complex world, and bridging the gap between legislators and constituents. We also toured the LBJ Presidential Library, Time Warner Cable/Spectrum News and the gorgeous Texas State Capitol. Thanks to former LINCS director and Texas Senate photographer Jill Turetsky—along with her colleagues Marina Davis and Lavender Marsh—we have great photos to remember it by!
A consummate professional, Dennis works tirelessly to operate and improve the audio systems of the Texas Senate chamber and committee rooms. He deftly maintains an inventory of state-of-the-art equipment, and responds to the demanding requirements of our members with aplomb.

Dennis is always willing to take time out of his busy schedule to aid his coworkers with various projects, questions, and even personal matters.

Dennis has shared with his coworkers the value of LINCS and his goal to grow LINCS and spread its message to his peers in other states. He consistently brings innovation and leadership to our department.

His dedication to the institution, his leadership, and his cheerful, “can-do” attitude make him an obvious choice for this award.

Dennis, audio manager for the Texas Senate (see his full bio on page 2) and immediate past chair of LINCS, was unanimously selected for this award by the LINCS Executive Committee.

Around the page are just some of the accolades his colleagues had for him:

During the past two years, Dennis has assumed leadership roles to contribute to NCSL. As chair of LINCS, he helped revive our underutilized social media presence that had been a topic of many of our PDS’s. He redesigned the LINCS logo and created a unique logo for two of our PDS’s.

Besides being an admired professional, Dennis is a wonderful person and loyal friend. Well-deserved, Dennis!

LINCS gratefully acknowledges Rob Stoddard and ncta for sponsoring our staff section.

Thank You!
This is the newsletter of the Legislative Information and Communications Staff (LINCS), a staff section of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

April 21-22, 2017
NCSL Spring Executive Committee Meeting | Santa Fe, New Mexico

July 22-29, 2017
Legislative Staff Management Institute (LSMI) | Sacramento, California

Aug. 5, 2017
NCSL Summer Executive Committee Meeting | Boston

Aug. 6-9, 2017
NCSL Legislative Summit | Boston

Oct. 3-5, 2017
LINCS Annual Professional Development Seminar | Washington, D.C.

LINCS Officers
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Vice Chair: Jeff Fossett, Kentucky
Secretary: Anne Marie Moy, Missouri
Immediate Past Chair: Dennis Yoder, Texas

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