



The VOICE



Spring 2017 | Volume 5 Issue 2



THE Chair's CORNER

As spring turns to summer, I can't contain my excitement for the month ahead! The temperatures are rising, the 65th Montana Legislature adjourned sine die in April, and we have many things to look forward to.

In the days after session, I've reflected on embracing the adventure that is our everyday lives. Session is a marathon, not a sprint, and it can be physically and mentally exhausting. When discourse in the nation and our states is challenging, I remember that my work provides crucial information to the public that the Legislature and I serve. Information officers from coast to coast are making our legislative bodies more transparent, providing more information online, and are committed to public service and our democracy.

One of the great perks of our legislative service is our participation in NCSL and LINCS! I hope I'll be seeing you in Boston in August. Your LINCS Executive Committee is also working to put together a fantastic PDS in Washington, D.C., in October. We're working on seminars on social media, data visualization, and many more exciting topics and activities.

We face some challenging days in our work, but thinking about my colleagues around the country, and the opportunities for learning and sharing we have through NCSL, keep me engaged and enthusiastic—even when I'm called to plug in a projector! I hope to see you in the months ahead!

K'Lynn Sloan Harris

Audio/Video Coordinator, Montana Legislative Services Division and LINCS Chair, 406-444-3267

Want to contribute?

Are you working on an interesting project? Have you attended a meeting and learned something you want to share with your colleagues? Do you want to explain issues related to your work for the legislature?

We need your tips, photos or articles for the next newsletter. Please email your contribution to the newsletter editor by **Friday, July 7, 2017.**

Late submissions will be considered for future issues.

Newsletter Editor

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Please include *Newsletter* in the subject line.

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Hi LINCSters! [Serving legislative staff](#) is an ongoing goal for [NCSL](#) and we're doing lots: More and better staff programming at the [2017 Legislative Summit](#) and fall [professional development seminar](#), [e-learning](#) opportunities, helping you connect with your peers across the country through our Twitter account, [@NCSLLINCS](#) and the [LINCS listserv](#), and more. All legislative communicators belong to [LINCS](#), but I need your help in adding any of your new or uninitiated colleagues to our list. Just send me their contact info.

You may have noticed that [State Legislatures magazine](#) is profiling staff associations in a series called "Things Legislative Staffers Want You to Know." It will be LINCS' turn in the July-August issue so look for the article that's all about the tricks of the legislative communications trade. We're also running ads in the magazine to let legislative staff how connecting with their peers can be beneficial ... and fun!

As always, please [send me](#) feedback about how LINCS and NCSL can help you excel in your job.

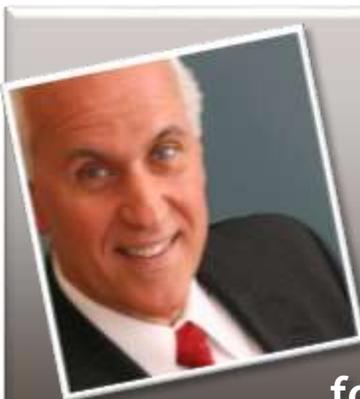
Cheers,
Jane

Join LINCS at the 2017 Legislative Summit!

Because the Summit is all about learning and networking (and having fun), we are working to connect legislative communicators from across the country with one another. Here are some of the [events and sessions](#) LINCS is sponsoring:

- "In the Trenches With Social Media" session
- LINCS dinner sponsored by NCTA – The Internet & Television Association
- "A Free and Responsible Press" session
- 2nd Annual Roundtable with the National Civic Trust

There's lots more for staff. Don't miss other staff sessions cosponsored by LINCS, the staff Red Carpet Meet and Greet networking event on Sunday before the opening reception, the Legislative Staff University, Salute to Legislative Staff Luncheon, staff breakfast and much more. Click [here](#) to view the LINCS schedule, and click [here](#) to view the full Summit agenda.



LINCS gratefully acknowledges Rob Stoddard and



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COMMUNICATIONS

Across the States

Mississippi lawmaker fights “fake news”

After believing he was treated unfairly by the press, Mississippi Representative Andy Gipson (R-Braxton) decided to fight back. He founded the Mississippi Responsible Journalism Initiative (MRJI) in hopes of promoting ethical journalism and “calling out demonstrably fake news and social media lies.”

Gipson had come under fire for dismissing a bill from the committee on which he serves as chairman that would have listed domestic abuse as a statute for divorce, arguing that domestic abuse already fell under the statute of “habitual cruel and inhumane treatment.” He felt the press framed the story as if he did not care about victims of domestic violence.

MRJI’s public Facebook page—MS Truth Journal—examines other such “myths” published in state and local papers. It has received more than 1,600 likes and many comments.

Clancy Smith, Mississippi’s House information officer and a LINC’s director, says reaction from the media has been mixed. “As a communications professional, I try to be responsive and truthful with the media,” she says. “However, many members use social media to directly refute any misconceptions they perceive in traditional articles in an effort to control the narrative and directly answer any questions their constituents might have.”



Contributed by Clancy Smith



PDS Registration is Open!

Join us at [LINC'S' 18th Annual Fall Professional Development Seminar](#), Oct. 3-5 in exciting Washington, D.C.! Click [here](#) to register.

Thanks to everyone who responded to our survey. Based on your answers, we are planning sessions on social media, media relations, crisis communications, presenting materials graphically and more! As always, there will be plenty of time devoted to networking, tours and social events.

We will be staying at the lovely [Liaison Capitol Hill](#) and holding most of our meetings at [NCTA – The Internet & Television Association](#), thanks to our generous sponsor, Rob Stoddard.

There is still plenty of time to weigh in on what we can do at the PDS to help you in your job. Just email jane.andrade@ncsl.org or ksharris@mt.gov with your suggestions.

We look forward to connecting in D.C.!

Legislative Staff Achievement Award Nominations Due June 9!

There is still time to nominate yourself or a colleague for the [2017 Legislative Staff Achievement Award](#), which recognizes those who demonstrate excellence in supporting the work of a state legislature and strengthening the legislative institution. **Please email your nomination to jane.andrade@ncsl.org by Friday, June 9.**

Save the Date

Ongoing

[Registration](#) for NCSL 2017 Legislative Summit

June 9, 2017

Deadline to nominate [Legislative Staff Achievement Award](#) winner(s)

July 7, 2017

Deadline to [submit content](#) for The Voice Summer issue

Aug. 6-9, 2017

[NCSL 2017 Legislative Summit](#) | Boston

Oct. 3-5, 2017

[LINCS annual Professional Development Seminar](#) | Washington, D.C.

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



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STATE LEGISLATURES

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